

MINUTES of the ST. CHARLES CITY COUNCIL
For Tuesday, April 9, 2013 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:

Nick Koverman (City Administrator).

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Dan White, Cathy Groebner, and Craig Hilmer (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: Delete item 7f.) Park Board Report

Motion to approve the agenda: **John Schaber**

No discussion.

Motion carried.

4. MEETING MINUTES

-March 12, 2013

Motion to approve: Orv Dahl

No discussion.

Motion carried.

-March 26, 2013

Motion to approve: Wayne Getz

No discussion.

Motion carried.

APPROVAL of the APRIL PAYABLES

Motion to approve payables: **John Schaber**

6. Notices and Communications. Admin. Koverman updated the Council regarding the request to again be a participant host community for the Ronald McDonald Ride that will be July 28th. Koverman listed all the organizations he has been in contact with and has support from. The Council looked forward to the event.

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

8. Ordinance #562 Amending Electric Rates 2nd Reading. No discussion was held on the language as the Mayor asked for any additional questions. A motion was made to approve Ordinance #562.

Motion to approve: **Wayne Getz**

No further discussion.

The motion carried.

9. Ordinance #563 Amending Residency Requirement. Admin. Koverman presented proposed language that was also reviewed by the City Attorney as the State has made various requirements within any language for policies that require residency. Admin. Koverman reviewed the reasoning for the proposal as a recruitment tool for not only the current position opening, but also future positions. All Councilmen agreed that the proposed 30 minute response time to city limits, given technology and other means to communicate efficiently, a 30 minute response time was reasonable. The proposed language will be brought back to the City Council and the proper notices will be given for consideration and adoption.

10. Resolution #08-2013 Red's Welding Variance. Admin. Koverman presented the proposed resolution as well as supporting materials for a proposed 16' rear variance for Mr. Soppa's property at 1380 Church Avenue. Koverman read the three test factors with respect to approving the variance and the respective letter and recommendations put forward by the Planning & Zoning Commission. The Findings of Fact were read aloud for consideration by the Council.

Based on the discussion with the petitioner and representations made to the St. Charles Planning Commission as well as the letter submitted by the petitioner the following facts are recommended:

1. The proposed expansion and use of the property is reasonable given those assignments made in the statements provided by the petitioner.
2. The variance is required due to the unique circumstances to the property not caused by the landowner as outlined in the representations and submitted letter. These circumstances include the unique shape of the land and current locations of the buildings, the natural drainage way, and the additional setbacks to other districts that any other proposed structure may impede.
3. The rear yard variance nor the location will alter the essential character of the locality based on the discussions and letter submitted as it is located in the I-1 Light Industry District, will match the surrounding structures located both on its own property as well as adjacent properties.

The Council did not have any other further questions. A motion was made to approve Resolution #08-2013 as presented as well as the Findings of Fact.

Motion to approve: **Orv Dahl**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

11. Recycling Fee. Admin. Koverman presented information to the Council with respect to the proposed recycling rebate from Winona County for the property tax parcel fee plus the SCORE funds to the residents who utilize the single sort recycling program and pay a property tax bill for the same service. Staff from the City and the County met to discuss how to most effectively return that money. Koverman highlighted that for the County to return the service through the property tax statement with a rebate form was not possible. In order for the County to refund the money via a check, a W-9 would be required of each person, then keyed in as a new account, then deleted once the check was made. The City is able to either utilize its utility billing system or cut a check, which staff later determined would be the most cleanest way possible. However, this would not come without consider time and expense. It was estimated that it may take 150 hours or more to conduct the process, not to mention the cost of checks, postage, etc. It was discussed as an option for the County to reimburse the City for those expenses. All councilmen agreed that this would be the desired way for the City to participate in the rebate. Admin. Koverman expressed that dialogue would continue with all appointed officials as to the process and what the desire of the County Board is. Admin. Koverman expressed he would relay this position to the County Planner.

UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES

-None

Motion to adjourn at 7:39 p.m.

Motion to approve: **Dave Braun**

Motion declared carried.

William J. Spitzer, Mayor

Attest: _____
Nick Koverman, City Administrator