

THE COMMON COUNCIL

APRIL 08, 2021

6:30 P.M.

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF CHARLESTOWN WAS HELD ON THURSDAY, APRIL 08, 2021 AT 6:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL WITH MAYOR TREVA HODGES PRESIDING.

Council members present were: Ruthie Jackson, Brian Hester, BJ Steele, Bo Bertram and JT Cox. Also present were Clerk Treasurer Donna Coomer, Common Council Attorney Michael Gillenwater and City Attorney Mickey Weber.

Pledge

Everyone

Invocation

Councilman JT Cox

Agenda

Councilwoman Jackson is asking to add Resolution 2009-R-9, concerning credit card procedures.

Councilman Cox made a motion to add Resolution 2009-R-9 on credit card usage and approve the agenda, seconded by Councilman Hester. Approved 5-0.

Minutes, Claims and PR Voucher

A motion was made by Councilman Steele to approve the Minutes of 03/01/21, Claims and PR Voucher from 03/01/2021 to 04/02/2021, seconded by Councilwoman Jackson. Approved 5-0.

Public Comment

Ed Byer ay 1136 Main Street talked about the Sanitary Sewer Board and why he is not in favor of forming it. He cited the cost of \$150,000.00 a year to pay the Sanitary Board members. The Council members are paid \$6,600.00 yearly and no one from the Council has been to the wastewater plant to investigate the status of the plant. Councilman Hester said that was an inaccurate statement. He has met with Jorge of JTL and Mike Perry at the plant.

Mayor Hodges said she received three public comment electronic emails.

Barbara Meredith
180 1st Street.

She is asking the Council to work with the Mayor to create a better plan for the sanitary department.

Ellen Keith
101 Clark Road

A Sanitary Board is not needed. The Council is to represent the citizens and taxpayers.

Doug Coombs
259 Jefferson Street

We do not need a sewer board and asked the Council not vote on it. He'll be at the next meeting

Ethan Biggs Legislative Youth Advisor Report

Gave an update report on the Charlestown High School activities and events.

Mayor Comments

Some of the pop up vendors on Saturday, the sing along is from 10 :00 am until 12:00. may not get to set up due to the weather. The car shows set up in the evenings and stay until they get bored. Then on the 16th of April a Miles for Smiles. Adults can sign up for free dental services. We are all still wearing mask until next month.

Common Council Comments

Councilwoman Jackson asked if we are not doing animal control anymore. Mayor Hodges said we are not picking up wild animals. Many cages have not been returned. We are still picking up dogs and cats.

Ordinance 2020-OR-03

An Ordinance transferring the sewage works from the municipal works board to a Sanitary Board.

Councilman Cox made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-OR-03 on its second and final reading, seconded by Councilwoman Jackson. Approved 5-0.

Councilwoman Jackson said she has educated herself so she can get the best for the citizens of Charlestown. She says a Sanitary Board would be made up of professionals to help make good decisions for the citizens. The rate increase could affect citizens to make a decision on whether or not they buy their groceries and medicine or pay their sewer bill.

Mayor Hodges said these rates are based on the current number of residents. These figures only represent the current population and as we get more buildings in River Ridge the more this rate will go down.

Councilman Steele said these rates are not realistic and we need to get many professionals involved so this does not get out of hand. Councilman Cox said he agrees with Councilman Steele. The more involved the better decisions will be made.

Mayor Hodges said she doesn't know in good consciousness if she can sign this Ordinance, because of the added cost that is associated with it. It's not good for the rate payers. They will know within the 10 days if her decision is to veto it. She will review everything including their comments.

Credit Card Invoices

Councilwoman Jackson asked Mayor Hodges about adopting an Ordinance so that the receipts are turned in for purchases. Mayor Hodges said she knows about the incident and those invoices have been turned in. The employee has been reprimanded and did pay the sales tax personal check. Clerk Treasurer Donna Coomer asked for the Ordinance to be amended with those changes on turning invoices in a timely manner or they would be responsible for the charge. Mayor Hodges said to protect the city she will have it amended.

Meeting Videoed

Councilwoman Jackson asked why the meeting was not being videoed. Mayor Hodges said Facebook is down. Mayor Hodges said it will be upload once Facebook is back on line.

School & Park Facilities

Councilman Cox told everyone to check out the High School Facilities and the Little League Park. They look amazing for the new season.

Adjournment


Councilman Cox made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Steele. Approved 5-0.


MAYOR, TREVA HODGES


DATE

ATTEST:


CLERK TREASURER, DONNA S. COOMER


DATE