

**CITY OF CHARLOTTE
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

**Regular Meeting
February 16, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER:

By Mayor Armitage on Monday, February 16, 2021 at 7:00 p.m

PRESENT:

Councilmembers: McRae, Baker, Weissenborn, Hoogstra, VanStee, Dyer & Mayor Armitage. All reported their remote meeting location as being in the City of Charlotte, County of Eaton and State of Michigan. Staff: Manager LaPere, Clerk Tidwell, DPW Director Amy Gilson; Public: Dennis Weeks with Chester Gospel Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Armitage led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

INVOCATION:

Pastor Weeks gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Baker, supported by Dyer to approve the minutes from February 1, 2021 and February 9, 2021 as presented. Carried. 7 Yes. 0 No. 0 Absent.

EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS:

All members were present.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

DPW Director Gilson stated that the DPW crew had been plowing all night and throughout the day. Gilson expressed thanks to the DPW.

**APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA AND UNANIMOUS
CONSENT AGENDA:**

Motion by VanStee, supported by Weissenborn to approve the Regular Meeting Agenda with the addition of 11) c) Resolution 2021-23 Recognizing Martin Luther King Day. Carried. 7 Yes. 0 No. 0 Absent.

Motion by Hoogstra, supported by Dyer to approve the Unanimous Consent Agenda as presented.

Dyer requested item 10) c) Resolution # 2021-017 and 11) a) Resolution #2021-020 be removed from the Unanimous Consent Agenda.

Weissenborn requested item 11) b) Resolution #2021-21 be removed from the Unanimous Consent Agenda.

Mayor Armitage requested item 10) e) Resolution #2021-19 be removed from the Unanimous Consent Agenda.

Carried with roll call vote. 7 Yes. 0 No. 0 Absent.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

There was no special presentation.

EXPEDITED RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:

**A. Consider approval of Resolution No. 2021-016 Approving the
Payment of Claims and Accounts**

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-016

**A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE EXPENDITURES OF THE
CITY OF CHARLOTTE**

FOR FEBRUARY 16, 2021

WHEREAS, Section 7.7(B) of the City Charter requires Council approval for the expenditure of city funds; and

WHEREAS, the February 12, 2021, payroll totaled \$182,021.94; and

WHEREAS, the February 16, 2021, claims total in the amount of \$160,737.08; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council approves claims and accounts for February 16, 2021, in the amount of \$342,759.02.

The foregoing resolution offered by Council member Hoogstra and supported by Dyer. Carried with roll call vote. 7 Yes. 0 No.

B. Consider approval of Resolution No. 2021-015 Authorizing Filling Vacant Positions

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-015

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE FILLING VACANT POSITIONS

WHEREAS, the City Council implemented a hiring freeze at the council meeting on June 8, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Deputy Clerk position and the Accounting Clerk position is vacant; and

WHEREAS, both the Deputy Clerk and Accounting Clerk are crucial positions related to the operation and administrative support to the City of Charlotte; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager is requesting permission to fill the Deputy Clerk and Accounting Clerk position to make the administrative support staff whole.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council approve the hiring of the Deputy Clerk and Accounting Clerk for the City of Charlotte.

The foregoing resolution offered by Council member Hoogstra and supported by Dyer. Carried with roll call vote. 7 Yes. 0 No.

C. Consider approval of Resolution No. 2021-017 Approving Council Policy 2021-02 Citizen Comments

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-017

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE COUNCIL POLICY 2021-01 CITIZEN COMMENTS

WHEREAS, on July 25, 2016, the City Council approved Council Policy 2016-02 regarding standards for citizen conduct at Council meetings; and

WHEREAS, said policy sunset on September 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to make modifications to said policy and eliminate its sunset date;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Council Policy 2021-02 Citizen Comments at Council meetings is hereby approved.

The foregoing resolution offered by Council member Baker and supported by Dyer. Motion carried with roll call vote. 7 Yes. 0 No.

Council discussed Policy 2021-02. Dyer asked that the address requirement for speaking citizens be removed from the policy. McRae asked that Section 4.4 add the wording, “free from intentional falsehoods”. Council discussed the Open Meetings Act.

Motion by McRae, support by Dyer to add “intentional falsehoods” to section 4.4. Motion carried with roll call vote. 7 Yes. 0 No.

Motion by Dyer, support by Hoogstra to remove the address requirement for speaking citizens at meetings. Motion carried with roll call vote. 6 Yes. 1 No (Baker).

D. Consider approval of Resolution No. 2021-018 Approving Council Policy 2021-03 Considering and Adopting Ordinances

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-018

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE COUNCIL POLICY 2021-03 PROCEDURE FOR CONSIDERING AND ADOPTING ORDINANCES

WHEREAS, on July 25, 2016, the City Council approved Council Policy 2016-03 regarding procedures for considering and adopting ordinances at Council meetings; and

WHEREAS, said policy sunset on September 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to make modifications to said policy and eliminate its sunset date;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Council Policy 2021-03 Procedure for Considering and Adopting Ordinances is hereby approved.

The foregoing resolution offered by Hoogstra and supported by Dyer. Carried with roll call vote. 7 Yes. 0 No.

E. Consider approval of Resolution No. 2021-019 Approving

Council Policy 2021-04 Order of Business at City Council Meetings

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-019

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE COUNCIL POLICY 2021-04 ORDER OF BUSINESS AT CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

WHEREAS, on July 25, 2016, the City Council approved Council Policy 2016-04 regarding order of business at Council meetings; and

WHEREAS, said policy sunset on September 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to make modifications to said policy and eliminate its sunset date;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Council Policy 2021-04 regarding order of business at Council meetings is hereby approved.

Armitage discussed section 6.1.2 of Council Policy 2021-04 suggesting that “Finance Director” be changed to “Treasurer”. Manager LaPere agreed.

The foregoing resolution offered by Council member Dyer and supported by Baker with changes to section 6.1.2 of Council Policy 2021-04 replacing “Finance Director” with “Treasurer”. Carried with roll call vote. 7 Yes. 0 No.

F. Consider approval of Resolution No. 2021-022 Appointment of Clerk-Treasurer

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-022

A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT OF PEARL TIDWELL AS CITY CLERK-TREASURER

WHEREAS, the City Council confirmed the hire of Pearl Tidwell as the City Clerk at the regular meeting held December 7, 2020 which has created a vacancy in the office of Treasurer, a position that is essential to the efficient and effective functioning of Charlotte City government; and

WHEREAS, the City Charter has the role of Treasurer as an appointed officer of the City and the City Ordinance designates those duties and responsibilities to one office, known as Clerk-Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, City Manager LaPere has reviewed the skills and experience as they related to the position of interim city clerk-treasurer and has determined that Pearl Tidwell is well qualified to fulfill the responsibilities of the position; and

WHEREAS, the City Charter requires that City Council confirm the city manager’s appointment of city officers including the city clerk and city treasurer;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council does hereby confirm City Manager LaPere’s appointment of Pearl Tidwell as City Clerk-Treasurer.

The foregoing resolution offered by Council member Hoogstra and supported by Dyer. Carried with roll call vote. 7 Yes. 0 No.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:

A. Consider Resolution 2021-020 Establishing an Ad Hoc Code Enforcement Committee

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-020

A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH AN AD HOC CODE ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, City Council and the City administration have received input from the citizenry through the Vision 2025 strategic planning process, among other input methods, of the desire to see a proactive code enforcement presence in the community; and

WHEREAS, City Council wishes to ensure that code enforcement policies and practices, along with the methods used by the City and its departments to implement them, are effective and consistent for residents and staff, and that those methods are cost efficient to administer; and

WHEREAS, City Council believes that it is prudent to undertake an evaluation of the City's current code enforcement policies, practices, and methods by forming an ad hoc committee to review them and make recommendations to the City Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that there is hereby established the Ad Hoc Code Enforcement Committee, the membership of which shall be appointed by the Mayor subject to the approval of the City Council and shall include 2 members of the City Council, 1 city employee, and 2 citizens of the city representing diverse socioeconomic or other demographic sections of the population; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ad Hoc Code Enforcement Committee shall have the authority to elect its own chairman, promulgate its own rules of order and develop its own schedule of meetings, which meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ad Hoc Code Enforcement Committee shall 1) evaluate and make recommendations to the City Council on code enforcement operations; 2) develop a projected cost estimate for providing such services as deemed necessary; and 3) make a recommendation to City Council for alternatives to provide such services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ad Hoc Code Enforcement Committee shall issue a final written report of its findings and recommendations to the City Council not later May 1, 2021.

Motion by Dyer, support by Weissenborn to introduce the foregoing resolution for discussion. Carried with roll call vote. 7 Yes. 0 No.

Council discussed the formation of the Ad-hoc committee consisting of 2 council members, 3 residents and 1 non-voting ex-officio staff member.

B. Consider Resolution 2021-021 Authorizing a Petition for the Higby Drain

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-021

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE A PETITION FOR THE HIGBY DRAIN

WHEREAS, the Higby Drain is a County Drain that traverses the Airport and continues northeast to Parish Highway following Lansing Road; and

WHEREAS, the Eaton County Drain Commission had started a maintenance project on the Airport property until they encountered a direct conflict with City sanitary sewer; and

WHEREAS, there are several businesses along Lansing Road that are currently being adversely affected by the deteriorated 1912 drain; and

WHEREAS, according to the Drain Code of 1956, a municipality can petition the Drain Commission for a drain to be fixed; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended that the appropriate way to properly fix this drain and utility conflict would be for the City to petition the Eaton County Drain Commission to fix the Higby Drain.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the City Council approve the petition to the Eaton County Drain Commission for the improvements to the Higby Drain.

Motion by Baker, support by VanStee to introduce the foregoing resolution for discussion. Carried with roll call vote. 7 Yes. 0 No.

Weissenborn asked for clarification of the resolution. DPW Director Gilson explained the Higby Drain project.

C. Consider approval of Resolution No. 2021-023 Recognizing Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a Holiday in the City of Charlotte

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-23

A RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE MARTIN LUTHER KING

JR. DAY AS A HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE

RECOGNIZING the third Monday of January, as Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in the City of Charlotte.

WHEREAS, the late Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a leader of the American civil rights movement and whose legacy encompasses influential decisions, monumental actions and steadfast progressions of humanitarian rights reaching far beyond the civil rights movement; and

WHEREAS, as noted by the National Civil Rights Museum, "a leader of all people, Dr. King never chose fear, but always chose courage and determination when fighting for civil rights in the face of oppression, ignorance and violence. He refused to allow prison, violence or the threat of death to sway his end mission"; instead, Dr. King stood beside his goal of achieving rights for all through nonviolent protests; and

WHEREAS, he and other civil rights activists collectively influenced nationwide change, with Dr. King's leadership contributing to the overall success of the civil rights movement in the mid-20th century and which continues to impact civil rights movements today; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King's life was tragically cut short by an assassin's bullet on April 4, 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee while he was championing the cause of labor in the Sanitation Workers' Strike; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King's life will always shine as a light for those without hope and as an example to be emulated by all who care about their fellow human beings, regardless of race, religion, class or nationality; and

WHEREAS, due to the efforts of many dedicated community leaders and activists who sought national recognition for Dr. King, the third Monday in January is nationally recognized across the United States as a day to remember Dr. King, his legacy, and the causes for which he fought and died; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and this Council hereby recognize the third Monday in January as Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in the City of Charlotte. Further, the holiday will be observed by

the closure of city hall.

The foregoing resolution offered by Council member Hoogstra and supported by Dyer. Carried with roll call vote. 7 Yes. 0 No.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There was no public comment.

COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS,

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS:

The City Attorney Report was received.

The City Manager Report was received.

The Finance Report was received.

Hoogstra had nothing to report.

VanStee had nothing to report.

Dyer thanked the DPW for snow removal assistance.

Weissenborn thanked the DPW for snow removal assistance and for putting ice on the ice rink.

McRae had nothing to report.

Baker had nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT:

Council member Baker moved, supported by Weissenborn to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Carried. 7 Yes. 0 No. 0 Absent.

Mayor Armitage

Pearl Tidwell, City Clerk