

**MINUTES of the ST. CHARLES CITY COUNCIL  
for Tuesday April 13, 2010 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, Administrator  
Rick Schaber, Park and Rec.  
Bill Eckles, Chief of Police  
Holly Rognholt  
Marti Ellinghuysen  
Randy Geisler  
Scott Bunke

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Julie Haas, Joel Haas, Ron Zeigler (SEMDC), Robert Ferguson, Jessi Geisler, Scott Oberg, Nancy Heim and Craig Hilmer.

**1). ESTABLISH QUORUM/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 with the following additions:**

**19. Resolution #15-2010 Trailblazers Gambling Application**

Motion to approve the agenda: John Schaber  
Seconded by: Orv Dahl  
Motion carried.

**4). APPROVAL of the MINUTES**

**March 9, 2010**

Motion to approve: John Schaber  
Seconded by: Dave Braun  
Motion declared carried

**March 23, 2010**

Motion to approve: Wayne Getz  
Seconded by: Orv Dahl  
Motion declared carried

**5. April Payables.** Reviewed.

Motion to approve: Wayne Getz  
Seconded by: John Schaber  
Motion declared carried.

**6. Notices and Communications.**

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

**17. Holly Rognholt Resignation.** Council thanked Mrs. Rognholt for her service to the city. A motion was made to accept the resignation.

Motion to approve: John Schaber

Seconded by: Wayne Getz

Motion declared carried.

A discussion was held regarding the possible replacement of the position. Mayor Spitzer recommended that the position remain vacant for 4 months in order to ensure the need. Mayor Spitzer expressed his fear of future cuts to LGA and how this could pose an opportunity to not lay additional staff off if further cuts come from the state. Clm Dahl asked Mr. Koverman his recommendation. Mr. Koverman expressed that he had met with staff to discuss replacement and that hearing council concerns of budgets he felt a compromise could be reached, but still retain necessary services to the community. It was the recommendation to post a part-time position with utility billing duties being absorbed by the remaining office staff. Clm. Schaber was concerned about waiting until August, but was concerned with the lack of flexibility. Mayor Spitzer again reiterated that the loss through attrition is an opportune time to change. Clm. Dahl was concerned with the training time. Clm. Schaber felt four months was too long to wait. Clm. Braun expressed that he was afraid to burn out the remaining good staff members. Mayor Spitzer offered the suggestion on an automated telephone system and putting information on the website. Clm. Schaber agreed that Park & Rec. could be used in the interim but that a temporary part-time staff was not a guarantee to permanent help. Resident Julie Haas asked the question of using volunteers as an option. Holly Rognholt outlined her duties of her 40 hour work week. Mayor Spitzer again questioned the need for a trial 4-month period. Clm. Braun expressed that the city will not save money on burning other workers out who do a good job. Discussion was held on part-time temporary and pros and cons. Admin. Koverman expressed his concern to make sure Pay Equity issues were not in jeopardy. A motion was made to table the decision until the following meeting.

Motion to table: Dave Braun

Seconded by: John Schaber

An amendment was made by Clm. Schaber to make the April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010 meeting a regular meeting in order to take the necessary action.

Motion declared carried.

**8. 2010 Amended Budget.** The final cut as passed by the Legislature was \$57,329 as opposed to the \$136,411. A total amount of cuts of \$76,910 were to remain after approving the recommendations. A discussion was held with regard to the portion of the Council stipend with Clm. Dahl, Schaber, and Braun expressing they chose to give up their salary. Mayor Spitzer expressed his recommendation to provide an option for officials to choose whether or not to use the stipend as a tool of communication. A short discussion was held on Project Fine donation with no final determination being made. Admin. Koverman looked for clarification on the council stipend of where they wanted the allotted money to go and upon clarification both Mayor Spitzer and Clm. Getz agreed that their stipend cut should also be allotted to the library resources. A motion was made to approve the amended budget with the proposed changes. Councilman Schaber added \$750 be restored to the Winona County SWAT donation after clarifying a previous discussion.

Motion to approve: John Schaber

Seconded by: Orv Dahl

Clm. Getz voted opposed.

Motion passed 3-1.

**9. Resolution #11-2010 Bluffland Whitetail Gambling Application.** Admin. Koverman highlighted the request that was an annual permit for their annual Whitetail banquet.

Motion to approve: Dave Braun

Seconded by: John Schaber

Motion declared carried.

**10. Resolution #12-2010 Lease Agreement Fire Tanker.** A determination to lease the 2005 International Fire Tanker from Merchants Capital was made. The interest rate was more favorable and in discussions

with the fire chief it is the goal to utilize gambling funds to make the lease payment, otherwise the investments of the fire department will be utilized to make the payment.

Motion to approve: John Schaber

Seconded by: Wayne Getz

Motion declared carried.

**11. Vehicle Use Policy.** Minor changes were made to the vehicle use policy. A motion to approve the policy with changes was made.

Motion to approve: Wayne Getz

Seconded by: Dave Braun

Motion declared carried.

**12. Brookwood Parking/Resident Letter.** Admin. Koverman brought to the Council's attention a letter submitted by the residents who ride Rochester City Lines and are concerned about moving their parking spot to the Brookwood Parking Lot. Admin. Koverman relayed their concerns of walking safety. He hopes that general dislike for the move would be remedies when the parking lot is completed and well lit. The Council agreed that the parking space was a good option that they wanted to pursue, but that perhaps we could work with the bus company to still look at keeping the pickup spot for walkers in that area. Randy Geisler questioned whether or not the former North Star Foods parking lot was available as an option. Jessi Geisler, who is a user of the service, expressed her concerns as well. Clm. Schaber thanked her for her input. The Council directed Admin. Koverman to send a letter and work with Rochester City Lines to address the concerns of the group and how we would work to make the Brookwood Parking lot a viable and safe option for residents.

Regarding the funding for the Brookwood parking lot (\$40,000 water, \$20,000 street, \$10,000 pavilion CIP) a remaining difference was \$7,800. Various options were discussed to try and locate the money to see if there would be potential interested parties to participate. Clm. Schaber made a motion to have Admin. Koverman search and to bring a recommendation back to the Council.

Motion to table: John Schaber

Seconded by: Dave Braun

Motion declared carried.

A brief discussion of the 11<sup>th</sup> Street parking lot improvement, Clm. Schaber expressed to table the sidewalk until a later date.

Motion to table: John Schaber

Seconded by: Orv Dahl

Motion declared carried.

**13. United Church of Christ Partnership with School District.** The City was awarded \$68,000 as a match through the Dept. of Economic and Employment Development. Clm. Schaber expressed it was a good project with all the tournaments and youth in that area. Mayor Spitzer agreed with the safety issue. A motion was made to seek other funding sources for Brookwood parking lot

Motion to approve: Wayne Getz

Seconded by: John Schaber

Motion declared carried.

**14. Resolution #13-2010 Award Garage Bids.** The resolution was read that awarded the bids for the garages at 849 and 831 St. Charles Avenue. The winning bids were John Decker and Robert Jackley.

Motion to approve; Orv Dahl

Seconded by: John Schaber

Motion declared carried.

**15. Resolution #14-2010 Business Development Infrastructure Grant.** A resolution to approve the application to the Dept. of Employment and Economic Development was necessary in order to apply for the \$500,000 grant for the proposed I-90 project. Ron Zeigler from SEMDC explained that it does not bind the city. Clm. Schaber expressed that it is definitely something to go for and does not bind the city.

Motion to approve: John Schaber

Seconded by: Dave Braun

Motion declared carried.

**16. P&Z Board Recommendation-Brent Kemple.** The recommendation from the P&Z committee to fill the vacancy with Brent Kemple was approved.

Motion to approve: John Schaber

Seconded by: Wayne Getz

Motion declared carried.

**18. 2010 Mowing Bids.** The 2010 mowing bids were reviewed by the Park and Rec. Board with a recommendation to award the bid to Bill Goetz.

Motion to approve: Wayne Getz

Seconded by: Orv Dahl

Motion declared carried.

**19. #15-2010 Resolution Trailblazers Gambling Application.** Admin. Koverman expressed that the Trailblazers were going to conduct lawful gambling at the St. Charles Golf Course and that 10 percent of their proceeds being designated for the St. Charles Aquatic Center as was previously done.

Motion to approve: John Schaber

Seconded by: Dave Braun

Motion declared carried.

A motion to adjourn at 9:27 p.m.: John Schaber

Seconded by: Orv Dahl

Motion declared carried.

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**William J. Spitzer, Mayor**

ATTEST

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**Nick Koverman, Administrator**