

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Regular Meeting

January 25, 2022

The one-hundred and sixteenth meeting of the City Council meeting of the City Council of Charleston was held this date convening at 5:00 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, 2022 and appeared in the Post and Courier on January 24, 2022.

PRESENT (12)

The Honorable John J. Tecklenburg, Mayor

Councilmember Shealy	District 2	Councilmember Waring	District 7
Councilmember Sakran	District 3	Councilmember Seekings	District 8
Councilmember Mitchell	District 4	Councilmember Shahid	District 9
Councilmember Brady	District 5	Councilmember Bowden	District 10
Councilmember Gregorie	District 6	Councilmember Appel	District 11
		Councilmember Parker	District 12

Mayor Tecklenburg called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

The Clerk called the roll.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "And, now, if you would like to join us, Councilmember Mitchell will lead us in an invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Mr. Mayor and Councilmembers, my colleagues, I have my minister here, the Reverend Kylon Middleton, and he is going to do the invocation right here for me now. He is over there. Please come to the mic. My heart is kind of heavy, so I asked him to come and do the invocation for me. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes, sir. Welcome, Councilmember and Reverend Middleton."

Reverend Kylon Middleton opened the meeting with an [invocation](#).

Mayor Tecklenburg then led City Council in the [Pledge of Allegiance](#).

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, just a little announcement. In the most unlikely event that we were called upon to evacuate the building, really the only ways out are these two doors and the door to the room over to my right. If that were to occur, we ask you not to use the elevator, but use the two stairs going down to the first floor and then the one big stair going out the front of the building. That's our way out. Very unlikely, but just wanted everybody to be situationally

aware of that. Now, next, by way of explanation, we did have the requirement tonight to add an item for Executive Session. It's a legal matter that, it's a settlement that calls for a quick response. Senator Sandy Senn has been representing us on the opioid lawsuit litigation that we've been involved in really for some time now. So, the way the timing works out, we have so many people signed up for Citizens Participation and we're on a strict deadline to start the State of the City at 6:00 p.m. What I'd like to ask Council to consider is have a motion to go into and amend the agenda to go into Executive Session after we give approval of the minutes at Item (g) on our agenda, which should be in short order, like 5:30 p.m. We do the Executive Session, have the State of the City, and then come back for our Citizens Participation. Does that sound like a plan? Can I entertain a motion to amend the agenda?"

Councilmember Waring said, "Move for approval."

Councilmember Appel said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay. Any discussion about that?"

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Waring, seconded by Councilmember Appel, City Council voted unanimously to amend the agenda to add an Executive Session to review a settlement with regard to an opioid lawsuit.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Let the record show that this is a matter that needs our immediate attention. Exigent is the right word, I believe. So, we originally had three presentations, we're only going to do two this evening, and it's maybe a stroke of fate that our next meeting will be on Johns Island and so appropriate to honor Abe Jenkins who is 'Mr. Johns Island' at our next meeting. It will be more convenient for the family to join us, so Item 1 we're going to defer until our next meeting. And so, we go right to our [presentations of the City of Charleston Minority and Women Business Enterprise Business Spotlight Awards](#), and I want to ask Ruth Jordan to come up here and join me, and I'm going to shout-out to honorees."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie.

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Should everyone have a mask on?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We should, unless you're speaking. It's a City policy in City buildings, so I would ask everybody in the room, including Councilmember Parker, to please wear a mask while we're here. If you're not willing to wear a mask, you can attend the meeting virtually, either on your phone or online and, Councilmember, if you would like to use the computer right across the hall, that would be fine, as well."

Councilmember Parker said, "Is that what you would like me to do? Should I leave?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "That would be your choice. We ask you to please either wear a mask or attend virtually. Thank you.

So, Ruth, if you would join me up here. We have this program, you all, where we honor every month a minority- or women-owned business. Then, at the end of the year, we ask all 12 of them to join us, and then I'm just going to shout-out the names of these 12 firms and their owners and then ask Ms. Jordan to make some remarks about this program. They're joining us

virtually, and we'll be able to see them on the screen behind me. Charleston's Rigging & Marine Hardware with Jessica Sage; Inspired by Annette Event Planning & Rentals, Courtney Scipio; Old Whaling Company, April Budney; Hard Hat Transportation, Frank Ancrum; Trash Gurl, LLC, I'm sure you see those lovely containers around town, Melissa Polutta; MCC Property Solutions, Inc., Shawntelle Matney; Ed Rush Consulting & Development Group, LLC, Ms. Keena Edwards; Lee H. Moultrie & Associates, led by Lee Moultrie; To Expose You Digital Media, LLC, led by Darryl Goodman; Wellness & Beyond, LLC, led by Nilsy Rapalo; E2 Exhibits & Displays, Inc., led by Eileen Easler; and W.W. Productions, Inc., led by Karen Wright Chisolm. Now, for a few words from our wonderful Minority Business & Women Enterprise Director, Ruth Jordan. Ruth."

Ruth Jordan said, "Thank you, Mayor. So, on behalf of the City of Charleston Office of Women Minority Business, a division of Business and Neighborhood Services, this is a program that we do for our women and minority owned businesses. As you know, small businesses are the backbone of our community. It is through our small businesses, and particularly our women-owned businesses, that keep our economy going, and we would like you all to, please, support our women minority owned businesses. We accept nominations from the community, we often times say, if you know a great small business that is doing great things, keeping their business going, and supporting the community, go to our website and nominate a great small, women minority owned business. Again, Councilmembers, thank you for supporting our program and we hope to do more. Look for greater things in 2022. Thank you."

There was applause in the Chamber.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "And thank you to all of our honorees here who are with us tonight virtually. Congratulations. Keep up the good work. We're behind you all of the way and hope you have a very prosperous 2022. God bless. Thank you for being with us. So, next up is a [presentation on our wonderful Keep Charleston Beautiful Program](#) and the impacts it has. I want to recognize, even though she's maybe not making the presentation, is Jamie Gillette in the room? Jamie, are you with us? There you are. So, Jamie is in our Parks Department and runs our Keep Charleston Beautiful Program, an amazing amount of coordination working with our citizens to help keep Charleston clean, and we're going to talk some more about that later tonight. But, right now, I'm going to call up Mallory Coffey with Keep South Carolina Beautiful. She is the State leader and is going to make some remarks about our Charleston Program. Mallory."

Mallory Coffey said, "Good evening, everyone. Again, I am Mallory Coffey, Palmetto Pride's Keep South Carolina Beautiful State leader and, Mayor, as you just said Jamie Gillette, she is an amazing woman. She is doing great things in the City of Charleston. As some of you may know, this program has been around for nearly 75 years, and Jamie has been here for about six, seven years now. We're just here today to really explain the things that Jamie, the volunteers, and the board members of Keep Charleston Beautiful do. We have nearly 36 affiliates across South Carolina and more than 700 across the entire nation. Whenever I'm asked, 'What affiliate should I look at for an example, or who does this beautification program? Who does this graffiti program? Who does this litter pick-up program?,' Jamie and Keep Charleston Beautiful are in the top five affiliates that I always talk about. The programs that she does, Councilmembers, when you look in your books that Jamie has created about the Annual Report, I guarantee you there is no other affiliate in the State, and I would probably put her up against the others in the nation, as well, that go out and do the number of programs that they have and have the impacts that this affiliate and the volunteers in this community have. This affiliate receives grant funds from Palmetto Pride, Keep South Carolina Beautiful, Keep America Beautiful, and some other sponsorships and donations, and the City. Thank you so much for

providing her salary, and her truck, and her office. All of her programs are run off of grant funds and when you guys look through this manual of all of the great things that she does, like when do you sleep? That's what I want to know. When does she sleep? When do the volunteers sleep? It's such an impactful story that Keep Charleston Beautiful has to share not only with the City, but its volunteers, the State, and this nation. It just makes me want to move down here and work with Jamie every day."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Hey, you're welcome to. We've got plenty to do."

Ms. Coffey said, "Oh, I know I should, I should just travel on down and bring my 160 acres and all of my cows, right? You'll help me with that too, right, Jamie? Yes. So, I just want to congratulate you all and thank Jamie for what she does. She's an award-winning affiliate director, the affiliate's award-winning, and, you all, when you look through this Annual Report, all you have to do is call her, e-mail her, you can text her, get in touch with her on social media, and she will invite you to any pick-up that is going on, to any beautification project. If you like to remove graffiti, she'll put you to work. She'll put you to work today. If you want to remove decals that don't need to be on signs, she'll give you a scraper, and she'll put you to work, or if you just want to go into schools and talk about litter and beautification and recycling, anything that you're into when it comes to keeping a beautiful, clean, green community, she has a job for you today. So, thank you for the support that you all give, Mayor, Councilmembers. It's greatly appreciated and, again, congratulations, Jamie, for all of your hard work and success. It's much appreciated."

There was applause in the Chamber.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, Mallory, for being with us. Thank you for that recognition and, Jamie, you really do, as has already been said so well, you do such a terrific job. We're going to offer our citizens even more opportunities in 2022, which we're going to announce later this evening to clean up this town. Alright."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, "So, as you know, Councilmember Waring, at our West Ashley Revitalization Commission meeting, we talked about focusing more on West Ashley and appreciate the recognitions that we're getting tonight on Citywide projects, and we want to partner some more with West Ashley. Teresa Tidestrom has been a very vocal component of all of that, so let's keep the momentum going, and don't forget about what we need to do in West Ashley, so I just want to make that plug for us."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes, sir. Absolutely. So, next we have some [public hearings](#). I think we have four of them tonight. Mr. Morgan, do you want to announce these for us as we go?"

Christopher Morgan said, "Yes, sir, Mr. Mayor. Okay. Mr. Mayor and members of Council, we have the presentation up here. We begin with Item E-1, which is a re-zoning at 2003 Cherry Hill Lane in the Peninsula. It's about two-thirds of an acre. It is part of a tract that already has some Heavy Industrial zoning on it, on the northern end in the darker red, and it has General Business zoning on the remainder of the parcel. The applicants are interested in extending that Heavy Industrial zoning for a Heavy Industrial use on the northern end of the parcel, and then

they would use the remainder of the parcel for Residential purposes. In our Comprehensive Plan, the entire parcel is shown as Industrial, and this is an image from the Comprehensive Plan showing that item, that site. Here is an aerial image of the site, and you can see that it currently houses Industrial operations, container storage, a warehouse, and things like that. Our future Public Service yard is to the east. If you'll see where it says City property, that is adjacent of this tract to the southeast. Then there are other Industrial sites further to the north, and there is a small Residential enclave, the Four-Mile community to the west, and then other General Business-type uses to the south and southwest. Here is another image of the site in use, another image of the site, you see our Public Service yard in the distance at the top of the image here, and here is a view from Cherry Hill Lane. So, that is the portion of the property that would have the Heavy Industrial use. Here is another image of the property across Cherry Hill Lane. This went before our Planning Commission, and they recommended approval of the Heavy Industrial zoning 7 to 0."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Terrific. Thank you, Mr. Morgan. Would anyone like to be heard on this matter? Please come forward."

Councilmember Shealy said, "Move for approval."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We have a motion to approve. I do have one person who would like to be heard on this matter. Yes, sir. Please state your name and address."

The Clerk said, "Mr. Mayor, what is the time limit?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "A minute-and-a-half this evening since we're on a schedule."

1. Anthony Bryant said he was going to speak on items 1 through 4 because errors were made and corrected by the Clerk regarding his past public comments regarding zoning where there was a police power. He was concerned, in terms of his name, and he wanted to clear that up. The Senate and redistricting was about land use and space. He and Councilmember Appel talked about land use and space. Senator Marlon Kimpson said that Charleston County was race neutral. He had made his public comment on redistricting regarding land use policies on August 10, 2021, so Senator Kimpson and probably Senator Senn, too, because of his comment on investments and money being made by LLCs, hedge funds, and local banks. He was concerned about that, and he had shared supporting documents with the Clerk that needed to be added to that regarding his name, Anthony G. Bryant, because he didn't live in Los Angeles, California. He had been in Charleston for ten years, so somebody put something out there.

The Clerk said, "Time."

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

No one else asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We have a motion on the floor to approve."

The Clerk said, "Mr. Mayor, we did have someone who signed up virtually. Brian Riley, if you're on, if you could press *6."

2. Brian Riley, Thomas & Hutton Engineering, said he was there on behalf of the applicant if there were any questions related to the zoning application.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. He can answer any questions if we have any. The matter is before Council. We have a motion on the floor. Any questions or discussion?"

The Clerk said, "Mayor, there was one person who signed up in person, Matt Poindexter, to speak on this public hearing. Is he here?"

3. Matt Poindexter said he was the applicant and was available to answer any questions.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Great. Any questions or comments?"

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Shealy, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell, 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 a portion of 2003 Cherry Hill Lane (Peninsula) (approximately 0.69 acre) (TMS #464-02-00-053) (Council District 4), be rezoned from General Business (GB) classification to Heavy Industrial (HI) classification. The property is owned by Gerald F McMahon.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Number 2."

Mr. Morgan said, "Okay. This is an item in Daniel Island on Island Park Drive. It's a very tiny parcel that is in the midst of the golf course. This would be a re-zoning from the Daniel Island Residential District to Daniel Island Conservation. This is to put a cell tower in, and I believe they have been working with the community over there to find the most innocuous location for the cell tower. I think the fact that this has gone through pretty well is a sign that they probably have. Just some images here. Again, the green shows the park area of the golf course on Daniel Island. It is in a grove of trees. I believe we have an aerial image. You can kind of see it here with the arrow pointing to it. It's not near houses, and I believe we have one more image that shows it a little bit closer, so, again, as unobtrusive as a cell tower can be, I think. The Planning Commission reviewed this and recommended approval. Here are some more images of it here, as well, and that's just a grove of trees and, again, Planning Commission did recommend approval."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Would anyone like to be heard on this matter? Yes, sir. This is regarding a re-zoning on Daniel Island. Yes, sir."

1. Anthony G. Bryant said it was about police power, and it was in the Comprehensive Plan. He said it was land use and density being taken up that could be used for other things. Daniel Island would be a part of the re-districting plan. In the City of Charleston and the BID, those types of zonings and past zonings diluted the Black population. Senator Marlon Kimpson and others in the Senate and the redistricting of

Congressional seats believed that Charleston was race neutral and there was no need for race conscious politics any longer.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, sir."

The Clerk said, "Mayor, we had two people sign up online, Brian Riley."

2. Brian Riley, Thomas & Hutton Engineering, said he was there on behalf of the applicant if Councilmembers or the Mayor had any questions related to the application.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you."

The Clerk said, "Greg Keating."

3. Greg Keating, President and CEO of Daniel Island Club, said he was there in case Council had any questions with regard to the application.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Great. Anyone else?"

No one else asked to speak.

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

Councilmember Shealy said, "Move for approval."

Councilmember Brady said, "Second."

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

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Shealy, seconded by Councilmember Brady, 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 a portion of property on Island Park Drive (Daniel Island) (approximately 0.08 acre) (TMS # 271-00-00-001) (Council District 1), be rezoned from Daniel Island Residential (DI-R) classification to Daniel Island Conservation (DI-C) classification. The property is owned by Daniel Island Golf Club LLC.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Number 3."

Mr. Morgan said, "E-3 is an ordinance amendment. It's an amendment that would allow for alternates for our Design Review Board. Our BAR boards currently have alternates, and this is very helpful, particularly with our design and review-type boards because of conflicts with various members because of the specialized nature of the items they review, and this would just add them for the DRB. The text is in your packages and is shown on the screen here, but essentially it would add for two additional members to the DRB for alternate purposes. The Planning Commission and staff recommended approval of this, and it was a 7 to 0 vote at the Planning Commission."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Would anyone like to be heard on this matter? Yes, sir. This is regarding adding alternates to our Design Review Board."

1. Anthony Bryant said the Planning and Enabling Act of 1994 provided for City Councils to appoint, however, they wanted to appoint the boards. Because of the lack of inclusion, diversity, equity, and now race neutral policy, would there be other folks in line to become members? People that just had a concern and interest from the community standpoint, like in Councilmember Mitchell's district and others, who may be impacted and affected by specifically very technical people that had serious biases by using their technology and their skill sets to be bias in a systemic kind of way.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, sir. Anyone else that would like to be heard?"

No one else asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Hearing none, it comes to Council. This is for second reading. Any questions or comments?"

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Waring, one (1) bill (Item E-3) received second reading. It passed second reading on motion by Councilmember Appel and third reading on motion of Councilmember Shealy. On further motion of Councilmember Mitchell, the rules were suspended, and the bill was immediately ratified as:

2022 – 009 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 54 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON (ZONING ORDINANCE) BY AMENDING APPLICABLE SECTIONS RELATED TO THE DESIGN REVIEW BOARD IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH BOARD MEMBER ALTERNATES.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you. Mr. Morgan."

Mr. Morgan said, "Item E-4 is a zoning for a recently annexed property at 326 Geddes Avenue in West Ashley. It's nearly a half-acre tract. In this area, when properties come into the City, they've typically been R-4 in Charleston County, and we recommend them for SR-1, which is the closest compatible City zoning district, and that is the recommendation for this site. Here is an image of it in our new Comprehensive Plan. It's Suburban Edge, which is in line with this, and this is in the outer areas of West Ashley. We have recommended, through the Planning Commission, 7 to 0 for this SR-1 for the property."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Can we let someone from District #5 slip in?"

There was laughter in the Chamber.

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

1. Anthony Bryant said, for the Chairman of the Public Safety Commission, he received a letter from the Supreme Court Susan Closson vs. Bank of America, Bryant vs. Comcast Corporation in protest against the Chairman of Public Safety. In terms of annexations coming into the City of Charleston, West Ashley or any other area, from 1974 to now,

those annexations lead to the dilution of the Black population. He asked if race-conscious policies were so necessary if single-member districts were used to mitigate those racially bias issues for 54 years.

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

No one else asked to speak.

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

Councilmember Shealy said, "Move for approval."

Councilmember Brady said, "Second."

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

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Shealy, seconded by Councilmember Brady, 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 326 Geddes Avenue (West Ashley) (approximately 0.45 acre) (TMS #350-10-00-138) (Council District 5), annexed into the City of Charleston December 7, 2021 (#2021-177), be zoned Single-Family Residential (SR-1) classification. The property is owned by Megan Elizabeth Moore and Willie Tosh Moore.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Next, we would be approving our minutes, but they're not ready, so we're going to defer the [January 11th minutes](#) to our next meeting. It was a five-hour meeting, so they want to review that one more time apparently. So, could I entertain a motion that we go into [Executive Session?](#)"

Councilmember Waring said, "Move for approval."

Councilmember Appel said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. And this is for the purpose of reviewing the settlement of an opioid lawsuit that we're engaged in."

On a motion of Councilmember Waring, seconded by Councilmember Appel, City Council voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 5:27 p.m.

On a motion of Councilmember Gregorie, seconded by Councilmember Brady, City Council voted unanimously to come out of into Executive Session at 5:56 p.m.

Mayor Tecklenburg reported that no action was taken during Executive Session. City Council received an update on the proposed settlement in the opioid litigation. He said although no action was needed from Council, he would be open to one. At that time, Councilmember Waring moved to approve the settlement and instruct the Mayor to sign.

The January 25, 2022 regular meeting of City Council recessed at 5:58 p.m. for the State of the City Address.

City Council reconvened at 6:22 p.m.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. If I could call you all back to order, we'll get going again. We are now back in order, and the next item on our agenda is our [Citizens Participation Period](#). As Council knows, we haven't yet given second and third reading to our new protocol. If you all want to accept that, we'll have that on the agenda later this evening. So, we do have 22 people in person and 29 people online that signed up, and I would like to give everyone a minute, so that will run us over our 30 minutes again but, I think, we found giving less than a minute makes it hard for people to even get their thoughts out. So, if that's okay with Council, we'll proceed. Madam Clerk will call your name, and please come right to the mic, give us your name and address, and a minute of your comments. We look forward to hearing from everyone. Madam Clerk."

The Clerk said, "Anthony Bryant."

1. Anthony G. Bryant said the question with the opioid piece was that it was amazing that Sandy Senn helped the Police Department arrest African Americans for years and justified excessive use of force against Black people. He said that it was serious to be a State Senator with 13 Sheriffs in South Carolina that broke State and Federal laws supported by U.S. magistrates, excessive use of force by and large against Black people, since 1986 in the first crime bill under Joe Biden. He said maybe he didn't have common sense, and maybe he was one of the people being called out, but it was a shame before God that so many Black people had been humiliated in the City for many years. He heard the Mayor's speech, and it was the Mayor's free speech, but he disagreed with it.

The Clerk said, "Time."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, sir."

The Clerk said, "Michael Kogan."

2. Dr. Michael Kogan said two on Council had flipped their votes and they were about to establish the 'so-called' new Commission on 'so-called' racial reconciliation, a move that most of Council knew their constituents opposed. He said Councilmember Shahid assured him that the new Commission was totally different from the old one, with a pared down agenda from the extremist propositions of the old Commission. He said they could prove Councilmember Shahid's words to be true by seeing that the members of the old Committee, who presented the extremist agenda which Council rejected, did not serve on the new Committee. He said if they did serve, the people of Charleston would know that, despite the change in name of the Committee, they were still dealing with the same extremist, divisive agenda that the first Committee was responsible for. He told Council not to go down that road, as they needed peace in the City, not racial division.

The Clerk said, "Mary Neale Berkaw."

3. Mary Neale Berkaw said she fully supported establishing the Committee, and she agreed with the Mayor's words two weeks prior when he passionately stated his wish to make Charleston a better place for all citizens and to reduce the vast disparities across education, life expectancy, housing, and policing. She said the Mayor asked what they were going to do about it. The Mayor and Council had a perfect opportunity before them to reduce racial disparity in policing via the audit. However, they had tried unsuccessfully to speak with him over the past year. She said that effort was failing. She said they were committed to help the City realize their Holy City. She asked the Mayor to ensure integrity for Charleston's commitment to racial equity by meeting with Charleston Area Justice Ministry (CAJM) before another year passed with no progress.

The Clerk said, "Time."

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

The Clerk said, "Betsy Martin."

4. Betsy Martin asked Council to vote in favor of the ordinance establishing the Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission. She said that while some suggested that the Commission would be divisive, she believed the opposite. To have true reconciliation in the community, they needed to show with their actions which would lead to equity. She believed they needed to establish the Commission as a strong mechanism for communication as they grappled with the complex issues of their shared history and future. She said if they wanted unity in the community, they needed to support the establishment of the Commission on Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you."

The Clerk said, "Taylor Daniels."

5. Taylor Daniels said he fully supported the Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission. He urged the Mayor and Council to vote in favor of the official establishment of the Commission and to continue working towards advancing racial equity by also voting in favor of the Commission's previous and future recommendations. He told Council to look at the agenda. The next item was appointments for the Municipal Golf Course Commission. He asked how they had a Commission on golf and not racial equity. He said it didn't make any sense. He said Councilmembers Appel and Parker were two people who were going to be appointed to the Golf Commission, yet they had voted against the Racial Conciliation Commission. He thought they needed the Commission to bring themselves back in focus.

The Clerk said, "Time."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you."

The Clerk said, "Bruce Burris."

6. Bruce Burris said his son Lt. Burris had spent seven years as a Lieutenant in the Navy, three years on the USS Gettysburg, and four years in Special Ops. He had just been appointed by a group and the President to the White House Fellow Scholarship Program. He said 60 people from the United States were appointed, one from each State. From South Carolina was his son, from Charleston. There were also ten at-large members. His son would have the ear to the White House, but politics were local, and he wanted his son to be able to tell people in Costa Mesa that Charleston was a great place. He told Council to do their job.

The Clerk said, "Time. Eugene Kuhn."

7. Eugene Kuhn spoke in support of the ordinance creating a Standing Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission. He said in their history, the City bore responsibility in the advent of slavery, secession, and racial injustice. Therefore, it was fitting that they would create a standing Commission that would work to right those wrongs and ensure they would build a City whose prosperity benefited everyone. He said they all agreed that racial harmony, equity, and inclusion were public goods. He asked how they might promote such a public good. He said they could through the establishment of a Standing Commission such as the one the ordinance brought about. He said given their past and present, the creation of a Commission would be a giant step in the progress of racial harmony, equity, inclusion and more. He said equity in Human Affairs ensured prosperity for humanity, and that was their responsibility.

The Clerk said, "Time. Indyah."

8. Indyah Bunkem said the City was built on the backs of her ancestors, and she would do everything she could in her power to stand up for them since they couldn't do it for themselves because of the oppression they had to carry due to the injustice, discrimination, and hardships weighed down on them. She said after today, she hoped there would be a future where no one had to carry that on their shoulders. She didn't want her future kids, or any Black or Brown kids, to fight the same battles that she and her ancestors had to fight. She stood, hopefully for the last time, to urge the Council and the Mayor to vote in favor of the Commission. She said they could be a part of the right things that could be a better Charleston tomorrow.

The Clerk said, "Jessica Wright."

9. Jessica Wright said she strongly supported the permanent establishment of the Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission. She invited Council to take a look around the room, specifically at the sculptures and portraits on display. She said proof of institutional privilege and unequal access to power surrounded them. Since its founding, the Country and the City had systemic forces at play that continued to the present to disadvantage and hold back BIPOC individuals and communities. She said if Council believed racial equity was not a problem in Charleston, they were probably part of the White privileged caste. She invited Council to listen to BIPOC voices in leadership in the City that told them that the Commission was necessary. She said they knew for a fact that BIPOC members of the community faced unequal housing, policing, access to health, education, economic opportunities, and more. She said the Commission was an opportunity to understand and rectify.

The Clerk said, "Time. Peyton Davis."

10. Peyton Davis said she grew up in Charleston, and in 2015, she went to the church where Dylann Roof assassinated several people, and that affected the Black people in the City. As one, she expected the City to do something to genuinely impact and improve life for Black people. All she saw was Charleston Strong and performative action, but now they had a chance to actually work towards genuine work for the Black community. She encouraged Council to make the right choice.

The Clerk said, "Marcus McDonald."

11. Marcus McDonald, lead organizer of Charleston Black Lives Matter and substitute teacher at Burke High School, said it was his 25th birthday. He urged Council to vote in favor of the Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission as originally amended. He pointed out that much of the opposition had come from places like Charlotte, Spartanburg, Rock Hill, and Mt. Pleasant. He wanted to let them know it was Charleston, and he didn't want anybody calling it divisive and racist. Even before, they had united so many people, age, sex, race, and all of that. He said not to call them divisive, as they had united everybody around Charleston under it. He said they were supposed to honor Abraham Jenkins, and may his sole rest in power. He said Mr. Jenkins fought his whole life for racial equity and justice. Dr. Martin Luther King fought his whole life for racial justice and equity, and he died violently. Reverend Clemente Pinckney fought his whole life for racial justice and equity, and he died violently. He asked how many more of them would have to die before the City realized that racial harmony had not been achieved. He said they needed to take the steps to achieve that, to have a City where less of them died and more of them had a full, long life.

The Clerk said, "Time. Marcus Miles."

12. Marcus Miles said he fully supported the Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission, and he urged the Mayor and Council to vote in favor of it and for its future establishment. He said it seemed like time and time again, the same thing was happening, and it seemed like Council was up there, while everybody else was down there, and Council had the power to change that for whatever the future may hold. He strongly urged Council to pass it, keep everybody equal, and make it equal, because they couldn't move forward if everybody was arguing back and forth. He strongly urged Council to do that, and he said he appreciated them.

The Clerk said, "Kayla Hall or Kayla Hill."

13. Kayla Hill said she fully supported the Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission. She urged the Mayor and Council to vote in favor of the official establishment of the Commission and to continue working towards advancing racial equity by also voting in favor of the Commission's previous and future recommendations.

The Clerk said, "James Yanney."

14. James Yanney said he agreed and listened and heard the hearts on both sides. He thought everybody wanted the same thing. He was concerned about the way things

had been written and handled. He encouraged Council to look at things that he thought were divisive and national movements that were using racism to stop racism, which he thought was an oxymoron. He thought they had to stop things such as CRT and 1619, which he said would be utilized to poison the minds of their children. He did Inner City Ministry with Reverend Jimmy Gallant, and they knew it would not be a good effect, especially on the children, but he did approve of coming up with a Commission that could solve the problems rationally and with things that would be empowered through God's wisdom. He agreed with the prayer at the beginning, but they had to think about it thoroughly and do it properly.

The Clerk said, "Time."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, sir."

The Clerk said, "Sally Young."

15. Sally Young said she was a 4th generation Charlestonian, member and lay leader at the Cathedral of St. Luke and St. Paul's, and a public librarian. She strongly supported the establishment of the Human Affairs and Racial Reconciliation Commission. She said generations after enslaved people built the City, the rights and opportunities of their descendants continued to be limited. When that happened, the whole community suffered, but not all bore the true weight of that suffering. She said now was a moment to move forward, bearing one another's burdens, to grow a stronger, more equitable community for all. As a public librarian, she had seen the support gaps in education, housing, healthcare, workforce, social services, and more, particularly for their neighbors of color. She said they could and must do more. The City had already made a commitment to prioritize equity and inclusion.

The Clerk said, "Time."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you very much."

The Clerk said, "W.G. Kosenta."

No one asked to speak.

The Clerk said, "Sydney Gilbreath."

16. Sydney Gilbreath said she fully supported the Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission. She urged the Mayor and Council to vote in favor of the official establishment of the Commission and to continue working towards advancing racial equity by also voting in favor of the Commission's previous and future recommendations. She hoped it would work towards the expulsion of racism in the City.

The Clerk said, "Chase Heffron."

17. Chase Heffron expressed his support for the Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission. He urged the Mayor and Council to support the Commission, as well. He grew up in Charleston, and he thought they were all familiar with gentrification, its effects, and how it had particularly hit the African American community really hard.

He said they were also disproportionately affected by poverty and incarceration, and that was something that needed to change. He believed the Commission would act as a catalyst for bringing about serious racial equity and change for the people, and that was something they all would benefit from.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, sir. Appreciate it."

The Clerk said, "Beth Webb Hart."

18. Beth Webb Hart said she had lived in the City for 25 years as a writer, teacher, member of the Cathedral of St. Luke and St. Paul, and as a mother. She said she was grateful for the opportunity to raise her children in a place known for its natural wonders, hospitality, robust faith communities, and commitment to the arts. She voiced her support for the establishment of the Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission because its purpose of identifying disparities was an essential first step in their collective hopes and aims of providing equal access to every one of their citizens. She knew the splendor of the City was not just a façade, one-dimensional and capable of collapse, and that the ancient definition of hospitality, to see the plight of those in need and serve them, could be fully realized in this place.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you."

The Clerk said, "Parker Ussery."

19. Parker Ussery said she was in full support of the Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission. As a sophomore in high school in Mt. Pleasant and a member of the youngest generation, she was part of the future that Council worked towards. Her generation needed Council to approve the Commission, as they were the ones who would be there the longest to live in the effects of the decisions Council made. She told Council to do it for them. She said there were large racial disparities that still existed and affected the lives of Black people living in Charleston. She said if Council chose to vote against the Commission, they were making a conscious choice to be complicit in the oppression of Charleston's Black community. She said there could be no more excuses. She told Council to act now in support of racial equity for the City, or else they weren't working for the good of the people they claimed to serve.

The Clerk said, "Bill Hecht."

20. Bill Hecht said he represented the Coalition on Racial Harmony, which had 1,551 petitioners sign a petition urging the Council to reject the Commission as it was written. The key words were 'as it's written,' and to delay until it was written properly. He said there was a reason why the first Commission failed. If there was a Commission, they would have liked for it to be successful. He thanked Councilmember Shahid, as well as the Mayor, for productive conversations, and he said they wanted to continue those productive conversations into the future.

The Clerk said, "Mohammed Idris."

21. Mohammed Idris said racism was dead, and they needed to implement the ethics laws they already had. He said a black man came from Africa, married a white

woman from Kansas, and produced a baby that became the President of the United States, who was elected twice, so he knew for sure that racism was dead. He said they weren't suffering from racism. They were suffering from greed, envy, jealousy, and ignorance. That's what they were suffering from.

The Clerk said, "We will move onto our virtual list. Do we have that ready to go? Our first speaker online is Reverend Cecelia Armstrong, if you could press *6."

22. Reverend Cecelia Armstrong said she stood on behalf of the Charleston Area Justice Ministry and the 40 other congregations that made up that organization. She was the Associate Pastor at St. James Presbyterian Church on James Island. She said those 40 organizations had an average worship attendance of over 10,000 people, and their reach in the community was even further. She said they called on Council to vote 'yes' and support the formation of the Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission. She said CAJM's vision was for their community to build a community where justice and equity prevailed, and this Commission would help move them forward toward that vision. She said they also called on the Mayor to sit down with them and address the shortcomings of the implementation of the police audit. She said the audit was the City's first true test at racial equity and a step in making sure CPD was functioning fairly without discrimination and bias. She said using the audit as an example, it could be perceived that the City was not being genuine in the pursuit of equity. She invited and encouraged the Mayor to meet with them and address those concerns.

The Clerk said, "Time."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you."

The Clerk said, "Judy Dixon, and if you're online, if you could press *6."

23. Judy Dixon said she fully supported the Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission and urged Council to vote in favor of its official establishment, to continue working towards advancing racial equity in Charleston. As a white woman, she recognized that her lived experience had been very different than that of her black or brown peers and fellow citizens of Charleston from opportunities in housing and education, to professional mentoring, and just getting the benefit of the doubt. She, as well as her children, didn't deserve those opportunities any more than her black or brown colleagues, as well as their children. She hoped that Charleston's leadership and citizens would be open to the continued dialogue and to keep learning or perhaps unlearning, to borrow a phrase from Rachel Cargle, so that Charleston could continue to evolve.

The Clerk said, "Margaret Seidler."

No one asked to speak.

The Clerk said, "Christine Jennings."

24. Christine Jennings said she supported the Commission, and Council had the framework to seriously engage in the conversation of racial equity and the means to turn the apology for slavery into reductions in vast disparities, and that was inspiring.

She said they didn't have to wait for action to happen somewhere in the future, as they had a racial bias audit of CPD in their lap that showed massive disparities. She said Black people were arrested 3.8 times the rate of White people, Black drivers were arrested for suspended licenses 12.5 times more, and for marijuana possession, 9.4 times the rate of Whites. She said two-and-a-half years into the audit no progress had been made to reduce disparities, and more frightening was the fact that CPD would not acknowledge that reducing disparities was the goal of implementation. She said the Mayor asked what they were going to do about disparities. She asked for him to demand a reduction plan from CPD now.

The Clerk said, "Jerome Harris."

25. Jerome Harris said, as a member of the much maligned Special Commission, the work was often misrepresented. He was encouraged to read the comments and see the support for the Commission on second reading. He said it reflected an attempt to reconcile deeply polarized opinions that had become the basis for vitriol and division in Charleston. He said the continued opposition to putting in place a compromise that would allow citizens and members of Council to engage in an intentional set of discussions on the future of race relations and racial justice was reminiscent of the backlash experienced in the 1960s over desegregation and dismantling of Jim Crow. He urged Council to pass the ordinance, and he called on those members who were in opposition to identify a proposal in the report that they could support and work to bring it to fruition. He said by doing so they would contribute to building community rather than feeding polarization that led to chaos.

The Clerk said, "Time. Mike Trama."

No one asked to speak.

The Clerk said, "Roman Hammes."

26. Roman Hammes said that last meeting they learned from a College of Charleston professor, who was a supporter of the Commission, that the term 'southern hospitality' should be extricated from their vocabulary. He asked if there was any clearer example that the people who supported the Commission wanted to turn their culture on its head. He said it was time to say 'no,' and he asked Council to please vote 'no' on the Commission.

The Clerk said, "Mara Brockbank."

Margaret Seidler said, "This is Margaret Seidler."

The Clerk said, "Ms. Seidler, please proceed."

27. Margaret Seidler, an 8th generation Charlestonian, said she invited each member of Council to open their hearts and vote on the third and final reading to establish the Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission. She said much had happened in the City's history, and they recognized that none of them could change the past, yet Council's vote in favor could provide citizens a structured way to gain the tangible benefits of moving forward together. She said any further delay would keep them from getting to the important work at hand.

The Clerk said, "Katie King."

No one asked to speak.

The Clerk said, "Reverend Jimmy Gallant."

28. James Yanney said he spoke on behalf of Reverend Jimmy Gallant, as he was out of town on a family matter. He said Reverend Gallant wanted to express and encourage the Councilmembers—

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Sir, I'm sorry, but he needs to be present to speak."

Mr. Yanney said, "Okay, that's fine."

The Clerk said, "Joyce Myers."

No one asked to speak.

The Clerk said, "Reverend Charles Heyward."

29. Reverend Charles Heyward said he grew up on Johns Island and never thought that Council would take and pursue equity and justice seriously. He said Council's action to conduct the police audit for racial bias gave him hope for what the future might hold and the formation of the Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Committee would be a continued pursuit of equity, justice, and hope for all residents of Charleston. He said what would make the City apart from others was not to wait, but to have a unanimous vote of 'yes.' He said as a Black husband, father, grandfather, and Christian pastor, his faith tradition declared that doing justice, ensuring the policies and practices of fairness was the weightier matter of the law. He said Jesus was always questioning and drawing attention to the unfair laws of the Roman Empire. Let them make Charleston more historic and equitably beautiful.

The Clerk said, "Time. Was Joyce Myers trying to join? Joyce Myers."

No one asked to speak.

The Clerk said, "Sully Sullivan."

30. Sully Sullivan said he was in full support of the Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission, and for those who were confused and still not understanding it, and those Councilmembers who did not support it, in 1955 a lot of people through education didn't learn that the Cannon Street All Star Team, an all African American baseball team from the YMCA on Cannon Street, was denied access to the whites-only Little League Tournament. He said, upon them trying to register, all teams forfeited, which led to a team win and, through that, they started their own Dixie Youth Baseball Team. He was sure many on Council understood what that meant. He asked them not to repeat the past and to take the Human Affairs and Conciliation into the future, and progress, and include everyone.

The Clerk said, "Heyward Hamilton."

31. Heyward Hamilton opposed the creation of the Commission as the greater good was not being accomplished by racially dividing the City through the creation of a permanent Commission of Equity. He said the lie was that changing the name of the Commission changed the mission, which it did not. He said in August the Council rejected it because of the baseless points, and the report was still based on reparations, page 26; critical race theory, page 52; reallocating funds from the police, page 49; eliminating bail, page 23; the false 1619 Project, page 53; and removal of historic monuments, page 36. He said the Commission would only divide their fair City. He asked what the harm was in taking the recommendations one-by-one to create a fair and balanced Commission. He said to please stop the Mayor and his brother from promoting a destructive program and vote 'no' on the divisive Commission.

The Clerk said, "Joel Sadler."

32. Joel Sadler said he was in support of the Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission. He expressed his appreciation and respect to Councilmembers Gregorie, Sakran, Mitchell, Waring, Bowden, Shahid, and Brady for standing in support of the Commission and publicly affirming that it would move the City forward. He said, from listening to and reading hundreds of public comments, he recognized that it had not been easy for any of them. He asked Councilmembers Seekings, Shealy, Appel, and Parker to join the majority and send a clear message that their elected officials unanimously supported economic empowerment for all Charlestonians, not just its white citizens.

The Clerk said, "Charles Stephens."

33. Charles Stephens asked Council to delay voting on the Commission until the Daniel Island seat was seated and they were able to participate in the discussion and represent those folks.

The Clerk said, "Allyson Sutton."

34. Allyson Sutton said she supported the Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission. She was proud of the Councilmembers who had stuck with the work from the beginning, as well as those who had recently taken the time to educate themselves and vote in its favor. She wished those that had voted against the Commission would recognize how they perpetuated white supremacy in the City and realize that they blocked the path towards equitable progress for all Charlestonians. She urged them all to consider the future the citizens deserved and vote to approve the Commission.

The Clerk said, "Ben Cash."

35. Ben Cash said he supported the Commission for Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation. He said it was important that all voices were heard, and he appreciated Council, and especially the Mayor, ensuring an opportunity for everyone to speak. He said it was not about blame and shame, scary sounding acronyms, or a national political agenda. It was simply about establishing a local Commission to lead the Holy City into a brighter, more inclusive, and equitable future. He said if they read the

report, they would see it included things like improving access to healthcare for low income residents, seeing how environmental design could be used to support residents' safety and crime prevention, investing in more opportunities to address flooding in low income areas, and establishing a livable wage for all City staff that was on par with what it actually cost to live in the City. He asked what they were for if they were against those things.

The Clerk said, "Michael O'Neill."

No one asked to speak.

The Clerk said, "Cava Compton."

No one asked to speak.

The Clerk said, "Caroline Frady."

36. Caroline Frady said she was a student at the College of Charleston and also a network member of the Charleston Area Justice Ministry. She was in full support of the Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission, and she vehemently urged Council to vote in favor of the official establishment of the Commission as it was long overdue. She found it unfortunate how much time was spent debating something that truly would do the bare minimum in even beginning to address racial reconciliation in the City. She said the Commission had the potential to change and benefit real people's lives in Charleston, so she encouraged Council to make the right decision.

The Clerk said, "Sarah Thompson."

37. Sarah Thompson said she was in full support and demanded that Council be on the right side of history, for once, and vote unanimously in favor of HARCC. She said the racist, white pushback on the Commission further showed the level of incompetence and fraying grasp on an accurate U.S. History due to the whitewashed education system. She said reparations were not radical when it came to Jewish people or Asian Americans. She said human rights were not a political issue. She read the statement that said the same people that threw rocks at Ruby Bridges didn't want their kids or grandkids to know that they threw rocks at Ruby Bridges. She said the same could be same for Charlestonians that didn't want the true history of the south and/or the confederacy to be taught. She said the spoiler alert was that racist Confederate statues did and would come down, just like slave-owner John C. Calhoun did, and the successful fight and demand for racial equity through radical yet peaceful action was justified by any means necessary would not stop no matter what side of history Council decided to be on. She said the truth always revealed itself, and they would not let up.

The Clerk said, "Time. Dya Betty."

No one asked to speak.

The Clerk said, "Dr. Khan."

No one asked to speak.

The Clerk said, "Dr. Matthew Cressler."

38. Dr. Matthew Cressler said he was a resident of West Ashley, a member of the Unitarian Church in Charleston, and a White professor at the College of Charleston. He called on Council to vote 'yes' to establish the Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Committee. He said it had been more than 50 years since the Charleston Hospital Strike, more than 150 years since emancipation, and still the City was defined by racial disparities in policing, housing, and education. He said it was time for them to do right by their community and to do right by their Black sisters and brothers. He said for Council to please take the important step toward a more just and equitable Charleston, and to do right and vote 'yes' on the Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Committee. He thanked those Councilmembers who had already been supporting it and working through this hard time.

The Clerk said, "Hillary Hutchinson."

39. Hillary Hutchinson attended the Unitarian Church in Charleston, and she was fully in favor of establishing the Racial Conciliation Commission. She said it was one small step on the road to healing the racial divides of history and moving to a brighter future for everyone. She said at the Unitarian Church, they had a memorial to the enslaved people that helped build their church. It incorporated bricks made by the enslaved with the Sankofa symbol attached. She said for those unfamiliar with that symbol, it translated to retrieve and was often rendered as a stylized bird with his head looking backward over its shoulder while it flew forward. She said it was a symbol that should guide Charleston going forward, as well. She said they could not heal the past without recognizing and reconciling themselves to that memory. With a shared understanding, they could build a warm and welcoming community. She said with the Commission, they could take a step toward healing the nation one community at a time.

The Clerk said, "Time. Mimi Wood."

No one asked to speak.

The Clerk said, "Mary Ann Robeson."

40. Mary Ann Robeson said cities and nations following critical race theory had experienced totalitarianism and destruction, and that could come to Charleston if the third reading regarding establishment of the Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission was approved. She asked Council to vote against establishment of the Commission and abandon CRT's philosophy. She asked them to seek dependence on God, not government, as the source of blessings on Charleston. Acts 10:34-35 said 'God is no respecter of persons. But in every nation, he that feareth Him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with Him.'

The Clerk said, "Mayor, did you want me to call out the names of the people who we called earlier who didn't speak?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Sure."

The Clerk said, "Mike Trama."

41. Mike Trama said to Councilmember Parker that, where he came from, silence was acceptance. He said when he pointed out the hypocrisy of her saying repeatedly that she listened to her constituents, but then saying she didn't want to hear from her constituents about the Human Affairs Council, that was hypocrisy in action, and she didn't deny that. He then sang Happy Birthday to Marcus McDonald.

The Clerk said, "Mara Brockbank."

No one asked to speak.

The Clerk said, "Katie King."

A woman said, "Hello."

The Clerk said, "Yes. We can hear you."

No one asked to speak.

The Clerk said, "Joyce Myers."

No one asked to speak.

The Clerk said, "Dya Betty."

No one asked to speak.

The Clerk said, "Dr. Khan."

No one asked to speak.

The Clerk said, "Those were all of the speakers that we had."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Great. Did we miss anyone in the house?"

The Clerk said, "We did receive some comments online and, our staff, we did our best. We did receive over 300 comments, so we tried to organize it by people who provided City addresses and people who provided addresses outside of the City or who did not provide addresses at all. 61 City residents asked City Council to support and approve the Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission. 37 non-City residents or commenters who did not provide addresses asked City Council to approve and support the Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission. 88 City residents asked that City Council vote against the creation of the Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission. 120 non-City residents or commenters who did not provide addresses asked that City Council vote against the creation of the Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission. 1 person in District #12 said they supported the Commission, and asked that Councilmember Parker send someone to speak to the constituents to clear up confusion since she mentioned that constituents in her district were confused. We have received an electronic petition signed by 1,458 people who oppose creation of the Racial Conciliation Commission, but it did not include addresses. 1 person said everyone attending in-person meetings should be wearing a mask at all times, Councilmembers included. 1 person

said Councilmembers Shahid and Brady should change their votes for the Commission back to 'no' or door hangers would be posted throughout their districts. 1 person who did not provide an address said Council should form a pro-family Council to decrease promiscuity and abortion. 1 person quoted the entire Declaration of Independence. 1 person questioned the Mayor's salary and said now was the best time for opportunity in Charleston. Those were all of the comments we received."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you so much, and we've got that in the minutes. Is that a record for the number of comments we've received? I think so. So, thank you, everyone, for your participation and comments. I'm sorry that the rules of the Chamber do not allow us to have a birthday cake here in your honor but, again, happy birthday. And thanks to all online who participated, as well, and shared your comments with us. Next up is our [Petitions and Communications.](#)"

Councilmember Seekings said, "So moved."

Councilmember Brady said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We have a motion to approve the Resiliency and Sustainability Advisory Committee."

Councilmember Brady said, "A and b."

Councilmember Seekings said, "A and b."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Any comments or questions?"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, "Yes, Mr. Mayor, I just want to make sure that when I'm playing out at Municipal, my errant balls will get a more favorable lie if I'm on this Commission?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I'm sorry."

Councilmember Shahid said, "I want to make sure that my errant golf balls get a more favorable lie if I serve on this Commission."

There was laughter in the Chamber.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Was the motion to approve both a and b?"

Councilmember Seekings said, "Both a and b. We did."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Any questions or comments?"

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Seekings, seconded by Councilmember Brady, City Council voted unanimously to approve the appointments and reappointments to the Resiliency and Sustainability Advisory Committee and the Municipal Golf Course Commission:

1. Appointments:

- a. Resiliency and Sustainability Advisory Committee:
 - Councilmember Seekings – appointment
 - Councilmember Shealy – reappointment
 - Councilmember Bowden – appointment
 - Stewart Weinberg – reappointment (Community Member)

- b. Municipal Golf Course Commission:
 - Abraham Brown – reappointment
 - Barney Henderson – reappointment
 - Steve Matthews – reappointment
 - Gene Kizer – reappointment
 - Dan Henderson – reappointment
 - Billy Wise – reappointment
 - William Palmer – reappointment
 - Larry Shirley – reappointment
 - Elaine Bonner – reappointment
 - John Wohlscheid – new appointment
 - Troy Miller – new appointment
 - Ross Appel – new appointment – City Councilmember
 - Caroline Parker – new appointment – City Councilmember
 - Peter Shahid – new appointment – City Councilmember

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Next up, [Tracy McKee](#), I didn’t speak with her today, are you online? Do you have a report to make to us? Here she comes in-person. Tracy McKee.”

Tracy McKee said, “Thank you, Mayor. Good evening, everybody. No slides tonight. Due to a record number of COVID tests, DHEC has not released data since last Wednesday. So, cases are trending down, but the daily cases are still very, very high. About four times higher than they were in our surge at the end of August, early September, and these don’t even include the home tests. Percent of positives is still very, very high. We’re averaging about 34% in the region, so remember the days when less than 5% was our goal. Employee cases: we’ve got about 31 active cases right now of employees, so we’re seeing that decrease in our employee population, as well. We have 25 that are waiting for test results. 35% of all employee cases have occurred over the last four weeks.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Wow.”

Ms. McKee said, “Yes. Wow, is right. So, our Wellness and HR folks have had some very successful booster events. We’ve had a little over 70 employees actually boosted at those events, and we’ve had 400 employees actually submit their incentive forms for receiving their boosters. So, I’m happy to try to answer any questions you all have. Sorry I don’t have any updated data. Hopefully, DHEC will provide some updates tomorrow.”

Councilmember Parker said, “I do have a question, Tracy.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Parker.

Councilmember Parker said, “Tracy.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Councilmember Parker."

Councilmember Parker said, "Yes."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Were you requesting to be heard?"

Councilmember Parker said, "Yes."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes, ma'am. Please proceed."

Councilmember Parker said, "Sure. This is really a question for Legal, but it is pertaining to all of this. You know, I'd really like to hear from Legal on this. We are not under a State of Emergency in South Carolina for COVID, and I would really like our Legal Department to issue an opinion on the legality of the Mayor's vaccine passport and the mask mandate."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay. Would Legal like to address that, please? Please come to the microphone."

Wilbur Johnson said, "Mayor, I think the opinion of Counsel is that Council is empowered to issue Rules of Order and rules governing the meetings that occur, and the enforcement of the mask wearing is a part of those Rules of Order, and Council has the authority to do that, and the Mayor has the authority to enforce that provision."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, sir."

Councilmember Parker said, "And what about the vaccine passport? Our Governor has stated that that's illegal."

Mr. Johnson said, "I'm not aware of any issue involving Council's enforcement of a vaccine passport provision, at least insofar as Legal is aware."

Councilmember Parker said, "Well, I would like to ask Legal to make that publicly available. I mean people are wondering why they're not being allowed into the building."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We have a policy for City Council meetings as of right now, temporarily, during the high incidents of transmission of COVID with the Omicron variant that members in this Chamber during this meeting wear a mask and show proof of vaccination."

Mr. Johnson said, "Yes."

Councilmember Parker said, "Yes. What is the Legal opinion?"

Mr. Johnson said, "The Legal opinion is that policy is enforceable."

Councilmember Parker said, "Okay."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Thank you. Any other questions for Tracy or anybody else?"

Ms. McKee said, "Councilmember Shealy, you had a question?"

Councilmember Shealy said, "I know that with this Omicron variant, that things have been less severe. Is that the same with our staff, and are they able to return back to work quicker than we were seeing previously?"

Ms. McKee said, "Yes. I don't know about all of our cases but, anecdotally, from what I hear from our Wellness team, that's been the case. We have not had any severe cases."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. That's all we've got to report tonight. Unless there are any questions, we'll move on forward to our Council Committee Reports. First up is our [Committee on Community Development](#). Councilmember Mitchell."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Yes, Mr. Mayor and Councilmembers, the Committee on Community Development was held on Thursday, January 20th at 3:00 p.m., and we had two different items. Under a(i) was to consider a Resolution certifying the property located at 94 Sheppard Street, and that was approved by the Committee. Under b(i), old business, Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance, which is now considered the ADU, we deferred that until further information is coming back. We had a lot of the Committee members giving some various suggestions on it, and then the Legal and Community Development office is going to look at it and try to include that into the ordinance and bring it back to us, so we'll have another meeting pertaining to that. So, I'm asking for approval on 1a(i)."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We've got a second. Any discussion or questions?"

No one asked to speak.

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

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

- a. New Business:
 - (i) A Resolution certifying property located at 94 Sheppard Street (Charleston County TMS No. 460-04-04-086) as an abandoned building site under section 12-67-160 of the South Carolina Code. (Memorandum and Draft Resolution attached).

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, sir. Next up our [Committee on Traffic and Transportation](#). Councilmember Brady."

Councilmember Brady said, "Yes, thank you, Mr. Mayor. The Committee on Traffic and Transportation met yesterday at 2:00 p.m. to receive comments on the status of the portion of Frampton Street between Inverness Drive and Harborview Road, and on the portion of Fairway Drive lying between Burningtree Road and Harborview Road. We allowed the petitioner, who had requested that we have the hearing, ten minutes to present his case for why, or to receive those comments, and the City had ten minutes to present the findings that they had. We also heard from the general public and Councilmembers got to ask questions, but at the end of the public hearing, no action was taken. The Mayor did offer for there to be some remediation in

terms of looking at speed bumps to slow some of the traffic concerns and signage to help further that. But, again, no action was taken.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Well, thank you, and I would like to report to Council that I’ve already been in touch with both the Police Department and the Department of Transportation for increased enforcement on that street and maybe put out one of those kind of automatic radar readers in addition to Mr. Somerville working with the neighborhood to see if they could place another speed bump on that block. Alright. Thank you kindly. Anything else to report?”

Councilmember Brady said, “I’m good.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “You’re good. Next up [Committee on Public Works](#). Councilmember Waring.”

Councilmember Waring said, “Thank you, Mr. Mayor. All items as you see on your agenda were discussed, and all action items were passed unanimously, and I so move the adoption of the report.”

Councilmember Shahid said, “Second.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Alright. Any questions or discussion?”

No one asked to speak.

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

---INSERT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES REPORT---

a. Acceptances and Dedications of Rights-of-Way and Easements:

- (i) Approval to notify SCDOT that the City will accept maintenance of the sidewalk in the right of way of Maybank Highway in conjunction with the project at 1800 Produce Lane.

b. Stormwater Management Department Update:

- (ii) King/Huger Drainage Project – Recommend Approval to apply for a FEMA HMGP grant for the design and construction of a pump station (Project Phase 2) at the intersection of Huger and King Street. Total funding request of \$9,582,143.00 (Federal Share \$7,186,607.25 and City Match of \$2,395,535.75). The City match is available within the Drainage Fund.
- (iii) Johns Island Resiliency Plan – Discussion of Project Report
- (iv) Medical District Tunnel Extension at Ehrhardt – Project Update

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “If I may just comment that both the Johns Island Resiliency Plan was very interesting, number one, and a lot of staff work went into that, and I think it’s probably going to be available somewhere on our website or somewhere. It’s something Johns

Island folks, maybe we'll talk about it again a little bit at next meeting on Johns Island. Then a fascinating, great update on the Medical District Ehrhardt Street Extension of the tunnel system. We should be bringing that to Council the next meeting or the meeting after for approval of a construction contract. That's great. Next up our [Committee on Ways and Means](#). Councilmember Gregorie."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Move for approval."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Any discussion or questions?"

No one asked to speak.

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

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

(Bids and Purchases

(Stormwater Management: Approval to submit the Huger Street Drainage Improvements Phase II – Pump Station FEMA HMGP Grant Application for the design and construction of a pump station at the intersection of Huger and King Street. Total funding request of \$9,582,143 (Federal Share \$7,186,607.25, City Match \$2,395,535.75), with a cost share of 75/25. The application deadline is February 1, 2022. Funding for this grant match in the amount of \$2,395,535.75 will come from the Drainage Fund.

(Parks – Capital Projects: Approval for an after the fact grant application for the 2022 Park and Recreation Development (PARD) Grant to replace the current playground equipment and install new structures. Requested funding of \$27,443.37 with a 20% City match of \$6,861.09. The deadline for this grant application is January 14, 2022. The City match of \$6,861.09 will come from 523000-52435 Maintenance, Playground Equipment.

(Parks – Capital Projects: Approval of JPR Ballpark Electrical Renovation Change Order #2 with Gatch Electrical Contractors, Inc., in the amount of \$10,895.40 for the installation of additional fire alarm devices in the batting cages. Approval of Change Order #2 will increase the construction contract by \$10,895.40 (from \$1,722,925.09 to \$1,733,820.49). Approval of this Change Order will amend the project budget, increasing the project budget from \$2,400,822.91 to \$2,411,718.31. This will also approve a budget transfer of \$10,895.40 from 170100-52410 (Facilities Maintenance, General Maintenance) to 170100-90010 (Transfer Out JPR Jr., Ballpark) to fund this Change Order. The funding source for this project is the General Maintenance line-item in the JPR Jr., Ballpark Budget (023010-52410).

(Parks-Capital Projects: Approval of Cannon Street Fire Station #6 Retrofit Fee Amendment #2 with Evans and Schmidt Architects, LLC in the amount of \$26,250 for the extension of construction observation service through January 2022. The approval of Fee Amendment #2 will increase the professional services contract by \$26,250 from (\$338,955 to \$365,245). Approval of this Fee Amendment will amend the project budget, increasing the project budget from \$5,554,229 to \$5,754,229. This additional funding of \$200,000 is coming

from 2019 General Fund Reserves. The funding sources for the project are: FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant (\$3,378,171.75) and 2015 IPRB Bond (\$1,126,057.25), 2015 General Fund Reserves (\$269,000), 2018 General Fund Reserves (\$781,000), and 2019 General Fund Reserves (\$200,000).

- (Parks-Capital Projects: Approval to convert Stoney Field Improvements Purchase Order P162743 to a Professional Services Contract with Johnson, Laschober & Associates. The original PO was for \$37,250 and this request will add an additional \$24,500 for pre-construction services, coordination and close-out services for the Stoney Field Improvement Project related to the civil sitework construction. Approval of the Professional Services Contract will convert P162743 to a professional service contract and increase the contract amount by \$24,500 (from \$37,250 to \$61,750). Funding sources for this project are: 2005 GO Bond (\$399,048.85), 2018 Recreation GO Bond (\$2,600,000), and Capital Contribution (\$19,432.50).
- (Parks-Capital Projects: Approval to apply for a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Application – 4492 (COVID-19) – Structural Retrofit of FS2&3 (Central Station). The application will request \$6,506,558 in Federal funds with a City match of \$5,000,013. This project will address seismic, wind/hurricane and flood hazards. This application is due February 1, 2022. Funding for the City Match of \$5,000,013 will come from General Fund Reserves.
- (Housing and Community Development: Request the Mayor and City Council approve \$78,500 in funding for the demolition of four (4) existing structures located at 3, 5, 7, and 9 Cunnington Avenue, Charleston, SC and asbestos abatement of one (1) structure located at 7 Cunnington Avenue. This parcel was acquired for the purpose of creating affordable rental housing, and the demolition of these structures is necessary to further facilitate this project.
- (Legal Department: Approval to authorize the Mayor to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the Charleston Parks Conservancy to improve the Susie Jackson Freedom Memorial Garden.
- (Police Department: Approval to accept the FY21 BJA-OJP Connect and Protect Grant for \$412,236 for a Mental Health Clinician, one Peer Support Specialist, and Crisis Intervention training. There is no match required for this grant. The estimated annual cost to continue the program after conclusion of grant is \$160,000.
- (Mayor's Office for Children, Youth and Families: Approval to submit the renewal grant for VISTA, which allows the City to provide up to 25 VISTA member slots to Charleston non-profits, and to receive 2 VISTA Leaders to serve in MOCYF. There is no match required for the City-per the terms of the grant. The cost share funding will be covered through Site Fees received from participating organizations.
- (An ordinance to authorize the Mayor to execute a permanent right-of-way and utility easement to the Commissioners of Public Works as part of the new force main for the Credit One Stadium. (TMS No. 275-00-00-078)
- (Request approval of the Port Facility License Agreement between the City of Charleston and the South Carolina State Ports Authority ("Ports Authority") for use of Building 313 at the Union Pier Terminal for the purpose of storing the Fire Department's marine firefighting and rescue equipment. (32 Washington St., Charleston, SC (Union Pier Terminal, Building 313) (TMS No. 459-13-02-035). The property is owned by the South Carolina State Ports Authority.
- (Request that City Council authorize the Mayor to execute the necessary documents for the re-purchase of 3 Drews from the Estate of Lillian A. Miller for

\$171,504. The property will be rehabilitated and sold for its original purpose – affordable homeownership opportunities for persons whose income does not exceed 120 percent of the Area Median income. The cost of the acquisition of this will be borne from the Fee-in-lieu account. (3 Drews Court, Charleston, SC) (TMS No. 459-05-01-056).

(Please consider the following annexation:

- 2309 Lazy River Drive (0.46 acre) (TMS# 310-14-00-017), West Ashley, (District 11). The property is owned by Seel Living Trust.

First reading was given to the following bills:

An ordinance to authorize the Mayor to execute a permanent right-of-way and utility easement to the Commissioners of Public Works as part of the new force main for the Credit One Stadium. (TMS No. 275-00-00-078)

An ordinance to provide for the annexation of property known as 2309 Lazy River Drive (0.46 acre) (TMS# 310-14-00-017), 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 Seel Living Trust.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Next up is [bills up for third reading.](#)"

Councilmember Shahid said, "Mr. Mayor, I move to defer."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "A motion to defer. Do we have a second?"

Councilmember Seekings said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Any discussion?"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie.

Councilmember Gregorie said, "I think that a deferral, at this point, would just be delaying the work that really needs to get started here. I think that we should, I know we have to vote on the deferral, I really think that we should move forward with approving the ordinance, as outlined in our packet, and once approved, we can consider amendments forever. I think that we're at a pivotal point, as a City, and that we listened to, what I consider, the next generation speak. I heard about the 1,500 signatures, but I represent 12,000, 13,000 residents of the City of Charleston. Some on James Island and some downtown and I'm not getting, from my 12,000, any pushback on approving the ordinance as outlined in our packet. I just think that it would be a mistake for us to even consider deferring, especially based on untruths.

We all know that CRT is not a part of our part, we know that defunding police is not a part of the ordinance before you, and we know that the term 'reparations' is not a part of what is being submitted. And a lot of people are afraid of that word, but I think most of the attorneys on Council clearly understand restitution and reparations because it's the essence of what they do in a criminal case. They ask for restitution, they ask for reparation where there is damage, so I don't think that that should be a term that we should be afraid of. Secondly, reparation doesn't necessarily mean money, a dollar allocation, at all. I think that the Civil Rights legislation of the '60s was probably the largest reparation bill ever passed by this Council. The Fair Housing

legislation was one of the largest reparation bills ever passed in this Country. And why? Because there was discrimination occurring in our Country. That's been blatant.

This is reminding me of moving backwards. I thought that we were a Council that would be moving forward. I would be embarrassed right now after my picture, along with my colleagues, were in Sunday's paper saying that we were in support of what is before us now. I think we do a disservice to our constituents when we backtrack, flip-flop, because they really have no idea where we really stand. I think the fact that we were in the paper, jointly authored the editorial, which clearly stated that we supported what was in this document, I don't understand what occurred between Sunday and today that would change the minds of those who supported something on Sunday, but now wants to defer. I have no problem at all with amending, just as we did with the BID, and we voted it forward clearly understanding that it wasn't complete, that over time we would be putting the flesh on it. This is no different. Let's not, as a Council, put in systemic policy within this document because that's what we're doing. We're talking about eradicating systemic discrimination in our Country as we attempt tonight, through amendments, eventually, to place restrictions on a document, on a proposed Commission, before it even gets started. It doesn't sound right to me that we, as a Council, are about to place amendments in a document that fosters systemic, institutionalized policies against specific groups, and I think that's what we are about to do. I think the right thing to do is for the seven or eight of us who supported it, put forth an editorial saying we supported it, to move forward and be prepared to deal with any amendments that come thereafter. I've got 10 minutes? I still have 15 minutes, right? Okay. Some of the amendments that I read were frightening. It was frightening that in the 21st Century that we have amendments that would restrict participation on a Commission simply because we participated in a temporary Special Commission which completed its work. It completed its work.

So, to me, deferring this is just delaying what, not just African Americans, but people of the City have been waiting for, for a long time. I think we also need to understand that when we talk about race, we're not just talking Black. When we say racial conciliation, we're talking about the protection of every single person in this room. It just so happens, given our history as a Country and as a City, the group that has been mostly vilified throughout history is the group that the Commission wants to focus on, at this point. Race protects everyone, Whites, Blacks, Jews, Asians, everyone. So, when we start taking the term 'race' and immediately associating with African Americans, I think we're making a big mistake. I listened very closely to my colleague, Peter Shahid, who talked about the walnut test. That's why we have color as a protected class. Color is a protected class because of that. In itself, the African Americans, it was a paper bag test very similar, so color is a protected class. If I'm an African American, and I'm looking at advertisements, and all of those advertisements are White people, what message does that send to me as an African American? The message is that I'm not wanted, at all.

I worked in Civil Rights for a very, very long time, and some of what I've read, that's now a part of the public record, if the City was to even think about passing some of it, I'd be the first to try a Class Action Suit against this City if we ever put those kinds of negative, discriminatory, systemic policy provisions in anything that the City does. I've been around long enough to know that there's a reason why the Joseph Floyds exist. There's a reason why the Manor exists. If I was to advise the people at Joseph Floyd Manor, I would advise them to bring a Class Action Suit against the County and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for discriminating, for allowing them to live the way they live, and I have worked on those cases, some as much as a \$26 million settlement because of discrimination in housing.

So, I say all of that to say, folks, let's put our big shoes on, and let's take the heat because we will get some heat, and move this bill forward, and stop playing games. Because no matter what we put forward at this point, there will be amendments. That's the way it works. So, just as we did for the BID, I think we should be doing the same thing here, get this thing passed, and as time moves forward, we continue to make it better. Let's not delay this. I think deferring this would be a big mistake. I'd hope that the new generation on this Council would be moving things forward. I'd hope that people on this Council who understand discrimination, who understand the killing, and the murdering, and the genocide of a people would not have any hesitation to vote 'yes' on human affairs, which is all encompassing, folks. It really is.

The name does make a difference because it's casting a much wider net. We thought in our negotiations, Councilmember Sakran, as we gave up so much to get to where we are, so much, that this would be it, but I think if we delay tonight, we'll be delaying on this infinitely. My 15 minutes is up I'm sure because I hear these two in the corner talking. Councilmember Seekings, I'm a little disappointed, and I'm going to tell you why. It was your vote, it was your one vote that got the apology through. Your vote made the difference. Now, as we move forward, and the apology was very clear that this is where we were headed and you voted for it, now, all of a sudden, you're not for it. Councilmember, and I'm going to shut up, Councilmember--"

Councilmember Parker said, "Did we amend the time to ten minutes?"

Councilmember Gregorie said, "No, it's 15. Councilmember Appel, you voted to send the report to Council for consideration as a member of the Commission, so, yes, I'm shocked at what happened. I really am. So, I think that we really need to put our 'for the greater good' hats on and move forward. Thank you, Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid followed by Councilmember Mitchell.

Councilmember Shahid said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I want this to be heard very loud and very clearly. My support for the passage of this ordinance has not waived. I want this ordinance to be passed successfully. When we voted and debated this two weeks ago, all of us in this Chamber spoke very eloquently from different perspectives on our positions with this. What was really interesting is that not a word of what we said in this Chamber was ever published. It got completely ignored in the public, and if people would have read, or watched, or heard, or paid attention to what was said, they would have understood our vote. It was very compelling. All of us spoke from our hearts and our minds and our personal experiences.

When Councilmember Brady made the motion that we just take a second vote and delay the third vote, it was sort of my feeling, and certainly from my perspective, an opportunity to give our citizens an opportunity to talk, to share, and to express themselves with us and for us to hear it, and I did that. I took the time out to have a Citizens Participation meeting on Zoom. Several of you, who are in this room, participated in that. You all listened in, some of you all talked, and I had the opportunity for the very first time to hear a rational response as to what people's objections were to that report.

Councilmember Gregorie, you are absolutely correct on several points, one of which I want to highlight. That is no matter what we do, if it's tonight or two weeks from tonight, there is

a small, minority segment in this community who are hell-bent on seeing this Commission fail. There is no question about it, and those are the comments that we have received because there are folks out there deliberately trying to divide us, and there are folks and groups of people who are out there deliberately passing out misinformation among us. We heard it tonight. I mean, we have stood on our heads saying a thousand times that this Commission is not bound by the prior Special Commission. It's not here to promote defunding the police, it's not here to promote critical race theory, and it's not here to promote slave reparations. No matter how long we say that, how loud we say that, people don't want to hear that, and it is discouraging. It is disappointing. It's rather sickening, quite frankly, but there are people who want to divide us and hurt this community, and it saddens me.

But, I have to give credit to at least the folks who reached out to me. We sat down, and we had a very candid conversation, and I heard from them, which was consistent with some of the people I heard last Thursday, as to some of their concerns. So, I asked them to put it in writing, what those amendments were, and some of them I agree with, some of them I don't agree with. I talked with our Legal Counsel and found out that we can't take out those amendments tonight unless we have a unanimous vote on Council, which I know is not going to happen, to do that.

So, here are our options. We can vote on this ordinance as it's written right now, with the draft that's on our table, knowing that there are a few things that we need to address. One of them is how the Commission is formed, the vote on how that's done, and I think people I've talked to seem to agree that that needs to be addressed. There may be some other things that some of us will agree with and some of the things we may not agree with with some of those proposed amendments, but at least let's do this in an orderly fashion so that we get this thing done and get it passed and move forward with it. That's the only way I see of doing it. It's not for delay, it's not to buckle under this massive misinformation campaign that's been going on, it is simply what I see as my obligation, as a member of this Council, to listen to differing viewpoints and differing points for my constituents and others as to how to make this Commission stronger and better. So, that is my only motivation, to allow those people to express themselves to me. Those who wish to see the success of this Commission, I think we have an opportunity to do that, and I think that this is the way forward to doing that. I would ask that you all vote in favor of deferral, we come back, we sit down very quickly, and we have an amended version that's on our desks well in advance which fulfills the obligations of our ordinance as to how this is to be passed, and then we move forward. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Mitchell.

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Mr. Mayor and colleagues on Council, I first came in, and I said my heart was heavy. That's why I called my minister to come and make the invocation. I have sat in this Council Chamber a long time, ever since 1998, with various colleagues, got off of Council, the community called me to come back, and I came back on Council. I am just very appalled with my colleagues when we are talking about this Commission, that we voted and sent these people out to do this, what they have done, and we know that whatever they have brought back is not what Council is going to vote on or approve everything that they brought back. It was almost to me like a guide that we're going to use to channel through to make the City of Charleston the best place for everyone, for my young people, your young people, white, black, blue, green, it doesn't matter.

I have been out here awhile in these streets, in the Civil Rights Movement and everything, and seen what happened through the years, much more than anyone sitting around

in this Chamber from all of my colleagues. I have seen what takes place. What are we afraid of? Making decisions right here, what we were elected to do. People are going to beat you up. I got beat up all of these years before some of the Councilmembers, my colleagues, who are here now, but I can make my decision, and I can stand by my decision. You might not agree with it. Some of the people in the community don't agree with a lot of the decisions I made, but I will tell them my decision, why I vote the way I voted. I'm not afraid to vote. I'm not afraid of losing a seat sitting in this Chamber because this seat doesn't belong to any one of us. None of us here own these seats. We are just elected officials, and if you can't go and explain to your constituents why you are voting and what is taking place, the problem is on you and not me or anyone else.

I've got a very, very, and anyone can tell you, a very diverse community, and no one in my community has called me back pertaining to this at all, as of today, at all. I just went through an election, and if you look at my election numbers, the majority of the people who voted for me were not the people who look like me in my district, the district I represent, District #4. So, I'm not afraid to lose a seat. I'm just here as an elected official to represent a district where they voted for me. So, if you all are sitting here afraid to lose your seat, you need to get up and go home. That's the way I take it, and I was saying this way back when since 2006. If you're afraid to lose a seat because you think people are not going to vote for you because you're voting for an issue that's on Council that you took an oath up there to do, then you need to get up and go home. That's the way I look at it.

That's why my heart was so heavy coming in here to see my colleagues saying, 'oh, we need to change this, oh, we need to amend this,' all of these bunch of amendments. How long did we have this out here? We gave it first reading, we gave it second reading, and normally we do second and third reading. We gave it second reading and held it off another two weeks so people would know what's happening with this Commission. Did that make a difference? No. The same people came back to this Council saying the same thing, and they're bringing 1,400 people here that live in Mt. Pleasant, Goose Creek, Charlotte, North Carolina. That doesn't bother me because I'm not representing them. I'm representing the people in the City of Charleston. Why are you going to come here and tell me what to do in the City of Charleston? You need to do what's best for the City that you live in. I was very appalled with that, but I read every last one of them. Mt. Pleasant, Mt. Pleasant, Mt. Pleasant, City of North Charleston, Summerville, this place, that place. Come on, people.

None of you here have walked the roads that a lot of people have walked and went through what they had to go through. That's not only African Americans, that was Whites too. When they were out there with me, I saw the abuse that they took because they knew it was unjust what was happening to people. Up and down King Street, they saw the injustice that was happening. Sit down in a restaurant, arrested. Even the Whites that sat down in a restaurant with us, they arrested them afterwards because they knew they were along with us. So, you all only see half of what's happening, a half of what's going on. You all just heard about it. I was there.

So, that's why my heart was heavy. I start hearing my colleagues talk about, 'well, we have to do this because we have to do this amendment. We've got to take this out and amend this,' and 'oh, if we do this, then people will be satisfied if we make an amendment.' Oh, come on. You make a decision, and you stand by the decision you make. That's what it's all about. That's why we are sitting in these seats, to make these tough decisions that are for everyone, not just because a group comes and tells you, 'oh, I don't think we need to have this in there, you need to take this out,' and you come back to Council and they say, 'oh, we need to take this

out because they're not satisfied with these words or that phrase.' How many other phrases did people have to take for years and years? So, that's my problem.

I grew up in the City of Charleston. I'm 73 years old, walked these streets up and down, been out in these streets, and when I come to my colleagues here and I look at them, we're looking at diversity. Even when you saw the article in Sunday's paper, that was something that looked great. Why? It was diverse. It was all of one. So, I say, 'oh, there's a change coming,' and I came right back in this Council and see the same thing happening what happened years ago. There is no change. I'm looking for the change in my lifetime. I'm probably not going to see it, but I was looking for it. Let us come together and just come on, let's move it forward, move things forward, and stop being stagnated and go backwards. And that's all we are doing, moving backwards. That's what I see every day. That's why I said to this Council when I came in here, and it really bothered me when I walked through this door, and I started hearing things. It bothered me. That's why I said, 'I'll vote for it, I'm going to vote for it.' People are going to do what they're going to do anyway. I don't care what kind of stuff you put in this proposal, people are not going to change their mind. It doesn't matter what you say, what kind of changes you make, you're still going to have a whole group that are still going to say the same thing. So, you just need to go ahead and approve it, go with it, it will still come back later. It will be all done. We have done it before, many times, because they couldn't see. They had the blinders on. Now, it's time to take those blinders off and we, as Councilmembers here, took that oath up there when the Mayor gave it to us. And some people say, 'oh, I've got to run again this year, people aren't going to vote for me if I do this.' Who cares? We are all sitting down here and saying, 'oh, we serve a God who sits high and looks low.' I don't know sometimes which God sometimes people are serving because he is wanting you to comfort everyone, everyone. He is a God for everyone, but he's looking for you to do what is right, what is right, not because this wants you to do it or someone else wants you to do it. I don't vote that way. You all see me sitting down here. You see me holding my hand and my head down sometime. You know what I'm doing? I'm praying sometimes because I don't know what decision to make, but I can hold my head up. I can make my decision and hold fast to it. And if anyone comes to me, I can say, 'well, I voted this way. This is why I voted. You might not agree with it,' but in the long run, they will say, 'oh, you know, I can see what you were saying.' I don't play the games. Time is short. Now, someone might be in these seats pretty soon, but we've got young people coming behind us, and they say, 'those people before us, they did nothing, leaving us with all of the problems again.' Mr. Mayor, I'm finished."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. The motion on the floor is to defer."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Sakran.

Councilmember Sakran said, "Thank you, Mayor. Hopefully, my mic works this week. I will not be taking the total 15 minutes, but I just want to say, for the record, this is probably the most difficult vote for me. I think many know where I come from, where I stand on the issue of the Commission, where my heart lies. I'm going to have a difficult time tonight because I do want to acknowledge Councilmember Gregorie and Councilmember Mitchell's comments this evening, but I think Councilmember Shahid made some points that I think need to be considered, and I'm not sure I'm going to vote for a deferral. I just want to be clear.

Councilmember Shahid had a Zoom meeting with some constituents earlier in the week, and it was a wonderful conversation to hear from folks that understood that there are disparities, but wanted to help us solve those disparities. That's a different conversation than some of the crazy e-mails I get that lack any narrative, any context, and flat-out think that we're living in fairy

land, and we're all getting along great, two different conversations. So, the conversations I heard from folks, and I had a great conversation from someone today that vehemently opposed the Commission, and he was respectful, and he was rational, but at the end of the day, he also acknowledged that there are disparities in our community. He mentors on the side, works at Sanders-Clyde, is a volunteer, and understands that we have systemic challenges here in Charleston. So, when I think about tonight's vote, I think about him, I think about our Black community, and I think about our minorities, and I think about our folks that have been disenfranchised.

I think we've got a polarizing issue here. There are folks that we're never going to get to agree to where we are, but it's like the gentleman I spoke with today, and I'm just speaking off the cuff because I'm speaking from the heart because this is a difficult decision, when I talked to the gentleman today that understands that we have those challenges, that wants to be part of the solution. I feel it's my obligation as a Councilmember who represents 12,000 people, but also a Councilmember that respects and understands that we have other Councilmembers that have constituents that may or may not agree with this. So, I also took an oath. I took an oath to represent my constituents, but I also took an oath to make sure the decisions we make are the best for all of Charleston. I'm not sure, again, if I'm going to defer or not or vote for a deferral. I really don't know, but I do know that I would rather reach out to those in the community that are willing to roll up their sleeves, acknowledge that the Commission needs to be formed, and let's work together to figure this out.

What I don't want is to rush through a vote this evening and start off on the wrong foot. What I don't want to do tonight is rush this through and make sure that everyone's voices have not been heard. I will fully agree this has been going on for two years, so for those that suggest that they haven't been part of the process or they're not aware, we've had multiple meetings. What other Commission has gone through three readings? Here we are at the 11th hour, talking about a deferral. So, I know I'm speaking out of both sides of my mouth, and I want to acknowledge that because I am very torn right now.

I think that's the extent of my comments. If we do defer this, I'm going to be very clear, if this does pass tonight, and we do defer this, any amendments that restrict in any way members that were on the Special Commission to be on this new Commission, that's a line in the sand that I will never support. Quite frankly, that's why we have this Commission. Number two, any amendments that prohibit the Commission from collaborating with the Charleston County School District, I don't believe I'm having to have this conversation in a Chamber here in the City of Charleston to address that. As a parent of a child that actually has two children in public schools, I find it offensive because it also means that you don't recognize that we do have disparities in our communities, particularly in education. The last thing I would say just before my time is up is I respect those opposing viewpoints. Those that come to the table that want to be part of the solution, I respect them, and I'll yield the rest of my time to anyone else. I'm done. Thank you, Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Appel.

Councilmember Appel said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I want to offer some remarks on the matter at hand. I'm reminded of the final meeting of the Special Commission when we took that final vote to send the report out of the Commission, and I sat through the whole meeting without making any comments. I think the meeting went for almost two hours, and at the close of the

meeting I raised my hand, we were on Zoom, and I said, 'guys, I think this work's been wonderful, I think there's a lot of great ideas that have been put forward, and I look forward to taking up these ideas through the Committee process and making some of these things real, making them ordinances, doing our job as legislators for the City of Charleston.' But, I said, 'I'm concerned about certain words and phrases in the report.' We all know what they are, and I don't want to repeat them and go back over them again. So, I just want to say that because I want to feel, and I know in my heart, that I have tried as long as I have been involved in this discussion to move this forward, whether it be the report, whether it be the Commission, in a way that is unified and primed for success as possible. We owe it to this Commission. It's going to happen, but I mean, as Councilmember Shahid said, whether it's voted on tonight or it's voted on at the next meeting, the Commission is going to happen.

To me, it all comes down to how can we put the Commission in the best position to succeed, to work? You know, coaches in sports are required to do this all of the time. It's about finding the way to set up folks to do their best and to work. I think part of my problem, and I expressed this at our last meeting, and I'm going to go over it all again, is it doesn't strike me as abundantly clear what the Commission is supposed to be doing. One of my objections to the Commission originally was that it has us straying into areas that really are outside of the City's purview. The City of Charleston is just one cog in a very complicated machine of government that we have in this country, and we all know what our limitations are. Just try to get a crosswalk painted on King Street, how many different departments we have to talk to around here. Government is complicated. If I thought for one second we could pass a Commission and just sweep away all of these issues from the past, it would be a very simple vote, but we owe it to the Commission to set them up for success.

I thought the editorial that I read in the paper this weekend was extremely well done. Frankly, it's the kind of stuff that we should have been doing perhaps a little bit earlier in the process. What I mean by that, as I mentioned at the last meeting, we've done a wonderful job talking amongst ourselves. I'm not quite sure we've done a very good job of communicating to the public what the Commission is supposed to be doing and what they're not supposed to be doing. So, I loved hearing at our last Council meeting, and double-downed on in the editorial, that we weren't going to be talking about defunding the police, that we weren't going to be talking about CRT to the extent it gets into school curriculum. School boards, that's their job, and also the issue of reparations. Those aren't my words, those are the words in the op-ed, those are the words that I heard from around this room at the last meeting. So, the day after our last Council meeting, I pulled up my Outlook, I got on my City e-mail account, and I e-mailed the Mayor, I e-mailed Councilmember Gregorie, I e-mailed Councilmember Sakran, and I said, 'guys, why don't we just add a simple amendment to this ordinance? Let's just say what you all have already said and what we've put into the op-ed that we're not going to be doing, the things we all said we're not going to be doing, that just so happened to be the things we have no control over as a practical matter, and they also happen to be the three things that have gotten the community the most up-in-arms about.'

Now, why am I saying this? Am I saying this just to over-lawyer an ordinance? No. It's because I want to vote for this thing. I want this community to be much more supportive and unified behind this effort. I know the goal is not going to ever be 100% by it. Councilmember Shahid is 1,000% right that there are people out there that are trying intentionally to deceive, to distort, and to destroy this thing, but, guys, I've got to tell you all something. We've made that job too easy for them. We've made that job too easy for them by using very charged words in our modern lexicon. Right or wrong, it's a fact of life. These words are radioactive and toxic. We've used them in a very confusing way, alright. Let's just pull back the buzz words, let's pull

back the national rhetoric, and let's focus on something that is unique to Charleston, that focuses on the things that we can control. Now, I went to Bishop England, I'm not a Catholic. I happen to be Jewish. I don't know if anybody knows that. I'm going to be horrible in paraphrasing this Catholic prayer, Councilmember Shahid, please pick me up if I fall to pieces here, but there is a prayer that the Catholics say, it's something about 'Give me the grace to do what I can control, but know what I can't control,' something along those lines."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "The Serenity Prayer, to know the difference."

Councilmember Appel said, "Yes, and for God to show me the difference, right? Like, we have to act with a little bit of humility as City Councilmembers. We can't change the world here. No Commission sitting on Zoom is going to do that, right? We owe it to our Commission. It's going to happen in this City. I want to vote for it. We owe it to provide them a path to succeed, and I think we can do that, and I loved hearing from the gentleman that came up and spoke earlier. I forgot his name. I think he's part of the group that met with Councilmember Shahid. He wants to support the Commission, right? It's not about whether we do a Commission or not, it's how we structure it and how we put it on a path to succeed that avoids some of the most toxic phrases and concepts, which we all agreed are not going to be part of this. It matters what's in these ordinances, words matter, details matter. Maybe they matter a little bit more to me because all I do is look at laws and ordinances all day, but having clear parameters set for the Commission will make it more likely, not less likely, that the Commission's work will ultimately succeed. It's our job, we're in charge as City Council, to put the parameters and the framework into place. So, I disagree with some of the more extreme proposals that I've heard floated around in terms of amendments. My request was very simple early on. Let's just put in the ordinance what you have all gone on the record multiple times stating we're going to do, and so that's what I think we should do. I'm in support of deferral. I'm ready to get started tomorrow working together to try to see if we can make a better ordinance and that's that. So, I appreciate the time. Thank you, all."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Councilmember Appel, if you will allow, I think Councilmember Waring wants to ask you a question."

Councilmember Waring said, "I do have a question. Can you crystalize it in a sentence or two what you would like to see the ordinance change include?"

Councilmember Appel said, "Certainly, Councilmember Waring. I mean, in my opinion, I think we should just have a line or two in the ordinance that just says that, after the list of about 10 or 11 things the Commission is supposed to do, we just say, 'here are the things that City Council is not authorizing the Commission to discuss, and that's critical race theory, as it relates to school curriculum, reparations, and defunding the police.' I sense from some of the comments earlier that somehow we're muzzling or we're restricting conversations. Well, to that I say, that's our job. Our job, we set the rules around here, not any Commission that's not elected by anybody.

I also represent 12,000 people, and they're not on board with some of these more extreme things. It's our job to set this Commission up for success. If we don't put language in the ordinance that precludes the consideration of those things, there is nothing to stop the first meeting of this Commission to be all about defunding the police, right? When we set up a Bike and Ped Advisory Commission, we don't want them talking about nuclear power plants in India. We tell them what they're supposed to work on. We set the rules. We're in charge. Speaking of which, I heard a wonderful speech from our Mayor earlier today. Some of those comments I've

heard tonight and throughout this process, you would think the City of Charleston has never done anything to rectify its undeniable sins of the past. There's no City in this State that does more for affordable housing than the City of Charleston. There's no City in this State that runs a more modern, progressive Police Department. Are we perfect on any of those issues? No, but we're trying, and we've done a lot.

I'm going to respectfully challenge all of us around this table, it's our job as legislators and elected officials to come up with ideas, move them through Committee, and make them law. We had a Community Development Committee meeting last week. There were two items on the agenda, an approval for a historic property tax credit so someone could make a buck on doing one real estate deal and an Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance where we're discussing restrictive covenants. We should be embarrassed around this table that the Community Development Committee agenda had two items on it after this report that we've talked about, with all of these different ideas. We're not doing our job around this table. We have all got to step our game up. Our job as City Councilmembers is not to wait until the agendas get pushed out to our inbox, and we get to read what we're going to be talking about. We're the legislative body of the City. It's our job. We can pick up any idea we want six months ago and run with it. I did it with the Minimum Parking Requirements Ordinance on King Street. Anybody around this table can do it for a matter that advances equity, for a matter that advances all of the goals and all of the things we do around the City. So, I kind of went off on a little tangent there, Councilmember Waring, but to boil it all down."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I think you answered the question."

Councilmember Appel continued, "To boil it all down, let's just put what you all said in the editorial into the ordinance."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Bowden.

Councilmember Bowden said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Thank you, my colleagues, for your words this evening. I'll admit sort of where my biases on this issue come from. I am a public defender. Some of you all know that. I spend an inordinate amount of time in jails, and I look through plexiglass to people who are locked up. There's really no other way to describe incarceration, but putting people in a cage like an animal, and I look at the people that I talk to, and I notice what color they are. So, I didn't understand what the opposition to this Commission was about because I see the urgency of the work that can be done to change lives, to change generations, to change our City's future. I want to thank some of the Councilmembers who have been singled out for 'changing their votes' when really what they have done is change their opinions based on fact. That's what we ask people to do, that's what we were all elected to do. The ordinance has changed. I followed it before I came to Council. It's different from what it was before. It's not requiring anybody to refer to the Commission's Report, although we asked that Commission to put together that report with a broad range of recommendations for us to consider.

I want to thank Councilmember Shahid for inviting me to his neighborhood meeting, essentially, although it was on Zoom, and I agree, I heard some feedback that was borne out of misunderstanding. When we reached the end of that meeting, I think it became clear to people that we are not creating some unelected board that is going to impose its will on our City. That is not what we are doing. To allow people to continue to say that without checking it is to give into cynicism. We can't do that tonight. I'm not going to vote to defer this. We've been accused of dividing our community. We've got to make a decision. I don't think that we can string this out

forever. When I go to seminars and trainings on trial practice, we hear all of the time 'show don't tell.' That's the stage we've reached. We have communicated, I was proud to join that op-ed in the paper, and we have reached the stage where it is time to show people that we are not lying. This is a Commission that is meant to consider ideas, and when in the world did we get so scared of ideas? So, I'm going to vote not to defer this tonight. If it reaches my desk, I will vote to advance this Commission, to create this Commission, and we can work to amend it afterwards, once we have gone about the difficult work of proving to people that we have been honest all along, and that's what I think we ought to do tonight."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Would anyone else like to be heard?"

No one else asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We have a motion on the floor. I would just make a comment, if I will."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Sakran.

Councilmember Sakran said, "It's not going to be long. I just want to make sure that folks that are listening, you know, this is part of the legislative process, and Councilmember Shahid made this point. The folks that we've heard from the past couple of weeks, we could not amend tonight's agenda ordinance to include any of that feedback because of the procedural, I don't know what to call it, I'm not the attorney, so we could not do that. So, that's where my head is, why I'm hesitant on where I'm headed because a deferral will allow us to basically add any additional changes and amendments. So, I just want to make sure folks that are listening are aware that this is part of the procedural piece that we're grappling with. It's not just an easy up or down vote. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Right."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Brady.

Councilmember Brady said, "Yes, I just had a point of order for Councilmember Shahid. Was your motion to defer, did it have a time limit to the next meeting? I just wanted to be clear that the motion on the floor was to defer, but have it be brought up at the following meeting."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "That it has what?"

Councilmember Brady said, "That it be brought up at the following meeting?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Correct. That would be our normal--"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Seekings.

Councilmember Seekings said, "Just briefly, I don't want to speak for my fellow Councilmember to my left here, but I think his motion to defer was based on the fact he met with some people, thought there were some amendments out there that would bring us closer together, not divide us further apart, and really for two weeks, vote for this motion to defer, see if those amendments go, and see if we can bring those people in. I mean, if we don't do this after the last time we said we were going to hold off on third reading because we wanted to hear from opposite and opposing points of view and, apparently I wasn't there, but plenty of people were,

the opposite, opposing points of view agreed on a few things that will make this better and give the direction Councilmember Appel so rightly points out. Every Commission we have has direction, and this one can use that to its benefit, and we at this Council can use this time to our benefit to show people we're listening. I urge you to vote for this motion to defer, then vote for it, and get this over with. It will be a unifying vote, notwithstanding some of the comments I think you all think it's not going to be, I think it will be."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, I was also going to point out some of the technicalities of where we are, and I'm sorry that this thing has become as difficult to get passed. I must say, in a way, Councilmember Sakran, I don't feel it's as difficult because this Commission is going to be created. We are going to create this Commission, gentlemen, and Councilmember Parker. So, we set ourselves up for this maybe in the way we handled it at our last meeting, and I thought it was very respectful of Councilmember Brady to have a second reading and put it off for third reading for more input to come in. The trick to that is the way our rules work, that if you're just bringing up something for third reading, it's got to be fully posted in our agenda package that goes out almost a week before the meeting for it to be debated and acted upon, and otherwise rather than having talked all night tonight about deferring it, we would have just been debating the amendments themselves. From my point of view, if the deferral succeeds, we're going to have those amendments on the agenda next Wednesday, so we can debate them at the next meeting and pass it. If the deferral fails tonight, I'm going to vote to approve the Commission, and then we'll bring forward the amendments next meeting anyway. So, I'm convinced, excuse the expression, come hell or high water, we're going to pass this Commission by two weeks from now and with some amendments. So, I believe that's the way it will play out, so it's not so difficult. I know I can be an impatient person sometimes myself, and I recognize, Councilmember Bowden, the urgency of this, we have been at this awhile, so one way or the other we're going to get there. This Commission is going to pass. Any other comments before we take a vote?"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Parker.

The Clerk said, "Councilmember Parker, I think you're on mute."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I actually think we could pass this tonight and still do the amendments in two weeks. We amend things all of the time. Now, I've looked at the amendments that Councilmember Shahid has brought forth. Actually, I saw it earlier today, and I think they are very sound and good common sensible additions. Councilmember Appel, I think your point is well taken and that should be included, as well, but I also think those things could be done in two weeks, even if we were to vote to put the Commission in place. There is no rule that says that we can't give guidelines, and that's all we're talking about doing to a Commission that has yet to be appointed. We're just voting tonight to establish the Commission. If I were to ask everybody in here who is going to be on the Commission, we don't have one name, so certainly we can do the guidelines within the next two weeks. If this were to fail tonight, I would want to put a motion on the agenda at the next meeting for the passage of defunding the police, for approving critical race theory, and for reparations. Now, I'm going to vote against that, but maybe that will give some skin to people around the table, such that if we have an unanimous vote voting down defund the police, we don't have anything to do with critical race theory, or approving reparations as discussed in that report. That would fail by the next time we meet the gentileperson who would be from Daniel Island. That would fail 13 to nothing.

I'm convinced of that, but by the same token, everybody around this table empowered to vote on this issue already knows none of that is before us tonight, and you said it right, Councilmember Shahid. You can shout it loud to the rooftop, and some people are just not going to believe it. The good gentleman that you spoke of, Councilmember Appel, I think he said he lived, I don't have his name either, but I think he said he lived at 1 Meeting Street. I, for one, think he would be a good person to put on the Committee because everybody shouldn't be in agreeing views. So, I think this deferral is just, frankly, a political deferral. In that, all of your suggestions, I agree with, but you're right, because of this third reading rule that we have, we can't add these unanimously, and if we can't add Councilmember's Appel's proposal unanimously, then we can't go forward with the third reading. So, from a procedural standpoint, I'd like Legal to come forth to say, if we vote to establish the Committee tonight, and we put these amendments, as proposed by Councilmember Shahid and will be by Councilmember Appel, can they be voted on, as you said Mr. Mayor, put it on the agenda next Wednesday, go out to the public, that we give guidelines to the Committee, to the Commission that we vote on to establish tonight? I think we can do one and the same. It's kind of like the ADU thing. We can have the private sector and supplemental ADU. Can you come up to the microphone and help my colleagues out?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Can you straighten us out here?"

Julia Copeland said, "Sure, Councilmember Waring. You can vote tonight on third reading, and then at the next meeting, we can have an amendment proposal, but that would have to go through three readings for an amendment to the ordinance, of course, but still the same track."

Councilmember Waring said, "That's okay. I don't anybody, a majority of this Council, that's going to vote against those amendments."

Councilmember Shahid said, "A point of order to Ms. Copeland's issue, if we defer it, and we come up with the amendments, then in two weeks we'll have a vote, and that will be it. If we vote not to defer it, and then vote on the ordinance as written, then we bring up the amendments, then we have to go through three readings, which means two weeks, plus another delay of two weeks. So, the most expedient way of doing this, as I understand from Legal Counsel, is to defer it until next week, put whatever amendments we want or don't want in there, and then there's an up and down vote, and we're done. We're finished."

Councilmember Waring said, "I understand, my colleague, but this has been anything but expedient. This has been anything but expedient, and even through that process of amendments, if there are some additional amendments to come forward, it gives us additional time. So, the public has put out there they hadn't had input, but we all know it's been almost a year-and-a-half now, all of the public meetings, as Councilmember Sakran has said so eloquently, all of them have been on YouTube. Now, I know a lot of people didn't participate, but it was not a closed process. So, even with this process, Councilmember Shahid, your good friend, who I'm looking at right now, and I'm not saying that to be sarcastic, these are some good suggestions. In two weeks, he may have one more that we can have time to include, but establishing the Committee, we need to go ahead and do it. Coming up with these amendments, we can do that in two weeks and take care of that. Yes, sir, Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "One week."

Councilmember Waring said, "One week."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "One week to get it on the agenda. Could I get one clarification, that if these amendments come forward, would we be able to vote up and down on each amendment, or we've got to take the whole package together? Because on some, we may not get agreement on each amendment."

Councilmember Waring said, "Well, the majority will rule."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Could I just clarify that? I would like to know."

Ms. Copeland said, "Sure. We would need a document with all of the agreed amendments posted for the public prior to the meeting for that third reading. If there are any additional amendments on the floor, then we're stuck with the same issue where we need unanimous consent to consider those additions."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Right, but each amendment can be voted up or down? Like we could add four of the five amendments and still approve the Commission, correct?"

Ms. Copeland said, "Yes, sir. You could do that. It's just you're adding things that's going to be the issue."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "They would all be on the agenda package for next Wednesday."

Ms. Copeland said, "Correct."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Say we come up with five amendments, I'm just wanting to make sure that, in case there is an amendment that everybody can't agree on, that we can still approve the Commission without having to go back to square one."

Ms. Copeland said, "We could do that."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay, just checking."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Seekings.

Councilmember Waring said, "Wait a minute now. I've still got my time. Counsel, please come back to the microphone."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Councilmember Shealy has not been heard yet. Yes, sir."

Councilmember Waring said, "I'm just trying to get clarity on it."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you, Councilmember Shealy. Again, if we establish the Committee tonight, and these amendments come forward in the same timeframe that the Mayor said, both can be accomplished."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "What's that?"

Councilmember Waring said, "Both can be accomplished. In other words, you say we're going to establish the Committee, I agree with you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes, sir."

Councilmember Waring said, "I think my colleagues, a majority of us agree with you. If we establish the Committee tonight, we have to come forward with guidelines. There aren't any guidelines, well, I would think the desire to come forth would guide. I don't see, again, I saw Councilmember Shahid's amendments before I came to the meeting tonight, and I don't disagree with any one of them. I don't disagree with anything that you've said tonight. Now, other colleagues would have to vote on them, but I don't understand, if we vote on establishing that Committee tonight, what harm have we created? Have we eliminated the ability to amend the guidelines? I'll yield to my colleague."

Councilmember Shahid said, "I think we're all saying pretty much the same thing. So, this may be the lawyer in me, but what I would consider to be the cleaner way of doing this is that we defer, and it comes back at our next meeting in two weeks with all, or some, or any additional amendments, we have it on our desks well in advance, we see it, we'll put a deadline on it of Wednesday, I think the Mayor said, and then we come back, and we vote it up or down, and then the Commission is formed, and it's a clear, clean report. The option is we don't defer it tonight, we vote for the Commission to be established, and then next week we come up with proposed amendments, and then it comes up for a first reading. Then, you wait two more weeks, and you come up two weeks after that for a second and third reading. So, I used the word 'expedient,' I know, right, it's been anything but expedient."

Councilmember Waring said, "We've already got a year-and-a-half into this."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Yes, but I think we're all on the same page of what we're trying to accomplish here, and I'm just trying to make it as clean and direct and efficient as we possibly can because I am going to vote for this Commission. You know I'm going to vote for this Commission. I've said that. I'm just trying to accommodate some of what, I think, are people with very good intentions and very good goodwill, you've heard me say that a thousand times--"

Councilmember Waring said, "I know where your heart is."

Councilmember Shahid continued, "To incorporate some of these amendments so that we send a very clear message to the community what we're saying here. We want to be inclusive."

Councilmember Waring said, "Okay, listen, for the balance of my time, I'd like to hear from Councilmember Shealy."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Thank you for letting me do that."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I'm sorry. Can I interrupt you because we've still not heard from Councilmember Shealy?"

Councilmember Waring said, "Yes, but I've still got, I haven't talked 15 minutes. I wanted to hear from Councilmember Appel."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We're going to hear from Councilmember Appel. A point of order, I think when your time is done, I get to be able to recognize someone who hasn't even spoken yet this evening."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shealy.

Councilmember Shealy said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I appreciate Councilmember Peter Shahid's deferral, and I tell you why. I listened in, and I was part of his neighborhood thing and exactly what he is saying, and anybody that was on there can understand that he didn't have these radical people to one side or the other. He had people that had genuine concerns, and he did a great job, an outstanding job, and several others pitched in on there. I was quiet for the most part, but it was a good conversation about their concerns. A lot of their concerns are exactly what Councilmember Appel was saying. If we vote to approve this tonight without these in here, we've got a very controversial situation going on, and we've got people that are going to be upset, and it's not going to be full buy-in if we don't listen to our constituents' concerns on this. If we say, 'nope, we're going to push it through, and then we're going to change it later, or we're going to add things later,' you know, Marvin Wagner used to say, 'it's not quite baked.' It only takes a few words to get that cake baked and to get this thing right. I really believe that if we defer this thing, and in two weeks get it right, we'll all be much better off. So, thank you, Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Appel.

Councilmember Gregorie said, "I think I'm before him. He spoke."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "He's spoken before."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Right."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, this is just a follow-up."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "I know, but mine is, too."

Councilmember Appel said, "It's his follow up. I'm fine with whatever."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Did you want to be recognized, as well?"

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Yes, and I think I was before Councilmember Appel."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I think you are. Yes, she had you on the list. I'll come right back to you next."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Yes. I agree with Councilmember Waring in my review of the amendments. You all should have my comments on these amendments because I do think that it's a good building block, that we're not going to take it exactly the way it is. There are some things that I may not agree with, but I've already sent to every single person on Council my comments to strengthen, not to weaken it, but to strengthen what was submitted by your constituents, so we're in agreement. But, I do think we need to vote this thing through and get it out of the way because we are going to be making amendments to this, not just in two weeks, I

think going forward and, remember folks, these are not the only recommended amendments. With all due respect to Councilmember Parker, she submitted amendments, as well, for consideration. So, when we talk about amendments, I think we need to talk about all of them and not exclude any of them, in all fairness to Councilmember Parker, who had some extensive recommendations with regard to the ordinance. But, again, I think we need to vote on it, get it out of the way, and move forward.

I have heard Councilmember Appel, and I agree with some of it, but I think when you start restricting totally a Commission, you're shutting them down, particularly when the basis of the Special Commission was the study done by Avery Institute, which clearly outlined disparities in certain areas including education. I totally agree with you of CRT. We're in the same place, but I think when you unilaterally tell a body that they should not have any discussions or interactions with any entity, I think it's wrong. It is against the law. It's wrong, and we shouldn't be putting that kind of stuff in an ordinance telling a group, 'don't talk to them, don't mention X,Y,Z,' How can you have a free-flowing experience without discussing things in total? And just to correct folks, the Special Commission was probably one of the most diverse groups I've ever seen in a group of professional people who have just as much status as any of us on this Council. So, I think we do a disservice to their efforts for a year-and-a-half when we use privilege to strap them down, and that's what it's sounding like to me. Privilege. You guys are too high and mighty, we've got to shut you down. Been there, done that throughout my entire life, my entire life, and I think as a Council we need to be careful. If we listen to the generation that was in here today, I am thankful to God for them because I think they have gotten the message that there is a need for this Commission.

So, in closing, I think we should vote for this thing now. We will be making amendments upon amendments, and some of the amendments that have been set forward, trust me, it's going to take longer than any meeting that we have ever had on this, based upon some of the recommendations I've seen. So, I am saying let's get this thing done because the amendments that I saw from fellow Councilmembers, it's going to take a long time for us to start going through them item-by-item, and those amendments were also submitted for consideration. So, with all due respect to Councilmember Parker, we can't discount hers. We have to take the amendments in totality. Thank you, Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you. Let's call the question to defer. We'll have a roll call vote."

Councilmember Appel said, "Just real quick."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "A follow-up? Yes."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Appel.

Councilmember Appel said, "I was just going to say, I'm very moved by Councilmember Shealy's words. What he said is exactly the reason why I've been stating my points at these various meetings. I want Councilmember Shealy to vote for this. I think we can get him there. I'm going to get there if we put in the work, we defer this, and we fix this ordinance up the way we talked about. If you all don't see the value in unity, I don't know what to tell you about that.

One other thing, I can't let this go unstated because this needs to be stated for the record. We've heard a lot about how this has been going on for a year-and-a-half. It is true the Commission has been meeting for a year-and-a-half. The first time we saw an ordinance to

make this Commission permanent was either August or September. I forget about when it was, but we were on Zoom, and I have to say it was a horrible, horribly drafted ordinance. Do you remember why? Because someone thought it was a good idea to put language in this ordinance that called on the Commission to implement the report the month after the report went down because of defunding the police, because of CRT, because of reparations. Someone thought it was going to be cute. We were going to sneak it in through the Commission.

The Commission would have been meeting for multiple months had that thing not been done. Councilmember Shahid and I, we were planning to vote for the Commission that evening, but it was those games, and here is the thing, our job, we are the legislators in this City. It's not staff, it's not the Commission, it's our job. What we're doing right now is our job. We debate legislation, we propose ordinances, we make amendments, there's nothing crazy about this. It took longer to get my parking ordinance passed than this Commission. So, let's stop with this whole, 'oh, we've been at this for so long.' We haven't even gotten started. Okay? So, let's get real about this, and let's start talking truth."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Let's call the question."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "That's not true."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "A point of order, Mr. Mayor. I think we called for the question."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "A point of order. Let's call the question. We'll have a roll call on deferral of this matter."

The Clerk said, "Councilmember Shealy."

Councilmember Shealy said, "Aye."

The Clerk said, "Councilmember Sakran."

Councilmember Sakran said, "Aye."

The Clerk said, "Councilmember Mitchell."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "No."

The Clerk said, "Councilmember Brady."

Councilmember Brady said, "Aye."

The Clerk said, "Councilmember Gregorie."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Nay."

The Clerk said, "Councilmember Waring."

Councilmember Waring said, "Nay."

The Clerk said, "Councilmember Seekings."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Aye."

The Clerk said, "Councilmember Shahid."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Aye."

The Clerk said, "Councilmember Bowden."

Councilmember Bowden said, "Nay."

The Clerk said, "Councilmember Appel."

Councilmember Appel said, "Aye."

The Clerk said, "Councilmember Parker."

Councilmember Parker said, "Aye."

The Clerk said, "Mayor Tecklenburg."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "The motion passes."

The Clerk said, "You have to vote, Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I'll vote 'no.'"

The Clerk said, "The motion passes."

On a motion of Councilmember Shahid, seconded by Councilmember Seekings, City Council voted to defer Item-L-1 on the agenda.

An ordinance to repeal and replace Chapter 2 (Administration), Article IV (Boards and Commissions), Division 11 (Special Commission on Equity, Inclusion, and Racial Conciliation) of the Code of the City of Charleston and adopt a new Division 11, Sections 2-206 through 2-210, creating a permanent standing "~~commission on equity, inclusion, and racial conciliation~~ Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission" and describing its purpose, duties, responsibilities, and organization. (AS AMENDED)(DEFERRED)

The motion passed 7 to 5.

The vote was not unanimous. Councilmembers Mitchell, Gregorie, Waring, Bowden, and Mayor Tecklenburg voted nay.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "The motion passes. I'm going to ask everyone here who has any kind of amendment to make to this matter to have it to our Clerk of Council by Tuesday, at the latest, so we can include it on the agenda package going out next Wednesday. Then, we're going to take the time, and we're going to vote up or down on each one of the amendments, and then we're going to vote to approve this Commission. Thank you all very much."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Mayor, as we get up to the second reading, I would like to take 1 through 6, and 7 and 8, as amended."

Councilmember Waring said, "Wait a minute, I have a point of order."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, "Can we do that on a third reading, Mr. Mayor?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I'm sorry?"

Councilmember Waring said, "I'm asking a point of order when it comes to all of the amendments because there are going to be quite a few on the issue just discussed. Can we take them one at a time on a third reading and vote them up or down?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "That's what I understand. I asked that question specifically a little while ago."

Councilmember Waring said, "So, we can't amend a third reading tonight, but we can amend it in two weeks?"

Ms. Copeland said, "This is all about the notice to the public."

Councilmember Waring said, "Okay. I'm sorry. I stand corrected. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Mitchell.

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Mr. Mayor, I'll take 1 through 6, and 7 and 8, as amended."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "1 through 6, and 7 and 8, as amended."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Yes."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, I did have one little correction to make to number 7 myself, so could we take that one separately?"

Councilmember Mitchell said, "I exclude 7."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay. 1 through 6, and number 8 together. Any discussion or questions?"

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Mitchell, seven (7) bills (Items M-1 through M-6, and M-8) received second reading. They passed second reading on motion by Councilmember Seekings and third reading on motion of Councilmember Mitchell. On further motion of Councilmember Shealy, the rules were suspended, and the bills were immediately ratified as:

- 2022 – 010** - AN ORDINANCE TO DESIGNATE THE 220 NASSAU DISTRICT AS A NON-STANDARD SERVICE DISTRICT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SEC. 30-171 THROUGH 30-178 THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON, SAID DISTRICT BEING LOCATED IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF CHARLESTON, STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT A, ATTACHED HERETO AND INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.
- 2022 – 011** - AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE FIRST AMENDMENT TO OPTION TO LEASE BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA AND THE LOWLINE HOUSING, L. P.
- 2022 – 012** - AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ANNEXATION OF PROPERTY KNOWN AS 2216 S DALLERTON CIRCLE (0.26 ACRE) (TMS# 310-07-00-044), 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 DANIELLE D. CERASI.
- 2022 – 013** - AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ANNEXATION OF PROPERTY KNOWN AS 1506 N EDGEWATER DRIVE (1.59 ACRE) (TMS# 349-09-00-026), 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 ELLISON C. AND JEANNE R. LIVINGSTON.
- 2022 – 014** - AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ANNEXATION OF PROPERTIES KNOWN AS 30, 32 AND 34 WEDGE PARK ROAD, 43 AND 49 LOLANDRA AVENUE (0.99 ACRE) (TMS# 418-13-00-254 THROUGH 256, 260 AND 262), 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 3. THE PROPERTIES ARE OWNED BY GLORY HOLDINGS, LLC.

2022 – 015 - AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ANNEXATION OF PROPERTY KNOWN AS 2319 LAZY RIVER DRIVE (0.62 ACRE) (TMS# 310-14-00-014), 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 CARL E. SEEL, SR. AND JEAN B. SEEL.

2022 – 016 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE II (CITY COUNCIL), DIVISION 1 (GENERALLY) OF CHAPTER 2 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON (ADMINISTRATION). (AS AMENDED)

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “My little correction, really it’s not an amendment to number 7, there was a place in 2-55 where we corrected the number of Councilmembers on Public Works from four to five, but in Sec. 2-50(b) it also lists the number of Councilmembers, and it should be changed from four to five, so that Councilmember Bowden will be on that Committee.”

Councilmember Waring said, “Five to six.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Five Councilmembers and the Mayor.”

Councilmember Waring said, “Okay.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Right. If that amendment is acceptable to everyone for second reading, do I have a motion? Can I entertain a motion to approve number 7, as amended, with that correction to 2-50(b)?”

Councilmember Shahid said, “So moved.”

Councilmember Waring said, “Second.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “We have a motion and a second.”

On a motion of Councilmember Shahid, one (1) bill (Item M-7) received second reading. It passed second reading on motion by Councilmember Waring and third reading on motion of Councilmember Mitchell. On further motion of Councilmember Brady, the rules were suspended, and the bill was immediately ratified as:

2022 – 017 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE II (CITY COUNCIL), DIVISION 2 (RULES OF ORDER) OF CHAPTER 2 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON (ADMINISTRATION). (AS AMENDED)

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Now, I believe our bill up for first reading has been deferred, so our next regular meeting, as we have discussed at great length, is going to be on Tuesday, February 8th. Now, you all got from Dale Morris a very long letter from the Corps of Engineers I think just the other day including the revised map of the Peninsula Protection Plan that they have tentatively approved or offered to us, and I thought that memo was quite dense, if you will. Then, in addition to that memo, I will be sharing with Council a letter that we are submitting to

the Corps of Engineers indicating all of the things that we have to have from them in order to move to the next level of this study. So, I would like to propose that the week after the meeting of the 8th that we have an additional full meeting, again, just dedicated to the Corps Study. It's pretty complex, and I think we need a little time to sort that out and get a presentation on that. Is that okay with everybody? Assuming that's without objection, our Clerk of Council will check with you all in the next day or two and see a day that works for everyone. If somebody will just fill up about 30 more seconds while I sign the rest of these bills here, we'll be good to go."

The Clerk said, "And, Mr. Mayor, our next Council meeting will be on Johns Island."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Oh, that's right. Thanks for that reminder and, you all, I mentioned in my State of the City Address about our Mentoring Fair. The City has never done this before. It's pretty cool. We've got a number of organizations that do mentoring, and they're all going to be there, Arthur Christopher Gym, Saturday, February 6, and they'll be sharing with the public what kind of work they do, who they mentor to, in the hopes that we'll sign people up to mentor kids in our City this year. So, I ask, you all, please, in your own social media networks and etcetera, to pass the word and invite people to come by the Arthur Christopher Gym on the 6th. I'll get Mindy Sturm to send you all a little notice that you can maybe e-mail or post on your social media to promote that. Thank you. Anything else for the good of the order?"

No one asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We stand adjourned."

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Jennifer B. Cook
Clerk of Council