

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
MARCH 29, 2023

Charles City city council met in a planning session on March 29, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in council chambers. In the absence of Mayor Andrews, Mayor Pro Tem DeLaine Freeseaman presided and the following council members were present: Patrick Lumley, Phoebe Pittman, Keith Starr (via Zoom) and Phillip Knighten (via Zoom).

The first half of the 2023 tree removal project is ready to be sent out for bids. This will be focused on the removal of ash trees in the city right of way and will go up to \$250,000 for the first year and \$250,000 for the next year. The trees are all marked and measured. We have approximately 900 ash trees total and these two projects will take care of about 2/3 of them. We will secure a general obligation loan for these two projects. Question on whether we have a plan in place to replace the trees we remove and response was that we will address that once we have removed all of the trees in these two projects. There is a completion date stated but we can not dictate when they start the project. This will be on the next regular agenda to approve the preliminary plans and set a public hearing date of May 1.

City administrator Steve Diers has requested council consideration of paying him a vehicle stipend rather than provide a vehicle for his city use. The current vehicle he is driving is starting to show more wear and tear and getting higher mileage. He has estimated \$4,000 each year in repairs/gas/maintenance and is proposing a \$500/month stipend for a total of \$6,000/year. Diers has gathered information from other cities that pay a stipend and this amount would be toward the top end. Others also had mileage paid to them over a certain amount of miles but he is not requesting that. This item was budgeted for the current fiscal year and also for next year. The current vehicle could either be sold or kept for general use for city staff. If this would be approved, it would involve an amendment to his employment contract. Some questions on what would happen if his personal vehicle was unable to be used, would we need to provide him with a replacement in the interim. City clerk O'Donnell will ask the city attorney on that question. After some discussion, council would like to wait to act on this until we have a chance to talk further with Diers on some of these questions.

City clerk O'Donnell commented that we are finalizing the spring clean up information, it will be done pretty much the same as last year.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

DeLaine Freeseaman, Mayor Pro Tem

Attest:

Trudy O'Donnell, City Clerk