

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS  
NOVEMBER 2, 2016

Charles City City Council met in a planning session on November 2, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in council chambers. Mayor James Erb presided and the following council members were present: Jerry Joerger, Keith Starr, DeLaine Freeseaman, Dan Mallaro and Michael Hammond. Also present was city administrator Steve Diers and city engineer John Fallis.

The purpose of this special planning session was to conduct a goal setting session with Jeff Schott from the Institute of Public Affairs. A questionnaire had been distributed and filled out by city department heads and city council. Those results were gathered and distributed to council for this meeting. The 2013 goal setting results were reviewed and new list of accomplishments and possible new initiatives was created. It was noted that several of the ongoing commitments from 2013 had been completed or are in the works right now. Some of the new initiatives listed from 2013, several are in process such as the community survey and updating the comprehensive plan. The sign program was a new initiative and the park and rec department is currently working on a grant to get some signage for the riverfront park. For 2016, an extensive list of accomplishments was compiled including completion of the UV disinfection project, Cedar River retaining wall project, establishment of a code enforcement department, going paperless for council meeting packets, joint facilities study, STAR community designation, local and regional broadband fiber studies initiated, Victory Park almost complete and successful completion of 2015 owner occupied rehab program and others. Issues and concerns identified included upgrading the wastewater plant, investigating sewer I/I and cross connections of storm sewer, Washington watershed issues, aging infrastructure, full impact of property tax rollback and reclassification of properties on city revenues, succession planning strategy, updating of some city policies, removal of blighted properties, ultimate solution with future city hall/police/park & rec location, regional bike trail, mid range/low income and rental housing availability and population loss. On going commitments identified included street reconstruction, wastewater treatment plant upgrades, enforcement of city nuisance ordinance, update the city's capital improvement and comprehensive plans, wayfaring sign project, feasibility study for local and regional fiber network as municipal utility, water meter change outs and determining city role in middle school repurposing. New initiatives identified included sidewalk replacement/installation program, way finding signs, community needs survey, Healthy Iowa program, adequate funding by city for marketing efforts of city attractions/amenities, ash tree removal, update matrix used for industrial/commercial incentives, look at livability index for senior citizen population, regionalism, city hall renovation/relocation, action plan for STAR community program goals and objectives, acquisition of land and development of certified industrial site, additional lighting along the river, water trails, development of storm water/watershed management plan, smoke testing/sump pump inspection plan, update zoning ordinance, acceptance of credit cards at city hall office, Washington watershed study and research possible annexation areas and others. Jeff will get a full list of all identified new initiatives and will email that out to each council member. Each council member will then identify 6 of those initiatives they feel are most important to accomplish in the next two years and send that list back to Jeff. He will then gather the top vote getting items for council to prioritize and rank at the next goal setting meeting scheduled for November 9 at 5:00 p.m. Being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

James A. Erb, Mayor

Attest:

Trudy O'Donnell, City Clerk