

**MINUTES of the ST. CHARLES CITY COUNCIL**  
**For Tuesday, December 23, 2014 held at 6:00 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:** David Braun, Jill Johnson (Winona County), Dan White, JoAnn Wegman and Craig Hilmer (St. Charles Press).

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

Quorum was established with Mayor Spitzer 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.** None.

**5. Review of Financials.** No discussion.

**6. Vista Volunteer Application-SMIF.** Jill Johnson from Winona County was present to provide information for a possible grant application to the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation for a Vista Volunteer. Johnson explained that the county had been awarded the volunteer for the past 4 years and she outlined the benefits of the volunteer. According to Johnson, there was no financial obligation by the applicant as it is a paid position by the federal government. She explained there are only five awards given out. Conversation had been held with the Resource Center as well as the school district with respect to what opportunities the city may be able to offer. Admin. Koverman added that through these developed partnerships he felt the opportunity would be a meaningful experience if awarded. The opportunity through the Farmer's Market as well as the Farm to School food program, community gardens, and other opportunities to help low income all fell within the scope. The Council agreed that it sounded like a positive opportunity especially with the other interested partners. A motion was made to proceed with the application to the Vista Volunteer program.

Motion to approve: **John Schaber**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

**7. Ordinance #575 Administrative Fines and Fees (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading).** A second reading was held. No further discussion was held. A motion to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading was made.

Motion to approve: **Dave Braun**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

8. Resolution #50-2014 Liquor License. Admin. Koverman highlighted the process by the new applicant for the St. Charles Golf Course and expressed they had met all of the conditions and recommended approval. A motion was made to approve the resolution as presented.

Motion to approve: **Orv Dahl**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

9. **Advanced Disposal Amended Agreement.** The proposed amended agreement highlighted the changes approved by the Council with the idea that in 2 years with the recycling contract that it may be merged to Winona County. A motion was made to approve the amended contract.

Motion to approve: **Wayne Getz**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

10. **Whitewater River Gauge Contract Extension.** Admin. Koverman highlighted the contract extension proposed by the DNR and expressed that the item had been budgeted, but he wanted to bring it to the Council for consideration. All Councilmen agreed that it was a good insurance policy and better to have than to remove. A motion was made to approve the gauge.

Motion to approve: **John Schaber**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

11. **2015 Council Schedule.** The proposed schedule of Council meetings with a 6 p.m. start time was discussed. The Council felt all the dates were good along with the time. Admin. Koverman expressed that while the Council began the idea of summer hours, many communities were moving to early meetings to make it more convenient for residents who have children or other evening commitments but would be able to stop before going home. The council agreed.

Motion to approve: **Dave Braun**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

12. **Labor Negotiations-Closed Session.** Mayor Spitzer asked if everyone had a chance to review the points of the contract and if there was a need to go into closed session to discuss the points of the contract. Hearing no opposition, he moved on to item 13 of the agenda, thereby dispensing the need for a closed session.

13. **Union Contracts.** Admin. Koverman provided a summary of the items. The contract was extended with a 3-year term for both LELS and IBEW. The agreed upon cost of living adjustment was the following: 2015 2 percent, 2016, 2.25 percent, and 2017 a 2 percent January and 1 percent July (effectively a 2.5 percent). It was noted that a classification disparity was discussed by IBEW, but that the City would need to address the issue as part of a larger classification study that he felt the city needed to pursue. Within the IBEW contract, 10 additional hours of payment of compensatory time earned was included. Within the LELS contract, the shift differential times were changed to 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. Hearing no other questions, a motion was made to approve the 3-year contract for IBEW.

Motion to approve: **John Schaber**

Clm. Braun suggested that compensatory time be an item researched in the future. Hearing no further discussion.

Motion carried.

Motion to approve the 3-year contract with LELS.

Motion to approve: **Dave Braun**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

At this point, Clm. Schaber presented Mayor Spitzer with a 10-year plaque of appreciation for his service to the city and presented him with his gavel and name plate. Mayor Spitzer thanked the Council and staff for many wonderful years.

**UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES**

Dan White-Mr. White extended his thanks to the mayor as well.

Motion to adjourn at 6:20 p.m.

Motion to approve: **Orv Dahl**

Motion declared carried.

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**John Schaber, Mayor**

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