

**CITY OF CHARLOTTE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**  
**111 E. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte, MI 48813 (517) 543-2750**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**June 06, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

By Mayor Armitage on Monday June 06, 2022 7:01 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

City staff in the audience; Finance Director/Treasurer Smith; Police Chief Brentar; Fire Chief Jordan; Public Works Director Gilson.

Also present were the following applicants for the District 2 Council seat; Mikaela Bliven, Joseph Chin, Jr., Brett McRae, and Valerie Reisen.

**INVOCATION:**

Fr. Dwight Ezop, St. Mary's Catholic Church

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Led by Mayor Armitage

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

May 12, 2022 Workshop meeting minutes and May 16, 2022 Regular meeting minutes

Motion by Duweck, supported by Weissenborn to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 0.

**EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS:**

No absent members

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

a. Special Assessment District (SAD)

This is an annual renewal of the SAD created in 2021. LaPere provided a PowerPoint presentation where she presented the various reasons the SAD is needed. More information can be found here: [www.charlottemi.org/fire-protection-fund-information/](http://www.charlottemi.org/fire-protection-fund-information/). It was impressed upon Council that the Corrective Action Plan filed with the State includes this revenue source and is vital to ongoing operations.

Public comment was opened with the following city residents speaking in protest: Mark Bratschi; John Forte; Jody Whitehead; Zach Story; Lawrence Arnett; Steven Whiting; and David Pease. An email in protest was received by Richard Deer and distributed to Council for review. Resident Don Sovey spoke in support of the assessment. Public comment was closed at 7:50 p.m. with no further comments offered.

It was decided that, because notices were received late by residents, a second public hearing and Resolution to approve the SAD assessment will be scheduled for the June 20, 2022 meeting.

b. FY 22-23 Budget

LaPere provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining the budget, a draft of the proposed budget can be found here:

<http://www.charlottemi.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Fiscal-Year-2022-2023-Budget-DRAFT.pdf>

Public comment was opened at 8:20 with comments given by the following individuals:

Zach Story – resident. Asked for bi-weekly mowing at the City parks and for water fountains to return to service.

John Forte – resident. Asked for better maintenance of parks and drinking fountains, the extension of payment of water bills received late and to cease the enforcement of the mowing ordinance.

Public comment closed at 8:26 p.m. with no further comments offered.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Jim Fredette – resident. Presented a city mailed form he received with very poor print quality and his understanding of the SAD assessment was be one time only, not an annual assessment.

Don Sobey – resident. Spoke in support of District 2 applicant Valerie Reisen.

Linda Foster – Spoke in support of Valerie Reisen.

Aaron Todd – non-resident – spoke in support of Valerie Reisen.

Pam Fredette – resident. Has trouble finding where City Council minutes are published and, considering recent national events, is concerned with the safety of elections and schools.

Kimberly Parrish – resident. Spoke in support of district 2 applicant Mikaela Bliven.

Zach Story – resident. He felt there may have been a personal vendetta against him when, during the City election 2021 he filed to run for the District 1 council seat and later, also as a write-in candidate for Council At-large, running for two positions on the same Council at the same time. Clerk LaRocque cautioned him that this may not be allowed but needed to seek the opinion of the City attorney. Ultimately, the County Clerk, backed by the State, agreed it was allowable and the attorney

advised the Clerk, who advised Story that it was allowed and both filings were accepted.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Van Langevelde supported by Weissenborn to approve the agenda with the following changes: Strike item d from the consent agenda (Armitage), move item f from the consent agenda to the first item of the business agenda (Van Langevelde) and add item to the business agenda to discuss late fees on water bills (Rodriguez). Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 0.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- a. Approval of Claims and Expenditures totaling \$1,022,702.85
- b. Approval of Mayoral appointments – Boards and Commissions
- c. Approval to hire for the Deputy Treasurer position
- d. Removed from agenda - *Resolution 2022-08 to approve contract with MDOT for SRTS grant project – Mayor Armitage indicated the quote was 38% over budget and requires a re-quote.*
- e. Resolution 2022-10 MDOT Category B Grant Funding Application
- f. Moved to business agenda item a – *Confirm appointment of Mark Jordan as Fire Chief.*

Motion by Dyer supported by Duweck to approve the Consent Agenda items a, b, c, and e. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 0.

**BUSINESS AGENDA:**

- a. Confirm appointment of Mark Jordan as Fire Chief.

Motion by Van Langevelde supported by Dyer to appoint Mark Jordan as fire Chief. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 0.

b. Appointment of Councilmember – District 2

Qualified candidates; Mikaela Bliven, Joseph Chin Jr., Steven French (not present), Brett McRae, Valerie Reisen and Rico Rios (not present).

Candidates were given the opportunity to address Council and answer various questions. Council nominated the candidate of their choice and upon voting in nomination order, the candidate who received 3/5 vote of Council was awarded the Council seat. Nominations in order; Chin, Reisen and McRae. Voting began with Mr. Chin who immediately received 3/5 vote. The following chart is a record of the nominations and votes that took place:

DISTRICT 2 COUNCIL SEAT				
COUNCIL	NOMINEE	CHIN	REISEN	MCRAE
RODRIGUEZ	McRae	Yes		
WEISSENBORN		Yes		
DUWECK		Yes		
ARMITAGE		Yes		
VAN LANGEVELDE	Chin	Yes		
DYER	Reisen	No		
	VOTE TALLY	5 Y/ 1 N		
	RESULT	Carried		

Armitage congratulated and welcomed Chin on his appointment to the Council, Chin took his oath of office and likewise, his seat at the Council table.

- c. Resolution 2022-11 to approve FY 22-23 budget
- d. Resolution 2022-12 to approve 2022 Fee Schedule

Motion by Van Langevelde to table discussion and vote on Resolution 2022-11 until the June 20, 2022 Council Meeting,

amended by Dyer to include Resolution 2022-12, supported by Dyer. Carried by roll call vote; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

e. Resolution 2022-09 to approve the sale of 332 N. Cochran

Motion by Weissenborn supported by Dyer to approve the offer and proceed with the sale of 332 N. Cochran to Faulkner (Highest bid) and to authorize the City Manager to accept the second offer from SaintAmour as a backup if the first offer falls through. Carried by roll call vote; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0.

f. Discussion on late fees for the water bills

A discussion for dismissing fees for certain individuals who received their water bill late was countered by City Manager LaPere who pointed out that of approximately 1200 invoices mailed out, only 10 or so arrived late and that waiving a fee for certain individuals would be considered preferential treatment and difficult to contain once allowed and it is incompatible with the city ordinance §68-99 Billing and Collection (A) which states specifically that failure to receive a bill does not negate the responsibility to pay it.

Attorney Hitch advised that a more appropriate action Council could consider is to change the ordinance language to eliminate the late fee altogether, if so desired.

LaPere decided that due to past and present issues with printing and mailing, the City will be working with a new vendor to provide those services.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- a. City Attorney report was received.
- b. City Manager report was received

LaPere mentioned a Public Hearing for the Sign Ordinance will be held at the Planning Commission meeting Tuesday June 7<sup>th</sup>

at 7 p.m. A video was posted online presented by Community Development Director Myrkle that provides more information on the sign ordinance. The ARPA funds discussion and survey results will be the topic during the Council Workshop Meeting Thursday June 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 and she invited residents who want to participate in local government to do so by joining one of the many boards and commissions of the City (applications online)

c. Councilmember Committee Reports

No reports

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

No comments

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

No comments

**ADJOURN:**

Motion by Dyer supported by Duweck to adjourn the meeting at 11:03 p.m. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

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Mayor Michael Armitage

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Mary LaRocque, City Clerk