

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

Charles City city council met in a planning session on September 14, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in council chambers. Mayor Dean Andrews presided and the following council members were present: Keith Starr (via Zoom), Jerry Joerger, DeLaine Freeseaman, Phoebe Pittman (via Zoom) and Phillip Knighten.

Façade program requirements were discussed. The last application we received was basically for the same project at the same building. The building was sided and the first application was for two sides and then about a year later, the second application came that was for the remaining sides. We would hate to have someone intentionally split a project up in order to receive two Façade grants. Council member Pittman commented that some projects might be too large for a smaller business to tackle all at once, so it would be more feasible for the business owner to split it up into phases. Council member Freeseaman commented that maybe we could give priority to first time applicants over someone applying again for basically the same project. Chamber director Mark Wicks suggested possibly limiting the number of projects that can be done at one location. Council just wants to be sure that the program isn't being abused. Another option would be that the council could just deny the application if it is for basically the same project at the same location. Decreasing the percentage awarded for a second phase of the same project was also mentioned. Consensus was to have some recommendations drafted with guidance from the Main Street Iowa group and bring back to council at a future planning session for discussion.

A request has been received from Jendro Sanitation for an increase in the garbage service fees. The agreement with them allows for this and they are asking for two things: 5.4% increased based on CPI and a 5% increase to cover the increase in tipping fees at the landfill. City administrator Diers calculated the CPI and using each of the last 12 month's increase and averaging those, he got 2.7% increase for CPI. He sent his calculations to Jendro and they are okay with them. Discussion by council was that the increase in tipping fees doesn't affect all of the sanitation operations so that increase shouldn't be applied to everything. The total amount of garbage hauled from Charles City should be the only amount affected by the increase. City administrator Diers will continue discussion with Jendro and try to have a resolution ready for the next regular meeting.

Changing the speed limit on South Grand near Kwikstar was discussed. The DOT is in charge of this stretch of road and they have the control over what the limits are. The city can request that the DOT review this area and make a recommendation on what the limit should be. Council member Starr commented that he is the one who brought this item up, since there has been quite a bit of development in this area in recent years. Consensus of council was that this request should be made of the DOT and this item will be on the next regular agenda for council action.

Sight distance issues at the intersection of N. Jackson and Clark Street was discussed. Council agreed that when cars are parked along both sides, it is very hard to see when you pull out onto North Jackson from Clark Street. Council member Freeseaman commented that there are other similar intersections in town, should we look at those too? Council member Joerger stated that we should focus first on the higher traffic areas. City engineer Fallis commented that if we do make changes, we need to install both signs and curb painting due to snow covering the paint in the winter. Fallis will bring back this item to council for their consideration.

City administrator Diers reported that we have a part time transit driver leaving and we maybe should consider hiring another full time driver. This position would be for the county regional route and NIACOG has given their permission to do this. The highway 18 project is coming to a close. The League of Cities conference is tomorrow in Coralville and we have several from the city attending.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

Dean Andrews, Mayor

Attest:

Trudy O'Donnell, city clerk