

**MINUTES of the ST. CHARLES CITY COUNCIL
for Tuesday, September 14, 2010 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 Supt.
Kristine Huinker, City Accountant

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Doug Brighton, Sarah LaValla, Katie Sandberg, Nancy Heim, Greg Backes (EDA), Pat Burke, Rick Engstrom (WHKS), and Craig Hilmer (St. Charles Press).

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 deletion/addition:

- 8. Removal of Officer Swearing in
- 18. Homecoming Bonfire Waiving of Fee/Volunteer Support

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

4). APPROVAL of the MINUTES

August 11, 2010

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

August 24, 2010

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

5). SEPTEMBER PAYABLES

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

6). Notices and Communications.

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

18). Homecoming Bonfire Request. Katie Sandberg and Sarah LaValla were present and requested that the Council waive the \$100 burning permit fee as well as support for their October 12th Homecoming event. A motion was made to waive the \$100 fee and to seek support from fire and police for the Tuesday, October 12th event.

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

9). Yellow Ribbon City. Admin. Koverman provided information regarding a Yellow Ribbon City program that was presented to he and the mayor by Steve Johnson from the Winona County Veteran's Affairs office. He discussed the idea of starting the program in town and building a network through various organizations and groups. He also explained that Judy Bodway from the City of Winona contacted him to invite him to a meeting Tuesday, Sept. 21 at 4:00 that would look at creating a partnership with the City of Winona and possibly the County to organize the project. He also had spoken with several leaders of various faith organizations and received support from those groups. Through the discussion the mayor asked for support in having Admin. Koverman investigate this partnership and bring back information. A motion was made to support Admin. Koverman seeking more information and relaying it to the Council following the Sept. 21 meeting.

Motion to approve: Orv Dahl

Seconded by: John Schaber

Motion declared carried.

10). I-90 Feasibility Study. Rick Engstrom of WHKS presented the Council with the feasibility study that reviewed the potential I-90 project. Mr. Engstrom reviewed the soils findings as well as the installation of water, sewer, and road to the project. He reviewed the discussions held at the EDA level and how was instructed to return to the project and redefine the scope given potential construction cost savings if a secondary land acquisition was reviewed. He showed that the savings to the initial project would be about \$200,000. In addition, it allowed for greater access to additional land that previous designs did not allow for. Again, it was discussed that the feasibility study simply would be used as a tool to try and receive approval from DEED. Various pros and cons were discussed as part of the project. Clm. Dahl expressed his concern for the project overall, but stated that he was in favor of acquiring the land. Clm. Schaber and Braun both expressed reservations as well, but that they would like to see more numbers. Admin. Koverman relayed that Mr. Bubany would be coming to show more firm numbers considering we now have the feasibility study and how the City could afford the project. It was agreed however that using the TIF dollars for the land acquisition made sense rather than giving back the money. Again, it was reiterated that the purpose of the feasibility study is to provide additional data to DEED as part of the infrastructure grant for \$500,000. a motion was made to approve the feasibility study.

Motion to approve: John Schaber

Seconded by: Wayne Getz

Motion carried.

11). Purchase Option Agreement. As part of the feasibility study the secondary parcel of land of approximately 5 acres was discussed. Admin. Koverman highlighted the discussion from City Engineer Rick Engstrom as well as the discussion from the EDA Commission regarding the positives of securing an option agreement on the property. Admin. Koverman expressed that he was given guidelines by the EDA for negotiation of the price of the property as well as potential terms. Clm. Schaber asked where the money would be coming from. The EDA would be buying the option. After showing the positives of securing the property, a motion was made to approve the negotiation a purchase agreement option for the Tim Mollert property.

Motion declared carried: John Schaber

Seconded by: Wayne Getz

Clm. Dahl voted Nay

Motion carried 3-1.

12). Recycling Shed. Admin. Koverman highlighted the proposed agreement with the County that was sent as a guide to Winona County Environmental Services under the auspices that Council may request additional pieces. It was reviewed that the City does currently offer all of its residents recycling service and that the service is primarily for County residents. Admin. Koverman added that a call had been received within the first week concerning the late usage of the service. It was discussed that when the service had been offered at the same location 10 years ago residents expressed concern which led to the service being located at the fairgrounds. Clm. Getz expressed that other communities had similar county sheds. Clm. Schaber expressed that while the County has agreed to the many stipulations that more than likely it would require the support of city workers which he questioned. It was discussed to move it out to the new city

shop, but that residents would be affected there as well. The Council felt that because the City offers the service and to minimize complaints, it would be in the best interest of the City to have the service located in Utica. A motion was made to notify the Winona County Environmental to locate the sheds at their Utica shop.

Motion to approve: John Schaber

Seconded by: Orv Dahl

Clm Getz voted Nay.

Motion carried 3-1.

13). Hwy 74 Storm Water Project. Admin. Koverman highlighted concerns that had been brought to administration's attention regarding the storm water issue between 11th and 12th Street along Hwy 74. Staff had worked with the City Engineer to review a plan that would lessen the threat to the businesses along that corridor. It

Motion to approve: John Schaber

Seconded by: Wayne Getz

Motion carried.

14). Resolution #28-2010 EDA Levy. The resolution was presented to Council that outlined the separate levy for the EDA which has been done for the past 2 years as a way to demonstrate a more transparent form of government. A motion was made to approve the separate levy by the EDA.

Motion to approve: Wayne Getz

Seconded by: Orv Dahl

Motion carried.

15). Resolution #28-2010. Preliminary Levy. The preliminary levy 2011 request which indicated a .49 percent increase (\$3,000 over the 2010 levy) was reviewed by the City Council. A motion was made to approve Resolution #28-2010.

Motion to approve: John Schaber

Seconded by: Dave Braun

Motion carried.

16). United Church of Christ Parking Lot – Admin. Koverman provided an update on the UCC parking lot project which is a partnership whereby DEED is paying 50 percent of the project cost, the City is paying 25 percent, and the St. Charles School District is paying 25 percent. A discussion was held with regard to the public parking lot usage by the congregation on a special event basis. It was agreed that the church, due to their project participation in selling the lot to the city, would be able to place "temporary no parking signs" for special events such as funerals or weddings, other events other than Sunday services with a 24 hour notice to the City. A discussion was held regarding having school, church, or city reserve the parking lot, however Admin. Koverman reminded the Council that it would primarily be a public parking lot that the City would maintain and that the number of events discussed would be infrequent. A motion was made to approve the United Church of Christ permission to place temporary no parking signs with a 24 hour notice to the City during special events such as weddings or funerals or other special requests.

Motion to approve: John Schaber

Seconded by: Dave Braun

Motion declared carried.

17. Negotiating Committee Appointment. Admin. Koverman relayed that at the end of July the City was informed that a petition by the Public Works staff had been received by the MN Bureau of Mediation Services to organize a union. As of August it had been ratified and the City now needed to form a negotiating committee to enter into future discussions. Mayor Spitzer explained that he had spoken with Clm. Braun regarding the appointment, but that the position was open to any and all Councilmen interested. A motion was made to approve the appointment of Clm. Braun to the negotiating committee.

Motion to approve: John Schaber

Seconded by: Wayne Getz

Motion declared carried.

The Mayor requested that Mike Bubany be contacted to present the current CIP changes to the Council.

Public Comment/Concerns were called for.

Motion to adjourn at 8:22 p.m.

Motion: Dave Braun

Seconded by: John Schaber

Motion carried.

William J. Spitzer, Mayor

Attest: _____
Nick Koverman, Administrator