

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
AUGUST 27, 2018

Charles City city council met in a planning session August 27, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in council chambers. Mayor Dean Andrews presided and the following council members were present: Keith Starr, Jerry Joerger, DeLaine Freeseaman, Michael Hammond and Dan Mallaro. Also present were city administrator Steve Diers, city engineer John Fallis and city attorney Brad Slotter.

Mayor Andrews moved the item on fire calls and the fire engine up on the agenda under item #4 due to fire chief Eric Whipple having another meeting to attend later.

Follow up on the building at 201/203 N. Main Street. Concern has been raised over the structural integrity of this building due to water coming into it. The roof was pulled off during a storm last summer and it took awhile to get it repaired. Visual inspections by a realtor and city staff could not see any issues on the surface but the only way to fully determine any possible damage is to hire a structural engineer who would drill holes in various places in the walls, floors and ceilings to examine the joists and studs underneath. This property has been listed by a realtor from Clear Lake. The council has received a request from historic preservation and community revitalization to inspect this building to be sure it's structurally safe. It's been put on the list of most endangered buildings in Iowa, which would help it score higher on grant applications. Council member Joerger was not in favor of the city paying for a structural engineer to inspect since this is a privately owned building. Jeff Sisson commented that the historic preservation committee was trying to have awareness raised about this building by having it put on the list of endangered buildings. Council member Freeseaman asked if someone should talk to the owner about applying for some grant funds to get the structural engineering inspection done? If she isn't interested, then maybe the council will discuss this again.

The possibility of charging for fire calls was discussed. This had been talked about briefly at budget time and fire chief Eric Whipple has done more research on it. A sample home owners insurance policy had been distributed that stated the policy would cover up to \$500 for a fire call. Some cities do charge for fire calls but most don't and the ones that do only bill for a structure fire. The city of Waterloo city council just voted this down. Council member Freeseaman asked exactly what is our goal for doing this. Chief Whipple stated it was probably for the extra revenue. But given our average number of structure fires per year, it would only generate \$6,000 to \$7,000 so it might not be worth it. City attorney Slotter stated that we would have to bill everyone after a fire call not just the ones who had insurance. Much discussion on if our tax levy should cover all fire expenses and what we would do if we can't collect the fire calls billed. Council member Starr stated that if we can't collect after a fire call is billed that we should just walk away from it. Council member Freeseaman commented that if we can't collect a bill, then maybe we should assess it to the property rather than walk away from it. Mayor Andrews stated that he doesn't think this is all worth it for what we might generate in extra revenue. Consensus of the council was that more information is needed so city staff will gather more information from other cities on this procedure.

Chief Whipple reported that one of the fire trucks needs a new engine due to a cooling system failure. This truck is owned with St. Charles township. Quotes have been received and a rebuilt engine would cost \$19,000 and a remanufactured one would cost about \$27,000. Recommendation from Chief Whipple was to go with a remanufactured one since the turnaround time is shorter and it would be more reliable. This item will be on the next regular agenda for council action.

Discussion held on storm water issues in the city. A public forum had been held recently for citizens to bring their water issues to the council's attention. City engineer John Fallis has been looking through this list to get cost information ready for FY20 budget. Some of the issues are beyond anything the city could do to rectify. The following areas were discussed: Clark Street intakes, Roling Street, Comet Bowl, Oliver Street, Allison and Beck Streets. Of these areas, Clark Street intakes and Roling Street issues could possibly be worked on this fiscal year. Comet Bowl, Oliver Street, Allison and Beck issues could maybe be done FY20. Also discussed was Washington School watershed, which does work for small rain events but would need something different for larger events. Glenwood Road water flow would be difficult to move faster than what it is so a detention area might be best. This would involve discussion with the property owners there to build. City administrator Diers commented that the sponsored project associated

with our RCPP grant could come into play on funding some of these issues. The storm water issues in the Siems addition would be that associations responsibility to correct since they had hired their own engineer when it was built and is all private. City engineer Fallis will follow up with the people who spoke at the open forum with our analysis of these issues we've discussed.

The cross walk on Main Street by the Charles Theater that was approved by council will require elimination of two parking spaces to allow for visibility for cars and pedestrians. The affected business owners there have been contacted by Mark Wicks and they are okay with this. Staff wanted to inform council of this prior to starting this process.

City administrator Diers commented that the next planning session conflicts with the League conference and asked if council would want to move it that Monday or Tuesday. It was decided to move it to Monday September 10. The broadband commission is meeting this Friday to go over the RFI proposal. This will be on the September 10 planning session for discussion.