

CITY OF CHARLOTTE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
111 E. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte, MI 48813 (517) 543-2750
Regular Council Meeting
February 07, 2022

CALL TO ORDER:

By Mayor Armitage on Monday February 7, 2022 at 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Armitage, Mayor Pro-Tem Weissenborn, Council members Dyer, Rodriguez, Van Langevelde, Lake, and Horvath. A quorum was met. Also in attendance were City Manager LaPere, City Attorney Gillies, and City Clerk LaRocque.

INVOCATION:

Fr. Dwight Ezop – St. Mary’s Catholic Church (Via ZOOM – Charlotte, Michigan)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Led by Mayor Armitage

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

January 18, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion by Lake, supported by Dyer to approved the January 18, 2022 meeting minutes. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0.

EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS:

All Present

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Connie B. a city resident on S. Washington St. is concerned about certain activities happening at an address on Oliver St., which is in close proximity to her residence. The City is aware and is actively monitoring.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Dyer requested the removal of item 12b; Discussion for the closure of city hall in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Motion by Van Langevelde, supported by Dyer to approve the agenda with the removal of item 12b. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

- a. Presentation by LEAP, Bob Trezise and Emma Bostwick

Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) works to improve economic development in the Region. Through our membership with LEAP, Charlotte is promoted as a strong contender for business development opportunities and has benefitted from these efforts through projects like the Shyft Group expansion project which resulted in hundreds of new jobs, PAFC grant awards used to revitalize the downtown with art projects and multiple EPA Brownfield Assessment Grants have come our way. When Weissenborn posed the questioned “What can Charlotte do to attract more business”? Trezise noted that location and public transportation resource availability has caused some contention for past decision makers when considering Charlotte, while also assuring her and Council that Charlotte is currently in a very good position for new growth opportunities and that eventually the right project for Charlotte will arrive.

- b. Presentation by EGLE, Brownfield, Ron Smedley

Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) is the principal department of the State of Michigan for environmental issues and works to protect Michigan's health and environment. EGLE offers financial and technical assistance including grants, loans, tax increment financing and free site assessments as part of their offerings to aid communities with Brownfield site clean-up. In years past, EGLE has helped Charlotte to identify and revitalize Brownfield land sites thereby returning these properties into economic opportunities for the community.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Approval of claims and expenditures totaling \$310,018.62
- b. Approval of Statements of Doing Business with the City
- c. Approval of Mayoral appointment: Sandra Dargatz to the DDA board, term expiring March 15, 2026

Motion by Van Langevelde, supported by Dyer to approve the consent agenda items a through c. Carried by unanimous roll call vote; Yea 7 Nay 0; Absent 0.

BUSINESS AGENDA:

- a. 220 Shaw/332 Cochran and other city-owned properties

Motion by Dyer supported by Weissenborn to approve and authorize the City Manager to select a real estate professional to list the properties at 220 W. Shaw, 332 N. Cochran and the vacant parcel on McClure Street identified as 200-066-604-001-00 Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0.

- ~~b. Discussion for the closure of City Hall for Covid-19~~

- c. 2022 Eaton County Fairground Event Schedule

Motion by Dyer supported by Weissenborn to approve the list of events as described in the written correspondence from the Eaton County Agricultural Society dated January 23, 2022 for the 2022 calendar year at Eaton County Fairgrounds. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- d. Consider approval of fire hydrant purchase

Motion by Van Langevelde, supported by Dyer to approve the purchase of ten fire hydrants from EJ in the amount of \$23,893.30 using available ARPA funds if allowed, or the Water & Sewer funds *if not* allowable under ARPA. Carried with the following roll call vote; Yea 5; Nay 2 (Lake & Horvath); Absent 0.

COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. City Attorney report was received
Attorney Gillies mentioned she worked on the lawsuit involving Chuck's Chariots and offered to answer questions.
- b. City Manager LaPere gave her report:
 - i. Monday February 14th is 2021 Winter Tax due date and City Hall is extending its business offices hours to be open to the public from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to accept in-person payments.
 - ii. City Hall business offices to be closed on Presidents Day February 21st.
 - iii. A monthly electronic newsletter has been launched and she is seeking input for names.
 - iv. Bids are open for janitorial services for City Hall and the Police Department, information can be found on the city website or www.bidnet.com

- v. Water shutoffs resume and assistance programs are available with information available on our website.
 - vi. RAVE Alerts reminder and how to participate.
 - vii. Update and report on Clinton/Stoddard progress will be given at the next regular council meeting.
 - viii. Charlotte Meijer’s now offers a Kiosk for Secretary of State transactions.
- c. Planning Commission and Zoning Admin 2021 Annual Report was received.
- d. Communications and Committee Reports
- i. Van Langevelde – Parks Advisory is working on a master plan for Oak Park and looking for grant opportunities. In other discussions, there is talk of a mountain bike trail at Bennett Park, planting of a willow tree in the wet area of Lincoln Park, and moving the bleachers from the tennis courts to the soft ball field.
 - ii. Lake – Planning Commission. Discussions included updating the Sign Ordinance and home-based businesses for medical marijuana. The Library is focusing on goal setting.
- e. Citizen Correspondence, Justin Brummette
- Justin Brummette, an Arborist, submitted an example from the City of Lansing, a permit for tree work. His request is that residents should have a means to, at their own expense, be able to manage trees residing on their own property but within the city right-of-way, where currently the ordinance does not allow for owner management.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Resident, Justin Brummette returned to the podium to reiterate his point and to clarify the difference a professional Arborist can make in knowing about the care and health of trees and the contribution to a healthy environment they provide. He passed out business cards and offered his services as a potential candidate to perform said tree work in Charlotte.

Andy Hazel, a resident on Lovett St. spoke of a beloved oak tree on his property in the city right-of-way that he wishes to manage and supports the idea of owner management.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Lake: (In reference to Brummette report) he is concerned about the loss of trees and the environmental impact.

Horvath: Would like to add to an item to the next regular meeting agenda and discuss hiring a grant writer.

Weissenborn: Thanked DPW for all hard work keeping streets clear of snow and ice.

Rodriguez: Thanked DPW for hard work. He also noticed recently neighbors helping neighbors on a local Charlotte Community Facebook page and is very proud of his city. Lastly, he wanted it made clear of his “No” vote on the purchase of a pick-up truck at the last meeting stating the local paper had it recorded incorrectly.

Van Langevelde: Thanked the public in the audience for attending the meeting and for the speakers who voiced their concerns and she sent a thank you to DPW.

Armitage: To the DPW/Fire Dept – Thank You! He also sent a heartfelt message to the community and thoughts and prayers to the family of Michael Linton; he will be missed!

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Lake, supported by Weissenborn to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0.

Mayor Armitage

Mary LaRocque, City Clerk