

CITY OF CHARLOTTE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
111 E. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte, MI 48813 (517) 543-2750
Regular Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.
March 10, 2025

CALL TO ORDER:

By Mayor Lewis on Monday March 10, 2025 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, City Attorney Revore, and City Manager Hillard. DPW Director Whitney was in the audience

INVOCATION:

Victor Williams – New Hope Community Church - absent

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Led by Lewis

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. February 24, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Motion by Chin supported by Scott approve the February 24, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Minutes; Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

ABSENCE OF COUNCIL MEMBERS:

All present

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Don Sovey, resident, spoke in support of the Eaton County Public Safety Millage. He provided the Council with a handout and urged them to support the measure.

Jordan Schilling, resident, expressed support for increasing the number of allowable chicken permits within the city.

Lindsey Miller, non-resident, spoke in favor of expanding the chicken permit program and shared concerns with the Council regarding issues her tenant has experienced with utility bills.

Jodee Pruden, resident (via Zoom), voiced support for the Eaton County Public Safety Millage and expressed hope that the city will expand the number of available chicken permits.

Nathan Anderson, resident (via Zoom), spoke in favor of increasing the number of allowable chicken permits within the city.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Lewis – requested addition of item g Resolution 2025-09 To authorize signatories for MDOT Contract 25-5153 to the business agenda

Motion by Duweck supported by Scott to approve the agenda, with the addition of item g Resolution 2025-09 To authorize signatories for MDOT Contract 25-5153 to the business agenda. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. City Manager Report
- b. Council member Committee Reports

Chin – EATRAN meets this Wednesday

Duweck – The Ad Hoc Housing Committee is awaiting the arrival of the Community Development Director to begin meetings and planning.

Fullerton – The Parks Board met last week with the Oak Park design consultant. A special meeting has been scheduled for March 18th at 6:00 PM at Pray Funeral Home to review the proposal. The renovation budget is expected to be around \$150,000, and funding sources, including grants, donations, and city contributions, are being explored.

Christensen – The Planning Commission did not meet due to a lack of quorum. Camp Frances is scheduled to meet tomorrow night at 6:30 PM. The Ad Hoc Downtown Traffic Committee has strong community support and is reviewing the City of Marshall's recently approved program. A meeting with MDOT is expected soon.

Scott – CARC is currently in a teaching phase and will be discussing Oak Park as a discussion item at its upcoming meeting on Thursday at 5:30 PM at First Congregational Church.

Rodriguez – The Communications Committee met, I will be working on an informational pamphlet. The city website is expected to address many of the communication needs discussed in the recent meeting. The committee's work is complete at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Approval of Claims and Expenditures totaling \$590,785.49
- b. Approval of Mayoral Appointments
- c. Approval of Resolution 2025-07 to approve changes to signatories for Independent Bank accounts
- d. Approval of sealed bid contract with Alexander Chemical Corporation for Ferric Chloride purchase in the amount of \$1,175.03 per dry ton

- e. Approval of State bulk salt purchase
- f. Approval of Resolution 2025-08 Authorizing a street closure for the Needful Things 6th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday May 4, 2025

Motion by Chin supported by Rodriguez to approve consent agenda items a through f. Carried; Yea 7 Nay 0; Absent 0

BUSINESS AGENDA:

- a. Consider approval of a sealed bid contract with Reigh-Riley Construction Co. for Walnut Street Resurfacing in the amount of \$285,283.90 and authorize the Clerk to execute the Notice of Award.

Motion by Scott supported by Fullerton to approve the sealed bid contract with Reith-Riley Construction Co. for Walnut Street Resurfacing in the amount of \$285,283.90 and authorize the Clerk to execute the Notice of Award. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- b. Consider approval of the 2026 State Budget Direct Grant Request

Items submitted include \$50,000 grant match for Bennet Park Improvements and \$100,000 grant match for Police Station and Central Fire Station improvements.

Motion by Scott supported by Duweck to approve the 2026 State Budget Direct Grant Request. Carried by roll call vote; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- c. Discussion – 2025 Elected Officials Academy Spring Advanced Summit

Council members wishing to attend should notify the clerk by email

- d. Discussion – BEAD Funding Letters

Motion by Fullerton supported by Chin to take no action on the BEAD funding letter. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- e. Discussion – Domestic and Animal Foul Ordinance (Backyard Chicken Permits)

The Council directed administration to research and review and to bring back to the Council a proposed ordinance change.

- f. Discussion – Downtown Overnight Parking

Motion by Christensen supported by Fullerton to require the placement of the permit to hang from the rear-view mirror; Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

Motion by Chin supported by Christensen to allow the owners parking permits to be transferrable to a guest or tenant. Carried by roll-call vote; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- g. Consider approval of Resolution 2025-09 To authorize signatories for MDOT Contract 25-5153

Motion by Duweck supported by Christensen to approve Resolution 2025-09 To authorize signatories for MDOT Contract 25-5153; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Rachel Loveland, resident, sought to discuss her utility bill with the Council. She was advised to provide a copy to City Manager Hillard, who will follow up with staff.

Lindsey Miller, non-resident, shared thoughts on parking passes chicken permits, and utility billing.

STAFF COMMENTS:

No comments

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Scott – Announced that CARC will hold a meeting this Thursday at 5:30 PM at the First Congregational Church and extended an open invitation to the public.

Chin – Provided updates on the state budget, including news on revenue sharing. Shared insights from recent environmental training and expressed interest in the City exploring solar power options.

Rodriguez – Stated that he would need more information before supporting a solar power initiative. Expressed confidence that the City Manager will address the utility billing issue.

Christensen – Thanked all attendees. Noted that the County Inspection Office may close if the millage proposal fails, though some townships have offered to contribute funding. Expressed confidence that the utility billing issue will be resolved. Clarified that the Michigan State Board of Education has sole authority over the middle school roof leak issue. Mentioned that while the county has invested in solar panels, the lack of battery storage has led to inconsistent power on bad weather days. Also attended the Eaton County Farm Bureau Saturday breakfast.

Fullerton – Expressed confidence that the utility billing issue will be resolved under the City Manager's leadership. Noted that Mr. Hillard has a significant workload and emphasized that the city remains in crisis, requiring time and space for him to address both visible and unseen challenges.

Duweck – Extended compliments and appreciation to Ms. Miller and thanked all attendees.

Lewis – Agreed with Fullerton regarding Mr. Hillard's demanding workload and expressed appreciation for his efforts, stating that the city is fortunate to have him. Clarified why the Council does not engage in direct conversation with individuals during public comments.

ADJOURN:

Motion by Christensen supported by Scott to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

Respectfully submitted,
Mary LaRocque MiPMC, CMC
City Clerk