

CITY OF CHARLOTTE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
111 E. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte, MI 48813 (517) 543-2750
Regular Council Meeting
February 21, 2023

CALL TO ORDER:

By Mayor Armitage on Tuesday February 21, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

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

City staff also in attendance: Community Development Director Myrkle and Police Chief Brentar

INVOCATION:

~~Andy Shaver, Real Life Church,~~ absent

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Led by Mayor Armitage

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. February 06, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Minutes
- b. February 15, 2023 Workshop Meeting Minutes

Motion by Van Langevelde supported by Weissenborn to approve the meeting minutes. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS:

All present

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No comment

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Dyer, supported by Rodriguez to add business agenda item c Fire authority ad hoc committee to the agenda. Failed by roll call vote; Yea 3 (Dyer, Duweck, Rodriguez); Nay 4 (Armitage, Weissenborn, Chin, Van Langevelde); Absent 0

Motion by Van Langevelde supported by Weissenborn to approve the agenda. Carried with roll call vote. Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

- a. Water Rate Study – Presentation of Draft Report

An analysis of revenue to determine the rates required to ensure adequate funding of the City's water and wastewater operations, and to review current policies and ordinances to determine if they are in alignment with best practices and industry standards.

The analysis proposes the use of a \$2.0 million water improvement bond for planned capital improvement projects intended to preserve cash reserves and to provide for a moderate rate increase and spread of rates over a longer period of time.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Approval of Claims and Expenditures totaling \$258,424.77
- b. Approval of Resolution 2023-05 to approve the addition of Michigan Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System as an approved investment option.

Motion by Weissenborn supported by Duweck to approve the consent agenda items a and b. Carried by roll call vote. Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

BUSINESS AGENDA:

- a. Consider approval to award auditing services contract to Maner Costerisan

Motion by Chin supported by Dyer to approve auditing services contract award to Maner Costerisan. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

- b. Consider first approval Resolution 2023-06 approving purchase agreement for land sale at Combs Park to Charlotte Anodizing.

According to City Charter, the sale finalization must be delayed 28 days after council approval of the purchase agreement to allow for a public comment period. If any such comment is submitted, it must be considered by the board.

Motion by Chin supported by Weissenborn to approve Resolution 2023-06 to approve purchase agreement for land sale at Combs Park to Charlotte Anodizing. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

LaPere stated “Volunteers are needed for City Boards” and cautioned about the bad weather tomorrow, schools are closed. She answered questions posed to her about grants and the budget.

- c. Police Report – January, 2023

Brentar reported on current openings – a previous employee is returning to fill the patrol officer vacancy and there remain two sergeant positions available. He answered questions posed to him about hiring operations and timelines.

He and 4 of his officers responded to the MSU shooting incident. He set up and manned with two of his officers the family information center helping to reunite students with their families and two officers were operational searching from dorm to dorm for the suspect. Armitage commended Brentar and his team and the County for the successful results utilizing the training programs they have employed for tragic events like this.

- d. 2023 Council Priorities Report – draft report was received
- e. Council member Committee Reports

Van Langevelde – Park’s Advisory met. Putting money into the budget and looking for grant opportunities for improvements to the parks and reaching out to other communities for their involvement. She mentioned she spoke with Consumers about the markings on the trees; blue dot = trimming and the X = cutting down. Questions can be directed to Consumers 517-374-2493. LaPere mentioned utility markings and flags will be placed by Comcast and the Safe Routes to School construction in the next few weeks. Questions can be directed to City Hall. Rodriguez offered his resources to Van Langevelde in regards to park improvement projects. LaPere noted the 5-year park master plan is coming to an end this coming year.

Weissenborn – the Charlotte Area Recreation Coop – CARC met last week. They are a collaborative board of the townships of Carmel and Eaton and the City of Charlotte. CARC offers

grants to individuals and groups and invites the public to come to meetings with their ideas and requests.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No comments

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Chin – attended the RFA last Thursday and he noted remedies are provided in the contract language with Sparrow EMS if the contract is not being performed as prescribed. Attended chamber meeting put on by the MEDC. He also mentioned a Monday 9:00 coffee hour with State Sen. Anthony; pressing her and Rep Witwer regarding money for pensions.

Duweck – No comment.

Dyer – No comment.

Weissenborn – Expressed her gratitude to the police and county fire for boots on the ground at MSU, as an educator, she appreciates it. She offered her condolences to the family of Mike Bruce on his passing and mentioned his many contributions to his community.

Rodriguez – exchanged questions with LaPere about EMS and the cost recovery billing instituted by past Fire Chief Vogel, LaPere will check into it further.

Van Langevelde – Reiterated Weissenborn comments about police and fire responding to MSU and informed about an option to google “ok2say” where you can report a potential threat anonymously online, or call 911 for an actual threat and if you can’t talk or speak out loud, you can text 9-1-1. LaPere mentioned a national resource; text 988 for mental health crisis.

Armitage – Warned about tomorrows pending ice storm, to stay off the roads and away from downed power lines. Thanking in

advance DPW and road crews and all those working in the elements to keep us safe.

ADJOURN:

Motion by Dyer supported by Van Langevelde to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. Carried; Yea 7; Nay 0; Absent 0

Mayor Michael Armitage

Mary LaRocque, City Clerk