

CITY OF CHARLOTTE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
111 E. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte, MI 48813 (517) 543-2750
Special Meeting – 11:00 A.M.
October 01, 2025 – As amended

CALL TO ORDER:

By Mayor Lewis on Wednesday October 01, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL:

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

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

In the audience were staff members Finance Director Horton, Director of Public Works Whitney, Police Chief Brentar, Fire Chief Christiansen, Assistant Fire Chief Fullerton, and Captain/Fire Inspector Daly.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Led by Lewis

ABSENCE OF COUNCIL MEMBERS:

All members are present

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No comments

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Christensen supported by Chin to approve the agenda as presented. Carried. Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

AGENDA ITEMS:

- a. Consider approval of a sealed bid contract with Eng, Inc. for Construction Engineering – Fall Street Improvements, in the amount of \$25,357.50

During discussion of a proposed contract, a question was raised about whether any alternative bids had been considered, as no

related materials were provided. Staff confirmed that the project was put out for sealed bids and that one additional bid was received from Spaulding D Decker, which was approximately \$30,000 to \$32,000.

Motion by Chin supported by Christensen to approve contract with Eng, Inc. for Construction Engineering – Fall Street Improvements, in the amount of \$25,357.50. Carried by roll call vote; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- b. Consider approval of Resolution 2025-47 To schedule a public hearing for the Downtown Sidewalk Snow Removal Special Assessment District

A question was raised about whether the proposal would alter the existing process. Staff clarified that there would be no changes; the process remains the same, with the assessment continuing to be charged based on front footage, consistent with previous contract structures.

Motion by Chin supported by Scott to approve Resolution 2025-47 to schedule a public hearing for the Downtown Sidewalk Snow Removal Special Assessment District. Carried by roll call vote; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- c. Consider the Creation of a Special Assessment District to support emergency vehicle and services expenses for three years in the amount of approximately \$1,104,960 annually

The city council discussed restructuring the current fire services special assessment into a broader “emergency vehicle and service expenses fund.” This change was described as both a continuation and renaming of the existing assessment, with funding levels remaining consistent. A long-term vehicle replacement plan is expected to be developed during the next

budget cycle, with input from department heads. The revised fund would focus spending on police, fire, and ambulance services, with implementation targeted for July 2026 following a public hearing in May.

Legal guidance clarified that creating a new special assessment district would require full compliance with Public Act 33 of 1951, including proper notices and public hearings. The proposal received support from department heads, who highlighted the benefits for planning and budget stability. An amendment was introduced and approved to remove a proposed three-year expiration clause, aiming to avoid the need for repeated reauthorization of the assessment.

Motion by Chin supported by Scott to remove the three-year expiration clause to avoid the need for reauthorization. Carried by roll call vote; Yea 5; Nay 2 Lewis, Rodriguez; Absent 0

Motion by Duweck supported by Scott to direct the City Manager to prepare for City Council consideration a Special Assessment District to support emergency vehicle and service expenses as outlined in the memo, in the amount of approximately \$1,104,960. Carried by roll call vote; Yea 6; Nay 1 (Rodriguez); Absent 0

d. City Council Prioritization List

A draft prioritization list was presented, organized into three categories: city services, community development, and neighborhood enrichment. The list included reviews of programs and infrastructure such as retirement funding, utility systems, building inspections, downtown streets, industrial areas, the airport, housing, parks, and street planning.

Council discussion focused on refining the approach and providing strategic input. Suggestions included evaluating the impact of state funding on retirement obligations, developing a

capital improvement plan based on identified needs rather than available funds, and reviewing streetlight costs with an eye toward renewable energy options. A color-coded system was also proposed to help categorize priorities by type. Feedback will be incorporated into a formalized document to be presented for future approval.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No Comments

STAFF COMMENTS:

No Comments

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Scott expressed appreciation for the discussion.

~~Rodriguez noted he felt the core issue was the need for a special assessment itself, not how it was presented, and questioned whether changing the existing structure was necessary.~~

Rodriguez noted he felt the core issue with the special assessment was the need for it and if the tax burden on the citizens could be lowered or eliminated. He felt the issue was not how to explain it and not how to explain how the money was being spent.

Christensen shared observations from a recent county commissioners convention, noting widespread uncertainty and significant budget cuts at the county level.

Duweck thanked City Manager Hillard and the leadership team, emphasizing that strong council support would help sustain momentum. He also highlighted the value of leadership stability, noting that the council has remained consistent for 3.5 years, contributing to the city's progress.

No further comments by Chin, Fullerton and Lewis

ADJOURN:

Motion by Christensen supported by Rodriguez to adjourn at 1:02 p.m. Carried. Yea74; Nay 0; Absent 0

Respectfully submitted,
Mary LaRocque, City Clerk