

**MINUTES of the ST. CHARLES CITY COUNCIL
For Tuesday, March 13, 2012 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:

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: Brian Todd (Post Bulletin), Monica Hill (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 of item: 16). 2012 Summer Job List

Motion to approve the agenda: John Schaber

No discussion.

Motion carried.

4. APPROVAL of the MINUTES

February 14, 2012

Motion to approve: Dave Braun

No discussion.

Motion declared carried

February 28, 2012

Motion to approve: Wayne Getz

No discussion.

Motion declared carried.

5. APPROVAL of the March PAYABLES

Motion to approve payables: Wayne Getz

6. Notices and Communications. None.

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

8. Ordinance #552 Old Cartway Vacation-2nd Reading. The second reading was held and a motion to approve Ordinance #552 and the Finding of Fact as previously discussed was made.

Motion to approve: **John Schaber**

No further discussion.

Motion declared carried.

9. Water Leak Policy-Resolution #07-2012. Admin. Koverman presented information from various communities and if they provided a discount off of sewer. Every community varied, but the difference with many was that the communities that did offer a sewer discount owned their own sewer and it was merely money out of their own

budgets, versus paying it to a separate district. Deputy Clerk Janell Dahl was also present to discuss how she helps to monitor the consumption of residents and explained that if in question phone calls are placed to residents. The discussion turned to the ownership of the water line from the house to the main and Clm. Getz expressed that he does not agree with that practice. Supt. Karger expressed that it has been that way since he started and guessed it had been so for decades prior. Clm. Schaber returned to the water leak policy and stated that he was less inclined to offer a discount since the change to the monthly billing procedure. Clm. Dahl agreed with Clm. Schaber expressing that the City provided a process for checks and balances to help residents. The discussion then turned again to the repairs of the main and ownership. A discussion of potential costs and impacts to budgets was held. Mayor Spitzer offered the suggestion of coming back with better figures to help clarify the situation. After the discussion, the clarification was asked of the Council to determine what they would like to see done with the water leak policy. After further discussion, a motion was made to approve the previously presented resolution #07-2011 to stop the policy of the sewer discount.

Motion to approve: **John Schaber**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

10. St. Charles Squad. Chief Bill Eckles presented estimates for various sedans as requested. Following his presentation, he maintained that a better value to the community would be a 4-wheel drive SUV. Discussion followed with the ranges of \$25,509-\$28,828 being the high end with warranties followed. Mayor Spitzer then questioned the need for 4 squads versus three. He asked about current equipment and equipment lacking in each squad. In addition, he offered that the County Sheriff's Deputies would be installing laptops into the squads to allow them to be mobile offices. He made the recommendation of foregoing the replacement of this year's squad and then using the monies to purchase computers, one video camera and any other necessary items. The CIP schedule then would be moved to a 2014, 2016 and 2018 purchases for the three vehicles. A discussion was held on the practice of take home cars and pros and cons. Clm. Dahl expressed that he saw the need for an SUV given the nature of our environment and how it potentially could be used. A discussion of facilitating three cars was held and questions of mileage, usage, etc. Clm. Schaber suggested we operate with three vehicles for three months and track mileage and how it affects the department. A motion was made with those provisions to review again in June.

Motion to approve: **John Schaber**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

11. Dairyland/UMMPA Billing. Admin. Koverman presented information to the Council regarding a recent dispute between UMMPA and Dairyland pertaining to the annual true-up and cost of service. Dairyland is requesting back payment from the beginning of the contract term (2008) that reported reflects an amount not billed for or accounted for within the annual true-up mechanism. UMMPA's position is that the mechanism established should have covered all costs associated with that year's consumption and that Dairyland does not have the legal ability to go back beyond the costs associated with the 2010-2011 contract. The groups continue to meet to discuss this issue. More information will be presented to the Council upon a conclusion.

12. DNR Public Fishing Dock. Admin. Koverman presented information that was previously approved at the Park Board with respect to a free fishing dock as provided by the DNR. The enclosed agreement would start the process to acquire the dock for the City of St. Charles. A motion was made to approve the agreement.

Motion to approve: **John Schaber**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

13. Insurance Liability Waiver. This is an annual form that does not waive the liability tort limits on behalf of the city. A motion to approve the form was made.

Motion to approve: **Wayne Getz**

No further discussion.

Motion carried.

14. Resolution #09-2012 Tiger East Metro Rail. The resolution allowed the High Speed Rail Commission to the ability to seek funding through various bonding strategies and aids. A motion to approve was made.

Motion to approve: **John Schaber**

No further discussion.
Motion carried.

15. Resolution #08-2012 State Bond Funds for Freight Rail. The resolution allowed the High Speed Rail Commission seek and apply for state bond funds for the proposed project of freight rail. A motion was made to approve the resolution.

Motion to approve: **Dave Braun**

No further discussion.
Motion carried.

16. 2012 Summer Job List. The Park and Recreation summer job listing was reviewed briefly and approved for publication. A motion was made.

Motion to approve: **Orv Dahl**

No further discussion.
Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn at 8:31 p.m.

Motion to approve: **Wayne Getz**

Motion declared carried.

William J. Spitzer, Mayor

Attest: _____
Nick Koverman, City Administrator