

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
Regular Meeting
January 26, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: By Mayor Burch on Monday, January 26, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmembers Baker, Dyer, Ridge, Conway, Johnston, Mayor Pro-Tem Sanders, Mayor Burch, City Clerk Terpstra and City Manager Guetschow.

The invocation was offered by Mayor Burch followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 12, 2015: Councilmember Baker moved, supported by Sanders to approve the minutes of January 12, 2015 as presented. Carried. 7 Yes. 0 No.

ABSENT: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Chris Bahmer, 619 S. Bostwick, stated that he did not see any new information in the report submitted by the City Manager. He stated that he is opposed to the purchase of the Armory.

Zach Story, 105 ½ S. Cochran, Ste. B, stated that the armory purchase would be wrong on principles because the roads are still being neglected. The \$237,000 will turn into more money. He is running for Mayor because he is concerned about the direction in which Charlotte is heading.

Anthony Rodriguez, 717 N. Sheldon, stated that council has a moral obligation to do what is right for the will of the people. He stated that one should have the money first and that it should be first on the minds of the council. He is in opposition of the purchase.

Ron Moss, 1218 S. Clinton, stated that he believes a study was done and that a water filtration system is not needed. He wondered why other property was sold on Tirrell Highway. He stated that he sees no gains by purchasing the Armory.

Eric Burch, 437 W. Lawrence Ave., stated that he feels the price of \$237,000 for 20,000 sq. ft. on 5 acres is reasonable and that it is in the location where DPW needs it. He stated that a pole barn is going to cost far more money.

CHARLOTTE HIGH SCHOOL LIAISON: None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mayor Pro-Tem Sanders moved, supported by Dyer to approve the agenda as presented. Carried. 7 Yes. 0 No.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

- a) Approve appointment of Branden Dyer to the CARA Board as Council Representative
- b) Approve reappointment of Deb Shaughnessy to the Compensation Commission with term expiring 1/14/2020
- c) Approve appointment of Robert Phillips to the Board of Review with term expiring 12/31/2018
- d) Approve Resolution No. 2015-02 setting 2015 Poverty Guidelines for determination of Poverty Exemptions for 2015
- e) Approve emergency purchase of three valve actuators in the amount of \$5,607.00

- f) Approve quote for installation of Torque Tube Replacement from Allied Mechanical in the amount of \$9,500.00
- g) Approve bid for Bar Screen and Washer Compactor from Duperon in the amount of \$145,000.00
- h) Approve Claims and Accounts in the Amount of \$246,243.12

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA BY ROLL CALL VOTE: Moved by Councilmember Conway moved, supported by Sanders to approve the consent agenda as presented. Carried. 7 Yes. 0 No.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

A. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF COUNCILMEMBER RIDGE TO ATTEND ELECTED OFFICIALS ACADEMY CORE WEEKENDER FEBRUARY 20-21, 2015:

Councilmember Ridge explained that she would like to attend this weekend academy. She feels that the training is very beneficial. She has applied for a scholarship for the registration fee and will find out by January 31st if she has been awarded it.

Discussion was held among council members regarding the training fund balance.

Councilmember Conway moved, supported by Dyer to approve funding for Councilmember Ridge to attend the Elected Officials Academy Core Weekender on February 20th and 21st. Carried. 7 Yes. 0 No.

B. DISCUSSION REGARDING TERMINATING AGREEMENT TO PURCHASE NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY:

City Manager Guetschow stated that a report had been prepared to provide a factual foundation on information regarding the Armory.

Councilmembers discussed issues relating to water damage inside the building, anticipation of renovation, security of building, and what storage options it might have.

Director Gilson stated that it would provide storage for DPW vehicles, generators and other equipment and supplies belonging to the Department of Public Works.

Discussion was held on whether or not a pole building would be needed in addition to the Armory, if it was purchased. Director Gilson stated that, if purchased, a pole barn would not be needed.

Councilmember Sanders stated that it would be difficult to use the Armory, as an existing building, in the event that a water filtration system has to be put in at that location in the future.

City Manager Guetschow stated that the Armory will go back up for sale on the open market in the event that the City decides not to purchase it. The building is zoned single family residential. It is unknown whether anyone else is interested in purchasing the building at this time.

Councilmember Ridge questioned whether it could be used for some recreation options such as basketball practice or softball practice.

City Manager Guetschow explained that the money would come from the Motor Vehicle Pool Fund in which this money can not be used for roads.

Discussion was held and it was decided to set up for all interested members and citizens to tour the facility before a decision is made whether or not to purchase the building.

C. CONSIDER THE CITY MANAGER'S REQUEST TO AUTHORIZE A CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO MCL 15.268(C) TO DISCUSS COLLECTIVE BARGAINING:

Councilmember Sanders moved, supported by Dyer to authorize a closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(c) to discuss collective bargaining. Carried. 7 Yes. 0 No.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT: None

CITY MANAGER REPORT: City Manager Guetschow reported that the first inspections under the new sidewalk snow removal ordinance have been conducted. There were six violations in the follow up inspections that were identified.

The joint meeting regarding the Downtown Revitalization Plan with CanDo!, Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Development Authority boards was well attended last week.

Notification from two of the three bargaining units representing City employees has been received. The first bargaining session is scheduled for early February.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Councilmember Ridge reported that there was not a quorum for the Rec-Coop meeting. She attended the joint meeting for revitalization and it was a very good meeting.
- Councilmember Baker reported that Eatran is still looking for four drivers and one dispatcher. The annual ridership report has been compiled.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Anthony Rodriguez, 717 N. Sheldon, stated that with all due respect council needs to make decisions on what the public wants and not on their personal feelings.

Ron Moss, 1218 S. Clinton, stated that if the Armory was purchased for storage and the City still needs a water filtration system down the road, the storage problem will come back.

Zach Story, 105 ½ S. Cochran, Ste. B, stated that he would like the \$237,000 spent on parking lots. He does not believe that it can not be spent on streets. He feels this is an accounting issue. He does not want a water filtration plant by Bennett Park.

Ben Phlegar, 425 Horatio, stated that he has lived in Charlotte since 1979. He stated that the OI money will be a onetime event and should be spent on one time expenditures. He stated that the \$237,000 wouldn't even pave a quarter mile of street. He is concerned that if the armory purchase is declined that there will still be a need for a storage building and there is no room in the DPW area. He is concerned that there would be no place for leaves and brush if a building was constructed there. He believes buying the armory would be beneficial for the long term.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

- Councilmember Baker thanked everyone for coming and wished Michigan a 178th birthday.
- Councilmember Dyer thanked Chief Sherman and Director Gilson on the report that was prepared for the Armory. He thanked the citizens for attending.
- Councilmember Conway thanked his neighbors for coming to the council meeting. He stated that truck traffic in the downtown will be talked about in the near future again.
- Councilmember Ridge thanked citizens for coming. She stated that before tonight she had not heard anything against the purchase of the Armory.
- Councilmember Johnston stated that the turnout at the meeting was significant. He stated that there are a lot of mixed feelings about the purchase of the Armory.
- Mayor Pro-Tem Sanders thanked everyone for coming out.
- Mayor Burch stated that this was the biggest crowd since she had been elected to attend the meeting. She encouraged everyone to reach out to their council members. She extended her condolences to the family of John Geddie.

Motion by Conway, second by Dyer to recess to closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(c) at 9:08 P.M. Carried. 7 Yes. 0 No.

Motion by Dyer, second by Sanders to approve the closed session minutes of November 24, 2014 as presented. Carried. 7 Yes. 0 No.

Councilmember Dyer moved to adjourn at 9:40 P.M. Carried. 7 Yes. 0 No.

Mayor Burch

Ginger Terpstra, City Clerk