

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS  
JANUARY 6, 2022

Charles City city council met in a budget session on January 6, 2022 at 5:30 in council chambers. Mayor Andrews presided and the following council members were present: Keith Starr, Patrick Lumley, DeLaine Freeseaman, Phoebe Pittman and Phillip Knighten. Also present were city administrator Steve Diers and city engineer John Fallis.

Foster Grandparent operating and advisory budgets were reviewed. FGP director Jennifer Lantz reported that we have to re-brand everything since the program is now under a different governmental department and there is a new logo for that department. We have 40 grandparents now and are hoping to have 68 by the end of June. We have received in-kind donations from Kentucky Ridge (for use of their conference room for free), the performers at the winter dinner donated a portion of their fee and the schools give free meals to the grandparents in their district. Travel and meetings line items are budgeted to be higher since the meetings are starting back up in person. Jennifer is planning on going to Washington DC for a national conference. Foster grandparents receive a \$3/hour stipend for each hour worked and earn leave based on the hours they work. The meal prices for meetings have gone up quite a bit so that line item has been increased. The advisory fund is for the sale of merchandise, such as afghans and cups, for the program. Any mini grants received are put into this fund to be used to help cover the grandparents who don't meet the income guidelines but want to participate.

Water funds budgets reviewed with water superintendent Cory Spieker. The new chicken plant that will be opening soon is reflected in higher revenues and expenses going forward. We have recently executed a contract with Valero for their water rates. Salaries here are set for a 3% increase for FY23, same as the other departments. Spieker reported that a new law requires us to do an inventory of all water lines in the city, both ours and private owned. We need to pay to replace any lead pipes we find and if they are a private line, we will then get reimbursed from the citizen. We should have our inventory done in 3 years. We have hired a company to do the inventory and they will then certify to the EPA what we have. He is also looking at an asset management software that will help keep track of all the water department items. Spieker is also recommending the purchase of a portable generator for the booster pumps that service the hospital, Zoetis and Cambrex. He has also budgeted adding two more lights to the Corporate Drive water tower. Well #4, near the old White Farm site, isn't needed anymore and there is \$50,000 budgeted to plug it. There is also \$30,000 budgeted for leak detection. Cleaning out the north cell of the lagoon has been included for FY23. A fund has been established for the clear well project. We have been awarded a \$600,000 CDBG grant for this project. We used the figures from the SEH study to re estimate this year and for next year's budget for legal and design fees.

Water resource and recovery fund was reviewed with superintendent Dan Rimrod. The cash balance for this fund is right at one million, which is a good amount. We had originally planned a 20% increase in sewer rates to help cover the new plant but with COVID, we did not implement that change. We instead decreased the amount of sewer lining we had planned. We have budgeted for more sewer lining for FY23. Salary increases of 3% have been budgeted, same as other departments. The utilities have been set for an increase due to the oxidation ditch. A new sewer vac truck has also been included for FY23 at \$350,000. The fund for the wastewater treatment plant project will be zeroed out at the end of the current fiscal year.

Transit fund budget discussed. The federal government has been paying 100% of the wages here due to COVID at time and a half. They keep extending this so for budgeting purposes, we have assumed that will continue. If they should stop at any time, we have a cash reserve to cover. We left this levy at \$25,000 for FY23 and have estimated a 5% increase in the payments to Circle K to oversee this service.

RCPG grant fund is winding down. We have the \$500 we received from Iowa Corn Grower's Association included.

IPC grant fund is for our sponsored project. We have funded Doug Johnson's position with this grant and it is a 5 year program of which we have about 2 years left. We are hopeful to do the second phase of the edible garden from these funds.

RAGBRAI fund has some expenses and revenues for FY23 in case we are selected to be a pass through or overnight town.

With no further business, meeting was adjourned.

Dean Andrews, Mayor

Attest:

Trudy O'Donnell, City Clerk