

CITY COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING

Regular Meeting

January 12, 2021

The one-hundred and eleventh meeting of the City Council of Charleston was held this date convening at 5:03 p.m. over video conference call (Zoom).

A notice of this meeting and an agenda were made available on the City's website January 7, 2021 and appeared in the Post and Courier on January 11, 2021.

PRESENT (13)

The Honorable John J. Tecklenburg, Mayor

Councilmember Delcioppo	District 1	Councilmember Waring	District 7
Councilmember Shealy	District 2	Councilmember Seekings	District 8
Councilmember Sakran	District 3	Councilmember Shahid	District 9
Councilmember Mitchell	District 4	Councilmember Griffin	District 10
Councilmember Brady	District 5	Councilmember Appel	District 11
Councilmember Gregorie	District 6	Councilmember Jackson	District 12

Mayor Tecklenburg called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

The Clerk called the roll.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Now, if you would like to join us, Councilwoman Delcioppo will lead us in an invocation."

Councilwoman Delcioppo opened the meeting with an invocation.

Councilwoman Delcioppo then led City Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you. So, just a few presentations and recognitions. First, I would like to thank and recognize Councilmember Mitchell, one of our senior colleagues, for his service during the year as Mayor Pro Tempore of the City of Charleston. Councilmember Mitchell, I have to give you a plaque commemorating your service and thanking you for that. I admit, in this last year's year of COVID, there weren't a lot of events that I was invited to, so you didn't have to stand in for me as Mayor for those very often, but you did whenever I called upon you, and I thank you very much for your service to our City. Councilmember, if you'd like to make a comment."

There was applause.

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Obviously, thank you, Mayor, for the opportunity. Like I said, that was my third time being Mayor Pro Tem. I know we didn't have too much going on. I did

a few, but it's always interesting to meet others and spread the joy. The City of Charleston is letting people know that we are here, and we have love for all of them, everyone in the City of Charleston and outside the City of Charleston. So, I would just say thank you for giving me the opportunity to be the Mayor Pro Tem again for the third time, and give it to somebody else. Let them be there for three more times. Thank you very much."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, you're welcome, and thank you. So, speaking of which, I do want to announce the appointment, as you received by email, of our next Mayor Pro Tem, which would be Councilwoman Carol Jackson, not the first woman to serve as Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Charleston. I believe that honor went to Hilda Hutchinson Jefferson, who I remember fondly, and she was a force of nature and a wonderful person. Then, shortly after her service as Mayor Pro Tem, one of the next women Mayor Pro Tems of the City was my mother. So, I think you could say you follow in fine footsteps. So, Carol Jackson, congratulations, and I look forward to your service this year as Mayor Pro Tem."

There was applause.

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Thank you, Mayor. I really appreciate it. I'll do my best."

Councilmember Shahid said, "I think we need to vote on that, don't we? Yeah, we have to formalize it."

Councilmember Waring said, "We do. I'll move for approval, Mr. Mayor."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you. Any discussion?"

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Waring, seconded by Councilmember Gregorie, City Council voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Councilwoman Carol Jackson as Mayor Pro Tempore.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I also distributed, on that same document, the Committee appointments for this coming year, which were substantially the same as they were this past year. Madam Clerk, does that require an approval by Council?"

The Clerk said, "No, sir."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I didn't think it did, but thank you so much."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, "I think I'm going to ask to do as I did last year, I had asked my way onto the budget committee, and asked that my one appointment last year was added, and I'm asking that I could be added this year."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Oh, right. So, I thought by virtue of your chairmanship that you were."

Councilmember Waring said, "I think that's the same issue that happened last year, so somehow I got left off this year."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay, I never revised the form, I guess."

Councilmember Waring said, "That's what I thought, but thank you though."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We will revise that. Thank you."

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you, sir."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes, sir. So, next we have a presentation of the South Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association's Great Places in South Carolina and a special award. I'm going to call on Councilmember Ross Appel to present that."

Councilmember Appel said, "Alright, thank you, Mr. Mayor. This is very exciting. We won a state award over in my district. The Ashley River Bridge District is a very special place in the City of Charleston. It makes up some of the oldest and most well-established neighborhoods in the City of Charleston, places like Old Windermere, South Windermere, Wappoo Heights, the Crescent, Moreland, Westwood, and, of course, Byrnes Downs and Avondale. You know, the Ashley River District Plan was first put into place in 1997. I was in the eighth grade, but it's been a very important planning that sort of guides a lot of the work that we do here today. It's a main reason why this is, humbly, one of the best places to live, work, and play in the City of Charleston. It's a very distinct honor. This is the first SCAPA Award that the City of Charleston has ever received off the Peninsula, which I think is a big, important recognition. We've got some special guests today that can do a much better job of explaining the Ashley River Bridge District's origin, as well as the award that we're here to talk about today. We've got Donna Jacobs, who is a regular on our Zoom calls of late, for good reason, and we've got Amy Southerland with our Livability and Tourism department, Eric Pohlman, our West Ashley Projects Coordinator, and they're going to take it away from here and explain a little bit more about this effort and this award and what we've got going on over in this corner of the City. Thank you."

Amy Southerland said, "Hello. I'm Amy Southerland, and today I'm not here as a City employee, but as a member of the South Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association. Annually, our national organization, the American Planning Association, recognizes great places in America in three different categories: great neighborhoods, great public spaces, and great streets. South Carolina has received six of these awards, and three of the six are in Charleston. King Street, Broad Street, and Waterfront Park all have this designation. The South Carolina Chapter modeled their program after the national chapter, and we wanted to do this in order to acknowledge and celebrate planning efforts across the state. We are happy to share with you that the Ashley Bridge District won the inaugural South Carolina Great Places award for 2020.

The Ashley Bridge District is an example of a great neighborhood for many reasons, but in order to keep it brief, I'll just share a few highlights. The review committee recognized the importance of connectivity between the nine neighborhoods that make up the district. This connectivity is one of the most important components, creating a livable, built environment and quality of life for the residents. The district has a very healthy mix of public space, commercial and residential uses, and there is an interwoven equity in diversity of housing, with single-family, duplexes, multi-family, mixed throughout. The Ashley Bridge District, additionally, is an anchor for

the City and surrounding regions, acting as a destination, not only for its services, recreation, and employment opportunities, but also for its sense of place in our community. We would like to encourage the planning team to apply for the next national award and show the rest of the country what great places we have in South Carolina and in Charleston. Congratulations again on receiving the first Great Places in South Carolina award. Thank you.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Thank you, Amy.”

Councilmember Shahid said, “Thanks, Amy.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Donna, did you want to add anything? Thank you again for being with us.”

Donna Jacobs said, “Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I would like to add a couple comments, if I may. This is very exciting for us who live in these neighborhoods of the Ashley Bridge District, for the district to be the inaugural recipient of the South Carolina American Planners Association’s Great Places award. We’re just thrilled. The story of the ABD actually begins with a conversation, and it was much like Councilman Waring was speaking of Ways & Means. If this conversation didn’t happen, maybe we wouldn’t have gotten this far. This conversation was between Bill Lawrence, who lived in South Windermere and Mayor Riley. Bill Lawrence told the Mayor that if the City did not begin to work affirmatively to protect the original neighborhoods just west of the Ashley River, then they might begin to decline to the pressures exerted by traffic, commercial changes, and resulting livability issues. After this conversation, the old West Ashley Neighborhood Association Forum worked with the City to fund a charrette that generated this Ashley Bridge District plan, and the plan was adopted by City Council in January of 1997. Since that plan’s adoption, there have been way too many people to name who have worked diligently and affirmatively in the district so that these neighborhoods and the commercial areas surrounding them are vibrant, thriving, livable, and connected. In this effort, we’ve had the support of great City staff and four engaged Councilmembers, starting with Yvonne Evans, then Mike Seekings, Bill Moody, and now Ross Appel, who have helped us navigate all the hurdles in the City, County, State, and SCDOT agencies.

In the 30 years of its existence, we have been successful in creating the Savannah Highway Overlay, the closing of Stocker Drive to cut-through traffic, thus returning this street to a peaceful neighborhood street, reducing the speed limit on Savannah Highway and Folly Road to 35mph to promote a more pedestrian friendly environment, creating a median on Savannah Highway accented with mast arms for signal lights in the Avondale business district to facilitate safe pedestrian crossing of the highway, redesigning South Windermere Boulevard through the South Windermere Shopping Center with enhanced landscaping and pedestrian crosswalks, and supporting Charleston Moves in their work to obtain the build grant for the bike/ped bridge across the Ashley River. These, and a myriad of small neighborhood projects, have culminated in this recognition, and we would like to thank Eric Pohlman for so beautifully marketing our belief in these neighborhoods to SCAPA as a great place, and we appreciate the encouragement to apply for the National Great Place award. Thank you for your time.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Thank you, Donna. You mentioned those two gentlemen, but we all know that you were pulling the heavy load and doing a lot of work behind the scenes, particularly in those early days, but really all along. So, thanks again for all your efforts for the City.”

Ms. Jacobs said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I live in one of those nine neighborhoods, and it's a great place to live. There's no question about it."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I just want to say a big shout out to Amy and to Donna for you all's work on all of this. Just to give everybody sort of a perspective on that 1997 plan and the positive influence it had on, not just Councilmember Appel's district, but those things that we talked about, connectivity and neighborhoods and addressing traffic concerns and live, work, and play, that was the hallmark of the West Ashley Revitalization Commission. Several times, going through the charrettes, putting the Plan West Ashley together, those were the things that we copied and pasted, those positive influences out of those neighborhoods, to create Plan West Ashley. So, it's not just stopping within this particular district. It's moving on to all of West Ashley. It's serving as a model, quite frankly, for a lot of the things that we are doing with implementing the Plan West Ashley study. So, a big thank you for all the work that my predecessors had in this. You mentioned Councilmember Seekings and Councilwoman Evans, and so a lot of people had their fingerprints on this, Councilman Moody, as well, and this is going forward now with all of this. I just think we need to keep in mind how good planning sort of permeates through more good planning, and that's what we're trying to do with the West Ashley Revitalization Commission. So, a big thank you to a lot of people who had their fingerprints all over this, and congratulations, Councilmember Appel. You get to take all the credit."

Councilmember Appel said, "Not at all. Not at all."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright, well thank you all. So, we have just one matter on public hearings. We've already approved this for first reading by Council, but as a formality, it comes to us as a public hearing. Does Mr. Morgan or someone want to make a brief presentation?"

Mr. Morgan said, "Mr. Mayor, members of Council, this is an item that was at Planning Commission on December 16th, and it received a unanimous recommendation to you all for approval. Mr. McQueeney is available if there are any questions about the ordinance itself."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Did anyone from the public want to be heard on this, Madam Clerk?"

The Clerk said, "We did not have anyone sign up for this item. We did have some citizens sign up for Citizens' Participation. We did receive one comment from Cashion Drolet, and she just stated that the Charleston Historic Foundation is in support of the proposed ordinance, and they're excited to see the provisions for outdoor dining gain permanency. They also encourage City Council to work with other neighborhood boards and commissions to explore options so that outdoor dining does not expire in 2022."

Councilmember Griffin said, "I'll move for approval."

Councilmember Shealy said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright, this will be for a second reading. Any discussion?"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Seekings.

Councilmember Seekings said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Just very briefly, I'd like to point out that the Planning Commission, when they approved this, did so with an enthusiastic eight to nothing vote. It came with that as described before. Also, there was discussion about the sunset provision. I would just like to ask my fellow Councilmembers and you, Mr. Mayor, to keep an eye on sunset provision as we go forward and see how this all works. The next thing on this ordinance is to get rid of that sunset provision because I think that would then give some certainty and show some support for the investment that our restaurants have made in outdoor dining. So, I look forward to voting for this and to see the sunset provision be eliminated before the sunset actually comes along. Thank you very much."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Understood completely, I agree. Alright, any other comments or questions?"

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Griffin, one (1) bill (Item E-6) received second reading. It passed second reading on motion by Councilmember Shealy and third reading on motion of Councilmember Gregorie. On further motion of Councilmember Shahid, the rules were suspended, and the bill was immediately ratified as:

2021-001 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 54 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON (ZONING ORDINANCE) BY CHANGING PART 4 (ACCESSORY USES) OF ARTICLE 2 (LAND USE REGULATIONS) TO ADD A NEW SEC. 54-215 (OUTDOOR DINING SERVICES) TO AUTHORIZE THE USE OF NEW OR ADDITIONAL SPACE FOR OUTDOOR DINING SERVICES. (AS AMENDED)

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you very much. So, next is our approval of City Council minutes."

The Clerk said, "And this will just be December 1st."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Move for approval."

Councilmember Griffin said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We have a motion to approve. Are there any changes, deletions, additions?"

No one asked to speak.

On motion of Councilmember Mitchell, seconded by Councilmember Griffin, City Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the December 1, 2020 City Council meeting.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Up next is our Citizens' Participation period, Madam Clerk."

The Clerk said, "Yes, we have eight people signed up to speak. Mr. Mayor, would you like to set a time limit?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "How many folks?"

The Clerk said, "Eight people."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, let's do two minutes each please."

The Clerk said, "Alright. The first speaker we have, and I hope I'm not mispronouncing her name, is Jennifer Thiem. If you are on the line, if you could press *6."

1. Jennifer Thiem said she did not have any comments for Council this evening.
2. Mark Pergolese said he was the district manager for Carolina Waste and Recycling and had no comments at the time.
3. Brandon Fish, Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Charleston, encouraged the passage of the Resolution on white nationalism, white supremacy, and neo-nazism. He said the community had watched the public emergence of hate groups, both in Charleston and across the country, with grave concern. The past few years had seen a dramatic rise in hate crime and an almost unprecedented acceptance of fringe hate groups into the marketplace of ideas and also the political mainstream. Just one week ago, they had witnessed some of these hate groups play a part in the storming and desecration of the beloved Capitol building in Washington. Some of them were wearing shirts celebrating the Holocaust. Others among the insurrectionists who played a part in the events of January 6th were affiliated with local Charleston hate groups and were said to have played a part in organizing a rally downtown just a month ago. They applauded the City for continuing to take a stand against hate. As an organization that represented a politically diverse community, they also saw the value in continuing to identify and alienate white nationalists and white supremacist organizations from any mainstream political party or movement. The Jewish Community Relations Council held that anti-Semitism, racism, xenophobia, Islamophobia, homophobia, and any and all other forms of hate had no legitimate role in the business of the City or nation. They thanked the City's leadership for standing with them on that principle.

The Clerk said, "Next is Rita Kazirkis. If you are on the line, if you could press *6."

No one asked to speak.

4. Jason Jones said he was the founder of the United Front of Charleston, an activist and humanitarian group in Charleston. He encouraged Council to pass the hate crime resolution put forth by Councilman Mitchell. They stood strongly in support of the resolution, and he meant the greater underserved, underprivileged, and minority communities of Charleston. They were thankful for Councilman Mitchell stepping forward and putting it out there. They hoped the resolution would be heard by the City and agreed upon unanimously. He asked the City to consider what the resolution meant going forward, what ordinances would be put in place afterwards, as they had heard many words come from not just the City, but the nation as a whole and saw little action following those words. While they were thankful for Councilman Mitchell putting this forward, they were always looking at the next step and the next moves. He thanked Charleston for being on the right side of history.

5. Marcus Mr. McDonald said a lot of the things that he wanted to say he said at the last City Council meeting. In regards to white supremacy groups and things getting out of control, if they didn't do anything about it, something would happen and they would be calling for unity afterwards, but it would be too late. That is what he said at the last meeting, but it fell on a lot of deaf ears. A lot of the same confederate flags that were flown at the Battery were in the Capitol. The same Blue Lives Matter flags that were flown at the Battery were flown at that Proud Boys rally. Those same flags were used to beat a D.C. police officer to death last week by the same people who carried Blue Lives Matter flags. As he said at the last meeting, they had to act before it got even worse, and it would get worse. Anybody who had read the news knew what was going to happen on Inauguration day. It was going to get out of hand. It will. He said they had a sitting City Councilmember who applauded a lot of the work those people did and didn't tell them to change a thing when they wanted to march in the City, but the City didn't do a thing until they saw something happening at the Capitol. He commended Councilmember Mitchell for standing up with the Resolution, and he commended Jason Jones for what he said. It was time to do the work because if they kept waiting more people would die. He said there was a City Councilmember who talked about crying about the tourists and asked about African Americans who lived here who are scared by people burning Black Lives Matter flags and if they were thought of when people talked about protecting the citizens of Charleston.

6. Evelyn DeVere said she supported the resolution against hate groups in Charleston. She said she was dismayed by the silence of City Council and Mayor. They needed to say something or things would get worse, and they should not have to wait for a City Council meeting to hear from them. She said there was an overall lack of respect from many City Councilmembers when citizens were speaking. They could be seen texting, doing other work, and having full conversations. She said it was disheartening and asked them to respect citizens and their jobs and to pay attention when they were being spoken to.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, ma'am."

The Clerk said, "Next is Reverend Nelson Rivers. If you're on the line, if you could press *6."

No one asked to speak.

The Clerk said, "I'll go back in case we missed her. Rita Kazirkis, if you're on the line, if you could press *6."

No one asked to speak.

The Clerk said, "And those were all the speakers that we had tonight. We did receive some comments. We had two citizens that asked that the City respond to the riots in D.C. One citizen stated that the school district should continue to be virtual and asked that Councilmember Griffin resign. We had four citizens who supported the Resolution denouncing white supremacy. Those are all the comments that we received."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Great. Thank you, Madam Clerk. I appreciate everyone's participation in signing on and letting us hear from you. Alright, next is our Petitions and Communications. First is the approval of a Planning Commission appointment."

Councilmember Griffin said, "Move for approval."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Any discussion?"

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Griffin, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell, City Council voted unanimously to appoint Loquita Bryant-Jenkins to the Planning Commission.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Now, this next one I'm not so sure about."

There was laughter.

Councilmember Shahid said, "Move for approval."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Jennifer Cook, you've been doing an outstanding job as Interim Clerk of this Council, and I believe I see a lot of head shaking here. You have everyone's full-fledged support and thankfulness. So thank you, Jennifer, for your service to us all."

The Clerk said, "Thank you."

There was applause.

On the motion of Councilmember Shahid, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell, City Council voted unanimously to appoint Jennifer Cook as the Clerk of Council.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Next is an update on another proposed settlement agreement. I think Julia Copeland is going to update us on this one, Julia."

Ms. Copeland said, "Sir, good evening, Mayor and Council. It's good to see everybody tonight. Happy New Year. I'm here today with a settlement proposal from an appeal of a BZA approval, actually. It's, what they're appealing, actually, is the three conditions that they attached to an approval. This is Stanley Martin Homes. They're building out on Daniel Island a neighborhood on Fairbanks Oaks Alley. They submitted a request to BZA for the removal of eight grand trees. The request was granted, but with three conditions, and one of those was that they had to save tree number eight. They did appeal this, and we went through two days of mediation with outside counsel, also Eric Schultz with the TRC. And just so you know, this project is still going through the TRC process. Any approval tonight does not stop that. It just goes into the TRC process with the design as we have worked through in the mediation. Phil and Kenzie Holton assisted with the mediation and with an alternate design that, if you guys approve tonight, will go into the TRC process for review and comments. Staff has recommended approval on this."

Councilmember Griffin said, "I'll move for approval."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Any discussions or questions of Julia?"

No one asked to speak.

On motion of Councilmember Griffin, seconded by Councilmember Shahid, City Council voted unanimously to approve the following settlement agreement:

Settlement agreement between the City and SM, LLC, arising out of Case No. 2020-CP-08-2380; proposed settlement to resolve the appeal of conditions related to approval from the Board of Zoning Appeals of appellant's tree variance request.

Ms. Copeland said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, Julia. Appreciate that. Next, just to give Council a little update and to appoint an ad hoc committee, at our last meeting we discussed the thought of having a code of conduct for Councilmembers, and if you recall, Chip McQueeney volunteered to spend some time. I will send out tomorrow to you all a five-page ordinance that Chip, in his normal, thorough fashion, has recommended to us. So, rather than spend hours, and we didn't really have, I thought, an appropriate standing committee to send this to for review to come back to Council, so I'd like to appoint an ad hoc committee chaired by Councilmembers Delcioppo and Appel. If any Councilmembers would like to join them to review this document and then send, come back with a report to Council in the near future, I'd appreciate it, and they've agreed to lead that effort. And even if you don't serve on the committee, if you want to, I'm sure, just read the document, if you have any suggestions, they'd welcome any suggestions that anyone may have. Of course, then they'll come back to us and make some recommendation about any changes or whether we even want to proceed with this at all. Any questions or comments about that?"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Griffin.

Councilmember Griffin said, "Yes, sir, you said it was a code of conduct for the Councilmembers, but are you included in that, as well?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes."

Councilmember Griffin said, "Okay, just want to make sure. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes, sir, absolutely. I think it was written that way. I'm sure. It's certainly fine with me for it to include me. Absolutely."

Mr. McQueeney said, "Yes, sir, I wrote it to include everybody."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "As a point of clarity, the Mayor is a member of Council."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Absolutely."

Councilmember Griffin said, "Yes, but he said Councilmembers, so I just wanted to make sure."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "He's a member. He's a member of Council."

Councilmember Griffin said, "He's a member of the City Council, but he's not a Councilmember."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Oh, okay, thank you."

Mr. McQueeney said, "I addressed all that language in the ordinance because it is confusing the way it's written now, but it applies to the Mayor and all members of City Council, and then it defines a member, which is what it applies to the rest of the document, as the Mayor and all members of City Council, just to be very clear on that."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Are you addressing committee members, meaning outside committee members, not necessarily Council?"

Mr. McQueeney said, "No, sir. I haven't done other than elected officials. I've only geared this towards elected officials, and I do think it could be expanded to address appointed officials. My goal here was to, even though I don't do things simply, to try to keep it somewhat simple for these purposes."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, "Yeah, I just want to echo, I think the intent back when we discussed this last year was to make sure we included those folks who served on boards and citizen committees. So, I would ask our two Councilmembers who are chairing this to make sure that's also included as part of your discussions."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Sounds like a recommendation to them."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Griffin.

Councilmember Griffin said, "One more question. What's the point of having an ad hoc if we've already got a five-page document? Why wouldn't we just take it up as a Council and decide whether or not we want to do it or not?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Just in the interest of time and to drill down focus on it and bring it back to Council as we would do with most matters."

Councilmember Griffin said, "Okay."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. So, thank you for that. Next will be our update on the City's response to COVID-19. I know Tracy McKee is planning on giving us an update, perhaps Shannon. I didn't ask Shannon, but I see him on there, so he must be planning to, as well."

Ms. McKee said, "Yes, sir, thank you. Shannon is available tonight, and I'm going to hit a little bit of an update on cases and some data around vaccinations and let Shannon talk about the emergency management efforts. So, getting right to it, you've seen this graph before, but this is newly updated, the daily number of cases and the rolling seven day average in our City of

Charleston zip codes. We've seen about an 87% increase in that seven day average over the past two weeks, so obviously, that's been kind of an acceleration of cases at the local level. Hospitalizations are also on the rise, as we all know. The Mayor did a wonderful press conference with representatives from MUSC and Roper to talk about the rise in hospitalizations that we're seeing. And so the next two are indicators, we are pretty much red across the board. In the press conference on Monday, the Mayor mentioned that we were taking a step back from phase 3 back to phase 2, so what does that mean? Our plan is really for City offices and facilities, so it's kind of about our internal operations, and I have just a brief summary of kind of what that really means. It's impacted special events and park permits. People can still submit applications for these things, but we won't be having any of these things happen while we're in phase 2. We hope that we are in phase 2 for a brief moment in time and that when we return back to phase 3, we can allow some low-risk events to happen. City offices are actually now closed to the public, so it's by appointment only, and an exception to that is the permit center. So, they've modified their operation to assist individuals that really need some one-on-one assistance, and they've managed to do that very well and in a very low-risk scenario. We thought that was really important to maintain. Similarly, with Recreation, they've done a really wonderful job of having some recreation programming, and we feel that they've done it very low-risk and safely, and that that's a really important element to have for the community, so those things will continue. Employee cases, we've had two hospitalizations to date. We currently have 19 active cases. We've had a total of 204 cases and over 1,000 employee tests, and contact tracing has been done for that number of employees, so a big kudos to our health and wellness team and safety team, who have done all the contact tracing. It's been a lot of work. So getting to some positive things, I mentioned vaccinations at the last meeting, and we're finally starting to see some data around vaccinations, some good numbers. CDC is reporting that we've received almost 350,000 first doses of vaccinations in South Carolina, and DHEC is reporting that 26% of those first doses have actually been administered. So here's just a chart that shows kind of the doses that we're receiving per week in South Carolina, and we seem to be hovering around 60,000 that we're getting in this State every week. And then here, you can see the cumulative impact of those vaccinations being administered, and we do get those by the type of vaccine, whether it's Moderna or Pfizer. So really quickly about employee vaccinations, any of the employees that have been designated as 1A, as well as those 70 years and older, have already received a link to get vaccinated, and so we are continuing to advocate for all of our employees as essential workers to ensure that we get our folks vaccinated as quickly as possible. And I did mention last time that we were starting up an EMT around vaccinations. So, with that, I'm going to turn it over to Shannon and let him share with you the work that they've been doing."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Before you go there, can I ask a question?"

Ms. McKee said, "Sure."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Under your screen here you've got employee vaccinations, you've got 70 and older. I guess you're referring not to just 70 and older employees, but 70 and older citizens in our community, right?"

Ms. McKee said, "That's correct, but we've actively, proactively, shared a link with our employees to let them know that those 70 and older can go ahead and get vaccinated. But yes, that's true, anyone in the community 70 and older is now eligible to register to get vaccinated."

Councilmember Shahid said, "And I think I saw somewhere, on one of the news outlets, that the President is advocating for it to be 65 and older."

Ms. McKee said, "I'm not sure about that. I have heard of some places that have opened it up to 65 and older, but we have not gotten word that that is happening here in South Carolina yet."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Okay, well I would just ask that you maybe follow up on that part of it. That's going to include a higher percentage of our population, I would expect, and those who are vulnerable to that, so if you would just double check that new development. I think that's something that's just happened earlier this afternoon. I see Councilmember Waring shaking his head."

Ms. McKee said, "Yeah, Shannon's been in regular contact with DHEC as well as the other emergency managers at the local level, so he's really got his finger on the pulse of that, so as soon as that is available, I'm sure he will sound the alarm."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you. Just to follow up on Councilmember Shahid. I did see that on the news this morning, too, on the national news. But they did say that it would be something that would have to be accepted by each governor, so whether that's being filtered down or not, I know one thing, I stand ready to take my vaccine."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "You got that right."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, next we'll call on Shannon Scaff, our Emergency Management Director. And just to let you all know, he has formed an incident command team, similar to if we had a hurricane or any other big event, disaster type event, to help manage both our communications and our response and our cooperation with DHEC and other healthcare providers regarding the vaccination, Shannon."

Mr. Scaff said, "Mr. Mayor, members of Council, good evening. Can you hear me okay?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes, sir."

Mr. Scaff said, "Alright. This is my first time using a new computer here, so I just wanted to make sure my connectivity is good. Thank you for that. We're very fortunate. The majority of our incident management team we activated way back in March, which seems like a thousand years ago. Many of those same folks from team Charleston have come back to help with this phase of the crisis. We're off to the races on this thing. You know, over the last couple of months, I've been looking at the communications just throughout the City and through our partners external to City government, and I felt like it was important for us to make sure that information flow was efficient and accurate, and what better way to do that than go ahead and pull our team back together and activate for this phase. So, that was kind of the main premise initially, was to ensure that communication was accurate, information was accurate flowing around the City. We identified six main objectives for the incident management team to focus on as we continue to march down the road and into spring. We have the strongest interest in helping out our partners, however, we're able to ensure we get to heard immunity as quickly and effectively as possible. And I'm going to go ahead and review those objectives with you now and be happy to take any questions from you."

The first one is to establish and implement a robust COVID vaccination protocol for City staff, and these are in no particular order, and you know, Tracy's talked a bit about that already, but the reality is we've been working for a couple months now to really provide and keep ourselves in line with sort of the directives in terms of who is 1A, 1B, and so on and so forth. And then we've communicated that to the folks that are asking for the information, so establish and implement a robust COVID vaccination protocol for City staff. The second one is to support vaccination efforts throughout the City. We're sort of limited in our information that we have available to us right now, but I can assure you, as was said a moment ago, I'm in daily contact with MUSC and Roper and others to see how we might be able to help them with these vaccination efforts. I suspect that as we work our way through winter there's going to be some real opportunity there for us to team up, just like we did with testing, way back, months ago. So we're chomping at the bit to help out there. The next one would be monitor City COVID vaccinations and vaccine availability daily. As Tracy has already sort of brought to the surface here, we're definitely very interested in seeing what's available to us and making sure we're ready with the folks that need to have them cycle through for a vaccination. Monitor public receptivity to vaccinations and other key trends. Kind of where we went with this was when we first got into the COVID-19 crisis, there was this immediate need to figure out where certain areas of Charleston were impacted the most and then that turned out to be kind of our main focus really as we march through spring and into summer. This is kind of that same way, we want to really have an understanding of our community and their desire to receive the vaccination and any other key trends that may identify themselves as we work through this. Maximize public messaging in support of widespread vaccinations. I mean, we've already seen the press conferences that are happening and really trying to encourage people to educate themselves on the effectiveness of the vaccine and cancel out any rumors or misconceptions about the vaccine itself. Finally, effectively liaise with the healthcare community and other key partners.

I will finish with this. I'm very, very proud of the relationships that we have with our medical community, with other emergency managers in the area, with DHEC, the folks at Charleston and Berkeley County. It's a full court press, and it has been for several months now, and now we're getting into what I think is a more positive phase of this crisis, and there's hope with this vaccine, so we're going to continue to march through with this incident management team. It's a great team. I'm very proud of all of them and happy to take any of your questions."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Any questions for either Shannon or Tracy?"

No one asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, I want to thank them both for their efforts. It's really a team effort, and our goal is to get as many staff members vaccinated as soon as possible, but we also want that for our community, so I do want to ask all of my colleagues here on Council to please share the information that we, I believe, have shared with you. If not, Tracy please do so tomorrow, our links with the CDC, with detailed information about the vaccine, so that when they get that call from DHEC that they're now eligible to get in line, that everybody will be ready to step up, who's willing, and there won't be a lot of hesitation, as has been encountered in some places already. So I think the quicker we can get this thing out and the more folks vaccinated, the sooner we get to a herd immunity, and that will keep us all safer and healthier. So, we do have the matter of our continuing ordinances."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Move for approval."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Any questions of Ms. Herdina on what we have before us this evening?"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Griffin.

Councilmember Griffin said, "Yes, sir. I just want to state for the record that I'm going to be voting no because I think we should still be looking to meet in person before March, which this ordinance will run through. I think March at some point, March 12th, or something along those lines, and I would just hope that we could continue to try to meet in person before then. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Thank you, sir. Any other questions or comments?"

The Clerk said, "Is the motion for items I-6 and 7, for both items?"

Councilmember Shahid said, "Yes, ma'am."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I think that was the intent, yes."

On a motion of Councilmember Shahid, seconded by Councilmember Gregorie, City Council voted to ratify the following Emergency Order and Emergency Ordinance:

EXECUTIVE ORDER CONTINUING THE DECLARATION OF THE STATE OF
EMERGENCY IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 VIRUS OUTBREAK

**2021-002 - EMERGENCY ORDINANCE EXTENDING CERTAIN EMERGENCY
ORDINANCES RELATED TO COVID-19.**

The vote was not unanimous. Councilmember Griffin voted nay.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you. So next up is Council communications. We have a request from Councilmember Mitchell."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Move for approval."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We have a motion for approval."

Councilmember Waring said, "I'm going to second it, Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Any discussion?"

No one asked to speak.

On motion from Councilmember Gregorie, seconded by Councilmember Waring, City Council voted unanimously to approve the following resolution:

Resolution condemning white nationalism, white supremacy, neo-nazism, and any other groups and individuals who seek to divide our community and incite hatred.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Councilmember Seekings, did you want to be recognized?"

Councilmember Seekings said, "No, sir, I was just voting."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Mitchell.

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Yes, I know it has been approved, and I'm not going to prolong it because we can go on, and I hope that everyone had received the amended copy, and that's the new copy that we are voting on tonight. What you see there, on Council's a little different. We have already addressed those particular names before, so we have to go back and do it again, so I just want to make sure that it's the new resolution that we see with the new changes, and that's what we're voting on tonight. And I thank you all for doing that because I think we have to get on with the business of Charleston, keeping everything safe here, and hopefully everybody would come together so we are sending a message out. And I had some calls from some Councilmembers from other jurisdictions already that they want to look at their own once this one is approved because they're going to try to do the same thing. Even Folly Beach and other places already called and checked with me, so we just hope that it's a start."

Ms. Herdina said, "Mr. Mayor, I don't believe that the revised resolution has been distributed yet to Council. I don't know if we want to put that up on the screen, Jennifer, and do that?"

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Yes. I would like, Susan, if you may, would you read that new, amended ordinance if no one had received it? I don't know if everyone has received it. Has everybody received a mailed copy? Okay, so I'm going to ask Susan just to read that for me, please."

Ms. Herdina said, "Sure. And, Jennifer, do you want to put it up on the sharing screen? That might be helpful for people to read along with me. So, just in summary, what this revised version has done is to actually expand the resolution to include any group or individuals who are seeking to divide our community. And we also, the resolution as requested by Councilmember Mitchell, also requests that the State of South Carolina, that the General Assembly, immediately enact a Hate Crimes Law for the State of South Carolina. So, the intent of the revisions is really to make this broader. I think there was some concern that by naming specific groups, we were making it more narrow, but the object of this resolution that Councilmember Mitchell has requested is really to basically say we do not, or the City Council in this resolution, does not approve of any group or any individual who's seeking to divide our community and to incite hate and violence. So, I see that Jennifer has it up there, I can review, I can read it, if you'd like."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "That looks like the only significant changes."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "That's it, yes. That's about it, and I think if everybody's satisfied with it, we wouldn't even have to go through it and read it all over again, I guess."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "I vote that we approve it, as amended."

Councilmember Waring said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "All right. Is there any further discussion?"

Councilmember Waring said, "I do, Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "If you would page down just a bit, Jennifer, to see the last whereas."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Right there."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Right there. So, this was one of the more inclusive paragraphs, I think. 'Whereas, we are committed to promoting a community that is unified, where people of different races, religion, sexual orientation, and ethnic backgrounds resolve together to overcome the challenges of its past and become stronger and more inclusive, and we call upon the South Carolina General Assembly to immediately enact a Hate Crimes Law for the State of South Carolina.' And I will share with Council, we did this, at least a call to the State, we did this a year ago in a similar action. In my view, it shows the history of this Council and administration to renounce all forms of hatred. We did it with the apology for slavery, we did it with our own creation of a hate crime bill three years ago, we did it in our call to the State to create a hate crime bill, and we do it again tonight, so this is not new for our City. We reject violence, we reject hatred. We have learned the lesson that love is greater than hatred in this City, if no other place has learned it. So, this is consistent with what we have been doing now for years. So, are there any other comments or questions?"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you for your words, Mr. Mayor, and I want to thank Councilmember Mitchell for thinking about doing this. When he came up with this, this was prior to the horrendous events that we witnessed in our Capitol last week, so this isn't a knee-jerk reaction, being responsive to that. But if I hadn't known any better, you would have thought he had maybe some clear view vision on that. So, helping to bring any words that help to reject hate and to promote a community coming together, our community coming together, our State coming together, our Country coming together, we ought to obviously support that. This last paragraph is, it was well placed, and I commend you and the staff, Mayor, everyone who realized that though we don't have a perfect union, you know, it's been said, and we all believe that we're working towards a more perfect union. You do that by reaching out, not by dividing and pushing people away. So, thank you, Councilmember Mitchell, for your leadership on this."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Mitchell.

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Mr. Mayor, I would like to thank the staff, Ms. Herdina, our attorney, and my co-host, Councilmember Peter Shahid, for all working with me to make sure I draft this correctly and with, you know, what was in my head, in my mind, getting it through and having it properly prepared. And I know there was a prayer that we came up with. Councilmember Appel, do you have that?"

Councilmember Shahid said, "I have it."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "I would ask if you'll all indulge me just for a moment. I would like Councilmember Peter Shahid to read that prayer, Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes, sir."

Councilmember Shahid said, "So this is a prayer prepared by Rabbi (inaudible). It's called 'A Prayer for our Country' and it goes as follows, 'Our God, and God of our ancestors, we ask your blessing for our country, for its government, for its leaders and advisors, and for all who exercise just and rightful authority. Teach them insights from your Torah, that they may administer all affairs of state fairly, that peace and security, happiness and prosperity, justice and freedom, may forever abide in our midst. Creator of all flesh, bless the inhabitants of our country with your spirit. The citizens of all races and creeds form a common bond in true harmony to banish hatred and bigotry and to safeguard the ideals and free institutions that are the pride and glory of our country. May this land, under your providence, be an influence for good throughout the world, uniting all people in peace and freedom, helping them to fulfill the vision of your prophet. Nations shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they experience war anymore, and let us say 'amen.'"

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Amen. Thank you for that. Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and Councilmembers for your indulgence."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Could I ask for a vote on the resolution, as amended?"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilwoman Jackson.

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Mr. Mayor, I'm sorry. That's a beautiful prayer, and I definitely will support any Resolution that the Council is going to pass, has passed, and will amend and pass again. I apologize that I'm sort of just thinking out loud, having understood the amended version that you're asking us to pass now, Councilmember Mitchell. I, personally, was overjoyed when I saw that you had put this forward for us to enact this evening. I'm just wondering out loud, and I would really appreciate the advice of people that have been fighting this fight in this place for your own lives, and your parents' lives, and your grandparents' lives. But, to me, taking out the calling out of white nationalism, white supremacy, neo-Nazism, somehow doesn't get our point across. The title of it is those white nationalists, and groups that are content with making our City and our nation divided along racial lines. We also say in the title, 'and any other groups and individuals who seek to divide'. So, it's still the same intent that you're asking us to vote on now in the amended version. Again, I'm thinking out loud about this, but somehow, to take out the white nationalism, white supremacy, neo-Nazi approbations that we do not agree with, and we would do everything in our power to keep them from having a voice or prosperity in our City beyond the First Amendment, which we know we have to honor and uphold. So, I'm thinking out loud. I would like to hear a couple of comments. Of course, I'm going to vote for this, and I'm sorry to put this comment in ahead of that beautiful prayer and the vote that you all want to take. But, I would really like to have some conversation if you would indulge me. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Mitchell.

Councilmember Mitchell said, "With that, Councilwoman Jackson, when I read over it, and I looked at it very seriously, we mentioned that in our bill that we sent before, all those particular individuals or groups that you mentioned. It was mentioned before when we approved it previously. So, that's why we have to make it clear to put all groups, any group, individuals, and that's including 'all' of that in it, since we already did it before, just to leave it open that way and not giving anybody any props insofar as that's concerned. So, that's why I made the change that way, and I had a meeting with the Chief and others today. I came up with this and made those few changes since we had already done it with those names, the white supremacist groups and neo-Nazis. We already did that before. That's already in the Resolution that we did before and

with the Hate Crime bill that we did. All that's included in that. So, when this Resolution came this way, I said 'okay, I'll make it this way, just change that top part of it, and make everybody feel that we can approve this and go on and send it up to the State and add certain things in the paragraphs below'. So, that's what it was all about. But, they know all that's included in that when it says all groups and individuals. They know exactly what it means. So, that was the bottom line of it."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, Councilmember. Any other questions or comments?"

No one else asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Gregorie, seconded by Councilmember Waring, City Council voted unanimously to approve the following Resolution, as amended:

Resolution condemning any groups and individuals who seek to divide our community and incite hatred

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you so much. Next up is our Committee reports. First is our Committee on Public Safety."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, "Mr. Mayor, if I could just bring up a quick point of order that just occurred to me. Are we supposed to adopt Robert's Rules of Order at our first meeting?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We did not include that. I think I was going to come back to you at the next meeting with any rule changes with Robert's Rules of Order."

Councilmember Shahid said, "I know we do that as a formality. It just occurred to me."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "A formality. Jennifer, would you make sure we include that next time?"

The Clerk said, "We can. The Rules of Council do not have to be adopted at the first meeting every year. The current Rules of Council that are in the Code have been in there for some time. So, those would just stay. We would follow the Rules that are currently in the Code until they are changed. But, we can add that on."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Your first real question I have for you as the full-fledged Clerk of Council, so thank you for that response. It just occurred to me as we were going through our agenda, Madam Clerk, so thanks for the clarification."

Mr. Mayor, I'll move onto the Public Safety Committee report. The Public Safety Committee met on January 11th at 2:30 in the afternoon. We had two items on our agenda. They were just to get an update on the After Action Report and an update on the status of Fire Station #11. So, we had extended a deadline for citizen comments and participation to December 31st. That deadline has now expired. We hope to have a final draft for the Committee's approval either at the end of this month or the first part of February. I think they received an additional 28 responses by extending that deadline to December 31st.

As to the Fire Station #11, as you all have heard me talk about this before, we've had significant problems with the completion of this Fire Station, but there's been good progress on it. We have a pre-punch list, which we believe is between 50-75% complete. A contractor is coming in to work on the floor. We had talked about the damage to the concrete floors at that Station. That's going to be completed, hopefully, by the end of this month, as well. We also have a new contractor for landscaping. That's sort of an outside issue, but it's an important issue to make sure that we are having that issue addressed. That impacts ingress and egress of our apparatus into that Station. We've asked for, and hopefully will receive, monthly reports on the progress. It is at a snail's pace, unfortunately, but we are making progress on the completion of that project. A lot of thanks to the folks that have been doggedly watching this and working on this project. Thank you, City Staff, for helping us get to this part where we are right now. There's nothing to vote on, Mr. Mayor. That's just an update on those two issues."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you for that information. Any questions of Councilmember Shahid?"

No one asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright, next up is our Committee on Public Works."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. The Committee on Public Works met, as you know, yesterday. On Item A, Public Service Update, that discussion was a hearty discussion, but it was deferred. There was no action taken on item 2A."

Ms. Herdina said, "Actually, Councilmember, that matter was withdrawn."

Councilmember Waring said, "Well, that's even better. It was withdrawn. I'm sure it will be coming back. Item B was project updates. Mr. Fountain, do you have some input on that today?"

Mr. Fountain said, "Yes, Mr. Chairman. I can run through the updates briefly, if you'd like."

Councilmember Waring said, "That would be great."

Mr. Fountain said, "I'll try to do this very briefly. We started off with a few of the projects we don't talk about traditionally because they're not the standard Capital Projects. They're more maintenance rehabilitation projects. We started discussing the open ditch maintenance program that's basically the rehabilitation of roadside open ditches and driveway culverts. We maintain about 114 road miles of that type of system in the City. Between 2019 and 2020, we completed about 40 road miles of maintenance at the rate of about 20 miles per year. We're continuing under that rate, barring major hurricane or other disruption. We have a projected completion date of 2025 for that work.

That brought us to the closed pipe maintenance. That's the style of roadside drainage you would see more on the Peninsula or in newer subdivisions where you have curb inlets and pipes under the sides of the road. We maintain about 312 road miles of this type of system. We've estimated, from some initial work, about 100 miles of pipe that need inspection and cleaning. We've started an Asset Manager position that actually started yesterday that will be coordinating the inspection work on those pipes to try to narrow that down further because this is a relatively

expensive contractor style cleaning, but it does have very large impacts on drainage improvements. In open ditch work, if you have a plug or back up, the water can generally go around the problem through the ditches. It just causes increased levels of flooding. In a pipe system, if you get a blockage, it's basically a complete blockage and the water ends up in the street. I think we've all seen that in many areas of the Peninsula, inner West Ashley, and inner James Island. So that work, we basically started, again this year we'll have a better estimate of cost and target dates for completion by the end of this year. But, right now, we're looking very tentatively, from some data we've done in the Dupont-Wappoo area with this type of cleaning, maintenance and inspection, of completion at the end of 2028 at the rate we're going.

Rear side-yard maintenance, this is what we typically think of hand cleaned ditches that run next to people's houses or behind people's houses. Again, we maintain a significant number of these types of ditches. It's a little harder for exact linear distance, but on the order of 100 miles of these types of ditches. Some of them are larger ditches that we maintain with heavy equipment, but the majority are small hand clean ditches with weed eaters, chainsaws, and pitchforks. We have, over the last two years, rehabilitated all of those ditches within the City of Charleston. We're now on a once a year vegetative cleaning cycle for those ditches, and we're working to get to a twice per year cleaning cycle, which we hope to do by next year as we continue our work through these. We have allocated this year through the City's budget process what's called a 'walking excavator', which basically has four articulated wheels to drive through the ditch system. That will help us with some of the ditches we have more of a challenge hand cleaning to the level they need to be hand cleaned to relieve some of the drainage issues. These are ones we don't touch on very often, but they're significant impacts for day to day drainage and frequency of flooding throughout the community. So, I think they were worth highlighting. We are, as part of our ongoing work on the City website to try to do a better citizen outreach portal, putting together maps and information on what the progress is in neighborhoods and pipe cleaning and open ditch cleaning to try to get that message out there by the end of the first quarter, as well.

For the more traditional projects, I'll try to go through these quickly. Spring/Fishburne Phase IV, we've completed excavation work in the outfall and they've started installing the foundation stone. We're also installing the H piles, which look like giant I beams that are driven in to hold the box culverts. We're about 35 H piles installed out of about 380 that need to go in for that project work. We're continuing excavation in the wetwell, which is nearly complete and we'll be moving over to a stone foundation install shortly on that, as well. Low Battery Phase I, sidewalk and curbing should be generally complete today. We're progressing with the decorative work, lighting, surface installations, railings. Then, we'll be completing street paving by the end of the month. We should be at substantial completion for the project at the end of January. Low Battery Phase II, we're doing our final review of the construction contract at this point from the competitive bid process. That should be coming to Council at the next meeting for construction start in February, basically immediately at the end of the Phase I portion of the project.

King/Huger Phase I, the construction bids are currently in evaluation on that project. Phase II, we're continuing design and permitting work. We have some kind of initial site layout ideas we're working through with the landscape architects for the BAR process and also working on environmental permitting. The Forest Acres project, we've mentioned the AT&T utility relocation is in progress. We're finalizing our easement acquisition as a result on the west side of Playground Road and it will be coming through Council also in the next month or two. That work, we're currently projecting construction start for the end of 2021, basically as soon as AT&T completes their relocation work. Market Street, we're working with Dominion over the next few quarters to develop an undergrounding plan for the power on that project. Cooper/Jackson, the pipe cleaning

work is generally complete. We went through about 10,000 feet of pipe cleaning and we should, this week, have completed the majority of the detailed field survey. We'll be starting to build the stormwater models to evaluate improvement options throughout that basin. That should get us to a point where we're, at that point, ready to start talking to the community and doing some prioritization outreach discussion.

Barberry Woods Drainage Diversion Project, preliminary design work is in progress. We've completed our field survey, most of our environmental survey work, and are laying out our property acquisition needs, as well as our design approach. The Johns Island Drainage System Evaluation, this is looking at the easement needs and environmental restoration options throughout the Island. It's now gotten into preliminary design work. The Windermere Drainage Improvement Evaluation, the initial field survey is underway and nearly complete which will, again, let us start our construction survey. We did also build out our storing map for that project. It's in draft form now and should be up on the website within the next week or so. The Dupont/Wappoo Improvement Project, that also has detailed survey work in progress. They're primarily in the southern portion of the basin at the moment. They'll be shifting north as they continue through projects I-IV, kind of in reverse for the field survey.

Concord Street Pump Station, that design evaluation for the pump station outfit is continuing. That's going to continue for the next few months. The Church Creek Flood Storage Projects, that contract was signed. We have now had our kick-off meeting and are starting our field visits and engineering work. We also have a meeting of the Church Creek Basin Stormwater Authority on Thursday, so that will help with coordination work as we proceed through those projects. The Limehouse Brick Arch Rehabilitation Pilot Project, we're putting together our 2021 work schedule now with our contractors. The Medical District Tunnel Extension Ehrhardt Shaft, that application was submitted to HUD. We have our design and permits all complete and we're scheduled for a February Board meeting with MUSC to consider the granting of those easements which, so far, MUSC has been supportive of.

Central Park, as we mentioned earlier, we're putting together a package with the Parks Department for the Greenbelt Application in collaboration with the County to basically acquire a parcel at the end of Howle Avenue to convert a piece of high land into a wetland system to help mitigate flooding in the area. That will be primarily the Howle/Stefan areas that will benefit from that portion of the project work. The Mueller Drive Drainage Easement, we mentioned this is a field modification of ditch work that is scheduled. We're basically trying to move the water to the north and west on that project, as well as what was originally considered, which is more of an eastern approach that would've required some significant movement for existing properties and encroachments. The Culpepper/Southgate Drainage Easement, we have maps drafted, provided the surveys, and we actually started receiving our first cost proposal back today, and we'll be looking to get a few more cost proposals back so we can start that survey work. Then, the Dowden Court Drainage Evaluation, that field survey work is in progress. We've been handing out flyers and the surveyor has been going through the area to look for evaluation improvement options. Then, the Wespanee Drainage Evaluation, that field survey work is also in progress with flyers going out and survey crews working. That's what I had for you today, Mr. Chairman."

Councilmember Waring said, "Is that all?"

There was laughter.

Mr. Fountain said, "That's just before we start the next million dollars of 2021 allocation work which will be coming up in the next couple of Public Works and Utilities meetings."

Councilmember Waring said, "If people think that's too long, let me tell you, that's how many projects we have going on in the City of Charleston to help alleviate and fix drainage problems that we have. So, it was comprehensive, yes it is. I appreciate your indulgence in listening to this. Does any Councilmember have any questions for Mr. Fountain?"

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Where are we with the Wambaw?"

Mr. Fountain said, "Yes, that's a good question, Councilmember Gregorie. So, we do have a series of different project scope options and budget options that we've worked through with AECOM, who's our design consultant for the area. So, what we've been doing now with BFRC is going through the revised cash flow based upon the final drainage fund revenue allocations that were provided by Council at the end of December and the construction and design tasks that are already in progress. We expect to have those cash flow, and I certainly don't want to speak for Ms. Wharton, but I think we expect to have those cash flow projections in the next week or two, which will then let us see what we have, funding-wise, to advance Central Park versus, again, options within the small project allocation and gather an approach we can consider."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "So, we're really talking Phase I, right?"

Mr. Fountain said, "We are. We're looking, primarily, at Project Area I and II. There are a couple of different options we looked at with AECOM of what the potential cost savings would be if we only started with I, which has a longer lead time than II. I can certainly talk to you about that in more detail, but there's not a massive cost difference between the two, so I'd really like to get those financial projections in. At this point, we have options. We're just trying to figure out the cash flow approach."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Okay. Appreciate that. Thank you."

Councilmember Waring said, "Mayor, I think I saw Councilmember Shahid."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Yes. Matt, thank you for that very exhaustive update. I think we've talked about this before, and Chairman Waring, our Chairman, has brought this up. We do need to pat ourselves on the back some with all these projects that we're doing and the cost of these things and what we're doing for our community and our citizens. So, if we can list these out some place on our website, I don't know if we have it there or not, but just to show the community what we're doing and the progress and stages that these projects are in would be a big help so people can track this without having to contact you or us on a regular basis. But, just to let them know where we stand with some of these projects would be a big help."

Mr. Fountain said, "Absolutely. We hope to have that complete by the end of the first quarter this year for kind of a better approach to the website. Much of it is there, but it's not easy to find and not easy to dig through. But, you're right, we are spending about \$60 million this year on different construction projects. Much of that is grant funded and awarded from different partnerships for ongoing projects we have. But, it is a significant amount of work for a City of our size."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Thank you so much."

Councilmember Waring recognized Councilwoman Jackson.

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Thank you. Thank you, Matt. I totally agree with Councilmember Waring. We should be proud that it takes you so long and such illustrative detail to talk about everything that's going on in your shop. I think it's amazing knowing the staffing that you have and the multi-tasking that goes on in any one day. So, I really appreciate that, and I don't know if you like champagne or beer, but I want to send something to celebrate the fact that all the ditches have been completed in the City of Charleston. That is an amazing accomplishment all to itself. So, thank you very much. Tell me when someone's going to come, and actually I want a picture of the four-legged excavator so I can show my grandson who has every excavator there is in the world. I bet he doesn't have one of those, so send him one of those.

I did want to mention, because Councilmember Waring made me think of this at Ways and Means, that we are also celebrating the collaborative efforts because the ditches on James Island, West Ashley, and a lot of other places are beholden to the cooperative efforts of our jurisdictional partners. We haven't had partners in other years. So, in the last three or four years since I've been an active resident and proud to serve on James Island, that whole paradigm has shifted pretty dramatically. Thursday afternoon at 3:30, it's not a public meeting, we don't allow any comments from the public, but it's on Zoom. We have what we call the James Island Drainage Committee meeting. It's people who are serving, elected officials, to meet with our stormwater managers who are following all of these things for James Island. That meeting would not have happened a couple of years ago. So, I salute Mayor Woolsey, our staff colleagues at the Town of James Island and, obviously, our City and our own Mayor and my colleagues who are serving the citizens of James Island. It's 3:30 on Zoom. The Town of James Island hosts it. So, if you're curious to hear us talk about things in more detail, feel free to come along. Thanks."

Councilmember Waring recognized Councilmember Mitchell.

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Thank you. I heard you talking about the plans with what's going on for Huger and King, but we don't have any idea of when they're going to start some work on Huger and King. Secondly, do we have any idea of what we might be doing on the East Side of town, like America Street, Aiken Street, and Line Street and those areas?"

Mr. Fountain said, "So, the King/Huger project, Phase I, the streetscaping, that construction bid is in evaluation right now. Assuming the bid is acceptable and we complete our evaluation, and Council approves an award, we would expect to start construction in February. CWS would also have to sign off on their portion of it, but that would probably be a February start for construction. The East Side, we refer to it from a stormwater perspective, probably more confusing than anything, as the Cooper Jackson Project because that's the historic name of those two basins. We have completed 10,000 feet of pipe cleaning, almost \$100,000 of pipe cleaning within the area to try to restore flow in the very short term. That's also allowed our surveyors to go in and complete the survey work. They should have that finished up this week. They've been working on it for the last four weeks or so, not counting a couple week break over the holidays. That will then lead to AECOM basically building the stormwater computer model with that survey work to start laying out improvement projects. So, short-term, \$100,000 of pipe cleaning should show some short-term improvements. Mid-term has been the survey work going on and the computer evaluations, and then moving out a year or two, we'll be looking at design work for, hopefully, some excellent improvement projects in the area."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Thank you."

Councilmember Waring recognized Councilmember Gregorie.

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Yes. Matt, could you, at our next Council meeting, give us an update on Peninsula projects in general, such as Gordon Street, Moultrie Street, South Street, Hagood, and Lockwood? I could go on and on, but could you give us sort of an update on where we are with regard to addressing some of those issues at our next meeting?"

Mr. Fountain said, "Yes, I can. Those are generally outside of the large-scale Capital Projects, barring Lockwood, which is an interesting combination of all of those. But, I can certainly focus in on some of the heavy maintenance work and rehab work we've been doing in those areas."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "If you can, could you also share with fellow Councilmembers the partnership that we may have with the WestEdge Foundation to try to address some of the issues at Hagood and Fishburne?"

Mr. Fountain said, "Yes, sir. We can kind of go over how the WestEdge work interacts with the Spring/Fishburne project work and between the two kind of what's addressed in tidal flooding and from rain fall flooding."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Appreciate that. Thank you."

Mr. Fountain said, "Absolutely."

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you so much, Mr. Fountain. The last thing that I'll ask approval of was an ordinance amending Chapter 27 of the Code of the City of Charleston by amending flood hazard and prevention and control requirements. I think it was really word-smithing, making it a little bit more simple, but is Ms. Halversen going to explain this? She explained it to our Committee."

Ms. Halversen said, "Yes, sir. I'd be happy to. You all will recall that we adopted a change to the Freeboard ordinance back in March, which increased the Freeboard requirement from one foot to two feet for new construction of residential structures and new construction and substantial improvements of non-residential structures. The intent, at the time, was to maintain the existing one foot freeboard requirement for a substantial improvement of residential structures, but that provision was inadvertently omitted from the final version that was passed. So, we are asking Council to approve this amendment, which does not change anything about the way the ordinance is currently being interpreted and enforced. It simply puts the omitted language back in to clarify that the one-foot freeboard requirement still applies to the substantial improvements for residential structures."

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you, Ms. Halversen. That passed unanimously, and I'd so move for its adoption."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Any discussion on that?"

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Waring, seconded by Councilmember Shahid, City Council voted unanimously to give first reading to the follow bill from Public Works and Utilities:

An Ordinance amending Chapter 27 of the Code of the City of Charleston, by amending Flood Hazard Prevention and Control Requirements in Section 27-117, to provide clarification on the one-foot freeboard requirement for substantial improvement of residential structures.

Councilmember Waring said, "Mr. Mayor, that's the extent of my report."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, thank you. So, I will just add a quick little update. I found out this afternoon that the SCDOT did give approval, Councilmember Seekings, to an application that the Beach Company is performing to regrade the elevated portion of Broad and Lockwood. The redesign includes a new pipe that will run under Broad Street and will drain that big puddle down there at the corner of Broad and Lockwood. So, that work should begin probably in the next few weeks. Next up is the Committee on Traffic and Transportation."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Seekings.

Councilmember Seekings said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor and fellow Councilmembers. The Committee on Traffic and Transportation met today at 2:00 p.m. We had no business that is going to require a vote of this Council, but just for information, quickly, we had a discussion about golf carts. It's been an ongoing issue at the Committee for about the last ten years. The focus today was about unregistered golf carts around the City and what to do about them. Mr. Benjamin and his staff are very ably putting together a strategy that will allow us to monitor and ultimately deal with people who do not register their golf carts in accordance with State law so that we can do things like move them out of illegal parking spaces and the like. That should get back to us pretty quickly, and we'll bring it to Council. We also had a presentation about the Morrison Drive sidewalk project, which is along Morrison Drive, near the new Morrison Yard's development. If you've been up in that area, it's pretty rough. It floods. There is no way to pass it other than by a car. The sidewalk project, which is funded, will really allow some movement through that corridor and make the quality of life for those in and around there and going through there much better. That project will come by an MOA with the developer of Morrison Yard. Ultimately, it will be paid for through that development process. There is some room for some improvements on it. So, that will come to Ways and Means, Councilmember Gregorie, next meeting, so keep an eye out for that. So, nothing that requires approval by this Council, just updates and some more to come as we go through 2021. If Mr. Benjamin is out there and has anything to add, I certainly welcome his comments. If not, that's my report."

Keith Benjamin said, "The only comment that I'll make is, Councilmembers, just be mindful that we have our Transportation Sales Tax projects to the County applications that are due February 1st. One of the many stipulations that they put on this new application process is that there has to be letters of support. So, you will be hearing either from myself or Michael Mathis regarding projects that may be in your district, either that have gone unfunded or have come up in conversations with City staff, to get your letter to go with the application."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. I don't think any action is required. That was just for update purposes. Are there any further questions or comments?"

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Yes, Mr. Mayor, and this is probably a Matt and Keith question. It's regarding Fleming Road on James Island. We've been having some discussions over the years with regard to putting sidewalks on Fleming. Part of the issue had to do with you can't do the sidewalks before you do the drainage. We probably don't have to go into it in depth tonight, but I'd also like to get an update on Fleming Road with regard to sidewalks and drainage because we have been discussing it for some time."

Mr. Benjamin said, "I can go ahead and address that, Mayor or Councilmember Gregorie, if you want."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Sure. Thank you."

Mr. Benjamin said, "So, you've got to keep in mind that the Fleming Road sidewalk request would amount, from the County's estimate, I believe, to about \$1.2 million."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Correct."

Mr. Benjamin continued, "That would be the totality of almost half of bike/ped funds allocated for the entire County for the solicitation of Transportation Sales Tax money. Just from a funding standpoint, it doesn't raise high on their priority list. In their evaluation criteria, as well as one of the stipulations that was added into the sales tax last year, was that any project that a municipality submits, if there are right-of-way issues that have to be handled by cost or conversation, that that requesting entity will have to handle that. That would not be paid for through the sales tax process. As you know, on Fleming Road there are some right-of-way concerns. We did still include Fleming Road on our request list because we do feel that it is important. What we talked about with the Planning Department was whether or not there was a portion of the sidewalk that we could submit, specifically from the intersection of Fleming and Maybank to at least the back end of the church. Now, that still had some right-of-way issues and otherwise, but to at least pitch, 'can we move forward with a phased portion on it,' I have no idea how that will be evaluated through the County's process, but we still do have it on the list and still do want to push that forward. Another thing that we're hoping for once those developments have all of their occupancy levels, is there's a responsibility that's attached to the PUD to do both the study and the cost estimation and payment for signalization at Fleming and Maybank, which we think also will play a significant role in pushing what needs to happen there, as well. So, we still do have it on the TST request list. The way that we talked about it internally, as staff, and pitched to the Mayor was to still have it on the list, but talk about it from a phasing standpoint. Again, from Fleming and Maybank to at least to the back end of the church and see then how that scores with the County."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Fleming and Maybank, didn't we have some type of agreement with the developer that they would put some of those sidewalks in at that area?"

Mr. Benjamin said, "I don't think that's specifically outlined in there. The bus stop was outlined and the payment for signalization at Fleming and Maybank was discussed in the PUD."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Okay. We may want to check because, if I recall, I thought it was a part of the deal with that latest development along Fleming."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Councilmember, we looked back at that not too long ago and I'm pretty sure it just included the signalization costs."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Okay. Thank you for that."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I wanted to bring up, this is new, Tripe Street over in Ashleyville. I'm sure Councilmember Sakran would appreciate help on this one. That street needed paving for a number of years now. I know Councilmember Gregorie, when he represented it, had a drain put in because it was draining poorly. That drain was put in, but the resurfacing was never done. I mean, I'm serious, you go down that street, number one, your car is going to get out of alignment, and they actually have ponding in the street after it rains because they have that many sunken areas in the street. So, this isn't anything that Mr. Benjamin knew of, this is new, but if we can get that one in line somehow with some of the CHATS money, I'm sure the people over there, Councilmember Sakran, Councilmember Gregorie, the Mayor, a lot of us would be happy to get that done."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "What street was that, Councilmember?"

Councilmember Waring said, "Tripe Street, that's the first street when you turn into Ashleyville, by the gas station on Sycamore and the first street on the right. It's not a long street, but that's where it is."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "It's right behind where Cross Seeds used to be, isn't it?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I know exactly where it is. I just didn't hear him well when he first mentioned it. Thank you."

Councilmember Seekings said, "If I could jump in, fellow Councilmembers. To the extent that there are issues that need to come before the T&T Committee on individual streets, just let Mr. Benjamin and us know, particularly like with paving and things like that, and if we can accelerate things that would be great. So, just communicate with him, and we'll try to do everything we can to move things forward."

Councilmember Waring said, "Great. Thank you."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shealy.

Councilmember Shealy said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and I know, Mr. Benjamin, we've talked about the intersection of Ashley Crossing and Magwood and that whole area probably being the most dangerous intersection we have in the City of Charleston. I certainly don't want to have that left out when these talks come up because I don't think there is probably an intersection in the City of Charleston that has more accidents than that one, and maybe Charlie Hall Boulevard right there at Magwood, as well. So, I hope we'll consider those."

Mr. Benjamin said, "That intersection is on there, so you're going to be getting a letter from us to make sure we have your support letter. With Tripe Street, the way that we've handled it, Councilmember Waring, we can't make a pre-determination on where resurfacing occurs. The County does it through a grading system, however, we do elevate, let them know, 'Hey, where does this street fall within your process?' Councilwoman Jackson knows this because we've done it for a number of streets in her district, and if something can be moved up, I've got to give a shout-out to McKenzie at the County, she has been amazing. In fact, that's the reason our re-surfacing is occurring in Rosemont this year. We saw that as an issue in that area, brought that up, and they were able to make some adjustments on our behalf. So, I'll send some correspondence to McKenzie at the County, and she'll be able to give us a sense of whether the street falls in line with the re-surfacing schedule."

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you, again."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, if I may just add one more thing, Councilmember Shealy, you reminded me of it. At the CHATS meeting the other day, they did a presentation about I-526 West improvements that SCDOT is planning. Their public comment period ends this coming Friday, so we have three more days to enter public comments. I think I've shared with a few of you Councilmembers that their proposal only addresses traffic flowing away from I-526 onto Glenn McConnell by having an overpass at Magwood. It does not provide an overpass coming into town, towards town, off of Glenn McConnell towards I-526 so, in my view, it's an incomplete solution. They say it's a scope of work. It doesn't provide for coming in that direction, but while you're there and you're building the bridge, build it in both directions. The other thing is, if you widen Glenn McConnell, which is getting ready to proceed, you're going to bring more traffic, faster, to a place, an intersection, that isn't going to work long-term without that overpass there. So, I would respectfully ask all of my Councilmembers to take a look at that in the next couple of days, and please let your constituents know so that folks can make comments to SCDOT by Friday. Thank you. Alright. So, next we've got our Committee on Ways and Means, Councilmember Gregorie."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Move for approval as amended, Mr. Mayor and Council."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Is there any discussion or comments?"

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Gregorie, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the Committee on Ways and Means Report, as amended:

---INSERT WAYS AND MEANS REPORT---

(Bids and Purchases *(Item 3a withdrawn)*)

(Parks-Capital Projects: Approval of the 2021 Parks and Recreation Development (PARD) Grant Application for Johns Island Park Playground Phase II for an expansion of playground equipment including new play structures, safety surfacing, and site work for installation. The funding requested is **\$35,850.74** with a 20% City Match, **as amended**)

(Parks-Capital Projects: Approval of a Construction Contract with Mashburn Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$1,967,532 for the construction of a

multi-purpose building, restrooms, open air pavilion, decking, pervious path, playground and parking at Carr-Richardson Park, formerly known as Bender Street Park. 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 \$1,967,532 of the \$2,795,052 project budget. The funding sources for this project are: Land Sales (\$350,025) and Hospitality Funds (\$2,445,000).

(A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute on behalf of the City of Charleston a release and all documents necessary to release a use restriction and possibility of reverter applicable to that certain real property designated as Charleston County TMS No. 502-00-00-021, located in the City of North Charleston, and more particularly shown and described as "Tract A 10.07 acres new area," on that certain plat entitled "plat of the subdivision of Tract A (12.84 ac.) To create new tract a (10.07 ac.) and rail parcel (2.77 ac.)," recorded on November 16, 2020 in plat book l20 at page 0430 in the ROD Office for Charleston County, South Carolina, in consideration for \$350,000.00.

(Discussion and action regarding alternative location of Dominion Energy utility switch gear boxes on 179 Nassau St. (Property owned by the City of Charleston: TMS No. 459-05-03-001).

(Update and action on the sale of 431 Meeting Street (Charleston School of Law property)

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute on behalf of the City a Quit Claim Deed and elimination of possibility of reverter, such possibility of reverter contained in Deed recorded in Book J-543, at page 031 for the property located at the corner of Meeting and Wolfe Streets bearing TMS # 459-09-01-049 in the City and County of Charleston, State of South Carolina and to ratify and adopt any and all modifications or amendments to Ordinance # 2004-150. **(DEFERRED)**

(Request authority for the Mayor to execute a rental agreement in the amount of \$6,808 with St. Andrews Parish Parks and Playgrounds for pool space at St. Andrews Family Fitness Plus, 1642 Sam Rittenburg Blvd., Charleston, SC, from January 4, 2021 to March 25, 2021. Lease is for four lanes and cost of hiring lifeguards as set forth in the attached agreement. (\$6,808)

(Request authorization for the Mayor to execute a Resolution approving the submission of an application for greenbelt funds for the purchase of the property commonly known as the Howle Avenue tract on James Island, South Carolina, bearing TMS No. 343-07-00-055.

(An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute on behalf of the City of Charleston ("City") a Real Property Exchange Agreement and other documents necessary to convey to America Street Ventures, LLC, or its assigns, the City's property designated as a portion of TMS No. 459-05-04-209 and TMS No. 459-05-04-220, subject to affordable housing restrictions, in exchange for the conveyance to the City of property designated as TMS Nos. 459-05-04-001, 459-05-04-002, 459-05-04-048, 459-05-04-114, and 459-05-04-115, as shown on the attached map. **(AS AMENDED) (DEFERRED)**

(Consider the following annexation:

(i) 1946 Boeing Avenue (0.25 acre) (TMS# 350-13-00-028), 0.25 acre, West Ashley, (District 5). The property is owned by James Fitzgerald and Amanda L. Rhoden.

Give first reading to the following bills from Ways and Means:

An ordinance to provide for the annexation of property known as 1946 Boeing Avenue (0.25 acre) (TMS# 350-13-00-028), 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 5. The property is owned by James Fitzgerald and Amanda L. Rhoden.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Next, we have just three bills up for second reading. We're going to defer number four. So, can I hear a motion for those three?"

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Move for approval of one, two, and three."

Councilwoman Jackson said, "I'll second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Is there any discussion?"

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Mitchell, three (3) bills (Items L-1 through L-3) received second reading. They passed second reading on motion by Councilwoman Jackson and third reading on motion of Councilmember Mitchell. On further motion of Councilmember Waring, the rules were suspended, and the bills were immediately ratified as:

- 2021-003 -** AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 54 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON (ZONING ORDINANCE) BY AMENDING A PORTION OF THE ESSEX FARMS VILLAGE CENTER PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT MASTER PLAN AND DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES TO AMEND SECTIONS RELATED TO LAND USE AND PERMITTED USES AND TO REZONE TMS# 309-00-00-002 (ZONED GENERAL OFFICE) SO AS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD). (ESSEX FARMS VILLAGE CENTER PUD – WEST ASHLEY) (APPROX. 13.66 ACRES) (TMS# 309-00-00-262 & 002).

- 2021-004 -** AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON BY CHANGING THE ZONE MAP, WHICH IS A PART THEREOF, SO THAT 363 LYNWOOD DRIVE (WEST ASHLEY) (APPROXIMATELY 0.20 ACRE) (TMS #310-12-00-061) (COUNCIL DISTRICT 11), ANNEXED INTO THE CITY OF CHARLESTON NOVEMBER 24, 2020 (#2020-165), BE ZONED SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (SR-1) CLASSIFICATION. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY SHAUN HOGAN.

- 2021-005 -** AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ANNEXATION OF PROPERTY KNOWN AS 333 FLEMING ROAD, UNITS C1-C4 AND D1-D4 (0.29 ACRE) (TMS# 343-07-00-113 THROUGH 343-07-00-120 AND A PORTION OF 343-07-00-193), JAMES ISLAND, CHARLESTON COUNTY, TO THE CITY OF CHARLESTON, SHOWN WITHIN THE AREA ANNEXED UPON A MAP ATTACHED HERETO AND MAKE IT PART OF DISTRICT 6. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY AV ZG SOUTHCOURT, LLC.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Next, under bills for first reading, I'd actually like to call on our new, official Clerk of Council, Jennifer, to share with us her vision for helping take care of all of the demands of taking minutes for our City functions. I think, as you know, we're using more

technology than we've used in the past. Jennifer is looking very closely at even initiating more technology, and the demands on her office and staff have markedly increased over the last few years with all of the Committees, Commissions, and FOIA requirements that have come along. So, that led us to this recommendation this evening. Jennifer, would mind expanding on that?"

The Clerk said, "Sure. Yes, sir. So, I know this probably is not going to be popular with some of our Councilmembers because I know how much everyone loves the verbatim Council minutes. It is nice having that transcript of everything that someone said at a meeting, however, it does take a significant amount of staff time to produce those. As you know, sometimes we can't always have those ready for Council by the following meeting, just depending on the length of the meeting and our office needs during that time. Part of how this conversation came about, Novak, actually we were one of the departments that they looked at, and they did a study of minutes taking. They looked up other benchmark cities and they looked at ten benchmark communities that were similar to Charleston. One of the findings, basically, is that nine of those cities, their minutes were either summary or detailed. Only one other city had verbatim minutes. So, we wanted to sort of bring this to you, and I know this will probably take some thinking and discussing by Council to see how they want to move forward with this. We wanted to propose this idea just in looking forward at 2021 with the impacts of COVID and staffing on our department and also the increase in some of the meetings that we are having to cover if Council would consider going to summary minutes for Council given that we do have a video of all of our Council meetings, and that's basically the gist of it. I'll be happy to answer any questions."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie.

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Yes, Jennifer, I know you know as well as I know, this is historical, but my question is, don't we have technology now that you can actually do it with the dictaphone and it actually converts it into writing?"

The Clerk said, "No. I mean, not that I'm aware of. I know that we have court reporters, I think there are court reporters, and I can check with them to see what technology they use, but I'm not aware of any technology that will transcribe exactly what someone says. There is some technology out there that some companies have offered and, unfortunately, it's not 100 percent accurate. If there were technology out there that was 100 percent accurate, court reporters would probably be out of a job. So, what we've looked at are some companies that have technology that can do that, but it still requires a lot of editing on our end, and it sort of defeats the point. We also looked at another company that sort of does a hybrid, and we actually tried that for one of our meetings, where basically they have their own technology that will transcribe the meeting, and they actually have human editors that will go back and edit it. It's pretty expensive to do that. So, we did try them out one time just to see how it would work, and basically even in doing that, we still had to spend time editing it and formatting it. So, we're definitely looking at other technology to see if there is anything out there, and we're happy to look at additional technology, or if anyone knows of any out there that maybe I haven't thought of, we'll be happy to check that out. But in looking at what's out there, it's difficult to find something that will transcribe everything verbatim."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "As a follow up, I agree with you. I've used a dictaphone app on my phone, and it doesn't really capture it. You would have to go in, and you would have to do what you just articulated. Doesn't Zoom have transcription?"

The Clerk said, "So, I don't know about Zoom. I know YouTube has closed captioning, but I don't think that's something that we can actually extract and use from YouTube."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Okay. Could we look though and see whether or not, I mean, I'm going to support it, I'm just trying to think it through because I think Zoom might have some kind of transcription capacity. Could we just look into that?"

The Clerk said, "Absolutely."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Okay. Thank you."

The Clerk said, "I see Tracy popped up, too, so I didn't know if Tracy wanted to add to that."

Tracy McKee said, "Yes, Zoom does have some third party applications, and we tested those before with Jennifer, and they did not do what she was looking for. It doesn't do the verbatim. It still required a good bit of editing."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Okay. Thank you."

Ms. McKee said, "You're welcome."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilwoman Jackson.

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Thank you. I really appreciate your initiative, Jennifer, because it's so labor intensive, and in my career of needing to manage stuff and people and administrative functions, I really feel your pain about knowing you're asking people to make a huge change, honestly, and being able to just comfortably download a transcript and, you know, find the section that we're looking for and as a matter of archival history and all of that, so I admire your initiative. I think we can all get comfortable with this. I was thinking as you were talking that we're talking about all Committees, right? All Committees would be summary and video. Would there be any compromise in just doing the Council, just to get started, like phase in or you know getting use to the change? So, take all of the rest of the Committees to the summary and recording of changes and then continue the Council for maybe the rest of the year or six months to see how that impacts your overall staff workload. The other question that I had was can you give us some samples of other summaries? So, assuming we agree to the summary minutes, what they would look like so that we can evaluate if that's at all comforting or helpful. I'm assuming that YouTube would be the video recordings, right, so is that archival, and if we're being FOIA'd, does that meet all of the requirements for a FOIA delivery to our public? So, those are my questions off the top of my head."

The Clerk said, "I see Susan just came unmuted. Susan, did you want to jump in, as well?"

Ms. Herdina said, "Yes, just to add that verbatim minutes are not required under South Carolina law. So, if we did summary minutes that would be fine, however, State law does set forth what has to be included in those minutes. So, you need to comply with the State law requirements, but they do not need to be verbatim."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "There is guidelines, okay."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Jennifer, can I ask a question? Like, we'd have our YouTube recordings available to where anyone could go back and listen in real time to the whole meeting. Could you, in your summary minutes, mark on there like for the discussion on the Committee on Public Works is from minute hour and 15 to an hour and 25 and so you would kind of know the basic format of the summary minutes, where you would go on the recording if you wanted to hear the whole thing?"

The Clerk said, "We can. Yes."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Mr. Mayor, can we even go further though? I mean, if we're talking about technology, why can't the link be there? I mean, would that be too cumbersome, Jennifer? In other words, when you do your summary and someone wants to look deeper, just press the link to that particular section. It makes it much easier to even do a comparison, as opposed to doing all of the research, to go through sometimes eight and nine hours of a Council meeting."

The Clerk said, "We can definitely. I can reach out to IT to see if that's something that we can do. I mean, we can definitely put the link for the whole meeting recording on there, but as far as linking to a certain portion of the recording, I might have to ask IT about that. I think probably what is going to happen is it's probably just going to take you to the site where the recording is. I don't know if there is a way to link it to a specific portion in the meeting. That's the only catch, but I'll follow up with IT. They might have some tricks up their sleeves that might be able to help us. Then, Councilwoman Jackson, I think you had a question from earlier, and right now for our other Committees, we pretty much do summary minutes for those anyway. They're pretty detailed for the most part. I would say they're more than summary, and I know for Ways and Means, like our budget discussion that we had, those have to be verbatim. That's actually in the Code that those minutes, just the Ways and Means meeting that covers the budget, those have to be verbatim, but all of the others are already summary. It's just the Council minutes that have been verbatim."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Okay, but, please, look to see whether or not we can do links because as we read documents now, you will see certain words or verbiage that might be highlighted, and if you hit that particular word, you go to a link that further explains that section. So, it's obvious that the technology is there, and if we are going to really be 21st Century, let's go all of the way if we can."

The Clerk said, "Yes, sir. We'll definitely look into that."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Are there any other comments or questions?"

No one else asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. So, I know Jennifer will follow up on those comments. They were all good suggestions. For purposes of moving forward, I ask for approval of this item for first reading. Did we have a motion on the floor?"

Councilmember Shahid said, "So moved."

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Is there any further discussion?"

No one else asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Shahid, seconded by Councilwoman Jackson, City Council voted unanimously to give first reading to the following bill:

An ordinance to amend Sec. 2-23(b) of the Code of the City of Charleston to provide for keeping summary minutes and video recordings of its proceedings.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Our next regular meeting will be in two weeks on January 26th. Is there any further business to come before us?"

No one asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Hearing none, you all have a great evening. Thank you. Happy New Year again, and we will talk to you soon."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Thank you all."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Be safe."

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Jennifer B. Cook
Clerk of Council