

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
JULY 26, 2021

Charles City city council met in a planning session on July 26, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mayor Dean Andrews presided and the following council members were present: Keith Starr, Jerry Joerger and Phoebe Pittman. Absent were DeLaine Freeseaman and Phillip Knighten. Also present were city administrator Steve Diers and city engineer John Fallis.

Mayor Andrews reported that one of downtown murals is completed and the other one should be done this week.

Discussion held on the hiring of transit drivers. One applicant is related to the couple who oversee the transit. All transit drivers are city employees and are ultimately supervised by the city administrator. We have had trouble finding drivers and with school starting, the service will be much busier. After consulting with our labor attorney, and with the shortage of drivers, he did not see an issue with this. Consensus of council was that they don't think this is an issue.

Several change orders have been issued for the ambulance bay remodel project at the fire station. After the plans were set, input was received from the drivers which resulted in some change orders as follows: masonry work changes - \$4454.26 increase, build temporary sleeping quarters in truck bay - \$3005.42 increase, painting of door frames - \$450.17, swap location of office/dorm room - plus or minus \$1,398.26, relocate ladder - increase \$3,933.33, move overhead door controls - increase \$594.55 and make temporary sleeping quarters permanent - increase \$5777.28 for a total increase in price of approximately \$19,613.27 depending on where the change order for swapping locations ends up. The fire department has had to move out their boat and jet ski to make room for this project and they will be located at the old Cal's building on North Main. This will increase response time for any water incident they may respond to. These change orders will be on the next council agenda for approval. Mayor Andrews thanked the fire department for their response to the recent fire that broke out at Shaw Avenue with the mulch pile.

The house demolition project which included 806 N. Grand and 312 15th Avenue has been completed and is ready for acceptance. These houses were torn down by Popp Excavating for a total of \$23,800.00 for both houses. This item will be on the next regular agenda for council approval. Council member Joerger commented that the landfill has a program that will reimburse the city \$400 for each nuisance structure that is demolished so we should submit the necessary paperwork for that. There had been discussion on possibly moving the house from Shaw Avenue that the city purchased to 806 N. Grand, so we may look into that possibility again.

The WRRF project has a change order that requires council approval. This is change order #6 and consists of the following items: remove poor soil and replace with better soil - add \$9953.02; generator and auto transfer switch cable revisions - deduct \$2100.00; add and relocate hydrants and add walk in gate in fencing - add \$2868.03; substitute gate valves instead of butterfly valves for headworks building water line - add \$226.41; add pipe insulation on shallow water lines - add \$783.04; changes to piping from final clarifier 3 - add \$4440.31 and replace 12" air line between blower building and digesters - add \$26759.34 for a total approximate increase of \$42,930. This item will be on the next regular agenda for council action.

City administrator Diers reported that Emily Kiewel contacted us and said she had forgotten to mention to the council, when she made her request for use of city property at the last meeting, that there would be alcohol in the city park for Art A Fest. If she needs to come back to another meeting she will but we don't think that will be necessary. Just wanted to let the council know. The city was notified today that we will be getting the first half of our American Rescue Plan funds soon. Staff is suggesting changing the September 15 planning session to September 14 since quite a few of us will be gone to the League of Cities annual conference on the 15th. Diers also reported that the property at 213 N. Main, owned by Dave Davidson, is being sold. There is a deed restriction on the pocket park property placed by the city council that required gates to be installed on either end of the pocket park when that project was completed. The project was never done so the gates aren't installed. This deed restriction will need to be

addressed by the council before the sale can be finalized. If the proposed new owner isn't doing alcohol as part of their project, this may be something the council can decide to eliminate from the deed. Council will discuss further at a future meeting. Some playground equipment was stolen from Lions Field last weekend. Police department is currently short 3 officers so we may want to discuss some changes in the hiring process for police officers, such as offering a sign on bonus if they come to us certified or possibly extend the residency requirement distance. Mayor Andrews reported that the grand opening of the Charley Western Trail bridge has been set for Sunday, August 1 at 4:00 on the west side of the bridge.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

Dean Andrews, Mayor

Attest:

Trudy O'Donnell, City Clerk