

CITY OF CHARLOTTE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
111 E. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte, MI 48813 (517) 543-2750
Workshop Meeting
March 15, 2023

CALL TO ORDER:

By Mayor Armitage on Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Armitage, Pro-Tem Mayor Weissenborn, Council members Duweck, Chin, and Van Langevelde. A quorum was met. City staff in attendance were City Manager LaPere, DPW Director Gilson and City Clerk LaRocque

Special guests; Charlotte Public School Superintendent Dr. Mandy Stewart and Rowe Professional Services representative Jeff Markstrom.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Mayor Armitage

EXCUSE ABSENT COUNCILMEMBERS:

Rodriguez and Dyer

Motion by Duweck and supported by Van Langevelde to excuse council members Rodriguez and Dyer. Carried; Yea 5, Nay 0, Absent 2

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Lothar Konietzko – resident. Feels communication has been lacking and requests better communication from the City about the Safe Route to School project (SRTS) especially since his lot is sloping and will likely require a retaining wall to accommodate for a sidewalk. Would like notifications by mail.

Joshua Friel – resident. Is opposed to the SRTS project considering he will now be subject to the city ordinance requirements for sidewalk maintenance that he was not previously subject to. Agrees to notifications by mail.

Floyd Hammond – resident. Is opposed to certain sections of the SRTS project believing the reasons for placement of the sidewalk are not adequately justified. He opposes the use of taxpayer funds and is concerned about maintaining the sidewalk in accordance with the requirements by city ordinance.

Sandra Hammond – resident. Is concerned about the SRTS sidewalk being constructed on her property and her ability to maintain it in accordance with the city ordinance due to both her and her spouse being elderly.

APPROVE AGENDA:

Motion by Weissenborn supported by Van Langevelde to approve the agenda. Carried; Yea 5, Nay 0, Absent 2

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a. Discussion on Safe Routes to School Project

An overview of the project was presented by Dr. Mandy Stewart with Gilson answering Councils' questions. An educational portion of the project will be implemented by the school and hiring an individual to facilitate that portion of the program is in process. The project, which began in 2017 is just now ready for the construction phase and begins next week with tree removal and site preparations. Sidewalk installation will begin after Memorial Day and go through October 2023. Final completion is expected by October, 2024.

The expense to the City is expected to be around \$300,000.00 which is less than the \$500,000.00 originally projected.

b. Discussion on 2023 Road Projects and Road Rehabilitation Plan

Amy provided context for Council regarding current revenue sources available for major and local streets. These revenue

sources do not provide enough funding that is required for a healthy road rehabilitation plan. Amy projects full reconstruction costs at \$3.2 million per mile and rehabilitation costs at \$500k per mile. Grants are applied for when available but are competitive and we have been denied several recent applications. A Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER) report, is scheduled for this April.

Projects scheduled for 2023/2024 include a full reconstruction of Hall/Washington/McClure streets; Safe Routes to School (SRTS); and the Island Highway project.

Council discussed having a long-term preventative street maintenance plan that identifies streets needing full reconstruction, or rehabilitation, a schedule of when those projects are slated for and with projected expenses.

Council discussed utilizing ARPA funds and the potential of issuing bonds for use towards street repair.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Lothar Konietzko – resident. For the record, he loves sidewalks. Not opposed to a bond or millage to fund road projects but opposes an income tax. Suggests direct mailing using USPS for communicating important notices. Proposes approaching partners involved in this SRTS project to help the city replace the trees being removed in this project. He is losing a tree in this project that came from his father’s property. Would like follow up communication regarding further details on the SRTS project.

Joshua Friel – resident. Disappointed in not being approached to be involved in SRTS decision planning and process. Feels Amy should be provided an assistant.

Patricia Kuptz – resident. Would like important information communicated by mail as she does not participate in any electronic methods of communications.

Sandra Hammond – resident. Would like important information communicated by mail. 56-year resident, concerned about ability to comply with city ordinance for sidewalk maintenance.

Floyd Hammond – resident. He believes that there are certain areas where the sidewalk is warranted and certain areas where it is not based on the student activities he witnesses before and after school. He invited Council to come witness those activities.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Van Langevelde – Thanked citizen attendees. She agrees better communication is needed. Agrees with important of tree replacement. Excited about the Hall/Washington/McClure street project to begin this year. Thanked Amy for presentation and daily work.

Weissenborn – Thanked citizen attendees. Thanked Amy and her team for all their hard work. She would like to explore tree replacement opportunities.

Armitage – Agrees the 80 trees slated to be removed in the SRTS program should be replaced and having a tree replacement plan should be part of discussions.

Duweck – Citizen attendance at meetings and City communications have been points of discussion by the Council recently. He appreciates attendees and encourages more attendance to hear their perspectives. Communications by the city has been a point of discussion and administration is working to improve those areas.

Chin – Read a statement he prepared in regards to City water bills. Thanked citizens attending and has been working to meet with citizens out in the community.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Weissenborn supported by Van Langevelde to adjourn at 9:47 p.m. Carried. Yea 5; Nay 0; Absent 2

Michael Armitage, Mayor

Mary LaRocque, City Clerk