

COUNCIL CHAMBER

Regular Meeting

January 8, 2019

The sixty-seventh meeting of the City Council of Charleston was held this date convening at 5:06 p.m. at City Hall.

A notice of this meeting and an agenda were mailed to the news media January 2, 2019 and appeared in The Post and Courier January 6, 2019 and are made available on the City's website.

PRESENT (13)

The Honorable John J. Tecklenburg, Mayor

Councilmember White	District 1	Councilmember Waring	District 7
Councilmember Shealy	District 2	Councilmember Seekings	District 8
Councilmember Lewis	District 3	Councilmember Shahid	District 9
Councilmember Mitchell	District 4	Councilmember Griffin	District 10
Councilmember Wagner	District 5	Councilmember Moody	District 11
Councilmember Gregorie	District 6	Councilmember Jackson	District 12

Mayor Tecklenburg called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Madam Clerk, would you please call the roll?"

The Clerk called the roll.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Now, if you would like to join us, Councilmember Lewis is going to lead us in a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance."

Councilmember Lewis opened the meeting with an invocation.

Councilmember Lewis then led City Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you all very much. I think everyone here has been here before. Is anybody here for their first time?"

No one asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Nobody. So, I don't need to tell you how to get out of the building."

There was laughter in the Chamber.

Mayor Tecklenburg continued, "Everybody knows how to get out of the building. In case there were an emergency, don't use the elevators. If we had to evacuate, use the two stairs going down and the one stair out the front. This is our first meeting of 2019, as I mentioned, so Happy New Year everyone. I hope you all had a great holiday season, and thank you City Council for

the gift card. I haven't been shopping yet, but I plan to get me a new suit sometime soon. Congratulations to the Clemson Tigers, the number one football team in the nation. You may or may not have noticed when you entered City Hall today that the Tiger Paw is flying above City Hall on this day in their honor, so we congratulate the Tigers. I went to Georgetown University, but my blood does run a little bit orange. My Dad graduated from Clemson University in 1949, and he had season tickets when I was a kid. We used to go to every home game when I was a tyke, so you kind of get the fever when you do that as a youngster. So, I'm a big Tigers fan.

Next, I'd like to ask Mayor Pro Tem and our longest serving Councilmember, James Lewis, to please join me on the podium. Councilmember Lewis. So, Councilmember Lewis has served for the last year as our Mayor Pro Tem. He's on a number of Standing Committees, including serving as the Chair of our Human Resources Committee. He ably represented me and the City on call. I must admit, I do a lot of events."

Councilmember Seekings said, "It's the loneliest job in town."

Mayor Tecklenburg continued, "It's the loneliest Mayor Pro Tem job in America, right? He did an outstanding job, and if he doesn't mind, I might continue to call on him, even though with a new year and a new Mayor Pro Tem, he did a remarkable job, so let's recognize him. I have this plaque thanking you for your service, Councilmember Lewis. We recognize you, and we'll get a picture here together."

There was a standing ovation in the Chamber.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Would you like to address the body?"

Councilmember Lewis said, "Yes."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "At your pleasure."

Councilmember Lewis said, "I know it's a tough job sometimes serving as Mayor Pro Tem, but in order for the City to move forward, we have to continue to do the work that was applied to our hands as representatives of this City, elected officials. I take everything that I do seriously. This is one job I take very seriously. If not, I wouldn't have been standing here for 23 years. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, sir. God bless you."

There was applause in the Chamber.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, next we have our 2019 Committee and Mayor Pro Tem Appointments. I had e-mailed everyone to see if you had any requests. Frankly, there were none. So, the Committee assignments are identical to 2018 for another year. I have asked Councilmember Shahid if he would be willing to serve as Mayor Pro Tem for this year and, without objection, would ask for your approval."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Moody.

Councilmember Moody said, "Yes, I kind of didn't know who it was going to be, but I did ask the question of a couple of my Councilmembers whether they had been asked, and they said 'no'. We get to elect the Mayor Pro Tem, and the only problem and look, I don't want to say anything that's against Councilmember Shahid. I don't want this tabled, but I'm going to be running for re-election, as is Councilmember White, Councilmember Lewis, Councilmember Wagner, Councilmember Waring, Councilmember Shahid, Councilmember Moody, and the Mayor. It just seems to me, like when we have these election years, that somebody of one of the

other seats ought to maybe be in the position as Mayor Pro Tem. I just throw that out there to think about it. My name could have been on there, and I would hope that somebody would have maybe said the same thing, 'Hey, you're running for re-election.' It gives you a little bit of an advantage to be out there advertising that's who you are as opposed to something else. Maybe I'm all wrong here, but I'll just see what Council says, and maybe that's something we ought to do. Whether we do it tonight or not, I don't know. I just thought that we've got six other people around here that are not running that maybe this is the year for one of them to serve, just my thought."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I understand that, and you're absolutely right. It is Council's decision, election, if you will, to elect a Mayor Pro Tem each year. That's, I believe, in our City Council Rules and Guidelines. I guess a normal practice is that the Mayor would, in effect, nominate someone and I think, in my four years of service, that's included Mayor Pro Tem Waring and then Seekings and then Lewis and now Shahid. I didn't have a lot of preponderance about the election, I'll be honest with you. As Councilmember Seekings has pointed out, it's the loneliest job in town because I like going to events, and I normally take them all, if I can."

Councilmember Moody said, "He would be a good Mayor Pro Tem."

There was laughter in the Chamber.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, it's normally when I go out of town or something like that then I ask for the fill-in, but it's certainly the pleasure of Council."

Councilmember Moody said, "To add to that, if someone decided to run for Mayor to oppose you, they shouldn't be considered either. All I'm saying is, if you're going to run for re-election, there is an honor associated with that, that's important. I just thought we ought to take something like that into consideration. I'm not going to die on this plane. That's just something that bothered me a little bit. So, anyway, I'll do whatever. We can either postpone it until next week and see what everybody says, or we can vote tonight."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Filing for office isn't until mid-August of this year, so two-thirds of the year will be over before you even know for sure."

Councilmember Moody said, "We could nominate somebody else and then have an election. That's another way of doing it."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We can. Absolutely."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie followed by Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Yes, that's a toughy for me because I think the precedent has been set. It's not something that has not been done several times in the past. In fact, when I ran for re-election, Mayor Riley appointed me Mayor Pro Tem, and that was the year after I ran against him for Mayor. So, I just think that the precedent has already been set, and it's kind of tough, I think, to start changing things a bit now. I do think that it should be the prerogative of the Mayor to make that nomination, and I don't have a problem with it."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, "Well, let me just make two announcements. Number one, I'm not going to run for Mayor. I am positive I'm not running for Mayor. My wife has already threatened to leave me if I even had that thought come across my mind. I am planning to run for re-election in my district, and I hope that my constituents think well enough of me, regardless of

whether not I'm Mayor Pro Tem or not, to re-elect me. Maybe I'll have opposition, maybe I won't. I talked to the Mayor about this and said at a re-election time I'm busy running my law office, I'm busy being a City Councilmember, and I'll be busy doing the work of the Mayor Pro Tem, which I think is one of the highest honors. I was very much touched and humbled by the Mayor's request asking me to take on this position. I think it is going to be time consuming, and I will take that on with a high level of sincerity and respect that it deserves, but I really don't think it's going to matter one way or another if I get re-elected or not if I had that title. So, I appreciate Councilmember Moody's concern, and I take it with a great deal of respect of what he's asking. I don't want to cause this to be a political issue, so that's my piece. Thank you, Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Moody.

Councilmember Moody said, "I would say that if that's the sense of the Council, I would second Councilmember Shahid's nomination."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Call the question."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilwoman Jackson followed by Councilmember Lewis.

Councilwoman Jackson said, "That was essentially what I was going to ask, Mr. Mayor. What is the process for installing the Mayor Pro Tem now? Is it an official vote?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes, it is a vote of Council. Yes, ma'am."

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Then I would move that we take the nomination, as you presented it, and vote to elect Councilmember Shahid as Mayor Pro Tem."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie.

Councilmember Gregorie said, "By the way, that year I did over 70 events for Mayor Riley."

Councilmember Seekings said, "One of them he had to do in French."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Yes."

Councilmember Seekings said, "It was awesome, and I could tell you if there was anything going to get him un-elected it was speaking in French."

There was laughter in the Chamber.

Councilmember Moody said, "It was his nomination, and I seconded it."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We have a motion and a second."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Lewis.

Councilmember Lewis said, "Yes sir, Mr. Mayor, before we approve the Committees, I'm looking at the Budget Committee. Although I'm the HR Chair, which is a triple job, I think I've been to more meetings in HR over the last year than I think I've been since I've been on City Council. The Budget Committee, Councilmember Waring, I hadn't even asked him yet, but he has served so faithfully, so good on the Budget Committee last year."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "He did."

Councilmember Lewis continued, "I certainly would love to see him serve instead of me."

Councilmember Waring said, "I accept that. Thank you, Councilmember."

Councilmember Lewis said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "That was a request that you all made. I think officially I would like the Budget Committee to be the Chairs of those various Committees. Over time, those Chairmanships will change, but certainly would recognize your willingness to serve in Councilmember Lewis's stead on the Budget Committee."

Councilmember Waring said, "I thank you and Councilmember Lewis for that."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes, sir. Is there any further discussion?"

No one else asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilwoman Jackson, seconded by Councilmember Moody, City Council voted unanimously to approve Councilmember Shahid as the 2019 Mayor Pro Tem and the City Council Committee Appointments.

---INSERT APPOINTMENT MEMOS---

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you very much. So, next, we have no public hearings. We have one set of City Council minutes to approve, December 4th."

Councilmember Shahid said, "So moved."

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We have a motion. Are there any changes, suggestions, or deletions?"

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Shahid, seconded by Councilwoman Jackson, City Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2018 City Council meeting.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Next, is our Citizens Participation Period, and we have just a limited number of folks here tonight and a limited number of folks who have signed up."

The Clerk said, "We have five people signed up."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, you have a generous three minutes each this evening to speak your mind and share with us your thoughts and ideas for 2019. Who do we have?"

The Clerk said, "We have Mohammed Idris, Marc Knapp, Audrey Lisbon, Arthur Lawrence, and Nicole Dietrich in that order."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Just come forward."

1. Mohammed Idris said he read an article by Abigail Darlington concerning a new Office for Racial Bias that the Mayor said he would establish. He stated that every time City officials or the government got in trouble, they started dealing with race. He said Council closed last year charging the Mayor and the Planning Committee with doing wrong regarding the 75/25 percent rule where Planning and Zoning had more power than Council. He said there should be an office set up to examine that instead of race. He said he got hurt the other day, and white folks picked him up and took him to the hospital. There wasn't a racial problem in Charleston.

There was a corruption problem in City government. The 75/25 percent rule was corruption as the voluntary group had more power than Council. It was a shame before God.

2. Marc Knapp said he was dumbfounded and wanted to know where he could sign up for an \$800,000 contract and raise it up to an \$8 million contract. He had done some work at the Intermodal Center and Davis & Floyd did a horrible job which ended up costing a million dollars extra because of the stuff they didn't do right or left out. He thought Council needed to take a look at it. With regard to stormwater, he questioned why the City allowed landscapers to blow pine straw and leaves into the storm drainage. It deteriorated in the storm drain system and clogged it up. It cost the City hundreds of thousands of dollars each year because the City couldn't take care of the storm drainage system even with all of the vacor trucks. The City needed to start putting limits on what they could blow into the storm drain system.
3. Audrey Lisbon talked about the proposal for the Westside Neighborhood from DR-2F to Dr-1F. During one of their meetings, there was a proposal to rezone the area and to stipulate what could or couldn't be built on their property or in the neighborhood. She admitted she wasn't very knowledgeable of the proposal, so she did some research. She was against anything that was going to decrease the property value of her property. She wanted to let her Council representatives know that not only did she feel this way, but other neighbors as well, so hopefully their representatives would advocate against it.
4. Arthur Lawrence said he was there regarding the Westside Neighborhood area. They elected Councilmembers to represent them and let them know about changes or anything happening in their neighborhood that would hurt or improve it. He said they couldn't allow four individuals to come into the neighborhood and make decisions for everyone in the neighborhood. He had worked with the City and the City Neighborhood Council for years. That was not allowed, and it had to stop. He had property rights, and he didn't want anyone telling him what he had to do with his property. He also represented all of the senior citizens in the Westside area who had a vote, but all of the renters coming in didn't have a vote. The senior citizens didn't have computers at home, and they couldn't go down to 2 George Street for the meeting on the 16th. The Planning Commission was supposed to bring this to Council on February 26th, and the Councilmember didn't know anything about it. He asked who was running it. The Westside Neighborhood Association was not going to allow it. The City must always have diversity in housing as every building couldn't be the same. He asked Council and the Planning Commission to come to the community first before they did anything, and he hoped they would figure it out.
5. Nicole Dietrich addressed the issue of tourism. She said she lived in a very historic neighborhood and fully recognized that tourism was part of Charleston as horse and carriage and walking tours came down their street all the time. They signed up for that when they bought their property, but she didn't sign up for tourists coming through their gate and into their backyard twice in the last month claiming they didn't know it was private property. She said she also didn't sign up for tourists peeking through windows on the street and trespassing. Charleston wasn't Disneyland. It provoked anxiety if someone came into their backyard where their children were playing. She wondered if there was some sort of tourist education that could be provided, something very simple for the carriage tours and for the

walking tours. It wouldn't get everybody, but would remind them to respect the property owners and that it wasn't their personal Disneyworld to explore.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes, ma'am. We'll have our Livability Department Director get in touch with you."

Ms. Dietrich said, "Wonderful."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes, ma'am. Is there anyone else?"

No one else asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie followed by Councilmember Lewis.

Councilmember Gregorie said, "I would like to react to the zoning issue on the Westside because, to me, it's a great example of why the apology is very important. We don't know whether or not this zoning will have an adverse effect on a specific population, meaning the African American community. So, when we start talking about zoning, we can't look at it in a vacuum. As the Councilmember representing that area, my 98-year old mother got her letter and wants to know, 'What in the hell is going on?' I explained to her, 'It's a taking, it's a downzoning of your property, Mom.' That's what it is. So, I think that it's very, very important for us to, first of all, make sure that the elderly clearly understand what's going on because everybody on the Westside received the letter. It is something that I will definitely oppose because I do think that it has something to do with property rights, and it also has something to do with devaluing property."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Lewis.

Councilmember Lewis said, "Yes, sir, Mr. Mayor. I represent part of the Westside. I received a call the day after New Year's that our City was closed. I spoke to Philip Overcash who they said the letter came from. I spoke to him on Friday, and I called Councilmember Gregorie, and he was kind of aware of it. He said they're going to meet with me and Councilmember Gregorie, but I told him, 'When you all do this kind of thing, you all need to let City Council know first.' I really have a problem with staff making decisions like this, downzoning properties, and we have to get a call from the citizens. Where do we stand? Why were we elected? If we are elected officials representing a district, when they send a letter out like that, whether they're going to send it to everybody in that neighborhood or not, it doesn't matter. The first people they should contact are the two City Council people."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "I have a small part."

Councilmember Lewis said, "You've got a little small part, too, okay, but, that's embarrassing. When this lady called me, it really was embarrassing. I called Philip, he said he was going to talk to Lee, he was going to talk to Jacob, and we're going to have a meeting. I haven't seen the letter, but hearing it from Peter, they're getting ready to take the stuff to Planning. I hope not before they sit down and talk to us because we represent this district, and we're the ones that have to deal with the constituents. I applaud staff for the work that they do. I know staff's answer to you. You're the Mayor of this City, but when they're making changes in these neighborhoods, and we represent these neighborhoods, we need to know. As well as you need to know, we need to know, so when constituents come to us we can say, 'Well, we know this, don't know this, or we know this'. We need to be able to try to explain to them if it's something different from what the letter says. So, I think, I just want staff to get the message. This isn't the first time, and I don't like it. I don't like being called down by people because of something staff said that's going to affect my constituents. Then, they call and jump on me, and I have no

knowledge of it. It makes me look ignorant. Then, people say, 'Well, why are they electing us? He doesn't know anything.' We need to do a better job, and since it's 2019, we need to do a better job when we make changes in these neighborhoods. We need to inform the Councilmembers on any changes that are going to be made. If it's not something on the City Council agenda, then we need to know about it. That's all I'm saying."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, thank you, and I understand exactly where you're coming from, and this is not on the agenda, so we won't be taking any action on it tonight, but I presume that something is coming before us in the future. Mr. Lindsey, could I ask you, just because we've had this much discussion, to give us a summary of this proposed rezoning?"

Jacob Lindsey said, "Yes, sir. I'd be happy to."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Then, I'll come to you, Councilmember Waring."

Mr. Lindsey said, "So, this is not a proposal that comes from City staff or from the Mayor. This is a proposal that comes directly from the representatives of the Neighborhood Associations. This is a request from them. The rezoning letters that have gone out is a request on behalf of that group. So, it is, in effect, a downzoning of a significant portion of the Westside. I'm not going to speculate about how this is going to be received, however, we do expect it to have a robust hearing in front of Planning Commission soon, as well as here in front of Council. So, the letter that went out was the standard notice that is sent when a rezoning takes place."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "The zoning from DR-2F to 1F, and it was requested by whom again?"

Mr. Lindsey said, "By a group of individuals speaking on behalf of the Neighborhood Association. As you know, when we receive official requests from the Neighborhood Association, we take those into account. This is, again, not a request that comes from staff or from the Mayor, to be totally clear about that matter."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Mr. Lindsey, can you tell us what ordinance allows those four people to put in a request for a blanket change like that in a significant part of the City?"

Mr. Lindsey said, "That's a very good question. So, when the Neighborhood Association petitions us for a change, for example, when Cannonborough/Elliottborough came to us, and they said, 'We want to enable short-term rentals in our community', back in 2012, that's something that we're compelled to honor. Now, when that rezoning takes place, of course, it goes through the public review process, which is the way the system is set up, and we think it will be met with the appropriate response."

Councilmember Waring said, "The point that I'm looking at is what Councilmember Lewis spoke about. In other words, this got going, it is in our system, and the Councilmember who lives in the district doesn't even know much more than the other 12 Councilmembers. That seems awfully sneaky."

Mr. Lindsey said, "Well, I would direct your request to the members of the Neighborhood Association who have petitioned it. Again, they have a right to come to us and seek guidance in addressing their neighborhood, but I don't disagree with the position that this kind of thing needs a full, public review. The Neighborhood Associations are their own kind of entity, as you know, and they have a lot of weight here in the City of Charleston. We listen to them when they make requests. However, this downzoning is one that is very significant."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "But, just like a property owner puts in a request for rezoning, and we post a notice or send out a letter, this is following the exact same procedure."

Mr. Lindsey said, "That's correct, Mayor, and to respond to that matter we have already heard, as we expected, negative feedback from a number of affected landowners. We expect that to increase. However, we have also heard support for this from other landowners and, to be clear, the individuals who requested this downzoning do, in fact, own properties that are among those affected by the change."

Councilmember Waring said, "But how can they request a zoning change on property that they don't have a vested interest in? Now, if they want to have those four properties rezoned, I'm with you on that, but let's just say all of this to my right are neighbors in that community, the two immediate people, the nice lady who came in and talked about tourism education, had a very good point. I hope we follow up on that in the new year and the kind policeman behind them. If they're not interested in that or even knowledgeable of that, how would their property be included? They're not a developer who has a contractual interest or a property owner. That must be a weakness in our ordinance that allows it."

Mr. Lindsey said, "Well, we're happy to investigate the matter further, as specifically related to this request."

Councilmember Waring said, "If they want it for their four properties, no more out of me. But the ability to bring others into it like that, if that's the ordinance, North Charleston would be able to annex West Ashley just like that."

There was laughter in the Chamber.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We will deal with not just the application, but how the application occurred. I get it. We will do that."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Griffin.

Councilmember Griffin said, "I have a question for Mr. Lindsey. So, you say you get applications like this all of the time?"

Mr. Lindsey said, "Not all of the time. It's unusual for us to receive a specific request on behalf of a Neighborhood Association for a zoning. It doesn't happen commonly."

Councilmember Griffin said, "Do you have to speed it through this process, or can you turn it down? Do we not have a common sense approach that we reach out into the neighborhood? If a few people want something, and the neighborhood overwhelmingly doesn't, why does it have to go through this process?"

Mr. Lindsey said, "Right. That's a great question, and the way that we go about such a thing is that you do in fact notice to the public, which is what happens when a request like that comes through. Letters go out, and people know about it. Airing this in the forum of public debate is exactly how we do it. So, that public notice is the way that people get information, but if there is a sense that neighborhoods need to be more strongly sort of advised of these kinds of changes, we're happy to hear those suggestions."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Seekings.

Councilmember Seekings said, "I won't belabor this because I think the point has been made, and we need to get our Legal staff involved in this at some point. But, it's no surprise to anyone here that I think that blanket rezonings are a bad idea. We've talked about it a lot. In the

nine years I've sat on this Council, other than the City initiating that, I've never ever heard of an individual, an association, a homeowners association, a group, a trade group, an advocacy group, anything going in front of the Planning Commission for a rezoning of properties that they have no interest in whatsoever. That's troubling, that we had to have our citizens come and tell these guys who have got to go out there and face their constituents every day that some of their constituents are trying to downzone other constituents' property. I would never want to be in the crossfire of that, and I just don't think that's appropriate. So, I think one of the things that we need to do is give you the tools if you don't have them, and you may already have them that's why we need to get with Legal to take a look at something like that and say, 'This isn't going through the system because you don't have the right to do it constitutionally.' If I get a bang on my door saying, 'Your neighbor just applied to downzone your property', I can assure you, and I would have a very quick conversation."

Mr. Lindsey said, "So, I certainly don't disagree with anything that I've heard from Council tonight, and I look forward to digging further into that process."

Councilmember Seekings said, "I just think we need to have a conversation between Legal and you all and the Mayor's Office and us just to make sure we understand what the rules of the road are to get a piece of paper or online application to the Planning Commission. Who has the right to even get it in front of them for a debate? I just don't think someone who has no inherent property right and ability to control that property, even a homeowners association, which they have no right to control anything, could go apply to the Planning Commission for a zoning change. Right?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "It sounds like that case that we recently argued in court against North Charleston."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Right, and one of the things that this Council has been particularly sensitive to, and maybe I'm not one of them as much, is avoiding litigation. I can assure you the minute this thing gets going, if it gets any legs at all, there is going to be all sorts of litigation over this, so that's crazy."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Moody.

Councilmember Moody said, "Didn't that exact or almost same thing happen? You said you had never heard of it, but didn't the Planning Commission initiate a zoning change?"

Councilmember Waring said, "The spot zoning of the Jasper."

Councilmember Moody said, "Yes, but they had no interest in it. Something is wrong with our system if this is going on."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We will get to the bottom of it, I assure you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilwoman Jackson.

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Yes, I do think that there are differences. What we're talking about here is egregious, in that it's neighbors to neighbors making changes or trying to make changes that are extraordinary, but talking about the authority of the Planning Commission, the Council, and our Planning staff to be coming to the Council and Planning Commission within the overall Comprehensive Plan and the Zoning Code, that's a different set of parameters. So, I hope we don't throw out the baby with the bathwater, but I do think that what we're talking about right here with this Westside Neighborhood Association, it's something where we should close all of those loopholes and not allow."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Then, let's move on."

Councilmember Waring said, "Yes, thank you, Mr. Mayor. I also asked earlier why the ordinance allows this to happen. Whatever we have in our ordinance that gave you the feeling that you had to send letters out to these affected properties, that needs to change. That's the part of the ordinance that I'd like to have brought in front of us, so we can change that."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Me, too. Yes, sir."

Councilmember Waring said, "I didn't even know that existed."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I did not either. We will check into it."

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. For Petitions and Communications, I would like to recognize one other guest we have here tonight and then one other communication with Council, as well. She wasn't here in time to sign up for the Citizens Participation Period, but Marie Elana Roland is here, and I'd like for her to come forward. She runs Military Community Connections which is now operating our, we call it our Day Resource Center. They like to call it the Navigation Center because they are helping to navigate those who are experiencing homelessness and empowering them to a better place and, as you know, we opened the center last year originally with another organization. It was a little more to bite off than they could chew, and Marie Elana actually came to us by service on the Mayor's Commission on Homelessness nominated by North Charleston, correct?"

Marie Elena Roland said, "Yes."

Mayor Tecklenburg continued, "Because her organization was operating in North Charleston, by the name Helping Veterans, who were experiencing homelessness. When this kind of void occurred last year, she was willing to step up to the plate and operate the center for us. I've got to tell you, I invite all of Council to come down and visit and see what they are doing down there. It's remarkable how they are, one by one, helping people in need. It's really remarkable. With that intro Marie Elana, please share a few remarks with us."

Ms. Roland said, "Thank you, Mayor Tecklenburg. Happy New Year to all of you. I just wanted to start the year off to give you an update of what we're doing down there. Thank you and the City for the continued financial support, and we're going to definitely need it. Since we began, MCC has really been in the pulse of the homelessness where we are located at 529 Meeting Street. We've decided to call it the Navigation Center because we felt like we're helping to navigate people home for a variety of different services. Being down there, a lot of people do outreach, but we have a different outreach of our homelessness. Our homeless are referring the homeless to us. We're not doing the outreach. We're getting our homeless because we feed from the hot dog ministries Tuesdays through Sundays. We're there on the weekend, and we feed these people, so we're there meeting with them, talking to them, finding people that you would not normally find on the street.

We currently have the MUSC Clinic up and running where we have the residents now doing their residency there in our clinic, and it's been overwhelming. We actually opened up a waiting room because we have so many people, and we partner with Allen who does the Out Street Ministries, as far as on the street that they're helping these residents. We also have the

Department of Mental Health. Unfortunately, we haven't had them there as much as we need to, but what we're doing differently and what we've seen, we can always find them jobs, and we can always find them housing. We can get them in housing, but can we keep them there?

We make them happy in this transition, and what we have found is the gaps of services are not necessarily of having the community partners. We have wonderful community partners. We partner with One80 and Origin. My Sister's House is now inside our places because we're seeing close to 25 percent are women coming from those types of issues. We're seeing a lot of families lately. We have currently, what we know of, at least ten are in hotels that we're working with to get them out, but really the foundation that we need is more mental and keeping them transitioning and staying there. We've had some cases where we've got them off the street and into the place, but sometimes it's a risk of being a failure again, of not going in the housing because they don't want to fail. It's a lot easier to live on the street. I know that sounds pretty strange for most of us, but when you are where we are in the pulse of all of this, living this every day with these people, and living with them and talking to them every day and gradually getting them, it doesn't just happen overnight. It doesn't happen with them just walking in and filling in an intake form. We have to build a relationship. I have to give a hug every once in a while. I have to tell them they're worth something. I have to tell them that you are loved. I have to tell them, let's just start with the Department of Mental Health. Let's talk to somebody. It takes time, and we are doing it.

Since September 4th, we've seen close to 400 clients with our little staff of four. We still manage our office for veterans at SC Works in North Charleston, and what we've done is we've created the template that the VA uses using the homeless alignment team, using social workers and case managers to follow these people all of the way through. We need the support from the City. We thank you for the financial support that we've gotten so far, but we've got a lot of ideas and we want to continue the support in taking this to a different level. We are now part of the continuum of care, and we are the access point because there is a lot of homelessness that people aren't seeing, the hidden, that we see here at the center. So, I thank you all, I welcome you to come. We are doing a drop-in, re-opening, naming on January 28th from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Our clients will be navigating you through our center to show and share with you everything we're doing. I want to mention that we also have an MOU with us and SC Works. So, now we're not only finding jobs, we're working with existing programs in the State under the Workforce Investment Opportunity Act and opening up the door to these people clusters of jobs that are available to them that they deserve. We're taking this employment seriously, but we also have to build a foundation of making sure their transition is secure. So, again, I thank you all and I open the doors to come anytime if you can't come the 28th. We have a lot of people that just drop in and, again, thank you for giving me this time and Happy New Year!"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, Marie Elana. This is true boots on the ground, compassionate, incredible work being done, and thank you to City Council for helping make it possible with the opening of the center last year."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, "What was that address?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "529 Meeting Street, and although you do enter from the rear on Walnut Street, it is the main entrance really and there will be an open house on the 28th of January at 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., and we ask you all to come and check it out. It's really remarkable what we all are doing, but a special thanks to you. This is a compassionate, wonderful woman."

There was applause in the Chamber.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "In speaking of wonderful women, I have some sadness to announce the retirement, I'm going to call it. Colleen Carducci is looking to move back home to Minnesota to be close to her Mom who is getting up there in age. So, Colleen and her husband are going to be moving back there. She's done a remarkable job looking out for the City of Charleston during the last 17 years now, Colleen?"

Colleen Carducci said, "Just over 15."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Just over 15 years, a terrific service to our City, and I would like for Council to recognize Colleen, also."

There was a standing ovation in the Chamber.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you so much. On to our Committee Reports, first on Public Safety as a result of our litter plastics ban that we passed last month, we delved into what we might do about Keep Charleston Beautiful and litter."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor, members of Council, and Madam Clerk. The Public Safety Committee met on Friday, January 4th at the un-Godly hour of 4:00 in the afternoon. We had full attendance of our Committee members. Before I get into the meat of our Committee Report, you should have received an e-mail from Mr. Charles Francis back on January 3rd. Tomorrow, January 9th, is National Law Enforcement Day, and they have encouraged all of us to wear something blue in support of our police officers. So, if you haven't received this, I would just ask that you wear something blue tomorrow in support of our police officers."

Councilmember Waring said, "Tomorrow?"

Councilmember Shahid said, "Yes, tomorrow, and take a picture and send it to Mr. Francis, so they can post it appropriately that we support our police. What the Mayor had just said earlier that, following our discussion on the plastic bag ban, members of Council had brought up questions about litter and litter control. So, I promised that we would have a special Public Safety meeting to discuss that. Dan Riccio is present with us and made a presentation as to some of the issues dealing with that. Dan, do you want to come up and present some of that or do you want me to do it for you? Well, alright, the highlights of what he had brought to our attention, and I'll let him fill in the blanks if he wants to, is one of the biggest problems is that there is not enough awareness of our responsibility with litter control and that we need to do a better job of getting the word out about what our responsibility is to do that. One of the problems that he was able to notice was trash coming out of vehicles heading to the landfill, particularly commercial trucks, and I think it's flying off. I know in my neighborhood, up on Sam Rittenberg, back and forth by Northbridge, it's a huge problem with the amount of trash that's flying out of the back of cars. Our Old Towne Task Force is out there on a regular basis cleaning up. You see the piles of trash they're collecting. So, will you fill in from that point if you don't mind?"

Mr. Riccio said, "Not a problem. We're going to focus on education awareness and enforcement. We've got a lot of key players who are going to get involved from Neighborhood Services to Livability to volunteers, to DOT and our Public Information. Our goal is to keep it at the forefront year round, instead of, maybe, a short period of the year, by bringing awareness to it and reminding individuals. We're going to do a collaborative effort State, City, possibly County and so we can combat it one group at a time but, again, the corridors are the focus. As you know, you will go down the interstate and I-526 and Paul Cantrell at the James Island Connector and things of that nature, but a lot of the majority of the litter is coming from uncovered loads or trucks that are not properly covered. So, we're going to address that even to make City and other

municipalities responsible when they are going to the landfill day in and day out. You would not believe how much litter is being deposited on the streets blocking storm drains. Obviously, it's aesthetically unpleasing, so I've already got meetings in place. We're moving forward, we are just going to put everything together and do it as a year-round type of program rather than a periodically done program, and hopefully that will get a lot of attention and awareness."

Councilmember Shahid said, "One of the campaign slogans suggested by one of our colleagues was, 'Pick It Up Charleston', so we'll see if that flies and how that may come in, but we're going to get a report and an update in about a month from him as to what progress we've made and how this is going to shake out."

Mr. Riccio said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Are there any further comments?"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, "From time to time, we get some pretty good ideas from Citizens Participation, and we all heard on today about landscapers blowing those leaves into the drainage system and, obviously, the ditches and what not, why isn't that littering?"

Mr. Riccio said, "I'm sorry."

Councilmember Waring said, "Why isn't that a litter problem? That's a litter problem. In other words, does our ordinance need to be strengthened?"

Mr. Riccio said, "No, we do have a specific ordinance addressing that very issue of blowing debris into or putting debris into a storm drain. We enforce it. Unfortunately, we can't be everywhere. We rely on people to call us. If they call us, and we get that a lot. They'll call us in the neighborhood and say, 'they're blowing the litter or the debris into the storm drain'. We respond, we issue summons, but we do address it. We have even sent letters, and I'm going to probably have to do that again. There are so many landscaping companies, though, but trying to get the main ones. You kind of get the idea of who the main companies are that service our City. So, we're going to try that approach again, but there is a specific ordinance on the books to specifically address depositing debris into storm drains."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, they're all supposed to have a business license, landscapers, so let's get the list of landscapers that have a business license and contact them all."

Mr. Riccio said, "Absolutely."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shealy.

Councilmember Shealy said, "I was just going to let Councilmember Waring know that I had some complaints in my district, and Livability jumped right on it and took care of it, where they were putting debris in the stormwater drains."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "In addition, I've shared just this week I think, or maybe it's going out next week, the ordinance sharing with all of our Neighborhood Presidents and leadership to remind everyone that if you're a property owner, you are responsible for the maintenance all of the way out to the street or the curb, both in terms of litter and in terms of vegetative growth. So, we need to remind people that they do have that responsibility."

Mr. Riccio said, "Yes, sir."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Mr. Mayor, I remind you that you made a personal visit to the CVS on Orange Grove Road, and it's gotten a lot better since you knocked on the door."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Good."

Councilmember Shahid continued, "So, thank you for your weight behind that. We should get an update from the Public Safety Committee in about a month's time as to where we stand with this campaign. We did hear from Chief Reynolds. Chief, do you want to, he's over there talking to Jason. He gave us a quick update on recent shootings around the City. He reported to us that at the end of the calendar year we had ten homicides and 15 traffic fatalities. Prior to the beginning of the holiday season, I participated with Councilmember Seekings and the Mayor in a joint news conference that they had with the Mt. Pleasant Police Department, North Charleston Police Department, County Sheriff's Office, and Highway Patrol on enforcement. I think that was pretty successful, Chief, on what we're doing. Are there any other comments you wanted to share with the homicides that we've just experienced recently?"

Chief Luther Reynolds said, "I'll start with traffic. We just had a Committee meeting today on our traffic, and our traffic collisions are down significantly. That was a positive to report and a lot of good collective efforts. In terms of the shootings, we had a lot of visible events. We had a shooting outside of Citadel Mall, as I'm sure everybody is aware, on one of our busiest shopping days in the parking lot right outside the food court. We've had two homicides this year already in less than a week. What I can tell you is, in most of these events, the victim knows the offender. In many of the events, they were related to things such as the drug trade, retaliation, and domestic violence. The most recent homicide that we had, was a gentlemen in his 70's who was the stepfather, the victim was in his 50's, and the mother was in the house. In a nutshell, they were fighting over food, and this stepson was killed, shot in the head. So, I think the message is, we're working really hard, and we're working collaboratively with all of our partners, with the community. I know, in particular, we're probably going to have a meeting in West Ashley, I think January 28th. It's starting to line up for a Monday night, and I think we're probably going to be having a meeting at that time. We're still finalizing the details. There are too many guns in people's hands where they don't have any conflict resolution skills or a desire to solve problems I think in a responsible way. So, I think we have to continue to talk about this. We have to continue to educate and need to really be emphasizing responsible gun ownership and we really need to take a stand against violence in our communities.

It's a fairly complex problem. The one thing that every one of these have in common is every one of them is preventable, and they shouldn't have happened. So, we all have a responsibility in this conversation in keeping our communities safe. I can tell you that I've met with one too many mothers right here in Charleston who has lost a son or a daughter, mostly sons, to gun violence. When you sit down with a mother who has lost a son to gun violence, it's a humbling experience. So, I think it is important for us to talk about this. We talked about it in the Public Safety Committee meeting. It's also important, I think, to point out that Charleston is a very safe city. West Ashley, in particular, is a very safe community. When you take out these shootings, these homicides where the victim knows the offender, where there are some specific circumstances, and you take those cases out, not to diminish the importance of those lives and those families that are affected by that, we have a very safe community. We have to pay attention to these issues, though."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you very much."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Griffin.

Councilmember Griffin said, “Chief Reynolds, you talked about traffic collisions, and, unfortunately, we had one today between a young child and a vehicle earlier this morning in Shadowmoss. What can we do to sort of make sure that the public understands that we’re going to take a step to ensure safety? We don’t know exactly what happened this morning. All that we can hope for right now is a fast recovery for the young child involved, but it could have been a lot worse. I was thinking about going out there for the next few mornings wearing a protective vest and trying to help facilitate to make sure that children are up on the sidewalks and that people are obeying traffic laws. Also, I was hoping that maybe we could get a squad car, somebody to drive through there around the time that the kids are at the bus stop because of how serious of a situation that could have been this morning.”

Chief Reynolds said, “Absolutely, and we can and will do that, and I think your point is a good one because the community is obviously upset. They should be, we all should be. Again, most of these collisions and what they have in common is they’re preventable. So, we actually had a comprehensive meeting today with a lot of our partners, and Traffic and Transportation was represented there. We’ve talked about the three E’s, Education, Enforcement, and Engineering. We’re hitting all sides of that equation. I know that Keith (Benjamin) is having a big summit coming up. I’m sure he’s going to talk about that to be more strategic, but each day we all, as a community, have a responsibility. I can tell you we’ve begun our enforcement efforts, we’re just getting started, and just as an example, we did some enforcement on the Ravenel Bridge which is 55 MPH, and then it goes quickly to 45 MPH. We were getting offenders in the 80’s. We did one day on I-526, and we had them in the mid-90’s. That’s too fast. That’s behavior that needs to be modified. It’s better to do it through awareness and education and talking about these things. Certainly, engineering has a big factor, but part of it’s going to be enforcement, as well. I will tell you a positive that I heard in today’s meeting. We had the County Sheriff, the City and some other folks. We did a lot of sobriety checkpoints on New Year’s Eve. Almost all of the people, and they said this as I’m new here, but these guys have been doing this for many, many years, they all were actually pleasantly surprised. Most of the people they stopped were in Ubers and Lyfts, probably 90-plus percent. They did not get one DWI arrest from the sobriety checkpoints, specifically. They got a handful of other arrests. I think we had a collision, but no fatalities, and the direction of that was a positive one with Uber and Lyft and some of the people, I think, choosing not to drive.”

Councilmember Griffin said, “Thank you, Chief.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Alright. I don’t think we need to vote on any matter from this Committee.”

Councilmember Shahid said, “Nothing.”

Mayor Tecklenburg continued, “So, anything else?”

Councilmember Shahid said, “Just that we’ll get back with you on the Citizens meeting on January 28th for the details and confirmation of that meeting.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Right. Thank you very much. Next is our Committee on Recreation, Councilmember Gregorie.”

Councilmember Gregorie said, “Mr. Mayor and Council, the Recreation Committee met on January 7th at 3:00 p.m. I know that our agenda looks extensive, however, we’re only going to discuss Item ‘a’. We will take b. items up in another meeting. The presentation on Charleston Charm was introduced to the Recreation Committee by Councilmember Griffin, and Charleston Charm is a proposal and an approach that has been developed by Ventura, California specifically

to deal with homeless issues. They do have some creative approaches. While the only action we took on it was to make sure that since our Department of Housing and Community Development is responsible for implementing the Mayor's Commission on Homelessness, that before we go any further, that we give audience to the Community Development Department for further discussion, so that we can, in fact, take a more comprehensive and consolidated approach. Do you have any comments Councilmember Griffin?"

Councilmember Griffin said, "I just want to say that we've proved it right here tonight. We talked about the Navigation Center, we talked about the litter problem, and this Charleston Charm or this idea Councilwoman Jackson says we need a different name because it reminds her of Southern Charm."

There was laughter in the Chamber.

Councilmember Griffin continued, "Which we definitely don't want."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, that's pretty trashy, too."

There was laughter in the Chamber.

Councilmember Griffin said, "Yes, it is, but all of these ideas, and there are a lot of action steps already in place, but a comprehensive plan for homelessness, legitimate and concrete, some tangible goals over the next ten years, could do wonders for our City. We could look at some of these other cities that have already implemented different things. Look at the great things that we're already doing, especially through our Community Development Committee, and I was going to hope that I could come give this same presentation to your all's Committee at your next meeting. Then, we can look as a group and decide how we want to put together some sort of Comprehensive Plan to combat homelessness. We're already doing a lot of good, we're doing a ton of good across a lot of different departments. Now, we just have to work together to make sure that our departments are looking out for each other, and look for a few spots that could be improved, a few deficiencies, and one is finding some more work for those that are homeless. That's where, hopefully, we can meet with this organization called the Street Team. They're doing it out in California, and they're now trying to expand their reach to other states. There are programs to get homeless to clean storm drains, pick up litter, and get really concrete jobs. Those are the kind of things that could really, really benefit our City as a whole, not only because we're going to be helping create more jobs and help people that have struggled, but also, because we have a limited amount of resources that clean storm drains and pick up litter. Unfortunately, we can't always do it ourselves. So, if we could create more jobs and do it, I don't see how you could argue that as a City."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "I did take a look over at our Director of Housing and Community Development as we spoke about this because of course we do have a plan in place, a ten-year plan, and one of the things that we did discuss is, let's not start with a blank slate. Let's determine what is in terms of what our Department of Community Development is already doing and whether any of the recommendations from Ventura can improve that plan. So, under no circumstances am I saying that the City of Charleston does not have in place a ten-year plan to 'end homelessness', so there is no action required on this. It was just a simple recommendation that this presentation be provided to the Committee on Community Development. Thank you, Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I think Councilmember Griffin plans to come to the Mayor's Commission on Homelessness, as well. So, thank you for bringing forward some good ideas. We can always use more of those and add to what we're doing. So, next is our Committee on

Traffic and Transportation. Before Councilmember Seekings speaks, though, I want to thank him and Councilmember Lewis for their service on CARTA. You all know that Councilmember Seekings serves as Chairman of CARTA, as well. I was so excited when you came to my office, was it just last week? Time flies around here, and he was with the staff from the COG to really start, in my estimation, for the first time to get down to the nitty-gritty of getting this Lowcountry Rapid Transit System going. Today, in fact, I attended a stakeholder meeting for Lowcountry Rapid Transit, and it's going to take a while for us to get there, but it's really happening you all. It's really happening. I was excited, and I want to thank you, Chairman Seekings, for your service."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Thank you. Well, thank you for being there. It was important that you were there, so thank you. So, following the Lowcountry Rapid Transit kick off, we did have a Traffic and Transportation Committee meeting today at 2:00 p.m. which was much better than 3:00 p.m. on Friday afternoon when it was originally scheduled. We had an interesting meeting. We had two applications for original certificate which need action by this Council for approval. They were approved unanimously. We only had two items that I just want to report on very briefly to you all. We got a report from BCDCOG on the Long Range Transportation Plan. The report was long. It's complicated, just understanding what the Long Range Transportation Plan is, and more importantly, what it isn't is something I thought was important for our Committee. Just so you know, the Long Range Transportation Plan is not the only thing and not what totally dictates what happens in the Tri-county area and, in particular, Charleston County in the future. This is a plan that takes us out to 2040. It is projected to have projects that total somewhere in the vicinity of \$425 million. It does not include half-cent sales tax projects or projects that are brought to us by the State, for instance, the I-26/I-526 corridor. It is a way for the COG, which is chartered to do this, of putting together a series of priorities in terms of access, intersection, and traffic flow in the region that aren't otherwise taken up by larger scale projects. We got a report about it today, and I'm happy to make sure you all get a copy of it. 'It's hard to comprehend', I think, is a fair statement. It's got a lot of things in it, but what it does show is that we have a lot of challenges in our region and a lot of people fighting for dollars for transportation projects. We just have to stay vigilant in the City to make sure that we get our projects in line. The good news is, and Mr. Benjamin will tell me if I'm wrong about this, but the Citywide Transportation Plan's projects are incorporated in the Long Range Transportation Plan. So, kudos to Chairman Benjamin for making sure that Director Benjamin gets our projects in there so the County are thinking about it. So, it was a mouthful, there is more to come, it has not been adopted yet. It will be and then brought back to us. The second thing we talked about, and I just think that, particularly for those of you representing West Ashley, especially outer West Ashley, we were talking about the West Ashley Connector Road, which is a very short piece of real estate that is going to connect the small circle inside the large circle of the West Ashley Circle to Grand Oaks Boulevard where the Harris Teeter is being built. It will actually give access to people in Grand Oaks and that whole area direct access to the circle, if it ever gets operative, and the Harris Teeter which will ultimately open. Anyway, that little stretch is going to go out, well, it's going to come to us, I guess, at our next meeting at Ways and Means for approval for design and someone might ask what a quarter mile stretch of road would have cost to design. I did look through the proposal."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "\$95,000."

Councilmember Seekings continued, "Yes, it's about \$100,000. I knew the answer to that, but it is an opportunity, by the way, for those of you out there to make sure when they go and design this there is a very large wide right-of-way out there to make sure this is a fully accessible boulevard, not just a narrow street, where people who are coming out of Grand Oaks don't necessarily have to drive alone over to the Harris Teeter or to the circle, put in big pedestrian bike access, so all of those things that we will look for when we get that design. That will come back up to us, but for those of you who represent that area, know this is coming. It is connectivity

between Grand Oaks and what is going to be a challenged area with flooding, with development of the circle and all of that, so we're not going to take it up for another two weeks. So, any questions, talk to Mr. Benjamin, or me and we can make sure you have it so you can talk to your constituents. With that I would ask for approval of the report, Mr. Mayor. Thank you very much."

Councilmember Lewis said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Is there any discussion?"

No one else asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Seekings, seconded by Councilmember Lewis, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the Committee on Traffic and Transportation Report as presented:

---INSERT TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION REPORT---

- a.) Application for Original Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity:
 - Classic Choice Limo, LLC (Limo)
 - 1st Class Limousine NJ, LLC (Limo)
- b.) Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments Long Range Transportation Plan Presentation (information only)
- c.) West Ashley Connector Road (information only)
- d.) Director's Update
- e.) Discussion

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you very much. Next is our Committee on Public Works, Councilmember Waring."

Councilmember Waring said, "I have to defer to the Vice-Chair, Mr. Mayor."

Councilmember Griffin said, "The Committee on Public Works and Utilities met today at 3:00 p.m. We dedicated and accepted the portion of Forest Drive unanimously, and after a lengthy discussion on the Freeboard requirements, we deferred for a month, and in that time we're going to get a lot more information. We're going to be able to reach out to our constituents, and I believe it is going to be discussed at the Stormwater Committee, or what is the formal name of that?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "It's the Committee that's reviewing our Stormwater Manual. They meet next Thursday. We'll start with them."

Councilmember Griffin said, "They'll meet next Thursday, and then we'll get more information based on how that meeting goes, so that we can take it back to our constituents and other stakeholders that would be involved such as the homebuilders. It would be a big deal, so put a star by that on your agenda. There is going to definitely be a lot more information to come, and that's all we talked about, so I ask for approval of that."

Councilmember Waring said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We've got a motion to approve."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Seekings.

Councilmember Seekings said, "Mr. Mayor, on that ordinance, it was deferred and is going to be sent to the group that reviews stormwater. I do think it's amazing the requirements of the minimum heights of Freeboard. It's going to include, among other things, if you're building a slab on grey building fill dirt and all of that kind of thing that goes along with construction. I do think as we are re-organizing our Stormwater Department that probably before we put this in place, need to make sure whoever our new director of that department is gets his or her hands and eyes on this, as well, because it's a big ordinance, especially for areas that are going to go through development in the near future, large scale Single-Family home developments. It seems like a little ordinance, but it really has a lot of implications for stormwater, stormwater movement, flooding, and all of the things that we've been concerned about on this Council for a good long time now, so it needs some thought before it gets back here for approval."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Absolutely. We'll do that."

Councilmember White said, "Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember White.

Councilmember White said, "Since we're talking about the Committee that's reviewing the Stormwater Manual, and I'm on that Committee, one of the things that came to mind, we had met a couple of times, of course Ms. Cabiness left us and we're in the process of trying to hire somebody for that position, but such an important process with the Stormwater Manual, to me, I just wonder if we need to sort of take a pause on that process. I don't think we need to discuss and make it all known today, but if we're taking guidance from staff and others and trying to put this together, but yet, we have somebody who may come from off or outside of Charleston to take over this position and may have better ideas, we then have to go back and reinvent the wheel, if you will. I just want to put out there that it may make sense to kind of slow the process just a little bit until we get somebody in that role."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, that's why we have the deferral today, and I hope to be interviewing as early as next week for a new Director of the department. We do have a timeline to try to make this effective by August 1st because that's when we'll be getting a review for our Community Rating System. I think they call it CRS. If we can move up a notch, we can save people more money on their flood insurance policies, and so it's all tied together. I think it's going to work out. We'll have enough time to consider this fully, answer the questions, and decide whether it's a good thing or not, but we did that today, put a little pause on it. Yes, sir."

Councilmember Griffin said, "I forgot to mention that. That's a good point. The reason why this is such a big deal is because not only would it move us to FEMA +2, right now we're at FEMA +1, we are 400 and some odd points away from being a Level 5 instead of a Level 6, which means that if we're a Level 5, our flood insurance premiums, we get a 25 percent discount compared to a 20 percent discount right now, and that's across the board for everybody in the City of Charleston."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Everybody in the City. I think every five percent would equate to about \$2 million in savings for our citizens."

Councilmember Griffin said, "So, that's one of the reasons why this is such a big decision. At the same time, we would have to have this program in place by August 1st in order to get that, well, in order to get the points towards that. So, Stephen Julka is doing a great job with this thing called the Drive for Five, which is his program that he's worked really hard on to get us to a Level

5 instead of a Level 6. Ultimately, maybe this will be something that gets us points, but we now have time that we can figure out how the stakeholders feel about it.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilwoman Jackson.

Councilwoman Jackson said, “Thank you. Thanks for chairing the meeting, Councilmember Griffin. Since we are discussing, even though we have deferred this prior to coming to the Council in a month, I think one of the major points that I took away from Mr. Julka’s explanation to us, in addition to all of the things you’ve already just said, is that the City of Charleston and Mt. Pleasant are the only two communities in this whole area that aren’t already at FEMA +2, as you described it. So, I think, that we do have a season of working collegially. We know that every time we deal with a request to complain, a situation that’s repetitive in our management of flood control, stormwater drainage systems, and the whole gamut, we’re trying hard to work across the jurisdictions because we know we can’t solve our water challenges alone. I think this is one more example of why we need to just get onto the same level playing field as all of the other jurisdictions that are also regulating these same sorts of conditions just like we are, so I think that’s a big reason for me.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, “Thank you, Mr. Mayor. This pause will hopefully give all on Council more time to consider unintended consequences that will affect every homeowner and every business person in every district in this City. For example, in Councilmember Seekings’ District FEMA +2, well, let’s just say Hugo came back and damaged the house from the top down on a house that’s now at grade or on a house that’s at flood level now. The cost of renovating that house and having to raise that house afterwards, the homeowner may find out that they’re underinsured. So, when you go from grade to having to raise it up two feet in the Historic District, I’ve heard some prices of some people who were challenged who were thinking about raising their homes that just knocked me to my feet. You can buy a house in cash in West Ashley for what it would cost to raise one house on the Peninsula, in particular in the Historic District. So, there are situations to be considered West Ashley in these big subdivisions, James Island, Johns Island, bringing in dirt on new subdivisions that kind of thing creating flooding on the previous neighbor who was at grade. So, this is something where all of us need to do our homework on it, as opposed to not just depending on the Public Works Committee. You’re right, Councilmember White. It’s very, very, very important.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember White.

Councilmember White said, “Just one more quick comment is that, that’s really a major component of this. It’s obviously very expensive, but it’s not only downtown. If you’ve got to raise a slab two feet, you know how expensive dirt is right now in Charleston? I mean it’s expensive. So, even if we save \$2 million in premiums on flood insurance, I can assure you if you’ve got to pay to raise a house in a neighborhood, whether or not that’s going to balance out cost wise, I’m not certain. So, again, I agree. I think there is a lot more discussion that needs to happen here because I don’t think it’s something that we just need to fly straight into.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Right. It’s clear that the overall goal is to help people protect their properties from flooding. So, I think we all share that goal.”

Councilmember White said, “Of course.”

Mayor Tecklenburg continued, “We just need to figure out the best way to get there and Councilmember Shealy, could we call on you to help us drill down on the insurance question about all of this?”

Councilmember Shealy said, "Sure."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes, that would be great."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilwoman Jackson.

Councilwoman Jackson said, "I know we're going to move on from this topic, but if there is any confusion about needing to raise our homes, no one is saying that in order to get this new level of rating that people would have to raise up their existing homes to meet this two-foot requirement. It's only for new construction or if somebody was renovating their house, to an extent that it was a substantial renovation. Then, they would have to meet the increase. Right now, it's at one foot, so we're not talking about people having to go out and take loans in order to raise up their house, unless they're so concerned about already living in a neighborhood that floods repetitively. A lot of people are volunteering to do that just to protect their property. So, I totally support that we need to have ongoing education among ourselves and our constituents."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Right. So, we did have a couple of items on there for approval, I think, didn't we?"

Councilmember Griffin said, "Move for approval."

Councilmember Waring said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We have a motion to accept the report and a second."

On a motion of Councilmember Griffin, seconded by Councilmember Waring, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the Committee on Public Works and Utilities Report as presented:

---INSERT PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES REPORT---

a. Acceptances and Dedications:

i.) Dedication and Acceptance of a portion of Forest Drive (50' in Right-of-Way, 1,100 LF) Governor's Cay

b. Miscellaneous and Other New Business:

i.) Amending Chapter 27 Section 27-117 of the City Code of Charleston (increase the freeboard requirement to two feet). (*DEFERRED*)

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Next our Committee on Ways and Means."

Councilmember Seekings said, "So moved."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Is there any discussion?"

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Seekings, seconded by Councilmember Shahid, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the Committee on Ways and Means Report as presented:

---INSERT COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS REPORT---

(Bids and Purchases

(Police Department: Approval to submit the FY18 Justice for Families grant application for a supervised visitation clinic, staffed personnel, and domestic violence training for court

- related victim advocates. This grant does not require a City match. The cap for funding with this grant is \$550,000 to be used over an award period of 36 months. The application for this grant is due January 8, 2019.
- (Mayor's Office for Children Youth and Families: Approval to apply for up to \$300,000 for two years to provide training to law enforcement and services on elder abuse, and to enhance victim service provided by local agencies. No City match is required.
- (Police Department: Approval of a Memorandum of Agreement between CPD and CCSD regarding SRO's for the 2018-2019 school year.
- (Public Service: Approval of Spring-Fishburne US 17 Phase 4 Fee Amendment #17 with Davis and Floyd in the amount of \$505,688 to include additional design elements moved from Division IV, project enhancements, design revisions due to as-built conditions and other ancillary items, value engineering, mitigation support, and program administration. Fee Amendment #17 will increase the Phase 4 portion of the overall Professional Services Contract by \$505,688 (from \$879,065 to \$1,384,753). The funding source for this work is the State Infrastructure Bank (SIB), the Drainage Fund, and the King Street Gateway TIF. (DEFERRED)
- (Public Service: Approval of Spring-Fishburne US 17 Phase 4 Fee Amendment #18 with Davis and Floyd in the amount of \$6,831,772 to provide construction engineering and inspection (CEI) services to support the construction of the Phase 4 pump station wet wall and outfall. Fee Amendment #18 will increase the Phase 4 portion of the overall Professional Services Contract by \$6,831,772 (from \$1,384,753 to \$8,222,213). The funding source for this work is the State Infrastructure Bank (SIB), the Drainage Fund, and the King Street Gateway TIF. (DEFERRED)
- (Public Service: Approval of Spring-Fishburne US 17 Phase 4 Construction Contract with Conti Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$51,933,757 to construct the Pump Station, Wet Wall, and Outfall of the Spring-Fishburne Drainage Project. With the approval of the project budget, Staff is authorized to award and/or amend contracts less than \$40,000, to the extent contingency funds exist in the Council Approved budget. The Construction Contract will obligate \$51,933,757 of the \$65,909,935.70 project budget. The funding sources for this work are the State Infrastructure Bank (SIB) (\$39,000,000), King Street Gateway TIF (\$8,500,000) and the Drainage Fund. (\$18,409,935.70). (DEFERRED)
- (Request approval of the Second Amendment to Agreement to Buy and Sell Real Estate whereby amending the closing date to occur on or before January 31, 2019 and authorizing the Mayor to execute further 30-day extension amendments as needed. The property is owned by Edward K. Pritchard. (Nassau Street; TMS: 459-05-03-005)
- (Request approval for the Mayor to execute the Purchase and Sale Agreement whereby the City transfers a 539 square foot portion of City owned property located on Dills Bluff road to Galphin Lee Jackson III. The property is owned by the City of Charleston. (Dills Bluff Road; TMS: 428-00-00-003) [Ordinance]

First reading was given to the following bill:

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute on behalf of the City of Charleston the Purchase and Sale Agreement with Galphin Lee Jackson, III, transferring a 539 square foot portion of city owned property located on Dills Bluff Road, Charleston, South Carolina.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Next is our bills up for second reading. We have three items."

Councilmember Griffin said, "Move to take L-1 through L-3 together."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We have a motion to take L-1 through L-3 together for second reading."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Is there an amendment on L-2?"

Councilmember Mitchell said, "There is an amendment on L-2."

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Yes."

Councilmember Moody said, "We need to separate L-2 out."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay. We'll just take L-1 and L-3 together."

Councilmember Griffin said, "Move for approval."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We have a second for L-1 and L-3. Is there any discussion on those two items?"

No one else asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Griffin, two (2) bills (Items L-1 and L-3) received second reading. They passed second reading on motion by Councilmember Mitchell and third reading on motion of Councilmember Seekings. On further motion of Councilmember Mitchell, the rules were suspended, and the bills were immediately ratified as:

2019-001 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2, ADMINISTRATION, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON TO PROVIDE THAT EXPENDITURES OF PROCEEDS FROM MUNICIPAL HOSPITALITY TAX SHALL BE REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL; TO PROVIDE THAT EXPENDITURES OF PROCEEDS FROM MUNICIPAL ACCOMMODATIONS TAX SHALL BE REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL; AND TO PROVIDE THAT USE OF FUNDS IN THE MUNICIPAL HOSPITALITY TAX ACCOUNT SHALL BE SUBJECT TO CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL.

2019-002 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ANNEXATION OF PROPERTY KNOWN AS THREE LOTS ON MAGNOLIA ROAD AND LIVE OAK AVENUE (0.36 ACRE) (TMS# 418-13-00-057, 418-13-00-292 AND 418-13-00-293), WEST ASHLEY, CHARLESTON COUNTY, TO THE CITY OF CHARLESTON, SHOWN WITHIN THE AREA ANNEXED UPON A MAP ATTACHED HERETO AND MAKE IT PART OF DISTRICT 9. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY NATHAN C. AND MICHELLE P. HERTEL.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Now, we go to L-2, sorry about that."

Councilmember Moody said, "I make a motion that we delete that clause that I spoke about in the Real Estate Committee. It's called 'termination for convenience' clause that was in that. I ask that we take it out of the agreement that we've got now and then give it a second and third reading, and pass it on to the IAAM for their approval."

Councilmember Griffin said, "Second."

Councilmember Seekings said, "I just have a quick question."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Seekings.

Councilmember Seekings said, "Is there a reason why we took that out? It's a two-year lease term, right?"

Councilmember Waring said, "It is."

Councilwoman Jackson said, "But if it were cancelled during the term."

Councilmember Waring said, "It gives either party the right to cancel the lease with a 60-day notice."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Right, and we're taking that out?"

Councilmember Waring said, "Yes. Can you think of a reason why we want to put them out within 60 days?"

Councilmember Seekings said, "Or they might want to get out of it."

Councilmember Waring said, "But we're all allies. We can get together and work that out."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We can mutually agree if both parties agree, which would be fine. So, we have second reading on the floor, amended to remove the clause about termination by convenience."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie.

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Mr. Chairman, did you have a discussion on the parking needs for the museum and, if so, what were the conclusions?"

Councilmember Moody said, "There was a discussion that the--"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Parking passes will be provided at the Aquarium Garage."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Okay. Is there a set of parking spaces specifically assigned to the Maritime Center that are closer in proximity than the aquarium parking garage?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, there is a parking lot right behind the Maritime."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "I know there is a parking lot, but I'm just questioning whether or not any of those spaces are normally assigned to the Maritime Center."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, I know there are a few there right behind the building that say, 'Reserved for Staff'. We're still going to have our Maritime Center staff at the building, and so, all I know is the answer today was there were parking passes to be provided at the Aquarium Garage."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Do we know how many?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I don't know how many, but I think we've got plenty at capacity to give them. I think they have 15 employees or so."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "15 or 16. Yes."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Hopefully some of them will commute."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "But we'll cover them."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Okay. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright."

On a motion of Councilmember Moody, one (1) bill (Item L-2) received second reading. It passed second reading on motion by Councilmember Griffin and third reading on motion of Councilmember Lewis. On further motion of Councilmember Mitchell, the rules were suspended, and the bill was immediately ratified as amended:

2019-003 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE ON BEHALF OF THE CITY A LEASE BETWEEN THE CITY, AS LANDLORD, AND THE INTERNATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM, AS TENANT, PERTAINING TO PROPERTY OWNED BY THE CITY LOCATED AT 10 WHARFSIDE STREET, CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29401, KNOWN AS THE CHARLESTON MARITIME CENTER. **(AS AMENDED)**

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, we have no bills up for first reading. We do have a call for an Executive Session on two subjects, one regarding the Local Development Corporation and another regarding the lawsuit on Tour Guide Licensing. Do I hear a motion to go into Executive Session?"

Councilmember Shahid said, "So moved."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We have a motion and a second."

On a motion of Councilmember Shahid, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell, City Council voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 6:34 p.m.

On a motion of Councilmember Gregorie, seconded by Councilmember Shahid, City Council voted unanimously to come out of Executive Session at 7:21 p.m.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Let the record reflect no action was taking during Executive Session. We stand adjourned."

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Vanessa Turner Maybank
Clerk of Council