

CITY OF CHARLOTTE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
111 E. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte, MI 48813 (517) 543-2750
Regular Council Meeting
August 21, 2023

CALL TO ORDER:

By Mayor Armitage on Monday August 21, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Armitage, Mayor Pro-Tem Weissenborn, Council members Chin, Rodriguez, Van Langevelde, Duweck and Dyer. A quorum was met.

City staff in attendance; City Manager LaPere, City Clerk LaRocque, City Attorney Revore and in the audience Community Development Director Myrkle, Police Chief Brentar, Acting Fire Chief Daly and Fire Lt. Fullerton.

INVOCATION:

Chuck Jensen, West Carmel Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Led by Armitage

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. August 07, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
- b. August 14, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes

Motion by Chin supported by Weissenborn to approve the August 7th and August 14th meeting minutes. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

ABSENCE OF COUNCIL MEMBERS:

All present

PUBLIC HEARING:

- a. Ordinance 2023-06 to amend Chapter 15, Article IV Marihuana Establishments to establish a commercial cannabis licensing program, and Ordinance 2023-05 Amending Chapter 82, to add Article XXV commercial cannabis overlay district

The following is a list of individuals speaking *against approval* during the public hearing; Don Sovey, resident; Gene Conley, resident; Patricia Willard non-resident; Ken Wirt, resident; Olen Whitkopf, resident.

The following is a list of individuals speaking *for approval* during the public hearing; Nicole Christensen, resident; Marcus Baldori, non-resident; Kiesha Howe, non-resident; Paul Zalenski, resident; Paul Bostrom, resident.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No comments

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Chin supported by Van Langevelde to approve the meeting agenda. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Mayor Armitage presented a special tribute from the State of Michigan to the outgoing City Manager Erin LaPere

COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. City Attorney report was received
- b. City Manager report was received
- c. CPD report for July, 2023 was received

d. Council member committee reports

Chin – the VFF Committee – thanked all involved who are working through solutions and expects a good outcome.

Van Langevelde – Parks Advisory Board met; they are receiving a \$5,500 grant from CARC to pay for half of the 5-year Parks Master Plan project

Dyer – Library is looking into a self-checkout kiosk and a large digital sign

Duweck – Planning Commission held a public hearing on the proposed ordinance 2023-05 – Commercial Cannabis Overlay District and the Commission recommended to approve it with a 7-1 vote.

Weissenborn – CARC voted unanimously to approve the \$5,500 grant for the Parks Advisory Board's 5-year Parks Master Plan project and announced that CARC is inviting grant seekers for recreational projects to bring their proposals forward.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Approval of Claims and Expenditures totaling \$1,187,662.67
- b. Resolution 2023-39 to approve Independent Bank signature changes
- c. Appoint Police Chief Brentar as Acting City Manager
- d. ~~Authorize Mayor and City Attorney to complete a part-time employment agreement with Erin LaPere~~ – moved to business agenda by Chin
- e. Confirm appointment of Kevin Christiansen as Fire Chief

f. Authorize attendance and confirm Duweck to be the voting delegate and Chin the alternate delegate at the MML annual meeting.

g. Resolution 2023-40 to extend participation in the LIHWAP for additional six months

h. ~~Approve outfitting of two new police vehicles by Chrouh~~ – moved to business agenda by Chin

Consent agenda items d and h moved to business by Chin.

Motion by Chin supported by Weissenborn to approve moving items d and h to the business agenda and approving items a, b, c, e, f, and g. Carried by roll call vote; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

BUSINESS AGENDA:

- a. Authorize Mayor and City Attorney to complete a part-time employment agreement with Erin LaPere

Motion by Van Langevelde supported by Dyer to authorize Mayor and City Attorney to complete a part-time employment agreement with Erin LaPere. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- b. Approve outfitting of two new police vehicles by Chrouh

Motion by Dyer supported by Van Langevelde to approve outfitting of two new police vehicles by Chrouh. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- c. Second reading and approval of Ordinance 2023-06 to amend Chapter 15, Article IV Marihuana Establishments to establish a commercial cannabis licensing program

Motion by Dyer supported by Weissenborn to approve Ordinance 2023-06. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 1 (Rodriguez); Absent 0

- d. Second reading and approval of Ordinance 2023-05 Amending Chapter 82, to add Article XXV commercial cannabis overlay district

Motion by Dyer supported by Duweck to approve Ordinance 2023-05. Carried by roll call vote; Yea 6; Nay 1 (Rodriguez); Absent 0

- e. Approval of Personnel Manual updates

Motion by Dyer supported by Van Langevelde to approve Personnel Manual updates. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- f. Approval of updates to the IT Services contract

Motion by Dyer supported by Chin to amend contract to renew in 2 years rather than 4. Carried by roll call vote; Yea 6; Nay 1 (Rodriguez); Absent 0

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

- g. Approval of purchase of three replacement vehicles for DPW

Motion by Chin supported by Dyer to purchase of three replacement vehicles for DPW. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- h. Approval of council Policy 2023-02 – Armory Use Policy

Motion by Dyer supported by Weissenborn to approve Policy 2023-02 – Armory Use Policy. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- i. Authorize administration to work with IAFF on the creation of a Fire Marshal position

Motion by Chin supported by Weissenborn to authorize administration to work with IAFF on the creation of a fire Marshal position. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No comments

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Van Langevelde – No comment

Weissenborn – from the consent agenda, Police Chief Paul Brentar was appointed to Acting City Manager and Kevin Christiansen has been appointed as Fire Chief. Thanks going to Brentar for stepping up and thanked Acting Fire Chief Dan Daly for his service. Thank you to Erin LaPere for her leadership and moving the city away from near bankruptcy and a State take over.

Dyer – Thank you to Erin for her service and to Dan for filling in as Fire Chief. A special meeting to interview interim city managers is scheduled for Wednesday August 23 at 6:00 p.m. Thank you to fellow council members and the community for all the discussions on marihuana

Duweck – Thank you to Erin for stepping into a mess and didn't immediately step out. He is proud of this council for handling the difficult issue (cannabis ordinances) professionally and is very happy with the approval of the ordinances.

Chin – Thank you to Erin, Paul and Dan. Thank you to the DPW for a quick response and repair to a sink hole appearing on his neighbor's property. On September 5th Charlotte Rising is hosting a Cocktails and Art event downtown. He thanked the volunteer fire for participating and working with Council and Attorney Revore to bring resolution to the VFF constitution and by-laws.

Rodriguez – Thank you to Erin and Chief Brentar. It's important for citizens to know the Council takes seriously their duty and are well read on the issues. Though he did not have time to respond to every phone call or email from citizens received prior

to the meeting, he did listen and read them all and he will follow up with each of them.

Armitage – Appreciates all who contract him and wished there was more public engagement in all matters. While there is always room for improvement, the City’s communications have improved over the past four years. The Council has done their due diligence (in regards to public notification of cannabis ordinances).

ADJOURN:

Motion by Van Langevelde supported by Weissenborn to adjourn the meeting at 10:19 p.m. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

Mayor Michael Armitage

Mary LaRocque, City Clerk