

**MINUTES of the ST. CHARLES CITY COUNCIL
for Tuesday, January 26, 2010 held at 7:00 p.m. at
830 Whitewater Avenue,
St. Charles, Minnesota**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councilmen:

John Schaber (Acting Mayor)

Dave Braun

Orv Dahl

Wayne Getz

Mayor Bill Spitzer (absent)

STAFF PRESENT:

Nick Koverman, Administrator

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Craig Hilmer (St. Charles Press) House of Representative Steve Drazkowski.

1. ESTABLISH QUORUM/CALL TO ORDER

Quorum was established with Acting Mayor John Schaber calling the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL of the AGENDA:

Motion to Approve: Wayne Getz

Seconded by: Orv Dahl

Motion declared carried

4. Notices and Communications:

Admin. Koverman read information from the Winona County Attorney in charge of prosecuting the City's misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor filings. Due to a grant received by the County the City's fees for those services will be waived through July of 2011. Census information was reviewed briefly and more information will be released as the 2010 Census gears up.

5. Review of December Financials

No discussion was held.

6. Resolution #01-2010 Part-Time PERA ---Acting Mayor Schaber reviewed the resolution for the two part-time officers that will be added to the part-time PERA contribution list: Rian Jones and Chris Lennon. It was expressed that due to the number of hours serving the community bumped them into the category as well as the lowered qualification status made by PERA which now included these two officers. Motion to approve Resolution #01-2010.

Motion to approve: Dave Braun

Seconded by: Orv Dahl

Motion declared carried.

7. Resolution #02-2010. 3-Day Temp Liquor License. A.M. Schaber explained the resolution for the St. Charles Legion and the dates of the bowling tournament. This was the proper procedure with respect to their Club license. A motion was made to approve the resolution.

Motion to approve: Dave Braun

Seconded by: Wayne Getz

Motion declared carried.

8. Resolution #03-2010 Redevelopment Grant. Admin. Koverman outlined the purpose of the resolution and the partnership between the school district and United Church of Christ for the redevelopment of the lot with the inclusion of public parking space. The Council expressed the approval to continue the investigation of the grant as a 50/50 cost share of the project with a motion to approve the resolution.

Motion to table: Wayne Getz
Seconded by: Orv Dahl
Motion declared carried.

8. Warning Sirens. Admin. Koverman highlighted the purchase of the first warning siren that was included in the CIP for 2010. The cost for the first siren was around \$15,000. It was indicated that the prices would increase roughly \$4,000 and that administration wanted to pose the question to the Council to see if there was interest in saving money especially in light of the fact that the City would be purchasing a siren the following year. The Council held a brief discussion and thought that saving nearly 30 percent of the cost sounded feasible. It would come out of the CIP reserve, but would be reinstated the following year. A motion was made to approve the purchase of the second siren.

Motion to approve: Dave Braun
Seconded by: Orv Dahl
Motion declared carried.

9. Habitat For Humanity. Admin. Koverman updated the Council on the progress of the properties at 849 and 831 St. Charles Avenue and the planned trainings for the homes as well as asbestos investigations, etc. One avenue he investigated was reusing any good materials as determined by a Habitat for Humanity. He informed the Council that he had met with a representative and that there was viable material that they could salvage at no cost to the city for the non-profit organization. Council agreed that it would go to a good organization. A motion was made to allow Habitat for Humanity salvage materials prior to the burn.

Motion to approve: Wayne Getz
Seconded by: Dave Braun
Motion declared carried.

10. North Star Foods Press Release. Acting Mayor Schaber expressed that it was sad to hear them leave. Admin. Koverman briefly highlighted a meeting with Pat Thesing and Brad Arndt and their willingness to help us potentially attract another business. He also indicated that through the EDA Admin. Koverman and Cris Gastner would be developing a proposal to present to the Council at a later date a proposal of a vision or plan for the next step in St. Charles' future. Brief discussion was held regarding the research center or test kitchen that everyone had read about as well as the City's involvement of the old site and the future plans for that property. No further discussion was held.

UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES

House of Representative Steve Drazkowski approached the Council and discussed his support of adjusting past legislation directed toward the school district to help the city. He indicated the potential of \$300,000 that be used to help. He expressed his willingness to work with Senator Steve Murphy in redefining the legislation on behalf of the community. He indicated that he anticipates LGA would take another hit this year given the anticipated \$5.4 billion deficit. He briefly discussed the CAPX2020 progress. Various concerns of the Council were given. Admin. Koverman also added his concerns for unfunded mandates such as the electric conservation program and how that affects residents and utility rates. It also seems counterproductive to creating growth in industry and residential. Councilman Braun did thank him for his work on behalf of St. Charles with respect to North Star and the Council echoed that sentiment.

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

Motion to adjourn at 8:02 p.m.: Wayne Getz
Seconded by: Dave Braun
Motion declared carried.

ATTEST

William J. Spitzer, Mayor

Nick Koverman, Administrator