



CITY OF CHARLESTON

**City Council Meeting
February 13, 2024**

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jackie Whiteside at 6:30PM. Councilwoman Monica Goodin, Councilman Rick Toon, Councilman Clark Dugan, Chief of the Department of Public Safety, Robert Hearn, Jr., City Clerk Ali Morris, Director of Public Works, David Harris, and Department of Public Safety, Officer Austin Henson were present. Councilman Phil Halter and City Attorney Tabatha Graham were absent.

Consideration of Prior Meeting Minutes: Mayor Whiteside asked if all council members had a chance to read over the prior meeting minutes. They all said they had, and Councilman Toon made a motion to approve both the minutes from the January 9, 2024, regular meeting and the January 12, 2024, special called meeting minutes. Councilman Dugan seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed. Both sets of minutes were approved.

Report of City Business: City Manager Greg Luehmann began his report by asking if it was okay to let Ms. Sherry Austin give the update on the upcoming solar eclipse event being planned for early April. Ms. Austin then stood up to address the council and said that CHARM and the Chamber of Commerce are working together on the event, and they have a T-shirt design that has not yet been finalized, but they have reserved AD Simpson Park for April the 8th and plan to have the event begin at 11:30AM and go until at least 2:30PM. They plan on having cornhole and other yard games available for people to play. She said they want to encourage people to bring their own blankets, white sheets, or lawn chairs. They also plan on having food vendors set up to sell and offer a variety of food. CHARM plans on having some drinks, snacks, and T-shirts for sale.

The City Manager went on with his report by stating that he had spoken with Nelson Byrd in January to discuss potential building sites for homes on a property that the Byrds own behind City Hall. Hudson Byrd was present, and he said they plan to re-address the idea mid-summer.

Mr. Luehmann told the council that the city just recently renewed one CD at First State Bank and Trust at 5.05%.

The city manager mentioned that he and Chief Hearn attended the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration at the Bowden Center in January.

He then asked Chief Hearn to give the update on the status of DPS vehicles and Flock LPRs. Chief Hearn stated that one of the new Dodge Durangos has been outfitted and is in use. The

other is in St. Louis being upfitted now. The 2015 Ford Taurus is having engine problems and the estimate for a new engine would be \$5,500, but they are waiting on a second opinion and estimate of repair rather than replacement. The Crown Victoria is being transferred to another city employee to drive (the code enforcement officer). Councilman Toon then asked if they typically budget for a new vehicle or two each year in the budget. Chief Hearnese replied yes, they usually do, and we are getting close to the end of the current budget year so they may talk about budgeting for replacing the Ford Taurus soon.

Chief Hearnese then stated that they did get approval on the Flock Safety license plate reader technology, but they are still waiting for a solid date of installation.

Councilman Toon then asked about the gun shot detection technology. Chief Hearnese said he had not heard of anything lately, but there may be some upcoming grant money for such projects.

The city manager then mentioned that he and David Harris spoke with the Missouri Highway Department about plans to smooth out the highway near Exit 12. They plan to use a diamond grinder at the end of the project, estimated to be this coming August.

Next, Mr. Luehmann said he met with Mike Mueller and discussed his proposal to place pallet planters in various city parks. Mr. Mueller was present and explained these would add color to all parks prior to the Dogwood-Azalea Festival. Councilman Toon asked if the pallet planters would be similar to the planters located throughout town. Mr. Mueller said the pallet planters would be metal cages attached to a pallet so that they can move them with a forklift and would already have soil in them so that they are easier to maintain. The planters could be wrapped in anything the city desires such as advertisements, wood designs, or white lattice.

Mr. Luehmann stated that he and David Harris met with Mitch Pullen and Hudson Byrd to discuss building a deck at Hillhouse Park for spectators to sit in. Those plans have been sent to engineer, Lee Hess for approval.

Pastor Joe Mooney of the First Christian Church called to thank the Public Works Department for their quick and efficient response to a clogged sewer that occurred during a funeral meal they were hosting. The city manager mentioned it is always nice to hear positive feedback about the city employees.

Mr. Luehmann said he met with Todd Clodfelter, the new Chamber of Commerce Director and said he looks forward to working with him. Mr. Clodfelter was actually on the agenda and would introduce himself later in the meeting.

The dog kennel received a follow-up visit by the Department of Agriculture and all items cited during the previous inspection had been corrected. A copy of the report was included in the council packets.

To conclude his report, Mr. Luehmann informed everyone that Horner Shifrin teams were still in town inspecting homes for the lead inventory project.

Old Business: The only item on the agenda under old business was Consideration of Amended Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Charleston and the City of Wyatt for Court Clerk Services. This MOU was previously approved and signed by the council, however, the

start date was delayed and needed to be changed. A motion was made by Councilman Toon to approve the memorandum of understanding. Councilwoman Goodin seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed. The motion passed and the memorandum of understanding was approved.

New Business: The first item on the agenda under new business was to discuss a potential lease proposal of street sweeper equipment. At this time, Director of Public Works, David Harris addressed the council to explain. Harris explained that the current street sweeper, which the city purchased in 2020, is still in good shape but is facing a few issues this year that will cost approximately \$25,000-\$30,000. Harris explained that there is always maintenance to keep up on this type of equipment. Sourcewell offered \$85,000 for the current sweeper as a trade-in, along with a discount if the city were to buy the maintenance plan, which would cover all replacement of air filters, fuel filters, etc. A copy of the lease proposal was included in the council packets. Wearable items such as brooms and tires would still be the city's responsibility to replace and/or repair. The city manager mentioned that since he has been with the city, he has heard a lot of compliments about the streets being kept clean, which in turn helps keep the sewers clear. David Harris then told the council all he needed from them at this time was whether or not they should move forward with the lease agreement. A motion was made by Councilman Toon to move forward with the trade-in and lease agreement. Councilman Dugan seconded the motion. All were in favor, and none were opposed.

Harris then mentioned that some may have seen in the local newspaper, the State posted that the City of Charleston received an award for fluoride levels in the water. Councilman Toon then asked if the ammonia levels were affected. Harris said yes, during the month of January when the temperature dropped, the ammonia levels were exceeded. This is simply because it froze up. A contract has already been signed with Waters Engineering to design lagoon improvements to help prevent this issue. We are still waiting on grant opportunities to begin the project, but one of the grant requirements was to have an engineer on staff ready to go.

Next on the agenda was to Discuss closing a Capital Improvements Checking Account at First State Bank & Trust and combine those funds with Capital Improvements Checking Account at Citizens Bank. FSBT requires minutes to be provided from a council meeting in order to close an account. The city manager explained that there is approximately \$2,600 in the account to be closed. A motion was made by Councilman Toon to close the FSBT account. Councilwoman Goodin seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed.

Todd Clodfelter from the Chamber of Commerce was on the agenda to introduce himself as the new Chamber Director. Clodfelter described himself as a transplant from Tucson, Arizona and said when he had the opportunity to come to Charleston, Missouri, he was "thrilled to death". He said he had the opportunity to meet with Councilwoman Goodin earlier that day but hoped to meet each council member at some point. He then mentioned he brought applications with him for Chamber membership and wanted to introduce himself and make himself available to everyone. Mayor Whiteside asked how many days the Chamber office would be open. Clodfelter replied as of right now, Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, but hopefully they will be

able to be open more days with the help of volunteers. Whiteside also mentioned he hoped he would be working alongside the CHARM group as they are doing many great things for the community. Clodfelter said he attended the CHARM meeting the night prior and agreed they have made a lot of progress, and he looks forward to working with them. Councilman Toon invited the Chamber Director to attend the Charleston Historic Preservation meetings held at City Hall the Monday before each council meeting. Clodfelter said he would be willing to attend any meeting and is glad to help.

Recognition of Visitors: Hudson Byrd, Sherry Austin, Cati Austin, Sheila Shankle, Rodney Jones, Mike Mueller, Todd Clodfelter, Quender Jackson, Quenita Jenae Goodin, Jeff Sams, Talisha Mays, and Kenny Hulshof were present.

Kenny Hulshof addressed the council and said he noticed a historic building in Charleston was being torn down and wanted to know if a demolition permit was applied for or if they were even required. Director of Public Works, David Harris responded that demolition permits are not required, but usually people come to city hall and notify us when they plan on doing such a project. Hulshof then asked that the ordinance that was recently passed for the Historic Preservation be looked into to make sure this type of demolition would not need to go to the committee in order for them to have an opinion on it beforehand. Councilman Toon asked if all obligations had been met in order to become a certified local government and Hulshof replied, not yet, and there is a letter that will need to be signed by the Mayor and he is working on getting that together.

Hudson Byrd then mentioned that he has noticed a lot of trash on the south side of town around Casey's and asked when the dumpsters would be behind City Hall for Spring Cleanup. David Harris said that the cleanup dates have been scheduled for March 30th-April 7th, but that there are three dumpsters at the public works shop and anyone who wants to pick up trash is more than welcome to utilize those dumpsters for that purpose.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Councilman Dugan to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Toon seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:06PM.

ATTEST:



City Clerk



City Clerk



Presiding Officer



Mayor