

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
MAY 12, 2021

Charles City city council met in a planning session on May 12, 2021 at 6:22 p.m. immediately following a special session via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mayor Dean Andrews presided and the following council members were present: Keith Starr, Jerry Joerger, DeLaine Freeseaman, Phoebe Pittman and Phillip Knighten. Also present were city administrator Steve Diers, city engineer John Fallis and city attorney Brad Sloter.

Mayor Andrews stated that the parking lot clean up at city hall would take place on Tuesday at 5:00 p.m.

Craig Hamm was present to request street closures for a Corvette car show scheduled for May 22. He is asking that the following streets be closed from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. : Kelly Street from Main to N. Jackson and N. Jackson from Kelly to Blunt. He has talked to park and rec director Tyler Mitchell, Mark Wicks, Dean Jewelers and other neighbors about this. This will be on the next regular meeting for council action.

Mark Wicks and Tami Vetter were present to ask for street closures and allowing alcohol in the park for the BBQ Challenge and Christmas in July events on July 10. The BBQ event will be held in the parking lot between N. Main and N. Jackson. There will be a 5K that the brewery is sponsoring and a car show sponsored by the Rotary Club. Vendors will be set up in Central Park, including a wine trailer. The sidewalk around Central Park will define the perimeter for the wine license, same as what party in the park does. The bandshell will be set up and live music will be performed. This will come to the council for action at the next regular council meeting.

A request has been received from Rick Cordes to allow him to construct a garage on an empty lot located at the end of 6th Avenue near the bike trail. City engineer Fallis reported that Mr. Cordes lives out of the city limits and therefore doesn't qualify under the recently passed Ordinance 1139 which allows city residents to build a garage on an empty lot within the city and tie the two lots together. In order to allow this, council would have to amend the ordinance. Cordes stated he would build the garage on the far edge of the lot, leaving plenty of room to build a future home. Discussion on other requests council had received to allow garages on empty lots. City attorney Sloter commented that one concern staff has is if this is allowed, we would get a lot of requests to put garages on empty lots. Other options were discussed but no real solution was found. Council member Freeseaman stated that he hesitates to keep making changes to this ordinance, it was amended not that long ago to make some allowances for people living in town. Council member Knighten asked if we could allow someone who lives within two miles of town to build a garage on an empty lot. City administrator Diers commented that the city can assess to a property owner living in the city but we can't assess any property located outside city limits.

Police chief Hugh Anderson was present to discuss re-doing the police department's standard operating procedures. He has found a company that would help re-write our policies, they are highly recommended by his peers around the state. Once the re-write is complete, it would come to council for formal adoption. It would be an annual cost of \$8300 and bulletins would be sent out as changes are made to the laws that would require changes to the policy. This company has lawyers on staff that continually review any law changes and would then draft the changes to our policy that would reflect the changes in the law. Council member Freeseaman stated he likes the idea and wondered if a council member shouldn't be on the committee that will oversee this policy re-write. Anderson replied that this is a fairly large time commitment so it might not be feasible for a council member to be on the committee. He also stated that our insurance company, EMC, encourages their clients to use this company. This process will take quite some time to complete, there will be a lot of reading involved. The reason for doing this policy re-write is to be sure our officers are doing things right and not just to protect the officers and the city. Once the policy would be completed, we would own it. Council member Knighten also commented that it's important to have the right individuals as police officers, not just about having the policy in place. Consensus of council was to move forward with this project.

The 2020 sewer lining project was not ready for discussion at this time.

City administrator Diers reported that Annette Dean, library director, has requested to close off the library lot for some library programs on June 2, June 30 and August 4. Diers told her to be sure and check with park and rec and street departments and the Chamber to be sure there are no conflicts with other events. The street lights have been removed at the intersection of Brantingham/Clark and Brantingham/N. Grand and replaced with 4 way stop signs as part of the street project being done. We are encouraging people to be extra careful in these areas. Diers had talked to Bob Ingram about changing the city's deductibles and doing this would save the city about \$3,000 a year. So he approved doing this. City engineer Fallis reported that there is good progress being made on the CW Bridge and the bridge decks are scheduled to be poured tomorrow. Diers also reported that we are still working on getting the necessary equipment installed for going back to live council meetings. The telecom board met yesterday and did a closed session to discuss the business plan and working with another entity to get the broadband project going. The new consultant is working for us on a contingency basis, so he won't get paid unless the project gets funded. The board approved a resolution requesting an extension to their loan with the city to March 2022. This will also need to be approved at the council level.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

Dean Andrews, Mayor

Attest:

Trudy O'Donnell, City Clerk