



CITY OF CHARLESTON

City Council Meeting

January 14, 2025

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by Mayor Rick Toon. Councilwoman Monica Goodin, Councilman Jason Oliver, Councilman Trent Lane, Councilman Jackie Whiteside, City Manager Greg Luehmann, City Attorney Tabatha Graham, City Clerk Ali Morris, Public Works Director, David Harris, and Chief of the Department of Public Safety, Robert Hearnese Jr., were present.

Consideration of Prior Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Councilman Oliver to approve the December 10, 2024, Public Hearing Minutes and the December 10, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes. Councilwoman Goodin seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed. The minutes were approved.

Report of City Business: The city manager explained that the ditch owned by the state near the interstate, next to Whipple Park was cleaned out and trees were removed. It was noted that numerous compliments were received once that was completed.

Mr. Luehmann then explained that the City Attorney has been preparing quit claim deeds to houses in town that have been condemned, in lieu of placing liens on the properties for demolition. This will allow the city to recoup expenses if the properties are sold.

Luehmann then discussed a meeting with Pam Scott from USDA and Jim Grebing, the Director of Bootheel Regional Planning Committee, regarding low-income housing opportunities.

The city manager said there had been an update from Darrall Hirtz with Waters Engineering that all of the necessary studies have been completed and that the bidding for the TAP grant project on the sidewalk repair on Hunter Street should be in late January.

Mr. Luehmann explained that a meeting was held with the Animal Control Officer and the Chief of the Department of Public Safety to discuss how to better address the loose dogs in town.

It was announced that the two public works trucks that were recently leased through Enterprise were received on January 9th. The two DPS Durangos, also leased through Enterprise, are in St. Louis being equipped.

The Facebook page that is being run by Animal Control, which shows dogs that are currently in the dog pound, available for adoption, was commended.

Mr. Luehmann said he discussed a potential grant for demolition of blighted areas in Charleston with Lyric Stotler from CDBG.

To conclude his report, the city manager stated that official approval was received of the CDBG grant for the drainage project that was applied for.

Old Business: There was no old business to discuss.

New Business: The first item of new business was to review the memorandum of understanding of independent contracting agreements for municipal court clerk services with the following cities: Bertrand, East Prairie, and Wyatt. There were no questions as these were existing agreements with no changes made for renewal. A motion was made by Councilman Whiteside to approve the agreements. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed. The motion carried and the agreements for court clerk services were approved.

It was agreed to table the next item on the agenda, which was consideration of an ordinance to lease/purchase the new fire truck apparatus. The city manager explained that he was waiting to hear back on a local bank to compare rates.

Introduction of Visitors: Britton Ferrell, Barry Morgan, Amber Salyer, Talisha Mays, Todd Clodfelter, Kenny Hulshof, Jayne Ellen Ray, Lance Ray, Sheila Shankle, Tiffany Shankle, Raymond Ivy, Jeff Sams, and Sherry Austin were present.

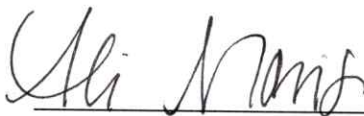
There was one person who turned in the council meeting participation request form. Mr. Raymond Ivy submitted the form, which asked the responsibilities/duties of the Charleston dog catcher. Mayor Toon explained that we do have a job description and would be more than glad to give him that job description. Mr. Ivy was then allowed to speak his three minutes regarding his concerns of the dog catcher.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Councilman Whiteside to adjourn the meeting to go into a closed session to discuss personnel. Councilwoman Goodin seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed. The motion passed and the regular session was adjourned.



Presiding Officer

ATTEST:



City Clerk

Richard Joan

Mayor

Ali Mami

City Clerk