

**MINUTES of the ST. CHARLES CITY COUNCIL
for Tuesday, May 25, 2010 held at 7:00 p.m. at
830 Whitewater Avenue,
St. Charles, Minnesota**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councilmen:

John Schaber

Dave Braun

Orv Dahl (absent)

Wayne Getz

Mayor Bill Spitzer

STAFF PRESENT:

Nick Koverman, Administrator

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Nancy Heim, and John Decker.

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

Motion to Approve: John Schaber

Seconded by: Dave Braun

Motion declared carried

4. Notices and Communications:

None

5. Review of Financials

Questions were asked of the Check Registry.

6. Power Outage Review. Public Works Supt. Karger provided a brief update of the May 16 Power Outage. Eleven members of the St. Charles Public Utilities along with 2 Alliant Energy Journeymen and the St. Charles Electrical Engineer, Dave Krause, attended the training/repair. Among the items replaced: 23 porcelain insulators, and various line repairs around town. Overall the repairs went well and a blackstart training was held. Admin. Koverman also highlighted the various departments that also worked on the outage (fire, ambulance, police, administration) to organize. Supt. Karger highlighted a June project to look at protecting the substation from squirrels and raccoons that many utilities are using. Council commended the crew's work.

7. I-90 Legislative Update. Admin. Koverman highlighted the May 14 trip to the Capitol to testify on behalf of St. Charles for the proposed legislation for aid to St. Charles for the potential I-90 project. The result of that effort will be realized after the governor possibly signs the bill.

8. Decker Utility Waiver Request. Admin. Koverman highlighted the project John Decker is proposing. Mr. Decker is looking to move the current UCC house, which was not currently on the tax roles, to a property Mr. Decker owns. He would need to split the property and move the house down Whitewater Avenue. Admin. Koverman highlighted the variance procedure and minor subdivision Mr. Decker would be pursuing, but the discussion turned to the anticipated utility costs as power lines would need to be temporarily disabled. This would in effect require the power to be shut off for a portion of the town for several hours. Mr. Decker is working with MNDOT to acquire the necessary permits to move the house on the state highway. He is also working with other various cable companies for the move. Admin. Koverman had contacted the County Assessor and provided a rough estimate of possible taxes generated by the house, which would be valued in the neighborhood of \$100,000 (land and house value) thereby generating a

taxable value of \$1,000 annually. Mr. Decker wanted to request the Council consider a waiver of utility fees that would be generated from the move. Admin. Koverman reminded Council that a portion of a guestimated \$5,000-\$10,000 charge would be contracting with Alliant Energy. Currently the City does not have enough equipment to sustain the multiple poles that are held up through the tension of the wire. To cut the wire in the middle would relieve that tension, which is where additional equipment would be necessary in order to cut the line. Supt. Karger hoped that the time necessary to take down and replace power lines would be 4-5 hours without any problems. Mr. Decker did not have a timeline as far as how soon he looked to move the house, but that HBC could go as soon as June 14th. Councilman Getz and Braun appreciated the fact that it would put the house back on the tax roles, while Clm. Schaber hoped to firm up numbers. A general consensus was reached that they would not be opposed to waiving half of the City's costs, but that any out of pocket expenses through contracts, or other pieces out of our control would not be feasible. The council planned to make a final determination at the June meeting.

UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC APPEARANCES

None.

Motion to adjourn at 7:34 p.m.: Wayne Getz

Seconded by: John Schaber

Motion declared carried.

ATTEST

William J. Spitzer, Mayor

Nick Koverman, Administrator