

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS  
MAY 28, 2019

Charles City city council met in a planning session on May 28, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in council chambers. Mayor Dean Andrews presided and the following council members were present: Keith Starr, Jerry Joerger, DeLaine Freeseman, Michael Hammond and Dan Mallaro. Also present were city administrator Steve Diers, city engineer John Fallis and city attorney Brad Slotter.

Mayor Andrews commented that he had done some clean up on the parkade in between city hall and the library and council member Mallaro had done the clean up in the parking lots around city hall. It is time to do evaluations for Steve, Trudy and Brad. He is asking for them to be returned to him no later than June 10 and the evaluations will be conducted at the June 24 planning session.

Jackie Moon and Janet Dunkel representing City Improvement Association were present to request some assistance with the memorial fountain located at the corner of Brantingham and Clark Street. This fountain is the responsibility of CIA and they had a citizen that was in charge of watching it and reporting and/or working on any issues that may be happening. That citizen has had to step down from this due to health issues and the CIA is asking if city workers can fill in to keep an eye on the fountain and report any problems. They may ask for help in draining the fountain if work does need to be done and also cleaning out debris while it's empty. City administrator Diers had already talked to a couple of city workers about keeping an eye on the fountain, but not about possibly helping with draining, this wasn't discussed with him during the conversations with CIA. Concern over city employees having time to perform any work on the fountain if it's needed, can't guarantee that they would be able to do that. Mayor Andrews commented that maybe we could start out with watching the fountain for issues and go from there. It was stated that the fountain needs to be cleaned 4 to 5 times a year.

Todd Prichard was present to discuss his request for street closure for a block party that will be held on N. Illinois Street between Blunt and Kelly streets on July 4. He is asking for the street to be closed from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This request will be on the June 3 agenda for council action.

Heidi Nielsen, housing director, presented some bids for two of the housing rehab project houses. Bids had already been requested but none were received so this is the second time. The addresses are 206 8<sup>th</sup> Ave and 105 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. Both houses look okay from the outside but they aren't functional for the families living there. The grant provides up to \$24,999 plus \$5,750 in lead hazard reduction. Only one bid was received and this was from Kellogg Construction. The bid for 206 8<sup>th</sup> Ave was \$26,996 and bid for 105 9<sup>th</sup> Ave was \$30,120.00. Cost estimates were \$26,304 and \$28,564 respectively. These are the first two houses of the total six that are on this grant. This will be on the next regular agenda for council action.

Heidi also reviewed a request for release of a lien from a property owner at 207 S. Iowa that participated in the 2012 rehab grant the city performed. This person has fulfilled all of the requirements of that grant, including living in the home for at least 5 years upon completion of the project. This will be on the next regular agenda for council action.

Salaries for non-bargaining unit employees for FY20 need to be approved. Traditionally, council has approved raises for these employees same as what the union employees will be receiving, which is a 2.75% increase for FY20. The only variances from this are an extra \$1.00/hour for police secretary and newly hired park and rec director Tyler Mitchell, who will be receiving his hiring salary of \$57,500 for next fiscal year. This will be on the next regular agenda for council action. Staff has been working on the health insurance renewal for FY20 and would like to ask council to consider contributing some money towards dental insurance premiums for city employees. The city added dental insurance a couple of years ago on a voluntary basis and 100% paid by the employees. In order to be more competitive in the hiring process and also to promote overall better health of our employees, staff is recommending the city putting up to \$25 toward monthly dental premiums for city employees. There are three different plans available right now and employees would choose which one they want and also if it would be a single or family plan. If their monthly premium would be less than \$25, they would only get the total of the premium paid. If all of the current eligible employees would get the full \$25 benefit, it would

cost the city \$18,900/year. Councilmember Freese commented that he thinks this is worthwhile, council member Joerger agreed. This will be on the next regular agenda.

The lime sludge removal contract was awarded to Kamm Excavating last year and had a completion date of 12/1/18. Due to wet weather last year, this project was unable to be completed and Kamm is asking for a change order in the completion date to 12/1/19. This work is to be done on the north cell of the lagoon, the south cell was done last time.

A request has been received from a resident living on Hildreth Street where the street project is being done. He has a physical impairment that limits how far he can walk and he is asking for use of a golf cart during construction that he can drive to his car, which will be parked on a side street during the project. Staff has been looking at ADA requirements and after consulting with city attorney Brad Slotter, have determined that this would be a reasonable accommodation during this street project. Our insurance agent has determined that this golf cart would be covered under the city policy. Some concern raised over leaving the cart sit by the street overnight, who is responsible for maintenance and gas for it, and having a flag/SMV sign on it for the duration. It was decided that the cart shouldn't be operated after 8:00 p.m. City attorney will make the necessary changes to the agreement for these items discussed and it will be on the next regular agenda for council consideration.

The property that was recently acquired by the city near the wastewater plant for the plant update has many trees that were planted by the previous owners. We have had some people express interest in purchasing some of those and staff has fashioned a policy for the sale of these trees for council to consider. There are approximately 4500 trees in the area that will be excavated for the plant update of various species. They range in height from 3 feet to about 7 feet. The agreement drafted references lots of logging operation terms and council felt that really isn't necessary for what we would be doing. Some of the types of trees here are white oak, Scotch pine, Norway spruces, red oak, river birch, red cedar and silver maples. Mayor Andrews stated that he didn't think we would want to encourage purchases of just one or two trees, that would be in competition with our local businesses. It was suggested to contact the county and the school to see if they are interested in any of these trees, especially for the fairgrounds which just suffered some major tornado damage. The best time to transplant trees is spring or fall, so it would be good to get an agreement finalized and approved before fall.

Negotiations have been ongoing with AMR on a new ambulance agreement. Dawn Staudt from AMR was present to discuss this agreement. The ambulance commission has met several times and a one year agreement has been drafted. Some of the changes effective July 1, 2019 include the following: eliminate revenues paid by AMR to the city and county, provide in kind services of utilizing on duty firefighters to respond in the ambulance to the scene, having our dispatchers continue to dispatch out the ambulance and use of a portion of the fire station to house the ambulances and equipment. There would also be an annual payment to AMR from the city of \$50,000. This contract would continue one ALS ambulance available 24/7. This contract would also include St. Charles township, but would not include any other portions of Floyd County. AMR had original requested an annual payment of \$128,000 plus elimination of any payment from them to the city. Since there is a gap between their request and what the city was ultimately able to give, the service fees will be increased to help cover that. Discussions on the future of ambulance service will need to continue through this next year of the contract to try and narrow the gap in the funding amounts. The hospital would like some additional service but would not fund any of the agreement. The county also would not fund this service at this time, so the contract will be only between AMR and the city and St. Charles township. Question on if the county will continue to utilize the ambulance service and they aren't contributing any funding, is that really fair. AMR will continue to respond out in the county if they are available but will always keep one unit back for city use if it's needed. The possibility of implementing a county wide levy for ambulance similar to the one Wright County recently put in place was raised. Dawn commented that the building they are currently using for office space is for sale but if new owners would ask them to move, they would try to maintain their space as close to the fire station as possible.

City administrator Diers commented that the evaluations for himself, Trudy and Brad will be put out on survey monkey like last year. For the certified site purchase, he has discovered that there is enough increment in South Grand to fund this purchase if necessary. This would maintain the perpetual nature of

the project, but we will still ask the county to consider bonding for this purchase simply because their bond capacity is much greater than the city's. Board of supervisors has been discussing this at their meetings and once they decide, we will need to move forward one way or another. Any general obligation debt of this nature would be subject to a reverse referendum. Broadband commission needs to determine the location of the utilities so the plan can move forward. Two of the commission members who are tech savvy have been in discussion with our consultant on some of the more technical items for the plan.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

Dean Andrews, Mayor

Attest:

Trudy O'Donnell, city clerk