

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

Charles City city council met in a planning session September 13, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in council chambers. Mayor Dean Andrews presided and the following council members were present: DeLaine Freeseaman, Phillip Knighten, Patrick Lumley, Phoebe Pittman and Keith Starr. Also present were engineer in training Brian Sullivan, city engineer John Fallis(via Zoom) and city administrator Steve Diers (via Zoom).

Julie Taylor and Jacie Piechel gave a review of the PAWS facility operations. They are a no kill shelter but if a dog is extremely aggressive and/or has bitten someone already, they do sometimes make the difficult decision to euthanize. Also, if an animal is suffering and there is no way to fix it, they also will euthanize. The number of dogs they have taken in has risen this year.

Brandy Salinas was present to discuss a request for an extension on a parking waiver for their business at 1007 Gilbert Street. The original waiver expired September 1. This was presented to planning and zoning last week and they are recommending it be extended with the following requirements: a signed contract with a contractor be submitted to city staff by March 1, 2024 and the work is to be done by September 15, 2024. When asked why it hadn't been done by the due date, response was that some city employees had been in to their business and told them it didn't have to be done. Salinas stated that, weather permitting, this paving will be done next week. But if that doesn't happen, they would need the waiver. Consensus was to wait to have council act on the waiver and if needed, it will be on the October 2 regular meeting.

With the upcoming Main Street project, the traffic lights along Main Street from Riverside to Lane Street will need to be removed to make the sidewalks at the intersections ADA compliant. Staff is suggesting replacing only the one at Ferguson and Clark Street and having stop signs on the rest of the east/west streets. Much discussion on how this would affect the speed of traffic on Main Street and problems for pedestrians trying to cross the street. One option council was in favor of was putting in 4 way stops in place of the removed traffic signals. City engineer Fallis commented that if we would change to four way stop signs, a traffic study would need to be done to see if that is warranted according to MUTCD standards. In his opinion, he doesn't think there is enough traffic there to warrant that change. The engineers for the Main Street street project, Veenstra and Kimm, need to know about the traffic signals so they can do the design work. A public meeting with the affected business owners on this project has been set for September 28 to review the project and hear any concerns. Council asked that this item be placed on the September 27 planning session so they can see the plans. It was decided to tell V and K to include leaving the traffic signals in the plans for now and if we decide later to remove them, it would be easier to do that.

Street superintendent Cory Spieker was present to review the monoform project for several storm sewer intakes in the city. We have identified 9 of these manholes for this project and a quote has been received from HydroKlean of \$47,861.57 for this service. This item will be on the next regular meeting for council action.

Valero is working with PCI to install a rail spur that is located over our water main on E St. This main is estimated to be 70-80 years old. The length under the spur is approximately 80' and staff is recommending replacing an additional 120' while this area is opened up. A casing will be placed around the main under the spur. PCI has quoted us \$35,100 for parts and labor to replace the 200' of water main. Valero has agreed to pay the labor to replace and case the 80' under the spur. This item will be on the next regular council meeting for consideration.

The parking lot project at 401 N. Main is done and ready for acceptance. The final price was approximately \$4,256 lower due to reusing some rock underneath. This item will be on Monday's regular agenda for council action.

A public hearing needs to be set for the status of funded activities for the clear well project. This is a requirement of the CDBG grant and will be held October 2.

City administrator Diers reported that the tree planting went well. We have \$15,000 of funds to work with (\$5,000 from Rotary, \$5,000 from Lions and \$5,000 from a tree grant) and planted 130 trees already. The FGP recruiter position is open again. Tomorrow is the second session of the leadership training the city is having. The League annual conference is next week in Cedar Rapids. The housing conference last week was very good.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

Dean Andrews, Mayor

Attest:

Trudy O'Donnell, City Clerk