

MINUTES of the ST. CHARLES CITY COUNCIL
For Tuesday, June 25, 2013 held at 7:00 p.m. at
830 Whitewater Avenue
St. Charles, Minnesota

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councilmen:
John Schaber (absent)
Dave Braun
Orv Dahl
Wayne Getz
Mayor Bill Spitzer

STAFF PRESENT:

Kristine Huinker, Lyle Peterson, Jeff Hardtke, Kyle Karger, and Nick Koverman (City Administrator).

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Craig Hilmer, Senator Matt Schmidt, Rick Engstrom (WHKS) and Dan White.

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:

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

4. Notices and Communications. Admin. Koverman reviewed a letter provided by a resident on recreational fires. He then reminded Council of the current City Code with respect to recreational fires.

5. REVIEW OF FINANCIALS. No comments.

6. Senator Matt Schmit. Senator Schmit provided a brief overview of the legislative session.

7. Wiskow Dam Review. City Engineer Rick Engstrom provided a review of the Wiskow Dam. This has been a structure that staff has been following for the last several seasons and a full review of the dam was conducted in order to better outline the needs of the dam. A grant application had been applied for previously to try and rectify the matter, but was unsuccessful. Staff will re-apply for the grant, but noted that it should be placed on a 2014 project timeline. Costs were estimated between \$80,000 and \$140,000 dependent on work conducted and mandated repairs by the Dept. of Natural Resources. Mr. Engstrom also informed Council of other concerns of water drainage issues that staff has been monitoring. Mr. Engstrom expressed that the unusual rainfall which has broken records dating back to 1899 certainly do not present a normal event. Staff will continue to monitor the situation and bring back recommendations if necessary. He also informed the Council that a priority CIP storm water list was being put together. Mayor Spitzer requested that Mr. Engstrom bring back to Council options and costs associated with the Wiskow Dam project.

8. Downtown Light pole Refurbishing. Supt. Kyle Karger presented information as a follow-up to a discussion with updated pricing as a way to refurbish the existing downtown street poles that are in need of maintenance. A revised quote from the company to sandblast and repaint the existing poles in place was received for \$9,900. Supt. Karger expressed that while 44 poles are in place, replacements would also need painting. Future poles would be painted right from the manufacturer. Mayor Spitzer expressed that a contact at the League of MN Cities conference that was just attended was going to send an updated LED sample light for use as a way to cut costs and provide brighter illumination. Clm. Getz asked about the possibility of resetting the timers to test the need for the additional lighting. A motion was made to approve the refurbishing of the lights to hunter green.
Motion to approve: **Wayne Getz**

No further discussion.
Motion carried.

9. Street Roller Replacement. Supt. Karger presented three quotes from vendors with respect to the replacement of the 20+year street roller. The lowest bid after trade in on state contract was \$9,421.00 before state tax and licensing. It is the same size as the current unit and \$16,000 was budgeted for replacement. Going a size larger increased the unit to over \$20,000, but Supt. Karger expressed that for their projects the size currently used works fine. Clm. Dahl expressed that it was under budget and planned and motioned for approval.

Motion to approve: **Orv Dahl**

No further discussion.
Motion carried.

10. Ambulance Garage Proposal. Ambulance Director Jeff Hardtke was present and discussed the current needs of the ambulance department in relation to the growing demand on the service as call volume has steadily increased with calls at an all-time high. While the current location was only designed for one unit, two are in place, but it is not ideal. In addition, the general make-up of the association is different as more out-of-town volunteers are used. The futures of area ambulance services are uncertain as costs rise and volunteers are becoming harder to find. Mr. Hardtke presented a plan for a proposed reuse of the former Downtown Motel. He has been in contact with the owner and they have agreed to a 6 month timeline for the City to investigate options. He presented a brief outline/discussion of a phased project whereby the Ambulance Service may fund the project without the use of tax dollars. Discussion followed by the Council regarding various ideas, concerns, funding sources and costs. The result of the discussion was to investigate use of currently owned land behind city hall, the Downtown Motel, the renovation of the current fire hall site for one facility as well as an addition to address needs of the fire department. Fire Chief Lyle Peterson was present and highlighted the fact that the fire hall has been designated in the city's emergency management plan that as the incident command center, but that the facilities are grossly underprepared. While it was expressed that certainly no decision could be offered today, Clm. Getz expressed that it was a starting point and wanted to keep the discussion moving forward.

Hardtke later returned during the public comment portion and asked for a Council action to secure a first right of refusal option for 6 months for \$1,000. A motion was made to approve the action.

Motion to approve: **Orv Dahl**

No further discussion.
Motion carried.

11. Blandin Foundation Community Leadership Program. Admin. Koverman presented information to the Council on the Community Leadership Program sponsored by the Blandin Foundation. He highlighted the benefits and the premise of the program that was fully funded and sponsored by the Blandin Foundation. A community application must be submitted and the program would not take place until 2015. All Councilmen agreed it would be a plus for the community.

Motion to approve: **Dave Braun**

No further discussion.
Motion carried.

12. DNR Weather Bug Agreement. Admin. Koverman highlighted the program initiated in 2011 regarding the installation and monitoring of the flood protection device west of town. No funds have been expended by the City, which was initially anticipated to be \$5,000. The grant paid for the operation of the unit until recently. The DNR contacted the City and requested that the city continue with this arrangement. A seasonal contract was submitted for \$4,900. The Council agreed it was an inexpensive insurance policy as the data is used by the National Weather Service which helps area forecasters predict events in our area. A motion to approve the program was made.

Motion to approve: **Wayne Getz**

No further discussion.
Motion carried.

UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES
None

Motion to adjourn at 8:24 p.m.
Motion to approve: **Dave Braun**
Motion declared carried.

William J. Spitzer, Mayor

Attest: _____
Nick Koverman, City Administrator