

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
SEPTEMBER 26, 2016

Charles City city council met in a planning session on September 26, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in council chambers. Mayor James Erb presided and the following council members were present: Keith Starr, Jerry Joerger, DeLaine Freeseeman, Dan Mallaro and Michael Hammond. Also present were city administrator Steve Diers, city engineer John Fallis, police chief Hugh Anderson, city attorney Ralph Smith and assistant city attorney Brad Sloter.

Dr. Scott Hansen, from Central Park Dentistry, was present to discuss his proposed expansion with the council. He wants to add on to his current building located at 207 N. Jackson. In order to do this, he is requesting that the city sell him part of the parking lot out in front of his building. In researching this, it was discovered that part of our lot is actually owned by Dr. Hansen. So it has been suggested that we do an exchange of properties to allow for the expansion and to get the correct property into the city's name. Dr. Hansen is looking at next spring for this project. City attorney Ralph Smith stated that since this is in an urban renewal area so there may be some procedures to follow to transfer this property. He will investigate this and draw up the necessary paperwork for council action.

Floyd County Treasurer Frank Rottinghaus has approached the city about using a section of city street on the south edge of town for the driver testing for people getting their CDL. This area is at the corner of Boulder Avenue and Southgate Drive by the current Hogslats building. They are requesting that a formal agreement be drawn up allowing this use. Council concerns about the possibility of future businesses locating there, that would make this arrangement less desirable due to increased traffic. Council requested that the city attorney insert a clause that would allow termination of this agreement if circumstances changed out in this area.

Discussion on the concept of unified law enforcement was held. A joint meeting with the Floyd County Supervisors is scheduled for September 28 at 5:30 to discuss hiring a firm to do a study on a joint law enforcement center and the county has expressed desire to also study the concept of unified law enforcement to see if that would work for us. Once a firm is hired, we will need to give them a scope of what we want them to study. A sub committee had been formed comprised of representatives from both entities to conduct interviews of all the firms and to make a recommendation to each of the full entity boards on which firm to hire. None of the firms had any solid experience with the unified law concept. In past discussions on this topic, the city council has expressed little to no interest in pursuing unified law for us. They feel Charles City is too big of a city to not have their own police department. Other cities that have tried this concept have not had much success. The main stumbling block is that the sheriff, who would be in charge of unified law, is an elected position. That leaves no control for the city on who is in that position. The other counties who have had some success with unified law have all the cities in that county pretty little, not the size of Charles City. One other city in the state that is Charles City's size had unified law at one time, but have since gone back to their own department. That was due mostly to a sheriff getting elected that was not really qualified for the position and the system basically broke down. Consensus of the council is that we are not interested in pursuing a study on unified law concept at this time. Discussion on studying a joint law enforcement center with the county. The county does need to build a new jail in the near future and they wanted to see if the city had any interest in locating their police department under the same roof as the new jail and sheriff offices when they are constructed. With the police chief overseeing the code enforcement department as all are included under Public Safety, there is a lot of contact back and forth on day to day matters. Since code enforcement works very closely with the city engineer, there is a lot of interaction between them as well. There are efficiencies, however, to having a joint law enforcement center. So the council would like to explore the joint law enforcement center concept to determine if the benefits are large enough. Mayor Erb stated that the council needs to keep in mind the current status of city hall and 500 N. Grand. He doesn't feel we can really make a decision until we know the full status of both those facilities. Council member Freeseeman doesn't feel that the middle school has anything to do with the council at this point. We need to identify our highest priorities and then try to set goals to address those. Police Chief Anderson stated that there are some advantages to a joint law enforcement center, but not a lot in his opinion. Being next to the jail is not a big advantage for our police department, but things such as a sharing an interrogation room, conference room and a

receptionist would be advantages. Mayor Erb stated that we need to be sure that any decision we make will help make all law enforcement in the county better.

City administrator Diers reviewed the flood events that occurred last week. The city crews worked non stop to get the wastewater plant back online and to help with sandbagging efforts. A city wide cleanup for flood damaged items only will commence October 3. Residents are to have their flood damage separated into three different piles: appliances, metal and other flood debris. City is looking at a possible drop off site for people who don't want to wait to get picked up, but need to see what the associated costs might be first.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

James A. Erb, Mayor

Attest:

Trudy O'Donnell, City Clerk