

**CITY OF CHARLOTTE
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

**Special Meeting
April 26, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER:

By Mayor Armitage on Monday, April 26, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Councilmembers: Baker, Weissenborn, Hoogstra, VanStee, Dyer & Mayor Armitage. All reported their remote meeting location as being in the City of Charlotte, County of Eaton and State of Michigan.
Staff: Manager LaPere

PUBLIC COMMENT:

William Thrush of 1015 N. Cochran shared concerns and opposition to the special assessment district and tax increases.

McRae and Clerk Tidwell joined the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

Mark Bratschi of 948 Chad's Way shared concerns and opposition to the special assessment district.

Ben Phlegar of 425 Horacio Ave stated he was in support of the resolution and recognized that the decline in state revenue sharing and increase of state regulated pension obligations contributed to the council having to consider the special assessment district.

Samuel Korp of 642 W. Henry St. shared concerns and opposition to the special assessment district.

Kent M. inquired about the amount of the tax increase and spoke in opposition to the special assessment district.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS:

A. Consider Resolution No. 2021-057 Approving Special Assessment District Cost Estimates and Establish District

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-057

**A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT
DISTRICT FOR THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
OF THE CHARLOTTE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND TO
ORDER THE CREATION OF A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT
ROLL TO FUND THE DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined to initiate the process for establishing a district to provide for the purchasing of equipment and for the operation and maintenance of the Charlotte Fire Department, and its annual operation and maintenance, pursuant to 1951 P.A. 33, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has caused the City Manager to prepare a cost estimate for fire protection for the fiscal year 2021; and

WHEREAS, after due and legal notice, the City Council has met on April 19, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time, and heard all persons interested therein at said first hearing with respect for the fire protection plan and the establishment of a special assessment district;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The City Council, pursuant to 1951 P.A. 33, as amended, hereby determines to provide for the funding of the Charlotte Fire Department as described as follows: For the purchase of fire motor vehicles, apparatus and equipment and for the funding, on an annual basis, for the operation and maintenance of the Charlotte Fire Department.

2. The City Council hereby approves the cost estimate in the sum of Nine Hundred Seventy-Four Thousand, Eight Hundred Forty-One Dollars (\$974,841), as prepared and presented by the City Manager. Of the aforesaid total cost of the project, eighty-five (85%) will be spread against the special assessment district.

3. It is anticipated that the annual cost may rise, due to inflation and other factors, and eighty-five percent (85%) of the cost, whatever it shall be in the future, shall be spread annually on the district. The special assessment district shall remain in existence for as long as the Fire Department shall be in effect, or at such time as terminated by Resolution of the City Council.

4. The City Council finally determines that the special assessment district shall consist of all of the lots and parcels of land located within the city limits of the City of Charlotte, as set forth in the records of the Office of the Great Seal of the Department of the Secretary of State.

5. The Assessor is hereby directed to make a special assessment roll in which shall be described all the parcels of land to be assessed as above set forth, with the names of the owners thereof, if known, and the total amount to be assessed against each parcel of land, which amount shall be such relative portion of the whole sum to be levied against all parcels of land in the assessment district pursuant to the requirements of Section 1(4) of 1951 P.A. 33, as amended.

6. When the Assessor shall have completed the special assessment roll, he shall affix thereto his certificate stating that said roll was made pursuant to a resolution of the City Council, adopted April 26, 2021, and that in making the assessment roll he has, according to his best judgment, conformed in all respects to the directions contained in said resolution, 1951 P.A. 33, as amended, and the statutes of the State of Michigan, and the Assessor shall then report the special assessment roll with his certificate attached thereto to the City Council.

7. Upon receipt of such tax roll, the City Council shall hold, upon due notice to the record owners of the property proposed to be assessed pursuant to 1951 P.A. 33, as amended, to hear public comments concerning the proposed special assessments.

8. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same hereby are rescinded.

The foregoing resolution offered by Council member Baker and supported by VanStee. Council discussed. Carried. 7 Yes. 0 No.

B. Consider Resolution No. 2021-059 Authorizing the Public Hearing for Distribution of Levy

A RESOLUTION TO SET DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE ESTIMATED COSTS AND CREATION OF A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the City Manager has prepared a cost estimate for fire protection for the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2021 and has submitted the document to the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to consider the creation of a special assessment district to defray the costs as estimated to provide fire protection and has directed the Assessor to distribute the levy; and

WHEREAS, prior to the creation of the special assessment district, the City Council is required to afford the public an opportunity to appear or protest the assessment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council does hereby authorize a public hearing on the distribution of the levy of a special assessment district to defray the costs of fire protection to be held on May 24, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is hereby authorized to provide notice of the public hearing in accordance with legal requirements.

The foregoing resolution offered by Council member McRae and supported by Hoogstra. Council discussed. Carried. 7 Yes. 0 No.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jody Pruden of 309 East Shephard inquired about fire department costs.

William Thrush expressed disappointment for council action.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Armitage explained that cost recovery will be discussed at the next council meeting.

Dyer expressed regret for not pursuing a millage earlier and would like to look at a millage for the future and invited council candidates for the 2021 election.

ADJOURNMENT:

Baker moved, supported by VanStee to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Carried. 7 Yes. 0 No. 0 Absent.

Mayor Armitage

Pearl Tidwell, City Clerk