

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
JANUARY 9, 2023

Charles City city council met in a budget session on January 9, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in council chambers. Mayor Dean 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 engineer in training Brian Sullivan.

Mayor Andrews stated that he had been on the radio this morning discussing city items.

The streets budgets were reviewed with street superintendent Cory Spieker. We have pulled out as much as we can from the General fund portion of streets and put them into the road use tax fund items. We have included sidewalk assessments for those who didn't repair their sidewalks and the city went in and completed them. These reimbursements will come through on the property taxes. Tree removal line item has been increased significantly to get as many ash trees down as we can. Our goal is to get them down before they start dying, since they become a huge safety issue when that occurs. Discussion on doing a couple of general obligation borrowings and knock out a larger number of trees sooner. A tree utility has been discussed but this would involve going on a ballot to be voted on so we would need that in place before we could add a monthly charge to the utility bills for tree removal/replanting. Consensus was to do the borrowing now and look at implementing a tree utility later. We have included \$105,000 (triple the normal amount) for tree removal costs in FY24. Road Use Tax budget was reviewed. Revenue has been calculated at \$129/capita for FY24. We have included \$40,000 for rocking/improving alleys for next fiscal year. Purchase of a vac truck is also budgeted, half in FY23 and half in FY24. CVTC budget was reviewed. This is for operation of the joint facility shared by the city, county and state on the south edge of town. The expenses are all shared based on number of bays each entity has with some expenses being shared equally. Our share of these expenses is covered by a transfer out of RUT. We are starting to replace the overhead doors in the shop area of the facility, doing three a year until they are all replaced. They are experiencing water log and failing seals on the windows. Local option sales tax has a larger balance being built up because we do major street projects about every other year and allow the balance to build up some to cover the costs easier. Street related capital improvement fund budget was reviewed next. This fund is where we run all of our street projects. The expenses are then covered by transfers from local option sales tax, water, sewer or storm water for their various portions of a project. For FY24, we have the Mill Race parking lot planned with some of this being paid for by sponsored project funding from the state. We have already visited with the surround business owners on this project several years ago and had favorable responses to it. We will visit with them again as this draws closer. Council member Lumley asked if we were going to pave any more of the gravel roads in town and reply was not this year. We will review our street capital improvement plan to see what streets will be done next. Storm water utility fund was discussed next. This revenue is generated by a \$5 monthly fee on each water bill. We have done some good projects with these funds. Council member Knighten asked if this fee should be recalculated and possibly have commercial properties paying more since they typically generate more storm water runoff. Council member Freeseaman replied that we had discussed this when we initially implemented this monthly fee but decided it was too difficult to split this up fairly so we left it one flat fee for everyone. Waste Collection fund budget was reviewed next. This is a money in/money out fund since the money we collect on water bills for garbage gets paid out to Jendro each month. Their contract has an annual CPI increase clause plus they recently implemented a fuel surcharge fee for 6 months. We will be talking with them on the surcharge since the CPI amount should include an amount for the increase in fuel prices. Spring clean up expenses have decreased due to our change in how we conduct this event. The line item for grinding services has been increased due to the larger number of trees we are removing due to the emerald ash borer situation. Charley Western trail bridge will be closed out this fiscal year. We recently received money from Friends of the Trail for the lights on the bridge and will be drawing down on the G.O. loan for this project. Since this project came in under budget, we have the capacity to cover the pledges from park and rec capital improvement funds and from hotel/motel, so this fund will be closed out at the end of FY23. Arboretum Phase 2 fund was reviewed. This project needs to be completed by December 2023. We are receiving an IDALS grant of \$100,000 and sponsored project funds of \$61,075. The city will also be paying for approximately \$20,000 to replace the sidewalks around this project. SW Industrial Storm Water project was completed as a result of flooding issues experience by Winnebago in the development park. Winnebago had pledged \$100,000 toward this project but had hired some work

done to help mitigate this issue. They deducted that payment off and paid us the difference. So we will be transferring \$23,950 from the storm water fund to clear this fund out.

City administrator Diers reported that the school board has a meeting scheduled for January 23, same night as our budget workshop and asked if we want to reschedule our meeting so council members can attend the school board meeting if they wish. Consensus was to re-schedule the January 23 meeting to January 30. So our schedule will be January 25 (planning session), January 26 and January 30. We have a meeting scheduled for February 2 if needed. Diers had a conversation with Charley Thomson about issues we are facing as a city so he can hopefully help with those at the statehouse.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

Dean Andrews, Mayor

Attest:

Trudy O'Donnell, City Clerk