



Photos courtesy Charles City Fire Department Facebook page

Firefighters from Charles City, Floyd, Colwell and Marble Rock responded to a house fire late Sunday evening, June 29, in the 2200 block of 185th Street.

Area departments respond to Sunday evening fire

To The Press

Charles City and other area fire departments were called to a house fire in the 2200 block of 185th Street, about 5 miles northwest of Charles City, at

about 10:40 p.m. Sunday evening.

“Once on scene crews battled flames coming from the roof as well as multiple rounds of interior attacks to extinguish the flames,” according to the

report posted to the Charles City department’s Facebook page.

The Charles City firefighters were aided by units from Colwell, Floyd and Marble Rock departments, the report

said.

“Using recent trainings, the crews were able to set up a water shuttle system using drop tanks and tankers,” the report said, adding that the residents of

the house had made it out safely and no injuries were reported to residents or responding firefighters.

The Charles City FD returned to the fire station by about 2:15 a.m.

BONDING

Continued from page 1

“Being able to do all this work faster is a huge advance,” said Basye.

age,” said Basye.

In other business, the board heard end-of-year progress updates from the administrators of each school building.

Washington Elementary Principal Joe Carney delivered his

presentation via pre-recorded video, showing the early elementary school is working on improving literacy with intervention groups that focus on one-on-one instruction.

“We really have tried to maximize the number of adults who

are available to support those intervention groups because we really want those groups to be as small as possible,” said Carney.

Likewise in math, the school is working on improving the percentage of students showing

growth by focusing on grade appropriate fundamentals.

Lincoln Elementary Principal Chealsey Moen celebrated hitting the goal of seeing a 10% improvement in math proficiency along with a 27% decrease in referrals for student behavior.

“Overall we had a pretty great

year,” said Moen.

Middle School Principal Joe Taylor reported that the school doubled its science goal of 10% improvement and was also pleased to note that his building saw 100% staff retention for next year.

“In general, it was a really great year,” said Taylor.

Finally, from the high school, Principal Levi Miller reported that 92% of second semester students passed all of their classes this year. Miller has been utilizing incentive programs that reward students for good behavior and reported that participation in assessment tests has risen in all areas.

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CITY OF CHARLES CITY COUNCIL PLANNING SESSION

June 25, 2025

Charles City Council met in a planning session on June 25, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Zastrow Room at the public library. Mayor Dean Andrews presided and the following council members were present: DeLaine Freese, Phillip Knighten, Patrick Lumley, Phoebe Pittman, and Keith Starr. Also present was city engineer John Fallis, as well as city attorney Brad Slotter via zoom.

Mayor Andrews commented that the Teen Party in the Park for this year has been cancelled, but they are working on planning ahead for next year as it is always a great time.

Discussion was held on the acceptance of the Pool Renovation Project. Construction Company was awarded the bid in July of 2024 for \$355,300. The project was completed for a total cost of \$367,426.52, which is a \$12,126.52 (3.4%) increase. The increase was due to additional joint and crack repair work. The project is now 100% complete and JEO Consulting Group, project consultant has provided the city with a notice recommending final project acceptance and final retainage payment be made to the contractor in the amount of \$18,371.33. This item will be on the next regular agenda for council action.

The South Grand right-of-way was planted in 2001 with an Iowa Living Roadways grant. Since then, the area has been left to grow naturally, allowing volunteer vegetation to grow in between the crab apple trees and other plantings. CCADC contacted the IDOT to clear the vegetation along the Avenue of the Saints Development Park as it has become a bit of an eyesore, but due to the funding received for the original plantings, the IDOT requested that the city council concur on the clearing of the vegetation. Consensus of the council was to selectively clear the vegetation in the ROW, keeping the healthy crab apple trees.

Council discussed the dissolution of the Joint SW Bypass TIF Committee with Floyd County. The Floyd Co BOS will be voting to dissolve their participation in the committee on June 30th, and the city is scheduled to take action on our urban renewal area plan amendments and joint committee dissolution at the July 7th regular meeting. This is not dissolving the urban renewal area (URA) its self, just the joint aspect of the committee, which will eliminate the unnecessary duplication of actions performed by the city and county individually. As there are no other “joint” URA/ TIF areas in the state, this will solve the dilemma that the Iowa Department of Management has in trying to track and categorize our URA. After the city and county take their respective actions, the SW Bypass Urban Renewal/TIF area will operate in similar fashion to the other existing URAs, like Riverside and South Grand, where the council oversees the operation.

The personnel committee and attorney Slotter worked through the interim city administrator agreement as directed by council at the June 16 regular meeting. The agreement outlines duties and authorities, terms of employment, temporary employee status, compensation, effective date, etc. for the position between the city of Charles City and Dan L. Gifford. Attorney Slotter stated that he will be changing section 2. Terms of Employment to read “Employee shall serve ‘at the will’ of the City Council and therefore may be terminated at any time, with or without cause.” The agreement will be presented to Mr. Gifford for his approval and will then be added to the July 7 regular meeting agenda for the council to take final action.

City clerk Lentz updated council on the gWorks online portal outage; staff is eager to have FrontDesk, the new cloud-based utility payment portal up and running in the next few weeks; we are closing on our short-term borrowing note with First Citizens on June 26; and working with FEMA to close-out the 2024 flood. Mayor Andrews spoke on the need for an agenda item deadline; Thursday at 12pm prior to a Monday regular meeting and Monday at 12pm prior to a Wednesday planning session was the consensus, with mayor Andrews having the final say on what items are placed on the agenda. Councilmember Lumley stated that he would like to see nuisance properties added to a future agenda, as he has had a lot of questions from citizens on nuisance properties... where is staff at in the nuisance process on the properties in town; we have a lot of housing going in, but still need to keep what is already here looking presentable. Mayor Andrews and attorney Slotter stated the topic will be added to a future planning session.

There being no further business, the planning session was adjourned at 6:49pm.

Dean Andrews, Mayor
Attest: Brittney Lentz, City Clerk

No. 25023
7/3/25 Charles City Press
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Welcome Baby!

Walter Heitz

Date of Birth: **June 23, 2025 • 1:10 a.m.**

Son of: **Tanner and MacKenzie Heitz, Charles City**

Grandparents: **Wayne & Sarah LaCoste, Rudd**
Adam & Melissa Heitz, Charles City

Great-Grandparents:
Al & Sharon LaCoste, Rudd;
Mike & Glennis Kelley, Rock Falls;
John Ebert, Charles City

Delivered by: **Danielle Wadsworth, ARNP, CNM**

Weight
8 lbs, 10 oz

Height
20 inches

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