



CITY OF CHARLESTON

City Council Meeting

December 10, 2024

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, Chief of the Department of Public Safety, Robert Hearn Jr., and Public Safety Officer, Tyler Babb and Public Safety Officer, Curtis Arnold were present.

Consideration of Prior Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Councilman Oliver to approve the previous meeting minutes from the November meeting. Councilman Lane and Councilwoman Goodin both seconded the motion at the same time. All were in favor. None were opposed. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.

Report of City Business: City Manager, Greg Luehmann mentioned the downtown event hosted by CHARM, "Fall in Love with Charleston" and Sherry Austin stood and explained that there was a good turnout.

Mr. Luehmann made reference to the Finding of Compliance report from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources that was included in the council packets. They conducted a sanitary survey of Charleston's public water system and compliance with Missouri safe drinking water statutes was evaluated. Public Works Director, David Harris, was present and answered all questions in relation to the survey.

It was then mentioned that Mr. Harris and Rich Cochran with Waters Engineering are working with DNR on renewal of the operating permit for the wastewater plant. Harris also answered all questions in relation to the permit.

Next, it was explained that letters were sent to every Charleston resident from Horner Shifrin in relation to the lead service line inspections that were completed this year. All the letters were either marked "Confirmed: Galvanized Requiring Replacement" or "Unknown: Possibly Lead". There was no lead found at any of the locations that were inspected by the engineering company. However, the letters that are marked "Unknown" were either due to being denied access to inspect, or there was no one at the location. The Public Works Director, David Harris, explained that these letters will continue to be mailed out each year until all requirements are met.

The city manager then explained that Day 3 Seeds donated trees to be planted on Sy Williams Street, across from the Bowden Center, and commended Charleston Schools Superintendent, Jamarcus Williams, Principal Jen Ford, and Austin O'Connor and his CHS landscaping students for participating in the planting of the trees. Mr. Luehmann said a special thanks goes to Jason Oliver and B.J. Babb for participating as well.

A potential art project in the form of a statue was discussed.

The city manager informed the council that there was no price increase in health insurance for the city employees for the next year.

Mr. Luehmann mentioned he attended the recent Chamber of Commerce meeting and discussed the results of the recent election of new chamber board members.

The dedication ceremony in honor of Ricky Frazier was mentioned, as it was held at the newly renovated basketball courts behind the Bowden Center by the Charleston Housing Authority.

It was then mentioned that two individuals will be hired to attend the police academy beginning in January.

The Love's Travel Stop project was mentioned and Mr. Luehmann said it is moving rapidly.

Luehmann said he met with the Bootheel Regional Planning Commission and Jim Grebing about potential grant opportunities for new housing. He also explained that the Mississippi County IDA hired a full-time Executive Director and encouraged everyone to visit her office at the courthouse.

It was mentioned that the city manager spoke with David Harris, Public Works Director, in regard to the potential purchase of a floating dock at Hequembourg Pond, and they are waiting on an estimate from a company recommended by the Missouri Conservation Department.

To conclude the report, Mr. Luehmann explained that approval was received by the Missouri Department of Conservation for a volunteer fire assistance grant in the amount of \$19,736 for the purchase of equipment for the new fire truck. The city will be reimbursed 50% of invoiced purchases.

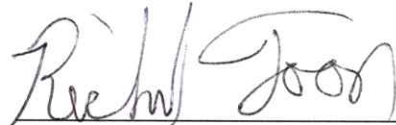
Old Business: There was no old business to discuss.

New Business: The first item of new business was to discuss the pre-approval of the El Cerrito Mexican Restaurant's liquor license. It was explained that the previous owner of the restaurant recently took ownership of the location once again and is awaiting the state issued liquor license to open its doors. Chief Hearnese said there were no prior incidents at the location that would prohibit them from obtaining a license. All of the council members agreed it was in the best interest to pre-approve the city liquor license for the restaurant.

Mr. Kenny Hulshof was next on the agenda to give an update on the Historic Preservation Committee. Mr. Hulshof referred to a public hearing that had recently been held regarding the potential demolition of Charleston's oldest building-the Masonic Lodge. Hulshof voiced concern and challenged the council to do some fact-finding.

Introduction of Visitors: Cal Coleman, Kenny Hulshof, Sherry Austin, Catie Austin, Todd Clodfelter, Mike Owens, and Barbara Cleaves were present. Mayor Toon announced that there was only one person to turn in the visitor participation form and that it was "too broad" of a statement to be addressed.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Councilwoman Goodin to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

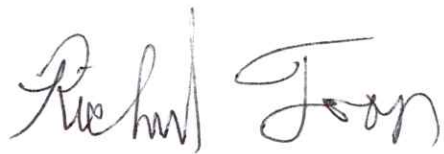


Presiding Officer

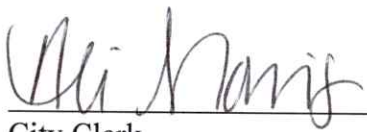
ATTEST:



City Clerk



Mayor



City Clerk