

CITY OF CHARLOTTE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
111 E. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte, MI 48813 (517) 543-2750
Regular Council Meeting
April 17, 2023

CALL TO ORDER:

By Mayor Armitage on Monday April 17, 2023, 7:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Armitage, Mayor Pro-Tem Weissenborn, Council members Chin, Duweck, Rodriguez, Van Langevelde and Dyer. A quorum was met. City staff in attendance were City Manager LaPere, and City Clerk LaRocque.

In the audience was Acting Fire Chief Daly and Fire Lt. Fullerton

By phone (Lansing, MI) Attorney Hitch

INVOCATION:

Chuck Jensen – West Carmel Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Led by Mayor Armitage

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. April 03, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Motion by Duweck supported by Dyer to approve the meeting minutes. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS:

All present

PUBLIC HEARING:

- a. Ordinance 2023-04 to amend Chapter 30 to update the City Fire Code

Public hearing comments opened at 7:05 and closed at 7:06 with no comments received from the public.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No comments received.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Chin requested item a and Rodriguez requested item b of the consent agenda to be moved to the business agenda. Armitage requested adding a discussion item for the marihuana licensing program to the end of the business agenda.

Motion by Van Langevelde supported by Weissenborn to approve the agenda with the requested changes. Carried. Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. ~~Approval of Claims and Expenditures totaling \$394,761.10 – moved to business (Chin)~~
- b. ~~Arbor Day Proclamation 2023-01 – moved to business (Rodriguez)~~
- c. Approval of Resolution 2023-10 receive and schedule public hearing on Fire Special Assessment Roll
- d. Approval of Resolution 2023-11 receive and schedule public hearing on Nuisance Special Assessment Roll
- e. Approval of Resolution 2023-12 Authorizing Charlotte Celebrates street closures June 15-17, 2023
- f. Approval of Resolution 2023-13 Authorizing street closure and use of public right of way near Oak Park for the Pray Funeral Home Centennial Celebration.

- g. Confirmation of Mayoral Appointments to Boards/Committees

Motion by Duweck supported by Dyer to approve the consent agenda items c, d, e, f and g. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

BUSINESS AGENDA:

- a. Approval of Claims and Expenditures totaling \$394,761.10

LaPere answered Chin's questions about (Lead Service) excavation expenses.

Motion by Van Langevelde supported by Dyer to approve Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- b. Arbor Day Proclamation 2023-01

Rodriguez requested the statement "and spiritual renewal" be removed from the proclamation.

Motion by Dyer supported by Van Langevelde to approve removing the statement "and spiritual renewal". Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

Motion by Van Langevelde supported by Weissenborn to approve Arbor Day Proclamation 2023-01 as corrected. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- c. Approval of Resolution 2023-07 to modify city elections to even years.

Motion by Van Langevelde supported by Dyer to approve modifying city elections to even years. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- d. Adoption of Council Policy 2023-02 establishing a Pension Funding Policy

Motion Tabled by Chin supported by Van Langevelde to revisit the discussion of this policy after the *Protecting MI Pension* grant funds are received. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- e. Second reading and adoption of Ordinance 2023-04 to amend Chapter 30 to update the City Fire Code

Motion by Dyer supported by Van Langevelde to approve Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- f. Amendment to lease with the Eaton County 4-H Agricultural Society (Fair Board)

Motion by Dyer supported by Duweck to approve the lease amendment with Eaton County 4-H Agricultural Society (Fair Board). Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- g. Approval of bid of \$749,673 for purchase of fire truck to replace #314

Motion by Dyer supported by Duweck to approve the bid of \$749,673 for a fire truck. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- h. Discussion on addition of DPW Position in FY 23/24 Budget

Motion by Dyer supported by Chin to modify the draft FY 23/24 budget to hire a DPW Laborer. Carried; Yea 5; Nay 2 (Armitage and Rodriguez; Absent 0

- i. Discussion of commercial marijuana licensing program

Motion by Chin supported by Dyer to direct administration to draft a marijuana ordinance allowing retail, testing, processing and transport licenses as appropriate to the designated zones. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. City Attorney report was received

Council discussed that going forward, attorney agreements will be satisfactory to Council and adhered to.

- b. City Manager report was received
- c. Charlotte Police Dept. March 2023 report was received
- d. Charlotte Fire Dept. March 2023 report was received
- e. Council member Committee Reports

Chin – Evaluation Committee - a meeting with LaPere to review and discuss the newly drafted employee evaluation document will be set.

Dyer – EATRAN - hired 4 new drivers with anticipation to return service in Delta Twp. back to pre-covid services.

Van Langevelde – Parks Advisory Board – Arbor Day Resolution and the Pray Funeral Home Centennial Celebration was discussed via email. She mentioned upcoming spring clean-up projects and looking for organizations interested in participating.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Martin Fabrik – non-Resident - President of the Eaton County Agricultural Society (Fair Board) thanked Council for their support and for the kind comments received tonight.

Cooper Frost – resident – representing Strong Towns, an organization who is working to plant street trees in Charlotte and currently looking for residents who want trees. Planning begins in May for June plantings. Visit charlottestreettrees.com for more information.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Chin – the Eaton County Expo begins this weekend. He will be attending an MML conference the next two days and mentioned wanting to view the DPW facilities study, he will attend the

Chamber of Commerce Board breakfast tomorrow morning. and noted the labor attorney Kluck contract should be updated with his new firm.

Duweck – thanked all meeting audience attendees.

Dyer – reminder that (Federal) taxes are due tomorrow and he will be occupying the library booth at the Eaton County Expo this weekend and invited listeners to come visit. Armitage mentioned landscaping project at the library

Weissenborn – reminder of the upcoming DPW leaf pick-up dates May 1 to 4, Monday through Thursday

Rodriguez – would like a discussion with Council about possible revenue generating sources other than special assessments or raising tax.

Van Langevelde – a crime rights vigil at the State Capital will be held on Wednesday and next week is crime victims’ rights week. Thanked SIREN and the prosecutor’s office who are advocates for and providers of resources for crime victims.

Armitage – announced he will not seek re-election this November so he can focus on his family. He is proud of the accomplishments made since joining the Council in 2018 including reversing a multi-year overspending trend, addressing the unfunded pension liability, improving E. Harris St and upcoming Hall/McClure/Washington Streets and the Island Rd. projects; allocating ARPA funds to improve public safety and roads. He appreciates the team effort of Council and not just rubberstamping decisions. He is honored to have served the City of Charlotte and will continue to fight for the City until his term ends this November.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION:

Motion by Chin supported by Weissenborn to recess to closed session at 9:40 p.m. pursuant to MCL 15.268 (d) to discuss real

estate acquisitions related to airport easements. Requiring a 2/3 vote; Carried by roll call; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

RECONVENE OPEN SESSION

Motion by Chin supported by Dyer to reconvene open session at 10:10 p.m. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

ADJOURN:

Motion by Dyer supported by Duweck to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 p.m. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

Mayor Michael Armitage

Mary LaRocque, City Clerk