



CITY OF CHARLESTON

City Council Meeting August 12, 2025

Meeting Minutes

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

Consideration of Prior Meeting Minutes: The City Council minutes of the July 18, 2025, Special Meeting were presented. Councilman Oliver moved to approve the minutes as presented. Councilman Toon seconded the motion, and the following vote was recorded: all were in favor and none were opposed.

Report of City Business: City Manager, Greg Luehmann, gave a report for the month of July.

Mr. Luehmann reported that he attended a seminar, sponsored by CHARM, at Meet the Need about empowering entrepreneurs.

It was reported that one of the tennis courts was power-washed and the other would be done soon.

The city manager said he met with Trent Hurley from Hurley and Associates to discuss office expansion options. Mr. Luehmann then explained that the vacant lot on East Marshall, owned by Charleston Regional Economic Development (CREED), would be donated in order to keep Hurley and Associates in Charleston.

Mr. Luehmann explained that he met with Leonard Harrison from the City of Bertrand to discuss the possibility of donating the retired Code Enforcement vehicle to them.

He said he also met with Daniel Adams with the Sheriff's Department to discuss donating another city vehicle.

The city manager explained that four diseased trees were removed from the recently purchased property adjacent to Rolwing Park. He said he also met with Casie Holcomb to review options of plants for the potential Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary. A proposal for native plants should be available shortly.

Mr. Luehmann mentioned he met with City Attorney, Tabatha Graham, Kenny Hulshof, and Mark Grimm to discuss the next steps with the 353 Tax Abatement process.

The city manager said he had a call with someone from MODOT and discussed the possibility of removing the stoplight at the Highway 105 interchange and Drake Street. After some discussion, everyone agreed that they would rather leave the light functioning.

Mr. Luehmann said he spoke with Councilman Lane about the possibility of installing a sidewalk on West Marshall on the State right of way. This would require state participation, but Luehmann said he would look into it.

The city manager said he met with the Chief of Police and Lester Gillespie to discuss plans for Labor Day weekend. Mr. Gillespie stressed the importance of the community and the city working together for a successful and safe holiday weekend. A committee was formed to plan the events which will occur in the baseball field area and the parking lot of the Charleston Housing Authority on August 30th and August 31st. The hours of use will be from 8AM-12AM on both days. Mr. Luehmann mentioned that there was a letter of support from the Housing Authority in the council packets.

Mr. Luehmann mentioned a new School Resource Officer was hired, who was previously hired with the city.

The city manager mentioned that the City of Charleston was awarded 2023 and 2024 Water Fluoridation Awards from the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors and the American Dental Association. A copy of the letter, addressed to the Public Works Director, David Harris, was included in the council packets.

Mr. Luehmann explained that a pack of dogs was recently captured, who were involved in an incident with a neighbor's cat. Luehmann also mentioned that there have been up to 16 dogs in the city's possession with help from the new dog kennel facility.

To conclude his report, the city manager mentioned that he spoke with the Charleston Manor's facility manager, and he confirmed that there were no plans to turn the facility into a homeless shelter or a halfway house despite rumors circulating. They hope to reopen the skilled nursing facility in the next 6-12 months.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Rich Cochran with Waters Engineering was on the agenda to discuss the recent inspection results of the Wastewater Treatment Plant and future upgrades. One of the violations has already been rectified as it was the "area around Outfall 001 was heavily overgrown, causing low visibility, preventing access to the outfall, and impeding viewing of the outfall area". The area has since been mowed down. Mr. Cochran explained that Discharge Monitoring Reports from July 2023 to July 2025 showed violations of the MSOP effluent limits as specified in the report provided in the council packets. The city has been aware of the issue with the ammonia violation for many years. Cochran mentioned that the city applied for ARPA grant funds before and were not awarded any but are still on the waiting list. DNR is saying that it is time to keep moving toward rectifying the issues and September 5th is the deadline to notify them of a plan.

The obvious issue is funding, and prices have only gone up and will continue to. USDA has a grant to fund 100% of the engineering survey necessary to move forward. The resolution on the agenda is the first step in hopefully obtaining those funds.

The next item of new business was Resolution NO. 1119- A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Charleston Acceptance and Compliance with Various Requirements to Obtain Financial Assistance from United States of America, Acting Through the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development. Mayor Goodin read the resolution by title and asked for a motion to suspend the second reading. A motion was made by Councilman Oliver to suspend the second reading. Councilman Toon seconded the motion. A motion was then made by Councilman Oliver to pass Resolution 1119. Councilman Toon seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed.

Next was Bill NO. 3975 / Ordinance NO. 3116- An Ordinance Accepting the Proposal from Vandevanter Engineering in order to Replace a 25-Year-Old Pump. Mayor Goodin read the ordinance two times by title. Public Works Director, David Harris, stood and explained that \$100,000 is budgeted each year to upgrade our lift stations. He explained that this expenditure will be for one of the pumps at the master lift station behind the old Gates building. The specs were provided in the council packets. A motion was made by Councilman Oliver to pass Bill NO. 3975 / Ordinance NO. 3116. Councilman Whiteside seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed.

Bill NO. 3976 / Ordinance NO. 3117- An Ordinance Accepting the Bid from WirelessUSA for Four Storm Sirens was next on the agenda. A motion was made by Councilman Oliver to suspend the second reading. Councilman Whiteside seconded the motion. A motion was then made by Councilman Whiteside to accept Bill NO. 3976 / Ordinance NO. 3117 and accept the bid from WirelessUSA. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed.

Bill NO. 3977 / Ordinance NO. 3118- An Ordinance Amending and Establishing Water, Sewer, and Trash Rates was next on the agenda. Mayor Goodin read the ordinance two times by title. It was explained that this is year four of a five-year-plan established in 2022 to increase the water, sewer, and trash rates annually. A motion was made by Councilman Whiteside to approve Bill NO. 3977 / Ordinance NO. 3118. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed.

Introduction of Visitors: Barry Morgan, Mike Owens, Martin Parker, Kenny Hulshof, Rich Cochran, Talisha Mays, Jayne Ellen Ray, Lester Gillespie, Trent Adams, Andrea Adams, Tom Davis, and Greg Strayhorn were present.

Adjournment: There being no further business before the City Council, Mayor Goodin adjourned the meeting.


Mayor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. L. Namis", written over a horizontal line.

City Clerk