

**MINUTES of the ST. CHARLES CITY COUNCIL  
for Tuesday, September 13, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.  
830 Whitewater Avenue  
St. Charles, MN 55972**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Nick Koverman, City Administrator  
Kyle Karger, PW Superintendent

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Tim Penny, Craig Hilmer (St. Charles Press)

**1). ESTABLISH QUORUM/CALL TO ORDER**

Quorum was established with Mayor Bill Spitzer calling the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2). PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3). APPROVAL of the AGENDA: 9A TNT Date-December 13, 2011, 14. Water Feature Purchase  
Motion to approve the agenda: Wayne Getz  
Motion carried.**

**4). Meeting Minutes**

-August 9, 2011

**Motion to approve: John Schaber**

**No further discussion.**

**Motion declared carried.**

-August 23, 2011

**Motion to approve: Orv Dahl**

**No further discussion.**

**Motion declared carried.**

**5). September Payables.**

**Motion to approve: Wayne Getz**

**No further discussion.**

**Motion declared carried.**

**6). NOTICES AND COMMUNICATIONS.** Discussed the minutes from the Whitewater Country Coalition briefly.

**7). Reports of Boards and Commissions.** Various reports were given by Council.

**8). Tim Penny SMIF Request.** Tim Penny the CEO of the Southeast Minnesota Initiative Foundation was present to discuss how the organization has been able to help the community and City directly in various endeavors over the last several years. He made a request to the Council to help support SMIF in the 2012 budget year. Council thanked him for all of SMIF's help over the past several years.

**9). 2012 Preliminary Tax Levy Resolution #33-2011.** The Council briefly discussed the budget and did not recommend any changes at this time to the preliminary levy which demonstrated an increase of 7.95 percent. Admin. Koverman acknowledged that it is a starting point, but that the majority of the increase was due to the planned bonded debt associated with I-90 which he reminded Mike Bubany explained would only increase \$8 per \$100,000 valuation on a home. However, the effects of the state law change to the Market Homestead Value Credit had not been determined and weighed in. Clm. Schaber agreed that it was

a good starting point and motioned to approve the preliminary levy for a total levy of \$863,629. This amount equals roughly \$231/per resident per year for all of the city services and facilities.

**Motion to approve: John Schaber**

**No further discussion.**

**Motion declared carried.**

**9a. TNT Date-December 13, 2011.** The date for the TNT presentation was set for December, 2011 during the regular Council meeting.

**A motion to approve: Wayne Getz**

**No further discussion.**

**Motion declared carried.**

**10. Resolution #30-2011 EDA Levy Request for 2012.** The EDA makes an annual request to levy funds to be used for economic development projects, loans, etc. It was noted that the due to property values the amount was reduced.

**Motion to approve: Dave Braun**

**No further discussion.**

**Motion declared carried.**

**11. Resolution #32-2011 Prohibited Semi Truck Parking.** Admin. Koverman explained that a recent issue highlighted the need for no semi-truck parking in front of city hall for safety and sight reasons. The Council discussed the issue and agreed that semi-truck parking should be prohibited from 8-5 during the week. A motion was made to establish the hours of prohibited semi-truck parking Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for safety and sighting reasons.

**Motion to approve: John Schaber**

**No further discussion.**

**Motion declared carried.**

**12. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading Alternative Energy Ordinance.** Admin. Koverman highlighted the research and work that the planning commission had committed to the creating and reviewing the alternative energy ordinance. This process took several months with the final version being reviewed by the city attorney. While the city wants to promote alternative energy, it also wants to protect the rights of its residents and the various zoning districts. The first reading was held with respect to the language of the draft. A public hearing had been held at the planning and zoning level with two public comment forums being held in addition. A motion was made to approve the first reading.

**Motion to approve: John Schaber**

**No further discussion.**

**Motion declared carried.**

**13. Wind Proposals.** A summary and review of three wind proposals were discussed by the Council. While the Council is interested in providing long term sustainable rates for a portion of the city's power and fulfilling the state's mandate that it uses a percentage of its power through renewable energy sources, it was also expressed that cost was a factor. The proposals were reviewed by the Boardman Law firm with Richard Heinemann leading the review. In his review of the projects it was confirmed that all three projects did not offer the most favorable rates possible as UMMPA was reviewing better projects. In addition, because of the renegotiation that was currently underway with Dairyland Power, Mr. Heinemann could not recommend the Council or City moving forward with any project due to the unknown factors that existed. In the end, it was determined that costs were higher than other potential projects and that until a contract determination had been made by UMMPA and Dairyland that it would be unwise to pursue any of the wind proposals. It was the consensus that the Council would like to review the status of the purchase power initiative on a monthly basis. It was also the consensus that the Council not move forward with any proposal at this time.

**14. Water Feature Purchase-Park Board recommendation.** A recommendation was received from the Park Board with respect to purchasing a duck feature to replace the rotted alligator for \$7,550.00. The

funds will come from the Whitewater Trailblazers donations that they have made since the opening of the pool. A motion was made to purchase the duck water feature.

**Motion to approve: John Schaber**

**No further discussion.**

**Motion declared carried.**

**A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m.**

**Motion to approve: John Schaber**

**Motion declared carried.**

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**William J. Spitzer, Mayor**

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Nick Koverman, Administrator**