CITY OF CHARLOTTE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
111 E. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte, MI 48813 (517) 543-2750
Regular Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.
August 26, 2024 – *Amended**

CALL TO ORDER:

By Mayor Lewis on Monday August 26, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

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

City staff in attendance; City Clerk LaRocque, City Manager Robert Hillard.

INVOCATION:

Dwight Ezop, St. Mary's Catholic Church – absent

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Led by Lewis

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

a. August 12, 2024 Workshop Council Meeting Minutes 6:30 pm

Motion by Chin supported by Scott to approve the August 12, 2024 Workshop Council Meeting Minutes. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

b. August 12, 2024 Regular Council Meeting Minutes 7:00 pm

Motion by Chin supported by Scott to approve the August 12, 2024 Regular Council Meeting Minutes. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

ABSENCE OF COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Motion by Duweck supported by Christensen to approve the absence of Council member Rodriguez. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

PUBLIC HEARING:

a. Ordinance 2024-01, To amend City Code Section 38-2 "Alcoholic Beverages", Section 6-3, "Consumption in Public", and Section 6-4, "Uncapped Containers" to allow for alcoholic beverages in areas designated in the social district as permitted under state law and the city social district plan and to provide an effective date hereof.

Annie Williams – resident and Executive Director of CharlotteRising. She expressed support for the ordinance amendment and reports that 4 of the 5 businesses eligible to participate in the Social District should have their Resolutions ready for approval at the next regular Council meeting.. She briefly reviewed the updates to the Social District sign design, locations, and map included in this council packet, highlighting the changes in color and design.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Elena Reed – resident. Referring to her enclosed letter to the Council detailing a high-speed accident in her front yard, she urged the Council to seriously consider implementing traffic control on High Street.

Nicole Christensen – resident and County Commissioner District 12 candidate. She commented on the Eaton County Tax Limitation Alteration Proposal set to appear on the November 2024 ballot. She encouraged residents to visit the County's website for more details, including access to a Tax Mill Rate

Calculator to estimate the potential millage amount applicable to their property. She emphasized the importance of residents considering the additional cost versus the potential overwhelming loss of services provided by the County should the millage fail to pass.

John Laupp – resident. Regarding the downtown outdoor café policy, he raised concerns about the requirement for a 7-foot unobstructed walkway, particularly in relation to permanent structures such as trees. He pointed out that individuals with limited sight abilities would face significant challenges navigating through any obstruction narrower than 7 feet.

Kristi Reynolds – Executive Director of the Library. She updated the council on Library developments, including a new sign, fresh paint, and exterior cleaning. She also mentioned upcoming events such as the 130th Anniversary celebration and the designation of September as Library Sign-Up Month. She expressed pleasure at attending the meeting and connecting faces with names she has been corresponding with.

Anthony Rodriguez – Resident and Council member (via ZOOM) He is feeling better, but that can change any moment, He submitted his DDA report through the Mayor. Questions about the Master Plan and CharlotteRising submitted to Chin, he will continue watching via Zoom.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Lewis requested the addition of item j Oddities Festival barrier placement to the Business Agenda.

Motion by Chin supported by Duweck to add item j Oddities Festival barrier placement to the Business Agenda. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

Motion by Chin supported by Scott to approve the agenda as amended. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a. City Manager Report

Hillard reviewed his written report including the framework document and responded to council questions and clarifications about a review of the employee retirement benefits, prioritizing maintenance and repair of the streets and meeting the pension funding goals as mandated by the State. Hillard was commended for his progress thus far in his first 90 days.

b. Letter to the Council from resident Elena Reed

Mayor Lewis assured Ms. Reed the Council shares the concerns with High St. and it is on the radar.

c. Councilmember Committee Reports

Christensen – Planning Commission – Master Plan was presented and recommended to the Council for approval to move forward as presented on the agenda tonight.

CONSENT AGENDA:

a. Approval of Claims and Expenditures totaling $848,185.24

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

BUSINESS AGENDA:

a. Second reading and consider approval of Ordinance 2024-01, To amend City Code Section 38-2 “Alcoholic Beverages”, Section 6-3, “Consumption in Public”, and Section 6-4, “Uncapped Containers” to allow for alcoholic beverages in areas designated in the social district as permitted under state law and the city social district plan and to provide an effective date hereof.

Motion by Fullerton supported by Christensen to approve Ordinance 2024-01, To amend City Code Section 38-2 “Alcoholic Beverages”, Section 6-3, “Consumption in Public”, and Section 6-4, “Uncapped Containers” to allow for alcoholic beverages in areas designated in the social district as permitted under state law and the city social district plan and to provide an effective date hereof. Carried by roll call vote; Yea 5; Nay 1 (Chin); Absent 1

b. Consider approval of Resolution 2024-28 Recommending the Distribution of the City of Charlotte Community Master Plan.

Motion by Duweck supported by Chin to approve Resolution 2024-28 Recommending the Distribution of the City of Charlotte Community Master Plan. Carried. Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

c. Consider approval of Resolution 2024-29 To support a fixed tax limitation millage for Eaton County in the November 5, 2024 election

Motion by Christensen supported by Chin. Failed by roll call vote; Yea 2 – Chin, Christensen; Nay 4 – Scott, Lewis, Duweck, Fullerton, Absent 1 - Rodriguez

d. Consider approval of Resolution 2024-30 To regulate the establishment of outdoor Café’s in the Central Business District.

Motion by Fullerton supported by Scott **to amend** Resolution 2024-30 to remove “MDOT” and replace with “City Zoning Administrator” in line number 9. Carried. Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

Motion by Chin supported by Christensen to approve Resolution 2024-30 To regulate the establishment of outdoor Café’s in the Central Business District, as amended. Carried by roll call vote; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

e. Consider approval of CharlotteRising service contract

Motion by Fullerton supported by Chin to amend CharlotteRising service contract Section 4 paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 with replacing the given dates respectively as follows: para.1 - July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024; para. 2 - July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025; para. 3 - July 1 2025 to June 30, 2026. Carried. Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

Motion by Chin supported by Scott to approve CharlotteRising service contract, as amended. Carried by roll call vote. Yea 5; Nay 1 - Christensen; Absent 1

f. Consider approval of the Social District sign design, signage locations, and Social District signage map.

Motion by Chin supported by Scott to approve the Social District sign design, signage locations, and Social District signage map. Carried. Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

g. Consider approval of annual purchases authorization for Windemuller

Motion by Duweck supported by Scott to approve the annual purchases authorization for Windemuller. Carried by roll call vote; Yea 5; Nay 1 - Chin; Absent 1

h. Consider approval of Airport Capital Improvement Program

Motion by Fullerton supported by Scott to approve the Airport Capital Improvement Program. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

i. Consider approval of annual purchases authorization for AVfuel

Motion by Scott supported by Fullerton to approve annual purchases authorization for AVfuel. Carried by roll call vote; Yea 5; Nay 1 – Chin; Absent 1

j. Consider approval of barricade placement for Oddities Festival

Motion by Scott supported by Duweck to approve the placement of barricades at the following intersections; Harris/Cochran; Harris/Bostwick; Harris/Lawrence; Bostwick/Harris for the Oddities Festival August 30 and 31, 2024. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Elena Reed, resident. Thanked council for considering safety measures on High St. and noted another traffic control method other than a stop sign may be needed.

Annie Williams, resident, Exec. Dir. CharlotteRising. Thanked Council for their support and excited for the upcoming Shadow Season in Sept/Oct with events planned for every weekend.

Rodriguez, Council member, expressed concern with decisions he feels were made in opposition to the purchasing policy.

STAFF COMMENTS:

No comments

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Scott – no office hours tomorrow, working with Chin on downtown parking issues.

Chin – looking for flexibility in the permits for downtown parking to be more accommodating to VRBO's. Residents on High St. have some residual issues with lawn restoration from the Safe Routes to School vendor, he wishes to see the contract to review this further. Would like to get moving on the City Manager performance evaluation. Inquired about the process for installing a stop sign on High St. (Hillary – need data and evaluation to determine most appropriate traffic measure, then a traffic control order approved by the Council. He is currently working with the DPW engineer and Police Chief on this matter.)

Christensen – need volunteers on boards and commissions. Spoke with residents who have reported that they are happy with their engagement with Mr. Hillard.

Duweck – Would like clarification on the duty to vote. He was not comfortable with being required to vote down a measure rather than entering a "present" vote. The traffic control on High St. has been discussed for a few years now, hopefully will be resolved soon. He will likely ask for closer compliance to the purchasing policy in regards to sole sourcing in future matters. (Hillard – We are small city that needs flexibility to get stuff done. Dept. Heads are very conscience with spending. This policy needs assistance for its practical implementation, and *~~he will be evaluating the policy~~) *He welcomes the chance to evaluate the purchasing policy.*

Christensen offered the answer regarding the duty to vote (quoting the document "Rules of procedure for municipal councils" Michigan Municipal League, Michigan Municipal Review, April, 2001, Section D, Item 5 Duty to vote); "Election to a deliberative body carries with it the obligation to vote. Council members present at a council meeting shall vote on every matter before the body, unless otherwise excused or prohibited from voting by law. A council member who is present and abstains or does not respond to a roll call vote shall be counted as voting with the prevailing side and shall be so recorded, unless otherwise excused or prohibited by law from voting".

ADJOURN:

Motion by Christensen supported by Scott to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

Respectfully submitted,
Mary LaRocque, City Clerk