

CITY OF CHARLOTTE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
111 E. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte, MI 48813 (517) 543-2750
Regular Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.
September 23, 2024

CALL TO ORDER:

By Mayor Lewis on Monday September 23, 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, City Attorney Revore and in the audience, Fire Chief Christiansen

INVOCATION:

Dennis Weeks – Chester Gospel Church, absent

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Led by Lewis

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. September 09, 2024 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Motion by Chin supported by Fullerton to approve the September 09, 2024 Regular Council Meeting Minutes. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

- b. September 18, 2024 Workshop Council Meeting Minutes

Motion by Chin supported by Fullerton to approve the September 18, 2024 Workshop Council Meeting Minutes. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

ABSENCE OF COUNCIL MEMBERS:

See Business Agenda item f.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

JoDee Pruden, resident. She voiced her concerns about not receiving answers to questions and issues with communications during ZOOM meetings.

John Laupp, resident. Shadow Season 2024 has been officially announced, set to run from September 28 to October 29. The kickoff was marked by the introduction of "Silas the Sweet," a gargoyle created by local artist Kass Hillard, wife of the city manager Rob Hillard. For a comprehensive list of all event details and activities, visit the official website at shadowseason.org.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Lewis requested item f added to agenda to excuse councilmember Scott

Motion by Christensen supported by Duweck to add item f Excuse absence of Councilmember Scott to the agenda. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

Motion by Duweck supported by Fullerton to approve the agenda, as amended. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. City Manager Report

Hillard provided council a recap of his written report, He noted several of Chin's questions for the Police Chief.

- b. Councilmember Committee Reports

Christensen – The Camp Frances board is interested in exploring alternative services for taking reservations. The board members are doing a wonderful job.

Rodriguez – The DDA board nominated Keisha Howe as Vice Chair, and she is currently working on the vision and mission statements. Discussions covered snow removal and trash collection contracts. Three properties were added to the DDA. Future meeting topics will include downtown banners, waste stations for pets, adding a TIF, nominating a secretary, and setting meeting dates. A written report has been emailed to all council members

Duweck – He thanked Rodriguez for the DDA report. At the recent MML conference he attended, special municipal initiatives were showcased, including a downtown traffic project in reference to which he emphasized Charlotte is not alone in addressing this challenge.

Chin – A new online resource from MML assists smaller communities in applying for state and federal grants. This resource offers extensive grant information and is supported by a dedicated full-time staff that helps communities navigate the application process at no cost. Additionally, it was mentioned that the County passed a recreation millage providing grants to local communities. Several potential projects for funding were suggested, including new bleachers, tennis courts, playground equipment compliant with ADA standards, and reviewing the Parks Master Plan to identify other opportunities.

Fullerton – The Parks Board is currently developing an improvement plan for the park across from Pray Funeral Home (Oak Park) and suggested it as an ideal project for grant funding.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Approval of Claims and Expenditures totaling \$637,245.11

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

BUSINESS AGENDA:

- a. Consider the establishment of a Manager Evaluation Committee and approval of Mayoral Appointments.

NAME	BOARD/COMMISSION	EXPIRATION OF TERM
Joseph Chin Jr	Manager Evaluation Committee	project completion
Michael Duweck	Manager Evaluation Committee	project completion
Curtis Scott	Manager Evaluation Committee	project completion
Richard Bearup	Planning Commission	3/31/2025
John Laupp	Downtown Development Authority	3/15/2025
Mitchell Maltz	Airport Advisory Board	4/01/2027
Curtis Scott	Council Rep - Charlotte Area Rec. Coop	11/13/2028

Motion by Fullerton supported by Rodriguez to approve the establishment of a Manager Evaluation Committee and approval of Mayoral Appointments. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

- b. Consider approval of Resolution 2024-34 Volunteer Firefighter Stipends & Dues

Motion by Chin supported by Duweck to approve Resolution 2024-34 Volunteer Firefighter Stipends & Dues. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

- c. Consider approval of Social District Liquor License Resolutions

- i. 2024-35 - 214 S. Cochran, LLC
- ii. 2024-36 - Acapulco Mexican Grill #2, Inc.
- iii. 2024-37 - Riedy & Riedy, Inc.
- iv. 2024-38 - T Caps Tavern, LLC

Motion by Chin supported by Christensen to approve Local Governmental Unit Approval for Social District Permit Resolutions 2024-35 214 S. Cochran LLC; 2024-36 Acapulco Mexican Grill #2, Inc.; 2024-37 Riedy & Riedy, Inc and 2024-38 T Caps Tavern, LLC. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

- d. Consider approval of Safe Routes to School (SR2S) “Not to Exceed” Proposal with ROWE Engineering

Motion by Duweck supported by Fullerton to approve the Safe Routes to School (SR2S) “Not to Exceed” amount of \$103,000 Proposal with ROWE Engineering.

Tabled by Chin supported by Fullerton. Carried by roll call vote. Yea 5 (Lewis, Duweck, Christensen, Chin, Fullerton); Nay 1 (Rodriguez); Absent 1 (Scott)

- e. Consider approval of sole source supplier with Trojan Technologies for \$22,000.00

Motion by Fullerton supported by Duweck to approve sole source purchase with Trojan Technologies for \$22,000. Defeated by tie by roll call vote. Yea 3 (Lewis, Fullerton,

Duweck); Nay 3 (Rodriguez, Chin, Christensen); Absent 1 (Scott)

- f. Excuse absence of Councilmember Scott

Motion by Fullerton supported by Rodriguez to approve absence of Council member Scott. Carried. Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

PUBLIC COMMENT:

JoDee Pruden, resident. She is happy with council debate regarding sole source, and expressed concerns with the SR2S contract with Rowe Engineering. Gargoyles are awesome. A grant writer is needed, and more staffing if it is within the budget.

Kevin Christiansen, Charlotte Fire Chief. He thanked the Council for approving the stipend for the 30-member volunteer fire department. He commented on sole source purchases, providing examples of situations where a department head might seek them. He also cautioned the Council that without specific systems and product knowledge, a Google result will be inaccurate.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Chin – He attended the (Helping Hands) food bank event where he read the (Mayoral) proclamation for them, and had dinner with the Firefighters at their golf outing. He cited items of defense in regards to the purchasing policy and his actions in that regard.

Rodriguez – He strongly reminded Council that fellow members should be given the opportunity to make their comments before tabling a motion.

Christensen – He thanked all attendees and addressed vendor issues. He reported experiencing Zoom issues during the last

workshop meeting. Additionally, he attended both Johnny's grand opening and the High School homecoming. He discussed concerns raised by a citizen regarding the intersection of Packard and Cochran, and urged caution to drivers when navigating this area.

Fullerton – Clarification was provided that Council members refrain from answering public comment questions during the meeting, rather members are encouraged to reach out to individuals afterward to address their questions or concerns.

Duweck – He was reflecting on discussions during the meeting and concluded that conflicts need more consideration; and that a better way to resolve issues is needed.

Lewis – He is concerned about the Council's tendency to micromanage the city manager and department heads. This approach undermines confidence in our leadership and decision-making processes. He urged Council to recognize that we need show our support rather than undermining leadership in order to move toward the future in a positive light.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Clerk LaRocque clarified that a tie vote defeats a motion.

ADJOURN:

Motion by Lewis supported by Christensen to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 p.m. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

Respectfully submitted,
Mary LaRocque, City Clerk