

MINUTES of the ST. CHARLES CITY COUNCIL
For Tuesday, August 23, 2016 held at 6:00 p.m. at
830 Whitewater Avenue
St. Charles, Minnesota

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

Lyle Peterson (Fire Chief), Kyle Karger (PW Supt.), and Nick Koverman (City Administrator).

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Brian Krambeer, Chad Chaffee, Kaye Bernard, Ted Kjos, Sen. Matt Schmit, Craig Hilmer, Dan White, and Jill Veerkamp (St. Charles Press).

1. ESTABLISH QUOROM/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 the agenda: **Wayne Getz**
No discussion.
Motion carried.

4. Notices and Communications. Admin. Koverman highlighted the Gladiolus Days week. Mayor Schaber congratulated the Gladiolus Days contestants.

5. Review of Financials. No questions.

6. Tri-County Electric Cooperative Presentation. CEO and President of Tri-County Electric(TEC), Brian Krambeer, presented information to the Council that outlined the services and value that he felt Tri-County brought to the table as far as member services that St. Charles could receive as a member under Tri-County's umbrella. While TEC is also a member of the Dairyland Power Cooperative, many of the same benefits that St. Charles currently receives from generation capacity, the wind contracts with UMMEG, but also the ability to investigate solar and possibly attract new businesses with help from the EDA personnel as they have more access to federal loan dollars. Currently, nine other municipalities are members with TEC and have similar arrangements as Mr. Krambeer relayed. He outlined the various services that would be available to the utility, but he also relayed that the relationship would be seamless from any other standpoint as they would serve as our wholesale power provider. He outlined that he hoped the process could move fairly quickly as a contract between UMMEG and DPC was also in the works. Clm. Kramer asked what that meant in terms of time and Mr. Krambeer relayed that hopefully it could be done in several months. Kramer also asked about the negative impacts or downsides and to that Mr. Krambeer could offer no foreseen negative. Mayor Schaber expressed that he felt that we had been working with TEC in other areas and this would more formally tie ourselves to TEC and that the benefit of leveraging other assets for potential growth looked to be in our best interest. He called for a motion to direct city administrator and staff to proceed to work with TEC to draft a proposal for the Council.

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

Clm. Kramer exited the meeting.

7. Senator Matt Schmit-Legislative Update. Sen. Schmit provided a brief update with respect to the legislative session. At the conclusion, Clm. Braun cautioned that if laws were to change from taxing agricultural land to residential/commercial taxpayers to be careful. Sen. Schmit thanked him for his comment and relayed that balancing tax responsibility was being given much consideration.

8. Ordinance #587 Family Health Care Dwelling Opt Out (2nd Reading). Mayor Schaber asked if anyone had any changes or deletions as part of the second reading. Hearing no changes, he called for a motion to approve Ordinance #587. A motion was made to approve as presented.

Motion to approve: **Dave Braun**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

9. Fire Department Tanker Replacement. Fire Chief Lyle Peterson gave a quick update on the Tri-County Fire Fighter meeting held August 10th. He relayed that 92 firefighters were present for the meeting and that everyone had favorable comments. He then began to reference the tanker and the estimates that the truck committee had done with respect to replacing the unit due to the fact that because of the 5-speed with rear 2-speed transmission very few of the volunteers could drive the unit. The estimate for a new tanker to replace the 1995 Chevy was \$250,000 and to purchase a refurbished chassis was approximately \$150,000. The committee had also investigated the possibility of replacing the transmission with an automatic unit and upgrading the emergency flashing lights of the tanker. Peterson estimated the cost for the third option of approximately \$25,000. He relayed that this was the recommendation of the truck and that funds would be taken from the existing budget and within the reserves. Mayor Schaber expressed that he understood the desire to improve this unit given the low miles and hours and the shape of the chassis. It would also be helpful to make it more universal for other volunteers to operate. Clm. Getz agreed and stated it made the most sense with Clm. Dahl also agreeing. A motion was made to move forward with the improvement of the transmission and lighting upgrade.

Motion to approve: **Wayne Getz**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

Chief Peterson then directed the Council to information provided on the table regarding the previous discussion of the airpaks/tanks and provided estimates from two vendors that would be utilized in the seeking of two grants. He highlighted the fact that fifteen SCBA packs are 1992 issue and that there have been four NFPA standard improvements since that time. He relayed that the tank system used by firefighters protects the firefighters and saves their lives. In addition, the communication modules would be improved as well. The range for the units is approximately \$113,000 to \$161,000 dependent on the company. He highlighted for the Council the various improvements and why he felt the strong need for this improvement. Clm. Getz relayed to the Council that there is no comparison when talking about new packs versus old packs. Peterson requested a motion to go out for RFP for units in preparation of the seeking the grants, but added that should the grants fail, it is still a necessity of the department. Clm. Braun asked about funding of the units and Chief Peterson relayed that \$25,000 initially would come from gambling funds. Admin. Koverman added that the reserve of the fire is around \$146,000 and that options would be explored, but that the direction was to seek the grant opportunities first. He added that the RFP process would not commit the city to any purchase just to seek formal bids. A motion was made to approve the fire department to send out an RFP for SCBAs and related materials.

Motion to approve: **Dave Braun**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

10. 2017 Electric CIP Truck Replacement. Supt. Karger addressed the Council and highlighted a memo that outlined the 2017 CIP electric replacement plan of the 2005 Ford Expedition. He reviewed the program benefits through SugarLoaf Ford and how the city has been saving utility and maintenance costs with the program that they have been part of for almost 4 years with two vehicles. Karger explained that he requested from SugarLoaf the use of a half ton versus a three-quarter ton truck and they agreed to the use. Supt. Karger also relayed that he will be able to make the payment from his 2016 CIP. All members agreed that the program has been beneficial to the city and that the savings continue to be realized. A motion was made to approve the ordering of the replacement vehicle for the 2005 Ford Expedition.

Motion to approve: **Orv Dahl**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

11. Preliminary 2017 General Fund Budget. City Accountant Kristine Engstrand presented the preliminary 2017 Governmental Budget to the Council and highlighted various areas and lines items within the budget. She relayed that a preliminary levy amount would be 8.07 percent. After initially working on the budget it was estimated at 13.85 percent but after working with department heads, it was able to be paired down to the proposed 8.07 percent. Mayor Schaber expressed that it was a starting point and that if there were any questions or comments to please relay those on to staff. No further discussion was held.

UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES

None.

Motion to adjourn at 7:06 p.m.

Motion to approve: **Wayne Getz**

Motion declared carried.

John Schaber, Mayor

Attest: _____
Nick Koverman, City Administrator