

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
SEPTEMBER 28, 2020

Charles City city council met in a planning session on September 28, 2020 at 6:21 p.m. immediately upon adjournment of a special meeting that started at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Mayor Andrews presided. Council members present were Keith Starr, Jerry Joerger, DeLaine Freeseaman, Phoebe Pittman and Phillip Knighten. Also present were city administrator Steve Diers and city engineer John Fallis.

Annette Dean, library director, was present to discuss a permanent story walk along the Riverfront. This has been done temporarily during the pandemic and she would like to install permanent structures to continue this. There have been various locations discussed but the preferred location is along the riverfront behind the library. She has been looking for grants but wanted to get council approval for this before she applied. Consensus of council was that this is a good idea, it will bring people down to the riverfront. She did get an estimate from Do It All for \$3,150 for this project.

Police chief Hugh Anderson discussed the purchase of a new police vehicle. The state bid for a 2021 Interceptor AWD is \$34,945. They would be replacing one of the Tahoes which will go to code enforcement department. We have 4 primary vehicles for officers, one for chief, one for captain and one for K-9 unit. City administrator Diers stated that we usually budget a vehicle each year. Stivers in Des Moines has the state bid but Anderson will check with local establishments to see what they can quote before the October 5 meeting.

We have several lots in town where the house has been torn down but the sewer and water services are still connected to the city main. Sometimes, people want to leave them connected because they want to build another house or just sell the lot for someone else to build on. In the past, we have entered an agreement with the property owner to allow for a certain length of time to leave the services connected but at the end of that time, if it's not sold, the services will be required to be capped. Staff would like to develop a standard policy and agreement for this type of situation going forward so it's easier to implement. Staff is recommending a year length but could agree with two years. We don't want to make it too long because then it's harder to keep track of. Council member Freeseaman commented that projects do vary so might need some flexibility. Council member Starr asked if we could do a one year length and then charge a fee for each year after until something gets built? Chief Anderson commented that if a building permit is required within the first year, that gives them a year to build which would give them a total of two years before they have to either utilize the services or cap them. Council members Starr and Pittman liked this option, it would help keep them on track. The city has the option of capping the services and assessing it to the property if the owner won't pay.

City administrator Diers reported that we will be reinstating shut offs next month. An agreement for work stoppage on the WRRF project is getting closer. Mark Wicks has talked to us about the billboard located near the Avenue bypass, it needs to be used for a community purpose and not for private advertising. This was established as part of past funding we received. The chamber won't be using it anymore and asked if the city was interested. If not, they may just dismantle it since it costs \$2000 per year for it. Work continues on the Parkside financing and also financing for the Charley Western bridge. We have a couple of GO bonds ending fairly soon, so we will try to keep the tax levy fairly stable. Councilmember Freeseaman asked if we could roll those two bonds into one for the bridge and Diers replied that he will look into that option. Goal setting sheets are due back to Diers by this Friday.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

Dean Andrews, Mayor

Attest:

Trudy O'Donnell, city clerk