

**CITY OF CHARLOTTE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**  
**111 E. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte, MI 48813 (517) 543-2750**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**July 05, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

By Mayor Armitage on Tuesday July 05, 2022 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

City staff in the audience; Fire Chief Jordan; and Community Development Director Myrkle.

**INVOCATION:**

Dennis Weeks, Chester Gospel (replaced Jack Conklin)

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Led by Mayor Armitage

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

June 20, 2022 Regular meeting minutes

Amend page 7 striking resident and replacing with property owner regarding Public Comments for Gail Higashino as requested by Chin and clarified by Van Langevelde.

Motion by Dyer, supported by Van Langevelde to approve the meeting minutes as amended. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1.

**EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS:**

Motion by Van Langevelde supported by Dyer to excuse the absence of Mayor Pro-Tem Weissenborn. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Heather, a resident (in regards to a conditional use permit they applied for) presented her reasons why they operate a home-based business. LaPere clarified that the hearing to consider their conditional use permit is scheduled for the September Planning Commission meeting.

Caleb Mason, a resident, having trouble finding the application for the board and commissions online as he is interested in applying for the Water Ad Hoc committee.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Van Langevelde supported by Dyer to approve the agenda with amendments to move Consent Agenda items a and c to the Business Agenda and to clarify Business Agenda item c to make note there are two Resolutions to be voted on 2022-15a and 2022-15b. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- a. ~~Approval of Claims and Expenditures totaling \$255,663.62~~ MOVED TO BUSINESS (Chin)
- b. Mayoral appointment(s) Boards and Commissions
- c. ~~First reading of Ordinance 2022-02 Amendment to Chapter 82, Section 82-107 Principal Permitted Uses, (4) Home Occupations~~—MOVED TO BUSINESS (Van Langevelde/Dyer)
- d. Approve MDOT Contract No. 2022-0783 – Grant Reimbursement Request for the Acquisition of easements and the certifying statements
- e. 2202-16 Resolution authorizing signatories for MDOT contract No 2022-0783

Motion by Dyer to approve Consent Agenda items b, d, and e, supported by Duweck. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1.

**BUSINESS AGENDA:**

- a. Approval of Claims and Expenditures totaling \$255,663.62

Discussions led to the consensus that the purchasing policy should be updated.

Motion by Dyer to approve the Claims and Expenditures supported by Duweck. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1.

- b. 2022-02 Ordinance – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading. Amendment to Ch. 82, Sect. 82-107 Principal Permitted Uses, (4) Home Occupations

Motion by Dyer and supported by Duweck to approve Ordinance 2022-02 to be sent to the Planning Commission for a Public Hearing on August 9, 2022. Carried. Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1.

- c. Consider approval of police vehicle purchase request

Motion by Van Langevelde and supported by Dyer to approve police vehicle purchase. Carried. Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1.

- d. Consider approval of fire hose purchase request

Motion by Dyer to approve fire hose purchase and supported by Duweck for approval. Carried with the following vote; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1.

- e. Charter Amendments

- i. 2022-15a Resolution to Rescind Prior Resolutions

Motion by Van Langevelde and supported by Dyer to approve Resolution 2022-15a. Carried by roll call vote. Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1.

- ii. 2022-15b Resolution to Propose Charter Amendments for Mayoral 4-year term.

Motion by Dyer and supported by Duweck to approve Resolution 2022-15b. Carried by roll call vote. Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1.

- f. Second reading and consider adoption of Ordinance 2022-01 Amendments to Sign Regulations

Motion by Dyer and supported by Van Langevelde to approve Ordinance 2022-01. Carried by roll call vote. Yea 4 (Van Langevelde, Duweck, Dyer, Chin); Nay 2 (Rodriguez, Armitage), Absent 1.

- g. First reading of Ordinance 2022-03 to amend Chapter 15 – Business - to add Section 15-76, Regulations for Medical Marihuana Caregiver Uses

Motion by Dyer and supported by Chin to approve Ordinance 2022-03 to proceed to a second reading and Public Hearing at the Council meeting on August 1, 2022. Carried by roll call vote. Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- a. City Attorney report was received.
- b. City Manager report was received. Rave Alerts now being utilized to notify targeted subscribers that water bills have been mailed and instruction on how to follow up if the bill is not received; the State (Rep. Witwer) has granted Charlotte \$1 Million for fire trucks and equipment; pension liability grants and many other grant opportunities from State and Federal sources are to come and LaPere will be watching closely for those; State revenue sharing increased 6% this year and 5% for subsequent years; the 2<sup>nd</sup> ARPA grant fund has been received. Discussions on zoning for fencing will be

presented at the next Planning Commission meeting July 12th.

- c. Fire Activity Report – June, 2022; Chief Jordan clarified the meaning of “Incomplete, Reviewed and Complete” as noted in the fire report for Council member Chin
- d. Council member Committee Reports – no reports

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

John Fort, resident. Extended his thanks to all Council members for everything, Chin for his thoroughness. He then offered several opinions as follows; the Attorney and other staff should refrain from offering opinions that might influence Council; More (police) officers are needed, crime is up everywhere; Council should direct any and all questions to Manager LaPere, who should have all the answers during discussions; and the City should sell properties he feels are not being taken care of properly (tennis courts and the armory building).

Caleb Mason cautioned Council that they should not change the terms of office and agrees the purchasing policy is dated and the spending limit should be increased.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Chin began by noting his tour of City facilities and made note of the actual usefulness of the armory to the City as it offers storage to sensitive equipment and records, it is used for certain trainings and, if sold, the city would then need to find another secure storage facility to replace it at significantly higher costs. He encourages residents to learn about the Headlee Amendment and it’s affects on property taxes along with cost of goods and inflation, that not all (property tax) increases are attributable to the actions of City Council, the tax bill includes collections of tax for the schools, the county, the library and others. He will be reviewing contract, policies, etc., and suggested the partnership

with civic organizations for programs like “Adopt A Park” program as an example.

Armitage is looking to invite non-profits and the like in the Vision 2025 discussions in September.

Duweck is glad the Sign Ordinance was passed, as a previous Planning Commission member, he was part of the team that worked to update it.

Dyer thanked Bryan, Erin and the Planning Commission for all their work on the (Sign Ordinance) recognizing the Commission members are volunteers with no pay.

Rodriguez thanked the citizens for bringing items to the attention (of Council) and pledges to follow up on issues like the tennis courts, etc.

Van Langevelde quoted Abraham Lincoln “Freedom is not the right to do what we want, but what we ought” then praised resident Tina Curtis who cleaned up a mess she found at Bennet Park when visiting. Van Langevelde announced that the First Baptist Church has adopted Bennet Park and is planning a clean-up, including the tennis courts, on Saturday July 9<sup>th</sup>. She extended her thanks to Rep. Witwer for not forgetting Charlotte (in regards to the \$1 million grant for fire trucks) and to all the unseen heroes at the State who worked so diligently to pass this State budget which has apportioned funds for investing in the future of Michigan.

**RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION:**

At 9:25 p.m.

- a. Pursuant to PA 267 of 1976, Section 15.268 (c) for strategy and negotiation sessions connected with the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement.

Motion by Van Langevelde and supported by Duweck to recess to closed session allowing for a 5 minute break before beginning at 9:30. Carried with the required 2/3 vote; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1.

**RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION:**

At 10:05 p.m.

- a. Resolution 2022-17 to approve the union contract with IAFF.

Motion by Dyer and supported by Duweck to approve Resolution 2022-17 IAFF union contract. Carried by roll call vote. Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1.

**ADJOURN:**

Motion by Dyer and supported by Van Langevelde to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 p.m. Carried; Yea 6; Nay 0; Absent 1

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Mayor Michael Armitage

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Mary LaRocque, City Clerk