

COUNCIL MINUTES  
SPECIAL SESSION  
FEBRUARY 27, 2020

Charles City city council met in special session on February 27, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in council chambers. Mayor Dean Andrews presided and the following council members were present: Keith Starr, Jerry Joerger, DeLaine Freeseaman, Phoebe Pittman and Phillip Knighten. Also present were city administrator Steve Diers, city engineer John Fallis and city attorney Brad Sloter.

Motion by Freeseaman, second Joerger to approve the agenda. Ayes - 5

Mayor Andrews commented that he is organizing a committee to promote the census, they are pushing for people to register online. He recently attended a Be the Bridge meeting and thought it was very good. He also recently received a letter from AARP state director encouraging us to apply for a community challenge grant.

Lance Aldrich from Fox Engineering was present to discuss the recent development with the wastewater plant expansion project. We were notified by the DNR that more environmental work needed to be done for this project so construction needs to be halted until that can be completed. A change in DNR procedure was overlooked and the notice to proceed was issued prematurely to Portzen Construction. Work has to cease until the necessary environmental work can be completed by the state, this could take up to three months to complete. We are hopeful that the state will put this on high priority and complete it sooner than that. Question asked that if we take the Gilbert Street lift station out of the state funded portion of this project and use cash reserves to pay for it, would that help speed this up and Lance replied that we could possibly do that. Council member Starr asked how much is this delay costing Portzen Construction and who will pay for that. Lance replied that they have been in contact with Portzen and they may request an extension of completion date and some money for mobilization of equipment. According to the contract, the city can postpone the project up to 90 days and Portzen can't terminate. But if it goes over 90 days, they have the option to terminate. Fox Engineering will remain in contact with Portzen as we near the 90 day mark. The important news is that they are confident that the financing through SRF for this project is not in jeopardy, we just need to get the action items done that the DNR is requesting. We have also been told by the DNR that Portzen can still receive the materials needed for this project so that they can return to work as soon as we are cleared by the DNR. Portzen has 30 days after they start back up to work to file a claim for losses and Fox Engineering will handle this.

Council member Freeseaman introduced Resolution 33-20 entitled, "RESOLUTION TO DIRECT PORTZEN CONSTRUCTION TO TEMPORARILY STOP WORK ON THE WATER RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY PROJECT" and moved for adoption. Second to adopt Starr. Resolution duly passed on roll call vote as follows: Ayes - Starr, Joerger, Freeseaman, Pittman, Knighten. Nays - none

Motion by Freeseaman, second Knighten to adjourn. Ayes - 5

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Dean Andrews, Mayor

Attest:

Trudy O'Donnell, City Clerk