

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
JANUARY 23, 2017

Charles City City Council met in a budget/planning session on January 23, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. in council chambers. Mayor James Erb presided and the following council members were present: Keith Starr, Jerry Joerger, DeLaine Freeseaman, Michael Hammond and Dan Mallaro. Also present were city administrator Steve Diers and city engineer John Fallis.

Mayor Erb commented that Charles City had been named an overnight stop for this summer's RAGBRAI, so the planning will start soon for that event.

Discussion held on council and mayor compensation for meetings. Administrator Diers reported on the input received from council members after the last discussion on this. We are currently at \$4500/year for the mayor, which is a bit below average for cities in our area. Council is at \$30/regular or special meeting, no pay for planning sessions and a \$1000/year cap. The average pay for our area is \$50/meeting. Most of the council members were happy with the current mayor salary but one had suggested a small increase. Much discussion on council pay, with a split between leaving it at \$30 and a raise to \$50. Discussion also on eliminating the cap, they don't think that special meetings are held for no reason and thus not an issue. Council member Freeseaman stated that being on the council isn't about the money, it's about civic duty. He said that there a lot of things being added to the taxes now and in the near future and he would hate to add to that. But he did agree with an increase in the mayor salary to \$4800. Consensus was to pursue a \$40/regular and special meeting with no cap and an increase to \$4800 for the mayor. This would need to be changed by ordinance so it will be presented for a first reading at the next regular council meeting and see where it goes.

Mayor/council budget was reviewed. The changes discussed tonight will be incorporated into FY18 numbers. Law enforcement/city hall study total needs to be changed to \$16,575. Engineer budget includes \$10,000 for changeover from Beehive to Midland for our GIS. Also included is fees for a consultant to do a more in-depth inspection of the Charley Western trail bridge and Main Street bridge. Council member Starr asked for a synopsis of that bridge inspection report when it's completed. Budgeted amounts for the 401 N. Main building included window and door replacements there of \$10,000 for FY17 and \$20,000 for FY18. Included in the streets budget for FY18 was \$30,000 for tree removal and \$20,000 for Shaw Avenue dump expenses. A payment of \$450 to Community Revitalization was also included for the historic preservation committee expenses. We will have an election this year, so \$3500 was included in FY18 for that as well as \$9000 for collective bargaining that will be conducted this year. Discussion on the transition when City Attorney Smith retires, staff will research what other cities pay for attorney fees.

City hall budget included an increase in utilities for Broadnet Connect payments. Carnegie Building line item included \$35,000 for the front step work for FY17.

TIF budgets reviewed. In Riverside, McQuillen payments will be certified next year. The transfer out will include both FY16 and FY17 payments, so need to include those in the re-estimated figures. The balance in SW TIF is being spent down. Payments to Valero are done in FY19. Support payments to ADC from city and county are made from here as well. South Grand expired in 2015 and the balance here will be used to create a new TIF district in that area. East Park expenses consist of rebate payments to MTE and ProCattle. Park Avenue is a housing TIF and expires in 2020. Expenses here are for bond payments for Allied 4, 5, 6 and 7.

The city levies for an emergency levy which is transferred to the General fund at the end of the year. Employee benefit fund is for city portion of IPERS, health insurance and other employee benefits for general fund and RUT salaries only. We are budgeting an increase of 5% for the premiums for the self funded employee health insurance fund.

City Administrator Diers commented that the first meeting with the state RAGBRAI reps will be January 31. The recent warmer weather has melted the snow cover and thus is sending the frost further down into

the ground. This will cause water lines to freeze easier, so city staff has notified those residents affected to have them run their water to avoid freezing.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

James A. Erb, Mayor

Attest:

Trudy O'Donnell, City Clerk