

**COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Monday, April 27, 2009**

**CALL TO ORDER:** By Mayor Shaughnessy on Monday, April 27, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councilmembers Arnold, Baker, Lewis, Spielmaker, Weissenborn, Mayor Pro-Tem Smith, Mayor Shaughnessy, City Attorney Tom Hitch and City Manager Guetschow

**ABSENT:** None

The invocation was offered by Mayor Shaughnessy followed by the pledge of allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 13, 2009:** Motion by Councilmember Lewis, second by Arnold to approve the minutes of April 13, 2009, as presented. Carried. 7 Yeas. 0 Nays.

**EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**CHARLOTTE HIGH SCHOOL LIAISON:** No Report

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Motion by Councilmember Arnold, second by Spielmaker to approve the agenda as presented. Carried. 7 Yeas. 0 Nays.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

A. Approve 3<sup>rd</sup> annual "NASCAR" Race on July 18, 2009.

B. Approve Application for Farmland Agreement submitted by Dan and Katherine Johnson regarding land located in Brookfield Township, parcel No 150-004-300-001-01

C. Claims and Accounts – Total Claims - \$365,774.40

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:** Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Smith, second by Lewis, to approve the consent agenda. Carried. 7 Yeas. 0 Nays.

**ITEMS OF BUSINESS:**

**A. Consider Request for Change in Personnel Manual**

The first proposal presented to Council will change the language in the Personnel Manual to allow employees with four full years of service through nine full years of service 15 days of vacation, rather than 14 days. The second proposal is to correct a clerical error in the Thanksgiving Holiday language from the third Thursday and Friday of November to the fourth Thursday and Friday of November.

**Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Smith, second by Spielmaker to approve the two changes in the Personnel Manual, as presented. Carried. 7 Yeas. 0 Nays.**

**B. Consider Request from Celebrate Charlotte Festival for a "Night Glow" Event on Cochran Avenue**

Ken Wirt, Chair of the Celebrate Charlotte Committee, presented a request for "night glow" event. He has met with City Manager Guetschow and Fire Chief Fullerton, and believes that they are relatively comfortable with putting the large balloons downtown for one night, with a fire truck situated nearby.

**Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Smith, second by Lewis to approve the request from Celebrate Charlotte to allow "night glow." Carried. 7 Yeas. 0 Nays.**

**C. Consider Proposed Neighborhood Stabilization Performance Standards**

Discussion was held and clarifications made regarding the proposed standards. City Manager Guetschow indicated that a reduction in complaints or an increase in code enforcement activities may not be an adequate indicator of whether or not our strategies are working.

**D. Consider Contract with Charlotte Area Emergency Medical Services**

This is a renewal of a previous contract. Recognizing that municipalities are facing financial challenges, Charlotte Area EMS has decided to forgo their own capital improvements to keep the cost of the contract the same as last year, for the next three years.

**Motion by Councilmember Baker, second by Smith to approve the contract with Charlotte Area Emergency Medical Services in the amount of \$24,262. Carried. 7 Yeas. 0 Nays.**

**E. Discuss the Pavilion Rental Policy**

This policy is presented as a result of Council's request made during the Community Room Use Policy discussions. The proposed policy is the first step in developing a general set of park rules. The notable paragraph is Section 5.3 which will require a reservation fee of \$20.00 to reserve the west pavilion in Bennett Park.

**Motion by Councilmember Lewis, second by Baker to send the proposed policy to the Parks Board for review and comment. Carried. 6 Yeas. 1 Nay. (Spielmaker).**

**F. Discuss the Fiscal Year 2009/2010 Budget**

Since the budget was distributed at the last meeting, he has received comment on two items 1) the elimination of Saturday hours for brush drop off, and 2) paying for an Airport Manager. The Airport Advisory Board will review the budget at their next meeting and Councilmember Spielmaker will request gas sales and usage reports for City

Council. It was noted that there is \$250,000 for street repairs in the budget. City Manager Guetschow indicated that is not enough money to keep us from getting behind on road repairs. He would like to find another \$250,000. Amy Schoonover recommends a total of \$750,000 per year. Sidewalks and City owned parking lots were also discussed. **Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Smith, second by Arnold to set a Public Hearing on the Budget for May 11, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. Carried. 7 Yeas. 0 Nays.**

**G. Consider Use of \$20,000 Appropriation for Hockey Rink**

City Manager Guetschow indicated that he did not include this \$20,000 in the 2009/2010 budget as he anticipated it would be used for a recreation project. The Hockey Committee has raised somewhere between \$5,000 – \$6,000 to go toward the hockey rink. The anticipated cost is about \$25,000. Councilmember Weissenborn added that there is very little maintenance and upkeep anticipated.

**Motion by Councilmember Lewis, second by Spielmaker to reallocate \$20,000 set aside for a boundless playground to the hockey rink. Carried. 7 Yeas. 0 Nays.**

**COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**CITY ATTORNEY REPORT:** Attorney Hitch summarized his written report for Council.

**CITY MANAGER REPORT:** City Manager Guetschow reviewed the information in his written report. Additionally, he apologized for the room temperature in Council Chambers, the new air-conditioning unit has been installed, but the company was unable to complete the work due to the unseasonably cool temperatures we have experienced. He briefly discussed the code enforcement notices that caused some discussion at the last council meeting. He has reviewed copies, and did not find them at all offensive. He believes that some homeowners may have misinterpreted the intent of the notice.

**COUNCILMEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilmember Spielmaker announced an Airport Advisory Board meeting on Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 a.m.

Councilmember Arnold announced a Charlotte Area Recreation Council Meeting on Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Eaton Township Hall and indicated that he expects the agreement to be submitted for approval to City Council and the Township Boards in the near future. There will be a Sidewalk Snow Removal Committee Meeting on Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Councilmember Lewis announced a Charlotte Area Recycling Authority meeting Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Councilmember Baker stated that she attended the Step By Step Meeting. They discussed a mural that is being painted on the Charlotte Lithograph building, Lovett Street side. The total cost of the project will be \$5,700; \$5,000 will come through a donation from the DDA.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Councilmember Arnold congratulated the Finance Department on being awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

Councilmember Weissenborn thanked the Council for its support of the Hockey Rink Project.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith indicated that he was unable to attend the conference Council approved at the last meeting due to health issues.

Councilmember Spielmaker resigned effective May 15, 2009.

Mayor Shaughnessy thanked Councilmember Spielmaker for her service to the citizens of Charlotte. She indicated that Kathy Graber needs a count of those who will be attending the Mayor Exchange in Hastings and she announced that Dan Turner is retiring from the City's Water Department after 33 years of service and congratulated him.

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.**

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Deb Shaughnessy, Mayor

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Michelle M. King, City Clerk