

**MINUTES of the ST. CHARLES CITY COUNCIL
For Tuesday, March 12, 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:

Nick Koverman (City Administrator), Interim Police Chief Chris Lennon, Lyle Peterson (Fire Chief), Officer Renee Hewitt.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Nancy Heim, Dr. Wayne Feyereisn, Laura Berndt, Nicole Grubanslea, Kyle Schweitzer, Erich Schweitzer, Ruth Cole, Alisha Cole, Ben O., Keith Wilson, Dave Redig, Linda Wilson, Tim Helgemoe, Elizabeth Lommen, Mike Knutson, James McCormick, Nancy McCormick, George Schwoboda, Deb Fort, Skip Fort, Deb Slavin, Connie Fox, Mike Worke, Travis Lange, Dan Hursch, Mike Work, Eric Williamson, Chris Rogers, Dan White, Cory Chuchna, Barb Johnson, Cathy Groebner, Renee Ready, Vince Ready, Jim Huth, and Craig Hilmer (St. Charles Press).

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: 17. Jo-Ann Wegman Library Board Appointment

Motion to approve the agenda: **Wayne Getz**

No discussion.

Motion carried.

4. MEETING MINUTES

-February 12, 2013

Motion to approve: Orv Dahl

No discussion.

Motion carried.

-February 26, 2013

Motion to approve: Dave Braun

No discussion.

Motion carried.

APPROVAL of the MARCH PAYABLES

Motion to approve payables: **John Schaber**

6. Notices and Communications. Interim Police Chief Chris Lennon presented an accommodation to Officer Justin Reisdorfer for service to the community.

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

8. Consideration of Annexation Petitions. The City Council was provided options of actions corresponding to the annexation petitions that were provided in May of 2012. Mayor Spitzer began the discussion by reading a statement to the Council and those present. At the end of the statement, he asked Council for any discussion. He referenced the

proposed resolution that was a potential option to the Council with respect to denial of the annexation petitions. He called for any motions at that time. A motion to approve the proposed resolution #06-2013 denying the annexation petitions was moved.

Motion to approve: John Schaber.

Mayor Spitzer read aloud the proposed resolution that was included in the packet. Mayor Spitzer called for a roll call vote on the resolution.

John Schaber-Yay

Wayne Getz-Yay

Dave Braun-Yay

Orv Dahl-Yay

Bill Spitzer-Yay

No further discussion.

The motion carried.

Mayor Spitzer asked if Travis Lange, the spokesperson of the St. Charles Concerned Citizens, had any comments. Mr. Lange addressed the Council and thanked them for their vote and expressed that he hoped there would be a continued relationship to move the community forward.

Mayor Spitzer called for a brief 5 minute recess at 7:25 p.m.

Motion to approve: Bill Spitzer

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

The meeting reconvened at approximately 7:28 p.m. with the Mayor calling the meeting to order.

9. SEMMCHRA Proposed Legislation. Joe Wheeler from the Southeast Minnesota Multi-County Housing and Redevelopment Authority was present to discuss the proposed legislation that the SEMMCHRA board is supporting, which would authorize the organization to levy 25 percent without approval from a county board or city council. Mr. Wheeler discussed the history of the organization, funding sources, projects, etc. Mr. Wheeler then highlighted that 33 percent of those polled were not in favor of the legislation while 67 percent were either in favor or had no response. The three counties that opposed the legislation were Winona, Wabasha, and Dodge. He said the primary reason for lack of support was that they did not agree that funding could be voted on by a non-elected board. Following the discussion, Mayor Spitzer expressed that he was neither for nor against the move. A motion was made to support a neutral position.

Motion to approve: Orv Dahl

No further discussion.

Motion declared carried.

10. 2012 Electrical Study/Rate Proposal. Admin. Koverman presented the information requested by the Council as they reviewed possible variations in both base charges and energy charges. He added that all forms provided decreased rates to residents, but that it would be a policy decision by the Council with respect to how the benefits are received. He reminded the Council that the strategy presented by the electrical engineer was to provide greater savings to those customers who use more. However, the makeup of the residential customer in St. Charles has almost half of the customers consuming less than 500 kwh. With the rate structure currently in place, and the one requested by Council again, it provided a reduction across the board to users as low as 200 kwh, but that the benefit to higher users decreases as a result of the subsidization that the decision creates. A proposed tiered structure for both single and three phase commercial customers was also provided, while large and industrial customers would not see a change in the base charge, but simply a reduction in the energy charge. Clm. Schaber expressed that he understood the reasoning from the electrical engineer's recommendation, but that he liked spreading the savings across a wider platform. Clm. Braun agreed. Admin. Koverman then presented a question to the Council to ask that if the lower option of the base charge is utilized, will the Council incrementally look to move in the direction of the cost of service philosophy that utilizes a larger base rate, but one with an energy charge that compares very favorably against larger utilities. It was expressed that it could be reviewed over time. Mayor Spitzer expressed his desire though to work on education of meaning that a base charge should be connected more to redeeming

“infrastructure” costs and the need associated with that flat rate. After consensus as to the direction, Admin. Koverman expressed that he would bring back the appropriate ordinance to begin the adoption process.

11. 2013 St. Charles Volunteer Fire Department Rate Charges. Chief Peterson was called to a fire, but Admin. Koverman relayed that after review of their costs for service and the areas of calls, it was determined that a need existed to increase the charges associated with rescue service call (\$250-\$350), pumper service (\$75-\$125), small tanker H2O (\$55-\$70), and large tanker H2O (\$75-\$90). No questions were asked. A motion was made to approve the rate changes.

Motion to approve: Wayne Getz

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

12. 2012 Year End Reports. The Council briefly reviewed end of the year reports with no questions asked.

13. SEMLM Resolution of Support. Admin. Koverman reviewed the resolution of support asked for the Destination Medical Center by the Southeast Minnesota League of Municipalities. All agreed it was a good idea. A motion to add St. Charles’ name to the support list was motioned.

Motion to approve: **Dave Braun**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

14. City Financial Investment/Appointment of Wells Fargo. Admin. Koverman reviewed the information that had been presented to the Council during several meetings with respect to moving our investment portfolio from Smith Barney to Wells Fargo and highlighted a recommendation by the city accountant to reinvest \$1.1 million with the firm. All the necessary documents had been finalized and staff would need authorization to approve the resolution appointing the Board of Directors of Wells Fargo and a motion to approve Wells Fargo Investment as an official agent of the city. A motion was made to approve the resolution and Wells Fargo Investment as an official investment agent of the city.

Motion to approve: **Dave Braun**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

15. Resolution #04-2013 Malt Liquor/Sunday License-Borderline Pizza. Admin. Koverman requested a motion to table the resolution until a later meeting.

Motion to approve: **John Schaber**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

16. Personnel Ordinance Review. Admin. Koverman discussed with the Council that as part of the search for the Chief of Police, he had reviewed the current personnel policy that restricts personnel from living outside of a 10 mile radius. In addition, a separate on-call policy allows for a 30 minute response time. He questioned the Council to see if the goal was to attract the best candidate possible, should the Council look to either increase the radius or allow for a 30 minute response time for a distance to St. Charles especially with the advancements in technology. Clm. Dahl expressed that he did not see an issue with a 30 minute response area. Clm. Schaber expressed that he viewed the Chief position in a different category. Mayor Spitzer added that the County Sheriff’s Department allows a 30 minute response area and felt that any proposed change would be reasonable. With consensus agreed to, Admin. Koverman expressed that he would bring back a proposal.

17. Jo-Ann Wegman Library Board. A recommendation from the St. Charles Library Board was to approve Jo-Ann Wegman as a member of the St. Charles Library Board. A motion to approve was made.

Motion to approve: **John Schaber**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES

-Dan Hirsch-Thanked the Council for their decision and expressed his willingness to help with the community vision.

Motion to adjourn at 8:17 p.m.

Motion to approve: **Wayne Getz**

Motion declared carried.

William J. Spitzer, Mayor

Attest: _____
Nick Koverman, City Administrator