

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
JULY 27, 2020

Charles City city council met at 6:00 p.m. on July 27, 2020 remotely via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mayor Dean Andrews presided and the following council members were in attendance: 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.

Mayor Andrews commented that he had been asked by several citizens if the city can reinforce the use of masks around town and he replied that we could not mandate it. But he encouraged citizens to use masks as they are out in public and maintain the social distancing.

Mark Wicks, director of Community Revitalization, was present remotely to review two applications for **Façade funding**. **The Floyd County Historical Museum**, at 500 Gilbert Street, would like to remove three old chimneys for a total cost of \$18,600. They are asking for \$9,300.00 in funding. It was discussed about requiring final invoices to be submitted before the final funds are distributed to the grantees. Right now, quotes from contractors are the only documentation required. Council consensus was that this **would be a good practice so the Façade program requirements will be amended to include this**. Question on if this project fits the criteria for the program and reply was that the design committee has reviewed this request and are recommending approval. The other application was submitted by North Iowa Lawn and Sport at 809 Grand Avenue for replacing a garage door that's in bad shape. This new door will match the other existing doors. Cost for the project is \$1,842.84 and they are requesting 50% which is \$921.42. These will be on the next regular agenda for council action.

The local snowmobile association has pledged a \$35,000 donation to the reconstruction of the Charley Western Trail Bridge. In return, they would like to execute an agreement with the city to allow their club to drive their snowmobiles on the bridge in the winter. They were able to use the previous bridge but they would like to have a more formal agreement for the new one. A draft agreement has been done and covers a 20 year term. It states that the club will repair any damage they make to the bridge. Council member Freeseaman asked if we could list a minimum amount of snow required in order to drive the sleds on the bridge. He is concerned about damage from the carbide blades on some sleds. This bridge will be cement construction and that could get more damage than the previous bridge. Mayor Andrews stated that the local association does a good job of policing their members to keep the damage down to a minimum, so there shouldn't be a lot of damage. Attorney Slotter stated that a termination clause can be put in that in the event there is significant damage caused by the snowmobiles, the agreement could be terminated. Council member Pittman asked if language could be included that the city can specify what repairs need to be made and to have authority to oversee them to be sure they are done right. City engineer Fallis stated that it would be a good idea to have some type of standard that needs to be followed for any repairs. City attorney Slotter thought that the city could just do the repairs and then bill the snowmobile association for the cost. Council member Knighten asked if we could get some idea of exactly what kind of damage these blades could cause. It doesn't specify any certain amount of snowfall needs to be on the ground before the snowmobiles can be operated on the bridge but our ordinance states 1/10" needs to be on the streets for operation. Council would like some more research done before the council votes on this agreement, do we have time for that. Staff will find out more information and see if we can act on this agreement at the next regular meeting yet.

ADC director Tim Fox was present remotely to discuss a request for a letter of endorsement for an expansion project that Cambrex will be doing to their facility. It will create 32 new jobs and will cost about 49 million. Half of the jobs will be production and half will be scientists. They are asking for a \$40,000 forgivable loan from the SW TIF district and \$30,400 from ADC which will both amount to the amount of local match required for the IEDA grant award. Fox was asked about the certified site and he stated that they have the website proof done and plan a site visit from tour for decision making on August 5 to kick off the targeted industry analysis. He's had two contacts show interest in the property so far.

City administrator Diers reported that he and Mayor Andrews had gone to Garner last week to tour some twin homes built by Crown Point builders. This firm is interested in finishing out the Parkside Development project to get that all completed. They were impressed with these homes construction. This

firm also plans on putting in a storm shelter for the homes they will be building at Parkside. More discussion will be held on how big these homes will be, Stewart Realty will be consulted for their input on that. The city is working removing the garbage from the WRRF site that is part of the old city dump. We have had a request to fly a drone from the city water tower from someone who is working on a documentary about the Charles City tornado. We have consulted with our insurance agent and Attorney Slotter will draft a waiver for this person to sign. He also reported that a safety coordinator for our safety group has been hired.

There being no further discussion, meeting was adjourned.

Dean Andrews, Mayor

Attest:

Trudy O'Donnell, City Clerk