

CITY OF CHARLOTTE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
111 E. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte, MI 48813 (517) 543-2750
Regular Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.
October 14, 2024 as amended

CALL TO ORDER:

By Mayor Lewis on Monday October 14, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Lewis, Mayor Pro-Tem Duweck, Council members, Fullerton, Christensen, Rodriguez and Chin. A quorum was met
City staff in attendance; City Clerk LaRocque, City Manager Hillard, and City Attorney Revore

INVOCATION:

Andy Shaver, Real Life Church, absent

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Led by Lewis

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. September 23, 2024 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Motion by Chin supported by Duweck to approve the September 23, 2024 Regular Council Meeting Minutes. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

ABSENCE OF COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Councilmember Scott

Motion by Duweck supported by Christensen to excuse Council member Scott from the October 14, 2024 regular council meeting. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

PUBLIC COMMENT:

John Laupp, resident. Provided updates on the Shadow Season activities

Annie Williams, resident *and Charlotte Rising Director*. Provided updates on the progress of the Social District

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Chin supported by Fullerton to approve the agenda, Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. City Attorney Report
- b. Auditors Preliminary Governance Letter, receive and filed
- c. Councilmember Committee Reports

Christensen, Camp Frances board is pursuing a reservation system change.

Chin, EATRAN is reviewing ridership numbers and planning a media promotion. Plans were discussed to install a bus shelter on the Courthouse Square grounds. City Manager Ad Hoc Committee – the form for the city manager evaluation should be finalized soon.

Rodriguez – DDA meeting is tomorrow, the Airport meeting was this morning and he was absent.

Fullerton – Park Board – they received citizen input to consider replacing the Bennet Park tennis courts with a parking lot to better serve the Charlotte Junior Oriole football games. Discussed the Eaton County Park Grants, Timepiece Park shall remain withing the park system, an RFP for design service for the Oak Park project will be issued and they plan another meeting this fall.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Approval of Claims and Expenditures totaling \$562,642.81
- b. Approval of Mayoral appointments

Motion by Chin and supported by Duweck to approve the consent agenda. Carried; Yea 6 Nay 0; Absent 1

BUSINESS AGENDA:

- a. Consider approval of sealed bid purchase of backwash pump with Kennedy Industries totaling \$55,785.00

Motion by Chin supported by Fullerton to approve sealed bid purchase of backwash pump with Kennedy Industries totaling \$55,785.00. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

- b. Consider approval sealed bid purchase of patrol vehicle outfitting with MacQueen Equipment totaling \$23,995.20

Motion by Chin supported by Duweck to approve sealed bid purchase of patrol vehicle outfitting with MacQueen Equipment totaling \$23,995.20 Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

- c. Consider approval of Resolution 2024-39 To authorize street closure and no parking areas for the Lighted Holiday Parade event to be held November 30, 2024 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Motion by Christensen supported by Fullerton to approve Resolution 2024-39 To authorize street closure and no parking areas for the Lighted Holiday Parade event to be held November 30, 2024 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

- d. Consider approval of fireworks permit application for Charlotte High School Senior Night on October 25, 2024

Motion by Fullerton supported by Christensen to approve fireworks permit application for Charlotte High School Senior Night on October 25, 2024. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

- e. Discussion on DDA TIF consulting services bid

Motion by Rodriguez supported by Christensen to rescind motion to approve sole source vendor for TIF planning services approved at the January 22, 2024 Council meeting. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

The Council directed administration to pursue a request for proposals by sealed bid for TIF planning services.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

JoDee Prudent, resident. Noted updates on website, wants policy established to answer public questions, and she approves of Christmas Parade street closure.

STAFF COMMENTS:

No comments

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Christensen, thanked attendees in person and online. Thanked Mr. Hillard for all he does. He is looking at the possibility of a implementing a golf cart ordinance. He was impressed with the CFD Open house that he attended. He met with the Charlotte Plaza owner and reports the new owner is interested in pursuing other investment opportunities within Charlotte. Businesses along Lansing Street would like to establish a group to ensure their voices are heard and adequately represented. He raised important concerns regarding how to address illegal activities associated with various homeless camps. Lastly, he voiced his disagreement with Council members endorsing partisan candidates while using their official titles.

Fullerton highlighted the increasing number of responsibilities being assigned to the City Manager due to staff shortages. He emphasized the importance of allowing the City Manager the necessary time and space to effectively manage these tasks.

Duweck, recalled expressing to Hillard how pleased they were to have his expertise and leadership. He has certainly demonstrated his ability to take charge, and Duweck looks forward to continuing the implementation of the framework plan under his guidance.

Chin noted that the CFD Open House was well attended. He remains committed to ensuring that city policies are upheld and is dedicated to fostering transparency with the public. Chin aims to enhance public information efforts and encourage greater participation from the community moving forward.

Rodriguez expressed a desire to create a pamphlet addressing “how to access information.” He also expressed his appreciation for Mr. Hillard’s presence on the team. Additionally, a citizen reached out to him regarding the use of council member titles when endorsing political candidates.

Lewis shared that he was honored to accept an invitation to serve as the Mayor of “Whoville” for the Lighted Holiday Parade. He expressed his gratitude to Revore and Hillard for their hard work in finalizing all four collective bargaining unit agreements. Lewis also thanked City Clerk LaRocque and her staff for their dedication in managing office functions during a challenging time, particularly with the national election and staffing shortages. He commended Mr. Hillard for successfully navigating the organization through a crisis, showcasing his strong leadership and collaboration with the Council.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION:

- a. Pursuant to section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act, to consider material exempt from disclosure by state statute, section 13(1)(g) of the Freedom of Information Act, which exempts from public disclosure “information or records subject to the attorney-client privilege” being Confidential Attorney-Client Written Communication dated July 22, 2024, and October 10, 2024, regarding HUD inquiry.

Motion by Chin supported by Duweck for the City Council to convene in closed session under and pursuant to section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act, to consider material exempt from disclosure by state statute, section 13(1)(g) of the Freedom of Information Act, which exempts from public disclosure “Information or records subject to the attorney-client privilege” being Confidential Attorney-Client Written Communication dated July 22, 2024, and October 10, 2024, regarding HUD inquiry. Carried by roll call vote; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1 (Scott)

RECONVENE OPEN SESSION:

- a. To authorize an Agreement in HUD case Nos. 05-23-0013-V, 05-23-0013-8, & 05-23-5410-V, in substantial form, and authorize Mayor Lewis to execute same.

Motion by Duweck supported by Chin to authorize an Agreement in HUD case Nos. 05-23-0013-V, 05-23-0013-8, & 05-23-5410-V, in substantial form, and authorize Mayor Lewis to execute same. Carried by roll call vote: Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1 (Scott)

ADJOURN:

Motion by Christensen supported by Chin to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

Respectfully submitted,
Mary LaRocque, City Clerk