



CITY OF CHARLESTON

**City Council Meeting
June 10, 2025**

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by Mayor, Monica Goodin. Councilman Jason Oliver, Councilman Trent Lane, Councilman Jackie Whiteside, Councilman Rick Toon, City Manager Greg Luehmann, City Attorney Tabatha Graham, City Clerk Ali Morris, Sergeant at Arms Robert Hearnese, and Public Safety Officer, Ie'Meion Giles were present. Mayor Goodin asked for everyone to stand and say the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consideration of Prior Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Councilman Toon to approve the May 13, 2025, Meeting Minutes. Councilman Lane seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed. The meeting minutes were approved.

Report of City Business: The city manager gave a report for the month of May. Mr. Luehmann reported that two sidewalks were replaced in town.

The city manager explained the special circumstances regarding the temporary FOCUS Bank building as the need was due to the FEMA emergency. The 13" of rain caused sand to wash away from the main location's foundation on Main Street, which caused the entire staff to evacuate. Mr. Luehmann said that the city waived the permit fee due to the situation.

It was mentioned that a meeting was held to discuss the remaining households that need to be inspected by Horner Shiffrin for the lead survey.

The bid opening for the TAP Grant sidewalk project for Hunter Street was mentioned. Waters Engineering completed a review of all bids and made a recommendation to the city to accept the best bid and move forward with the project. The awarded company has done previous work with the city.

The city manager explained that the Code Enforcement Officer, Mr. Ken Stevenson, submitted a letter stating that his last day of work for the city would be May 28, 2025.

It was mentioned that numerous citizens were scheduled to appear in court for code violations.

A week of limb pick up was scheduled for the week of June 23rd. The conditions were included in the council packets.

It was mentioned that a meeting was held with Mike Mueller from Day 3 Seeds to discuss replacing plants in front of City Hall and planting pecan trees at Hequemebourg Pond Park, donated by John Moreton.

The city manager then reported that letters from the Charleston Ministerial Alliance and the First Baptist Church were sent to city hall, expressing opposition to the sale of alcohol in the park during the Dogwood-Azalea Festival and other future events. There was also a report from the Chief of the Department of Public Safety that also expressed opposition as well.

Mr. Luehmann then explained he met with the owner of the local hotels about making potential improvements to the properties. He asked the owner to provide a list of improvements and estimates of costs.

The city manager mentioned that he spoke with Jim Grebing about interest in applying for an additional CDBG grant. There are two options for which to use the grant. One option would be for demolition and the other would be the development of a new street, which would be tied to work force housing.

It was reported that the first case of vandalism at Rolwing Park occurred since opening of the restrooms. A syringe, toilet paper rolls, and a large tree were stuffed into the men's toilet. A police report was filed, and two individuals were located and questioned about the incident.

To conclude the report, the city manager said the contracted work had begun on the Virginia Street water tank. The tank was being cleaned and repainted.

Old Business: The first item of old business was consideration of Bill NO. 3970 / Ordinance NO. 3111, An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor, on Behalf of the City of Charleston, Missouri, to Enter into a Contract with Gilmore & Bell, PC, Specifically Mark D. Grimm to Serve as a Special Attorney for Purposes Related to Economic Development Incentives. It was discussed that this is the first step toward the 353 Tax Abatement process. Mayor Goodin read the ordinance by title two times. A motion was made by Councilman Oliver to accept the ordinance. Councilman Whiteside seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed. The motion carried and the ordinance was approved.

The second item of old business was to discuss Chapter 400, Article II, Section 400.070. "B-1" General Zoning District Regulations. It was noted that anyone wishing to construct apartments in downtown buildings must apply to the Planning & Zoning Board with the City Council to make final decisions.

New Business: The first item of new business was to present a plaque to Brenda Bickford in recognition of her sixteen years of service as the School Resource Officer for the City of Charleston.

The second item of new business was to present a plaque of recognition to the Grand Avenue Church that read "For Embodying the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. through unwavering service, unity, and love. Your dedication to community outreach-paving paths, sharing warmth, and uplifting youth-has illuminated Charleston with hope and purpose. In 2025, your congregation was honored with the 2024 Community Award, a testament to your steadfast commitment to building a beloved community. May your light continue to shine brightly, inspiring all to walk in love and service." Pastor Kasyupa, along with about twenty members of the Church were in attendance to accept the plaque.

Next on the agenda was an introduction of the High School Coaching Staff. The new head coach, Trent Adams, and his family were present. Adams addressed the council and expressed the importance of community involvement.

Next on the agenda was to review liquor license applications that had been submitted as renewals. The liquor licenses expire June 30th of each year. Only five had turned in their renewal applications. A motion was made by Councilman Whiteside to approve the five liquor license applications, as well as any more that are submitted before July 1st. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed. The motion carried and the liquor license applications were approved for Love's Travel Stop, Casey's General Store #1560, Casey's General Store #1711, Charles' Top Notch, Family Dollar, and any others that are submitted before July 1st.

The next item on the agenda was authorization for the City Manager to apply for a business credit card for the City of Charleston with the Bankers' Bank of Kansas. The city manager explained that the city has not had a credit card since Mr. Halter was the interim city manager and the city needs one to make certain necessary purchases. The credit limit requested was \$10,000.00 and Anna Ferrell with FOCUS Bank has been assisting with the application. A motion was made Councilman Oliver to approve the city manager to apply for the credit card. Councilman Toon seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed. The motion carried and the city manager was approved to proceed with the credit card application.

Next was consideration of changing the date of the July council meeting due to the July 4th holiday. A motion was made to move the council meeting to Wednesday, July 16th by Councilman Whiteside. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed. The July council meeting date was changed.

Accepting the resignation of Code Enforcement Officer, Ken Stevenson was the next item of business. A motion was made by Councilman Whiteside to accept the resignation. Councilman Lane seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed. The motion carried and the resignation was accepted.

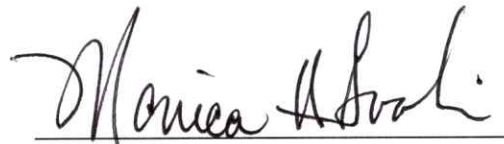
The next item of business was Bill NO. 3971 / Ordinance NO. 3112- An Ordinance Appointing Austyn Humphrey to the Position of Code Enforcement Officer for the City of Charleston, Missouri, and Establishing the Terms of Said Appointment. The mayor read the ordinance by title two times. A motion was made by Councilman Whiteside to approve the ordinance and appoint Austyn Humphrey to the Code Enforcement Officer position. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed. The motion carried and Austyn Humphrey was appointed to the Code Enforcement position.

The Charleston Chamber of Commerce and Tourism was on the agenda to provide a report on the 2025 Dogwood-Azalea Festival. Chamber Director, Todd Clodfelter addressed the council and provided details of potential improvements and changes to be made next year.

Introduction of Visitors: Doris Wheeler, Reo Johnson, Cherlene Mixon, Quender Jackson, Hattie Davis, Ceola Jackson, Rosa Barfield, Barbara Robinson, Maurice Theriot, Maxine Theriot, Sarah Kent, Ervin Watts, Brian Visor II, Lynda Warford, Brenda Bickford, Brian

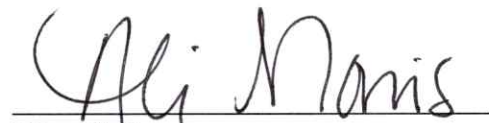
Bickford, Audrey Johnson, Vereline Johnson, Barbara Stovall, Sheila Shankle, Tiffany Shankle, Talisha Mays, Sherry Austin, Artasha Rivers, Cati Baltrusaitis, Kaitlin Ray, Todd Clodfelter, Robert Salter, Coach Trent Adams and his family, and Pastor Lasajo Kasyupa and his family were present.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Councilman Toon to adjourn the meeting and go into a closed session to discuss personnel. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk