

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
JULY 23, 2018

Charles City city council met in a planning session on July 23, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in council chambers. Mayor Dean Andrews presided and the following council members were present: Keith Starr, Jerry Joerger, Dan Mallaro and Michael Hammond. Absent was DeLaine Freeseaman. Also present were city administrator Steve Diers and city engineer John Fallis.

Mayor Andrews opened up the public forum on storm water issues in the city. Peggy Sweet from the Comet Bowl spoke that when it rains heavy, the water almost comes into the bowling alley and it seems to have gotten worse since South Grand was resurfaced a few years ago. Jill Connell, who purchased her home at 507 Sunset Place in 2014, listed several dates in the last couple of years that have caused significant damage to her home. Previous owner said the last time there was water in the home was the flood of 2008. She thinks that the last two houses built in her housing division have their geothermal systems draining into the pond there and it rises much faster now during heavy rains. Bob Friend, 3000 Clark Street, has a creek near his property. The street intake doesn't handle the heavier rain falls and the water runs across his yard to the creek, causing a lot of erosion. He has done some plantings along this area and had it rocked. A year ago, the flash floodings took away all the rock and plants. This issue started getting worse when the condos and Allied Subdivision were built. Chris Garden, owner of L and J Industries at 1811 Cleveland Avenue, stated that his business has been there for 50 years and that the Washington Watershed really seems to be working and handles a 3" fast rain pretty well. But it's the heavier quick rainfalls that break the dikes and causes some flooding damage. He has put a block wall along the front of his buildings to help with sandbagging. He thinks that a couple of culverts under his property would help to get the water away faster. Emily Garden, 212 Oliver Street, was not away of any water problems when she bought her home not long ago. It seems that even just a 1" rain causes problems on her street. Their car that was parked in the street recently was flooded and was half full of water. Her neighbors have told her that this has been going on for almost 17 years. Rachel Adam, 1801 Roling, moved here in December. Water comes down hill from the neighbors and from the street. June 8 was really bad. They are doing some re-grading of their yard and getting new gutters to hopefully help the issue. Howard Ross, who lives on 15th Avenue, stated that the watershed runs into town and wanted to know if that water can't be re-directed? The street usually floods in front of his place and then cars drive fast through it and wash the water onto his yard. He also has a basement in his house but can't use it due to frequent water issues. Josh Mack, Hill Side Drive resident, stated that a creek runs between his house and the next subdivision. Improvements done last year caused a backup onto his property and this June there was significant damage. Debris flows from the abutting field and blocks up the creek causing damage to his home. Rodney Knapp, living behind the Dairy Queen, stated that the run off comes from Allison and 5th and a 2" rain causes major problems with flooding. He doesn't know if the city storm mains are blocked or what. Since there is not a curb on 5th, maybe installing one would help? He lost a van that was parked in his garage that was flooded out and this has been a problem for quite a long time. Bruce Greensweig, living at 806 Allison, stated there have been water problems in his neighborhood since 1998. It only takes about a 2" heavy rain to cause problems. The water comes across his yard and comes down from 5th Street. Willard Hennick said he has had to replace 3 furnaces and 3 water heaters due to water damage. Heather Johlas stated that last summer, her street was entirely flooded and it comes into her back yard and ponds there. Doug Rogers, a resident of Sunset addition, doesn't think there was supposed to be so many houses in his area. Things have gotten worse since the last two houses were built there. He thinks the water needs to be removed from the pond there faster and possibly put in some culverts above to get water away faster. Mayor Andrews thanked everyone for coming and speaking and said the city staff will look at these issues and will try to get a newsletter out to the people who spoke and keep them all updated on any progress made on these issues.

Water superintendent Cory Spieker talked about installing a fence around the Charles Street water tower and security cameras at the water treatment plant. These two items were budgeted for FY19 at about \$20,000. Quotes received on the fence were about \$13,000 and \$12,000. Camera quotes were \$2845 from Hometown Security and \$3335 Iowa Surveillance. Iowa Surveillance has more experience in security cameras and staff thinks they would be the best one to complete the job. It would be for 6 cameras, hooked up to the Internet, be accessed by dispatch and motion activated. Council member Starr stated that staff should look at installing alarms at the plant and tower as well. The fencing project will be on the next regular council agenda.

City administrator Diers reported that Tim Fox gave the local workforce analysis today and we are very comparable to other cities our size.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

Dean Andrews, Mayor

Attest:

Trudy O'Donnell, City Clerk