

CITY OF CHARLOTTE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
111 E. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte, MI 48813 (517) 543-2750
Regular Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.
April 08, 2024

CALL TO ORDER:

By Mayor Lewis on Monday April 08, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Lewis, Mayor Pro-Tem Duweck, Council members, Rodriguez, Fullerton, Christensen, Scott and Chin. A quorum was met

City staff in attendance; Interim City Manager Terry, City Clerk LaRocque, and in the audience Assistant Fire Chief Fullerton

INVOCATION:

Pete Kroll - First Baptist Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Led by Lewis

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. March 25, 2024 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Motion by Chin supported by Scott to approve the minutes, Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

ABSENCE OF COUNCIL MEMBERS:

All present

PUBLIC HEARING:

- a. ZBA – Request for variance at 122 Lansing St.

Michael Ward, Founder and CEO of Harbor Farmz – the opening is expected soon after April 20th.

Asst. Fire Chief Fullerton noted the variance involves a change to the allowable set-back from the sidewalk and the covering to the front porch. The cover is made of plexiglass.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Nicole Christensen – resident – provided an update on Edmunds Senior Apartments, the Backing the Blue event and noted an issue with full trash cans in Bennett Park and the downtown areas.

Julie Kimmer – Manager of Courthouse Square Association. In consideration that the Council will be taking action on the proposed contract with the association tonight, she listed the many benefits the association provides to the community throughout the year.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Lewis requested the removal of item 12b *Consider approving a notice to Carmel Township to terminate fire services on June 30, 2026* from the agenda as there is now an intention to revisit discussions with the Township.

Motion by Chin supported by Fullerton to approve the amended agenda. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. City Attorney Report

Att. Hitch working directly with Airport Manager Cotter regarding the trees.

Requesting a special meeting scheduled for Wednesday April 24, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of approving the Social District resolution and the Social District maintenance plan

contract with Charlotte Rising and to give the public the opportunity for a question-and-answer session

b. Councilmember Committee Reports

Planning Commission – Christensen – at the April 02 meeting, the commission approved a chemical storage addition at Michigan Can Lines in the Combs industrial park and they are now hiring.

Camp Frances – Christensen – next meeting is tomorrow night April 9, 2024

Park Board – Fullerton – all board members were in attendance

City Manager Search – Duweck – PIVOT has 5 very good candidates with the deadline for applicants being this Friday at 9:00 p.m. PIVOT will present the top candidates to the Council at the April 17th 7:00 p.m. workshop meeting with interviews expected to be scheduled in the week of April 22

c. Introduction of the 24/25 FY Budget

A balance budget has been achieved and a council work session will be held Monday April 15th from 11:00 am to approximately 2:00 p.m. to give the Council the opportunity to delve into the budget with department heads available to answer questions

d. Citizen email from TJG Pruden

Received

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Approval of Claims and Expenditures totaling \$289,216.32
- b. Approval of video franchise agreement with Direct TV
- c. Approval of Mayoral Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Motion by Christensen supported by Scott to approve the consent agenda. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

BUSINESS AGENDA:

- a. ZBA – consider approval of request for variance – 122 Lansing St.

Motion by Duweck supported by Scott to approve the ZBA request for variance at 122 Lansing St. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- ~~b. Consider approving a notice to Carmel Township to terminate fire services on June 30, 2026.~~

Item b removed from agenda

- c. Consider approval of contract with Courthouse Square Association

Motion to **TABLE** by Chin supported by Duweck to postpone the decision for after the approval of the 24/25 FY budget. Failed by roll call vote; Yea 2 (Chin, Rodriguez); Nay 5 (Lewis, Fullerton, Christensen, Scott, Duweck); Absent 0

Motion by Christensen supported by Scott to approve the contract with Courthouse Square Association. Carried by roll call vote; Yea 6 (Lewis, Fullerton, Christensen, Duweck, Scott, Chin); Nay 1 (Rodriguez); Absent 0

- d. Consider approval of Resolution 2024-07 Street Closure request for the Charlotte Celebrates event June 13-15, 2024

Motion by Chin supported by Christensen to approve Resolution 2024-07 Street Closure request for the Charlotte Celebrates event June 13-15, 2024. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- e. Consider awarding the sealed bid contract for lawn mowing to Kenyon and Sons of Charlotte

Motion by Fullerton supported by Scott to approve the lawn mowing contract to Kenyon and Sons of Charlotte. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- f. Consider awarding the sealed bid contract for ferric chloride to Alexander Chemical Corporation

Motion by Chin supported by Duweck to approve the ferric chloride contract to Alexander Chemical Corporation. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- g. Consider awarding the sealed bid contract for Water Tower Engineering to Nelson Tank

Motion by Chin supported by Scott to approve the Water Tower Engineering contract to Nelson Tank. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- h. Consider approval of Arbor Day Proclamation 2024-01
- Proclamation was read aloud by Councilmember Chin:

**CITY OF CHARLOTTE
2024-01 ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees; and

WHEREAS, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products; and

WHEREAS, trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community; and

WHEREAS, trees wherever they are planted, are a source of joy; and

WHEREAS, the City of Charlotte has been recognized as a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Foundation and desires to continue its tree planting practices, by planting a tree at the Charlotte Public Schools;

NOW THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Charlotte, Michigan does hereby proclaim **Friday, April 26, 2024** as **ARBOR DAY** in the City of Charlotte and urges all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day;

FURTHER, the City Council of the City of Charlotte, Michigan urges all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the wellbeing of this and future generations.

Motion by Chin supported by Duweck to approve Arbor Day Proclamation 2024-01. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Julie Kimmer – resident and manager of the Courthouse Square Association. Thank you for approving the contract with the Courthouse Square. The Courthouse Square is home to a 250-year-old pin oak, the oldest in the city.

Annie Williams – resident – Executive Director of Charlotte Rising. Thank you all for attending the Bryan Myrkle farewell. CR has a new executive team, Kiesha Howe Lead Vich Chair Melissa Randall, John Mikesell, Secretary, Kellie Garrett Secretary, exciting things coming up

STAFF COMMENTS:

City Manager Terry; April 15th budget work session – special; April 24th special, asked Council to make motion to approve:

Motion by Duweck, supported by Scott to approve the proposed special meetings on April 15 and April 24. Carried. Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

Myrkle’s duties will be distributed to; planning – Terry; zoning – T. Fullerton; we will be hiring (Deputy Treasurer) in the clerk’s office

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Scott – holding office hours at Fay’s from 10 to noon on Tuesdays.

Chin - no comment.

Rodriguez – his no vote (on the Courthouse Square contract) was a timing issue (with the pending new budget).

Christensen – Thanked the meeting attendees; he attended Bryan’s farewell party; April 17th is the next Eaton County Commissioners (financial stability work group) meeting at 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.; please support the fundraiser to install an elevator at Courthouse Square.

Fullerton – congratulated Terry and Karen for getting a timely balanced budget finished.

Duweck – Reviewed the list of upcoming April meetings, City manager interviews are expected to be scheduled in the week of April 22.

Lewis – Thanked Terry for outstanding job thus far and for the timely budget.

ADJOURN:

Motion by Christensen supported by Scott to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

Respectfully submitted,
Mary LaRocque, City Clerk