



CITY OF CHARLESTON

**City Council Meeting
February 11, 2025**

Meeting Minutes

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

Consideration of Prior Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Councilman Oliver to approve the January 14, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes and the January 28, 2025, Special Call Meeting Minutes. Councilman Lane seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed. The minutes were approved.

Report of City Business: The city manager explained that a meeting was held in January with him, Bobby Hearnese, Anthony Moody, and Barry Morgan about partnering with the Sheriff's Department for dispatch services. Updates were made to the dispatch office.

Mr. Luehmann said communication is ongoing with Citizens Bank and Community Leasing Partners regarding the lease rates for the new fire truck, but that there is still plenty of time to decide on which entity to partner with.

The city manager said he had a meeting with the Public Works Director, David Harris and Shoreline Aquatics, to discuss a potential fishing dock for Hequembourg Pond. Luehmann said the concrete around the pond looks really nice and that David Harris suggested the possibility of installing a rail around the concrete area. Grant opportunities for said projects were also discussed.

Mr. Luehmann said he met with Mike Mueller with Day 3 Seeds to renew the agreement for maintaining the pallet planters in the parks, along with flowers at city hall.

The city manager then mentioned he and the Chief of the Department of Public Safety, Bobby Hearnese attended a FEMA meeting where the drainage project was discussed along with grant opportunities for a new generator for the water plant. Mr. Luehmann said that after speaking with the Public Works Director, David Harris, and learning that the current generator is twenty-five years old, this would be a good grant to pursue, but the current unit is inspected every ninety days and there are no issues currently.

Mr. Luehmann explained that with the approval of the CDBG grant for the drainage project, he and David Harris contacted the farmland owner to ask about connecting with the county drainage pipe and he said that the meeting went really well.

It was mentioned that the two new public safety Durangos were picked up from Public Safety Upfitters and they stopped by Banner Equipment to get an update on the repairs of the fire truck, as well as the status of the new fire truck.

It was also mentioned that the two new public works trucks were picked up in Paducah, Kentucky and one of our old trucks was then donated to the East Prairie dog catcher.

Mr. Luehmann then explained that it was discussed with the Pastor from the First Christian Church to change the location of the Farmers Market to the pocket park on North Main Street.

Old Business: There was no old business to discuss.

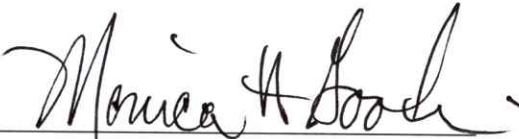
New Business: Bree Hileman with the Mississippi County IDA was on the agenda, but she had to cancel.

Next on the agenda was Todd Clodfelter with the Chamber of Commerce to give update on the upcoming Dogwood Azalea Festival. Mr. Clodfelter explained that there have been several interested vendors to sign up to participate in the festival. Directional signage improvements were mentioned, and the director spoke about promotional avenues to reach more prospective attendees for the festival. Shuttle transportation was also mentioned.

The final item of new business was an update from the Charleston Historic Preservation Commission. Mr. Kenny Hulshof addressed the council regarding Chapter 353- a statute of Missouri for blighted areas as well as the possibility of a committee to consider making changes to existing city ordinances in order to help better utilize historic buildings, creating a "business friendly" code. The need to develop a demolition permit requirement was also expressed by Mr. Hulshof.

Introduction of Visitors: Todd Clodfelter, Kenny Hulshof, Sheila Shankle, Tiffiny Shankle, Sherry Austin, Talisha Mays, and Yuknica Kimble were present.

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


Presiding Officer

ATTEST:

Ali Namit
City Clerk

Monica H. Leahy
Mayor Pro Tem

Ali Namit
City Clerk