

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
SEPTEMBER 27, 2021

Charles City city council met in a planning session on September 27, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the council chambers. 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 and John Fallis.

Mayor commented on a segment that had been done on Good Morning America about Mario Hoefer helping an opposing team member with a leg cramp at the last football game. He stated it was nice to see some national recognition for the good deed that was done.

The Laurie Pedersen item was dropped from the agenda as the item was not quite ready to be discussed. It may be brought up at a later time.

Tammy Vetter was at the meeting to discuss the street closure request for the Rotary Santa's Shining Holiday Light Show event. Rotary is planning on holding this event on November 27th from 4 p.m. until 10 p.m. They would like to close Blunt and Jackson Streets around Central Park to allow food trucks to set up and to have no parking along Central Park side of Main and Kelly to ensure community safety and allow those to pass by and see the lights during the kickoff event.

Steve Diers explained that in late June the topic of ATV, UTV and golf carts and requests around the idea of them being used within city limits was put before the council for some initial discussion. Since then, there has been some limited discussion with people proposing this as well as collection of other city's ordinances by city staff to review how these are being addressed. Chief Anderson had put together a spreadsheet on how some of the surrounding communities have addressed this issue. Some of the common areas that we have seen are you have to be eighteen years old to operate, annual licensing with the City; costs ranging from \$25-\$100, provide proof of insurance with similar limits and coverage as vehicles, and operation allowed from Dawn to Dusk for vehicles without headlights. Anderson added that in our community main street bridge could be the only one allowed for crossing the river. These types of vehicles are not allowed to be driven on state highways, which eliminates Brantingham bridge. Many towns do not allow them on trails which would eliminate the Charles Western bridge. Citizen, Richard Severin, asked how Sherman bridge would be addressed. It was stated at this time Sherman Bridge is no longer considered a portion of a state highway so travel could be allowed. Craig Hamm and Chuck Meyer spoke in support the idea of allowing these types of vehicles. Hamm stated he felt it would bring people to town to fill with gas and eat in the restaurants. Chuck Meyer stressed that he is looking at responsible drivers being allow to operate within the city limits to work and recreate. Wendy Gerber spoke to fact that allowing the vehicles in town to be used for a business purpose of moving snow would fill a need of the citizens. Consensus was to form a committee of a couple off council members, Diers, Anderson and a couple of people requesting the use to form a committee to work on a proposal for allowing them in town. Council members Freeseaman and Pittman volunteered to be the council representation. Once this group has a proposal, they could then come back to another planning session to discuss.

Mark Wicks and Elaine Bruton were at the planning session to talk about the Main Street agreement. Mark stated that this is a two-year agreement. The focus remains on the revitalization of the main street

area. The total the council has budgeted for this program is \$25,000 which comes from Riverside TIF. Freeseaman asked if there were any changes in the agreement. Wicks explained that the program is moving toward having to be nationally accredited of which we currently are. A resolution of support from the council will also be required. Wicks explained that there are many benefits to being a Main Street Community.

A façade grant has been applied for by Joana Thompson for a property at 213 N. Main Street. She is asking for the maximum amount of \$10,000. She is working on the apartments above the commercial space at this location. Joana explained that the apartments are not usable unless a fire barrier is installed. The cost of the fire barrier is estimated at \$28,350. Joana said she has already had people contact her about the apartments.

Fallis has reviewed the need for parking restrictions at the intersection of North Jackson Street and Clark Street that was briefly questioned at a recent council meeting during the public comment period and also discussed at the September 15th planning session. Fallis's finding from the Iowa DOT was that there have been 9 accidents at the intersection since 2011. Most of them have been due to failure to yield right-of-way at a stop sign. Fallis presented a map to the council with the proposal to eliminate the equivalent of one stall or 20 feet on the easterly side of North Jackson Street and increase the length of the no parking area on the westerly side of the street by 30 feet. This will create equal areas of no parking on both side of North Jackson Street. Once the changes are applied, he will continue to monitor to see if further changes will be needed. Wicks stated that there is also a possible need to do this at the Blunt and the Kelly St. intersections. Consensus was to start with the Clark Street intersection and see how it works and then other intersections could be looked at.

A discussion was continued on the future plans for the house at 302 Shaw Avenue. This house was purchased as part of the WRRF project. It is a modular house and appears to be structurally sound and in good condition. The house can be returned to the City's housing stock by moving it to a new location. Staff is proposing a potential bid package that could include the 302 Shaw Avenue house and the vacant lot at 806 N. Grand Avenue. Bid documents would be prepared to accept the highest bid that would require the Shaw Avenue house to be moved onto a new foundation at the North Grand Avenue lot. Cost of moving the house, the new foundation and other costs associated with placing and finishing the house will be the responsibility of the bidder. Successful bidder can either use the relocated dwelling for their own use or sell the house. There was some discussion on whether to require a basement or not. Fallis stated that the way the house is built it would not work to put it on a slab. It will either have to have a basement or a crawl space. Pittman asked how the house will be situated on the lot. Fallis pictured the front facing the side street. Freeseaman asked if there was enough room to put a garage on the house. Fallis thought there would be. Knighten asked if we have looked at doing the work of moving it ourselves and what that cost would be. Fallis stated he had not. Fallis reminded the council that they had the right to reject any bid. Consensus was to move ahead with the proposal and see what bids are received and at the same time obtain information on the costs that would be incurred if the city would move the house themselves.

The school had requested to add eight handicap parking spots along Salsbury Avenue near Comet Field. This type of handicap parking would not be enforceable as it does not meet the code. Pittman explained at the last game there was a lot of vehicle traffic moving in and out of an area that had a lot of pedestrians traffic. She explained if they had these spots, it could remove some of the vehicle traffic from that area. Chief Anderson weighed in and said he is not opposed to offering the spots as handicap parking as a courtesy. Pittman said the school has looked at different options over the years. She said

if this option is allowed, they will continue to assess how it worked. Freeeseman asked if the school has ever looked at a shuttle service using the handicapped parking spots already in the school parking lot. Pittman said that if this option doesn't work it could be something the school could look at.

The mayor gave a report on the depot moving. Process will start on the 6th and the depot will be placed on the foundation on the 11th. He said the council will be looking at some street closures for this process on Monday's meeting.

Administrator Diers said the AEDO process will start tomorrow. The ADC is working at obtaining certification. A couple of members will be in town meeting with businesses, staff, council and supervisors. Grove and Illinois is paved and opened back up. Highway 18 project is wrapping up.

Being there was no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Dean Andrews, Mayor

Attest:

Virginia Titus, Deputy Clerk