

CITY OF CHARLOTTE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
Workshop Meeting
111 E. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte, MI 48813 (517) 543-2750
January 13, 2022

CALL TO ORDER:

By Mayor Armitage on Thursday January 13, 2022 at 7:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Armitage, Mayor Pro-Tem Weissenborn, Council members Dyer, Rodriguez, Van Langevelde, Lake, and Horvath, also in attendance were the City Manager LaPere and City Clerk LaRocque

In the audience; Police Chief Brentar, Fire Chief Vogel, Cpt. Fullerton, Public Works Director Gilson, Assessor Jewell, Community Development Director Myrkle.

APPROVE AGENDA:

Motion by Dyer, supported by Lake to approve the agenda with the addition of item b. Presentation by State Rep. Witwer with the following vote; Yea 7, Nay 0, Absent 0. Motion passed.

EXCUSE ABSENT COUNCIL MEMBERS:

All Present

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No Comments

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- a. Department Introductions
 - i. City-wide/general administration
An outline and highlights were presented by LaPere for the following 5 departments.
 1. Clerk - LaRocque
 2. Treasurer - Smith

3. Manager - LaPere
 4. Community Development Director – Myrkle
 5. Assessor - Jewell
 - ii. Dept. of Public Works – An outline and highlights of all areas of DPW was presented by Amy Gilson, Director. Questions were asked about a variety of DPW operations, including sidewalks and the Safe Routes to Schools Program. She noted that filling vacancies in Asst. Foreman and DPW Secretary would be two personnel additions that would greatly benefit her department.
 - iii. Fire Dept. – An outline and highlights of the Fire Department was given by Robert Vogel, Fire Chief. His major challenges involve out dated equipment and vehicles, and working with surrounding communities to provide support that has stretched his staff and inflated over-time. He has obtained grant funding for some equipment and is seeking more. Questions were asked about operations and the necessity of two fire stations.
 - iv. Police Dept. – An outline and highlights of the Police Department was given by Paul Brentar, Chief of Police. Through a recent Patrol Analysis Worksheet study, he found that 18 officers are needed to sufficiently cover the staffing needs of the department and currently, there are 16 (one joining Monday). Hiring officers is a challenge nationwide. He is currently seeking grants for recruitment and

training to provide academy sponsorship and funds for training. Questions were asked regarding operations and staffing concerns.

b. Presentation by Rep. Witwer

Representative Witwer did not make her appearance.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No comments

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Armitage directed Council to begin thinking in terms of Council priorities for next month's workshop session, with the knowledge just received from the departments to help provide the framework for future budget discussions.

Horvath questioned LaPere about whether she had called certain individuals regarding grant processes and wanted to know who she spoke with, what was said, etc. Horvath's questioning was interrupted by Armitage who informed Horvath that Council does not dictate to nor micromanage the City Manager and that collectively, they will give policy direction to LaPere.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Weissenborn, supported by Dyer to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m. Yea 5; Nay 2 – (Horvath & Rodriguez); Absent 0, Motion passed.

Mayor Armitage

Mary LaRocque, City Clerk