

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBER**

Regular Meeting  
January 24, 2023

The one hundred thirty-seventh meeting of the City Council of Charleston was held this date convening at 5:17 p.m. at City Hall and over video conference call (Zoom).

A notice of this meeting and an agenda were made available on the City's website January 19, 2023 and appeared in the Post and Courier on January 23, 2023.

PRESENT (13)

The Honorable John J. Tecklenburg, Mayor

Councilmember Gregg	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 Bowden	District 10
Councilmember Brady	District 5	Councilmember Appel	District 11
Councilmember Gregorie	District 6	Councilmember Parker	District 12

Mayor Tecklenburg called the meeting to order at 5:17 p.m.

The Clerk called the roll.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Now, if you would like to join us, Councilmember Sakran will lead us in an [invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.](#)"

Councilmember Sakran opened the meeting with an invocation.

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

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Thank you, all, for being with us tonight. I think most of you have been with us before, but just in case, and this is very unlikely that we would have to evacuate the building, but if that were to occur, don't use the elevator. There are the two doors out of this main room and one door out of the room to my right, the two stairs leading downstairs, and then just the one stairway heading out the front door. That would be our route out of here in that unlikely event, but just want everybody to be aware. I have the honor tonight of giving our State of the City Address right at 6:00 p.m., so to give the folks time to set up for that, we're going to take a break at 5:45 p.m. We're going to proceed along with as much business as we can accomplish before then, but we will be breaking at 5:45 p.m. for a little 15-minute break and then the State of the City. Good news for everyone, they only allow me 12 minutes, so it's not going to last that long. So, next up is our [public hearings](#) and, Mr. Morgan, would you please come forward? We will start with, of course, [number one which is a matter involving 1320 Folly Road](#), a rezoning from Limited Business to General Business. You all want to see if you can get the screen going up here? But, Mr. Morgan, please proceed to describe it."

Christopher Morgan said, "Yes, sir. So, this one you all have the maps in your package. So, this is a piece of property that is somewhat surrounded by the Town of James Island off of Folly Road, and it has an automotive-related repair business on the site. It's been zoned Limited Business for many years, but that actually doesn't allow for the type of automotive repair that's occurring on the site, and the owner is interested in coming into compliance with what our Codes requires. So, he has brought forward a rezoning request that was received by the Planning Commission, but it is a fairly simple request. We've also consulted with the Town of James Island where another part of this business is. So, there is the property, it's off of Folly Road, it's south of Fort Johnson, and it backs up to other residential areas. There is another part of the business right here, that is in the Town of James Island. All of these areas are in the Town of James Island, but this is in the City of Charleston."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "And what type of repair does he do there?"

Mr. Morgan said, "It's automotive repair."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay."

Mr. Morgan said, "Yes, sir. So, there you see some of the cars that are on the site. You see the building that has the white roof, that's in the Town of James Island that has a structure that is indoor repair work, too. In our plan, it's in our Neighborhood Edge, so the GB was a little more intensive, but we're trying to fix this situation for a pre-existing business, so that is why we're recommending for it. Just a difference in LB and GB in the Overlay, however, those really won't apply here unless this business one day leaves. As long as this business stays here, they're going to be in conformance. Here are some images of it from Folly Road. This is the building I believe that's in the Town on the side there. So, it's a long-established business in this location, and it's gotten bigger."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Go back to the picture of the actual--that's the parcel that's in the City?"

Mr. Morgan said, "Yes, sir. That has the cars on it, because when you go back to the aerial, I believe, we've got, yes, you can see that driveway apron right there coming off of Folly Road."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay. Just curious, is there anything but parking going on on it?"

Mr. Morgan said, "I'm not sure, but they may be planning to do other activities there, and that's part of the reason for the General Business on that site."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay."

Mr. Morgan said, "And the Planning Commission did review and recommended the approval of the rezoning request."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Would anyone like to be heard on this matter? Please come forward. Yes, sir. Please state your name and address."

The Clerk said, "Mr. Mayor, did you want to set a time limit?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Ninety seconds."

The Clerk said, "Okay. It's a minute and a half, sir."

1. Joseph Fipps said he was born and raised in Charleston and grew up working at the shop since 1972, when his father started the business. He said they were growing just like everybody else is growing, and they needed more room to work. Currently, they were just parking cars on the lot and no work was being done on the premises. He said they just needed more room. He said they took care of everybody in the community, everybody got along with them, and they planned on being there a long time.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Excellent. Thank you, sir. Anyone else like to be heard on this matter?"

The Clerk said, "Mr. Mayor, we had a sign-up sheet. I think Mr. Bryant he had signed up to speak. Is he here?"

Anthony Bryant said, "I'm good."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "He's good on this matter."

The Clerk said, "Alright. Mr. Idris."

Mohammed Idris said, "I'm good."

The Clerk said, "I think that was it."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Hearing no one else, it comes to Council."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Move for approval."

Councilmember Appel said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie.

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Yes, Mr. Mayor. This is in my district, and it's an upzoning, and it's not far from Walmart in that area, all of those businesses up in there."

Mr. Morgan said, "Correct. It's down the street about a quarter to a half mile. Yes, sir."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Right, of which most of those are already zoned GB."

Mr. Morgan said, "Yes, sir."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "So, this would not be inconsistent with most of what's going on there. While they may not necessarily be the City, this would be consistent with those."

Mr. Morgan said, "Yes, sir."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Alright. Thank you very much."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Parker.

Councilmember Parker said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Mr. Morgan, can you go back to the slide LB and GB, the description? And the Rethink Folly Road, the Overlay?"

Mr. Morgan said, "Well, this includes the Overlay's restrictions. For example, the density is the same in Limited Business in the Overlay as it is in General Business."

Councilmember Parker said, "Okay. What about the neighborhoods?"

Mr. Morgan said, "The neighborhoods?"

Councilmember Parker said, "The zones. Do you know what zoning they're in?"

Mr. Morgan said, "Okay. So, in the City in our version of the Overlay, the predominance is what the base zoning is. So, it was currently zoned LB Limited Business when the Folly Road Overlay came into play, and this would take it to General Business under the Folly Road Overlay, and those are the restrictions that you would have under General Business in the Folly Road Overlay. It's a little bit more permissive. It does allow 24 hours a day uses and things like that, but the overall density should the use go away and somebody wanted to develop residentially is the same as with Limited Business."

Councilmember Parker said, "Okay. Thank you."

Councilmember Gregorie was excused from the Chamber at 5:26 p.m.

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, "This is just a very general question for you, Mr. Morgan, and you do such a wonderful job with all of these presentations, and I think we all on Council appreciate your thoroughness on this. Is there a reason why, and the Clerk's going to kill me for asking this question, is there a reason why we don't get all of these other attachments in our agenda packets? Because this helps."

Mr. Morgan said, "Oh, some of the slides?"

Councilmember Shahid said, "Yes. These slides help us out a good bit. I know our package is so big, and we sometimes have to go to the electronic website to get the agenda on Ways and Means, in particular, but having this kind of information and those other slides really do make a difference for us."

Mr. Morgan said, "And these are essentially the same slides we show the Planning Commission, but, I mean, if the Clerk wanted, we could provide these if you all wanted them."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Even if they were just digital, even if we just got them on the digital part of it for review, not to add any more work to the Clerk or any more paperwork."

The Clerk said, "We can include that if you all would like that in future agendas."

Councilmember Shahid said, "That helps. It really does help."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "It will all be paperless soon. We hope."

The Clerk said, "Yes."

Councilmember Gregorie returned to the Chamber at 5:28 p.m.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Exactly. Alright. Any other questions or comments for first reading?"

No one else asked to speak.

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

*An ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Charleston by changing the Zone Map, which is a part thereof, so that 1320 Folly Road (James Island) (approximately 0.46 acre) (TMS #427-01-00-011) (Council District 6), be rezoned from Limited Business (LB) classification to General Business (GB) classification. The property is owned by Joseph Fipps.*

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, Mr. Fipps. Good luck to you and your business. Alright. So, [number two.](#)"

Mr. Morgan said, "Okay. This is an amendment to a Planned Unit Development that you all saw in the last year or so. As time has passed since it was approved, the existing business that's on the site realized that there were some constraints in the PUD that did not really reflect the way they operate on the site. It's the site, the business that is there is the Tattooed Moose on Johns Island, so these amendments are to deal with that situation. This is on Maybank Highway on Johns Island. It's just to the west of Southwick. It's a development that would have townhouses, as well as the existing Tattooed Moose. I'll show you some slides that gives you a refresher on the PUD, and of course, this is in our Comp Plan as Neighborhood Edge and so the PUD itself is in line with the Neighborhood Edge of the Comprehensive Plan. This is just what the Neighborhood Edge allows for, 6 to 20 units an acre. This is an aerial image of the site, and it does include the Tattooed Moose that is there towards the bottom towards Maybank Highway and then undeveloped land around it. A view from the street on Maybank, and this is the PUD document. I was going to show just a couple of the changes here that dealt with the amount of area for the commercial use has slightly expanded, the amount of area for the parking for the commercial use is slightly expanded, and the amount of area for the residential has dropped a little bit, but the number of units is the same. Then, we will go to the images of the layout of the development, and this should all be in your packages, as well. Everything that's, of course, in red are the changes and that is the overall area. Here you see that there has been a change. This area has been added to the business area, and it's going to be used for parking, and they have outdoor use area, that is basically in this zone here, and that parking will help provide for that, as well, but everything else about the PUD will remain the same. There are the buffers along Maybank Highway, the green spaces that will be provided in the development. This will be a series of townhouses. It will back up to a marsh area. There will be connectivity between parcels and roads that will allow for future connectivity to the north and to the south in line with all of our Johns Island Plans, and that is, those are just some road cross-sections,

and that's just the overall final PUD Plan. The Planning Commission did review this and recommended for its approval, and it was a 6 to 0 vote, and now it comes to Council."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Would anyone like to be heard on this matter? Yes, sir. Please come forward."

1. Anthony Bryant said under the growth and economical development under the South Carolina Planning and Enabling Act, he supported an Ad Hoc committee agenda item by Councilmember Parker. In terms of lobbyists and non-profits, due to Councilmembers not knowing the rates between Charleston and Berkeley County tax rates, coupled with the Mayor raising \$200,000 above his salary, as well as the candidates totally raising over half a million dollars. The Ad Hoc committee should look at changing the form of government, because many could not afford to raise \$100,000 for a campaign. 600,000 people in South Carolina were at risk to be unhoused, 13,000 were critically unhoused, and 1,000,000 Americans were unhoused in the Country currently, so they could not afford to pay the Mayor to raise any money for his campaign and anybody else.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, sir. Would anyone like to be heard on the PUD at Rhett's Cove?"

No one else asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay. Hearing none, it comes to Council."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Parker.

Councilmember Parker said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Now, this is not my district, but this is another PUD on Johns Island, you know, the traffic, the infrastructure. I just, I don't know how you feel about it, Councilmember Brady. I would just love to hear from you because I don't hear from Johns Island constituents. I hear from friends and things like that. I mean, James Island and Johns Island are closely connected, but certainly the uptick in homes and people adding to the already tight roads and things, I'd just love to hear your thoughts on it."

Councilmember Brady said, "Yes. No. Where this is located, as Christopher mentioned, where the Tattooed Moose is on Maybank, it's already kind of in a Commercial node. So, it's not like that it's out of character with what's going on. Also, to have the PUDs in relation to other Commercial developments there, so it actually creates some synergy in that area that wouldn't require folks to always have to drive to do things. So, it puts businesses near residences which there are a couple of other PUDs on Johns Island that are going near neighborhoods, as well, and it's been a really nice lifestyle accommodation as in Maybank Village is near Estuary Beans & Barley and Charleston Distilling Company, and then the new Low Tide is going to go in near that vicinity, as well, so there is a lot of kind of Commercial nodes going in there that I don't think necessarily add substantially to the traffic. It actually reduces it because you're putting where people want to live, work, and play in closer proximity to each other. However, I do agree with you which will be later on on the agenda where there are other kind of upzonings that have been requested that I think are kind of out of character with the area."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Parker.

Councilmember Parker said, "One more question, I'm sorry, Councilmember Boykin have you spoken with him about this? I'm just curious because he had a great plan for that part of Maybank. Does this line up with that sort of proposal that he had?"

Councilmember Brady said, "I haven't spoken with him about it, but if you're referencing the Maybank Overlay Zone, the City and the County have been working together on that so that the City comes into alignment with the Commercial nodes, as well, that are at Main and Maybank, kind of the center of Maybank, and then also at Maybank and River, as well."

Councilmember Parker said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, "To Councilmember Brady's point, and we heard this several meetings ago regarding the residents on Johns Island calling for more Commercial development on Johns Island to the point of, if you've got a pharmacy, you've got a grocery store, you've got a restaurant, you've got a hardware store, and the list goes on. That enables them to not have to travel into another part of the County or the City to do their business there. So, if we can add more Commercial activity, and I can't remember what that particular zoning request was several years ago, but if we can develop this into more Commercial needs for the residents out there, there is a food desert out there, there is a grocery store desert out there, and there is a restaurant desert out there, so more of this type of activity helps the folks over on Johns Island."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Any further comment?"

No one else asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Hearing none, for first reading."

The Clerk said, "Mr. Mayor, we need a motion."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Oh, we didn't have a motion on the floor."

Councilmember Brady said, "So moved."

Councilmember Shealy said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We've got a motion to approve and a second. Any further comment or question?"

No one else asked to speak.

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

*An ordinance to amend Chapter 54 of the Code of the City of Charleston (Zoning Ordinance) by amending portions of the Rhett's Cove Planned Unit Development Master Plan and Development Guidelines to amend sections related to land use, zoning criteria, buffers and parking (Rhett's Cove PUD – Johns Island) (approx. 10.6 acres) (TMS# 279-00-00-029, 279-00-00-030, 279-00-00-031 and 279-00-00-035).*

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "[Number three](#). Councilmember Mitchell, did you have a question?"

Councilmember Mitchell said, "No, no."

Councilmember Seekings said, "It's coming."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "It's coming."

Mr. Morgan said, "Number three is an ordinance amendment that will help us further encourage affordable housing in the City. It's already been in place in the ordinance. This just expands the size of lots that can take advantage of it. It basically let's with existing lots our denser zoning categories have affordable housing built on these lots and regulated by virtue of the number of bedrooms that are on the lot as are in the building that would be built on the lot or used on the lot as opposed to the number of Residential units, so it gives some more flexibility for affordable housing, and this expands on it further. It was actually brought to our attention, by an existing structure that's on Upper King Street that is going to be converted to affordable housing, and this particular development can take advantage of that. It's an entirely privately funded affordable housing development, and they just needed a little bit of expansion. We thought this was a very good thing to do for this category to allow for more of the regulation by bedrooms on these existing denser lots that could have affordable housing on them, so this will help create more affordable housing in the community. The Planning Commission did review this and recommended approval, and it comes to you all now."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Would anyone like to be heard on this matter? Mr. Dix, I see you moving around. Welcome."

1. Josh Dix, 640 Rutledge Avenue, the Government Affairs Director for the Realtors Association said they really needed to think outside of the box on how they were going to approach density and get more affordable product into the City, but they couldn't do it alone. The zoning work that was coming up was going to be really important to where they could identify the blind spots in the Zoning Code and add more opportunities for affordable housing in their portfolio of product that they had. They also needed to take a look at the development timelines and how long it was taking to get a project into a CO. They would never be able to produce an affordable product unless they addressed some of those issues that didn't cost money and didn't take any additional time. They just needed to look and think how they were doing those things and try to develop an approach going forward.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, sir. Would anyone else like to be heard on this?"

No one else asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Hearing none, it comes to Council."

Councilmember Waring said, "Move for approval."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Second."

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



Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, "This is just sort of a question, Mr. Morgan. Under subparagraph C, when you talk about the total number of bedrooms from 12 to 22, how is that number developed? I mean, is that an industry standard of some sort?"

Mr. Morgan said, "It was based on the lower levels on smaller lot sizes of the previous ordinance of the maximum lot of being a 6,100 sq. ft. lot at 12 bedrooms and then carrying that up to 22. We took it out to 10,780 sq. ft. as far as a minimum lot size."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Okay."

Councilmember Seekings said, "You got that?"

Councilmember Shahid said, "I got most of that in my head, but are we going to have a test on this later? Thanks."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Any other questions?"

No one else asked to speak.

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

*An ordinance to amend Article 2 (Land Use Regulations), Part 2 (Permitted uses by Base Zoning District), Sec. 54-207, P of Chapter 54 of the Code of the City of Charleston (Zoning Ordinance), to extend conditional use provisions to allow an increased number of affordable housing units on larger lots.*

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "[Number four.](#)"

Councilmember Shahid said, "Here it comes."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Move numbers 4 through 12 take together for the public hearing."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We have a second by Councilmember Mitchell. Alright. So, these are all Residential properties, I believe, that have just been annexed into the City and getting their Residential zoning, correct?"

Mr. Morgan said, "Yes, sir."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, I'm just going to call out their names for the record's sake. 372 Lynwood Drive, 521 St. Andrews Boulevard, 1401 River Front Drive, 1603 Pinecrest Road, 1731 East Avalon Circle, 1754 Jervey Avenue, 2056 Piper Drive, 2161 Wappoo Hall Road, and 2190 Saint James Drive. Would anyone like to be heard on any of those properties? Yes, ma'am. Please come forward."

1. Brenda Stiteler said she was speaking on 2161 Wappoo Hall Road. Her understanding was that the owner wanted to subdivide, and she wanted to verify that was true before she spoke out. She wanted to verify what zoning and variances on building they were asking for.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "This is not necessarily a question and answer period, but I will ask Mr. Morgan if he happens to know that."

Ms. Stiteler said, "Because it kind of depends on what I'm saying."

Mr. Morgan said, "So, this one the zoning that's recommended for is SR-1. It was R-4 in Charleston County, so those are fairly comparable zonings, and looking at the configuration there, I don't see a scenario where they would be able to subdivide it because we don't really allow flag lots, and given it looks like the existing structure takes up most of the width of the lot, I don't think this is one. That was not my understanding that they were annexing this for subdivision, and you see how the size of the surrounding lots are fairly comparable. They would have to have a 9,000 sq. ft. lot to subdivide, and I don't know if you would be able to achieve that and still have the setbacks you have to have for the house there."

Ms. Stiteler said, "Okay. That was really because there is no need for me to say what I have to say if the lot's not going to be subdivided. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you. Alright. Would anyone else like to be heard on any of those addresses that I called out?"

No one else asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay. Hearing none, the matter comes to Council."

Councilmember Seekings said, "So moved."

Councilmember Bowden said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We have a motion to approve. Any discussion or questions?"

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Seekings, seconded by Councilmember Bowden, City Council voted unanimously to give first reading to the following bills:

*An ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Charleston by changing the Zone Map, which is a part thereof, so that 372 Lynwood Drive (West Ashley) (approximately 0.33 acre) (TMS #310-12-00-079) (Council District 11), annexed into the City of Charleston December 6, 2022 (#2022-177), be zoned Single-Family Residential (SR-1) classification. The property is owned by Ricky Bradley.*

*An ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Charleston by changing the Zone Map, which is a part thereof, so that 521 St. Andrews Boulevard (West Ashley) (approximately 0.33 acre) (TMS #421-03-00-113) (Council District 11), annexed into the City of Charleston December 6, 2022 (#2022-170), be zoned Single-Family Residential (SR-1) classification. The property is owned by Zeyi Chen and Zhirong Yang.*

*An ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Charleston by changing the Zone Map, which is a part thereof, so that 1401 River Front Drive (West Ashley) (approximately 0.21 acre) (TMS #352-10-00-036) (Council District 9), annexed into the City of Charleston December 6, 2022 (#2022-172), be zoned Single-Family Residential (SR-1) classification. The property is owned by Maddieco LLC.*

*An ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Charleston by changing the Zone Map, which is a part thereof, so that 1603 Pinecrest Road (West Ashley) (approximately 0.09 acre) (TMS #351-12-00-060) (Council District 9), annexed into the City of Charleston December 6, 2022 (#2022-171), be zoned Single-Family Residential (SR-2) classification. The property is owned by Maddieco LLC.*

*An ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Charleston by changing the Zone Map, which is a part thereof, so that 1731 East Avalon Circle (West Ashley) (approximately 0.28 acre) (TMS #352-13-00-136) (Council District 9), annexed into the City of Charleston December 6, 2022 (#2022-174), be zoned Single-Family Residential (SR-2) classification. The property is owned by Maddieco LLC.*

*An ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Charleston by changing the Zone Map, which is a part thereof, so that 1754 Jervey Avenue (West Ashley) (approximately 0.09 acre) (TMS #352-10-00-069) (Council District 9), annexed into the City of Charleston December 6, 2022 (#2022-173), be zoned Single-Family Residential (SR-1) classification. The property is owned by Maddieco LLC.*

*An ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Charleston by changing the Zone Map, which is a part thereof, so that 2056 Piper Drive (West Ashley) (approximately 0.25 acre) (TMS #350-09-00-114) (Council District 5), annexed into the City of Charleston December 6, 2022 (#2022-169), be zoned Single-Family Residential (SR-1) classification. The property is owned by Alysann Lee Sieren and Carl A. Johnson.*

*An ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Charleston by changing the Zone Map, which is a part thereof, so that 2161 Wappoo Hall Road (James Island) (approximately 0.56 acre) (TMS #343-01-00-027) (Council District 11), annexed into the City of Charleston December 6, 2022 (#2022-175), be zoned Single-Family Residential (SR-1) classification. The property is owned by Taylor Hill.*

*An ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Charleston by changing the Zone Map, which is a part thereof, so that 2190 Saint James Drive (James Island) (approximately 0.20 acre) (TMS #343-01-00-079) (Council District 11), annexed into the City of Charleston December 6, 2022 (#2022-176), be zoned Single-Family Residential (SR-1) classification. The property is owned by Jeffery Bolen.*

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Next we have the [approval of our City Council minutes from December 20<sup>th</sup>.](#)"

Councilmember Brady said, "Move for approval."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Any corrections, deletions, or additions?"

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Brady, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell, City Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the December 20, 2022 City Council meeting.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Now, we are at 5:42 p.m. If we started [Citizens Participation](#), we would literally just have like one or two folks. So, if it's okay with you all, we will just go ahead and break so we can set up for the State of the City Address."

Councilmember Seekings said, "How many people are signed up for Citizens Participation?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "How many folks are signed up?"

The Clerk said, "We have seven in person, and then we did have a few online."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Take the couple that are online and then come back?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Or we might have one of the seven who is like dying to leave. You're welcome to come up and present yourself."

Councilmember Mitchell was excused from the Chamber at 5:43 p.m.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I see a volunteer. Come on up. Give us your name and address."

The Clerk said, "Mr. Mayor, is the time limit still a minute and a half?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes. Please state your name and address."

1. Kate Doesberg said she lived in Wagener Terrace and at the last City Council meeting that she attended, they talked about the bump-outs for the four intersections on the Upper Peninsula. She understood that it had been approved and they were figuring out funding, but the idea was floated that they use crossing guards as an option. She said that could not work. In 2016, she spent the entire year trying to find a crossing guard for the intersection of Grove and King. What she found out was that the Sheriff's Office had considered that intersection too dangerous for a crossing guard which was why when there was one available, they posted her at the mid-block intersection between Grove and Francis. She believed that the answer lied in safer intersections and not in crossing guards which were basically a dangerous volunteer position and very hard to find. There were three crossing guards at those four intersections in 2016, and now there was one. She thought they would not be able to find replacement crossing guards.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We did inquire when this topic came up at our last meeting and come to find out that the Crossing Guard Program currently run by the Sheriff's Department will be turned over to the School District starting next school year. So, at that point, starting next

school year, the Charleston County School District will be the point of contact and responsible for recruiting Crossing Guards and managing the program, for what that's worth. Alright. You want to call a name?"

Councilmember Mitchell returned to the Chamber at 5:46 p.m.

The Clerk said, "Anthony Del Porto."

2. Anthony Del Porto, 447 Huger Street, spoke in support of the pedestrian safety on the Upper Peninsula proposal presented at Council by the Traffic and Transportation Committee at the last City Council meeting. He said that was a request for bump-outs or curb extensions at the intersection of Rutledge and Moultrie, Rutledge and Simmons, King and Moultrie, and King and Grove Streets. He said those were key road crossings where children crossed twice a day as they and their parents went to and from the schools of James Simmons, Sundrops Montessori, and Charleston Charter School for Math and Science. He said those bump-outs would be key safety devices for the children going to and from school, and they were included in the 2018 City Transportation Plan that Council approved. He thanked the Mayor and City Council, particularly Councilmember Sakran, who he had worked with on it, the Traffic and Transportation Committee, and City staff, particularly Robbie Somerville, for their work so far. His main ask was that Council continue to prioritize finding funding for those projects from County Council and other sources as they were good plans, and they were certainly being asked for by the citizens as evidenced by the fact that he put together a petition that gathered 149 signatures, but the funding would be the big lift. He asked Council to please prioritize funding for those crucial safety improvements so their children could arrive at school and back home to them safely each night.

City Council recessed at 5:46 p.m. for the State of the City Address.

City Council reconvened at 6:15 p.m.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Madam Clerk will continue with our Citizens Participation Period."

The Clerk said, "Anthony Bryant."

No one spoke.

The Clerk said, "Mohammed Idris."

3. Mohammed Idris said there was a flag on the corner of America Street and Reid Street, and it was supposed to be an African American flag. There was no United States of America flag on that corner despite it being on America St. They should not have a foreign flag on public property without the American flag on top of it. It was a sign of treason.

The Clerk said, "Brent Bevil."

No one asked to speak.

The Clerk said, "Karyn Buckley."

4. Karyn Buckley said she was there to speak on the Southwick Avenue item. Ms. Buckley lived on Southwick Drive, and she and 134 people were in opposition at the Planning Commission's zoning meeting with over 30 people in attendance. Despite that, the item was not mentioned during the meeting or was on the agenda. The Rutledge Avenue Item, which had almost the same amount of people in opposition, got denied. Even though they were on John's Island and not in the City, they were still paying their taxes and were active members of the community. The new development was planning to fill in part of the natural wetlands in Southwick. They had promised that they were donating to Charleston Habitat for Humanity, but when she spoke with the director of the charity, he said they had not been in contact with them.

The Clerk said, "Zac Viscidi."

5. Zac Viscidi said he was there in support of the release of the six previously approved pedicabs. He had watched the City allocate funds up to five times his annual salary as a teacher, but when it came time to allocate opportunity and provide the middle class with businesses and opportunities for entrepreneurship, the City had dragged its feet. He waited six months like he was asked and came back with reasoned arguments as to why they should follow through on their planned approval. He asked them to remember that when they allocated opportunity not only were they increasing revenue and encouraging the citizens to participate in entrepreneurship, but they were building up the community and strengthening it. Following through with their approval and moving away from the scarcity model that limited the pedicabs would create opportunity for the citizens.

The Clerk said, "Kristine Schaffer."

No one spoke.

The Clerk said, "Reece Kimsey."

6. Reece Kimsey said he was there on behalf of Southwick, as well. He said they had a copy of their MOU with an attached agreement that referenced Habitat for Humanity. They had Executive Director John Rhoden with them at the meeting, as well. They requested a minor change of a signature block that he brought with him if anyone wanted to accept it.

The Clerk said, "Tony Daniell. If you're online, you can press \*6 to unmute yourself."

7. Tony Daniell said he heard the Mayor talk about the importance of neighborhood livability in his State of the City address, but his livability had been ignored. A house his father built that was one of the oldest homes in his neighborhood had barricades that were supposed to be temporary on it for the last 40 years. He asked if the Mayor was allowed to continue that illegal activity what was stopping him from taking it further like banning ethnic groups in certain neighborhoods. The law said it had to be in the best interest of everyone to close the road, but they had been ignoring the law. He said 35 out of 93 families had expressed an opinion because 35 are a part of

their small organization, but his house was being used as a campaign to get more people as members, so the City might actually listen to them.

The Clerk said, "Rita Kazirskis. If you're online, you can press \*6 to unmute yourself."

8. Rita Kazirskis said bias could be deliberate or unconscious. Charleston Police continued to give permits to a man who beat a Black man on tape so he could continue his white supremacy protests. He set up a giant Dylann Roof flag outside of his permitted area because he found a more convenient place to park, and nothing was done about it. She said they had seen Charleston PD violently arrest Black people and their allies for attempting to move outside of areas designated for them, but the white supremacist with his Confederate and Dylann Roof flags got accommodated by the PD moving his permitted area to where he decided to park. She asked everyone listening to watch the July 29, 2021 Emergency Meeting where the Mayor and Council passed a new First Amendment ordinance, without allowing for public comments, and explained the urgency was to exclude open carry and required open carry prohibited signs at all Charleston permitted events. However, the weekend after that, she said the weekly Klan rally at the Battery had no signs and didn't for nearly a year. She said the Police allowed it and refused and threatened to arrest people who were asking about enforcing it. She said it seemed the City and the CPD only had a certain type of protester in mind when they passed that emergency ordinance, and they continued to turn a blind eye to the white supremacists' violations. She asked anyone listening to leave a recorded message at 843-579-6313.

The Clerk said, "Those were all the citizens we had signed up to speak. We also received some comments. All the comments received online and by telephone were sent to the Councilmembers in full. This is just a summary of comments provided by those that have not already spoken at the meeting. We received four comments by phone against the display of the Confederate flag at White Point Gardens and permits being issued to Flags Across the South. Those are all the comments we received."

9. Josh Dix said he lived at 640 Rutledge Avenue, and he was speaking on behalf of the French Huguenot Church where he served on the board. Last Friday, the church held a burial for Arthur Ravenel, and Mr. Dix reached out to the Mayor and was able to organize with the Police Department and Livability to ensure they could close off the French Quarter for the burial. He said there was a lot they had to coordinate, but the process worked seamlessly. He wanted to thank the City and everyone who helped in that process.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you all for being with us this evening. We appreciate it. Next up is our [Petitions](#). We have a Resolution in Support of the Extension of I-526. I think it was handed out to you and, frankly, it's very similar to the one we did last year, but given the juncture that the County and SCDOT are at, to try to move forward with the next phase, we thought it would be nice to encourage them along. Can I entertain a motion to support?"

Councilmember Brady said, "Move for approval."

Councilmember Shealy said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said "Second. Any discussion?"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Parker.

Councilmember Parker said, "I'll be abstaining for the vote."

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

No one else asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Brady, seconded by Councilmember Shealy, City Council voted to approve a Resolution in Support of the Extension of I-526.

The motion passed 10 to 2.

The vote was not unanimous. Councilmembers Gregorie and Seekings voted nay. Councilmember Parker abstained from voting on this item.

The Clerk said, "So, just for the record, we have two nays, Councilmember Gregorie and Councilmember Seekings, and one abstention by Councilmember Parker. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Seekings.

Councilmember Seekings said, "I just want to explain my vote. I went back and looked in April of 2022, and we resolved-it's exactly the same language as we resolved in April of 2022. We've already gotten to that point. I think it's time we move on. In your speech you just gave, I wrote it down, the top priorities and one of which is the City-wide Water Plan. We need resolutions like this to County Council. We're going to need help with funding for things like Calhoun West, so let's have a resolution resolving that. Let's look forward. I mean, we've already done this, so I think it's time for us to sort of look to some other projects to ask the help of County Council for. So, thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, sir. That was part of my purpose to meet with Chairman Sass this morning to discuss a number of things like affordable housing and transportation, as well, so, anyway, those conversations will continue. Alright. Next, [Council Communications, a discussion regarding the possible creation of a grant/lobbying ad hoc committee.](#)"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Parker.

Councilmember Parker said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and thank you, all, for entertaining this conversation tonight. I'm really excited about it. When I received the lobbying report from Mr. Jerue at the end of the year, that's when it sort of hit me that there's a lot going on that I don't think this body is talking about enough. So, obviously, I've placed this on the agenda tonight for discussion, but I would like to move that we create a Grant/Lobbying Committee whether it meet quarterly in Committee. I do understand that the grants go through Ways and Means so, obviously, we can do it there, but I think that we can have a lot of valid, really robust conversation if we meet in Committee and discuss possible grants, hearing from our lobbying firm, our lobbyists, our grant compliance manager, and our grant writer. We budgeted for another grant writer.



We all have spoken briefly throughout the past year about how a grant writer can pay for itself in the City for what we can receive. There's money coming out of the State and at the Federal level that we need to start targeting. We talk about all the time the infrastructure improvements that we need to get done. I even found out about two outside of ARPA and the other one, I'm sorry for all the acronyms, but we can go after them, but, you know, our legislators need to hear from us, from this body. That's, again, a crucial piece of having these conversations in Committee making sure that the grant writers and the lobbying firms are giving us the information so that we can do what we need to do on our end. Our legislators want to hear from us and want us to know what to go after in Columbia and at the Federal level. So, with that being said, I think you all know where I'm going with this and why I want to create it. I'm hoping to hear your thoughts and see where we could go with that. I do think that an Ad Hoc Committee would be suitable for this. Ways and Means, as we saw tonight, can get pretty heavy, at least I know for me it can. I really think that this deserves some robust conversation in Committee.

This is still on topic, but a little bit to the side, you know, the State has a surplus year, so the budget request, that was just sort of an off question. These sort of things I think we should be having conversations about, and I think this is the Committee that we could be doing it in. We just need to really lean on our State reps to try to get as much of this money funneling through our City as we can. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie.

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Are you suggesting that there are grant opportunities that we may not be aware of and through this Ad Hoc process we will be able to give our grant writers additional opportunities for grants for the cities?"

Councilmember Parker said, "Well, I can't say there are specific ones that they don't know about because I don't know what they know about and don't know about. I just want to make sure that those conversations are happening, and I also believe that putting more heads, since all of us hear about different things, you hear about Act 236, and you bring it here, so things like that. So, when we get those heads in a room, we're having a more robust discussion about what opportunities are there that they know about. There may be opportunities that we don't know about. I mean, we certainly hire these firms to do some of that work for us, correct? We do have a limited department, I think, when it comes to grant writing. I also think having the Committee is a good way to show and prove that this position pays for itself and that we should budget, maybe we need to budget for another position or another grant writer, things like that. So, to answer your question, specifically I don't know, not necessarily. I mean I know the Rural Infrastructure Authority, flood mitigation, stormwater, sewer infrastructure, all of those, there's a ton of money coming out right now for all of this. We just need to, as a legislative body, target that with our House Representatives and Senators."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Any other discussion?"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Seekings.

Councilmember Seekings said, "Just very briefly, I mean, I think shining a light on opportunity is always a good idea and to put more heads around it and give support to our staff here. You know, we, collectively, know a bunch of people out there, too. So, again, to shine a light on opportunity and to the extent that there are people around this table that are willing to do that, I think, is a good idea, and I support it."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, "Councilmember Parker, several years ago a little classmate of mine, a little fellow named Michael Tongore, appeared in Council Chambers, and I had not seen Mike in quite some time. He introduced himself as our lobbyist, and I didn't even know that. Then, we arranged and we had breakfast the next day, it was all day, and had a very informative discussion about what he was doing, and I was totally surprised by his involvement with the City. Your points are well taken tonight, and I appreciate you bringing it up. I don't know if we need to form another Ad Hoc Committee on this. I think, probably, if we got updates at the Ad Hoc Budget Committee that may be a natural progression to stick it in there. However, you're right, our County Council and our State delegation need more information from us.

I'm not sure where we are with this Short-Term Rental bill, but I just got a letter from a realtor in yesterday's mail about a bill pending or pre-filed in the State legislature dealing with prohibiting any municipality from imposing and having on their books a Short-Term Rental Ordinance. Now, imagine what that does to our neighborhoods. If we don't have a Short-Term Rental Ordinance, now, I'm just thinking about the neighborhoods in my district, if we don't have a Short-Term Rental Ordinance, we can't control short-term rentals in neighborhoods. We're talking about the death of neighborhoods in the City of Charleston. I'm not exaggerating that problem. I don't know what our lobbyists are doing about addressing that. I haven't heard anything about it. Mr. Jerue is very good about sending us updates on what's been taking place up in the legislature. They just got back into session, obviously, but you're right, I mean, those are the kind of things that we need to know what's going on, with grant writing, with our lobbyists, and things of that nature. But, I think, perhaps we've got some infrastructure already in place with that and maybe we just redirect it to our Ad Hoc Budget Committee, but thanks for bringing it up."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregg.

Councilmember Gregg said, "Thank you, Councilmember Parker, for bringing this forward. I would like to just say a couple things. One, the world of Federal and State grant writing is a full-time job, and I don't see that us around this Council would be able to bring a whole lot of value to that position, and often those grants are specific to specific departments. So, Mr. Fountain might be applying for grants that he specifically knows about, affordable housing is going to a separate grant writing exercise, and those folks in those departments with their specific subject matter expertise are very familiar with the grants they should be applying for. So, I don't think that the 12 of us would bring a whole lot of value to that unless it applies to our specific subject matter expertise. That being said, I would be in favor of at least a regular Committee report from our lobbying organizations to find out what they're doing and, by extension, for some of us to be able to lobby with our specific State legislators. I know some of the folks around this table carry a lot more weight with the State legislature than I do, for example, and I think it would be great to employ more heads and more of your seniority to help with our State legislature. Thank you very much."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I think it's a great idea, and what form it should be in, certainly, should be reporting, and I'll tell you why. In particular for the people who are new to Council, again, you talked about the bike/pedestrian bridge, there was a TIGER grant that was applied for. We needed to help lobby, if you will, those in the Federal

government. Councilmember Shealy called Tim Scott directly on that, and I called Senator Tim Scott directly on that. We need to also call, because he's in the Senate financing, Senator Lindsey Graham. I have a rapport with him, but Mayor Riley had a stronger rapport. I actually called Mayor Riley and asked him to call Senator Lindsey Graham. Because we had more than just the Executive Branch working on that, we were fortunate and got the \$18 million for the bike/pedestrian bridge. It was a very divisive issue. It was a seven to six vote. As a matter of fact, one Councilmember voted by phone to create the seven to six. County Council came and actually said, 'Hey, we're not going to fund it,' so we languished. We needed a way across the Ashley, but it was because of the additional allies around the table and had we not known to make that call, we might not have gotten that money. Certainly, if somebody on the Senate Finance Committee doesn't push for it, it's not going to happen.

A second example is we had a \$45 million shortfall on the Septima Clark Spring/Fishburne Drainage project. The STIB had a little over \$700, \$750 million, and it's on the State level. At that point, all the drainage projects that you talked about on West Ashley and James Island, we wouldn't have been able to do those projects, because we actually had a vote before Council to take almost every dime from stormwater to complete what was a \$154 million project that became \$199, let's call it \$200 million project. It was no fault to the Mayor, it was just inflation. All due respect, Mr. Mayor, you wanted to apply for funding to do the Low Battery Wall. We had a mechanism to pay for it. It was Council at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour and staff that actually put forth a proposal to go to the STIB and ask for that 50% grant, \$22.5 million grant, or all these drainage projects in James Island, John's Island, and West Ashley would not be done if we didn't get that grant. Hey, in your own words you said there are times when I need to listen to Council.

We had \$2 billion dollars that came to the State from the stimulus package. To this day, as a Councilperson, I have Senators and Representatives calling me asking, 'What is the City applying for?' To this moment, I don't know what the City applied for versus what we got. We had other entities in the City that normally would have come through the City, they actually hired their own lobbyists to lobby for money. Some of the non-profits we support all day long and they got money, but as of this moment out of that \$2 billion that the State had from the stimulus money to give out, I don't know what we got. So, we have to find a way, if we're going to apply for something, that we all can push in the same direction, or we lose out on funding. I can tell you some of the things other municipalities got out of that stimulus package, but I don't know how much the City of Charleston got.

Now, I'm not asking for it tonight, but it will be good, maybe at the next meeting, we have a couple of weeks that we can report on what we applied for and what did we get. We should know that because we certainly can call, and we can help. There has been some extra funding that has come from the State to the International African American Museum and, certainly, had come through other people around this table calling their Representatives. I know you have a strong relationship with the only member of the Ways and Means Committee from the Lowcountry, Representative Stavrinakis. You spoke to his abilities helping in your district a couple of weeks ago, I think. Those relationships matter and how can we help if we don't know? So, what you're asking for, maybe it's not an Ad Hoc Committee. I mean, I don't believe it should be through Budget Ad Hoc. That's a wonderful suggestion of yours, Councilmember Shahid, but that is a lot of work. So, I do think it should be something standalone where we get reported on, even if it's quarterly, on something like that. So, great idea and, hopefully, we can take a great idea, now have a good conversation, and get some action steps out of it. Thank you, Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie.

Councilmember Gregorie said, "I agree with everything that was just said, but I just want to make it clear that I am not looking for any more work. I'm just being upfront. I'm not looking for any more work, and I depend on staff. That's what they get paid to do, that's what the Mayor gets paid to do, and if there is a need, to me, for any kind of Ad Hoc issues, let's just give it to the administration to make sure that the kind of reporting is necessary. Because I agree, it's necessary, and what opportunities are out there that we're going after, and if there are opportunities that are out there that we're not going after. Because I go through many grant opportunities at the Federal level. You can go on Google and find out what opportunities are available, but I'm not assuming that because we didn't get that grant that staff didn't try to get the grant. I mean, there are tons of grants that they try to get that they just don't get. I have no problem with the reporting mechanism and, yes, we have to call our representatives. I do it, we all do it, and I think that the example that Councilmember Waring just articulated with the pedestrian bridge that took a full-court press from every member of Council to try to make that happen. So, I'm just saying, I'm not looking to do staff work, I'm not, and a lot of what we're talking about here, to me, is staff work, work that we have asked, and we have empowered the administration to do. I'm not looking for any more work. If we're doing reporting, fine."

There was laughter in the Chamber.

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Sakran.

Councilmember Sakran said, "Thank you, Mayor, and thank you to my colleague for his honesty. Two things, I write Federal grants as part of my job, and Federal grants are extremely difficult and timely. So, I get Councilmember Parker, what you're saying. I think there's probably opportunities out there. I personally feel that a quarterly update from our lobbyists, I mean, in that vein, I do think we aren't getting enough information and seeing what they are doing. I'm not saying they're not doing the work, but it would be nice to get that information on a quarterly basis. As far as strategic thinking in terms of the grants we're applying for, I agree with Councilmember Gregorie, that's a staff and Mayoral decision to figure out what needs to be out there. If we see grants, we should be able to feel comfortable enough to send them to the Grant Writer, copy the Mayor and Rick, and say this is a great opportunity. That's what I've done. I will support something quarterly, I guess, to think about an update from our lobbyists. If there are grant opportunities, I do think that there is synergy here in having conversations that aren't part of our Budget Ad Hoc, that are just, kind of, to Councilmember Waring's point, spit-balling ideas and making sure that we all understand what's going on. I do think that there is some value to that. So, to sum it up, quarterly meetings, updates from our lobbying folks, and as grants come through, just sending them to the appropriate staff."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Appel.

Councilmember Appel said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Councilmember Parker, thank you for bringing attention to this issue. It's a very important one. If we around this table are not in constant communication with our County Council representatives, our Statehouse representatives, our State Senators, and if you're so lucky to have the ear of a Federal-elected official like some of the folks around the table, you're not doing a good job because that's a big part of our job. As long as we're going to operate in this multi-jurisdictional morass that we have to labor through, that's a necessary and essential part of the job."

I mean, I agree, we cannot micromanage the day-to-day operations of the City through City Council. There's just no way we will ever have the technical knowledge and expertise, we won't have the time, we won't have the things of that nature, but what we can do is we can provide specific targeted value-add push where necessary on specific projects when there's specific opportunities that arise, and that just comes as it comes, and you just, as a Councilmember, have to be aware of what's going on and be able to seize upon those opportunities when they come about.

A lot of this has to do with relationships. I mean, we have to have good relationships with our colleagues. I have a State Senator who is a Republican and a House representative member who is a Democrat, and we work together on stormwater and transportation issues all of the time, and it's very important that we work with everybody, no matter how they fit into the ideological or partisan framework that we have.

Josh Dix mentioned Arthur Ravenel, who passed away recently. He came from a generation of legislators that, it was about bringing home the bacon to your district, and whether it was him or whether it was Senator Thurmond, or Senator Hollings, I mean, listen, I'm not sitting here talking about everything they've done or things of that nature, but they were all committed to bringing things back home to Charleston, and I think we've maybe gotten away from that a little bit politically, where it's a lot more about what books are in libraries, and just some of the silliness you see in State legislatures and Federal-elected officials. I think it's incumbent upon us to impress upon our elected officials at all levels that it's about bringing it home, and we're going to hold them accountable to that, and we're going to develop a culture around here where it's about supporting Charleston and supporting what we need to have done around here. So, we were able to get \$1.5 million out of the State legislature last session to fund the Windermere Basin Project. That was due to some good coordination with Representative Stavrinakis. We've thanked him on the floor already for this, and we will thank him again. But I want to be clear there is no way I could have done that on my own. That requires liaising with the Mayor's Office, with Matt, because they're the ones that have all of the knowledge and expertise on the specific projects. They have the data, they have the information that needs to be submitted, so it's a constant coordinated cycle that has to happen here. It's really incumbent upon us to take up that oar and work with everybody on getting what we need to have done around here. Thanks."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shealy.

Councilmember Shealy said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and thank you, Councilmember Parker for bringing this up. I appreciate that. I think it's a good discussion. I did want to let you know that through the National League of Cities, we have opportunities. We've got a Washington trip coming up in two months. We need to be going to the National League of Cities. They help us, I was just trying to pull it up when I was talking to Councilmember Gregg about it a little bit, that I have access to grantwriter.com because I went to the National League of Cities. I think everybody has access to that, where you can look up every grant that's available out there, and you can put in key terms and that type of thing, but I found that out through National League of Cities. You all have heard them talk about when we got our Grant Writer, it was because people were going, 'You need a Grant Writer. You need a Grant Writer working on this,' and I came back saying, 'Guys, we need a Grant Writer. That's what National League of Cities is telling me.' But another great thing that happens at National League of Cities is the Municipal Association of South Carolina has what they call 'The Day on the Hill.' So, the last time I was in Washington, I got to sit down with Lindsey Graham face to face, but you have your day on the hill to talk to your national representatives for your area up there. So, Madam Clerk, I would

suggest that we make sure we have some representatives up there at National League of Cities this year, and that we're involved with the Municipal Association of South Carolina while we're up there. I think it will help with a lot of what you're looking for. So, thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Mitchell.

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Councilmember Parker, I'm happy you brought this up, and being here as long as I have insofar as the National League of Cities, if you check and see how many classes I attended at the National League of Cities, and one of the main graduates from the Municipal Association for the State of South Carolina, and that was way back when. As soon as I got on Council, I went there. I also went to the First Timers. They have a class for first timers who just got elected. So, now you're elected, now what? To attend those particular classes so you can know how to go through the rudiments, and how to guide yourself through things. I always did advise our new colleagues to go and attend those particular classes so you could be familiarized with what's going on insofar as being elected officials. At the National League of Cities, they have that also. They have it there, so you can attend those particular classes, and you get a lot of information from there. A lot of information, and you come back and you say, 'Oh, my God, I didn't know all of this was going on,' but you will be familiarized with it and you will know exactly how to navigate certain things.

Even with our lobbyists, I agree with it if we can have the lobbyists come every quarter to explain to us what's going on, because we did it in the past. We did that in the past. We used to have them come here every once in a while just to tell us what's happening, what's going on, and what he is doing, and he explained to us what he is doing there. And the grants, like I say to staff, I used to write the Federal grants, too, when I was working. I'm not going to do it anymore, but I'm just saying that I used to do it, and it's a lot of work, time consuming. It's a lot of work putting all of the pieces together, going to different municipalities, and getting information to include into your grant. You have to do all of those things with the Federal grants, and as I said when Councilmember Gregorie was saying, 'No more work,' I think we've got enough meetings going on, to me. I attend so many meetings. I mean, I get calls, people will be calling me and saying, 'Councilmember, we have another meeting.' I have a whole heap of a lot of meetings. I mean, some of you all as colleagues might not have to attend as many meetings as I have to attend, but I'm going so much, I said, 'Man, there are too many meetings I'm attending,' and I go to all of my meetings. All of my neighborhood association meetings, seven of them. I attend all of them except Radcliffeborough. I think Councilmember Seekings normally goes to that one, and that's an additional one. I can't get to that one all of the time because some of them are on the same day, but I attend all of my meetings, and it's a lot. It's a lot.

Being a Councilmember, you say you're giving services back to the community, but it's a lot and to take on more? Then you're not going to be able to give the time that you should give to the meetings that you're going to. Something is going to be lacking. So, having all of these different meetings, I'm a person, I don't believe in all of that bunch of meetings, anyway. Let's get the work done. We have people who are doing the meeting and letting us be informed of what's going on, and you go to the individuals that are supposed to be doing it, but they are supposed to be doing it, the staff is there. Call the staff and say, 'Hey, I see this is going on, let's go and do this. Won't you go and look into this to see if there is something we can do here in the City of Charleston.' Then, if you bring it back to the floor of Council, we can say, 'Okay,' and explain it to us, we can go and vote on it up or down, but to have another meeting, we have to attend another meeting, it's a lot. It's a lot, and some of us are not going to be able to make it anyway to the meetings, because so many things are going on. We only have so many days in the week.

So, I agree that we need to have our lobbyists come here sometimes, so you all can know who the lobbyists are because half of you all don't even know who the lobbyists are. I have met them, but some of us don't even know who they are. They've heard that we have a lobbyist, but don't even know what's going on with it. So, that will be good for the newly-elected Councilmembers or Councilmembers who are here now that have never met any of the lobbyists that we have in Washington and on the State level. So, I have met them a period of times from being here and seeing what they are doing, and they have explained to us what they are doing, what they're getting involved with, and how they're trying to navigate certain things in the State of South Carolina, calling your legislator, like we do. I'm going to tell you something about the State of South Carolina, and I'll say it publicly, we do not have the power in the State as others have, as Greenville, Spartanburg, and places. I'm telling you that as a fact because we don't have that power. So, we have to get our legislators, and they have to fight hard to get their colleagues to even go along with them, so they have to be in that state and have their colleagues that respect them enough to be able to support them on issues that come up.

So, we have to look into all of these things and even from Washington, D.C. You know, I have big contacts in D.C. also. I can jump on the phone and call Congressman Clyburn just like I could call any one of you all here. You see, so, there's a lot of different aspects and even with Lindsey Graham's Office there. When I used to write the grants, he was the first one to sign off on it, and I can call his office also. He knows my name because he was sending everything to me while I was working, so these things, you make the contact. It's not about the political preference that you are, it's what we need to get done for the City of Charleston. And then we can get it done. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Brady.

Councilmember Brady said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I'll complete the Baker's Dozen here, but I think sometimes the simplest solution is often the one that's right in front of you, and that would be similar to how we get our Emergency Management Updates, similar to how we get other periodic staff updates, similar to how the resolution was placed on Petitions and Communications, why would we not just, once a quarter, put a State and Federal Advocacy Update, and have the report come out? And just mention what's going on, and then that way the full body gets to hear it, and if we notice that there is anything glaring that's not mentioned in the report that we think should come up, the full body has the ability to do that. It's a meeting that we're all already at, so there is no extra drive time for Councilmember Gregorie."

There was laughter in the Chamber.

Councilmember Brady continued, "To come to another meeting, but that way everybody gets weighed-in on, and it's in the public forum where that would have the most people, kind of, involved. So, thank you, Mr. Mayor, and thank you, Councilmember Parker for bringing that up."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you. If I may make a few remarks, I'd like to. So, thank you for bringing this up, great conversation, let me say a couple of things.

First of all, getting grants for the City of Charleston is a team sport, and we are all on this team because we all have the same goal in mind. It's to get as much grant funding to the benefit of our citizens as we possibly can, right? So, the frontline of that team, though, is our City staff, and I know we've got Sarah kind of the overall Grant Coordinator right now, but the City has been getting grants for years and years, and each one of our departments, part of their job, is to

try to be aware of what's out there. You know, Jason Kronsberg, he applied for PAR grants for Parks. Geona goes through CDBG to see if she can get extra grants. Meg Thompson got a grant from EDA last year. Matt Fountain. There are innumerable grants that we've been pursuing. We even tried in the Planning Department. So, each department is supposed to be looking in their realm to see if there is any availability, and the Police Department and the Fire Department do an incredible job with all of the Department of Justice grants that come down. All of these fire station renovations we've been doing, before I became Mayor, but ever since, as well, has all been FEMA grants that the Fire Department has pursued, so, they do an amazing job. But I've got to tell you, somebody said it's complex, it has been, it's even gotten more so, and so, everything that we can do as a team, you are all hereby empowered to find out as much as you can about anything that interests you and come to us and say, 'Did you know about this grant opportunity?', we will look at it. Now, sometimes we look at things and for the amount of money and the time you have to put into preparing it and the likelihood of success, we will say, 'Gee, that's probably not a good use of our time,' but, you know, we will look at those opportunities as they come along.

I was at the U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting last Thursday and Friday in Washington myself, and they had the Secretaries of the various administrations come speak to the Mayors. It's mindboggling the opportunities that are out there. I mean, the Department of Commerce has 13 divisions. They each have their own grant opportunities. I mean, it's a science, and there are companies that even just disseminate information about grant opportunities in various areas. It is mindboggling. So, it's more than just the lobbyists, it's our own staff, and our lobbyists work on other advocacy that don't involve grants. Sometimes they're working on some policy matter for us, as well, but the conversation here, be it at Ways and Means Committee, where we have to, by the way, approve every grant application and accept every grant that comes into the City, so in my mind, that would be a logical place to have that presentation, not just from our lobbyists, but from our key staff members who are involved in grant applications.

If I may, on just two other points, all of the State money that came down, Councilmember Waring, most of our requests were for flooding and drainage-related type of projects. So, what happened after that initial conversation, they have all of this money, and they did, they ended up putting \$800 million of it specifically for clean water, wastewater, and stormwater applications through the RIA, which is a division of the State government, and we've been applying for those grants, but that big pot of money, for those kinds of things didn't get doled out like in the regular budget process like you were successful getting through Representative Stavrinakis.

Now, I was with our lobbyists in Washington also on Friday. We went to visit Congresswoman Mace's staff. She wasn't there, but her staff was there. It's real important to get to know the staff of our Congressional leaders in Washington. They, like our staff here in the City, they get down in the weeds and do the work and really help us with these grant applications, and I want to publicly thank Congressman Clyburn, Senator Graham, and Congresswoman Mace, particularly for their leadership. The Federal budget that passed at the end of December included the opportunity for us to move forward with our Perimeter Protection Plan, and they allocated \$13 million for the Corps of Engineers for their participation to get that started. We've still got to get to an agreement with them and all, so that's going to come later this year, but that was approved.

But one other thing that I don't think many people have heard yet is that Congresswoman Mace put in an additional authorization, which was approved in the budget, for over \$25 million for the City of Charleston for stormwater and wastewater projects. Over \$25 million. Now, it's a long trip from an authorization, I've found, to getting a project that's vetted by



the Corps and then get the money actually appropriated to where we get a check from them to do the project, but the whole thing doesn't start until you get the authorization. So, I want to publicly thank Congresswoman Mace and her staff for putting that in the Federal budget. We have the opportunity to earn, so to speak, \$25 million of Federal funding to go to stormwater projects in the City of Charleston, and that was terrific work of her and her office, in addition to the other work that Clyburn and Senator Graham have been working on. So, anyway, we will come back to you with reports from both, and I see Rick Jerue jumping up. Let's see if I said something wrong."

Rick Jerue said, "No, no, no. Based on the conversation we had at the last Council meeting, our lobbyists are going to be here for a Workshop on February 21<sup>st</sup> to answer all of the kind of questions, what they're doing, what they're working on, so both the State and Federal lobbyists will be here on the 21<sup>st</sup>."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "And that will be a stand-alone workshop, since he is not here all of the time, but we can do a regular update for all grant stuff, and once again, this is a team sport. I welcome any recommendations or any avenues you want to pursue. We will look at anything out there. There are too many possibilities out there for one person to get their head around the whole thing. It is a team effort."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, "Yes. Just one last thing, I thought Councilmember Brady's suggestion was excellent, so I hope on the other side of this we will know what the action step is going to be. I think, again, great conversation here."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Right."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Parker.

Councilmember Parker said, "Good. So, just, I get it, I think I heard from everyone. Please understand, I mean, we created an Ad Hoc Rules Committee, so I didn't think that grant and lobbying going for millions and millions of dollars was really that far out there, but I heard you loud and clear, so leaving it there. So our quarterly update, we're going to look at doing them in City Council meetings, is that sort of where we're leaving our staff with this notion?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I'm fine with either City Council or Ways and Means, but I want everybody around this table when we talk about it, not just a select few, but everybody."

Councilmember Parker said, "So, Rick Jerue is saying we're having a workshop. I don't know what kind. Is it just going to be a presentation? Can we do something like that quarterly?"

Councilmember Gregorie said, "That's fine."

Councilmember Parker said, "Okay, but you want to do it in Ways and Means?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We will do it. The workshop that Rick mentioned is just kind of a special thing because our lobbyists from Washington happen to be coming to Charleston. They might not be here for a regular City Council meeting, so it's better to accommodate them."

Councilmember Parker said, "Okay, and again, just one other thing. Thank you, Mr. Mayor, for saying this whole idea, it's a team effort. This was certainly one way that brings us all talking about what the City needs, not just in our districts, but what the City needs as a whole. I mean, we see the resolutions coming out of Community Development tonight. Items like those, those are things that I hope that we should be seeing more of as a body, not just singular districts or certain things like that. So, that was the hope, the team effort. Alright. Thank you, everyone."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I think you accomplished the mission. Thank you. Okay. Next to our [Council Committee Reports](#), first up is [Committee on Human Resources](#), Councilmember Gregorie."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "The Committee on Human Resources met on Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m., and we had three agenda items, none of which required approval. They were updates. The 2022 year end report on staffing and recruitment was sort of important for us to look at to see whether or not there was any change between 2021 and 2022 in terms of recruitment, hiring, application process, etc., and from what I gleaned is there is little difference between 2022 and 2021, however, in 2023, given the increasing salaries etc. etc., we're hoping that the staffing and recruitment will see a vast difference. The update on COLA and the update on Family Leave Policy is consistent with what everybody is already aware of six weeks etc. etc. So, there was nothing to vote on. I request that we just accept this as information."

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

No one asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I'm going to make just one. Another team sport is recruiting new employees. We can all recruit new employees. We've got lots of positions open, and I ask you all to be aware of our open positions, and be out there recruiting because we are now positioned to be able to bring some new employees on board. Next up is the [Committee on Community Development](#), Councilmember Mitchell."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "The Community Development meeting was held on January 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m., and we had a couple of items there. The first one was an ordinance to amend Article 2 (Land Use Regulations), Part 2 (Permitted Uses by Base Zoning) and that was approved. This is really giving the information that they can do additional units, more units in the City of Charleston, and the second one, well, we need to go to the ordinance first because I got approval for the ordinance first. That's number one if anyone has any questions."

No one asked to speak.

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Can I get a motion?"

Councilmember Brady said, "Move for approval."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Second."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Okay, and then we move on down to number ii, iii, iv, and v were all resolutions, and we had--"

Councilmember Brady said, "So moved."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Let's take action on the ordinance first."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "On the ordinance first."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We took action on this during our public hearing. It's already approved for tonight."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "It's already approved."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, we're good."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "So, we don't have to go with that again."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "But on the resolutions--"

Councilmember Mitchell said, "All of the resolutions were approved, and if you have any questions, I have Ms. Johnson here if you have any questions to ask."

No one asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I think we've got a motion to approve the resolutions that's already approved, and we had a second on that, correct? So, any discussion about any of those resolutions ii, iii, iv, and v?"

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Brady, seconded by Councilmember Gregorie, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the Committee on Community Development Report, as presented:

---INSERT COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT---

**a. New Business:**

- i. An Ordinance to Amend Article 2 (Land Use Regulations), Part 2 (Permitted Uses by Base Zoning District), Sec. 54-207, P of Chapter 54 of the Code of the City of Charleston (Zoning Ordinance), to Extend Conditional Use Provisions to Allow an Increased Number of Affordable Housing Units on Larger Lots
- ii. A Resolution by the City of Charleston Council calling on the South Carolina Legislative Delegation to amend Section 12-6-3795(b)(5)(B) of the South Carolina Code of Laws so as to increase the annual amount of South Carolina Housing Tax Credits from \$20,000,000 annually to \$40,000,000 annually
- iii. A Resolution by the City of Charleston Council calling on the South Carolina Legislative Delegation to amend the South Carolina Code of Laws governing approved uses of Accommodations and Hospitality Taxes to include workforce housing as an approved use of such taxes
- iv. A Resolution to Adopt an Affordable Housing Priority Status Policy

v. A Resolution Supporting Inclusionary Zoning

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, sir. Next up is our [Special Committee on Traffic and Transportation](#), Special Meeting, I think it was. Councilmember Seekings."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Move for approval."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Second."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and there was a motion and a second, but I do think I should report at least for a couple of minutes on what's about to happen if you don't mind. So, we did have a Special Meeting of the Traffic and Transportation Committee. When was that? Yesterday? It seems like forever ago, and it was not to take any specific action, but it was to get an update from our Public Safety team on the progress that's been made on Upper King Street since not just May of 2020 but May of 2021, when we adopted certain measures on Upper King Street to try to do some things, as well as we got an update on future activity plan for further efforts to make it safer and more hospitable on Upper King Street, really, as the Mayor said in his speech tonight, some enhancements.

So, as you know, following a string of fairly regrettable violent acts on Upper King Street, the Police Chief and his team, Mr. Somerville and his team, and the Mayor and his team, all put their heads together to think about things that we can do to make King Street safer. One-way traffic was implemented, increased Police presence, if you haven't been up there on a Thursday and Friday or Saturday night, I invite you to come and join us up there just to see sort of what's going on. We actually revised our Late Night Ordinance to make some improvements to take a look at some businesses that probably weren't as compliant as they should have been. I see Ms. Thompson over there, and she knows what I'm talking about.

So, all of these things, by and large, have made things better. I think that we can all agree with that. I don't see Captain Bruder here tonight, but I think he would agree with that, and to keep the area moving and flowing. But, what has been identified on Upper King Street, and it's something that's really helped in the public safety realm and made King Street a better place and more hospitable, particularly at nights, on weekends, when it's busy, is addressing the issues of stagnation and congregation on gathering on the street. One of the things that was recommended was to give the Public Safety team more space to operate and to make it feel less of a daunting place to be. Stagnation and congregation were really issues up there and have continued to be. So, one of the things that we put in place was a no parking policy from 6:00 p.m. until basically the close of business on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights on Upper King Street, and we've been doing that since May of 2021, if you all didn't know that. Just for your all's information, a couple of things: Since the beginning of that policy in May of 2021, our teams have issued, go ahead, yes, how many tickets have we given on a Thursday, Friday, or Saturday night on Upper King Street since May of 2021? Well, none would not be the right answer, 3,767, despite the fact that Ms. Thompson and her team, all of the PEOs out there, the Police and everyone has made it very clear that it is a no parking zone on those nights. Since just this year, since this year began, 868. So, some people thought, well, maybe it's a college problem, all of those college kids are parking up there. No, there wasn't college in place, but clearly, and if you go up and see it, it's congregation and stagnation that's been a problem, and it has been. Those parking spaces have been used as places for people who are not coming to King Street to patronize restaurants or bars, they're coming to basically hang out on King Street."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Assembling."

Councilmember Seekings said, "It's been assembling, right, and it has led to some really regrettable and unfortunate situations. So, it has been recommended and we've been long looking at this, and it's finally been recommended that we implement a policy that the Police Department has wanted to implement for a while, and that is instead of giving out tickets on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights, now we're actually going to start towing cars that are illegally parked up there, and that is going to begin February 9<sup>th</sup> after additional warnings, notifications to everyone in the world that this is coming. So, you all may remember, I hope you do, because she was really wonderful and I miss her dearly, Sue Griffin. You all remember Sue Griffin? She was clearly a first ballot unanimous inductee into the City of Charleston Hall of Fame, right? I mean, she was, and you all remember when we started to do towing in the neighborhoods for street sweeping, remember what Sue Griffin did? She grabbed a bullhorn, and she ran up and down the streets to warn people that it was coming. Now, we may not be that extreme this time, but we are going to give plenty of warning and notice to people who come along and park illegally on Upper King Street on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights that if you continue to do so, you will have to go and visit Jennings to retrieve your car. So, this is not something I believe as a matter of policy that needs to be voted on. We didn't vote on it, but no one objected at T&T. The Police Department from a public safety perspective wants us to do this. We need to do this. So, just fair warning to everybody out there who is watching and listening, starting the second week in February on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights, if you park on Upper King Street from, Meg, help me, what's the southern street?"

Meg Thompson said, "John Street."

Councilmember Seekings said, "From John to Spring Street, you will again have to get an Uber up to Jennings. I do want to thank Mr. Somerville, Jason Bruder, and Meg Thompson. They have worked tirelessly up there on Upper King Street, and I do recommend to you all to go up there and just take a look at what's going on. It's gotten better. There are still some improvements that need to be made, but one-way traffic, increased Police presence, the tightening up of the Late Night Ordinance, and now that we're going to give our Public Safety teams a little bit more room to move and create less congestion, it's going to get even better, and then we'll continue to revisit this. It's organic, but so fair warning, it's about to come."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Bowden.

Councilmember Bowden said, "I appreciate everybody who has gotten together to try and solve issues up there. Certainly, we cannot have the kind of incidents that we saw last year continue, but my only concern here is, isn't bringing tow trucks onto King Street going to increase the stagnation problem?"

Councilmember Seekings said, "The short answer to that is no. They are going to be moving cars out of the way that have been places of congregation so they will get out. The first couple of days I suspect there will be some on the frontend, just so you know, the operation is going to be as follows: parking will become illegal on Upper King Street in that Corridor after 6:00 p.m. Well, we're going to bag them at 4:00 p.m., the no parking will go into effect at 6:00 p.m., which it does, and then the tow trucks will muster at 6:30 p.m. and begin towing operations at 7:00 p.m. I spoke with Mr. Jennings yesterday. They're going to allocate eight trucks. They're going to start southeast and northwest, and they will move it pretty quickly. So, it will not be dark, congregation will not be quite like it would be at 10:00 p.m. or 11:00 p.m. at night, and

again, we will see how those operations go, but the whole idea is we don't want to tow a single car. We would like people to comply voluntarily and, by the way, if you're thinking we're taking away a pile of parking that otherwise would be available to patrons up there, we're not. There is only 70 spaces included in this Corridor, 70. There are, I mean, innumerable people coming in and out of there, employees, patrons, and the like, so there is still plenty of opportunity for parking. We will have Parking Enforcement Officers up there. We don't want to tow anybody. So, I don't believe and, I mean, please come join us on Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup>. We will be up there keeping an eye on it. I think this is going to make it way better and certainly our Public Safety team led by Captain Bruder believes that, too. Back in May of 2021, we looked at our Public Safety team and said, 'What do you need from us?' and we gave it to them, and this is one of the tools that, finally, they're going to implement."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, Ms. Thompson will have a robust advertising campaign leading up to the 9<sup>th</sup>, and we're going to have a 'Towing Tonight Campaign' every night it's in effect with flashing billboards, signs on the bags on the meters that say, 'Towing Tonight.' If people don't find out about it, they just really aren't paying attention to it. We're going to really do our best to not tow anyone. Councilmember Bowden, did you have a follow-up?"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Bowden followed by Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Bowden said, "I do, and I'm not going to make any particular secret about this, I don't like this idea one bit. It increases the chances for confrontation. People come out there and see their car getting towed, they start getting into confrontations with the tow truck drivers, this happens over and over and over again, right. I bet that the tow companies will have trucks lined up because we are handing them a pile of money, I mean, which is crazy. They have no problem getting that money on their own. I don't personally understand why we wouldn't just say let's pass out a \$200 fine that escalates in 14 days or whatever like the regular parking tickets do. Then, at least we would be putting that money in our own pocket to be able to use for further public safety goals. I don't believe that it's going to be as quick as it's being painted as. I'm sure a lot of people have thought about this. I just wasn't one of those people, and I want to point out or just make clear that, I mean, I think this is a terrible idea for a number of reasons."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, "Thanks for that report, Mr. Chairman. In the past in these 3,700 or so tickets that were issued, so I presume what's happened is when these cars park, they get ticketed, and they just stay there?"

Councilmember Seekings said, "Absolutely."

Councilmember Shahid said, "And that's what happens, I mean, they're willing to pay the fine, and then they just hang out there, and you hit the nail on the head. The real problem out there, and I've had these conversations with Chief Reynolds, is this tailgating atmosphere, and that's what's going on. These folks are out there partying. They're hanging out in the back of their car, they're flaunting open containers, and they're flaunting drug dealing going on out there. It's just an ongoing problem. I share your concern about the confrontation, and I think that the number one problem is you don't want to increase the confrontation aspect of this, but I don't know any other way of doing it quite frankly. You've got to get these cars out of there. What has been the merchants' response to the parking exclusion out there so far and how are they doing?"

I mean, there may be people out there who just want to park, and they go, 'What the heck. I'll just pay the fine and be out there,' but what has been some of the merchants and restaurant folks out there's reaction to this no parking zone?"

Councilmember Seekings said, "So, I'll let Meg answer that, but I'm up there a good bit, too. I can tell you, I mean, I have not heard anything particularly negative about it and, by the way, just so you know, it's not a regular parking ticket up there. It's \$45, and we've given out 3,767, that's pretty good, but the businesses have not come out, and I think that they have been very supportive of the changes we've made on Upper King Street because it's made it safer, and that's what this is all about. This is about safety, period. And, I hear you about the confrontation issue. You go up there on King Street, I'll show you some confrontation going on up there. It's brutal, and with those cars parked there and the congregation going on, some of the confrontation is flat-out scary with the Police Officers. You get one Police Officer up there and 20 people circling him, it's nutty. This is just another way to give some flow and give some protection to the businesses and our officers. So, Meg, she deals with them every day."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Some space. Meg."

Meg Thompson said, "Yes. So, what I hear from the late-night establishments, the ones most impacted by this, they really appreciate it. They feel very supported by Public Safety. I do appreciate that the plan has been adjusted to start towing a little bit later. The daytime brick and mortars that usually close about 5:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m., they've had a little bit of trouble adjusting to this, so I think this does give them a little bit more grace."

Councilmember Shahid said, "So, this is a follow-up, Mr. Mayor, if I may."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes, sir."

Councilmember Shahid said, "I think with, and I'm glad you're doing that, I disagree with you, Councilmember Bowden, about it, but I'm glad that we're doing this, and I think it's probably overdue, but I would recommend and suggest that we get an update in maybe three months or four months on the progress with this and see how this is going and see what kind of reaction we're getting from this."

Councilmember Seekings said, "So, I forgot to add into my report that in our meeting yesterday we asked that this item be on every single T&T agenda going forward every time, and we get an update every time, and we will report out to this Council every time."

Councilmember Shahid said, "My last question is, if I may, just finish this, Mr. Mayor, where are we with our overnight parking of rigs and heavy equipment trucks? I know there's an ordinance we've been floating out there, and Julia's mentioned something to me, but is that coming before your Committee anytime soon?"

Councilmember Seekings said, "So, to quote Councilmember Appel, I have to admit, I have no earthly idea."

There was laughter in the Chamber.

Julia Copeland said, "The Legal Department is working on a draft. It's been circulated. We've received comments. We plan to have it to Committee in February."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Sakran followed by Councilmembers Mitchell and Gregorie.

Councilmember Sakran said, "Thank you, Mayor. I certainly understand, Councilmember Seekings, the Late-Night Ordinance, the Police visibility, and the one-way traffic, but why are we switching over from enforcing tickets to more of a tow policy, first question? And, we talked the number of 3,700 tickets and like we're proud of that. I've talked to several people that are business owners in the City that have gone out, not late night, just regular restaurants, and walked out and had a \$50 ticket on their car. So, I think there's something to say that I'm not sure if it was an overreaction to some of the violence. I asked the Mayor in a conversation we had on Saturday, did we model this on any other City doing this? Again, the Late-Night Ordinance, the changes to the one-way traffic, and the increased presence, I fully support. I still don't understand why we are removing parking spots and what that has to do with public safety. I don't under the nexus there yet."

Councilmember Seekings said, "So, the short answer to that is, again, stagnation and clearing. Again, I would encourage you to go up and see with those cars, particularly in the 500 block and 400 block on Upper King Street at night, it is a tailgate party, and that's the reason. So, and I can tell you, we're not proud and bragging about the number of tickets. What we're showing is people just haven't been paying attention to our requests from our Public Safety team to make King Street safer, and that's what this is all about, making it safer. It has been rough up there. I mean, we're all adults around this table. There have been some incidents up there. We're not overreacting when you've got people getting shot walking down the street, innocent bystanders which has happened, that's a problem, and when our Public Safety team comes and says to us, 'Here are some of the tools that we think we have in our arsenal that we want you to support,' we've got to support them."

Councilmember Sakran said, "I do, but it should be mirrored--"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I'm sorry, Councilmember Gregorie. Councilmember Sakran has the floor. I'm going to get to you after Councilmember Mitchell. Yes."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "I'm talking a point of order, and the point of order to me is, Councilmember Sakran, Councilmember Mitchell, Councilmember Gregorie, Councilmember Seekings. I understand he was responding, but still we do have some rules on the books in terms of when people are supposed to talk."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We're allowing some conversation to occur in answering the question. That was what prompted Councilmember Seekings' response which I thought was appropriate. Back to you, Councilmember Sakran."

Councilmember Sakran said, "Thank you, Mayor. I did ask Councilmember Seekings for clarification. Part of this for me is, are we becoming too punitive in penalizing those that are actually trying to just go out to have a dinner on a Friday night, coming back and seeing a \$50 ticket on their car? Because that has happened several times, and I've heard from several folks. Now, if we do move forward with this, I would ask that we do a robust communications plan, because what I'm hearing is, 'I didn't see the sign.' These are folks that work in the industry



saying, 'I didn't know that they gave tickets.' People coming out, seeing a ticket on their car, if we're doing anything to try to improve business back downtown, I don't think that's sending the best message to folks visiting from out of town, or even folks that live in Charleston and want to go out downtown that say, 'I'm not going to go in Mt. Pleasant today. I'm going to take a trip downtown,' and they leave with a \$50 ticket. It doesn't do much for our F&B industry downtown. I think there's a middle ground here, and I just want to make sure that if we are doing something, that we are communicating it, there's signage, people are aware of it.

Another piece of this that I've heard from several folks is that the bouncers in the businesses are the ones coming out telling patrons, 'Hey, you can't be parking there,' which is great, but the meter folks that are walking around aren't saying anything to anybody. I think, as a City, it's our responsibility that our staff be helpful, not be inclined to want to write the ticket right from the get-go, but at least give a warning to the citizen to say, 'Hey, listen, it's a no parking.' Sometimes it doesn't occur that way, and I think we're often incentivizing just priority like let's write a ticket, which it shouldn't be. It should be 'here's the warning, and here is the situation.'"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Meg is going to make sure all of the bouncers know, and that's why we're going to put bags back on the meters when we start this with a sign on the bag that says, 'Towing Tonight.'"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Mitchell.

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Yes, Mr. Mayor, I understand the rationale of the towing because I saw, and we were talking about this all of the time, the towing, and I was just wondering how they were going to do it in the beginning. I said, 'Are they going to have a bunch of tow trucks down here towing these cars?,' and the problem is that when all of this happens, it's all going to come to me, because I represent that area. It's going to come to me. And I'm on King Street, so now I hope that you are going to have a barricade in front of my house when these people get angry and come down the street. Because see, people might think I'm being foolish with what I'm saying. I know it. I'm out there. It could get dangerous for some of the people who get angry because of what's going on, and I'm right on King Street where they come down. I drive down King Street. It's a mess on King Street. I drive down there because I have to go to church that way. It's a mess. And then, you have some businesses down there that do, what do they call this thing when they come to pick up food?"

Councilmember Shahid said, "DoorDash."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "DoorDash and all of that. They come and pick up food from these different establishments there, so what's going to happen to them when they have to drive there and pick up the food from these establishments, from these restaurants, or whoever is doing the DoorDash? Where are they going to park? Are they going to be able to pull up there, park there, and pick up the packages or whatever they have to pick up and take back to the whomever ordered these things? It's a lot of parts that, I think, we have not even looked into, because those things are happening. They do DoorDash down there or whatever they call it, and there are going to be some problems, and I know there are going to be some problems. Like I say, I'm out there in that street until 12:00 a.m. or 1:00 a.m. at night. I'm out there. There are going to be some problems. Mr. Mayor, there are going to be some problems, and I can see it coming. There will be some problems, and I'm just afraid that it's going to venture down on King Street where I live, because I'm right up the street, and they think, 'Oh, that's Councilmember Mitchell right up the street up there. He's the one that had something to do with this.' Most of you don't live around in that area, you know. I'm right up there. I'm driving through

King Street, and everybody parked on the street, and everybody was walking across. They don't pay any attention to cars. These young people, or whoever's out there, they could care less what you're doing. I'm just driving slow and just looking around and seeing what's going on and seeing what's happening, but it's going to be a mess. There are going to be some problems. I can see it coming. See, I look at visions way ahead. I don't just look at what's happening now, what could happen tomorrow, and this is what I'm looking at, and I'm looking at safety for me, also, because I represent that area on King Street from Calhoun Street all the way back down, all the way up to Rosemont.

They are calling me already, and I'm just saying, 'This is what they're talking about, towing cars,' and they say, 'Towing cars.' They're not telling you all that, but they're telling me, you see, so I'm hearing it. And that's why I said, 'I don't know when they're going to do it, but they're going to have the tow trucks there to pull all of these cars off of the streets.' It's going to be a mess, and then when the first time something happens or someone comes to my house with this foolishness, then you all might see me on the news. I'm telling you, I'm being very, very serious, because I see things out there, and I see the elements that are out there, and I know how some of these people react if their car is towed to Jennings, and I go out there back and forth, but I know what's going to happen on King Street.

So, I say be very careful. I say be careful what we're doing and how we're going to do it, and when they come back, I'm going to be right back on this Council and say, 'See, I told you what was going to happen? Now, how are we going to deal with it?' That's safety, too. So, I don't know how to deal with this yet, the towing part of it. I have mixed emotions with that portion of it. I know something needs to be done. I know it has to be done because they have a lot of problems there, but I'm looking at what's going to happen here, too, since I'm living right down there, and they're calling me now because I represent that area on King Street. I represent that area."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, sir."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie followed by Councilmember Gregg.

Councilmember Gregorie said, "We can't have our cake and eat it, too. I'm a strong believer in enforcement, and I do believe that when you set examples, others follow. We're not going to be towing trucks for the next year. I would imagine that when this is done once, it's over, okay? It's over. Secondly, as we enforce parking downtown, what about the squatter trucks West Ashley? Why can't we use the same approach to ticket the squatter trucks that you have been talking about for the last two or three weeks? We're talking enforcement, and if we're talking enforcement, we need to be consistent. If they are illegally parked, ticket them. If that doesn't work, tow them. They're squatting, they're squatter trucks, and if anybody reads the Uptown from the Municipal Association, there is a large section in there on squatter trucks. We're not alone, Councilmember. So, the point I'm making is I believe in enforcement, you do two or three of them, the others will follow, but we need to be consistent with our enforcement policy, and make sure that it is not just downtown, that West Ashley is experiencing some problems with trucks squatting. Let's get rid of the truck squatters, as well."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay. Thank you, sir."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregg.

Councilmember Gregg said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. We already have a problem. So, we mentioned that this is going to create a problem, but we already have a problem, so to Councilmember Gregorie's point, this should make the problem much more abbreviated. There are signs on every single one of those meters. If you park in front of one of those meters on King Street, you know you are violating the parking ordinance. It says where you put your card in the meter, the parking is prohibited from 6:00 p.m. on, on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. I know because I went down there Thursday night, and I wanted to grab one of those prime parking spaces and then I read the little sign and I had to move, but I did watch somebody pull in right behind me and take that exact same parking spot probably because they didn't care because they were going to get a, what, a \$45 ticket?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Or maybe they didn't see the sign."

Councilmember Gregg said, "This is going to take one weekend, it's going to be really hard, and then people are going to start obeying the law."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We hope so."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, "Charleston has a brand. And, how would you define the Charleston brand? I know one thing is that it's a safe City. It's perceived nationally and internationally as being a safe City. And you're right, Councilmember Gregg, we've got a problem. You didn't mention the big fight, people got stabbed, and things like that. We are one tragedy away on Upper King Street from damaging that Charleston brand for a long period of time, and our law enforcement professionals are asking us for additional measures. I'm going to support this. I hear you on the ticket. I understand that. When I get tickets in this town, anyway, it makes me angry. With that said, if I went down there at night, many of you all know Frank McCann. He served as our Chairman of the Planning Commission for over three decades actually, and you talk about a loyal citizen. He invited me once to come and look at the crowd on King Street after 12:00 a.m., because I'm not on King Street after 12:00 a.m. I was shocked at the size of the crowd. And, you're right, nobody pays attention to cars in the street. They just walk indiscriminately back and forth like it is a tailgate. The problem with some of these cars is they have guns in them."

Councilmember Shahid said, "And drugs."

Councilmember Waring said, "And drugs. So, this is a step that I think that at least goes, if that one tragedy happens down there, people are going to say, 'Why didn't you do better?' and we're going to wish we had done better and followed the advice of our professionals. We had a riot a couple of years ago, and we had law enforcement out there, but the very next night there was a fear across this City of what would happen next. But, I've got to tell you the show of force that was presented from our law enforcement and surrounding law enforcement, that team approach, Mr. Mayor, I think the bad actors looked at that and said, 'You know, I ain't coming back tonight,' and our City saw a peaceful night that Sunday and the ensuing nights afterwards. So, I think this is a step that, let me tell you, those bars used to be open almost 24 hours, until 4:00 a.m., and for some of you who are new people, those of us who supported closing it at 2:00 a.m., in each bar they had, you know how you have the FBI Ten Most Wanted, they had our pictures, our Councilmembers' pictures, but we voted through that and passed the ordinance to close the bars earlier. Every city should have a quiet time. So, I'm going to support

this. I think it's a great suggestion on behalf of, I agree with these colleagues, after you get towed once, maybe twice, you ain't coming back."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Anything to add to your report?"

Councilmember Seekings said, "Just to wrap it up, I just want to address Councilmember Mitchell because I hear you. I mean, he lives on King Street, he's out there, they're out there, but I think that one thing that has been said, and it is interesting Councilmember Mitchell that you brought up DoorDash because I tell you when those eight tow trucks show up on Thursday night, you're going to see a DoorDash alright, and it's going to be people running out to go to grab their cars and get them out of there. I do think once we do this for a couple of nights, it will work, and again, we're going to report this back weekly, if we have to, to make sure that we do this the right way, and it's all about public safety. If it doesn't work, we'll change it."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We'll change it. We'll do something different, but we're going to try it."

Councilmember Seekings said, "So, that concludes, for tonight, my report."

There was laughter in the Chamber.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "The Special Committee meeting."

Councilmember Seekings said, "The Special Committee, yes."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Special meeting. Alright. Thank you so much, and glad that everyone's aware of this matter."

The Clerk said, "So, there was a motion on the floor to approve the report."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "A motion on the floor to approve the report. I didn't catch that, but if there is."

The Clerk said, "There was already a motion on the floor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay. We're just approving the report really taking it for information."

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

**a. Approval of Upper King Street Late Night Parking Plan**

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Next, our [Committee on Public Works and Utilities](#), Councilmember Waring."

Councilmember Waring said, "Mr. Mayor, we met on Monday, that Committee did, all actionable items passed unanimously. There were two permanent encroachments that we need to take a motion on to approve. They passed unanimously, and I move for the adoption of the report."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Any discussion?"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Parker.

Councilmember Parker said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Mr. Chairman, can you give me an employee update? I know it wasn't on the agenda, but how are we looking as far as employees and trucks?"

Councilmember Waring said, "Good question. We did get an update from Mr. Alltop and Mr. O'Brien on hires. We actually hired a number of people in the Sanitation Department, I think, a couple of truck drivers and other operators. I think it was either 5 to 7, and we have about another 12 or so to go, but everything is being picked up. During the Environmental Services Update, this came up. Trash is back on a normal schedule as it was prior to when they were at full staff, and they're doing yeoman's work over there, so if you know anybody in Environmental Services, give them an atta-boy, because they're doing a good job. And, we did get a couple of boom trucks. What I mean by boom trucks, you know the trash truck that comes through and you've got the arm that swings and picks it up? We've got, I think, three of those."

Councilmember Parker said, "Great. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Appel followed by Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Appel said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and just to add onto what Chairman Waring just said, Matt Alltop also reported that they're fully back on schedule, and they're not behind when it comes to trash and garbage pickup, and things of that nature. And, he also mentioned that one of the reasons why we're seeing more applications and more onboarding in this department is because of the budget we passed last year because it turns out it's easier to hire people when you pay them."

There was laughter in the Chamber.

Councilmember Appel said, "So, that's what we were talking about last fall, and it's great to see that that's already in the works and a lot of positive things going on in the Public Service Department. Those guys and gals deserve a lot of credit for what they do."

Councilmember Waring said, "Yes. Thank you for that comment."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, and I'm going to shout-out to Councilmember Appel, he wasn't expecting this, but he, his wife, and mama, once again about six weeks ago, treated all of our Public Works employees to lunch. Whoever said there's no such thing as a free lunch. They provided a free lunch for our workers out there, and I thank you for that, and they really appreciated it, as well."

Councilmember Appel said, "Can I just say something to that real quick? Thank you, Mr. Mayor. We actually raised so much money from my constituents for that lunch for the Public Service Department, we threw a pizza party for our Parks and Recs Department last Friday, so we actually were able to go even further. And, I think I was joking with somebody that if each of

us around this table did that, we can do one a month for our staff all around the City. So, it's not that hard, I mean, our constituents were very generous and supported that, and it was a lot of fun to do that, and we look forward to doing it in future years."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Great."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, "I'm just surprised that your wife approved of a pizza party."

Councilmember Appel said, "It took a lot of convincing."

Councilmember Shahid said, "But I just wanted to echo something that Councilmember Waring said about the response from our Public Service folks. So, Thursday afternoon I get a phone call from one of my constituents that we had bypassed her house on picking up her garbage. I immediately texted Matt and within an hour that truck was out there and collected that trash, so that's just the level of dedication. Matt just does a terrific job, and he's very, he's not here, but he's very responsive to our calls and stuff, and I just wanted to put that on the record tonight and thank him for it, and that has repeated itself. I can't tell you the number of times that he is making sure that we get those trucks back out there."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you. Alright. We have a motion on the floor to approve two permanent encroachments. Alright. Any discussion on those?"

No one asked to speak.

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

**a. Request to Set a Public Hearing**

- i. Request to set a Public Hearing on a request to Close and Abandon a portion of Hanover Street

**b. Acceptance and Dedication of Rights-of-Way and Easements**

- i. Authorization to notify SCDOT that the City intends to accept maintenance of 881 LF of concrete multi-use path along Folly Road (SC 171) starting at the Tatum Street intersection along the McLeod Plantation County Park and 389 LF of pervious concrete on Folly Road (SC 171) along McLeod Plantation County Park to Country Club Drive and 566 LF of concrete sidewalk along Country Club Drive in conjunction with the TST Folly Road and Country Club Drive Multi-Use Path and Sidewalk Project.

**Permanent Encroachments**

1. **109 Bee Street-** Install parking garage over existing drainage easement. This encroachment is permanent.
2. **186 St. Phillips Street-** Install two balconies over right of way, one on Cannon Street and one on St. Phillips Street. This encroachment is permanent.

**c. Public Service Department Update**

- i. Environmental Services Update

**d. Stormwater Management Department Update**

- i. Executive session pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Sec. 30-4-70(a)(2) to received legal advice and consideration of request from stormwater staff to acquire properties for the Church Creek Flood Storage Project.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, and next up is our [Committee on Ways and Means.](#)"

Councilmember Shealy said, "Move for approval."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Were any of those items amended, or it was all straight away? Alright. Any discussion?"

No one asked to speak.

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

(Bids and Purchases

(Traffic and Transportation: Approval to submit the Bloomberg Initiative for Cycling Infrastructure (BICI) grant application requesting \$400,000.00 in grant funding to support the design and construction of a HAWK crosswalk for the Maryville Bikeway. The application is due by February 3, 2023. There is no match required.

(Parks-Capital Projects: Approval of the City Market Hall Shed Repointing Construction Contract with Midwest Maintenance, Inc. in the amount of \$190,951.00 for brick repointing and replacement and stucco repair and painting of Market Head Hall at the City Market. With the approval of the project budget, Staff is authorized to award and/or amend contracts less than \$40,000.00 to the extent contingency funds exist in the Council Approved Budget. Approval of this construction contract will obligate \$190,951.00 of the \$222,662.00 project budget. The funding sources for this project are: Hospitality Fund (\$167,000.00) and City Market Fund (\$55,662.00).

(Parks-Capital Projects: Approval of Fire Station #7 Renovations Change Order #2 with Satchell Construction, LLC, in the amount of \$15,630.13 for the replacement of the HVAC duct work system based on assessments performed during the cleaning of the HVAC system. Approval of Change Order #2 will increase the construction contract by \$15,630.13 (from \$488,685.10 to \$504,315.23) and will amend the project budget to include an additional funding of \$15,630.13 from the Facility Maintenance general maintenance line item (170100-52410) and bring the total project budget to \$549,489.03. Funding sources for this project are: 2019 General Fund Reserves (\$350,000.00) and 2022 Facilities Maintenance

- operating budget (170100-52410: \$183,858.90) and 2023 Facilities Maintenance operating budget (170100-52410: \$15,630.13). (1173 Fort Johnson Road)
- (Parks-Capital Projects: Approval of St. Thomas Island Drive-Nowell Creek Crossing SCDOT Supplemental Agreement No. 1 with SCDOT for the pedestrian boardwalk and bridge of the St. Thomas/Clements Ferry/Daniel Island Pedestrian Connector Phase I Project to amend the substantial completion date to October 31, 2024 and add \$200,000.00 in funding from the CHATS Guideshare Funds as authorized by the CHATS Policy Committee on February 3, 2020. Approval of the agreement has no fiscal impact. The funding sources for this project are: SCDOT Grant (\$592,000.00), General Fund Reserves (\$99,467.00) and Berkeley County Contribution (\$60,000.00).
- (Fire Department: Approval to enter into an MOU with SCDLLR DFLS for the purpose of disbursing non-reoccurring funds of \$1,000,000.00 approved in the State Budget for the Regional Collapse Search and Rescue Team SC-TF3. There is no financial impact with this MOU. All funds are provided in the State Budget and are non-matching.
- (Police Department: Approval of an Agreement extension between the University of South Carolina and the City of Charleston Police Department to work in collaboration on the Racial Bias Audit Plan. The final payment of \$18,500.00 is included in the 2023 Budget.
- (Police Department: After-the-fact approval to enter into an MOU with the City of North Charleston. North Charleston accepted the FY22 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant in partnership with CPD to fund \$42,980.00 for data link software.
- (Police Department: Approval of a research partnership and Data MOU with Michigan State University to participate in their National Police Staffing Project. The project is studying issues related to officer recruitment, retention, training, and related issues.
- (Police Department: Approval of a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Charleston and the Daniel Island Town Association for the installation and costs covering (3) FLOCK Safety ALPR Camera Systems. FY23-FY24 costs to be covered by Daniel Island Town Association. If services are to continue costs will need to be budgeted for in the FY25 budget.
- (Authorization for the Mayor to execute on behalf of the City of Charleston a License Agreement with Charleston-North Charleston MSA Limited Partnership, D/B/A Verizon Wireless for the purpose of installing a cellular tower on wheels at Brittlebank Park during the month of February for the purposes of improving communications during the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition. The property is owned by the City of Charleston. (TMS# 460-00-00-016)
- (Authorization for the Mayor to accept an easement on behalf of the City of Charleston for the purpose of a multi-use path across property located on Maybank Highway, Johns Island, Charleston County TMS# 313-00-00-078, and more specifically described on the attached plat. The property is owned by EDP 000 Maybank LLC.
- (Authorization for the Mayor to execute on behalf of the City of Charleston a quitclaim deed transferring the portion of the closed and abandoned right-of-way for Marsh Street, currently designated as Charleston County TMS# 458-01-04-025, to Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc. The property is owned by the City of Charleston. (Union Pier f/k/a Marsh Road) [Ordinance]
- (Authorization for the Mayor to execute on behalf of the City of Charleston a Purchase and Sale Agreement with Conh Land, LLC regarding parcels of land



- identified as Charleston County TMS# 312-00-00-103, 312-00-00-104 and 312-00-00-105 for the Barberrry Woods Drainage Project. The property is owned by CONH Land, LLC. (Johns Island, SC)
- (Approval of an application for \$386,000.00 in County Greenbelt funds from the City's "URBAN" Greenbelt allocation. The attached Resolution in support of the application is part of the required submittal. Funds will be used to purchase ±5.41 acre parcel located adjacent to Ashley Hall Rd. and N. Woodmere Dr.
- (Approval of a Resolution supporting an application by Open Space Institute to the Charleston County Greenbelt Program in the amount of \$250,000.00 to purchase the Bradham Tract. The property is owned by TCH Bradham, LLC. (TMS# 341-00-00-032)
- (Approval of Lease Agreement for ground floor of James Lewis Affordable Housing Project to house MWBE Entrepreneurial Resource Center/Incubator. Approval of this lease agreement will obligate the City in the amount of \$975,233.00 for "Landlord's Work" per Section 3(B). The City has allocated \$502,389.25 in ARPA funds for this project. With approval of this lease agreement Council is also approving an additional \$472,843.75 in ARPA funding. Future costs associated with the operation and maintenance of the MWBE Entrepreneurial Resource Center will be included in the general operating budget. (91 Hanover Street)
- (Approval of loan agreement with Florence County Museum.
- (Approval to amend Ordinance No. 2022-201 providing for the annexation of property located at 1610 Poinsettia Road to correct certain scrivener's errors therein, including the correction of the Council District to reflect Districts adopted in 2022 by changing the District from District 9 to District 7, correction of an error in the name of the property owner Roberto Abbah to Roberto Abbati, and by deleting the annexation map and annexation profile attached to the aforesaid Ordinance and substituting in its place and stead a corrected map, marked Exhibit A, and an annexation profile attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein. [Ordinance]
- (Please consider the following annexations:
- 742 Arcadian Way (.36 acre) (TMS# 418-15-00-059), West Ashley, (District 9). The property is owned by Ryan and Amy Byrne.
  - 39 Riverdale Drive (.30 acre) (TMS# 418-14-00-061), West Ashley, (District 9). The property is owned by Andrew Steen.
  - 480 Magnolia Road (.17 acre) (TMS# 418-13-00-151), West Ashley, (District 9). The property is owned by Tricia Sandusky and Ryan Sandusky.
- (Executive session pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Sec. 30-4-70(a)(2) to received legal advice and consideration of request from staff to begin condemnation proceedings to facilitate the Barberrry Woods drainage project (TMS#: 312-00-00-0894). ***(City Council voted in favor to direct Legal to take all necessary actions to acquire the relevant parcels to begin condemnation proceedings to facilitate the Barberrry Woods drainage project.)***
- (Executive session pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Sec. 30-4-70(a)(2) to receive legal advice and consideration of request from stormwater staff to acquire properties for the Church Creek Flood Storage Project. ***(City Council voted in favor to direct Legal to take all necessary actions to acquire the relevant parcels for the Church Creek Flood Storage Project.) (Mayor Tecklenburg recused from voting on this item and completed a Conflict of Interest Form which is on file in the Office of the Clerk of Council.)***

First reading was given to the following bills:

*An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute, on behalf of the City of Charleston, a Quitclaim Deed to Dominion Energy South Carolina, Inc., for a portion of the former right-of-way for Marsh Street, closed and abandoned by the City pursuant to Resolution adopted August 19, 1986, now designated as Charleston County TMS No. 458-01-04-025, subject to the reservation in favor of the City and its agents of any and all necessary water, sanitary and storm sewer, and other utility easements which may run thereon.*

*An ordinance to amend Ordinance Number 2022-201 providing for the annexation of property located at 1610 Poinsettia Road to correct certain scrivener's errors therein, including the correction of the Council District to reflect districts adopted in 2022 by changing the district from District 9 to District 7, correction of an error in the name of the property owner Roberto Abbah to Roberto Abbati, and by deleting the annexation map and annexation profile attached to the aforesaid ordinance and substituting in its place and stead a corrected map, marked Exhibit A, and an annexation profile attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein.*

*An ordinance to provide for the annexation of property known as 742 Arcadian Way (.36 acre) (TMS# 418-15-00-059), West Ashley, Charleston County, to the City of Charleston, shown within the area annexed upon a map attached hereto and make it part of District 9. The property is owned by Ryan and Amy Byrne.*

*An ordinance to provide for the annexation of property known as 39 Riverdale Drive (.30 acre) (TMS# 418-14-00-061), West Ashley, Charleston County, to the City of Charleston, shown within the area annexed upon a map attached hereto and make it part of District 9. The property is owned by Andrew Steen.*

*An ordinance to provide for the annexation of property known as 480 Magnolia Road (.17 acre) (TMS# 418-13-00-151), West Ashley, Charleston County, to the City of Charleston, shown within the area annexed upon a map attached hereto and make it part of District 9. The property is owned by Tricia Sandusky and Ryan Sandusky.*

Mayor Tecklenburg recused from voting on Item 13.I. of the Ways and Means agenda, and completed a Conflict of Interest Form which is on file in the Office of the Clerk of Council.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Next, [bills up for second reading](#), we have 11 of them, and the first one was amended, so I'll entertain a motion."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Move for approval 1 through 11, as amended."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "As amended, we have a second."

Councilmember Waring said, "Mr. Mayor, I need to recuse myself from Item number 3, but I'm voting for approval on all of the remaining."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay. We have one recusal."

Councilmember Shealy said, "I need to recuse myself on number 3, as well."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "And another one on that same item, number 3?"

Councilmember Shealy said, "Yes."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Correct. Alright. And I guess I will repeat, well, I'll come back to it in a minute. Any other comments or questions on Items 1 through 11 for second reading?"

No one else asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Mitchell, eleven (11) bills (Items L-1 through L-11) received second reading. They passed second reading on motion by Councilmember Seekings and third reading on motion of Councilmember Seekings. On further motion of Councilmember Mitchell, the rules were suspended, and the bills were immediately ratified as:

**2023-008 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 7, ARTICLE IV-HOUSING, DIVISION 4 (ADOPTED BY ORDINANCE 2022-159) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON. (AS AMENDED)**

**2023-009 - AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS ENCUMBERING FORT PEMBERTON IN CONNECTION WITH ITS ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FROM THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.**

**2023-010 - AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON, AS GRANTOR, A QUIT CLAIM DEED CONVEYING THE CITY'S INTEREST IN THE SOUTHEASTERN PORTION OF FORMER LOT 136 IN MARYVILLE.**

**2023-011 - AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE ON BEHALF OF THE CITY A UTILITY EASEMENT, APPROVED AS TO FORM BY THE OFFICE OF CORPORATION COUNSEL, TO DOMINION ENERGY SOUTH CAROLINA, INC., ENCUMBERING A PORTION OF THE CITY'S REAL PROPERTY DESIGNATED AS CHARLESTON COUNTY TMS NOS. 460-14-00-001, 460-14-00-010, 460-14-00-012, 460-14-00-013, 460-14-00-015 AND 460-14-00-016, SHOWN ON REFERENCE DRAWING D-84545, TO PERMIT INSTALLATION OF ELECTRIC SERVICE UPGRADES NEAR CHARLESTON MARINA.**

**2023-012 - AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON AN AGREEMENT TO BUY AND SELL REAL ESTATE PURCHASE REGARDING THAT CERTAIN PARCEL BEARING CHARLESTON COUNTY TAX MAP PARCEL NUMBER 351-02-00-021.**

**2023-013 - AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE ON BEHALF OF THE CITY A PERMANENT RIGHT-OF-WAY AND UTILITY EASEMENT WHICH GRANTS TO THE COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON THE AUTHORITY TO CONNECT ITS PROPERTY LOCATED AT 176 LOCKWOOD TO THE CITY-OWNED SEWER ON THE ADJACENT PARCEL (99 WEST EDGE).**

**2023-014 - AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ANNEXATION OF PROPERTY KNOWN AS 222 ISLAND DRIVE (.9 ACRE) (TMS# 349-14-00-021), 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 11. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY PETER GREEN.**

**2023-015 -** AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ANNEXATION OF PROPERTY KNOWN AS 1888 RAOUL WALLENBERG BOULEVARD (.35 ACRE) (TMS# 353-13-00-031), 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 7. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY DEBBIE FLOYD.

**2023-016 -** AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ANNEXATION OF PROPERTY KNOWN AS 3111 MAYBANK HIGHWAY (26.53 ACRE) (TMS# 313-00-00-063; AND 3130000064), JOHNS ISLAND, CHARLESTON COUNTY, TO THE CITY OF CHARLESTON, SHOWN WITHIN THE AREA ANNEXED UPON A MAP ATTACHED HERETO AND MAKE IT PART OF DISTRICT 3. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY THE CITY OF CHARLESTON.

**2023-017 -** AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON A DEED OF MODIFICATION AND RELEASE OF PRIOR DEED RESTRICTIONS REGARDING PROPERTY LOCATED AT 334 CALHOUN STREET (TMS#: 460-14-00-019).

**2023-018 -** AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON BY CHANGING THE ZONE MAP, WHICH IS A PART THEREOF, SO THAT PROPERTY ON SOUTHWICK DRIVE (JOHNS ISLAND) (APPROXIMATELY 60.61 ACRES) (TMS #279-00-00-018) (COUNCIL DISTRICT 5), BE REZONED FROM SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (SR-1) CLASSIFICATION TO CONSERVATION (C) CLASSIFICATION (APPROXIMATELY 22.35 ACRES) AND DIVERSE RESIDENTIAL (DR-6) CLASSIFICATION (APPROXIMATELY 38.26 ACRES). THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY FENWICK HILLS CORP.

The vote was not unanimous. Councilmember Brady voted nay on Item L-11. Councilmember Parker voted nay on Items L-1 and L-11. Councilmembers Shealy and Waring recused from voting on Item L-3 of the City Council agenda and completed Conflict of Interest Forms which are on file in the Office of the Clerk of Council.

Councilmember Brady said, "Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Brady.

Councilmember Brady said, "I'd like to note that I'm voting yea on 1 through 10, and nay on 11."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Nay on 11 for Councilmember Brady."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Parker.

Councilmember Parker said, "I am 'nay' on number 1 and number 11."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Nay on 1 and 11."

Councilmember Brady said, "I'd like to record my vote as the same on the previous."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Same for Councilmember Brady and Parker."

Councilmember Parker said, "Thank you."

Councilmember Waring said, "And the same recusals for Councilmember Shealy and myself."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "And same recusals, and I mentioned this during Ways and Means, but I recused myself from the last Ways and Means item on the agenda tonight. Alright. So, next, Madam Clerk, would you like a motion for us to [withdraw Items 12 and 13?](#)"

The Clerk said, "Yes, please."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "So moved."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So moved and a second. Any discussion?"

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Gregorie, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell, City Council voted unanimously to withdraw Items L-12 and L-13:

*An ordinance to rescind Ordinance No. 2022-153: An ordinance to provide for the annexation of property known as 638 Tuxbury Farm Road and two adjacent parcels on Tuxbury Farm Road (10.32 acres) (TMS# 263-00-04-046 (a portion), TMS# 263-00-04-042, and TMS# 263-00-04-053), Cainhoy, Berkeley County, to the City of Charleston, shown within the area annexed upon a map attached hereto and make it part of District 1. The property is owned by Ray Waits and Angela Waits. **(WITHDRAWN)***

*An ordinance to rescind Ordinance Number 2022-154: An ordinance to provide for the annexation of property known as 715 Yaupon Drive and 2682 Highway 41 (5.71 acres) (TMS# 263-00-04-007 and TMS# 263-00-04-006), Cainhoy, Berkeley County, to the City of Charleston, shown within the area annexed upon a map attached hereto and make it part of District 1. The property is owned by Rumphs Auto Service etal. **(WITHDRAWN)***

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Next, we have [bills up for first reading](#), and I think we do have [Item #1, an ordinance to amend Chapter 2-Administration. This is Adoption of Ordinances](#). May I ask Councilmember Brady who served on that Rules Committee to present to us."

Councilmember Brady said, "Yes. So, Mr. Mayor, after discussing with staff and wanting to make sure that what was discussed and deferred at the last meeting regarding Committee appointments, the Rules Committee would like to report out the total package. So, with three weeks between this Council meeting and the one in February, we're going to schedule an Ad Hoc Rules Committee meeting in order to proceed with that, and then the recommendation on the, as I've nicely called it, the how a bill becomes a law proposed by a Councilmember, will be included, as well as what comes out of the Committee regarding the Committee appointment process. So, we can just give this first reading, those will come in as amendments on second reading, and then we can move forward with it. That way we can go ahead and give it first reading, amend it, and move forward."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Is that satisfactory to everyone? Any further discussion or questions?"

The Clerk said, "Mr. Mayor, who is the second? I have Councilmember Mitchell made the motion."

Councilmember Gregg said, "Second."

The Clerk said, "Alright. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Any further discussion?"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Parker.

Councilmember Parker said, "Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Can I just ask some of the folks who have been here a long time. You all that have been seasoned with City Council, I understand, I mean, this certainly streamlines the process. I remember a meeting, in particular, but does this seem appropriate to the previous way that things were being done? I guess that's my question."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Honestly--."

Councilmember Parker said, "I mean, the law, right, as it sits right now, I mean, we're allowed to bring an ordinance regardless. That might not have been the case for me, but right now a Councilmember can bring an ordinance, and now we can't do that anymore. We're taking that away. Well, I mean, we're bringing it to Council and then the ordinance will be drafted, so I'm just asking."

Councilmember Brady said, "Well, there are multiple routes as part of this, but it's codifying it so that rather than it just being a kind of norm that we have, it will actually be in a law. Like any City Ordinance on the Rules of Council, this is how it works so that when it's not us around this table, it's formalized. Because the great thing about laws is that we write them down, so we're just going to write down the process for how that works."

Councilmember Parker said, "I mean, and I understand for this to save time, for our staff's time for sure, but I was just curious."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "I just want to make sure we're clear. We're talking about how to submit legislation."

Councilmember Brady said, "Right."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Okay. Right, and we've always had rules and procedures on how that is supposed to be done."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I don't think so."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "I thought we did. We don't?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "That's the reason why we developed these because there were none."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Oh, perhaps it was just understood."

Councilmember Seekings said, "It was a law that wasn't written down."

Councilmember Parker said, "No, I'm with you Councilmember Gregorie."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "I guess I need to go back and read it again, but I thought that there was a specific process of how legislation is supposed to be--"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes, and it all came from the administration and not from Councilmembers, so this whole policy really empowers Councilmembers to have a protocol."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "I've submitted legislation before, the whole--"

Councilmember Brady said, "But that's not currently in the Code of Ordinances how you would do that."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "You have to go through Legal. You can't even get to this body without even coming to Legal."

Ms. Copeland said, "There was lack of clarity on how. It helps staff, as well."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Okay. Perfect."

Ms. Copeland said, "Yes."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Okay. Nothing, as far as I know, in terms of ordinances, comes to this body without it going through Legal for Legal to take a look at it and to do whatever is necessary to make it legal."

Ms. Copeland said, "Understood."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "So, that's where I'm a little confused because I've never known an ordinance to come from this body and go right to this body for a vote without it going through our Legal process. I've never heard of it in my life."

Ms. Copeland said, "More than anything this clarifies how it gets to Legal for staff and for this body."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Okay, and Mayor, can I? And, often times, the Legislative Branch will ask Legal to draft an ordinance."

Ms. Copeland said, "Yes, sir."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "You know, based upon some ideas that that legislator might have. That hasn't changed, has it?"

Ms. Copeland said, "You're saying the legislative body or the Legislator?"

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Legislator."

Ms. Copeland said, "It changes as far as how it's presented to Council. Council gives the blessing or Committee gives the blessing to draft the legislation to bring it back to Council."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "So, it has to go through, well, yes, go through Committee."

Ms. Copeland said, "Yes, sir."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Okay, that's not new."

There was laughter in the Chamber.

Ms. Copeland said, "It's just spelled out more clearly."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Okay. You all just want to make sure that what we do is written down. Fine."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, "I think what happened, and I'm going to give Councilmember Bowden some credit for this, I think he had brought this idea up as things were being generated, we have an opportunity to make sure of what we're voting on. So, this is things that we have been complaining about transparency and advance warning, this is codifying those concerns and complaints that, I think, collectively we had brought up in the new year. So, this is, I think, a very good step forward, and it's going to make clarity a key component of all of this, so this is something we need to support."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, "Mr. Mayor, I agree with this, but, in particular, when it comes to the piece that I brought to Council at the last meeting about Council Committee Standing Appointments, I think the Ad Hoc Committee process is not conducive for that change to come to Legal because what actually happened, we may not like it, but this is a fact, I brought that up at the Ad Hoc Committee meeting in July. We didn't have another meeting until September, I brought it up again. We didn't have another meeting again until mid-December, I brought it up a third time, and when I tried to actually, actually it was Councilmember Bowden when I discussed how it would work, and he was in favor with thinking, 'Well, I think that's okay moving this forward to come to Council,' the Mayor brought up a point of order and said that this wasn't on the agenda. The Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee ruled in favor of Old Business not coming forward to Council. So, then the Ad Hoc Committee that's actually appointed by the Mayor prevented that discussion about us having some say so in what Standing Committees we would serve on actually coming to this floor, but for Council Communications we wouldn't have had that conversation last week. And Columbia and Washington, there are times you send things to committees to die. I had this conversation with Councilmember Appel after our last meeting. That's a process that we should have some say so, and I won't debate it again on the floor, but now it has been the same issue to go back to the Ad Hoc Committee that voted against bringing it even to the floor to be discussed. So, as a person, at least three, it may have been four, I don't know, but after the ruling by the Chair that the point of order that it wasn't advertised and couldn't come forward to Council, what kind of frustration you think I felt as a Councilmember that to have a discussion among colleagues, a transparent conversation among colleagues, on the people's floor, was blocked. Obviously, I disagreed with the point of order. The Chairman, that was in his purview under Robert's Rules of Order, but how many more times would that happen in the Ad Hoc Committee where one person appoints all of the members?"



Because right now as I go back with that idea within three weeks, I still have the same colleagues on that Ad Hoc Committee that voted, the majority of them, not to even defer it for discussion. That's what happened two weeks ago.

So, let the Clerk, not now, check the vote on being able to defer talking about the Standing Committee process even further, let's defer it and talk about it a little bit more. The people that were recorded in the vote that voted no, we don't need to talk about this anymore, that's the majority of the Ad Hoc Committee that I have to go back into to say, 'Let me tell you why I think this is a good idea.' There's something wrong with that. Now, we are the body to fix that."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We have a motion on the floor right now regarding Item M-1 and I hear you, but can we take care of this piece of business, and then we can discuss other matters."

Councilmember Waring said, "Mr. Mayor, I still had the floor, and I understand wanting to move it forward, but we're talking about the Chairman of that Committee is talking about let's get together over the next three weeks, and I'm telling you, we have a problem with that process that I'm going to go back into and an idea that if I were to guess at it will probably be voted down to come forward."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, it would still come to Council after--"

Councilmember Waring said, "After it's voted down."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "After it's voted down, if it gets voted down."

Councilmember Waring said, "I hear you, Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "And then it's up to the Council as a whole to agree with the Committee or not."

Councilmember Waring said, "And you are right about that."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "The Council doesn't have to agree, so I think you will have adequate opportunity to vet that idea."

Councilmember Waring said, "I hope and pray."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Seekings followed by Councilmember Parker.

Councilmember Seekings said, "Just very briefly, I'm just wondering, do we need to give this first reading tonight or shouldn't this all come back to us as a package? I mean, the whole rules, I mean, if there's going to be other things? I mean, given this first reading really doesn't do much, let's bring it back as a package, so everyone can sort of see it as one as opposed to doing it ad hoc. A little legislative joke there. It didn't go over very well, but anyway."

There was laughter in the Chamber.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Piecemeal maybe, it does seem like a separate topic."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Parker followed by Councilmember Brady.

Councilmember Parker said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Councilmember Gregorie, again, this is why I posed that question, because I have read the ordinance, and I understand that the, yes, I see what you're doing, you know, with the detailing of how these come to Council with the Rules Committee, but that's why I asked some of you all. I mean, the way I read it, 'A proposed ordinance shall be introduced in writing and in the form required for final adoption. City Council shall by ordinance establish its own rules and procedures to the Adoption of Ordinances,' which again is what you're trying to create, but what I'm asking is, doing this eliminates a Councilmember from going to Legal, creating an ordinance, and bringing it to Council. In the years that you have been here, is this appropriate. I'm not saying, I'm not opposed to this."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "It's not the practice. I mean, I've gone directly to Legal because I have an ordinance."

Councilmember Parker said, "And the way that I read it, that's the way that I read the ordinance, correct? That's the way I read 2-24 right now. So, again, that's why I posed the question to you all because that's the way I read it, and so we are then removing that ability. So, I'm just asking our, as you call them, as you call yourselves, our senior members, your opinion on that."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Brady.

Councilmember Brady said, "Yes. Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and I was just going to point out that when we decided, at Councilmember Bowden's suggestion, to create the Ad Hoc Rules Committee, it was completely voluntary who wanted to serve. I mean, formally appointed by the Mayor, but it was just people volunteering to serve on it. So, it's not like there is a cabal that rose up and is opposing everything, like that's not how the process happened at all. It was a voluntary Committee, but part of legislating is that you will be on the end of losing votes, and you will be on the end of winning votes, so, I mean, that's just how legislating works. And, so, to the Mayor's point, the Council doesn't have to accept the recommendation, but the Committee will conclude its work, the item got deferred and referred to Committee, we will have a hearing, we will have it on there, and we will have a discussion on it, and then we will report out for the Rules package. Now, to Councilmember Seekings' point, we've done first reading and then amended stuff all of the time. So, if we're just offering amendments to what's in the current legislation, I would recommend that we give it first reading, let's hash it out with the Committee report at the next one, and then we just move along. So, that's my thought."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Bowden.

Councilmember Bowden said, "I'm probably belaboring the point here a little bit, but this process, I think, would actually increase the likelihood of something passing that an individual member suggests because it wouldn't just be one person goes to Legal, an ordinance comes up, and then all of a sudden it's in front of us and nobody has any understanding of where it came from. I'm not saying I've even seen that happen while I've been here. It's just, why? Why would we do that? When this is solely intended to put things in front of as many people for as much feedback as possible before it ultimately comes and is voted on by everyone, and that just seems to be, to me, the way that legislating works in every other area of our government. So, this is intended to help us understand what we're looking at and what we're voting on better, and

maybe that was a problem that only I was dealing with, but it was a problem that I was dealing with, and that's not the way that I would like to participate in policymaking."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, I will just share from my perspective, as Mayor, that this sets a protocol that allows that everyone to bring forth ideas and legislation to the body. To the best of my knowledge prior to something like this getting passed, the only official rules that we had was that the Mayor was in charge of the agenda. I won't speak for my predecessor, but some of you all were around back then, and I think that unless you called the Mayor and had his permission to get on the agenda, for the most part, it never got there unless it happened and he just wanted it. So, this allows a protocol to exist that really shares this legislative responsibility among us and just sets up a protocol for that to happen. Yes, in the past, different members might have called Legal or someone else, but it wasn't established in the Rules of Council, so this just sets the stage for that protocol to exist. Do I basically have that right?"

Ms. Copeland said, "Yes, sir."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes. Alright."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Call the question."

On a motion of Councilmember Mitchell, seconded by Councilmember Gregg, City Council voted to give first reading to the following bill:

*An ordinance to amend Chapter 2-Administration; Article II-City Council; Division I-Generally by modifying Sec. 2-24 (Adoption of Ordinances).*

The motion passed 9 to 4.

The vote was not unanimous. Councilmembers Mitchell, Gregorie, Waring, and Parker voted nay.

The Clerk said, "Alright. So, there were three nays, for the record, Councilmembers Gregorie, Waring, and Parker. And, Councilmember Mitchell, you were a nay?"

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Yes."

The Clerk said, "Okay."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Terrific. Alright. So, now we have a couple of Executive Sessions to begin condemnation proceedings to facilitate Barberry Woods Drainage Project and to acquire properties for the Church Creek Flood Storage Basin."

Ms. Copeland said, "And, Mayor, prior to any action, Council has already adopted or blessed both of these items through the adoption of the Real Estate Committee agenda, the Ways and Means, and Public Works. So, if there is anyone who would like to go into Executive Session to hear more about this, we would be happy to, but, hopefully, won't be necessary."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Would anybody like to go into Executive Session to find out more about what we already passed?"

No one asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. So, I think this has gotten rescheduled, the City Council Workshop meeting, Madam Clerk."

The Clerk said, "Yes, sir. So, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Workshop that was scheduled for Thursday has been rescheduled for Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:00 p.m. and that was so some of the lobbyists could attend. That was mentioned in one of our earliest meetings."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Right."

The Clerk said, "That's the same workshop. Yes."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "What date was that again?"

The Clerk said, "Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:00 p.m."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "The 21<sup>st</sup>. Okay. So, our next regular City Council meeting should be a love fest. It's on Valentine's Day February 14<sup>th</sup>. Is there any further business to come before us tonight?"

No one asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "If not, we stand adjourned. Thank you."

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Jennifer B. Cook  
Clerk of Council