

THE COMMON COUNCIL

AUGUST 02, 2021

6:30 P.M.

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF CHARLESTOWN WAS HELD ON MONDAY AUGUST 02, 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

Maci Layton & Boomer Hester- They were invited to the All American Softball and Baseball Games.

Invocation

Councilman JT Cox

Agenda

A motion was made by Councilwoman Jackson to approve the agenda, seconded by Councilman Cox. Approved 5-0.

Minutes, Claims and PR Voucher

Councilman Cox made a motion to approve the Minutes of 07/08/21, Claims and PR Voucher from 07/04/2021 to 07/31/2021, seconded by Councilman Hester. Approved 5-0.

Public Comments

None

Ethan Biggs Legislative Youth Advisor Report

Gave an update on Charlestown High School activities and events.

Mayors Comments

Mayor Hodges said with the rise of Covid cases, we are following the CDC guidelines on recommending wearing mask. The governor has not issued a mask mandate. If an employee had their vaccination and was in close contact with anyone they can return to work but must wear a

mask for ten days. If they test positive they can't come back to work for two weeks and have a negative test.

Council Comments

Yard of the Month Signs

Councilwoman Jackson said the yard signs are ready. She will be passing them out tomorrow.

Public Hearing on Ordinance 2021-OR-15

This ordinance amends rates and charges for the wastewater utility services. The increases will be implemented in stages, Phase I in 2021, Phase II in 2022 and Phase III will be determined if it needs to happen after customers come on board, potential developments and River Ridge will influence it as well.

Mayor Hodges asked City Attorney if it was advertised? He replied that it was advertised in the local paper 10 days before this hearing. Mayor Hodges said she has not received any electronic comments and no one was present to give a comment or remonstrate. Mayor Hodges closed the public hearing.

Councilman Hester asked if the funds left in the ARPA fund can go into wastewater. Mayor Hodges said we will refer some of the questions to our financial advisor Scott Hadler with Baker Tilly. Mr. Hadler said they factored in the 1.5 million dollars of the ARPA dollars to the rate increase, which buys down the rate. Mayor Hodges said if we had not put in the ARPA money then the rates would have been higher. Clerk Treasurer said Keystone will need time to install the rates into our system and then the rates can take effect in the next billing cycle.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Jackson to approve Ordinance 2021-OR-15 on the second and final reading, seconded by Councilman Steele. Approved 5-0.

Resolution 2021-R-8 (AMERICAN RESUE PLAN ACT- (ARPA)

Mayor Hodges said she sent a memo outlining that we can use the ARPA money of \$1,889,716.13 to replace the shortfall in revenue of \$388,775.93 from the effects of Covid. The remaining available ARPA funds of \$1.5 million will be used to the fullest extent permissible under law to fund the wastewater infrastructure

Councilwoman Jackson made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-R-8 adopting a community investment plan for ARPA, seconded by Councilman Steele. Approved 5-0.

Council Meeting

Mayor Hodges said in observance of Labor Day we need to move the Council meeting to a different day.

Councilman Cox made a motion to move the Council meeting to Thursday, September 09, 2021, at 6:30 pm, seconded by Councilman Hester. Approved 5-0.

Budget 2021- Draft

Mayor Hodges presented a draft of the budget and is asking the Council to review the budget and provide any feedback by Wednesday, September 01, so we can meet our deadline to get the budget approved by November 01. Mayor Hodges asked the council to have a public hearing on September 09, and then right after the hearing, have the first reading. We can have the second and final reading in October. Mayor Hodges discussed the notable changes in the budget and said it is a balanced budget. We will be applying for the maximum levy appeal and Baker Tilly will look at that process for this year.

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