

**MINUTES of the ST. CHARLES CITY COUNCIL
for Tuesday February 9, 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.
Kyle Karger, PW Superintendent
Sharon Grossardt, Librarian

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Lyle Peterson (Fire Chief), Jeff Hardtke (SC Ambulance), Cindy Timm, Bob Bambenek (county recorder), 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

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

4). APPROVAL of the MINUTES

January 4, 2010

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

January 26, 2010

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

5. February Payables. Reviewed. No discussion was held.

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

6. Notices and Communications. Briefly reviewed a letter sent to local legislators requesting support for St. Charles. Discussed the Loss Prevention Work Shops in Rochester sponsored by the League of Minnesota Cities to be held in April.

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

8.9. Public Hearing Alley Vacation/Resolution #04-2010. A motion was made to close the Council meeting and open the Public Hearing.

Motion to open public hearing at 7:12 p.m.

Motion: Wayne Getz

Seconded: Dave Braun

Motion declared carried.

Mayor Spitzer read the Resolution for the public hearing and respective Alley vacation of Fairview Addition. It was reminded that this was a formality that it was believed to have been done previously decades past, but was never recorded. Mayor Spitzer called for open comment. He called three times for comment. Hearing none a motion was made at 7:15 p.m. to close the public hearing.

Motion to close: John Schaber

Seconded by: Orv Dahl

Motion declared carried.

A motion to approve Resolution #04-2010 thereby approving the alley vacation was made.

Motion to approve: John Schaber

Seconded by: Orv Dahl

Motion declared carried.

10. Bob Bambenek 2010 Census. County Recorder Bob Bambenek provided an update for the Council on the progress of the Census with only 5 weeks remaining until the start. He relayed that the hours slated for an assistance center continues to be cut, but that he is hopeful that we will get as much help as possible. The focus of the groups that Admin. Koverman, the mayor, and various members of the community have been working on is to emphasize the importance of having the Hispanic members of the community counted.

11. 2009 Year End Reports. All departments highlighted or answered any questions from the Council. No specific questions were raised for any department. Supt. Karger answered a few questions on the progress of sump pump inspections and how work will continue in the spring to finalize those issues. Sharon Grossardt expressed that circulation was up 12 percent from the previous year. Ambulance Director Hardtke expressed that the new rig has been in service in January and the total numbers of calls was 38 with several calls coming for two rigs. He indicated 3 more candidates were being groomed for the service in order to bring their numbers up. Fire Chief Lyle Peterson expressed that while calls were down the extent of the calls considering North Star, a church fire, and several smaller fires made up for lack of volume.

12. St. Charles Fire Department Tanker. Chief Lyle Peterson presented information to the Council regarding the 1980 tanker replacement. The department had been researching the tanker replacement which was slated for 2010 but pushed years prior to 2012. Peterson brought it to the attention of the Council because of a unit that could be retrofitted for under \$80,000 as compared to a new unit that would cost \$200,000. The difficulty of driving the unit has made the piece difficult. Chief Peterson expressed that fewer volunteers are able to drive the unit, but that the tank is still in good shape. They would like to reuse the tank and retrofit a chassis. Councilman Schaber expressed that he liked the idea of replacing the 30 year old tanker, while Councilman Braun liked the savings the city and department could receive. Councilman Getz expressed the usability of the tanker would make it easier for all members to use the truck especially in times of emergency. The Chief offered that he was simply looking for direction from the Council either way. After discussing the item a motion was made to approve the purchase of the chassis and the additional work not to exceed \$80,000 with the administrator, accountant, and fire chief to research the best way to pay for the tanker be it investments or financing or hybrid thereof.

Motion to approve: Dave Braun

Seconded by: Wayne Getz

Motion declared carried.

13. Ordinance #535 Mediacom Extension Agreement. Admin. Koverman expressed that he had been contacted by the VP of Mediacom to discuss a franchise extension. It was the goal of the extension to place them on the same timeline as HBC. Mayor Spitzer recalled the discussion with HBC and some of the pieces

that were added with regard to the service to the resident and questioned if Mediacom would do the same. Admin. Koverman expressed that we received the same franchise fees as HBC. Councilman Schaber wanted to table the item to hold a discussion with Mediacom and arrange a Technology meeting. A motion was made to table the item no later than May 15 to arrange the necessary meetings.

Motion to table: John Schaber

Seconded by: Dave Braun

Motion declared carried.

14. Ikon Copy Machine Proposal. Admin. Koverman explained that through the discussions of the library fundraising efforts the library was looking to lease/purchase a new copy machine. The Ikon representative gave a proposal for the City Hall copy machine as well. The service received from Ikon is excellent and there are no complaints. Various proposals were received for units and price wise Ikon beat the competition. The lease agreement ends in 12 months, but the proposal would save the City money now and offer a color option. Admin. Koverman was not sure how we may utilize color but as a service to the residents there is no other color copier in town that he knows of. Mayor Spitzer and Councilman Schaber expressed that they each have the proposed unit at their offices and that it comes in handy for various tasks, maps, etc. The per copy rate was also cheaper than the current lease. It was also discussed how other potential savings could be in eliminating printers throughout the office. It was also viewed as a healthier option for employees. A motion was made to accept the proposal and sign a new 60 month lease.

Motion to approve: John Schaber

Seconded by: Orv Dahl

Motion declared carried.

15. MCFOA Conference, March 16-19. Admin. Koverman highlighted the MCFOA Conference for Admin. Koverman and Deputy Clerk Janell Dahl. The election changes are of the most importance. With no discussion a motion was made to approve attendance to the conference.

Motion to approve: John Schaber

Seconded by: Orv Dahl

Motion declared carried.

16. Part-time Police Officer Recommendation. After receiving 52 applications for two part-time positions it was the recommendation of the committee for Gerry Agin and Jeremy Newton. Both are post licensed thereby saving cost to the City. A motion was made to approve the hiring of the two part-time officers and offer to the third candidate of Brianna Harmening if the first two turn it down.

Motion to approve: John Schaber

Seconded by: Dave Braun

Motion declared carried.

17. Recycling Fee Waiver: Admin. Koverman expressed that a resident, who is a landlord, requested the Council to review the policy to see if the recycling fee could be waived for residents who take their recycling to another home in order to avoid two charges. The Council understood the reasoning but also discussed the potential hazards of exempting one. Councilman Schaber wanted to know what other Cities do. After further discussion, a motion was made to table the discussion until a future meeting to see how other cities handle the issue.

Motion to table: John Schaber

Seconded by: Wayne Getz

Motion declared carried.

18. Public Bid Garages-849 and 831 St. Charles Avenue. The Council authorized the public sale of the two garages located at 849 and 831.

Motion to approve: Wayne Getz

Seconded by: Orv Dahl

Motion declared carried.

19. Health Insurance HSA Deductible. Mayor Spitzer began by expressing that when the City revamped its insurance policy in 2008 that it modeled its saving after Chatfield. He expressed that currently Chatfield supports 83 percent of the HSA deductible. He added in light of the zero percent increase in 2010 he wanted to discuss the HSA deductible that increased again and if the Council wanted to increase the City's share of that continuing increase. Since the inception of the program the deductible for single has increased \$100 (single) and \$200 (family) annually while the City's contribution has remained the same at \$1500 (single) and \$1900 (family) while the deductible has grown to \$2600 and \$4800. Councilman Braun expressed that the employees should be happy they have insurance as other businesses continue to cut. Mayor Spitzer suggested that the Personnel Committee visit where they see the priorities are for the next couple of years. Admin. Koverman reminded the group that in 2008 when premiums were expected to raise nearly 29 percent the employees and the council worked together to find a new plan which then began employees paying more out of their own pocket for the high deductible plan. This change has saved the city nearly \$70,000 since that time. Councilman Schaber expressed that \$3,600 was saved in what was budgeted. Councilman Dahl asked about other plan options. After further discussion a motion was made to table the item to receive feedback from the Personnel Committee.

Motion to table: John Schaber

Seconded by: Orv Dahl

Motion declared carried.

20. Resolution #05-2010 Rentfrow Donation. A donation of \$10,000 was received from Russ Rentfrow to go toward the Ambulance Association. A motion was made to accept the donation with a thank you to the family.

Motion to approve: Dave Braun

Seconded by: John Schaber

Motion declared carried.

21. Bruce Dorman P&Z Appointment. The council accepted the recommendation of the P&Z Commission to appoint Bruce Dorman to the Commission.

Motion to approve: John Schaber

Seconded by: Wayne Getz

Motion declared carried.

22. Advertisement for Bids for Park Mowing. The Council reviewed the advertisement for Park Mowing Bids. A motion was made to approve the advertisement.

Motion to approve: Orv Dahl

Seconded by: Dave Braun

Motion declared carried.

Motion to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

Motion to approve: Wayne Getz

Seconded by: John Schaber

Motion declared carried.

William J. Spitzer, Mayor

ATTEST

Nick Koverman, Administrator