

CITY OF CHARLOTTE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
111 E. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte, MI 48813 (517) 543-2750
Regular Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.
November 25, 2024

CALL TO ORDER:

By Mayor Lewis on Monday November 25, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

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

City staff in attendance; City Attorney Revore, City Clerk LaRocque and City Manager Hillard

INVOCATION:

Daniel Longden, First Lutheran Church - absent

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Led by Lewis

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. November 12, 2024 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Motion by Duweck supported by Scott to approve the November 12, 2024 Regular Council Meeting Minutes, as amended. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

ABSENCE OF COUNCIL MEMBERS:

All present

PUBLIC COMMENT:

John Laupp, a resident, expressed his gratitude for several things, including holiday advertisements, the City Council, city staff, and the welcoming community where he and his wife have made friends and found happiness. He shared a lighthearted story about the Grinch, who was recently "arrested" at Charlotte

Upper Elementary/Middle School by Sgt. Callahan, Captain Brooks, and Chief Brentar. The Grinch is now in "custody" and will be on public display during the Holiday Lighted Parade scheduled for Saturday at 6 p.m. Laupp humorously added that it has been discovered the Grinch's dog, Max, is conspiring with his henchman to plan a breakout.

JoDee Pruden, resident, thanked the Clerk and staff for their work on the elections, inquired about how responses to resident inquiries will be handled and would like a clear understanding of the role of the City and Charlotte Rising regarding the Social District.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Scott supported by Duweck to approve the agenda, Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

- a. City of Charlotte MERS Retirement Program Presentation

The Council was informed that the City's 2012 decision to close the Defined Benefit (DB) plans to new hires and implement Hybrid plans has proven successful. The Hybrid plans are operating as intended and are fully funded. Meanwhile, the legacy liability of the DB Plan is currently 60% funded, meeting the State of Michigan's requirements. Furthermore, the 2020 establishment of the Retiree Health Funding Vehicle (RHFV) plan, coupled with the City's additional annual contributions, has positioned the City to fully fund the remaining DB Plan liability by 2040.

COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. City Manager Report was received

Chin raised concerns about the impact of the defeat of the County millage proposal on the police department, particularly in relation to mutual aid. He also inquired about the tracking of overdose data, noting that overdose incidents have increased compared to last year. Rodriguez pointed out inconsistencies in the final draft of the Master Plan and requested guidance on how the Council could assist in editing it. Scott mentioned housing and park plans that should be included. Fullerton emphasized the importance of having an accurate and corrected Master Plan, stating that it will serve as a key reference for future planning and decisions as it will guide the City for years to come. Chin commended Hillard and Brentar for their efforts addressing the speed issue on High Street. As a result of this discussion, it was decided to include High Street as an agenda item at the next meeting

- b. Update from Police Chief Brentar on the Sole Source Request – FY 24 Community Project Funding grant through Congress woman Slotkin

Report was received

- c. Councilmember Committee Reports

Christensen: Reported no items for the Planning Commission's December 3rd meeting. Shared updates from the Camp Frances (CF) meeting, including discussions on utilizing VRBO reservation services, updating the organization's bylaws, and increasing the size of the board. Announced a bid to insert risers on the septic system and the receipt of a grant from Women Giving Together to fund the installation of an ADA-compliant cement path providing access to the fire pit. The next CF meeting is scheduled for December 10th.

Chin: Reported on EATRAN's progress, including the development of the 2025 Regional Coordination Plan, which involves EATRAN and CATA combining operations under a single Executive Director. Announced plans for a 2025 millage proposal to support regional growth of the program. Mentioned ongoing work on a bus shelter project at Courthouse Square.

Rodriguez: Provided the Council with a written report from the DDA. Noted improvements in trash pickup and updates on the EATRAN bus shelter, for which the City will provide the concrete slab. Shared plans for the DDA's future, including brainstorming sessions to determine its strategic focus moving forward.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Approval of Claims and Expenditures totaling \$578,378.47

Motion by Fullerton supported by Duweck to approve the consent agenda. Carried by roll call vote; Yea 6 Nay 1 (Chin); Absent 0

BUSINESS AGENDA:

- a. First reading and consider scheduling a public hearing, and second reading for proposed Ordinance 2024-02 'Public Nuisance Defined and Prohibited'.

Motion by Duweck supported by Scott to approve the first reading and set the public hearing date for December 9, 2024 for proposed Ordinance 2024-02 'Public Nuisance Defined and Prohibited'. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- b. Consider approval of Resolution 2024-42 Appointment of Christina Horton as Finance Director/Treasurer

Motion by Scott supported by Fullerton to approve Resolution 2024-42 Appointment of Christina Horton as Finance Director/Treasurer. Carried by roll call vote; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- c. Consider approval of Resolution 2024-43 Consumer Power Street Light

Motion by Duweck supported by Scott to approve Resolution 2024-43 Consumer Power Street Light. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- d. Consider approval of a sealed bid contract with MicroTech in the amount of \$58,164 annually and \$100 per hour for special projects for IT Managed Services

Motion by Rodriguez supported by Duweck to approve the sealed bid contract with MicroTech in the amount of \$58,164 annually and \$100 per hour for special projects for IT Managed Services. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- e. Consider approval of contract by Prein & Newhof in the amount of \$26,500 for Airport Parking Lot and Access Road Reconstruction Engineering

Motion by Duweck supported by Scott to approve the contract by Prein & Newhof in the amount of \$26,500 for Airport Parking Lot and Access Road Reconstruction Engineering. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- f. Consider approval of a sealed bid contract with Spalding DeDecker in the amount of \$26,778 for Walnut Street Engineering and Construction Services

Motion by Scott supported by Fullerton to approve sealed bid contract with Spalding DeDecker in the amount of \$26,778 for Walnut Street Engineering and Construction Services. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- g. Consider approval of contract with McKenna in the amount not to exceed \$36,000 for CHILL Housing Grant Third Party Administration

Motion by Scott supported by Fullerton to approve contract with McKenna in the amount not to exceed \$36,000 for CHILL Housing Grant Third Party Administration. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- h. Consider approval of sealed bid contract with Beckett and Raeder, Inc. in the amount of \$15,000 for Downtown Strategic/Tax Increment Finance Plan

Motion by Christensen supported by Fullerton to approve sealed bid contract with Beckett and Raeder, Inc. in the amount of \$15,000 for Downtown Strategic/Tax Increment Finance Plan. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- i. Consider approval of a sealed bid contract with OHM in the amount of \$11,250 for Combs Industrial Park Street and Utility Design Services

Motion by Duweck supported by Scott to approve sealed bid contract with OHM in the amount of \$11,250 for Combs Industrial Park Street and Utility Design Services. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- j. Review and consider approval of City Manager Review Ad Hoc Committee document

Motion by Chin supported by Fullerton to approve an amendment to the City Manager Review document to include sections for budget and communications. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

Motion by Chin supported by Scott to approve the City Manager Review document as amended. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- k. Downtown Parking Program Review Discussion

Motion by Duweck supported by Fullerton to **TABLE** this discussion until December 9, 2024 regular council meeting. Carried by roll call vote; Yea 6; Nay 1 (Chin); Absent 0

PUBLIC COMMENT:

JoDee Pruden, resident – is happy with conduct of the Council, thanked them all for their service and extended a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Clerk LaRocque: Expressed gratitude to the Council for hiring Mr. Hillard as City Manager, noting that he has been a pleasure to work with and is highly supportive of the staff.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Christensen: Thanked attendees and shared updates. Attended the Social District ribbon cutting. Announced the Eaton County Commissioners Ways and Means meeting on December 5th at 9 a.m. to begin discussions on budget cuts. Mentioned several upcoming events: The Optimist Club Wild Game Dinner and fundraiser at the American Legion on Saturday from 5–9 p.m.; Thanksgiving dinners served at the Senior Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and the Eaton County Substance Abuse Council meeting on December 13th. Highlighted this Saturday's Small Business Saturday events, including the parade, tree lighting, choir performances, and a petting zoo at Courthouse Square. Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

Fullerton: Reminded everyone that the Mayor will be featured as the Mayor of Whoville in the Lighted Holiday Parade. Noted the new star atop the Christmas tree was designed and built locally by a fellow volunteer firefighter and praised the team's diligent work on the tree lighting.

Duweck: Celebrated the Social District finally being in effect after two years of effort. Thanked everyone involved, including

Attorney Revore, for their contributions to the project, which is expected to have a positive impact.

Scott: Reflected on the past year, expressing gratitude for how much has changed and improved. Praised the high school's production of *Into the Woods*, one of the most challenging musicals, noting how impressively the students performed.

Chin: Updated the Council on the State's new program for direct pay of federal clean energy tax credits for certain qualifying entities. Announced the VFW National Home's 100th birthday celebration on January 7th at 4 p.m. and encouraged reservations for this family-focused event. Discussed recent Michigan legislature changes, including sand and gravel operations legislation (HB 6108–6111), which would override local jurisdiction. Urged sending a letter to the governor supporting HB 4274 and 4275 to establish the Revenue Sharing Trust Fund, guaranteeing 8.7% of general sales tax revenue to help local governments with consistent budgeting. Highlighted tax abatements tied to compliance requirements, including rental rates for Edmunds. Opposed tabling a parking lot discussion due to feedback from a local business owner opposed to the current parking ordinance. Mentioned St. Mary's coat giveaway on Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon, distributing 100 brand-new coats for kids and teens on a first-come, first-served basis.

Rodriguez: Announced the Mayor's approval for him to establish a communications ad-hoc committee, with plans to begin recruiting members after the new year.

Lewis: Shared a recent partnership between McDonald's and Helping Hands to distribute 100 turkeys to families selected by Helping Hands. The turkeys were handed out at a drive-through event, with Representative Witwer in attendance. Expressed gratitude for the committee's work on the City Manager Evaluation review document, emphasizing its importance in fostering organizational growth.

ADJOURN:

Motion by Christensen supported by Scott to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

Respectfully submitted,
Mary LaRocque, City Clerk