

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS  
MARCH 14, 2022

Charles City city council met in a planning session on March 14, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in council chambers. Mayor Dean Andrews presided and the following were present: Patrick Lumley, DeLaine Freeseaman and Phillip Knighten. Absent were Keith Starr and Phoebe Pittman. Also present were city administrator Steve Diers and city attorney Brad Sloter.

With the change in voting districts for the county, we have received a request from Gloria Carr, county auditor, to share a polling place for a portion of St. Charles township to vote in. This would be the polling place located at Messiah Lutheran church. The city precincts are fine. The county has to keep a minimum deviation of voters located in each of their districts. To make this easier on the voters, they are requesting that the city's Precinct 3 voting location be shared with the county's district that includes St. Charles township. Since Charles City's population is greater than 2000, we need to execute a 28 E agreement between the city and the county to allow the use of our polling place for county elections. To accomplish this, we need to change our voting ordinance to include this unincorporated area into our precinct. This ordinance will be on the next regular agenda for discussion and to set a public hearing on it. We would like to waive the second and third readings so that all of this paperwork can get to Gloria in a timely manner for submittal to the secretary of state.

Discussion on the Omnitel right of way agreement. They are planning for three phases to be included in their next outbuild. They are requesting that the entire city be included in this agreement so that they can provide service on demand and don't have to come back to the council. City attorney Sloter commented that the agreement states that additional extensions can be approved by city administrator and city engineer without coming back to council. Council member Lumley stated that fiber service is important to the city but he would like to see more specifics from the provider and would like to see conditions listed in the agreement. City attorney Sloter stated that some of this would be included in the right of way permit that will need to be issued when they do this work. He also commented that most cities our size don't have any right of way management plan, just have requirements listed in their code that governs it, like our Chapter 143. City administrator Diers stated that we will take the red lines out of the agreement and put it on the next regular agenda for council consideration. This is a 20 year agreement and we have the ability to ask Omnitel to move their fiber at their expense if needed. The one time fee Omnitel paid in November for service to Chautauqua was \$250, so this needs to be decided to be included in the agreement.

The public housing department is asking Omnitel to provide fiber to their three facilities in order to properly operate their newly installed security cameras. This service would also allow us to offer free wifi to the residents at the three facilities. Omnitel is requesting that we pay \$20,000 to help cover the installation costs. Housing director Katie Nolte commented that the grant she has available now would cover the \$20,000 to Omnitel to help pay for the installation of this fiber. If we tried to spread this cost over time by increasing the monthly Omnitel bill, the grant wouldn't cover that. Councilmember Knighten was not in favor of paying the \$20,000 for this and then not having any ownership or control of it. Nolte commented that her department really needs the fiber in order to operate the cameras. Request was made to get a price of the monthly bill if we spread the \$20,000 out. This item will be on the next regular agenda for council consideration.

Lexipol policy for the police department was discussed. After the last meeting, we have included language to allow the police chief to implement changes as they come from Lexipol and bring to council for approval after the fact. City attorney Sloter is recommending this process. Consensus was to include this item under the consent calendar with Chief Anderson sending out any changes to the council prior so they can pull an item off the consent calendar for further discussion if needed. We can try this process for 6 months or so to see how it goes.

City administrator Diers reported that he met with Jendro's last week to discuss spring clean up process. We are considering going to drop off sites rather than curbside pickup. We are the only city that Jendro services that still does a curbside pickup for spring clean up. The lack of labor to perform this service and costs are two main reasons we are changing this process. We are looking at late April/early May for this.

We are also working on finding options for people who don't have a truck to haul their items to the drop off site. Jendro has also contacted Diers about implementing a fuel surcharge due to high fuel prices.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

Dean Andrews, Mayor

Attest:

Trudy O'Donnell, City Clerk