

CITY OF CHARLOTTE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
Workshop Meeting
111 E. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte, MI 48813 (517) 543-2750
APRIL 21, 2022

CALL TO ORDER:

By Mayor Armitage on Thursday April 21, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Armitage, Mayor Pro-Tem Weissenborn, Council members, Van Langevelde, Dyer and Horvath. Quorum was met. Also in attendance were the City Manager LaPere, City Finance Director/Treasurer Smith, City Clerk LaRocque, Community Development Director Myrkle, Assessor Jewell (Zoom), Police Chief Brentar, Public Works Director Gilson and Fire Chief Jordan.

APPROVE AGENDA:

Motion by Weissenborn, supported by Van Langevelde to approve the agenda. Carried Yea 5, Nay 0, Absent 2 (Rodriguez, Lake)

EXCUSE ABSENT COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Rodriguez and Lake

Motion by Dyer supported by Weissenborn to excuse Rodriguez and Lake. Carried Yea 5; Nay 0, Absent 2 (Rodriguez, Lake)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

(Council member Lake arrived at this time)

Resident Heather Bodell owns rental property in the city and is having difficult issues with her tenants. She is frustrated because she feels that, just as rental owners have ordinance requirements, she feels there should be the same for tenants.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Presentation and discussion of FY 22-23 Budget

The budget proposed is in compliance with the corrective action plan the City has with the State of Michigan. The action plan was developed to 1. Increase fund balance to 17% of expenditures (\$996k) (Council policy 2021-06); 2. Increase unfunded pension liability to the State minimum requirement of 60%; 3. Increase revenue through the special assessment district. If followed faithfully, the plan is projected to reach the desired results in 5 years for the fund balance and the unfunded pension should reach 60% by 2030 and be fully funded by 2040.

An example was given if the special assessment district were to be eliminated resulting in negative revenue of \$600k. An example was given of a reduction or elimination of services to accommodate for the revenue shortfall. It must be noted that the special assessment district is part of the corrective action plan with the State and an elimination of the special assessment district would require a revision of those plans with the State and the revision may or may not be accepted.

Discussions to add two full time positions in the DWP and Police departments and for a grant writer contract were explored and it was requested to have a budget proposal presented which includes the addition of those three items for the next budget discussion.

DPW Director Gilson presented to Councilman Horvath a written history of over 100 grants applied for by, and awarded to, the DPW. It reports a cumulative total of \$8,345,072.51 in grant funding received over a period of years. Amounts received

specifically by inter-department are as follows; Trees \$34,138.00; Parks \$595,932.06; Streets \$6,515,329.83; Lighting \$60,662.65; Consumers Energy Rebates \$17,663.00; Wellhead Protection \$28,337.97; Water System \$374,774.00; CARA \$718,235.00.

Horvath left the meeting around 8:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No comments

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Lake; Announced officially his immediate resignation from the City Council. He is moving out of district. He is saddened to go but must proceed in the best interest of his growing family.

Mayor; Thanked Lake for his service, willingness to learn, wished him the best and agreed that family comes first.

Van Langevelde; Thanked Lake and noted what a pleasure it was working with him. Noted next week is Crime Victims' Rights Week and encourages any crime victims to seek help, that their rights matter!

Weissenborn; Commended Lake on his insight, thought processes and his different perspectives that were a benefit to council and encouraged him to stay involved somehow in his community.

Dyer; Inquired about process for replacing a Council member after a resignation. (City Charter Sections 3.9; 3.10; and 3.13 address the issue and provide the procedural process).

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Dyer supported by Van Langevelde to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 p.m. Carried. Yea 5; Nay 0; Absent 2 (Rodriguez, Horvath)

Mayor Armitage

Mary LaRocque, City Clerk