

**MINUTES of the ST. CHARLES CITY COUNCIL
For Tuesday, February 26, 2013 held at 7:00 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:

Kyle Karger (PW Supt.), and Nick Koverman (City Administrator).

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Wayne Feyereisn, Renee Ready, Linda Wilson, Linda Bonow, George Schwoboda, Jim Huth, Janice Timm, Al Timm, KA Wilson, Travis Lange, Annette Henderson, Dan White, Deb Fort, Skip Fort, Cathy Groebner, Dave Redig, Bob Christie, Jeanette Milfes, Mike Knutson, Tom Campbell, Rick Frick, Vince Ready, Craig Hilmer, Fred Troendle, and Susan Lien.

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: Delete item: 14). Resolution #04-2013 Liquor License Borderline Pizza.

Motion to approve the agenda: Orv Dahl

No discussion.

Motion carried.

4. Notices and Communications. Admin. Koverman presented a letter to the Council regarding SE MN Multicounty HRA's intent to seek to be added to legislation that would allow them to levy 25 percent without approval by a local board. The council agreed that they would like a letter sent to the ED of the organization expressing the Council's position to not support nor approve such a move. A motion to approve the letter was made: John Schaber. No further discussion. The motion was approved.

5. REVIEW OF FINANCIALS.

6. Special Assessment Hearing. A motion to open the special assessment hearing was made at 7:05 p.m.

Motion to open: **John Schaber**

Seconded: **Wayne Getz**

No discussion.

Motion carried.

Admin. Koverman briefed the Council on the proposed special assessment. The mayor called for any comments. He called once, twice, three times. Hearing no presentations, he called for a motion to close the public hearing at 7:07 p.m.

Motion to close: **Wayne Getz**

Seconded: **Dave Braun**

No discussion.

Motion carried.

7. Resolution #05-2013 Adoption of the Special Assessment. A motion to approve the special assessment for the property at 29.060.1670 in the amount of \$534.68.

Motion to approve: **Orv Dahl**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

8. Dr. Wayne Feyereisn Powerpoint Presentation. Dr. Feyereisn highlighted his powerpoint presentation that was provided in the packet. He touched on three items of acrylamides, diesel fumes, and particulates and monitoring. Following his explanation of the information, the Council asked various questions to Dr. Feyereisn that were addressed.

9. 2012 Electric Rate Study/Proposal. Admin. Koverman recounted the past discussion regarding the proposed rates. He highlighted the change in philosophy as used by the former electrical engineer versus the new electrical engineer. While the proposed philosophy treats every customer equally in that the cost of service is the same regardless of usage, the current rate structure does not hold that philosophy and rather subsidizes the lower user. While most customers who are higher users would see a decrease, the lower end users may see an increase because the cost of service is the same if the higher base price was utilized. Reviewing past choices, administrator Koverman presented a tiered system that while high end customers would see a reduction it would not be as great due to the offsetting rate to the lower usage customer. Admin. Koverman also implemented this strategy with single and three phase customers to show how a tiered system may impact the user. Clm. Schaber stated that he liked the tiered structure, but questioned if a \$10 base fee could be utilized and asked to see those numbers. Clm. Braun agreed that it was a lot of information to take in and that he would like more time. A motion to bring back additional figures with the \$10 base fee was moved.

Motion to approve: **John Schaber**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

10. Electric Enterprise Reserve Fund Policy. Admin. Koverman represented the reserve fund policy that was provided during the February 26th meeting. The policy was adopted from existing policies similar to the general fund; however, Tom Nigon had researched what similar utilities and utilities of varying size maintain for reserve policies. It was recommended to keep a 50 percent reserve fund. All Councilmen agreed not to exceed 50 percent as the adopted policy.

Motion to approve: **Wayne Getz**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

11. Police Chief Interview Committee Selection. Admin. Koverman presented names consisting of the following: Bill Sires (MN State Patrol), Chris Lennon (Interim Police Chief), Kent Russel (Chief of Police-Goodview), Ron Ganrude (WC Deputy Sheriff), Mayor Spitzer, and Clm. Getz both as members of the Personnel Committee. A seventh member would be selected from the Chamber of Commerce/business community. Admin. Koverman would be present, but not have a vote. In addition, he offered that if additional councilmen wanted to take part in the process that a second interview committee comprised of two councilmen and fulltime officer could help to narrow the field, if the council so chose. The Council agreed that the first process would be sufficient and that the recommendation from that committee would suffice. A motion was made to approve the selection process and the potential candidates for the committee.

Motion to approve: **John Schaber**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

12. Capital Improvement Plan. Mayor Spitzer presented the plan and asked for any questions, comments or concerns. Clm. Braun stated that he did not agree with the list with respect to a proposed water department truck. The Council discussed what a good guide would be for the replacement of vehicles. A brief discussion was also held with respect to a prior purchase of the Total Patcher street repair unit. When asked Supt. Karger highlighted that the unit was to be a repair measure only and that a cost of repairing the streets in whole was presented in 2010 at roughly \$500,000. The Council chose to extend the life of streets with the machine until a longer term solution could be sought. If the Council elected to return to the hotpatch practice then the roller in question was a necessity as the current unit continues to break down. Supt. Karger then reiterated that the truck to be replaced was in fact going to the Park Department which is how the Park Department has been able to replace their trucks. The 1999 Ford would be replaced with the 2005 truck. He expressed his concern with not staying with a plan as items will begin to stack up and the ability of the city to replace them when they in fact had the chance to do it will expire. A discussion of

hours versus mileage was held with the understanding that it is difficult to take one measure over another because there are so many variables that may affect the policy. This is why maintaining a year of a replacement, if possible, has worked. In fact, replacement schedules have been extended on most trucks from 10 years to 15 years and large equipment from 15 years to 20 or even 25 years. Hearing no more discussion, a motion was made to accept the 2013-2037 CIP plan as printed in the packet.

Motion to approve: **John Schaber**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

13. Ordinance #561 Amending Accessory Building Definition 2nd Reading. A motion was made to accept the second reading with no changes.

Motion to approve: **Wayne Getz**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

15. Farmer's Market Request. Admin. Koverman reviewed the request from Winona County to utilize the north parking lot of city hall. All Councilmen were in agreement to support the project. A motion was made to approve the request as stated.

Motion to approve: **John Schaber**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES

-Linda Bonow of Mazeppa. Asked Council to consider the questions of the cumulative impacts and health concerns related to the proposed project.

-Travis Lange—Asked Council to stand with the residents as expressed by St. Charles Township Supervisor Jim Ruhberg.

Mayor Spitzer thanked Mr. Lange and encouraged all Councilmen to contact names on the list.

-Dr. Annette Henderson—Dr. Henderson read the advertisement from the Rochester Area Business Directory.

-Amy Behrens-Soppa Drive—Reminded Council to take things slow and expressed that she trusted in what they were doing and that she had trust in the process.

-Janet Campbell-Mrs. Campbell made the statement that she had not signed the petition.

No further comments were heard.

Motion to adjourn at 8:47 p.m.

Motion to approve: **John Schaber**

Motion declared carried.

William J. Spitzer, Mayor

Attest: _____
Nick Koverman, City Administrator