

CITY OF CHARLOTTE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
111 E. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte, MI 48813 (517) 543-2750
Regular Council Meeting
November 28, 2022

CALL TO ORDER:

By Mayor Armitage on Monday November 28, 2022 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Armitage, Mayor Pro-Tem Weissenborn, Council members Rodriguez, Duweck, Van Langevelde, Chin and Dyer who arrived at 7:04 p.m. A quorum was met. Also in attendance were City Manager LaPere, City Clerk LaRocque and via Zoom (Florida) Attorney Hitch.

In the audience Police Chief Brentar, Finance Director/Treasurer Smith, Community Development Director Myrkle

Special guests, Ken Wirt, Mike VanDieren (Shyft), Luke Bonner (Bonner Advisory Group), Jeff Mason (LEAP), Bill Brickey (Plante & Moran), Alissa Flury (Plante & Moran), Nick Anderson (Anderson Construction)

INVOCATION:

~~Andy Shaver—Real Life Church~~; absent

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Led by Mayor Armitage

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. November 10, 2022 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Motion by Duweck supported by Van Langevelde to approve the meeting minutes with 2 additions requested by Chin. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS:

Motion by Duweck supported by Chin to excuse council member Dyer. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

Note Dyer arrived to the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

MAYORAL PROCLAMATION:

With honorary Ken Wirt standing by his side, Mayor Armitage read aloud the proclamation of Ken's many contributions to this community, witnessed by his loving family and friends who were in attendance.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

- a. FY 21-22 Audit by Plante & Moran

Bill Brickey and Alissa Flury presented to council the audit findings for the FY 21-22.

PUBLIC HEARING:

- a. Shyft Industrial District

Hearing opened at 7:29 p.m. Council was presented with a staff report from Myrkle, a hand out presentation by VanDieren (Shyft) and support from Mason (LEAP). Shyft proposes a 15 million expansion in Charlotte that will bring an additional 200 jobs. With no public comment received, the hearing closed at 7:43 p.m.

- b. Ordinance 2022-08 Fortune Telling/Fines/Renumbering

Hearing opened at 7:43 and closed at 7:43 with no public comment received.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kesha Howe – resident and business owner. Kesha noted the aging lighting and decorations within the City and offered her services to work to fundraise and purchase new lighting and decorations.

Don Sovey – resident. Don expressed the great attributes of Ken Wirt and thanked him for all his contributions and thanked Council for recognizing him.

David Lennon – resident. David announced he is the new rep for The County Journal and will be reporting for them.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Armitage requesting to add to the business agenda item f – Mayoral Appointments.

Motion by Armitage supported by Van Langevelde to approve the agenda with the addition of business agenda item f. Carried. Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

CONSENT AGENDA:

a. Approval of Claims and Expenditures totaling \$435,117.47

b. Approval of Firewood Bid

Motion by Dyer supported by Weissenborn to approve the consent agenda. Carried by roll call vote. Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

BUSINESS AGENDA:

a. Approval Resolution 2022-29 Establishment of Industrial District – Shyft Group

Motion by Van Langevelde supported by Chin to approve Resolution 2022-29 Establishment of Industrial District – Shyft Group. Carried. Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

b. Discussion on potential land sale to Anderson Construction (Eric Rogers)

Anderson has proposed a potential land exchange deal to the city and is looking to see if Council is interested before pursuing it further. Council is willing to consider this proposal and would like more information to determine a fair value exchange.

c. Second reading and consider approval of Ordinance 2022-08 Fortune Telling/Fines and renumbering.

A request by Duweck to replace “Second” with “Subsequent” in Sect. 32-6 (A) “Subsequent repeat offenses \$300”

Motion by Van Langevelde supported by Dyer to approve Ordinance 2022-08 with the proposed language change. Carried by roll call vote; Yea 6; Nay 1 (Rodriguez); Absent 0

d. Approve purchase of two Penn-Valley sludge pumps

Motion by Chin supported by Dyer to waive the sealed bid process and approve purchase of Penn-Valley sludge pumps. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

e. 2023 Council meeting date schedule discussion

Monthly workshop meetings to be scheduled on the Wednesday in between the 1st Monday and 3rd Monday Council meetings. LaPere to bring resolution for approval to the December 5th meeting.

f. Mayoral Appointments – Christmas Tree Lighting and Décor Downtown committee

Motion by Dyer supported by Weissenborn to approve the Mayoral Appointments to the Christmas Tree Lighting and Décor Downtown committee. Carried. Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a. City Attorney report was received

Via Zoom (Florida) Hitch reported on the status of the Rental Inspection program and the efforts now underway to bring non-compliant land lords into compliance.

b. City Manager report was received

LaPere updated Council on the status of various ongoing City projects

c. Police Dpt. Report – October was received

Chief Brentar was able to provide answers to the various questions from Council who suggested options for community involvement and education. Brentar noted two upcoming police events; Shop with a Hero and Fill a Cop Car.

d. Council member Committee Reports

No reports

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No comments

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Chin – Requesting updates on; 2020 Management Consultant Services analysis; Vision 2025 Strategic Plan; I.T. security; digital sign for Westside Fire Station; ARPA fund usage; performance review for the city manager; and contract services. He offers his insight for members of the Christmas Tree Lighting and Décor Downtown committee.

Duweck – No comment

Dyer – Thanked Myrkle for all his work bringing two economic opportunities before Council for consideration. He thanked Brentar and all City Department Heads as all are a great asset to the community.

Weissenborn – Thanked Brentar and Myrkle for all the work to keep Council informed and thanked Brentar for his community

effort with the children (Shop with a Hero). She inquired about a process for addressing blighted homes and possible grants for funding urban renewal.

Rodriguez – No comment

Van Langevelde – Council has accomplished a lot today, she thanked Myrkle and Brentar, noted increase in crime and urged citizens to report incidents to police and not try to handle things on their own. She thanked the police for upcoming Shop with a Hero, Fill a Cop Car and fire for Christmas Kiddies programs and asked the community to not forget the food shelter and Siren this holiday season

Armitage – He noted the Christmas parade and tree lighting event was overall a good event – the Grinch did not steal Christmas! He acknowledged DPW's limited resources in this regard and noted all their hard work with leaf collections, street sweeping, snow removal, lighted downtown trees, and addressing issues with the downtown light pole lights. He also acknowledged the Charlotte Rotary club for their holiday decorations in the Courthouse Square. He discussed the purpose for creating the Christmas Tree Lighting and Décor Downtown committee.

ADJOURN:

Motion by Van Langevelde supported by Dyer to adjourn the meeting at 9:57 p.m. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

Mayor Michael Armitage

Mary LaRocque, City Clerk