

**MINUTES of the ST. CHARLES CITY COUNCIL
for Tuesday, July 19, 2016 held at 6:00 p.m. at
830 Whitewater Avenue,
St. Charles, Minnesota**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT: PW Supt. Kyle Karger, Police Chief Ken Frank, and Nick Koverman (City Administrator).

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Dan White and Jill Veerkamp (St. Charles Press).

1. ESTABLISH QUORUM/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: Item 14.) addition July 26, 2016 meeting.

Motion to approve: **Orv Dahl**
No discussion.
Motion carried.

4. Meeting Minutes

-June 14, 2016
Motion to approve: **Orv Dahl**
No discussion
Motion carried.

5. July Payables.

Motion to approve: **Wayne Getz**
No discussion.
Motion carried.

6. Notices and communications: Admin. Koverman updated folks on the Ronald McDonald Ride that was coming to town Sunday, July 24.

7. Reports of Boards and Committee:

Reports were given.

8. Police Staffing. Police Chief Ken Frank presented information to the Council with respect to the interview process for two internal candidates that were received for the Police Sergeant position. It was the recommendation of the committee that Officer Jose Peleaz be offered the position. Frank highlighted his background, experience, and role within the department as key drivers to the recommendation. Chief Frank then highlighted the need to fill the vacancy from Officer Peleaz being promoted. Mayor Schaber stated that also appreciates Officer Peleaz's bilingual ability. A motion was made to promote Officer Peleaz to Police Sergeant and advertise to fill his position.

Motion to approve: **Wayne Getz**
No further discussion.
Motion carried.

9. Squad Car Replacement. Chief Frank highlighted the memo provided to the Council outlining a proposal to replace three squads. During the July 4th event the 2010 Impala was involved in a not at-fault more vehicle accident and was deemed by the insurance as totaled. The 2009 squad had 123,000+ miles while the other 2010 was at 92,000. According to Chief, all units have seen escalating maintenance costs at an average of \$6,000 since 2014. With insurance coverage, it was estimated that the city will receive approximately 10,500. Chief Frank received state bids for three 2017 Ford Interceptors and after trade-in allowances received an annual lease price of \$22,587 which includes a 3-year/36,000 mile warranty and a 5-year 100,000 mile transmission warranty. Chief Frank reminded Council that squad replacement was planned to star in 2016 but was delayed and would run for the next 3 years. Chief Frank expressed his concern that the units would see continued escalating maintenance costs or would simply not be reliable as they have exceeded their useful life at 6 and 7 years old. The insurance money would reduce the cost of the first year payment or could be spread out over the term of the long to reduce the annual payments. The first payment would not be expected until January 2, 2017 and an order would not be filled until that time either. The Council discussed how the leasing option had worked well and that reducing the maintenance costs in the first 3 years would put the city money ahead. All Councilmen were in favor of the option and a motion was made to approve the leasing of three 2017 Ford Interceptors.

Motion to approve: **Orv Dahl**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

10. Power Supply Contract Discussions. Admin. Koverman briefed the Council on the ongoing discussions with Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) regarding a proposed long-term contract for wholesale power. Over the course of the year-and-a-half long investigation of various power supply options, the Upper Midwest Municipal Energy Group (UMMEG), of which St. Charles is a member, researched various proposals as well as opened negotiations with DPC. After review, UMMEG has finalized a tentative agreement that will potentially be formalized at an upcoming meeting. In addition, the EDA and staff have been working on a potential partnership with Tri-County Electric who is working to court a new potential business partner. In addition, as part of the discussions with DPC, they urge communities to join other coop members. Through discussions with Brian Krambeer from Tri-County, he has outlined the various benefits that would accompany St Charles utilizing Tri-County as their wholesale provider. He outlined a 3-year reduction in power supply cost that would be provided, and as demonstrated and reviewed by UMMEG financial analysts the cost would be comparable. All current benefits enjoyed through the UMMEG power arrangement would also be experienced in addition to the continued credit given for the local generation. Admin. Koverman and Supt. Karger both spoke about the potential benefits and added that there did not seem to be any negatives to the deal. Solar was also expressed as a potential partnership project with Tri-County and Tri-County's ability and willingness to finance the project was also a plus. Admin. Koverman recommended that Council invite Mr. Krambeer and his team to a future meeting to outline and highlight the potential project. Council agreed with the idea. No formal action was required.

11. Temporary Family Health Care Dwellings. Admin. Koverman highlighted the information in the packet as well as provided a list of 31 communities that were opting out of the new legislation. After speaking with the building inspector, he relayed that it was the recommendation of Construction Management Services to opt out. Council agreed that it would not be a good fit for St. Charles and that current options are available to residents. A motion was made to schedule a public hearing to move forward with the opt-out provision of the law.

Motion to approve: **David Kramer**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

12. 2017 Budget Timeline. Admin. Koverman presented the budget timeline and encouraged Council to consider goals/projects for the City. Certainly, staff will also bring items to the Council's table, but if there were pieces that Council would like considered than now would be the time. A motion was made to approve the budget timeline as presented.

Motion to approve: **Orv Dahl**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

13. Resolution #18-2016 Appointing Election Judges. Mayor Schaber highlighted the proposed agenda. A motion was made to approve the resolution as presented.

Motion to approve: **Wayne Getz**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

14. July 26, 2016 Council Meeting. Mayor Schaber explained that due to few Council items, he asked the Council to consider cancelling the meeting. AS part of the discussion, it was relayed that as part of the budget timeline the November 8, 2016 meeting was moved to November 9, 2016 due to the General Election. In addition, the Primary Election for August 9th was relayed that it should be moved to Wednesday, August 10, 2016. A motion was made to cancel the July 26th meeting and move the November 8th to November 9th and the August 9th to August 10th.

Motion to approve: **David Kramer**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES

Dan White addressed the Council and shared his support and information on various topics.

Motion to adjourn at 6:42 p.m.

Motion to approve: **Wayne Getz**

Motion declared carried.

John P. Schaber, Mayor

ATTEST

Nick Koverman, City Administrator