

MINUTES of the ST. CHARLES CITY COUNCIL
For Tuesday, February 14, 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:

Jeff Hardtke (St. Charles Ambulance Director), Sharon Grossardt (St. Charles Librarian), Bill Eckles (Police Chief), Kyle Karger (Public Works Superintendent), Nick Koverman (City Administrator).

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: None

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: Addition of item: 20). Elcor Pay Request #5 \$92,625

Motion to approve the agenda: John Schaber

No discussion.

Motion carried.

4. APPROVAL of the MINUTES

January 3, 2012

Motion to approve: Dave Braun

No discussion.

Motion declared carried

January 10, 2012

Motion to approve: Wayne Getz

No discussion.

Motion declared carried.

5. APPROVAL of the FEBRUARY PAYABLES

Motion to approve payables: John Schaber

6. Notices and Communications. Mayor Spitzer briefly reviewed the Project Fine annual report from their recent annual meeting that he and Admin. Koverman attended.

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

8. Public Hearing-Assessment. A motion was made to close the regular meeting and open the public hearing at 7:12 p.m.

Motion to approve: **John Schaber**

No further discussion.

Motion declared carried.

Mayor Spitzer discussed the reasoning for the public hearing with respect to the two proposed assessments for services. He called for public comment once, twice, and three times. Hearing no objections or comment, he asked for a motion to close the public hearing and reopen the regular Council meeting.

A motion to close the public hearing and reopen the regular meeting at 7:13 p.m. was made.

Motion to approve: **Wayne Getz**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

9. Resolution #05-2012 Certifying Assessment. A motion was made to approve Resolution #05-2012.

Motion to approve: **Wayne Getz**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

10. Ordinance #551 Administrative Fines and Fees 2nd Reading. A brief discussion of the ordinance was held. A motion to approve the second reading was made.

Motion to approve: **John Schaber**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

11. 2011 Annual Reports. The Council reviewed the annual reports from each department. Various department heads were present to answer any questions. Supt. Karger added to his report that the annual project list was put together and that he would be finalizing that piece for 2012 summer projects for the electric department. No other questions were relayed.

12. 2012 Ambulance Rate Proposal. Ambulance Director Jeff Hardtke was present to outline the rate increase proposal for service. The rates have not been altered since 2008. The average charge increase was \$25, but Mr. Hardtke highlighted that much of the change would be borne by insurance companies, Medicare, Medicaid. No further questions were asked. A motion to approve the 2012 rate increase proposal was made.

Motion to approve: **Dave Braun**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

13. Ambulance Personnel Hire. Mr. Hardtke again addressed the Council and requested that Bria Majerus be hired by the City of St. Charles to serve as an EMT. A motion was made to approve the hire.

Motion to approve: **John Schaber**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

14. Heartland Community Church Request. Admin. Koverman highlighted conversations held with Pastor Mark Plum of the Heartland Community Church. Because of the long-term nature of the rental and the request to store audio equipment, Admin. Koverman felt he would like to have the Council address the request. While the rental piece did not bother him, the liability of storage was a concern. After a short discussion, it was agreed that if the congregation provided their own insurance policy on the equipment it would not be a problem. With respect to the long-term arrangement Clm. Schaber suggested and later motioned that a 90 day review of the agreement be made as they are looking to rent every Sunday from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Admin. Koverman explained that perhaps the staff may review the costs of the facility to determine whether or not the current fee is acceptable to recovering costs. In addition, as the City continues to invest into various technology amenities recovering costs would make it easier to make those improvements. A motion was made to provide a 3 month review following the rental with an agreement to provide their own liability insurance for equipment.

Motion to approve: **Wayne Getz**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

15. Rugby Wind Proposal. Supt. Karger led the discussion highlighting details that would allow the City of St. Charles and its coalition members of the Upper Municipal Midwest Power Association (UMMPA) conduct a 20-

year purchase power agreement into a wind farm to help provide a long-term low-cost alternative for a portion of the city's power needs, while helping to reach the state mandated green credits. The letter of intent requested to be signed would provide the group with a notice of interest, but should another proposal that was being discussed be a better possibility; the City of St. Charles could simply terminate the letter of intent with no obligations, according to UMMPA's legal counsel. Staff continues to investigate with UMMPA the best option possible, but it was relayed how the Council being patient and doing their due diligence has saved city residents dollars as three prior proposals did not offer as favorable rates as seen in the current proposal. As more information comes forward the Council will be updated with a potential contract to be presented at a later date. A motion to approve the Letter of Intent to enter into a long-term purchase power agreement with the Rugby Wind proposal was made.

Motion to approve: **John Schaber**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

16. Police Squad Purchase. Police Chief Bill Eckles presented information with respect to the purchase of a 2012 police vehicle. He presented three possibilities with costs and maintenance contracts. It was his recommendation to purchase a Chevy Tahoe for \$28,828.85 that came with a standard 5-year 100,000 mile warranty. The budgeted amount was \$35,000. Questions were then asked with respect to the prospect of a car versus and SUV. Chief Eckles did not pursue quotes on a car, but expressed that he could come back if Council desired. A discussion of operating expenses followed. After a brief discussion, Clm. Schaber requested that Chief Eckles return to their March meeting with more information on a car versus an SUV.

17. Sewer Use Policy. Admin. Koverman discussed the request by the District to align the City's ordinance with the current policy of the district. After review, it was relayed that the fines and penalties are currently in line with that of the states as the District requested. At this point, legal counsel did not see the need to amend the ordinance.

18. Security City Hall. Mayor Spitzer led the discussion with respect to continuing to update City Hall security. Various bids and ideas were reviewed for updates. Clm. Schaber wanted to know what the employee's preferred schedule was. Information for plans, training, budget, and various facilities will be presented at a later meeting. In addition it was requested to know what other cities were doing.

19. Board of Appeals-April 11, 2012. The annual Board of Appeals meeting has been set by the County Assessor for April 11, 2012. Clm. Schaber, Getz, and Dahl are all currently trained.

20. Elcor Pay Request #5--\$92,625. The request for \$92,625 was made as work performed for a portion of the booster station. A motion to approve the request was made.

Motion to approve: **John Schaber**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

Motion to approve: **Wayne Getz**

Motion declared carried.

William J. Spitzer, Mayor

Attest: _____
Nick Koverman, City Administrator