

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
MAY 24, 2023

Charles City city Council met in a planning session on May 24, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Mayor Andrews presided and the following Council members were present: Phoebe Pittman, Delaine Freeseaman, Philip Knighten, Keith Starr, and Patrick Lumley.

Also present: Steve Diers, Brian Doyle (via Zoom), Lanie Sanvig, Virginia Titus, Patrick Callahan, Dave Davidson, Brian Sullivan, Travis Fisher (via Zoom).

The Mayor did not have any comments.

A resident requested to be put on the agenda to discuss the use of golf carts on city streets. The resident was not in attendance and the Mayor moved on to the next agenda item.

Brian Doyle, with Acumen, was present via Zoom to discuss the city's health plan. Currently the city is self-insured but with rising costs the city needs to look at other options. Taking the health plan to market showed that Wellmark costs have gone down and the city's costs have gone up. Discussion was held with the city switching to a partially self-funded plan which would renew on January 1, 2024.

Cory Spieker, Water Superintendent, was present to discuss the need for three updated programmable logic controllers or PLC's at the water plant. PLC's control the input and output of the plant. These were included in the budget discussions earlier this year.

A drafted agreement pertaining to a parklet was given to the Council by City Engineer Brian Sullivan which outlined the spaces to be used, fencing, traffic barriers, and dates. Council held discussion on allowing a parklet on the north side of 223 N. Main Street. Council would like to see the business operating as a brick and mortar before issuing the permit for a parklet. This would be looked at on a case-by-case basis. Council will continue to tweak the agreement draft while Davidson continues readying his business.

Lanie Sanvig, owner of Tellurian Brewing, asked for a patio extension for the summer months using a solid black outdoor fence now through October. This will be the same set-up as the last few years. Lanie has to go through the state and her insurance to allow for this extra seating to happen each year. She is utilizing her own property and not going out onto public property which is why Council has agreed to this in the past.

Steve Diers, City Administrator, spoke about the current contract the city has with American Medial Rescue or AMR which ends June 30, 2023. The ambulance commission put in a good amount of time and is looking to renew the contract with AMR for a year with the hopes of creating a shared City and County ambulance service which would provide access to funding otherwise not available. Floyd County has taken steps to declare ambulance service as an essential service which is on pace to be on the ballot for November. This agreement is very similar to what we have had in the past. Discussion was held on how the city would be reimbursed for fees and possibly operating the service at a loss if provided in-house.

A final copy of the goal setting was presented to the Council and discussion was held on what the top priorities were. The top priority is to review current public safety policies and provide a firearms training

facility for the police department. The right-of-way tree project is also listed as well as reviewing the rental inspection codes and raising compliance. Finally, working with the Chamber to create more incentives city-wide instead of certain areas of town. The Council would like to see these incentives added to the previous goal setting list with the intent to continue the implementation of the previous goals. This will be added to the June 5, 2023 Council Meeting.

Patrick Callahan with Callahan Municipal Consultants was present to discuss the city's Capital Improvement Plan or CPI. The CPI is used to identify major construction projects and major equipment purchases that are not completed every year. He explained what the role of the Council, department heads, and himself is in this process. The Council agreed that this improvement plan will be for five years with a minimum project threshold of fifty-thousand dollars. Any project below that would be included in the city's annual operating budget. Mr. Callahan has requested a compiled list of projects from department heads and the Council that will be presented and discussed at a joint meeting later in June.

City Administrator did not have anything further to report.

Councilman Freeseaman spoke about the repairs being completed at the airport. Everything will be opened back up by May 26, 2023. Councilman Starr mentioned the radio discussions to be held at the Courthouse.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.