

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

Regular Meeting

Monday, April 12, 2010

CALL TO ORDER: By Mayor Smith Monday, April 12, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmembers Arnold, Cuttle, Kruger, Sanders, Weissenborn, Mayor Pro-Tem Baker, Mayor Smith, City Attorney Tom Hitch and City Manager Guetschow

ABSENT: None

The invocation was offered by Councilmember Kruger followed by the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 22, 2010: Motion by Councilmember Sanders, second by Baker to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 22, 2010, as presented. Carried. 7 Yeas. 0 Nays.

EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: Britt Slocum, Delta Township, is running for State Representative 71st District and would like the support of Charlotte voters.

CHARLOTTE HIGH SCHOOL LIAISON: No Report

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Accept Recommendation of the Planning Commission to amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Charlotte to rezone 617 West Seminary from I-1 Light Industrial to RT Two Family Residential
- B. Accept proposals from Rowe Professional Services Company for engineering services for reconstruction of Parking Lot #2 in the amount of \$21,000
- C. Accept proposal from Rowe Professional Services Company for a field survey of Lincoln Park in the amount of \$1,800
- D. Approve contract with Biotech Agronomics for the disposal of sludge from the wastewater treatment plant
- E. Adopt Resolution 2010-07 Establishing a Receiving Board for Elections beginning August 2010

WHEREAS, Michigan Election Law provides in MCL 168.679a that the legislative body of a city, township or village may, by resolution, provide that one or more additional boards of election inspectors be appointed to serve as a Receiving Board of election inspectors at an election at which the ballots are counted and certified at the precinct; and

WHEREAS, not less than two election inspectors in a precinct, representing each of the major political parties, shall deliver to the Receiving Board for that precinct in a sealed transfer case, the poll book and statement of votes; and

WHEREAS, the Receiving Board shall open the sealed transfer case and review the statement of returns to determine that the number of individuals voting recorded in the poll book equals the number of ballots issued to electors, as shown by the statement of votes; and

WHEREAS, the Election Commission shall appoint a Receiving Board consisting of not less than two election inspectors, with an equal number of election inspectors from each major political party; and

WHEREAS, the City Clerk, as chair of the Election Commission of the City of Charlotte, recommends that a Receiving Board be established for all future elections, beginning with August 2010;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Charlotte City Council authorizes a Receiving Board for all future elections beginning with the August 2010 Primary Election.

- F. Accept Resignation of Jeff Wildern from the Planning Commission
- G. Schedule a hearing on April 26, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. regarding the property at 220 West Shaw Street
- H. Appoint Tim Lamoreaux as Alternate to the Board of Review, term expiring 12/31/2013
- I. Adopt Proclamation 2010-0412a recognizing Trees-n-Scapes

WHEREAS, Trees-N-Scapes, Inc. has been locally owned and operated by Fred and Sherry Myers since 1988; and

WHEREAS, Trees-N-Scapes, Inc. now employs the second generation of Myers with the addition of their son Paul; and

WHEREAS, Trees-N-Scapes pride themselves on their focus on the environment and using environmentally friendly “green” products in their business; and

WHEREAS, Trees-N-Scapes has generously contributed to the beautification efforts of Charlotte through donations of landscaping design, materials and/or labor to Hayes Green Beach Memorial Hospital, Combs Industrial Park, the Charlotte Welcome Sign, Charlotte Community Library, Camp Frances, Courthouse Square, and many other projects; and

WHEREAS, Trees-N-Scapes donated landscaping materials to assist the General Federation of Women’s Clubs-Charlotte with

the Rotary Restroom Project in Dean Park and made improvements to the Bennett Park Entrance Sign; and

WHEREAS, Trees-N-Scapes involvement was integral to the Tree Memorial Garden in Bennett Park, where they created the landscape design and contributed over \$1,200 of in-kind support through landscaping materials and labor.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Charlotte City Council recognizes and thanks Fred, Sherry and Paul Myers of Trees-N-Scapes for their commitment to the beautification of Charlotte and commends them for their service to the community.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that I, Deleski R. Smith, Mayor of the City of Charlotte join the community in special tribute to Fred, Sherry and Paul Myers and Trees-N-Scapes, Inc. on Earth Day, April 22, 2010.

- J. Adopt Proclamation 2010-0412b recognizing General Federation of Women’s Clubs – Charlotte

WHEREAS, the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) is an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service, founded in 1890; and

WHEREAS, the GFWC-Charlotte is one of four GFWC’s in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, in 1988 the GFWC-Charlotte, in cooperation with the Charlotte Parks Advisory Board, created a gift and memorial fund for beautification whereby an individual or organization could pay tribute to an honored one or leave a living memorial to a loved one through a donation for beautification of the City; and

WHEREAS, in May 1999, the GFWC-Charlotte proudly took part in a ceremony to dedicate the Bennett Park Tree Memorial Garden as a quiet place where Charlotte residents may dedicate a tree, planting or a paving brick in memory of their loved one; and

WHEREAS, the GFWC-Charlotte continues to be an active, integral part of the City's beautification efforts by planting flowers, trees and shrubs throughout the community; and

WHEREAS, GFWC-Charlotte volunteers will soon be visible planting flowers in the planters located downtown, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Charlotte City Council recognizes and thanks the General Federation of Women's Clubs – Charlotte for their commitment to the beautification of Charlotte and commends them for their service to the community.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that I, Deleski R. Smith, Mayor of the City of Charlotte join the community in special tribute to the members of the General Federation of Women's Clubs - Charlotte on Earth Day, April 22, 2010.

K. Claims and Accounts – Total Claims - \$415,102.51

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

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

A. **Presentation of check for \$2,527 by Blue Cross and Blue Shield & Playmakers Winter Warm-up Challenge to Charlotte Step by Step**
Mayor Smith presented a check for \$2,527 to representatives of Charlotte Step by Step for coming in first place in the 2010 Winter Warm Up Challenge. He recognized Patrick Sustrich, Lisa Knowles, Mike Ranville, Cindy Vanneste and

Councilmembers Baker and Cuttle for their efforts. Cindy Vanneste gave a brief description of the projects Step by Step intends to use the funds for.

B. **Revisit council policy regarding dogs in Bennett Park pursuant to council action on January 11, 2010.**

Curt Hall, 2911 W. Lawrence Avenue, uses the park on a regular basis. Believes leashes are good, but they also do not allow the dogs to walk far enough off the path, so the dogs leave deposits on the sidewalk.

Mike Ranville, 403 S. Cochran, stated that the south side of the river is very muddy; he would like council to consider setting times during the day when owners can walk their dogs off leash on the north side of the park

Randy Spotts, walks his dog in the park with a small group of others usually between 2 p.m. and suppertime would like to see time set aside for walking unleashed dogs on the north side.

Most Councilmembers agreed that there has not been enough good weather to truly gage the success of the compromise and would like to revisit the issue again the first meeting in August.

Motion by Councilmember Arnold, second by Baker to modify the council policy on dogs in Bennett Park slightly to allow dogs off leash from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. to close on the north side of the park. Carried. 7 Yeas. 0 Nays.

COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT: City Attorney Hitch reviewed the content of his written report and discussed the FOIA requests that were received by the City Clerk that appear to have been a research project from students at Grand Valley State University.

CITY MANAGER REPORT: City Manager Guetschow indicated that his report will be to present the proposed budget to Council. He highlighted several issues in the City Managers message at the front of the budget book. He indicated that there are some good things in the budget and there are some things that are not so good. He indicated that the budget must be adopted at or before the 1st meeting in June and that a public hearing on the budget should be held at the first or the second meeting in May. There is no discussion necessary this evening other than how Council wishes to proceed.

Motion by Councilmember Weissenborn, second by Cuttle to hold a public hearing on the budget on May 10th at 7:00 p.m. Carried. 7 Yeas. 0 Nays.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilmember Kruger attended the Planning Commission meeting on April 6, 2010. At that meeting the site plan approval for Harmon Autoglass, 205 E. Lawrence, was extended for 6 months and rezoning of a house at 617 W. Seminary was recommended to the City Council. The City Council took action on that earlier in this meeting.

Councilmember Baker reported that Eatran is working on a plan to implement fixed routes. They would run every thirty minutes and cover a large portion of the County. Currently, on demand service runs from 6 am to 6 pm, they would like to expand that to 10 p.m.. Eatran is asking for .5 mills in August to help support these improvements.

Councilmember Cuttle announced a Charlotte Area Recycling Authority Meeting April 27th at 5:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Tom Potter, 8447 W. Five Point Highway, asked Council to re-consider making any changes to the city's retiree health care coverage

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilmembers thanked the members of the public who came to the meeting and spoke on issues.

Councilmember Cuttle announced Step by Step will meet at 7 am on April 20th in City Council Chambers.

Councilmember Kruger announced that he and Councilmember Baker attended the open house for the Recovery Center. It is a very nice facility.

Mayor Smith congratulated Keith Moss on his appointment to the Board of Directors of the Michigan Rural Water Association. He reminded the public of Hydrant Flushing starting April 26th, and Leaf pick-up May 3rd – May 6th. He also thanked Mayor Pro Tem Baker for attending some events on his behalf.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Deleski R. Smith, Mayor

Michelle M. King, City Clerk