

**MINUTES of the ST. CHARLES CITY COUNCIL  
For Tuesday, December 8, 2015 held at 6:00 p.m. at  
830 Whitewater Avenue  
St. Charles, Minnesota**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councilmen:  
David Kramer  
Dave Braun  
Orv Dahl (absent)  
Wayne Getz  
Mayor John Schaber

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Ken Frank (Police Chief), Kristine Engstrand (Accountant), Lyle Peterson (Fire Chief), and Nick Koverman (City Administrator).

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Dan White, Bryan Todd (Post Bulletin), and Heather E. Klason (Whitewater Coalition).

**1. ESTABLISH QUORUM/CALL TO ORDER**

Quorum was established with Mayor Schaber calling the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. APPROVAL of the AGENDA:**

Motion to approve: **Dave Braun**  
No discussion.  
Motion carried.

**4. MEETING MINUTES**

-November 10, 2015

Motion to approve: **Wayne Getz**  
No further discussion.  
Motion carried.

-November 24, 2015

Motion to approve: **David Kramer**  
No further discussion.  
Motion carried.

**5. APPROVAL of DECEMBER PAYABLES**

Motion to approve: **Dave Braun**  
No further discussion.  
Motion carried.

**6. Notices and Communications.** None.

**7. Reports of Boards and Communications.** Various reports were given.

**8. Truth In Taxation Presentation.** Kristine Engstrand provided the presentation. Questions were fielded by Engstrand and Admin. Koverman. Clm. Kramer asked for staff to develop a one-page summary of the history, costs, upgrades, benefits of the generators for St. Charles. Clm. Braun added that he has been questioned about selling the electric utility. The Council discussed all of the benefits with respect to ownership including: proceeds distributed to the General Fund in lieu of tax, reduced outage times, the ability of the city to determine projects/upgrades/community improvements, ability to control rates within factors that the city has the ability to control, ability to have power restored within a shorter period of time, increased response times, ability of crew to serve in other capacities, etc.

**9. Ordinance #581 Storm Sewer Rates (1<sup>st</sup> Reading).** Mayor Schaber reviewed the ordinance and explained the increase of \$.71 in order to allow for the increasing storm water maintenance projects as recommended by Mike Bubany. A motion was made to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> reading.

Motion to approve: **Dave Braun**  
No further discussion.

Motion carried.

**10. Fire Department Candidate Nominations.** Fire Chief Lyle Peterson addressed the Council and presented four names for consideration to the department: Justin Slavin, Ryan Smith, Kristine Engstrand, and Jerod Hutsell. Chief Peterson also presented the officers for 2 year terms: Matt Wiskow (Secretary), Keith Zanto (1<sup>st</sup> Assistant), and Aaron Carlson (Training Officer). Motion to approve the four candidates as presented.

Motion to approve: **Wayne Getz**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

Motion to approve officers as listed.

Motion to approve: **Dave Braun**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

**11. UMMEG Rate Stabilization Fund.** Admin. Koverman briefly reviewed the letter from UMMEG attorney Richard Heinemann. Koverman summarized that for Wisconsin utilities various factors influenced how rates were returned to customers, which ultimately must be approved by the Wisconsin Public Utility Commission. In 2017, Wisconsin utilities are facing large STS transmission increases due to projects that were being planned for that time period. It is the goal of the UMMEG for Wisconsin utilities to create a fund in order to help to offset future increases rather than returning the money and then requesting a rate increase to cover those expenses. For Minnesota utilities like St. Charles, local units of government are more effectively able to maintain their rate structure and do not report to a PUC as with Wisconsin. For those reasons expressed, it is staff's recommendation to not participate in the rate stabilization fund. Koverman added that the approximate \$85,579 will be reduced through the same mechanism that the utility paid Dairyland Power the previous year. It would be returned over 6 months in the form of a reduction to the DPC bill. Council was in agreement and agreed with staff recommendation and a motion was made to decline participation in the UMMEG rate stabilization fund.

Motion to approve: **David Kramer**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

**12. Resolution #32-2015 Renewal of Home Occupation/Special Home Occupation Permits.** A motion was made to approve the resolution as presented.

Motion to approve: **David Kramer**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

**13. Resolution #33-2015 Renewal of Conditional Use Permits.** A motion was made to approve the resolution as presented.

Motion to approve: **Wayne Getz**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

**14. Resolution #34-2015 Renewal of Liquor Licenses.** A motion was made to approve the resolution as presented.

Motion to approve: **David Kramer**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

**15. Resolution #35-2015 Renewal of Cigarette Licenses.** A motion was made to approve the resolution as presented.

Motion to approve: **Wayne Getz**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

**16. Library Board Nomination.** Mayor Schaber expressed that the recommendation of Pam Tesch was brought forward from the Library board. Clm. Braun expressed that there were three names presented and while all were very qualified, the board felt Pam Tesch would be a great addition at this time. A motion was made to approve the recommendation.

Motion to approve: **Dave Braun**

No further discussion.

**Mayor Schaber abstained citing family connection.**

Motion carried.

**17. Ordinance #582 Amending Language for Fencing Requirements (1<sup>st</sup> Reading).** Clm. Kramer briefly cited the work the Planning Commission had done on an update to the fencing requirements. A motion was made to approve the first reading.

Motion to approve: **David Kramer**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

**UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES**

-Dan White at 730 Whitewater Avenue relayed to the Council that the Rolling Hills Transit service continues to be a valuable service to the community. He also expressed that the Christmas caroling would take place December 22 and he had about 65 people signed up.

Motion to adjourn at 6:46 p.m.

Motion to approve: **Wayne Getz**

Motion declared carried.

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**John Schaber, Mayor**

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Janell Dahl, Deputy City Clerk**