

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
Regular Meeting
Monday, May 9, 2011

CALL TO ORDER: By Mayor Smith on Monday, May 9, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.

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

ABSENT: None

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 11: Motion by Councilmember Baker, second by Cuttle to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 11, 2011, as presented. Carried. 7 Yeas. 0 Nays.

EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT/PRESENTATIONS:

Diana Lake, 105 W. Shaw, indicated that if the City Manager's budget proposal is approved as it stands right now, she will be laid off on July 1, 2011, after 18 ½ years of service. Should that happen, she is requesting council extend her health, dental and vision benefits until December 31, 2011, and pay out her sick and disability pay at 100% rather than 50%.

Christi Dutcher, representing Courthouse Square Association gave an overview of the past years activities and events at Courthouse Square and requested the City continue to make its \$9,000 donation in this year's budget.

Carol Ranville, resident and board member of Courthouse Square, assured Council that they have done everything they can to reduce their budget to the bare minimum, but as in most cases, the majority of the budget is in personnel.

Leila Klaiss, resident and board member of Courthouse Square, cautioned that the closing of Courthouse Square would not be good for the City

CHARLOTTE HIGH SCHOOL LIAISON:

Josh Holliday reported the following events, activities and achievements at the High School:

- Cabaret is May 13th and 14th at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available online or at the door.
- Prom is Saturday, May 21st at the Eagle Eye Golf Course
- The Annual Senior Tea sponsored by the General Federation of Women's Clubs is May 11th at 1:00 p.m.
- The Vietnam Veteran's Roundtable is May 27th at the High School.
- Freshman Mentoring Program/Student Council recently went on a trip to the Capitol building in Lansing.
- The track team competed in the Gowell Relay May 5th. Both teams placed third. Coach has indicated the team is young and has shown significant improvement.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Councilmember Kruger, second by Baker to approve the agenda, with the removal of item 10c. Carried. 7 Yeas. 0 Nays.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve Eaton Clothing and Furniture Center 5K Run/Walk, August 6th to raise funds for the Center's "Back to School" Program
- B. Adopt Proclamation Recognizing the Twenty-Second Annual Vietnam Veterans Roundtable Discussion

WHEREAS, Charlotte Public Schools is observing it's Twenty Third 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 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 27th day of May, 2011 is dedicated.

- C. Approve recommendation of City Clerk to award bid for farmland lease of approximately 81.73 acres around Combs Industrial Park to high bidder David Ellsworth in the amount of \$121 per acre for a term of three years.
- D. Approve recommendation of City Clerk to award bid for farmland lease of approximately eight acres on Island Highway to high bidder Vance Buchholz in the amount of \$80 per acre for a term of four years.
- E. Approve recommendation of the Fire Chief to accept the low bid of \$10,765 from Battle Creek Glass to replace windows in the main office.
- F. Approve recommendation from DPW Director to sell Firewood piles 1 – 12 to high bidder Tyger Fullerton in the amount of \$75 each for a total of \$900.
- G. Approve DPW Director recommendation to award bid for annual leaf dump grinding to low bidder P.P.S in the amount of \$5,000.
- H. Approve recommendation of the Mayor to confirm the Planning Commissions appointment Lyle Robinette as the Planning Commission representative to the Zoning Board of Appeals
- I. Claims and Accounts – \$303,488.94

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

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

- A. **Public Hearing Regarding Hazards and Nuisances Special Assessment**
Public hearing opened at 7:25 p.m. City Manager Guetschow explained that this is the first time Council has seen hazards and nuisances handled this way. All affected property owners have been notified both through an invoice

following completion of the work and through the public hearing notification process. No one was in attendance to speak on the special assessments for hazards and nuisances. Public hearing closed at 7:27 p.m.

B. Action on Resolution Approving Special Assessment Roll for Hazards and Nuisances

Councilmember Cuttle offered the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the City Council held a public hearing on May 9, 2011, after due and legal notice, and reviewed the special assessment roll prepared by the Assessor of all lots and parcels of land within the City upon which hazards and nuisances were found to have existed and for which the City incurred costs associated with the altering, repairing, tearing down, abating or removing the hazards and nuisances including the following property addresses:

105 W. Shepherd
104 W. Shepherd
220 W. Shaw
221 E. Lawrence Ave.
423 Prairie
109 Munson
312 E. Henry
411 N. Washington
238 State St.
618 W. Lawrence Ave.
137 Pleasant
811 Warren
4200 Legion Dr.

436 Maynard St.
612 Pearl
241 N. Clinton St.
622 Pearl
638 High St.
216 E. Henry
345 Horatio
616 Warren

And

WHERAS, after hearing all persons interested therein and after carefully reviewing said special assessment roll the Council deems said special assessment roll to be fair, just and equitable and that each of the assessments contained thereon results in the special assessment being in accordance with benefits derived by the parcel of land assessed.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Said special assessment roll as prepared by the City Assessor is hereby confirmed and shall be known as Special Assessment Roll No. 2011-01.
2. Said special assessment roll shall be added to the Summer 2011 property tax bill.

Said Special assessment roll shall be placed on file in the office of the City Clerk who shall attach her warrant to a certified copy thereof within ten (10) days commanding the Assessor to spread the various sums shown there as directed by the City Council.

Second by Councilmember Arnold. 7 Yeas. 0 Nays. Motion Carried.

C. Policy Agenda Discussion: Budget

City Manager Guetschow indicated that this is Council's first opportunity to discuss the budget at length. The budget

he has presented focuses on the key policy issue Council laid out of enhancing capital improvements and long term capital investments such as road repairs and maintenance, but that has consequences as can be seen in the list of budget cuts he is recommending, including losing one full time and one part time employee in the Fire/Building department. The budget includes levying the additional .3769 mills available to the City, an additional .1 mills for leaf pick-up which can be done through a vote of Council and also recommends a Headlee override request to go on the November Election of .7 mills. Councilmembers discussed the budget and asked questions of the Department Heads and City Manager. The City Manager will pull data regarding overtime costs for the Police Department and sick leave usage recorded. Council will wait until after the public hearing on May 23rd to decide if they need to hold a Special Meeting.

D. Policy Agenda Discussion: Transparency, Accountability and Communications

City Manager Guetschow reminded Council that this is a Policy Statement and that it is not written in stone. It can be revised at any time.

Motion by Councilmember Arnold, second by Sanders to approve the Council Policy on Transparency, Accountability and Communication. Carried. 7 Yeas. 0 Nays.

E. Policy Discussion List

City Manager Guetschow explained that this item will be on the first agenda of every month to build upon the Policy Discussion Calendar. Council had no additional items to add this meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:
COUNCILMEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The City Manager announced that he is working on a new website for the City and will be sharing the link with Council for them to review it and provide input. He also met with the Clerk, Treasurer and a pension representative to begin discussion on strategies to contain the city's costs for retirement benefits.

Councilmember Kruger attended the Planning Commission meeting on May 3rd. At that meeting, he learned that three building permits for new homes have been issued and two of those homes are sold. The Planning Commission also approved site plans for a new dental office on Meijer Drive, an additional building on the site of the First Lutheran Church for their daycare program, and co-location of three antennas on the existing cellular tower on Island Highway. In addition, they approved a conditional use permit for an automobile repair facility, and a temporary use permit for the annual fireworks sale at Meijer.

Councilmember Cuttle stated that the Charlotte Area Recycling Authority meeting was held May 3rd. The new baler and higher tonnage rates for some materials have boosted CARA revenues this quarter. The CARA board also discussed directional signage as a way of moving the recycling lines along. The next meeting is July 26th. He also announced that Step By Step will meet on May 17th at 7:00 am at Biggby Coffee.

Councilmember Arnold announced a Recreation Cooperative meeting Thursday, May 12th at 7 p.m. at Eaton Township Hall. They will be discussing use of soccer fields and the middle school pool.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Leila Klaiss, 416 W. Lawrence Avenue, had several questions regarding the budget and some ideas where money could be saved

Victor Braatz, 614 South Bostwick, invited Council, Department Heads and the public to volunteer on Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to noon in the Michael F. Skinner Community Garden located on

Health Care Drive between the Eaton County Health Care Facility and the Health Department.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilmember Sanders apologized for missing the last meeting as he had a medical emergency.

Councilmembers commented on the budget and thanked the Department Heads for attending the meeting and answering questions.

Councilmember Kruger indicated that he would like to see cameos of the Department Heads on Facebook or our website.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Deleski R. Smith, Mayor

Michelle M. King, City Clerk