## City Beat

## **News Briefs**

## May 2020

## Calendar

**Primary Election Aug. 4.** All registered electors are eligible to vote by absentee ballot. Additional info is available at http://www.charlottemi.org/serviceadministration/cityclerk/voting-absentee-requests/

Recycling Center Open for Trash Disposal Only. The Center is not accepting recyclables at this time but is open for trash disposal Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday..

Conference Call Meetings. The public is welcome to attend City Council meetings that are held as conference calls. The dial-in number for the meetings is 313-209-3070 and the conference code is 747690. Additional information is available on the COVID-19 page of the City website or by calling 517-543-8843.

**May 4.** City Council budget work session, 7:00 p.m., Conference call.

May 11. City Council meeting, 7:00 p.m., Conference call.

May 25. Memorial Day holiday.

May 26. City Council meeting, 7:00 p.m. Location to be announced.

Contacting Staff. City Hall is closed but staff is available via phone or email. Please consult the City website for contact information, including email addresses, or call 517-543-2750 for a phone directory. For public works emergencies, call 517-543-8858 during business hours and 517-543-8874 after hours.

**Utility Billing** The City's response to the COVID-19 pandemic has affected utility billing in a couple of ways. First, bills that would usually have been sent in April were delayed for a month in response to the Governor's executive order restricting work to minimum essential tasks. Bills for May are being sent on time. Second, in recognition of the financial hardship suffered by some, City Council imposed a moratorium on late payment penalties until June 30, 2020. This applies retroactively to bills sent in March. Third, shut-offs for nonpayment of bills have been discontinued to insure water is available for sanitation measures. Finally, the City is absorbing some fees associated with credit/debit card payments and has added a lower cost electronic check payment option.

**COVID-19 Response Information.** Several steps have been taken to keep the public informed about how the COVID-19 pandemic affects the delivery of City services. A COVID-19 page was added to the City website (http://www.charlottemi.org/covid-19/) where posts on the topic are archived. Concerns were expressed that those without access to the Internet might need another way of getting this information. In response, a COVID-19 Information Line was established. Callers to 517-543-8842 will hear a brief, regularly-updated summary of various topics. City staff is continuing to post information to the City website, Facebook and Twitter and is issuing press releases to local media on more significant topics.

City Beat is a publication of the City of Charlotte, Michigan, 111 E. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte, MI 48813.

Comments or questions about City Beat should be addressed to: webmaster@charlottemi.org.