



CITY OF CHARLESTON

City Council Meeting April 15, 2025

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by Mayor Rick Toon. Chairman Pro Tem Monica Goodin, Councilman Jason Oliver, Councilman Trent Lane, Councilman Jackie Whiteside, City Manager Greg Luehmann, City Attorney Tabatha Graham, City Clerk Ali Morris, Sergeant at Arms Robert Hearnese, and Public Safety Officer Steven Kuykendall were present.

Resolution NO. 1116: A Resolution Accepting and Approving Certified Results of General Election held on April 8, 2025. Councilman Oliver made a motion to approve the resolution and election results. Councilwoman Goodin seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed. The motion carried and Resolution NO. 1116 was approved.

Oath of Office for Newly Elected Councilmembers: The oaths of office were administered by City Attorney, Tabatha Graham to the three newly elected council members, Trent Lane, Jackie Whiteside, and Monica Goodin.

Election of Mayor for the term of April 15, 2025, through April 7, 2026: Councilman Whiteside made a motion to appoint Monica Goodin as Mayor for the term of April 15, 2025, through April 7, 2026. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed. The motion carried and Monica Goodin was appointed Mayor.

Presentation of Plaque to Outgoing Mayor: A plaque of gratitude for his service as mayor for the last year was presented to Rick Toon by Monica Goodin.

Election of Chairman Pro Tem for the term of April 15, 2025, through April 7, 2026: Councilman Toon made a motion to appoint Councilman Oliver to the Chairman Pro Tem position for the term of April 15, 2025, through April 7, 2026. Councilman Lane seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed. The motion carried and Jason Oliver was appointed Chairman Pro Tem.

Consideration of Prior Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Councilman Toon to approve the March 11, 2025, meeting minutes. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed. The minutes were approved.

Report of City Business: The City Manager reported that the financing agreement through Citizens Bank on the new fire engine has been finalized and the truck should be delivered in June.

It was also mentioned that it was discussed to finance a new backhoe, and that will be presented in the next fiscal year budget.

Placer AI software was mentioned as last year they were able to track people's whereabouts by phones and that there were over 16,000 visitors during the Dogwood-Azalea Festival. This software may be a potential purchase with hopes of attracting companies to Charleston.

Mr. Luehmann said that improvements to the Plaza building were discussed, and they are listed as a potential place for business through the Mississippi County IDA.

Continued discussion with Anna Ferrell with Shining Light, Christy Legrand, and Jim Grebing from Bootheel Regional Planning on a joint project to build a safe house at the current Shining Light location was mentioned. This is a high priority project to the Bootheel Regional Planning Commission for our area as we do not have a safe house in Charleston. Mr. Luehmann explained that this will be a joint effort, and the city would request a grant to help with funding.

The city manager explained he had a conference call with Ben White, the Senior Program Specialist from Missouri Main Street, Jennifer Hall, Tiffany Shankle, and Kenny Hulshof. They discussed three options-TIF, 353 Tax Abatement, and Community Improvement Districts that are being used in the state.

Mr. Luehmann mentioned he visited the office US Congressman, Jason Smith. He also met with Diedre Belmar, and she opened a case to investigate why no funds seemed to be available through USDA to fund the storm sirens that we had requested back in May of last year. We were then notified that we were approved for \$50,000. As citizens are concerned about the lack of operating storm sirens, hopefully they will be patient as this is saving the city money and Mr. Luehmann said he hopes to have the new sirens installed by June 1st.

It was explained that Jason Oliver called to inform the city manager that the Kiwanis Club approved a donation to the city for the purchase of two digital signs and he is continuing to discuss the opportunity with various service organizations who are still interested in helping to fund the project.

Mr. Luehmann said a meeting was held with Charleston IDA to purchase the digital signs as well. It was explained that the amount of the donations, (\$6,111.12) was determined by the number of potential organizations willing to participate in funding the signs.

The city manager said it was important to note that other organizations will be able to utilize the signage even if they do not help fund it.

Next, it was mentioned that results from MODOT on a study of North of Goodin Ave were reported and it was decided not to make any changes to the speed limit at this time.

Mr. Luehmann said he met with David Harris and Rodney and Pam Jones to review water main and sewer issues at the old Ameren UE building, which is now Meet the Need. It was explained

that although the city vacated the street that runs through the property, the city still maintains the services to the property and the Church and Parsonage behind it.

To conclude his report, the city manager explained he had a meeting with Germain Pang from Fresh Start Community Center and C-2000. They are promoting a safer place to live by reducing gun violence and youth substance abuse. As part of this program, they would like to erect signage in all of the city parks. There were examples of the signage in the council packets. They agreed to allow the signage, and it was noted that the city would also utilize the LED sign to help as well.

Councilman Lane then expressed his concern about the citizens receiving information and how they are being informed on what is going on in the city council meetings. Multiple forms of communication were discussed, and it was ultimately decided to try and reach more people through more forms of media.

Old Business: The only item of old business was to discuss the possibility of allowing chickens within the city limits of Charleston. An email in favor of allowing chickens was included in the council packets that was sent to the city manager. Mayor Goodin read the email aloud. After much discussion, it was decided by majority of the council that they would not pursue allowing chickens within city limits at this time.

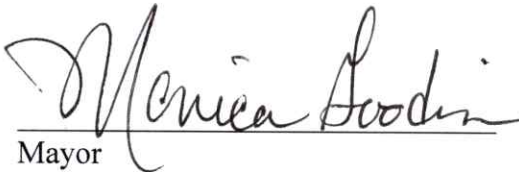
New Business: The only item of new business was the appointment of Nicky Thurmond to fill the vacancy on the Charleston Historic Preservation Committee. A motion was made by Councilman Whiteside to appoint Nicky Thurmond to the Charleston Historic Preservation Committee. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed. The motion carried and the appointment was made.

Introduction of Visitors: Tomisha Lane, Vallorie Jones, Theodia Clay, Florestine Tyler, Talisha Mays, and Kenny Hulshof were present.

Talisha Mays submitted the council meeting participation form and addressed the council.

At this time, Councilman Lane explained that he would not mind having a facilitated meeting and that it would be a good opportunity to hear from the citizens.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Councilman Whiteside to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Toon seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed. The meeting was adjourned.


Mayor

ATTEST:


City Clerk