

CITY OF CHARLOTTE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
111 E. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte, MI 48813 (517) 543-2750
Regular Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.
August 12, 2024

CALL TO ORDER:

By Mayor Lewis on Monday August 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

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

City staff in attendance; City Clerk LaRocque, and via Zoom City Manager Robert Hillard (Potterville).

INVOCATION:

Daniel Longden – First Lutheran Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Led by Lewis

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. July 22, 2024 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Motion by Duweck supported by Chin to approve the July 22, 2024 Regular Council Meeting Minutes. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- b. July 29, 2024 Workshop Council Meeting Minutes

Motion by Chin supported by Duweck to approve the July 29, 2024 Workshop Council Meeting Minutes. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

ABSENCE OF COUNCIL MEMBERS:

All present

PUBLIC COMMENT:

JoDee Pruden, resident. Had questions about self-funded healthcare, specifics on insurance claims from the claims and expenditure report, the poverty exemption, activities within the Social District, the services provided by CharlotteRising, and the self-sufficiency status of the Airport.

Doug Lloyd, Eaton County Prosecutor, He voiced his support for Council's Resolution 2024-25 endorsing the County's millage proposal slated for November. He underscored the importance of County departments and services for city residents, emphasizing potential impacts if the proposal does not pass. He also noted that around 57 out of the County's 400 employees live within the city.

Joey Pray, resident and Airport Advisory Board Chairperson, He expressed strong support for the Airport Manager and urged the Council to approve his contract renewal. Additionally, he encouraged Council to approve the tree clearing change order contracts that are on the agenda for this evening's meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Lewis requested to add item k Special Assessment District Discussion to the Business agenda.

Duweck requested that item c on the Consent Agenda be moved to item l on the Business Agenda.

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

- a. Proclamation to recognize the Helping Hands Food Pantry and to declare the month of September as Hunger Action Month

Mayor Lewis presented the following proclamation to Amanda Thompson, Executive Director of Helping Hands and to her team of volunteers who were present for the event.

**CITY OF CHARLOTTE
PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER AS
“HUNGER ACTION MONTH”**

Whereas, Helping Hands Food Pantry is a nonprofit organization that engages Charlotte and surrounding communities in a commitment to feed our hungry neighbors since 1982; and

Whereas, Helping Hands Food Pantry provides over 700,000 pounds of food and personal care items every year to low income households in Eaton County; and

Whereas, Helping Hands Food Pantry, which is almost entirely operated by volunteers, who donate thousands of hours every year to make their mission become reality; and

Whereas, Helping Hands Food Pantry returns over 90% of total donations back to the communities that they serve and to those who truly need the assistance during tough times; and

Whereas, September is “Hunger Action Month”, where food pantries across the country host awareness campaigns and events to bring attention to and take action for the cause of hunger; and

Whereas, Sunday, September 15 2024 is Helping Hands Food Pantry “Go Orange Day”.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that through the power vested in me as Mayor of the City of Charlotte Michigan, let all who do, have and will reside and work in the City of Charlotte, Michigan know that our City joins the Helping Hands Food Pantry in proclaiming September 2024, and all years forward be known as “**Hunger Action Month**” in the City of Charlotte Michigan.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City to be affixed this 12th day of the August, 2024



Tim Lewis, Mayor

COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. City Attorney Report

Received

- b. Councilmember Committee Reports

Master Planning Steering Committee – Duweck – Final draft is expected to be presented to the steering committee tomorrow.

Library Board – Scott – he is no longer a voting member of the Library Board (a result of the passing of the ballot measures this past August) and is available for other duties.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Approval of Claims and Expenditures totaling \$900,613.39
- b. Approval of Mayoral Appointments
- c. ~~Consider approval of Resolution 2024-24 To approve 2024 Guidelines for Poverty Exemptions~~ – moved to business I
- d. Approval of Resolution 2024-27 To approve changes to signatories for Independent Bank accounts.

Motion by Duweck and supported by Fullerton to approve the consent agenda items a, b and d. Carried; Yea 7 Nay 0; Absent 0

BUSINESS AGENDA:

- a. First reading and set a date for the public hearing to consider Ordinance 2024-01 An ordinance to amend city code section 38-2 “Alcoholic Beverages”

Motion by Duweck supported by Scott to approve advancing Ordinance 2024-01 for a public hearing and second reading to

consider for approval on August 26, 2024. Carried by roll call vote; Yea 6; Nay 1 (Chin); Absent 0

- b. Consider approval of Resolution 2024-23 To approve street closures and provide other assistance for the Charlotte Frontier Days Festival held September 4 to 8, 2024

Motion by Chin supported by Scott to approve Resolution 2024-23 To approve street closures and provide other assistance for the Charlotte Frontier Days Festival held September 4 to 8, 2024. Carried. Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- c. Consider approval of Resolution 2024-25 To support a fixed tax limitation millage for Eaton County in the November 5, 2024 election

Motion by Chin, died for lack of a second

- d. Consider approval of contract for supplemental community and economic development services with CharlotteRising.

Motion by Scott supported by Duweck to approve contract for supplemental community and economic development services with CharlotteRising, was **Tabled** by Chin supported by Fullerton. The attorney is directed to review the contract to ensure compliance in regards to the proper use of public funds. Tabled by roll call vote; Yea 6; Nay 1 (Rodriguez) Absent 0

- e. Review of CharlotteRising Social District map, signage design and signage location

Motion by Chin supported by Duweck to approve the Social District map, signage design and signage location. Carried by roll call vote; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- f. Consider approval of Airport Manager contract renewal

Motion by Fullerton supported by Christensen to approve the Airport Manager contract renewal. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- g. Consider approval of change order requests for tree clearing contracts with New Life Arboricultural Services and Prien & Newhof

Motion by Duweck supported by Scott to approve the change order requests for tree clearing contracts with New Life Arboricultural Services and Prien & Newhof. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- h. Consider approval of Airport Capital Improvement Program

Motion by Fullerton supported by Duweck to approve the Airport Capital Improvement Program was **Tabled** by Chin supported by Fullerton. Administration was asked to reorder the airport projects, moving the construction of additional airport hangars earlier on the timeline, tabled by roll call vote; Yea 6; Nay 1 (Rodriguez) Absent 0

- i. Consider approval of Michigan Consultants Network contract

Motion by Chin supported by Scott to approve the Michigan Consultants Network contract. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- j. Consider approval of Google Workspace annual renewal

Motion by Chin supported Duweck to approve the Google Workspace annual renewal. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- k. Special Assessment District discussion

Discussion centered on placing the measure on a ballot proposal to be voted on.

- l. Consider approval of Resolution 2024-24 To approve 2024 Guidelines for Poverty Exemptions

Hillard will address questions posed in his City Manager report at the next council meeting

Motion by Christensen supported by Scott to approve Resolution 2024-24 To approve 2024 Guidelines for Poverty Exemptions. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

PUBLIC COMMENT:

JoDee Pruden, resident. She was happy to have learned more about the Airport. She believed that the Council should endorse the Eaton County millage proposal, particularly given the city's own issues such as tax exemptions, the rise in the Special Assessment District, and the necessity to control escalating costs of employee retirement benefits.

Doug Llyod, Eaton County Prosecutor. He conveyed to the Council the potential consequences of the ballot measure not passing and encouraged each council member to take the time to understand the facts. He emphasized how his department would be impacted and urged the Council not to stay silent on this matter.

Annie Williams, resident and CharlotteRising Executive Director. She expressed gratitude to the Council for progressing with the Time Piece Park Ordinance. She extended an invitation to Scott to join her team, thanked them for approving the Social District signs, and offered assistance with the contract to help secure Council approval.

Joey Pray, resident. He extended an invitation to JoDee Pruden to attend the next Airport Advisory Board meeting and expressed appreciation to the Council for approving the change orders. As the original and past president of CharlotteRising, he highlighted their designation as a Michigan Mainstreet partner and their significant contributions to the community. He encouraged Council support for their efforts.

William St. Amour, business owner and CharlotteRising board member. He clarified that CharlotteRising, among numerous other services, primarily focuses on enhancing economic vitality, design, and promotion within the City. They play a crucial role in supporting commercial interests in downtown properties, among various other initiatives that promote and benefit Charlotte

STAFF COMMENTS:

No comments

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Scott - holds "office hours" at Fay's Evelyn Bay Coffee every Tuesday from 10 am to noon.

Chin - provided Council with updates, including information about the MML hub for grant resources and a proposed change to the distribution of MSHDA funds. He joked about fearing Annie Williams after his tabling the CharlotteRising contract. Beginning in September, he will resume office hours in the Mayor's office on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons during the week between Council meetings. He is actively working on issues related to the Edmond Senior Apartments and is advocating for a plan of action for funding for street repair and maintenance.

Rodriguez - expressed a desire for a Council policy to prevent the tabling of any item until all council members have had an opportunity to speak on it. He thanked Mr. Lloyd for his attendance, he will become an informed voter and trusts the public will also become informed voters in regards to the Eaton County millage proposal.

Christensen - noted that the boss of the Edmonds Senior Apartments from Indianapolis recently visited town. He emphasized the importance of informed decision-making

regarding the Eaton County millage proposal without pressuring city residents. He highlighted a retirement party hosted by Helping Hands for two volunteers who collectively served the organization for 71 years. He encouraged attendance at the "Go Orange Day" event by Helping Hands at Hidden Creek on September 15th. He wished Mr. Hillard a swift recovery and highlighted a voter turnout of 27% in Eaton County for the August State Primary, urging increased voter participation. He also urged support for the Eaton County Health Department's "Street Heart" event on August 16th and thanked all attendees.

Fullerton - mentioned that the contract with CharlotteRising is not a donation and supported Rodriguez's proposal to delay tabling items until all members have had a chance to speak. He believed that adjusting the language of the resolution could have garnered more support for the Eaton County millage. He underscored the potential consequences of losing funds from the Special Assessment District, warning that it could lead to significant cuts in city staff and services, similar to Eaton County's predicament.

Duweck - no comments.

Lewis - stated that he would discuss with City Manager Hillard the possibility of creating a Council policy regarding tabling items and promised to provide an update before the next meeting. He commended Rodriguez for his recent participation as a chosen top contender in a mixed martial arts competition where he achieved World Champion titles in two events.

ADJOURN:

Motion by Christensen supported by Duweck to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 p.m. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

Respectfully submitted,
Mary LaRocque, City Clerk