

MINUTES of the ST. CHARLES CITY COUNCIL
For Tuesday, September 11, 2012 held at 7:00 p.m. at
830 Whitewater Avenue
St. Charles, Minnesota

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councilmen:

John Schaber

Dave Braun

Orv Dahl (absent)

Wayne Getz

Mayor Bill Spitzer

STAFF PRESENT:

Nick Koverman (City Administrator), Kristine Huinker (City Accountant).

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Barb Johnson, Magda Mueller, and Anna McKay.

1. ESTABLISH QUOROM/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:

Motion to approve the agenda: **Wayne Getz**

No discussion.

Motion carried.

4. APPROVAL of the MINUTES

-August 14, 2012

Motion to approve: **John Schaber**

No discussion.

Motion declared carried

-August 28, 2012

Motion to approve: **Dave Braun**

No discussion.

Motion declared carried

5. APPROVAL of the September PAYABLES

Motion to approve payables: **John Schaber**

6. Notices and Communications. None.

7. Reports of Boards and Committees: Clm. Schaber reported that the school district set their maximum levy at 4.81 percent.

8. Administrator's Review. Mayor Spitzer asked if the Council had any questions or additions to the performance review related to Administrator Koverman. No comments were taken at that time; a motion to approve the performance evaluation was made.

Motion to approve: **John Schaber**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

9. Purple Heart Memorial. Admin. Koverman highlighted a conversation of a proposed project with Richard Lande from Winona for a veteran's memorial. Supt. Karger, Mayor Spitzer and Mr. Lande had previously met to discuss the idea. Mr. Lande could not attend the Sept. 11 meeting, but would be available for the 25th meeting. The mayor asked for any general comments and a favorable response was received. The item was held over for the 25th meeting.

10. 2013 Governmental Budget. Admin. Koverman led the discussion by reviewing the last council meeting's discussion of only the governmental budgets. He reviewed with the Council the proposed 16.6 percent levy, and how the brunt of the increase was due to the Capital Improvement Plan budget. He showed past practice back to 2000 of how the City would levy for the needed amount, but that it would then impact the proposed levy. In 2007, as a way to eliminate the ups and downs of a levy amount an incremental approach had been established by the Council. The last several years the Capital Improvement Budget had been cut with projects being delayed. Some of those delays were starting to catch up to the City, but it was also a matter of extending the life of various pieces as well as justifying the needs of other items. Staff recognizes that while there may be a slight uptick in the economy, it would be prudent to continue in that trend. Reducing the CIP budget and returning to the incremental amount would reduce the proposed percentage levy. Staff however after reviewing the items listed could justify again extending the life of various pieces including the city car, the city hall roof replacement, and city hall carpeting. By these few adjustments, the levy could be reduced to 4.69 percent. The Council discussed this proposal and felt that it was more in line with other communities as well as the sentiments from residents.

11. Resolution #25-2012 Preliminary Levy 2013. A motion was made to approve the resolution
Motion to approve: **Wayne Getz**
No further discussion.
Motion carried.

12. Resolution #26-2012 EDA Levy 2012. A proposed levy for the EDA was recommended by the Authority for \$34,015. This was a substantial decrease to the previous year's levy of \$39,120, which is a formula driven levy based on market value. A motion was made to adopt the resolution.
Motion to approve: **John Schaber**
No further discussion.
Motion carried.

13. Library Copier Lease. The library board had discussed replacing their old copy machine with a new one and could in fact reduce their maintenance payment by over \$10 a month by going with the lease. A motion was made to approve the lease.
Motion to approve: **John Schaber**
No further discussion.
Motion carried.

14. P&Z Commission Member Recommendation. The Council review the recommendation from the P&Z Commission to accept the application of Jeff Doberstein for the current opening on the P&Z Committee. A motion was made to approve the recommendation based on the information provided.
Motion to approve: **Wayne Getz**
No further discussion.
Motion carried.

15. District Request for student curbside pickup at 161 W 4th Street. Admin. Koverman relayed the conversation and state statute provided to him by St. Charles Schools Superintendent Mark Roubinek. Clm. Schaber who was also at the school board meeting relayed the information and why the need for the pickup was necessary. After discussing the situation and need, a motion was made to approve 161 W 4th Street as a curbside pickup and certifying the location as being suitable for pickup and delivery.
Motion to approve: **John Schaber**
No further discussion.
Motion carried.

In the interest of everyone's time, Mayor Spitzer offered to hear any public concerns at that time before going into a closed session.

Unscheduled Public Appearances

Magda Mueller addressed the Council and asked the Council what it would take to stop the proposed sand mining operation. In addition, she asked for the Council's position on the current project. Mayor Spitzer explained that the Council, as a quasi-judicial board, did not have a current proposal to consider from the company as the EAW is being considered by Winona County and there is no request to annex at this time. Admin. Koverman added that the Council cannot render an opinion or decision until such time that the request has been made and to do so would jeopardize the City's ability to objectively hear a request and potentially pose a risk to the City.

16. Closed Session-Real Estate Negotiation. The mayor read a prepared statement pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.05, subd. 3 (c) to develop or consider offers or counteroffers for the purchase or sale of real or personal property for 3 parcels owned by David Griggs located on north Whitewater Avenue.

Motion to close meeting at 7:45 p.m.: John Schaber
Motion to open closed meeting at 7:48 p.m.: John Schaber
No further discussion.
Motion declared carried.

Motion to close closed meeting at 8:06 p.m.: John Schaber
Motion to reopen regular meeting 8:06 p.m.: John Schaber

Motion to adjourn at: 8:08 p.m.
Motion to approve: **John Schaber**
No further discussion.
Motion declared carried.

William J. Spitzer, Mayor

Attest: _____
Nick Koverman, City Administrator