

CITY OF CHARLOTTE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
111 E. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte, MI 48813 (517) 543-2750
Regular Council Meeting
April 18, 2022

CALL TO ORDER:

By Mayor Armitage on Monday April 18, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Armitage, Council members Dyer, Rodriguez, Van Langevelde, Horvath and Lake. A quorum was met. Also in attendance were Attorney Hitch, City Manager LaPere, and City Clerk LaRocque. In the audience; DPW Director Gilson and LRE Engineering president Pete Buurstra.

INVOCATION:

None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Led by Mayor Armitage

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

April 04, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion by Lake supported by Van Langevelde to approve the April 04, 2022 regular meeting minutes. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS:

Mayor Pro-Tem Weissenborn

Motion by Van Langevelde supported by Dyer to excuse council member Weissenborn. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No comments

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was agreed to remove items A and F from the Consent agenda and place them as items G and F of the Business agenda.

Motion by Dyer supported by Lake to approve the agenda with the noted changes. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Item moved to business agenda f (request by Horvath)
- b. Mayoral appointments to Boards and Commissions
- c. Adopt Council Policy 2022-01 Property Transfer Affidavit Penalty Waiver
- d. Adopt Council Policy 2022-02 Letter Appeals to the Board of Review
- e. Adopt Council Policy 2022-03 Auditing of Status of Tax-Exempt Properties
- f. Item moved to business agenda g (request by Rodriguez)

Motion by Dyer supported by Van Langevelde to approve the Consent agenda items B through E. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

BUSINESS AGENDA:

- a. Approval of participation agreement with Eaton County Drain Commissioner for Island Highway reconstruction project

Motion to approve full project by Van Langevelde supported by Dyer was withdrawn. Motion to postpone discussion and decision until May 2, 2022 regular Council Meeting by Dyer

supported by Van Langevelde. Carried with the following roll call vote; Yea 4 (Horvath, Rodriguez, Dyer, Lake); Nay 2 (Armitage, Van Langevelde); Absent 1

- b. Approval of contract for combined proposal for water treatment options and water reliability study from Fishbeck

Motion to approve a proposal for water treatment options study from Fishbeck by Dyer supported by Lake. Failed with the following roll call vote; Yea 2 (Dyer, Van Langevelde); Nay 4 (Horvath, Armitage, Lake, Rodriguez); Absent 1

Motion to approve water reliability study from Fishbeck by Dyer supported by Lake. Carried. Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 0

- c. Approval of contract for OPEB actuarial

Motion to approve OPEB Actuarial contract by Dyer supported by Van Langevelde. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

- d. Consider grant consultation service proposals

Council asked LaPere to write up an approval request for The Grantsmanship Consulting LLC and present it at the next regular Council meeting on May 2, 2022.

- e. Discussion on ARPA public input plan

The next discussion to be scheduled on the June 9, 2022 Council Workshop meeting agenda. Time is needed for a public survey to be published, collected and the data reviewed.

- f. Approval of Claims and Expenditures totaling \$437,741.13

Motion to approve claims and expenditures of \$437,741.13 by Dyer, supported by Rodriguez. Carried; Yea 5; Nay 1 (Horvath); Absent 1

- g. Adopt Council Policy 2022-04 Investment of Surplus Funds

Motion to approve the adoption of Council Policy 2022-04 by Dyer supported by Van Langevelde; Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. City Attorney report was received. Hitch distributed his written opinion to be referenced during the closed session discussions and offered to answer questions on the FOIA response reply letters issued to each council member by the Clerk.
- b. City Manager report was received. Topics include April communications update, water shut off resumes, programs available to individuals needing assistance; spring hydrant flushing; code enforcement and rental inspection updates, March revenue and expense report; fuel tank inspections; more State assistance available to residents and Rave alerts.

- c. Council member Committee Reports.

Parks Advisory by Van Langevelde. Discussions on obtaining grant funding and business and community donations for park projects. For Arbor Day they plan to

plant a willow tree at the disc golf course and reported property damage at the disc golf course.

Planning Commission by Lake. Working still on the language for the sign ordinance, Meijer's has delayed their add-on project at the Charlotte location and the firework tent permit at the Meijer parking lot has been approved.

EATRAN by Dyer. An audit was completed and they have an (employment) posting for an Executive Director as the current director is leaving.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Resident Jim offered his compliment to the Code Enforcement Officer (Cheri Cummings) as she worked quickly to resolve a complaint. Mentioned trash overflow at Bennet Park trash cans.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Horvath; Calls for council approval before staff consults the attorney, feels that the City Manager and Mayor should pay for certain attorney fees and they should resign.

Dyer; No comment.

Rodriguez; Thanked Pete Buurstra for his input. He stated (in reference to a water treatment plant) that his "No" doesn't mean never and is concerned about the ongoing costs to the city for such a plant and suggests that individuals can resolve (their own water treatment issues) better, and cheaper on their own. He thanked the citizens for their generosity shown to each other.

Van Langevelde; She has a phone conference with State Rep. Witwer on Thursday to discuss State and grant funds available to Charlotte. She congratulated Officer Justin Bahm on his

recent graduation from accident construction school and she thanked all the police officers for their work.

Lake; Called for citizens to participate more by attending council meetings and to be involved in their community.

Armitage; No comments, issued a 5-minute recess at 8:52 p.m. before going to the closed session.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Dyer supported by Lake to recess into closed session at 8:57 p.m. Carried by roll call vote. Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1.

RECONVENE OPEN SESSION

No action to be taken from closed session discussion. Horvath left the meeting during closed session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Dyer supported by Lake to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 p.m. Carried; Yea 5; Nay 0; Absent 2.

Mayor Michael Armitage

Mary LaRocque, City Clerk