

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
Regular Meeting
Monday, May 10, 2010

CALL TO ORDER: By Mayor Pro Tem Baker Monday, May 10, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Mayor Smith

The invocation was offered by Pastor Perry Purcell of the South Cochran Church of God followed by the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 26, 2010: Motion by Councilmember Sanders, second by Cuttle to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 26, 2010, as presented. Carried. 6 Yeas. 0 Nays.

EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS: Motion by Councilmember Arnold, second by Sanders to excuse Mayor Deleski Smith from the May 10th meeting. Carried. 6 Yeas. 0 Nays.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Lynn Aseltine, 716 South Clinton expressed concerns about a water/sewer rate increase.

Teresa Abed, 605 Schoolcraft (Grand Ledge), running for State Representative 71st District introduced herself and requested the support of the Charlotte community.

CHARLOTTE HIGH SCHOOL LIAISON: No Report

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Councilmember Kruger, second by Sanders to approve the agenda with the elimination of item 11E, "Consider City Manager's request to

meet in closed session at the conclusion of regular business pursuant to MCL 15.268(c) for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining strategy." Carried. 6 Yeas. 0 Nays.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve the recommendation of the Police Chief to accept high bids for the sale of the following city-owned Police Vehicles, totaling \$18,793:
- 2008 Crown Victoria \$9,407 Chicago Motors
 - 2005 Crown Victoria (#45) \$3,811 Welcome Motors
 - 2005 Crown Victoria (#46) \$3,595 Welcome Motors
 - 1998 Pontiac Bonneville \$1,626 Welcome Motors
 - 1984 Chevrolet Diesel Utility \$354 Alert Emergency Equipment
- B. Approve the recommendation of the DPW Director to accept high bids for the sale of Firewood totaling \$768.50, as follows:
- Doug Miller Piles 1-4 and 8-10 \$378.50
 - Jack Priesman Piles 5-7 \$390.00
- C. Approve the recommendation of the DPW Director to accept the low bid of \$14,200 from TH Eifert for the replacement of the Sluice Gate Valve on the Lansing Street Lift Station
- D. Approve the recommendation of the DPW Director to accept the second lowest bid of \$51,751 by Mast Roofing for replacement of roofs damaged by hail on DPW Buildings
- E. Approve Professional Service Contract with BCI Engineers and Scientists for Testing of Wells 3 and 5
- F. Approve request to place memorial tree and sign in Bennett Park in memory of Sid Weseman
- G. Adopt Proclamation recognizing the Twenty-Second Annual Vietnam Veterans Roundtable Discussion

WHEREAS, Charlotte Public Schools is observing it's Twenty Second Annual Vietnam Veterans Roundtable discussion involving our young people and Veterans of the Vietnam War, and

WHEREAS, through the sharing of their oral history, experiences and remembrances, these Vietnam Veterans impact our students directly concerning the significance of the Vietnam War, and

WHEREAS, on this occasion we all might reflect upon the experiences that these fine Americans have shared, so that we shall not forget those who have served and those who are still missing or in South East Asia, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I as Mayor of the City of Charlotte, urge all students of Charlotte High School and all citizens of our fine city to show their appreciation to these veterans who served and have now returned to open our eyes and our hearts to the realities of war. Let us never forget those who did not return, and especially those missing in action. As long as we remember, their lives will not have been in vain. They are teaching us even now.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the city of Charlotte recognizes the importance of these Vietnam Veterans to the education of our students now and in the future, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the city of Charlotte pays special tribute to members of the Roundtable family who have died; George Olivier, Phil Bandy, Charlie Koos and we also remember Ellis E. Austin, the only person from Eaton County of POW-MIA status, for which the 28th day of May, 2010 is dedicated.

H. Adopt Proclamation recognizing May 16th – May 22nd as National Public Works Week

WHEREAS, public works services provided in our community are an integral part of our citizens' everyday lives; and

WHEREAS, support of an understanding and informed citizenry is vital to the efficient operation of public works systems and programs such as water, sewers, streets, trees, parks, sidewalks, and snow removal; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety and comfort of this community greatly depends on these facilities and services; and

WHEREAS, the efficiency of the qualified and dedicated personnel who staff public works department is materially influenced by the people's attitude and understanding of the importance of the work they perform,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that I, Deleski R. Smith, Mayor of the City of Charlotte do hereby proclaim the week of May 16th-22nd, 2010 as

“National Public Works Week”

in the City of Charlotte, Michigan, and I call upon all citizens and civic organizations to acquaint themselves with the issues involved in providing our public works and to recognize the contributions which public works employees make every day to our health, safety, comfort, and quality of life.

I. Claims and Accounts – Total Claims - \$375,233.59

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Motion by Councilmember Arnold, second by Sanders to approve the consent agenda, as presented. Carried. 6 Yeas. 0 Nays.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

A. Public Hearing Regarding 2010/2011 Fiscal Year Budget

City Manager Guetschow gave some introductory comments regarding the proposed 2010/2011 FY Budget. He has based the budget recommendations on several factors including a reduction in taxable value and tax revenue, state revenue sharing and gas/weight tax revenue for the foreseeable future while operating costs increase, especially in the areas of health insurance and pension due to benefit improvements and market circumstances. All of these factors led to the recommendations that he has made. The public hearing opened at 7:11 p.m.

Jeremy Hafner representing the Charlotte Police Department, 111 E. Lawrence Avenue and FOP Maple City Lodge gave statistical information regarding the City of Charlotte and comparables used

Fred Koning representing the Charlotte Police Department, 111 E. Lawrence Avenue and FOP Maple City Lodge gave statistical information regarding the City of Charlotte and comparables used

The following individuals spoke in support of the Police Department and retaining all officers:

Charles Jensen, 624 N. Cochran

Tom Fuller, 417 Maynard

Hope Steele, 1045 Independence Boulevard, Eaton County employee

Gary Owen, 330 W. Quincy (Diamondale) Eaton Intermediate School District employee

Gordon Davis, 430 S. Cochran, Apt 13

Mike Raines, 1025 Independence Boulevard, Eaton County Sheriff, indicated that he believes a representative of the City went around him to discuss the possibility of the Sheriff's Department providing services for the City of Charlotte in lieu of having a City Police Department. Any decision like that is his decision and he is not interested.

John Moran, 318 E. Henry Street

Laurie Raines, Eaton Township

Brent Erk, Merritt St

Nancy Oliver, Siren Shelter Employee

Mike Cook, 3204 Daryls Way

Resident of 702 High St

Eric Hafner, 1025 Independence Boulevard, Eaton County Sheriff's Department employee

Anthony Rodriguez, 717 N. Sheldon St

Terry Hewlett, 225 Bonnie Brook Lane

Jeffrey Verhougstra, 5195 Jett Drive, Lansing FOP District 10 Trustee

Owen Whitkopf, 308 Plymouth Drive

Nancy Angello, 5642 Matthews Road (Olivet)

Eric Emery, 304 Warren

Lyle Robinette, 312 Plymouth Drive

Donna Edington, 1585 Brookfield (Eaton Township)

Michael Atayan, 7147 Steeplechase Way (Delta Township) Eaton County Drain Commissioner, offered his help in balancing the budget

Harold Meyers, 302 E. Shaw

Irene Jewett, 815 N. Sheldon, spoke in support of the Police Department, but also urged council not to consider the Retiree Health Insurance Policy until the next meeting
Public hearing closed at 8:28 p.m.

B. Discussion regarding the Budget

City Manager Guetschow indicated that it is now appropriate to discuss the budget. At the last meeting the Council decided to focus tonight's discussion on the Police Department and Retiree Health Insurance and the agenda reflects that. Council members assured the public that this is not an easy decision and the board will be looking at the entire budget for ways to cut, that the proposed budget is only a starting point. Discussion was held regarding the question of the timing of the fire truck purchase. The City Manager assured Council that eliminating the purchase of

the fire truck will make no impact on the budget as it is paid in part by the Rural Fire Association, the City's contribution will be in the form of a loan and it would be a step backward from one of the councils objectives to replace and maintain our capital assets. The City Manager indicated that a decision on the millage must be made. Levying the small millage that is available to us may save the two police officer jobs this year, but an increase in water and sewer rates is necessary and it may not be the right time to do both. The millage increase is not a permanent fix; we may have to look at cutting jobs next year in spite of levying the millage. Mr. Guetschow indicated that the Council has expressed a desire to continue capitol improvements to the streets and public utilities and that cannot be done as long as our personnel costs remain so high.

C. Consider Setting Agenda for May 17, 2010 Budget meeting

The City Manager asked Council what they want to discuss at the May 17th meeting. Council indicated they would like to see an updated 5-year plan and discuss the potential for offering early retirement to senior employees in the Police and other departments. They would like to see what the impact of levying the .87 mills is on the current and future budgets and speak with the department heads on ways they believe money can be saved. They would also like to address the airport and why DPW costs are increasing so dramatically.

D. Consider Council Policy 2010-04 regarding Retiree Health Insurance

City Manager Guetschow indicated that the City has two groups of retirees, a small group of retirees over 65 who have Medicare and are eligible for a supplemental (medi-gap or advantage) plan. Currently the City pays to fully insure these retirees at a cost greater than we pay for an under 65

retiree. The other group is those who are under 65, not eligible for Medicare or one individual is over 65 and the other is under 65. We have two policies that we work off of at this point, plus several individual agreements that were made. This policy attempts to marry all of the policies together into one and most importantly reflects a future policy that eventually will lead out of the role of paying for retiree health insurance costs after retirement. Mrs. Jewett asked that the Council wait to vote on this issue until she has had an opportunity to discuss it with the City Manager and other retirees.

Motion by Councilmember Kruger, second by Arnold to postpone Council Policy 2010-04 to the May 17, 2010, Special Meeting and to authorize the Clerk to put the issue on that agenda for action. Carried. 6 Yeas. 0 Nays.

COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CITY MANAGER REPORT: No Report

COUNCILMEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilmember Arnold announced that the Recreation Cooperative met on April 28 to continue work on committees. They will meet on Wednesday, May 26th and the topic of discussion will be how to meet the needs of the community in light of the Charlotte School Boards decision to no longer fund recreation.

Councilmember Kruger will attend the Planning Commission meeting on May 11th.

Councilmember Weissenborn asked where we are on the Sign Ordinance revision and the City Manager indicated that it is on his desk and he will begin working on it again after a budget is adopted.

Councilmember Cuttle attended the Charlotte Area Recycling Authority (CARA) board meeting on April 27th at which they finalized their budget recommendation and voted to keep the center opened on Tuesdays from 2 – 6 year round.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Kelly Cool, 706 High Street, asked how it is that the Fire Department is able to escape budget cuts.

Hope Steele, 1045 Independence Blvd, commended the work of the Charlotte Police Department

Eric Hafner, 1045 Independence Blvd, indicated that it is his belief that most fire department volunteers wash trucks for free, why does Charlotte pay someone to do it?

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilmember Cuttle announced that Step by Step will meet May 18th at 7 am, probably in City Council Chambers

Councilmember Sanders answered comments made about the Fire Department not doing their part by making cuts and indicated that the volunteers voted to take a 5% reduction in the compensation that they receive.

Councilmember Arnold thanked those in the audience for staying around for the entire meeting and reminded the public that these are tough times and we need to handle them with respect for and civility toward one another, whether it is face to face or through social media such as Facebook.

Councilmember Cuttle indicated that Step by Step is very close to finalizing plans for the downtown mural.

Councilmember Kruger thanked the public for their input.

Councilmember Weissenborn explained that there are certain key elements that past councils have been negligent in which need to be rectified in order to continue to invest in the key components of our

community. Capitol projects cannot be neglected and they are working on building the amount of money set aside for street and infrastructure updates. He also reminded the public that residency is not a requirement for working in the City and asked for the community to remember Dee Smith's family in their prayers.

Mayor Pro Tem Baker announced that those wishing to make a donation toward a fireworks display this year could do so at Eaton Federal Bank. The Citywide garage sale is May 14th – 16th. The High School is running a contest for an art project that looks back on 40 years of Frontier Days, and the Michigan Municipal League is holding a Region 2 Educational Seminar in Quincy on June 9th if anyone is interested in going, let Michelle know and she will make the reservations. There will be an Entrepreneurship workshop entitled "Writing a Business Plan" May 19th in Council Chamber of City hall at 6 p.m. The annual High School Cabaret is May 14th at CPAC at 7:30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

Mary Jean Baker, Mayor Pro Tem

Michelle M. King, City Clerk