

MINUTES of the ST. CHARLES CITY COUNCIL
For Tuesday, April 10, 2012 held at 7:00 p.m. at
830 Whitewater Avenue
St. Charles, Minnesota

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councilmen:

John Schaber

Dave Braun

Orv Dahl

Wayne Getz

Mayor Bill Spitzer

STAFF PRESENT:

Bill Eckles (Police Chief), Kyle Karger (Public Works Superintendent), Rick Engstrom (City Engineer), Nick Koverman (City Administrator), and Rick Schaber (Park and Rec Director).

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Brian Todd (Post Bulletin), Monica Hill (St. Charles Press).

1. ESTABLISH QUORUM/CALL TO ORDER

Quorum was established with Mayor Spitzer calling the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL of the AGENDA: Addition of item: 21). Hiring of Part-time Officers

Motion to approve the agenda: John Schaber

No discussion.

Motion carried.

4. APPROVAL of the MINUTES

March 13, 2012

Motion to approve: Orv Dahl

No discussion.

Motion declared carried

5. APPROVAL of the April PAYABLES

Motion to approve payables: Wayne Getz

6. Notices and Communications. Read from information.

7. Reports of Boards and Committees: Various reports were given by Council.

8. Franklin Energy CIP Contract. Admin. Koverman highlighted the research and work that he and Supt. Karger had done to find a company that provided the services necessary to meet the State's conservation mandate. He outlined the various sectors of the city's consumers that the program was intended to help. Because it is an ongoing savings and reduction that the state hopes to attain, Franklin Energy has proposed working the first year toward helping 20 small businesses/ 4 apartment complexes or 100 individual units. In addition, community meetings will be held by Franklin to help educate residents on how to conserve energy themselves. Other educational components are also included. Discussion was held over the reasoning behind the state mandates and costs. A motion was made to approve the contract for services with Franklin Energy.

Motion to approve: **John Schaber**

No further discussion.

Motion declared carried.

9. SEMCAC CIP Agreement. SEMCAC serves the low income residents of St. Charles through various programs. As part of the Energy conservation effort SEMCAC will also offer assistance to help low income residents through full energy audits. While the City is mandated to spend 2 percent of the qualifying CIP dollars for energy conservation, both Administrator Koverman and Supt. Karger are recommending increasing that percentage and contracting to help these families for a total of \$2,500. It is estimated that the dollars will help to replace various appliances for 2-3 families. If money remains at the end of the season, then dollars could be diverted to help increase that program. A motion was made to improve the contract with SEMCAC to administer.

Motion to approve: **Wayne Getz**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

10. Rugby Wind Project Agreement. Admin. Koverman and Supt. Karger provided information and highlighted the various components of the Rugby Wind agreement. This project could potential save the City up to \$2.7 million over the 20 year contract. The project offers a fixed rate of power that will replace that portion of power being bought from Dairyland. In addition, it provided the necessary green credits and RECS that the City needs now and in the future. A concern was expressed to make sure that while the City may not be able to utilize its full energy piece initially and could share with other UMMPA members, that when the time came it would be returned or fully utilized by the City. A letter was recommended to be drafted to the UMMPA chairman on behalf of the Council from the mayor. Three components of the agreement existed as Resolution #12-2012, the member guaranty, and the contract for purchase and sale of the energy and renewable energy and capacity.

Motion to approve to Resolution #12-2012: **John Schaber**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

Motion to approve to the Member Guaranty: **Dave Braun**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

Motion to approve to the contract for purchase/sale of energy, etc.: **Wayne Getz**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

11. SEMMCHRA Acquisition Program. Resolution #10-2012, Resolution #11-2012 Karen DuCharme was present from SEMMCHRA and she outlined the project to potentially purchase, demo, or relocate 3 mobile homes within the St. Charles floodway. Only two of the trailers are occupied. Through the cooperative work of the City, SEMMCHRA and the DNR this project may be possible. After the Council looks to adopt program guidelines and approve SEMMCHRA to submit the application, it will be several weeks before hearing back from the DNR as to whether or not the application was approved. Without further discussion, motions were made to approve the respective resolutions.

Motion to approve Resolution #10-2012 Adopting Voluntary Acquisition Program: **John Schaber**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

Motion to approve Resolution #11-2012 Approving SEMMCHRA to submit the application: **Orv Dahl**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

12. Water Service Policy. Admin. Koverman highlighted the past discussion of the Council as they tried to investigate more information with respect to the pros/cons of city owned water service from the main to the curb stop. An estimate of repair for a water service was presented and it was expressed that it could potentially range and cost as much as \$4,600 for a single repair due to excavation and replacement of street, pipe, etc. While it was estimated that only 1-2 water shutoffs occur a year, it was discussed how part of a potential budget would be to actively replace stops that are known to be defective. It was discussed that planning for a \$20,000 budget increase would increase the water budget 4 percent. The idea was also discussed about how Rochester Public Utilities has a voluntary maintenance plan. However, without strong participation the fund may not support itself. It was suggested

that perhaps it would be added to the base charge. The question remained however why the need for changing the policy that has been in place since the 1970's. Questions of what liability the city assumes and advantages and disadvantages were brought up. In the end, it was recommended for staff to review those questions with followup to be addressed at another meeting.

13. LED Lights-I-90. Information was provided that outlined the cost and savings of moving from the current light to an LED light. The comparison showed that per month the light used in the I-90 development only cost approximately \$11 a month versus over \$40. No further discussion was held.

14. Oil Tank Request. Supt. Karger highlighted a proposal for a used oil tank that would be used to help in conjunction with the Total Patcher. The oil tank is a 4,000 gallon tank and compared to a new unit that was priced out for a 3,000 gallon unit the price was \$42,000. The 10 year old piece would be delivered with a warranty on the parts for \$15,000. Supt. Karger proposed using his street operating budget under repair and maintenance, which currently had \$75,000 budgeted for expenditures. After this purchase, he would still have money remaining to conduct the projects for the summer. The council discussed the item and thought it made good sense. Questions of costs of installation were also addressed. A motion to approve the purchase was made.

Motion to approve: **John Schaber**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

15. Siren Control. A brief update was provided on the units that are installed into the fire hall and soon to be city hall. While the County still provides 24-hour monitoring of the sirens, this unit still allows local spotters to advance an early warning to residents.

16. 2012 Mowing Bids. Rick Schaber presented the bids for the 2012 mowing season and reviewed the Park and Rec's recommendation to award the 3-year bid to Billy's Towing. The Council briefly discussed the bid stating that it was very favorable for the City.

Motion to approve: **Wayne Getz**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

17. Dog Park Sign. Rick Schaber presented the information to the Council with the recommendation from the Park Board after reviewing the request to have a sign drafted to read Miller's Canine Playground. The request came from the Lion's Club, who after receiving a sizeable donation to the park by Mike Miller and family, also forwarded the request to the park board. The Council discussed the positive feedback they had received on the park thus far and motioned to approve the requested naming.

Motion to approve: **John Schaber**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

18. Mayor's Annual Conference. Mayor Spitzer provided a brief update on the events surrounding the upcoming April 27-28 event that will be hosted in Winona. A tour of St. Charles was being organized and participants such as the Chamber of Commerce were taking part in the welcome. He welcomed Council to attend.

19. Beyond the Yellow Ribbon-Winona Region. Admin. Koverman highlighted the return event that was being scheduled to welcome back the National Guard representatives and added that he would provide more details as they were released.

20. Winona County Invasive Collaborative. Admin. Koverman updated the Council on a new collaborative that was being started and how the group hoped to provide education and information on various invasive problems that are coming into the County. He would provide updates as necessary.

21. Hiring 3 part-time officers. Admin. Koverman highlighted the process for finding/replacing part-time officers within the department. After receiving almost 50 applications and interviewing over a dozen it was the recommendation to extend offers to three candidates pending successful completion of a background check and

psychological evaluation. The three candidates were Brandon Sell, Justin Reisdorfer, and Paul McKay. Hearing no further questions a motion was made to approve the hiring of the three officers.

Motion to approve: Orv Dahl

No further discussion.

Motion declared carried.

Motion to adjourn at 8:42 p.m.

Motion to approve: **Wayne Getz**

Motion declared carried.

William J. Spitzer, Mayor

Attest: _____
Nick Koverman, City Administrator