



CITY OF CHARLESTON

City Council Meeting September 10, 2024

Meeting Minutes

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

Consideration of Prior Meeting Minutes: The Mayor Pro-Tem asked if everyone had a chance to read over the previous meeting minutes. A motion was made by Councilman Oliver to approve the August 13, 2024, meeting minutes and the August 28, 2024, Public Hearing/Special Call Meeting minutes. Councilman Whiteside seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.

Report of City Business: The city manager began by stating it was a busy month. He said he attended an IDA meeting where potential funds for potential new businesses was discussed. Luehmann said the IDA is an active committee and meet on an as-needed basis.

Luehmann then mentioned that he spoke to a resident interested in hosting a charity softball event at AD Simpson Park. If they decide to move forward, there will need to be additional liability insurance purchased.

A citizen called to thank the city for cleaning up an adjacent ditch next to their property.

The Byrd Foundation donated funds in order to purchase a new brush cutter. The long-armed cutter will allow the public works department to mow the area close to the walking trail and keep it looking nice. It will also be utilized for other areas in town.

Mr. Luehmann mentioned that he attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting, and the number of members has increased. He then said that is credit to Mr. Clodfelter, the Chamber Director.

The iWorQ software was purchased and installed. This is to help with building permits and code enforcement. Mr. Luehmann said he would like to thank the City of East Prairie and their code enforcement officer, as he was very instrumental in getting this process in motion for us.

Luehmann said he discussed grant opportunities with CHARM and Main Street America. The match of funds would be for new businesses or startups. They are trying to turn \$5,000 into \$15,000.

It was mentioned that we are in good shape, ready to go when/if funds become available for updates to be made on the wastewater treatment plant.

The city manager explained he had a meeting with the city's CPA and the mayor to review the previous two years' audits. There were no major findings, and we are ahead of schedule for the upcoming audit.

The public hearings regarding the drainage project and storm sirens grants went well. Councilwoman Goodin asked if there was a date on the storm sirens. Luehmann said no date as of yet.

Mr. Luehmann explained that he had a conference call with Hudson Byrd and others about the downtown area.

To conclude his report, the city manager announced that a Love's Travel Stop location would be coming to Charleston next year and would be located across from Pilot, Flying J. Mr. Luehmann said Love's provided a press release that will be ran in the newspaper and posted to the city's website the following day. It was mentioned that this will be a significant contribution to the community as it will provide sixty plus jobs. The location will be number 649 in 42 states.

There were no questions or comments on the budget report, the public works report, the code enforcement report, or the department of public safety report.

Old Business: Bill NO. 3959 / Ordinance NO. 3100-An Ordinance to Authorize the Lease/Purchase of Two New Vehicles and Equipment for Use by the Department of Public Safety was the first item of old business. As it was discussed at previous council meetings, the city manager had been working with Enterprise Fleet Management to enter into a program for new city vehicles. A motion was made by Councilman Whiteside to approve the ordinance. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed. The motion carried and Bill NO. 3959 / Ordinance NO. 3100 was approved.

The next item of old business was Bill NO. 3960 / Ordinance NO. 3101- An Ordinance to Authorize the Lease/Purchase of Two New Vehicles for Use by the Department of Public Works. A motion was made by Councilman Oliver to approve the ordinance. Councilman Whiteside seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed. The motion carried and Bill NO. 3960 / Ordinance NO. 3101 was approved.

New Business: The Mayor Pro-Tem explained that according to Missouri State Statute, the City of Charleston shall appoint someone to fulfill the open council seat until the next municipal election. It was announced that Trent Lane would be appointed to fill the seat. A motion was made by Councilman Whiteside to approve the appointment. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed. The motion carried and Trent Lane was appointed to the city council.

Next on the agenda was to swear in the newly appointed council member. City Attorney, Tabatha Graham swore Mr. Lane in and he then joined the council.

Next on the agenda was Bill NO. 3958 / Ordinance NO. 3099- An Ordinance Amending Chapter 110, Article 2, Section 110.150 (D) Rules of the City Council of the City of Charleston Missouri. A motion was made by Councilman Oliver to approve the ordinance and amend the rules of the council. Councilman Whiteside seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed. The motion carried and Bill NO. 3958 / Ordinance NO. 3099 was approved.

Barbara Stovall was next on the agenda to discuss the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. Mrs. Stovall stood and addressed the council and thanked them for having her for the third year in a row. Stovall explained that the tree lighting ceremony at the Bowden Center is for all of the community, especially the children. She wanted to ask to have the ceremony on Saturday, December 7th around 4PM and have it last about two hours. There will be fun, prizes, music, and the tree lighting. The council all agreed this is a great thing to have for the community. No motion was necessary.

Introduction of Visitors: David Manker, Raymond Ivy, Cal Coleman, Todd Clodfelter, Jayne Ellen Ray, Trent Lane, Tomisha Lane, Sheila Shankle, Talisha Mays, Hudson Byrd, Kenny Hulshof, Arthur Cassell, Amber Morgan, Barry Morgan, Barbara Stovall, and Joe Lane were present. At this time, the Mayor Pro-Tem reminded the visitors that they are allowed to speak on items that have not been previously brought to the city manager first.

Raymond Ivy stood and addressed the council. Mr. Ivy said he thought the dog problem was over with, but that the City Attorney won't press charges against the same two squatters that have occupied AD Simpson Park and the same pitbull dogs. Mr. Ivy said he videoed them and called the dog catcher. He said he wasn't there to start anything, but they have to live over there with these people walking around with their viscous dogs. He just wants the judge to see it and wants them to be prosecuted.

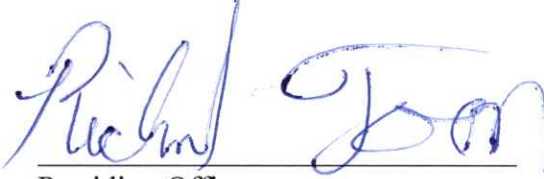
Kenny Hulshof stood and addressed the council and explained that the Historic Preservation Committee held their meeting the previous evening and it was discussed that the city of Charleston may want to consider creating an ordinance that requires a permit to demolish historic buildings. It was mentioned that they would need to work with the city attorney and discuss with the board members whether they would be in favor of this type of ordinance or not.

Cal Coleman stood and addressed the council and mentioned that he addressed the council a few months ago regarding public safety. Mr. Coleman said he met with the mayor and discussed body cameras for officers but has been waiting to hear back. Coleman said he was wearing his to show that they are not uncomfortable. Mr. Coleman referred to the tragedy of Sonya Massey and mentioned that it would be silly to think that Charleston is immune to that. Mr. Coleman also mentioned the situation that was previously brought up at a council meeting, regarding the Housing Authority security cameras.

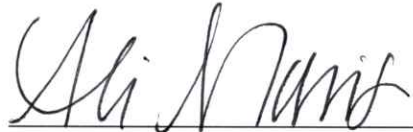
Talisha Mays stood and addressed the council and said she received a letter in the mail addressing the sunshine law records request that was submitted but that it did not address the questions of concern and that she would be pursuing this with Jefferson. Mays congratulated Mr.

Lane and told him she was proud that he was in that seat. Mays said she asked for the closed session meeting minutes. The city attorney told Mays that the council consulted with her and that the city is not required to keep minutes on closed session meetings according to the Missouri State Statute. Mays continued to speak over the city attorney as she was attempting to address her concern. Mays was told that if she wanted to fight the Missouri law to get a lawyer.

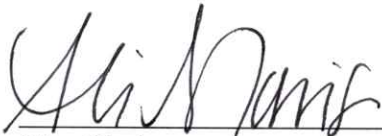
Adjournment: A motion was made by councilman Whiteside to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Oliver seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed. The meeting was adjourned.


Presiding Officer

ATTEST:


City Clerk


Mayor


City Clerk