

CITY COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING

Regular Meeting

February 9, 2021

The one-hundred and thirteenth meeting of the City Council of Charleston was held this date convening at 5:00 p.m. over video conference call (Zoom).

A notice of this meeting and an agenda were made available on the City's website February 4, 2021 and appeared in the Post and Courier on February 8, 2021.

PRESENT (13)

The Honorable John J. Tecklenburg, Mayor

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

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

The Clerk called the roll.

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

Councilmember Sakran opened the meeting with an invocation.

Councilmember Sakran then led City Council in the [Pledge of Allegiance](#).

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you very much. As I mentioned, we have a couple of guests with us tonight. I received a letter not long ago from a Sherry Moore whose father, [Mr. Julius Brown](#), after being born in Charleston and having a great career in Florida, Missouri, and elsewhere, came back home and has retired now, 85 years young. So, I thought with Black History Month being this month that we would honor Mr. Brown and also another gentleman, Mr. Campbell, who I'll speak of in just a few moments. Mr. Brown became a renowned laboratory research technician, and if the last year of Covid and pandemic didn't teach us anything but the importance of our medical professionals and researchers, I don't know what did. So, thank you for your service and your career. It highlights the importance of a good STEM education for our kids, to pursue science and technology. Don't leave out the arts and math. He was such an example, an inspiration to his own daughter, Sherry. She currently works in the laboratory at the Medical University of South Carolina. Mr. Brown and his wife Betty live on James Island and attend the First Baptist Church of James Island. Reverend Charlie Murray, who I think many of us know, is their pastor. So, Mr. Brown and Sherry, thank you for being with us. I have this proclamation, which I think I've sent to you all already. Mostly, it highlights my introduction that I just gave. I'll just add a few other things."

--INSERT PROCLAMATION--

Mr. Brown said, "Thank you very much."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Sherry, would you or your dad, Mr. Brown, like to make a comment to Council and the public?"

Mr. Brown said, "Well, I thank you very much, members of Council and Mayor Tecklenburg. I met you before when you came to our church, First Baptist Church, on the corner of Dills Bluff and Camp Roads. You were playing the piano, and I met you at the door. Thank you very much."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "God bless you, sir. Thank you for your years of service. Now, my friends, another notable Charlestonian, unfortunately, recently passed, [Mr. James E. Campbell](#). He was a native Charlestonian, really a national and local treasure, an acclaimed educator, Civil Rights advocate, journalist, widely known and respected. Mr. Campbell passed away just recently, Saturday, January 30th. He resided also on James Island. The family will not be able to join us tonight, but I did want to share with you that I sent the family a Resolution from myself and from City Council honoring Mr. Campbell. I bet that many of my colleagues here on Council knew Mr. Campbell. It's remarkable, I'll just highlight a few of his accomplishments. It's fascinating that he was born in Charleston back in 1925. He attended Immaculate Conception School, right on Coming Street, and the Vorhees Normal and Industrial School in Denmark, South Carolina. In 1943, he joined the Marine Corps and served honorably in WWII. After the war, he attended Morgan State College in Baltimore, but he was called back in and served also for two years in the Korean Conflict. James Campbell returned to Morgan State. He graduated in 1953 with a major in English and minor in Theatre. After graduating, he formed the Arena Players. It's the longest, continuously running black theatre company in the United States. This is remarkable.

In 1957, he relocated to New York City to teach and become involved in the Civil Rights Movement. There, he met Malcom X, with whom he created the organization of Afro-American Unity's Liberation School. He also taught in Tanzania for over ten years before moving back to New York and then, finally, retiring back here in Charleston, where he remained active in local political and educational issues. He served as the state coordinator of the South Carolina Project, an advisory board member for the School of Education at the College of Charleston, and chair of the Education Committee for the Charleston Branch of the NAACP. James Campbell rightly earned the respect, admiration, and high regard for all he came in contact with, and the City of Charleston has sustained a really great loss in his death. I resolve, from the Mayor and from City Council and all our citizens, our condolences to the family. But, he was one fine Charlestonian. He always ran into me and always had a good word of advice for me, as I bet he did for many of you, as well."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, "Mayor, I just wanted to remind everybody that he graduated from Immaculate Conception School and, as many of us know, that was a segregated school of a catholic church for a number of years. The alumni from that school is very impressive. They have gone on, many of them, including Mr. Campbell, obviously. But, I just wanted to recognize that school. I know Councilmember Waring is laughing because he knows what I'm talking about. The Immaculate Conception, when it was closed, merged into other schools and other schools closed, and we now have Charleston Catholic School, and of course your children, and my

children, attended that wonderful school. So, the legacy of that is continuing, but I just wanted to make a comment about the contribution that IC made to the Charleston community, to men and women like Mr. Campbell. Thank you.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Absolutely.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, “Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Thank you for recognizing both of these gentlemen, Mr. Brown and his family, as well as Mr. Campbell and his family. I’ll tell you, anybody who had an opportunity to meet Mr. Campbell, he was just memorable. Walking history, I can’t tell you how interesting of a character he was. Recently, they had a birthday party for him. This was during COVID, so it was a drive-by birthday party on James Island. I’m not kidding, there was a traffic jam to drive by this gentleman’s house just to wave and wish happy birthday to him. I won’t speak at length about this, but he was also a Montford Point Marine, which was during the days of segregation during the military he served. Obviously, they had a lot of trials and tribulations at that base. This was during WWII. That group stayed together. During his 95th and 96th birthday drive-by, the Montford Point Marines and that group were still there to recognize Mr. Campbell and his accomplishment. That whole family, the Campbell/Seabrook family, just very well done, obviously, the Brown family. Thank you for recognizing these families, in particular during this month of recognition. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Yes, sir. Alright, well we’ll move right along with our agenda. Next up is our approval of City Council minutes, but I see they were deferred. So, that brings us right up to our Citizens’ Participation Period. Madam Clerk, do you want to lead us through that?”

The Clerk said, “Yes, sir. We have [12 people](#) signed up to speak tonight. Would you like to set a time limit?”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Two minutes would be great with 12 people. Thank you.”

The Clerk said, “Our first speaker is Brian Turner. Mr. Turner, if you’re on the line, if you could press *6. Brian Turner.”

1. Brian Turner said that he represented the Preservation Society of Charleston. He was the brand new Director of Advocacy and was looking forward to getting to know them. He commented regarding Agenda Item M1, related to the creation of the Coastal Flood Risk Committee. They urged the City to move quickly and decisively to identify and fund solutions to flooding and stormwater management and strongly encouraged a community supported process to get that done. As joint funders of the Waggoner & Ball Perimeter Protection Analysis, they learned first-hand that data and direction were the key elements to succeed. They wanted to offer three suggestions to improve on the structure of the proposed new committee. The first was that the large size of the committee could slow the process, and they urged a more surgical approach to gain consensus around solutions and supported a more rapid response to address immediate flooding issues. The second was that the proposed composition had been thin on technical experts that could inform the Army Corps’ pending environmental analysis. Informed comments from the City would be crucial in the process, especially making the case for broadening the Army Corps’ proposed scope of work. Third, the City should remove fundraising from the committee scope and focus its primary initial efforts on technical review. They needed a final plan with defensible solutions to

- convince prospective funders. To get there, the City should use the committee to realize the data-driven plan to address all types of flooding, stormwater, and sea level rise issues.
2. Jason Jones, founder of United Front Charleston, stated that over the weekend they had the Stop the Hate Rally at the Battery to double down on the message they sent out at the last City Council meeting and to honor Muhiyidin d'Baha, who was a great activist in this area. He had sent out another email to the majority of Councilmembers that day with the main point. The main point, number one, was that the City should no longer allow Flags Across the South to operate within their City. He sent several documentations showing this group was a hate group, hate language, threats on his life and other lives of other black leaders in the City. The group had threatened to demolish statues that were put up in honor of black figures because they were afraid of statues coming down of Confederate figures across the Southeast. The second part was that they needed to make that area of downtown a no protest zone. Third, and most important, the City should go back and revisit the resolution, and it should be moved back to the original wording. There were groups right now that meant to bring hate, malice, and discontent. They were all white nationalists, neo-Nazis, or white supremacy groups, and those groups needed to be spelled out. They wouldn't have resolve until they were.
 3. Rita Kazirskis asked how many of them remembered watching the crowds gather outside the College of Charleston a few years ago and seeing a young man snatch a flag pole from a member of a white supremacist group. This was shortly after the Mother Emanuel shooting. She asked how many of them watched the video of a grown man breaking a flag pole over a young protestor's back this past summer. The white men who supported the show of white supremacy at the Battery had laid their hands on 50 year old women at least three times in the past few months. She asked if they knew about the time someone showed up with automatic weapons at the Battery, the times that militia showed up there, when someone was playing with a long gun and aiming it across the park, when someone showed up with a grappling hook, or when a man stopped his car and got out to threaten protestors. She asked if they knew how many cars stopped in the street when the protests were going on. Before someone got hurt, or worse, they should do something. The area at the Battery and White Point Gardens were high traffic areas with hundreds of people passing by every hour. The purpose of the park was to be a place where everyone felt safe and welcome to explore. She requested that these areas be designated a 'no-protest' zone. Until then, she requested that they immediately banned flag poles from those areas, as it was dangerous and unnecessary. There were much safer places for people to assemble for events when flag poles were necessary, such as Colonial Lake, Brittlebank Park, and Marion Square. She also requested that someone get with CPD and request that the officers assigned to the Battery on weekends at least exit their vehicles and stand near protestors.
 4. Theo Cogdill stated she was an activist involved in racial justice work and LGBTQ+ advocacy in Charleston. She had attended many protests since last June to speak out against racism, hatred, and white supremacy. The issue she wanted to bring to their attention was the group called Flags Across the South led by Braxton Spivey, whom she said was a man known to publically espouse white supremacist ideals and whom she had personally witnessed using derogatory language about and directly to black activists, hoping to cause a disturbance. She had seen members of Flags Across the

- South openly express racial hatred, twist the history of South Carolina and the nation to suit their white supremacist beliefs, and also watched them ignore health and safety guidelines by refusing to wear face coverings in a public area. She was a social studies teacher and understood and supported freedom of speech and freedom to assemble. She didn't understand why the City continued to approve permits for a white supremacist hate group to hold their demonstrations. When they counter-protested, many people walking by asked if that happened a lot and why there was a monument honoring the confederate dead anyway. Black children and black young adults were the ones she had conversations with that were the most important. They were angry and hurt that people were in a public park demonstrating beliefs that should have died with those that fought for the confederacy. She urged Council to recognize Flags Across the South as a dangerous white supremacist hate group and no longer approve permits for demonstrations by this group or its members.
5. Rose Marie said she wanted to echo her colleagues from the United Front for banning Flags Across the South from protesting or holding their rally at White Point Gardens. They went out of their way to threaten black leadership around Charleston and to take down Denmark Vesey. This was all on public forums, such as Facebook. They should also be banned from assembly because they refused to wear masks. It was counter-intuitive to have a masks required sign right next to a statue where a lot of people weren't wearing masks. She said that Councilmember Griffin had 36,000 people who wanted him to resign. 450 of them actually resided in West Ashley, and that was more people than actually voted him in. She asked him to resign.
 6. Greta Anderson stated she was one of the women that was assaulted by Flags Across the South at a recent event. She wanted to encourage them to work together to stop the weekly display of hate that took place at the Battery. They could start by asking the Police Department why they continued to issue permits. The group should not be getting permits when they were guilty of assaulting counter-protestors and refused to wear mask or social distance. If they couldn't work that angle, they could try to make the park a no-protest zone or ban flagpoles in public spaces. She had personally spoken with Mayor Tecklenburg regarding amending an ordinance to ban the size of the flag or pole that one could carry. She asked them to work together to make these things happen before someone was seriously injured.
 7. Marcus McDonald stated he was calling to represent CHSBLM. He was calling to talk about Black History Month, current black history, what it meant to him, and what was going on right now. He read the last resolution that was changed in the last two City Council meetings about white supremacy, and he wanted to reiterate one thing about the division. Division was already here. Many of them had read the State of Racial Disparity report released by Avery Institute. The racial wealth gap was already here. These groups didn't seek to divide the community, but wanted to keep the status quo and were afraid of what was coming. Flags Across the South and The Proud Boys, who had just been deemed a terrorist group by Canada, sought to keep that status quo. They demanded Councilmember Griffin resign immediately. There were over 36,000 signatures calling for his resignation. They had almost as many signatures calling for his resignation in his own district than he had votes in his last election. They had support from many people who helped in his last election.
 8. Tracey Owens stated that she wanted to echo what a lot of her colleagues had said. It couldn't be said enough because it seemed like there was no action on these issues.

Her concern was Flags Across the South and that they continued to get permits when they didn't follow the rules outlined in those permits. They didn't wear masks and had never worn masks. She had asked the police what they would do about that, and the answer was 'they weren't the mask police'. In July 2020, a member of Flags Across the South broke a flagpole over a young protestor's back, violating ordinances for parade permits. They clearly caused injuries to persons and property and continued to do so, yet they continued to be granted permits. She asked why they had ordinances if they weren't going to be enforced. She suggested that if they weren't going to adhere to the guidelines in the permits, that they banned flagpoles from the Battery or declared that area a 'no-protest' zone. She stated that since Councilmember Griffin had shown that he backed the very people the Hate Resolution spoke to, he should resign immediately.

9. Cashion Drolet, Historic Charleston Foundation, referred to Item M1 that was up for first reading. She encouraged Council to give first reading to the ordinance creating the Coastal Flood Risk Management Study Citizen and Business Advisory Committee. HCF commended Mayor Tecklenburg and Mark Wilbert for their work in bringing this forward. The City was wise to partner with the business and non-profit community to pursue an independent analysis on the Army Corps study. Waggoner & Ball made a series of recommendations on how to best navigate the Army Corps process and improve outcomes. Creation of this committee was commiserate with Waggoner & Ball's recommendations. Communication, transparency, and community engagement were key for building stakeholder consensus, particularly given what was at risk and the potential for such a huge infrastructure investment. It was important that this new committee's work began now, in advance of the release of the Army Corp's optimized plan and the second public comment period.
10. Jimmy Walker stated that he was there for the second reading on the 578 Meeting Street project. He was there to answer any questions or concerns.
11. Pastor Thomas Dixon stated that they were facing a clear and present danger, such as they had never seen before in this generation. There was unbridled and unrestrained hate fueled by white supremacy that was empowered and emboldened by the former President. He said these people were dangerous, strategic, home-grown terrorists. They were everything that they had told people Black Lives Matter was, which was a scenario they developed and sold to the public to demonize the movement for black lives, as they plotted the violent overthrow of the nation, state, and Charleston County. This was done under the banner of racial hatred in America, the Confederate flag, and it was done with the help of law enforcement officers, religious leaders, and politicians who were friends with these people. That was why they encouraged them to restore the original language of the resolution denouncing hate. These people didn't operate in a grey area. That was why they encouraged them to ban all public displays of the Confederate Flag within the City. It had no place in a City that wanted to be recognized for love and respect. They also encouraged Councilmember Griffin to step down immediately.

The Clerk said, "We'll go onto our comments that we received by phone and email. We submitted all of these comments to Council prior to the meeting. One person said that they agreed with the Charleston Historical Society one hundred percent. They didn't reference what they were agreeing with them in regards to, but they agree with them. One person said the City should make a clear statement to condemn white supremacy, white nationalism, and neo-Nazism in the City of

Charleston. Five people asked that the City move forward with the formation of the City of Charleston Storm Surge Protection and Feasibility Advisory Committee. They ask that the City give careful consideration to the selection of the committee members. 'A group of citizens and businesses working with the City and Council will provide an important bridge to helping engage and educate affected citizens on flooding issues.' One person said to consider banning flag poles at protests or make the Battery a protest-free zone. They said that a show on Netflix showed the cast members coming to Charleston and finding flaggers at the Battery. They said it was not a good look for the City, and they asked that Councilmember Griffin resign. One person asked that City Council consider a no-mask, no-permit policy for people to protest or gather in groups. One person said that flag poles should be banned at the Battery and the Confederate flag should not be on large display because of its symbolism and use when the U.S. Capitol was stormed. Tony Woody stated that he is a site engineer and applicant in regards to L-2 and is available to answer any questions. Ryan Foster said he was available to answer any questions, as well. Those are all the comments that we received."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Thank you very much, Madam Clerk. Appreciate that. So, next, we'll move along to our section on Petitions and Communications. First up is [two appointments](#), Mr. Gregory Voigt and Nick Schumacher to the Charleston Housing Authority."

Councilmember Seekings said, "So moved."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Second."

On a motion of Councilmember Seekings, seconded by Councilmember Shahid, City Council voted unanimously to approve the appointments of Gregory K. Voigt and Nick Schumacher to the City of Charleston Housing Authority.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you very much. I know they look forward to serving and will work very hard. Next is a report from our [Health and Wellness Advisory Committee](#) by Councilmember Shealy."

Councilmember Shealy said, "Thank you, Mayor Tecklenburg. I appreciate that. I want to thank our Wellness Coordinator, Paul Wieters, for all the work that he puts in on the committee, getting the agendas together and organizing. He does a great job. This group shows a lot of value. We've met a few times since the last time we gave a report, so Paul helped me put together some highlights on here of some of the things we've done. I also wanted to thank Councilman Seekings for his contributions to this committee, as well. He works hard on it and is a great asset for us. But, first of all, I want to thank Tracy McKee and Dr. Katie Richardson. They continue to provide invaluable resources through monthly updates and understanding of specifics of what we can do and what we can expect from COVID in the weeks to come. This has been a welcome tool to all our members and an opportunity to get questions answered and carry a health message away at each meeting. What Tracy and Dr. Richardson do is great for us, great for our City Council, too.

Part of our ongoing efforts are to help connect the partners in our community with a platform for sharing their opportunities. We've had several excellent presentations from community partners sharing their resources and asking for support with getting information out to our community. One of those, Jennifer Roberts, who is a member of our committee with Charleston Dorchester County Mental Health, gives us updates on their services and many partnerships throughout our community, especially within City government and with our Public Safety Departments, as well. An interesting note was that they have availability to always

accommodate walk-ins Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 3 PM, at their Charleston County office over on Charlie Hall Boulevard.

We've got the Healthy Tri-county and Trident United Way Initiative. It's a multi-sector, regional initiative to improve health outcomes in Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester Counties. It was launched by Roper St. Francis, MUSC Health, and Trident United Way back in 2017. The long-term aspirational goals of this initiative is to improve the health and well-being of every person in our community within the tri-county area, especially where we see gaps that this pandemic has helped us identify, where we can live, learn, work, and play together. We have connected them with our Committee on Equity, Inclusion, and Racial Conciliation, specifically with the Health Disparities and Environmental Justice Subcommittee, to join that team and to assist with health disparities. The important note here is that this group is a valuable tool to our community to be at the table with us as a listening tool and supporting pillar in bridging partnerships to work alongside us in health and wellness.

SC HOPES and opioid overdose, we've seen increases in this lately. There are three opioid hotspots in South Carolina in Greenville, Charleston, and Horry Counties. If you want to see a list of those, DHEC posts their information at a site called justpainkillers.com. Recently, we've seen the highest rates in the State of South Carolina's history, really, for more overdoses. It's a very, very important concern for us. South Carolina does have a hot line. It's 1-844-SC-HOPES for people with opioid overdoses and other mental health problems that they're experiencing. It serves as a resource to not only listen but, more importantly, to help tailor response and connect to resources nearest to that person. There's also the Roper St. Francis Hospital Take Back Program. Their goal, of course, is to remove household opioids and other prescription medicines for the prevention of overdose and protection of our environment. We also, on our Charleston City website, have a list of take back areas, which also includes our CPD Headquarters, of course.

We heard this week from Garcia Williams about Red Dress Sunday. They are inviting all faith-based groups to join in the celebration of Red Dress Sunday, which brings awareness to heart disease being the number one cause of death among women. For more information on that, you can go to themedi.org. Also, I want to give a special thank you to Anton Gunn. He had chaired us for the last three years on this committee, and he's resigned from MUSC and moving on with his career in the private sector. He's been great for our committee, and we're going to miss having him there.

The committee does have one recommendation, and that is that City Council provide advocacy, which includes voicing support, participating as a volunteer, or encouraging volunteers to support a one day data collection campaign called the Heat Watch, which is a community science urban heat island mapping campaign in 2021, and advocating for the inclusion of extreme heat risks in planning and investment strategies in order to draw down this significant health risk to Charlestonians. There is a potential grant that was submitted and approved, pending funding allocation from NOAA, by a cohort of the Medical University of South Carolina and the Citadel, the Charleston Medical District, and Charleston Resilience Network, to better understand Charleston's varying heat exposures in its differing communities and to link ongoing work on public health. That included the City's commitment to health in all policies, heat stress coping capacities and resources, health comorbidities such as chronic respiratory and cardiovascular conditions and correlated risk areas, such as air quality and inequity. To this end, the applicant team asks for our City's support. Council is not being asked to commit any financial means, just advocacy and participating support as volunteers or encouraging community members to volunteer their support with the Heat Watch later this summer. There will be more to come on this

in the future, and Mark Wilbert is our City liaison in these discussions. In the coming months, we're going to continue to look at how we can impact the life expectancy of our community through health in all policies. Sorry that was lengthy, but I appreciate you allowing us to give our committee report to Council."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, thank you, Councilmember Shealy. I wanted you to give that report because of all the good work I witness when I attend those meetings. You all have really got a lot of great things going."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid followed by Councilwoman Jackson.

Councilmember Shahid said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and Councilmember Shealy, thank you for your work that you did on this committee. The comments you made about the overdose and the opioid abuse, I think part of that map that you were referring to, or that website, I think you can go by zipcode, and even by neighborhoods, to find out the folks who have experienced an overdose, some of them fatal. You would be shocked to see what's in your backyard, literally, as the number of overdoses in our community, it's still a crisis. It's still a huge problem in our community, and whatever we can do to partner with those other agencies, I think, is critically important to that. Again, just another shout-out for the fine work that you did on that. Thank you so much."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I think you all know all of our Police and Fire are equipped with Narcan in order to administer in the event of a drug overdose. I get weekly reports from our Fire Department. They administer that drug every week to someone in our City and save lives. It's amazing."

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Thank you, Councilmember Shealy. This was a very thorough and well-executed report. It demonstrates to me why I would never sit on the Health and Wellness Committee because I don't remember medical terms to save my life. So, thank you for that kind of work. I did want to emphasize, I would love to volunteer for the Heat Watch and all the things that you're going to get into as far as advocacy. I'm impressed that the Charleston Resilience Network has been studying the carbon aspects of heat. Basically, they're convinced with the science that's been provided to them that, as much as we fear water and all the impacts of flooding to our region, that a much bigger threat to everyone's health and safety is heat and the build-up that not capturing carbon is giving to us. So, sign me up for whatever advocacy your group is going to be building."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Councilmember Shealy, would you like a motion for our support of the effort that you mentioned on the heat study?"

Councilmember Shealy said, "Can I recognize Councilman Seekings? He had his hand up. Is that okay?"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Seekings.

Councilmember Seekings said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Two things, I just want to commend and thank Councilmember Shealy. He has been a very dutiful and faithful member of the committee, which I also have sat on since day one. I've missed a few, but he has been there all the time. One of the things that I have learned, and we've learned a lot, it's been a very interesting committee to sit on, lots of people from this community who are committed to health

and wellness. One of the things we have learned, and we've learned it week in and week out, and it becomes more pronounced every time we talk about it, is that we have a major health and access to healthcare disparity problem and issue, not just in this City, but in this region. It is, to me, at a level that is somewhat alarming. I know that we are just one little ol' city, but I believe that it is time for us to put some resources towards that and do whatever we can to work on those disparities. They are so dramatic, literally, not just by zip code, but by address in any given subdivision or any given community. Those disparities are traceable, and we've got to address that. Tonight, we're going to take up putting 17 people on a committee to think about a wall, and we ought to also be thinking about putting people together not just to talk about those disparities but, Mr. Mayor and fellow Councilmembers, to actually do something about them. I think, really during the time of COVID, it's become even more pronounced. So, the work of the committee has been to shed a light on that. I think, now, we need to take a step forward and step up and do whatever we can. I know there are many good works going on in this community, but to really focus on it and to get a report back regularly about what we're doing about healthcare and healthcare access disparities. Thank you, Mr. Mayor and fellow members of Council."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you. Councilmember Shealy, anything further?"

Councilmember Shealy said, "No, sir. Well, go ahead with what you were saying."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "You mentioned that the committee wanted our support for the grant they were applying for."

Councilmember Shealy said, "Yes, sir. If I could get a second -- "

Councilmember Shahid said, "Second."

On the motion of Councilmember Shealy, seconded by Councilmember Shahid, City Council voted unanimously to support the Heat Watch campaign.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, Councilmember Shealy. Speaking of health and wellness, next up is a brief report on our ongoing response to [COVID-19](#). We're getting out of this. We're getting vaccinated. Tracy McKee is up first, I think."

Tracy McKee said, "Yes, sir. Good evening, Mayor. Thank you. Tonight will be another tag-team effort between Shannon and myself. I'll provide a really brief update on COVID and then turn it over to Shannon, so he can talk about the incredible work that our Emergency Management Team has been doing and get you all updated on that. So, where are we with COVID? We continue to go down in the number of cases. So, over the last seven days, we've seen a 22% decrease in the seven day average, which is great, and 13% down from the previous week. We're moving in the right direction. Our total number of cases per capita are still a little high, but we're starting to see that we've got a couple of indicators now that are green and a couple in yellow. This is good news. We still have a little ways to go to be talking about a new phase, but we are headed in the right direction. Hospitalizations, these numbers are still a little high, but they do seem to be very stable over the last few weeks. They don't seem to be going up. They seem to be going a little bit up and down, but seem to be very stable overall. Part of the dashboard, if you haven't been there, you can actually change the County, so if you're curious to see how our hospitalizations in Charleston County look compared to other counties from around the State, or want to take a look at Berkeley or Dorchester County, those are in there, as well. So, with that, I wanted to point out there is a new page on the dashboard also. You can change that by county,

and it just looks at the kind of number of cases, as well as the deaths by county. So, that information is now available on the dashboard.

Switching over to vaccines, as you can see, we've see kind of a steady increase in the distribution of Moderna. Pfizer is kind of staying at the same level, but we're getting close. I think next week we'll see about almost 80,000 doses of Moderna and Pfizer coming into the state. So, hopefully that continues to ramp up. What does that mean in terms of getting our State vaccinated? As far as first doses distributed, as of the distribution next week, we'll have enough first doses for 12% of the population of South Carolina coming in to the State. And about 70 percent of those first doses have actually been administered, so we're really improving there. If you haven't seen this map, this is updated daily by DHEC, but it shows all the locations that are actively taking vaccine appointments. This is a really handy map to have. I think vaxlocator is the name of the website from DHEC and, like I said, this is updated daily, and you can see exactly where you can go to get a vaccine when it's your turn. So, with that, I'm going to turn it over to Shannon to talk about the great work that Emergency Management is doing."

Shannon Scaff said, "Thank you, Tracy. Appreciate the kind words. The bottom line, we're trying to add to that map that you just saw that Tracy showed you. We've got a number of efforts that are happening. I think I said in the last meeting that it's a lot like we're racehorses in the gate waiting for it to drop. We've got all these logistical elements that we've been working to solidify on the chance that we're able to see some increased numbers of availability of vaccines. Well, there are indications that that's happening now, which is great news. Currently, we're in discussions with MUSC on using the old DMV as a location, which would work out really well for us, 180 Lockwood. Still working through a lot of elements with that to bring the room up to speed, but more to follow there. We've also got an effort with Harris Teeter, DHEC, and the Gaillard Center to roll out a vaccine effort next week. It's be a three day event, open five or six hours for each one of those days, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, by appointment, looking at 700 people per day cycled through that location, which is pretty exciting. We're also in discussions with Fetter Healthcare, just as we were when we started looking into testing, way back when, seems like eons ago, to provide possible use of the Arthur Christopher Recreational Facility in mid-March for yet another vaccine effort. We've held multiple employee focus groups to gauge receptivity to receiving a vaccine and the obstacles that employees may face in receiving one, so in terms of their being able to travel, work schedules, and that sort of thing. We're digging in on that, as well. So, a lot of different areas that we're focusing on. We will continue to have this team assembled through the spring and summer, and really as long as it takes to make sure that we get to herd immunity. So, pending your questions, that's all I have for you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie.

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Yes, I sort of like to loop it all back to the previous discussion, and Kevin talked about connecting with the Commission and its subcommittee on disparities. I think I heard Councilman Seekings say that we need to stop talking about it, and we really need to do something about it. I totally agree with you, and I think that through our subcommittee we may be able to get some traction and some action. But, my question has to do with race. Are we collecting data on race? As Councilmember Sakran and I head the Commission on Equity, Inclusion and Racial Conciliation, I mean it is clear nationally that there are inequities, and there are some states that are not ever taking data, so we really don't know. So, my question is, does the State of South Carolina collect racial data so that we can identify disparities? Going back to what Mike and Kevin were talking about, being able to locate, especially if you can do it by zip code, and sometimes we can by zipcode make some determination with regard to equity,

so my question is, first, are we collecting racial data? If so, can our future reports reflect that, to determine whether or not there are, in fact, inequities and what we're doing about it?"

Mr. Scaff said, "Councilmember, thank you for your question, sir. There's been a lot of emails that have gone back and forth that I've read by Bloomberg and others, forwarded to me by the Mayor. I know there's a lot of interest in that. Personally, I have not seen anything yet, in terms of numbers that would paint a picture for us. Tracy, you're kind of our data expert. Have you seen anything from your side?"

Ms. McKee said, "Yeah, I was going to say, I don't know the answer to that at this moment. We've been looking at the data that DHEC has been releasing. They are only releasing numbers of doses that have been administered, where, and the locations at which they've been administered, but that's certainly something we can reach out to DHEC and to see, number one, are they collecting it, and at what point will they be able to give us that information because we're past the point of probably being able to identify anymore, which is usually the concern. So, hopefully, we can start getting that information, at least at an aggregate level, to be able to report out. We'll look into that."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "We can't require that information locally? We can't take the data that we have, let's say for Charleston County, and be able to get some kind of indicators? For me, this is sort of an emergency. People are dying. I actually know a number of elderly, African-American people who are confused. They have no idea where to go, how to get the vaccine. There are public housing communities where we have a large number of an elderly population. So, my concern, I'm really, really concerned about this. I think that we've been talking about this for awhile. This isn't the first time that we've brought up the need for this kind of data and for us to be able to track it. In addition, at what point are we going to go to those areas where we know there's a concentration of the elderly? This is not just something that is happening to the elderly, by the way. You can track some of this just based on income, as well. So, it's kind of across the board. I don't want to just continue to talk about it and say we're going to look into it and nothing really happens and as a result, people continue to die because they don't have access."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Councilmember Jackson is next, but if I may, Councilmember Jackson, that is why Shannon and the staff are working so hard with the healthcare providers to provide additional places where the vaccine can be distributed. The limiting factor has been the doses are just not here yet. But, as soon as they're here, we're offering City facilities, our gym, our former DMV center, MUSC, Fetter, CARTA. We are throwing ourselves in front of the bus in terms of trying to make vaccinations easier in Charleston for every citizen. We're making every effort to do that."

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Thank you, Mayor. Actually, I really appreciate, and I totally align myself with Councilmember Gregorie's pent up demand. If we're not being given information that points us to the racial disparities and the work that needs to be done to correct that, then, I think it is time to be assertive, aggressive, whatever it takes, and my comment is actually based on the lack of supply. So, Mayor, you just pointed to that because my experience, personally, with friends and constituents, this past week was a big example, MUSC has been doing an amazing job, I think, of managing their appointments and getting the vaccine out immediately. They are as helpful as possible to their customers. You don't have to be a patient already enrolled at MUSC. All you've got to do is create a little e-mail account for yourself in order to sign up for a vaccine. I mean they have done an amazing job, and it's very friendly, and if you can't do the internet part, you can call. You have to stay on the line for some minutes, but a very helpful customer service

rep comes on and makes an appointment for you. So, I think, that we should all just congratulate our ongoing partnership with MUSC, but what happened this week, I think, is the big concern that people who had appointments for either their first and/or their second vaccine early this week that we're in right now were canceled and put back to Saturday. Then, they don't even know if their appointment that they already had in the pipeline for the number two vaccine is going to be honored, and that really rests with the State delivery. The State delivery supply has just dried up. So, I have friends who are driving to Columbia because Prisma is probably the best supplied vaccinating agency in the State, but we have got to just stay on that, too. I don't know what's happening with the State's supply, but we've got to have more to deliver. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Sakran.

Councilmember Sakran said, "Thank you, Mayor. I just wanted to take this time, this opportunity, to really just kind of talk a little bit about the Commission and the work that we're doing and support my co-Chair Councilmember Gregorie on this. Just an example, and I realize that health disparities could be something that we think about from a State or National level, but one example, as the vaccine is distributed here locally, if folks don't have access from a transportation standpoint, that's a barrier. If folks don't have access from a time standpoint, meaning if the health care facility closes at 5:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m., how are folks supposed to get there? So, those are two levers that we can touch and hear locally that would help with access, and it would cost us very little to do. I do want to say, though, as the Commission announces some of the recommendations, I just want to say, I support Councilmember Seekings' notion that we need to fund and find these resources because at the end of the day, we fund what we value, and that really has to make sense for us. So, if there are going to be some recommendations that come down that might not be popular, and there are going to be some recommendations that are going to require some funding, and I'm just letting everyone know that if we are serious about creating a situation where we would reduce the disparities around health, around education, or on economic opportunity, we have to have a real discussion around funding and resources. So, thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Understood."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Yes, Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Is there anyone else before I go back to Councilmember Gregorie?"

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Yes, Mr. Mayor. There are other parts of the country who are not even using the computers or anything. First come, first serve. Line them up, especially in those communities where access is a problem. I just want us, Mayor and Council, and I'm going to say it, we have to avoid vaccine genocide. Let's call it what it is, and I'm not saying it's intentional either, but I'm just saying, in terms of the rate of death in certain communities, it's clearly genocide. I think, that anything that we could do, without having to go to a computer or make a telephone call and, I think I said this the last time, we've really got to go where the people are. I mean, people who don't have cars, people who don't have computers, exactly what Councilmember Sakran said. I think we've got to do something, and if we don't, I think that we're just as liable."

Mr. Scaff said, "Councilmember, I wanted to add this. That's a great point, and one was made earlier about staggering hours if someone is working, and then they just don't have an opportunity because it's not available to them. So, we're going to stagger next week, the Gaillard Center hours, five or six hours one day and then shift it to the evening the next day. Then to your point, let me say this, the Recreation Department is partnering with MUSC to provide assistance to individuals who want to make an appointment, but lack computer access. Citizens will be able to walk into a participating recreational facility and ask for assistance in making an appointment. The seven recreational facilities were carefully chosen because of the proximity to public housing that would allow for social distancing and safe use of computers and internet. So, Ms. Laurie Yarborough and others are really kind of helping us. We're all seeing that there is a need here, and we're all in complete agreement with you that there needs to be a focus on this. Councilwoman Jackson, to your point, leveraging some intrusive leadership to see if we can't get some answers to some of the questions that we have, it's a lot like it was when we started this testing stuff months ago. I know that we'll be off to the races at some point, hopefully sooner rather than later, but just know that your Emergency Management team is working very hard to get this for you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, Shannon."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I agree with everything that was said. I appreciate Councilmember Shealy leading it off and the follow up by Councilmembers Seekings, Sakran, and certainly, Councilmember Gregorie, all around. I 100 percent agree with you all, and if this COVID package out of Washington, DC emerges like the way it's talked about, there will be some funding. We've got to keep our mind on the ball as we are talking about now where we don't have funding, when we get it, not to get amnesia. With that said, I still think there is an opportunity, and I commend the Mayor for his leadership on COVID during times with the emergency ordinances that weren't always popular, but I still think this City led in trying to do best practices when it came to COVID protection for our citizens, but now we're getting the vaccine, and we can lead by the 13 people on this screen. Of course, we've got some young people on here that may not get their vaccine until the next century, but, anyway, has anybody out of the Mayor and 12 Councilmembers received their shot by a show of hands?"

Three Councilmember raised their hands.

Councilmember Waring continued, "Okay, three. My wife and I are scheduled for our shot on Friday. I think it would be great when we can get to the point of having, hopefully, 100 percent of the Council, should you decide to take the shot, take it. By the same token, Mr. Mayor, I think our City should lead from the standpoint of our 1,700 plus employees. As they get vaccinated, maybe we can have a temperature gauge just to say, you know, a third has been vaccinated, 50 percent of our employees have been vaccinated, and keep up with the demographics of that. It's been said nationally that 47 percent of African Americans have said they will not take or are having trepidations about taking the vaccine. Now, in my sphere of influence in the neighborhoods, church groups, and even this Council, I have not come across 47 percent of African Americans saying they're not taking those shots. So, I don't know where that is, but it's not in the people that I come across, but I know there are some trepidations out there. So, where we can lead by example and show that we rolled up our sleeves and got the shot, let's let people know. It would be great to have a high percentage of our employees. I don't know that we would get 100 percent, but certainly a high percentage of City employees that, hopefully, will lead this State to say that

Charleston, that City, is being vaccinated by its leadership and its employees. So, I don't know whether we're keeping up with that, but if we are, we ought to let the numbers be known. Thank you.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Thank you, Councilmember.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Appel followed by Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Appel said, “Yes, I think Councilmember Waring stole a little bit of my thunder of what I was going to talk about. Guys, I said maybe eight months ago, sometime around the summer, that if you thought the anti-mask people were something, wait until the anti-vax people come out because I just want to drop a truth bomb on everybody right now. There is still a lot that has to happen in this culture for the idea of vaccination to take hold the way it needs to for the numbers to get to where they are. I'm on fivethirtyeight.com right now. I wanted to pull up what the polling results are, and this is a bipartisan deal, from the left, from the right, 42 percent of African Americans said they're comfortable taking the vaccine, 83 percent of Asians, 63 percent Hispanics, and 61 percent white. I've got folks in my family that work at Roper and MUSC, and they tell me that health care professionals on the front lines are turning down the vaccine for various reasons. So, you want to talk about health care disparities in the United States, that's a very broad, complex conversation that can go on for a long time.

There is a lot of work that has to happen at the Federal and State level. There is a lot of criticism that could be laid about how this country has handled the COVID-19 and the vaccine roll-out. There has been a lot of amazing success stories, but also some really inexcusable failures. But the City of Charleston, with our limited resources, we can't solve all of these problems, but we can do what we can do. I think that the idea making some of our facilities available for mass vaccination events and things of that nature is awesome to the extent that we can help people get to and from and use some of our resources to help get people connected. But, guys, there is a cultural, philosophical thing that has to be addressed here, and each of us, in our own circles, need to help get the word out that vaccines don't have Bill Gates' microchips in them and all of that craziness that you see on social media. It's easy for us to laugh at that. I think everybody on this screen will take the vaccine as soon as it becomes available to them but, we, in our small roles as elected officials, need to set an example. Because what I'm scared about is that even if we had all of the vaccines, and we had everything geared up and ready to roll, which we don't and may not have for awhile, although I think that there are some positive trends in that direction, I don't know if the public would even accept it right now, even if it was available. There's probably a very complex cause for some of this skepticism. There is a 15 percent gender gap, and if you can believe it, more men are willing to take it than women according to these polls, which I'm shocked. I would have thought that women would have been above the men in this one, but that's another issue that we need to address. Again, I don't think we can solve all of the problems, but where we can help and set a good example, as Councilmember Waring just mentioned, I think we ought to be doing it.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Thank you.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, “Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and sorry if I sound like I'm jumping on the bandwagon. I just wanted to say, I appreciate this very healthy discussion that we're having.

Councilmember Waring, I am scheduled for my shot, and I'm trying to move it up a little bit earlier, but I am scheduled for it. I think that we've been dealing with this almost a year now, we're coming close to our one-year anniversary when we suspended in-person Council meetings and went to this set-up, and it's an opportunity for us to look back on what Councilmember Gregorie has been talking about. This pandemic has revealed a huge disparity in our community and the number of folks who have been exposed and have been diagnosed with this COVID-19 virus. There are a number of school children who don't have access to the appropriate tools, electronic tools, to study remotely or have the support system at home that they need to study and get the education that their other peers are receiving. It is all over the board. I mean, it is from top to bottom, the high level of disparity in our community of how this pandemic has impacted us, and we've got to do, and I steal this from Councilmember Waring, we've got to do better, as a community, to address this from every aspect of it, and we're just not doing it. On CBS this Morning, there was a presentation of Walgreens and Uber in Chicago partnering together to get folks to those sites, and that's what we need to do here in Charleston. Something along those lines to make sure that the private sector partners with the public sector to make sure that we're reaching out to those who need assistance to getting to those testing sites and getting their shots, the first and second shots. I know we're doing a lot, I know that there is more that we can do, but I really do appreciate working with everybody on addressing the disparity that Councilmembers Gregorie and Sakran have been bringing up. Thank you all."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you. Alright. If no other comments, I think Shannon and Tracy, thank you for your updates. Keep up the good work. As you hear, there is much more to do. So, next is our Council [Communications](#) section, the first item up is permission for Councilmembers to participate in City Council meetings from their desks in the Council Chamber."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Griffin.

Councilmember Griffin said, "Yes, sir. I just would like an opportunity to do the work of the people in the place of the people at a subsequent meeting in the Chamber at my desk. I didn't know that I would need to get everybody else's permission, but happy to do so. So, that's why we've got it on here tonight. Thanks."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Great. Thank you. I'll say, Councilmember Griffin, that's perfectly fine with me, but it was just a technicality that, apparently, in our Emergency Ordinance we passed by Council, we set up the way we meet. So, if it's a consensus of Council, I think it's fine, but I just felt like, given that technicality, that we should ask Council if that's okay. Are there any objections of Council for any one of you all to Zoom into the meeting from Council Chambers? I mean, I'm here at City Hall every time we have Council meetings, so the building is open and all like that."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Sakran.

Councilmember Sakran said, "Thank you, Mayor. I just want to say, I think it's a great idea. Thanks, Councilmember Griffin. What do you need to do to let folks know that we're coming in? Just contact Jennifer?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "If you would contact Jennifer, that would be adequate. The only thing I would point out, that if more than one person is in the room though, according to our City Guidelines Policy, we would ask you to wear a mask."

Councilmember Sakran said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes, sir."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, "So, Mr. Mayor, if we go there, the public is not allowed inside of the Council Chambers. Is that correct?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "That's correct."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Will we have to have a security officer present in the Council Chambers?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "No, sir. We have one in the building. The doors are actually secured after 5:00 p.m., anyway, but we have our security in the building until we vacate the building at the end of the meeting. He stays until I leave and the Clerk."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized the Clerk.

The Clerk said, "I just wanted to say, and this probably might be something more for Tracy and Shannon, but if we had more than one person in there, we would have to make sure that everyone would be spaced apart. So, if we have two Councilmembers that typically sit next to each other at a meeting, we might have to look at a different seating arrangement just to make sure we've got the proper distancing."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Correct. I think Rick has looked at the Chambers and it's rated for 11 people to be in the whole Chambers at one time, but we would ask everybody, if anybody came, to spread out and to wear a mask. Tracy, am I missing anything? Alright. Well, hearing no objections, that will be fine. Just let Madam Clerk know."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, "I think it's a wonderful testament to our flexibility as a City. You can be there on Zoom, we can be in our respective places on Zoom, and in the Chamber, as well. So, I appreciate this flexibility. So, thank you for that. I think it's a good idea."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes, sir. Thank you. Alright. So, the next item up is also from Councilmember Griffin. A request to consider Agenda Item [L-16](#) currently deferred."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Griffin.

Councilmember Griffin said, "I think Legal should probably discuss this because I really don't know exactly why this route needs to be taken, but I'm happy to hear from our Legal staff as to why."

Susan Herdina said, "Good evening, Mayor and Councilmembers. Councilmember Griffin, we put this initially on Council Communications so that we could discuss with, not just you, but with the entire Council, about what we felt was the correct procedural move. The matter was deferred by a motion of Council, so in order to undefer it, so to speak, we would need a motion to withdraw the deferral or, as it's known under Robert's Rules, to take it from the table. That motion

certainly could be made tonight, and the only issue we had procedurally was that that matter was listed on the agenda as deferred. So, what we would ask is, so that there can be public participation and adequate notice to the other Councilmembers, as well as the public, that if there is a motion to remove it from the table and that is approved, that the matter then appear on the next agenda for the substantive discussion, so that people have an opportunity to be notified that this is going to be discussed and that Council also has an opportunity.

Now, the only other procedural option would be in order, if Council was interested in discussing the substance of this matter tonight, it's not on the agenda, so there would have to be a finding by two-thirds of the Council. Once the motion to remove it, to take it from the table, is approved, you would need to then get a second motion by two-thirds vote to add it to the agenda and then basically, I think, it's on there for second reading. You would need to have a finding of eminent or emergency rationale for considering the matter. So, the motion can be made tonight. There is no question about it. We just listed it here to sort of discuss the procedural aspects of it to make sure that it was procedurally following the correct process. Again, the main point here is a motion needs to be made to withdraw from the table, which is, in effect, a motion to withdraw the deferral, but then under FOIA, we should schedule it for the next meeting so that it appears on the agenda as a matter that is going to be considered, the public has an opportunity to be heard, and Council can also have adequate notice of it."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you. Since this is a drainage issue, and it's obviously been before Council, I'm wondering whether we dropped the ball, and I'll take responsibility for that. Was this supposed to come back before the Public Works Committee? Because if we deferred it, we deferred it for some reason. I mean, to maybe alter it, adjust it in some way. If I remember correctly, I think this dealt with low lying properties, I don't know, maybe around six-foot elevation or something like that, very low lying properties, and it was discussed in the context of the Dutch Dialogues. I'm thinking we should pull this back to Public Works and then vet it through. We can go back and review the tapes and the minutes, why Council deferred this. I don't really remember right now, but I know it was a drainage issue, I know it was low lying properties, and I know it was in the context of the Dutch Dialogues. So, I would think why not send it back to the Public Works Committee and work through the main reasons we deferred it?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, I think that's an excellent suggestion. I would like to call, Councilwoman Jackson, if you will allow me to call on Matt Fountain next. I think he could share a little history about this and what he was thinking in addressing this issue going forward."

Mr. Fountain said, "Yes, thank you, Mayor, and I would probably want to go back and review the tapes for incredible specificity, but I believe the original deferral was when we were considering the updates to the Stormwater Manual and that there was a discussion that many of the impacts of fill on flooding situations would be handled within the Stormwater Manual. So, there was a consideration to put kind of the fill and build ordinance, as it was called at the time, on deferral while we addressed the Stormwater Manual to see if that basically resolved the issues that were raised in the fill and build, and I think it was left on deferral because Council had originally asked for, after we did pass the Stormwater Manual, for the Stormwater Department to come back in early 2021 and kind of reconvene the stakeholder Task Force that we had for the Stormwater Manual, gather some information from those Task Force members on how the new manual was working, and then kind of come back through Public Works and Utilities to discuss if

any amendments were needed to the manual. I think that's kind of where we left everything. So, Councilmember Waring may be right that we kind of may be on a trajectory to take it back through the Public Works and Utilities Committee as part of that discussion on the manual and then see if there still is a reason for further discussion on the fill and build ordinance that isn't covered by that Stormwater Manual."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Great."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilwoman Jackson followed by Councilmember Griffin.

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Thank you, Mayor. Yes, a lot of what I was just about to say in answer to Councilmember Waring's question about why did we defer it and all of that, that's my memory, as well, that because the manual was about to be delivered, adopted, or considered seriously, that Councilmembers who were serving on that Committee were, I think, pretty definite that a lot of the concerns that were expressed in representing in an ordinance what we've been learning from the Dutch Dialogues Study, that we would see those things handled by the 2020 Stormwater Manual. I personally would love to get that review under way. I don't want it to get bogged down in trying to get this Task Force together. I know that there are some things that maybe you would need to consult with them for, Mr. Fountain, but the other missing item that has been identified, and truly as a missing link, to how we were planning on using the manual and enforcing it in the most worrisome locations that are under sea level and all of the locations that we learned about during the Dutch Dialogues were supposed to be creating what the manual called special protection areas. I know that Mr. Fountain and his department and AECOM, under their program contract, have been studying all of those locations and are pretty much ready to identify them to us, and I would put forward that that might be an even a more important update to happen to the manual. So, I'm on the bandwagon of let's look at the manual, let's not take a lot of time, I think there are some missing pieces that now we know enough to add back in. Thanks."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes, ma'am. Agreed."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Griffin.

Councilmember Griffin said, "Yes, sir. I'd like to make a motion that we withdraw this item off of the agenda because I was hoping that we could take this item up, as I was the one that brought it up in the beginning. I've never heard of an item deferred for a year-and-a-half, waiting and waiting and waiting on some sort of movement and not getting it. The fact of the matter is, as Councilmembers, we have a right to bring legislation to this body and vote on it, and it just seems to me like there have been so many hoops. I mean, what does it hurt to vote and if Council agrees with it, then we pass it, and if they don't, we don't. I think that this is setting a really bad precedent here. We defer items all of the time, all of the time. We could go back and find items that we've deferred over the last few years that have never had to come back up and get Council's approval to bring back to the agenda. The fact of the matter is this item was deferred because staff felt that it should be labeled as deferred on the agenda. I mean, we could have taken this motion, we could have not labeled this item as deferred on the agenda, taken a vote as to whether or not we wanted to take the item up, and we could have voted on it tonight. I've never heard of a Councilmember bringing something forward and being told, 'We'll have to vote on whether or not Council wants to go for it and then maybe you can bring it up in two weeks.' You know, that's just not good governance, and I'm really disappointed that that's the path we're taking, but I'm happy to withdraw this item, and we'll start from the beginning.

I've spent several hours in the past couple of weeks reading through the Dutch Dialogues Report. You know, that very expensive report that we spent a lot of money on, and we haven't implemented anything out of it yet. I spent a lot of time reading through it again, and I think I've come up with a very common sense recommendation through an ordinance that I've written myself that I was hoping that we could look at, but I'm happy to take that motion through Public Works. So, if I could get a second, I'd like to withdraw this motion, and let's just get it completely out of the realm of our agenda, and we'll start over."

Councilmember Shealy said, "I'll second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Just from an agenda point of view, Susan, can we take up this matter at this point, or do we need Council's approval to amend the agenda or just wait until we get to number ten on second readings?"

Ms. Herdina said, "Mayor, I suggest we wait until we get to number ten and then if Councilmember Griffin wants to make a motion to withdraw the matter from the agenda, we can do it at that point in time."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Is that acceptable to you, Councilmember? We'll just get to it right--"

Councilmember Griffin said, "It works for me. I will bring the updated document that I've been working on and ask that it be placed on the next Public Works agenda so we can start over. It's been 18 months since we took this up the first time. We've got a new Council now. I just don't think it's a good idea for staff to defer items for this long and not give us any sort of update on as to why it's been deferred. To me it just doesn't look good, so I'm happy to start over."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I appreciate that. I think some rationale had been explained as to why that happened."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Brady.

Councilmember Brady said, "Yes, thank you, Mr. Mayor. I think Councilmember Griffin brings up an interesting point about revisiting ordinances, especially ones that are related to development. I know I've had conversations with several of my Council colleagues about Charleston's need for a unified development ordinance, that it might be time that we take a fresh look at all of our ordinances that are related to development, especially ones that may not have been revisited, in some cases, in 40 years. So I would just ask, respectfully, for the next Council meeting, if under Council Communications, we could begin to have a discussion around a unified development ordinance and what that could look like in terms of a stakeholder task force because, obviously, we'd want input from the conservation community, the development community, and all the people that have a stake in development within the City."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Madam Clerk, you got that? So, duly noted. I did read with interest that the town of Summerville threw their UDO out just the other day, so there must be pros and cons to it. All right. Any further on this, and we'll move along to our committee reports."

No one asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. First up is our [Committee](#) on Community Development."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Mitchell.

Councilmember Mitchell said, “Yes. My report is going to be very short. The Committee of Community Development met on January 28th at 4pm, and we had four items listed, and all of the items there were for information only. We had a lot of discussion dealing with the Cooper River Bridge redevelopment and the new TIF allocation and the three year analysis on the Mixed-Use Work Force Housing, and you’ll see an update on the housing for a Fair Charleston and the LowLine housing site, which we just got through voting on a few minutes ago. All of these items were for information only at Community Development and some of those items will be coming back to Community Development for further discussion and for a vote, if we have to. That’s all.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Great. Thank you. Any questions for Councilmember Mitchell?”

No one asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Committee on Public Works. Councilmember Waring? It looked like he walked out of the room there for a minute. Without objection, we’ll proceed to the Committee on [Traffic](#) and Transportation.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Seekings.

Councilmember Seekings said, “Thank you, Mr. Mayor. The Committee on Traffic and Transportation met this afternoon at 2:00 p.m. Everything that I’m going to report out to you is for information only. There is no need for any vote of this Council. We heard from our team internally about the status of the BUILD Grant for the Ashley River Bridge bike pedestrian lane. I think it’s fair to say that they are working hard on moving very quickly forward on that project. It’s complicated, but the good news for us is we have the right team in place to bring it all together. There will be some activity that you all should see in the next month or so in terms of milestones and benchmarks that need to be met in the development of that project, particularly as it relates to environmental studies, but we are on track and moving forward. Our team is in place, they’re working with the various other agencies that have a grip on that, and more to come. If you need anything, Jason Kronsberg and his team have a presentation. They’re working on a website that’s not up and running yet, but when it is, we’ll make sure that you get a link to it so you can share it with your constituents, and they can see in real time what that project is all about and where it stands vis-à-vis design, construction, and ultimately completion.

We also had a report from Ron Mitchum, Executive Director of the COG, also Executive Director of CARTA. He gave a fairly comprehensive view of what’s going on at the COG and CARTA, in terms of transit and transportation in the region. To say there’s a lot going on would be an understatement, but just so you all know, CARTA is involved in many things. They’re taking the lead on the Low Country Rapid Transit Project, we are looking at our routing, we’ve double the service out on James Island on the route 31, and we are doing COVID testing at Mary Street and in North Charleston, so there’s a lot going on in transit and transportation. I’d like to thank this Council, and particularly those who serve on the CARTA board, for being supportive of all the things that are going on in difficult times. CARTA and local transportation and public transportation has really done well, if not thrived during this time.

Last, we talked about the Low Battery Seawall and parking policies going forward, more to come on that. It was mostly a conversation. I had some conversations with Mr. Benjamin afterwards, and I think we will reach resolution on how we’re going to park along the Low Battery Seawall to make sure there’s equal and extended access for everybody in the community, and

there aren't those who take advantage in terms of weeks and months of that access. So, all coming along well. We also had an update from Mr. Benjamin about all the things he's doing, and they're plentiful, and I'm sure he'd be happy to discuss them with you individually at your leisure. So with that, I would ask for your support, but there's nothing that needs to be acted on by this Council this evening. Thank you, Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Great. Thank you, Councilmember."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, "Yes, sir. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Councilmember Seekings, I don't know if I didn't hear you talk about the BUILD Grant, but don't we have a time frame or time statute of limitation on it that we have to be worried about?"

Councilmember Seekings said, "The BUILD Grant and its requirements for spending the money on the project that it's dedicated to does come with certain benchmark requirements, and we are on track to meet them. I suspect there will be some slight movement, but not much. Our team recognizes that that money comes with some directives, and they are operating within the confines of those directives, including the time directives. And again, I feel confident that as of right now, they have a good handle on that and good control of that. And this very important project is moving forward expeditiously and in accordance with the requirements of that grant."

Councilmember Sahahid said, "Good job. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Bottom line is we have a design firm helping us up to 30% design now, but by September, we need to have selected the final design build team, and we are on track to do that at this time. Great. Thank you. Any other questions for Councilmember Seekings?"

No one asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Our Committee on [Ways](#) and Means."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie.

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

Councilmember Brady said, "Second."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "We have to go back to Councilmember Waring's report."

The Clerk said, "Public Works."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Oh, I'm sorry. You're right. Councilmember Waring, Committee on [Public](#) Works."

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you. I appreciate you all letting me pop up. You can read into that what you want, but anyway."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Did we vote?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We didn't. I'll come back to Ways and Means, if you don't mind, Councilmember Gregorie."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Not a problem. Thank you, Mayor."

Councilmember Waring said, "Okay, the Committee on Public Works and Utilities did meet yesterday and got a wonderful presentation from our environmental services people. I'm going to tell you, it's a real-time computer program that, frankly, is designed to pick up efficiencies. They're tweaking that and are going to come back in two weeks with a more refined version of it, but just stay tuned. That's going to increase efficiencies in our Sanitation Department at a high level, so I appreciate Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Altop working on that so far. Stormwater Management update, the first of the month is a little bit long, but Councilmember Seekings, we're going to come next meeting with a presentation on what was done on Low Battery Phase I and some information on Phase II because Councilmember Seekings knows that Phase I has been a model to duplicate, and it's finished. It's very beautiful. Our Committee saw a PowerPoint presentation by Mr. Fountain on that, of which he's going to refine and show to all of Council in two weeks. We had an executive session for information, and that's all. It was on the West Edge Area. Now to Mr. Fountain with the Stormwater update, and if you were expecting the Low Battery Seawall, Mr. Fountain, pick up from there please."

Mr. Fountain said, "Yeah. Thank you, Councilmember Waring. So, we did have one item that was voted on with the Memorandum of Agreement with CWS for the Low Battery Phase II Project, which I believe passed unanimously at Council and was on Ways and Means again this evening."

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Fountain, and let me move for approval on that right now and then you pick up with your report."

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Griffin.

Councilmember Griffin said, "Yes, sir. Councilmember Waring, we did not go into executive session in Public Works, that was Real Estate."

Councilmember Waring said, "You right about that."

Councilmember Griffin said, "Just let the record reflect we did not."

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you. I'm reading my agenda. Maybe I'm still thinking about that but anyway, go ahead."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We did get a report on West Edge Drainage."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Yes, West Edge."

Councilmember Waring said, "That's right. I'm thinking of that parking garage, but anyway, go ahead."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. So let's vote on the one matter, number b. I think that requires our approval, even though we approved it also in Ways and Means. Any further discussion on that?"

Councilmember Seekings said, "Mr. Mayor, just very briefly on that, if I might."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Seekings.

Councilmember Seekings said, "Something I see, the picture that's behind Mr. Fountain there, which is the Low Battery. I just think it's important, and we didn't mention it during Ways and Means, to note that Phase II is within budget, as was Phase I, and that the Charleston Water System, thank you very much Councilmember Waring and Mayor Tecklenburg, who sit on that board, are picking up a good bit of the tab for that project, a million dollars worth, which is not an insignificant amount. So, as we move forward, we are on schedule, on budget, thanks to lots of hard work by many people, including Mr. Fountain and his team. We had a lot of talk about this project before it started. I'm glad that the conversation has been mostly, if not all, positive since we've gone forward, so thank you all for your support of what is really a cool project. And if you haven't been down there, I saw today that it's just really brooms and pickup down on Phase I now. It's essentially done, it's really worth seeing it, looks fantastic. So, please go take a look, and if you can't make it, just go onto the website, you can see the live cam. Looks great, so avail yourself of that. Thank you."

Councilmember Waring said, "Mayor, I think Councilmember Seekings may have stepped away, but we're going to do a PowerPoint presentation on the Low Battery Wall at the next Council meeting."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Great. Thank you."

Councilmember Waring said, "We're going to let you be the emcee of that."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Good, I'd love to do it!"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Let me call the question."

On a motion of Councilmember Waring, seconded by Councilwoman Jackson, City Council voted unanimously to adopt item b(i) of the Committee on Public Works and Utilities Report as presented:

b. Stormwater Management Department Updates:

- (i) Low Battery Phase 2 – Approval of a Memorandum of Agreement with CPW for in-contract utility work on the Low Battery Seawall Repairs Phase II project.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Mr. Fountain, and duly noted, Councilmember Waring, that I've also talked to Mr. Fountain today and, on your recommendation, future meetings, we'd like to highlight one or two projects and handle them a little more in depth, a little more detail as opposed to when Mr. Fountain goes through the whole litany of projects. You do kind of get lost with so many projects going on at one time. I don't know how he keeps track of it. Going forward, in the future, we'd like to focus on one or two and do a little more complete presentation at Council."

Councilmember Waring said, "Yes, Mr. Mayor, one thing on that. It may be best to do that the second meeting of the month because, you know, that tends to be a more abbreviated update

versus the first meeting of the month. Maybe you save the presentation for the second meeting of the month.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Yes, sir. Mr. Fountain, would you like to report on any more?”

Mr. Fountain said, “I certainly can go through the updates briefly if Council’s interested, or we can wait until the next meeting to have the more detailed part of the Low Battery and Spring/Fishburne. Either way is fine with me.”

Councilmember Waring said, “Well, let’s do this, Mr. Fountain. Can you at least go through the downtown portion that we put on there for Councilmember Sakran and Councilmember Gregorie?”

Mr. Fountain said, “Yes, absolutely.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “That’s a good idea. If you have that, start showing West Edge.”

Mr. Fountain said, “Yes, let me pull that up for you real quick. You’re throwing off my order of presentations.”

Councilmember Waring said, “Sorry to do that.”

Mr. Fountain said, “You’re okay. I can adapt. Okay, here we go. So this is the update we gave about the West Edge Drainage, giving a little bit of explanation of what’s happening sort of in the overall area surrounding the West Edge Development and the Horizon TIF district as we move forward over the next few years. So this is a graphic that’s frequently been presented by West Edge Foundation. It’s a good kind of simplified overview of the site. On the left you can see the area of town we’re talking about. The blue boundary that comes around the outside is kind of the overall drainage basin that tries to basically flow down through sort of the drainage features of Gadsden Creek and into the marsh. It’s a very large area, about 200 acres, which obviously experiences some of the heaviest flooding in the City. The green and red arrows, the green shows stormwater and the red shows tidal water. The red’s kind of buried beneath the stormwater in this image, and I think we’re all familiar, during high tide events, obviously, the tidewater comes up kind of through that green feature and basically floods out kind of the Gadsden Creek, which is sort of this focal area here in the center, as well as surrounding streets. During heavy rainstorms you kind of see the same thing, and then that water basically also drains out through that green feature, so the methodology that’s being worked to improve the drainage situation and tidal flooding situation, this area is shown on the right. This gets slightly more complicated, but I think it makes sense from the graphic.

So, basically what’s being done is we’re splitting this large drainage basin here on the left and, remember, a drainage basin is basically anywhere that water falls within this blue area. Any rain that falls in there, it all flows to the same point down here into the harbor. So on the right, we’re splitting up how the water that falls on the Peninsula in this area drains out. So, we’re going to split out what’s called the President Street basin here, this 124 acre basin, into the top, and that will tie into the Spring/Fishburne Project. There’s a President Street tunnel on Spring/Fishburne, which we will talk about a little bit more in two weeks, which basically runs, you can see the terminus of the tunnel at Harmon Field. That was the big construction project site at Harmon Field on President Street over the last number of years. That water would flow through that tunnel down to the primary portion of Spring/Fishburne, under kind of Septima Clark, and then out to the pump station that we’re currently building the wet well for, an outfall system for

between the two bridges. So that water gets disconnected from kind of going through the Gadsden Green community and instead comes down into the deep tunnel system. I'm going to jump here. The area that is sort of the core of the West Edge Development, in the shading here, that as you've seen kind of the first phases go in out there, that whole area becomes relatively elevated. Relatively is probably an understatement for some of the areas. If you drive out there, you see that it's way up above existing ground, so what that lets them do is they keep building through those projects. They basically cut off the tidal water coming in by elevating the drainage pipe so high that the tide no longer can come up the pipe system. That lets them also drain out all the new properties they're building through that existing drainage system, which eventually gets piped in. The challenge with that, of course, is it cuts off the drainage from the Gadsden Green area that can no longer flow through there because it's all been elevated, so this kind of center basin here, which we have labeled the Fishburne Street II Basin in somewhat confusing engineering parlance, that creates a new drainage system that flows kind of North, along the major street here, and turns at Stoney Field and comes back through the drainage system through Stoney Field. That was the permit that West Edge was coming through asking for basically City support on, the Council supported, to help basically drain out this whole area. And that will be tide protected, so you won't see tidal inflow through that area, you'll only see stormwater outflow. And that should provide significant improvements in the central basin here where you'll no longer see the tidal flooding, and you will see a method for stormwater to flow out because they're able to get more grade to basically lower that elevation and get the water out of this section.

The somewhat challenging part there is it does trap this kind of small area here in what we have labeled as the Spring Street basin, and the water, it's too low here for it to get out through Fishburne Street, and it's too low to come out through the West Edge complex, but it isn't connected directly into the President Street shaft. So part of what the West Edge Group is doing is actually tying that basin into the Spring/Fishburne deep tunnel system as well, so they're installing additional street infrastructure, basically pipes, to bring that water over to the deep panel system and help that drain out. So, basically, this section of work will go in as the tunnel completes into Phase 4. The President Street section will go into the tunnel as it completes into Phase 4 and then the two center sections here will be basically handled during the West Edge Development as they build their drainage system for their next phasing on that. So any questions on that one? That one's relatively complicated, even though it looks like a somewhat simplistic graphic."

No one asked to speak.

Mr. Fountain said, "If there aren't, I will stop sharing this screen and then jump back to my Peninsula map and then restart."

Councilmember Waring said, "It's alright. You've got us waiting with great anticipation."

Mr. Fountain said, "All right. Let me see if this transfers over. Okay, did this transfer over to the Peninsula map? Might take a second to load, it's a very large PDF file."

Councilmember Waring said, "Yes."

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Yes, we have it."

Mr. Fountain said, "Thank you. So it's testing my Zoom acrobatics when I'm jumping back and forth between different shared files. So, this is kind of an overview of work that splits Councilmember Gregorie and Councilmember Sakran's districts in, I'd say, heavy rehabilitation and maintenance work on kind of the Northwestern portion of the Peninsula. And this is just kind

of a quick view of what we've done in the last 12 months roughly out here. This area has a lot of older drainage system, a lot of vitrified clay pipe, a lot of tree root intrusion, so it's a really challenging system to maintain and keep clean, and it's very low lying, a lot of localized low areas, so you do see a lot of flooding. So, we've been working through, with the Councilmembers and with some of the residents, cleaning out some of these lower lying areas that will hold water for often, you know, a day or two after a major rainstorm over the last month or the last year. I'll run through the projects very quickly on these. The first thing we did out here was we worked through Rutledge, which is a DOT road, but it's one of the kind of core drainage systems for the area. We basically started it at Poplar Street and cleaned out the pipe system all the way down to Gordon Street. Those were basically sedimented almost completely solid, almost the entire length of the system. We were able to remove all of that sediment. That system does flow out both onto Gordon, to some extent, but primarily comes down to Grove Street and flows out Grove Street where we had, a couple of years ago, basically reconstructed and cleaned and basically restored some box culverts at the end of Grove Street, so that has helped some with the drainage there. I think we still have more to do along that section of the system, likely in this connection from where we cleaned previously, but it's provided some relief even if not a complete resolution to flooding.

We did then work down on President Street, just south of the park. Let's see, so on President's Street, basically moving from Moultrie to Congress, this is a kind of another localized bowl. We were able to clean out this section of the drainage system and reactivate basically the outflow from Congress out to the marsh here. That does seem to have made some significant improvements on that low lying area. That was really holding a significant amount of water. We also worked further South in an area that most of you are probably really familiar with, with flooding, which is kind of the President and Beauregard Street area, which is really at the very bottom of my map. Basically, we cleaned that section all the way down to Spring Street, down kind of through Septima Clark, with as much traffic control as we could get. This area will not get resolved until the Spring/Fishburne Project comes online. I mean, that's why there is an entire tunnel that extends through this system with all of those drop shafts, as it's an incredibly localized bowl, but we wanted to provide as much flood relief as we could in the meantime until that project comes online.

We then worked on Grove Street at Rutledge. So, this is another area, the more you're familiar with this portion of town, the parking lots here have always held kind of significant quantities of water. You'll see standing water for days and days after storm events. It kind of gets to be almost a health hazard with the level of standing water. We did reconstruct and find some collapsed piping and other problems along this area. We were able to restore that and clean the other areas, and it does drain out relatively well now at this point. Let's see, we also worked further down on Gordon Street. Gordon Street is another area that experiences a lot of flooding. We repaired a collapsed section of pipe near the end of Gordon Street near Wagner and were able to get that flow reconnected and working, as well as some earlier work we had done on the north/south portion of Wagner Street.

Moving north again, the Piedmont and Maple area, sort of another localized low point within the neighborhoods. It holds water. So, this one was interesting in that we started out at Piedmont and Maple and cleaned the obvious outfall, which is going up Maple Street, down Hester Street in the way of much of Charleston, over on Alberta, and eventually downtown and then eventually out into the marsh. We cleaned that whole system, basically monitored it though a storm event, really didn't see nearly the reduction in flooding we expected at Piedmont and Maple versus the amount of work we had done and cleaning we had done. We did see improvements on Hester and Alberta, but not much on Piedmont and Maple. We went back, kind of redid some inventory work in the area and noticed there's some disconnect in this system that wasn't readily

apparent, and portions of this intersection actually flow north along Piedmont, which we cleaned, and then cleaned all of Peachtree coming out of the marsh, and that did seem to provide some relief. This is again a very low lying intersection, it's about six feet in elevation with the surrounding areas mostly being about 10 feet in elevation, so it is a challenging area to keep completely dry, but that did provide some relief and we've seen improvement, at least in the storms so far this year. So far, we haven't yet had one of those full-size rain bombs. The last area we went through in this section of the town, sort of the north Enston, San Souci area here. Again, very high, this was actually a very high area, a little bit unusual to see the amount of flooding we saw, so we cleaned Enston down San Souci all the way out to King Street and, again, that seems to have relieved some of the unusual flooding that we were seeing in that area. I think there was an actual blockage that we were able to get out, root intrusions and things, and get that restored. One update that I don't have on this map that we did talk about at the meeting, also we've talked about at a couple of previous meetings, was we've also worked our way through about 10,000 linear feet of pipe cleanings, almost two miles of pipe cleaning in the, what we call, the Cooper Jackson area, which is really the north portion of the eastside. Basically, as part of the work we're doing with AECOM to assess drainage in that basin, we kind of were able to combine some cleaning we needed to do for survey access, where normally we'd go in and clean manholes to let surveyors take shots to build our computer model. We decided that while we were in there doing that work, we would also clean all of the pipes because of the level of obstruction we saw, rather than just cleaning spot locations for survey work, but not improving the drainage in any way. We took the opportunity to come in and do basically significant pipe cleaning, as well, so we'd see short-term improvement to the drainage while we're waiting to work through the improvement projects in that area. So, you get a pipe cleaning, a little over \$100,000 worth of drainage clean out work, and we should see some significant improvements, at least in water draining back out again after storm events, as that finishes up. So, those were the kind of section updates instead of the normal large capital projects."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie.

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Okay, at Gordon, Matt, you said you did some cleaning? Did it significantly reduce the flooding in that creek bed?"

Mr. Fountain said, "Yeah, so the work that we did on Gordon and Wagner, kind of this area, this did result in some real improvements. We found some completely collapsed pipes and blockages down here, but remember, a lot of this pipe is clay, and it tends to somewhat disintegrate over time or have tree roots that impact it or utility conflicts that will collapse it. That we did restore and rebuild, and this does seem to have improved the other end of Gordon, which is probably where you're talking about more. This area we're continuing to work on, but it's challenging. It's a very low area, we're down in four and five feet of elevation, so I mean, you're at an elevation where when we get one of those extreme tides, like we had in the fall, you almost have water in the street just from tidal impact, so that one we have cleaned it a number of times. It's better, but it is not perfect. That will take more work to figure out an approach to try to limit that impact."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "What about Moultrie and President?"

Mr. Fountain said, "Yeah, so President and Moultrie, that's a significant improvement. We did find some serious blockages. This is another DOT street. In this situation, we've been trying to work more collaboratively with them, as well. In this area we did clean out, basically starting at Moultrie, working our way down President, all the way to Congress. We found a number of blockages in that area, as well. DOT was going to come back and clean the inlet structures, the

roadside grate inlets, after we cleaned the primary pipe. That does seem to have shown some significant improvement in that area, as well.”

Councilmember Gregorie said, “Okay, thank you.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Mitchell.

Councilmember Mitchell said, “Mr. Fountain, I’m happy to see that you all went, I saw Sanders Brothers over on Lee Street and Hannibal Street and Nassau Street. They were doing some work over there, cleaning the drains and stuff out of them. But I want to ask a quick question, did they go over by Nassau, Line Street, and Aiken Street? Do you know if they went that far over?”

Mr. Fountain said, “They have, yes. I’ve got a figure of that. It might be better to try to send it to you than have you watch me try to dig through my files.”

Councilmember Mitchell said, “That’s alright.”

Mr. Fountain said, “But I’ve got a map showing all the streets that they cleaned. We did get basically, and it’s somewhat of an overestimation because there are so many pipes and streets in that area, but we did basically start at the Cooper Street area, kind of just south of where the James Lewis Jr. Apartments would be going. Sorry, I’m just dragging my own screen here, if you can see me drawing on my computer. So we did basically start at Cooper and pretty much everything from Cooper north up to about Johnston or Stuart we did work through and clean, including the north/south running streets with Nassau and Hanover and America, so that section is significantly clean. We haven’t yet finalized cleaning the very outfall section, which sounds backwards. It’s normally the opposite of the way we do things. We try to clean from the outfall working our way up. In this situation we had to clean from the upper end of the basin and working your way down because you don’t want to basically blow the dirt into what you’ve just cleaned, so you keep kind of working your way through with the existing blockage and plug in place and you’ll go back and clean that at the end, which is the part that Sanders is working on now. So, it’s just about complete and should result in some significant improvements. Again, I don’t expect that to resolve the flooding issues, but it should help it drain faster once there’s a low tide event.”

Councilmember Mitchell said, “You can see, on the corner of Line and Aiken is the church there, and that’s where it floods really bad, and we can’t even get into that particular building. It’s always coming from Columbus Street, all the way down. And that’s Aiken and Line Street there and Hanover Street and a little bit of Columbus. I saw them working over on Cooper Street, Nassau Street, and they did a good job there by the public housing. They were over there cleaning drains and also I didn’t know if they went back in that other area and not Cooper. I didn’t notice. Do you know?”

Mr. Fountain said, “They haven’t gone quite that far south yet to get down to Line. They mostly focused on kind of the northern section of the basin, which is where the most significant consistent blockages were found when we did our original assessment. We went through and popped all the manholes in the basin and tried to verify where the blockages were. There likely will be some additional work down there, but it wasn’t the kind of initial surge and it’s taken us about four months with the contractors to get through this amount of cleaning, but we will continue working through that basin as part of that over project.”

Councilmember Mitchell said, “All right. Thank you.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Sakran.

Councilmember Sakran said, "Yeah, Matt, I just want to say thanks for your continued efforts with folks downtown. I know you're on an email thread with us, and I just want to say thanks. I appreciate you being so responsive to the constituents, and I will say, I've heard from several over the past month or two about the improvements. Obviously, there are areas that still need improving, but it's tangible. I mean, they see some of the improvements, so thank you."

Mr. Fountain said, "Appreciate it. Yeah, the crews are working really hard. I mean, we're running around 40 people, plus our contracted forces, but we're doing a lot of work through the City, and we appreciate everybody's patience, trying to kind of let us work through the problems and see what works and what doesn't work and then get back out there and try to do another round of corrections once we see the storm event results."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Great."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and thank you, Matt. This is the best comprehensive report on maintenance and cleaning out pipes on the peninsula that I've seen since I've been on Council, and, listen, I'm in my tenth year. Matt, you and the team, I don't have the words to describe the thanks for that because whether you live on the peninsula or not, that presentation shows you the result of our increase in the stormwater fee. The results of you coming up, frankly, you and your team coming up with smaller projects and having money set aside for it. I mean, two miles worth of pipes being cleaned on the peninsula is phenomenal. I mean, that's phenomenal, and you just kind of shot that over our heads. But just getting pipes working like they're supposed to work is just so appreciative, and that's why I said we need to get back to, I don't know whether we get sandwich boards, Mr. Mayor, or some sort of demarcation that we put out when our drainage team is out there working for you, that people will know that. I saw Matt's hand go up."

Mr. Fountain said, "Councilmember Waring, I was going to say, you made that recommendation before. We did take it seriously. We did actually go through and produce sandwich boards, kind of more of the election style signage. We actually just got them delivered to our office yesterday, so they'll be going out with the field crews starting probably next week."

Councilmember Waring said, "I mean, that's awesome. I think not only our crews, but when Sanders Brother and their team are out there, let's advertise that, as well. So, thank you so much for what you do."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Great."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie.

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Matt, I'm going to just tell you, I've been on Council for a long time, and this is the first time that, I'm echoing what Councilmember Waring is saying, I have never seen anything like this. Never. Okay? So, I just want to thank you because I've never seen this much attention being paid to the peninsula on this end. Yeah, we've had some pump stations here, there, but the comprehensive nature of what you're doing, I've never seen this before, and I just want to tell you thank you. I really appreciate you. Thanks."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "It's all adding up over time."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Appel.

Councilmember Appel said, "All right. Let's let the love fest continue here. So, yesterday on Facebook, you know, they have this feature where Facebook shows you a photo you posted a year ago and reminds you and wants you to share it again. Well, it's a photo of me, Matt, Benji, Senator Senn, and a couple of folks from OCRM standing in the marsh in an outfall behind South Windermere Shopping Center. We were, I believe, talking at that time about some of the general permitting work that we're working on with OCRM to help expedite and fast track some of this outfall cleaning, which is extremely beneficial and well underway, and a constituent, I won't reveal her name, made a comment under the post that I put out on my Facebook page. She says, 'My house flooded regularly after the great flood of 2015. It had never flooded before, and it is not in a flood zone, yet it flooded multiple times a year. Ever since the outfall was cleaned, it hasn't flooded a single time. Thanks for continuing to monitor this situation. It has made a huge difference in the quality of life for my family.' I mean, that's serious stuff right there. We can't solve all the world's problems. We can't fix the United States healthcare system vaccination roll out, and we can't solve some of the negative stuff in our country's history that perpetuates to this day. We can make advances and improvements but, man, at the end of the day, when you can make that kind of tangible, positive impact on people's lives, that's some real stuff, and this would not have been happening if we didn't have a Stormwater Department that was dedicated to this every single day and a Stormwater Director that was so passionate about what he does and is so effective about getting the job done, so I just wanted to share that story with everyone as we were going around singing Matt's well deserved praises."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Great. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, "I just wanted to echo a few comments that you all have heard, and if you join in our Public Works Committee meetings, they are full of what you just heard tonight from Matt. And what you didn't hear from him tonight is the rest of the City and all the other projects that he's working on, that the department is working on, throughout West Ashley and James Island and other areas. So, this is just a snippet of what's going on on the peninsula. And I was very impressed with the detail he showed us yesterday and again showed the full Council. So, Matt, just thank you, and we'll get more detailed reports as we go along."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you. Councilmember Waring, are you going to give us the rest of your report?"

Councilmember Waring said, "Yes, I promise. This is the last thing, Mr. Mayor. And I'm taking liberty as Chair of Public Works. I got a Facebook post from a Mr. John Champagne. He took pictures along the bikeway, as it approached what we call the [duck pond](#), you know, in the Ardmore area. I know you and I have talked about it, Mr. Mayor, about trying to beautify that area. There are no trash cans up and down the Greenway, so people ride their bikes, walk, whatever, and they just throw the trash. I'm wondering if we can put some trash cans there. Mr. Fountain, if we can put on the Public Works agenda, and maybe even Recreation, to come up with a plan to make those duck ponds, they have a duck pond up in North Charleston, off of Montague, I believe, off of the circle. It looks nothing like the duck pond over in Ardmore. Very nice area, and I think our people, our Recreation people, and maybe some of our Public Works people, a combination

of the two, can make that area safer, beautify it, and, obviously, put a system in it and make it clean. I'm going to tell you, this Mr. Champagne was very positive, he was not negative, and he's willing to go to work, so I'm going to reach out to him and get some of his positive thoughts. Maybe working with the West Ashley Revitalization team, but again, thank you for what you do."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Great. Terrific."

Councilmember Waring said, "That's the extent of my report."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "That's the end of your report. All right. So, we've saved more detail for the next meeting. You all like what was mentioned. You should have been there for the committee meeting, you would hear it all. All right. Next, back to our Committee on Ways and Means."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Move for approval."

Councilmember Shealy said, "Second."

On a motion of Councilmember Shahid, seconded by Councilmember Shealy, City Council voted to adopt the Committee on Ways and Means Report.

-- INSERT WAYS AND MEANS REPORT --

(Bids and Purchases

(Parks-Capital Projects: Approval to increase CPD Forensic Services Building P165418 with Patterson Pope in the amount of \$2,207 for providing and installing two custom trim pieces for lockers and shelving and additional storage costs due to construction delays. Approval to increase P165418 will increase the PO amount by \$2,207 (from \$64,877.61 to \$67,084.61). Funding sources for this project are: 2015 IPRB (\$7,392,186) and 2017 IPRB (\$5,000,000).

(Stormwater Management: Approval of a Memorandum of Agreement with CPW for in-contract utility work on the Low Battery Seawall Repairs Phase II project. Reimbursement will be provided by CPW for 100% of the costs of all construction items associated with water and sewer utility work. The estimated amount to be reimbursed is \$1,370,179.41.

(Fire Department: Approval to submit the 2020 Assistance to Firefighter Grant for \$3,000,000 for the complete replacement of the Department's self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) to meet the NFPA standard. There is a 10% match (\$200,000) and an additional \$1,000,000 beyond the maximum award of \$2,000,000 in the FY2022 Budget (\$1,200,000).

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

(Approval of a three year lease with MUSC with two one-year options to renew. The property will be used as a parking lot. The property is owned by the City of Charleston. [Southeast corner of Fishburne Street and Hagood Avenue and

known as the 1,143 parking spaces Fishburne Ballpark Parking Lot; TMS: 4600000008 and 4600000002 (Ordinance)].

(Request the Mayor and City Council approve an Option to Lease and Ground Lease Agreement for sixty (60) years with Lowline Housing, LP, Inc. for the development of the City of Charleston's Lowline Affordable housing site. The property is owned by the City of Charleston. [The property is 0.7 acre and is located near the southern terminus of F Street adjacent to the planned Lowcountry Lowline. The site is also adjacent to 670 & 676 King Street, which are properties owned by the Housing Authority of the City of Charleston; TMS: 460-04-04-118; (Ordinance)]. **Councilmember Appel recused himself from voting on this item and completed a Conflict of Interest Form which is on file in the Office of the Clerk of Council.**

(Approval of a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to take all necessary action and execute all necessary documents on behalf of the City of Charleston to accept from the South Carolina Department of Transportation that certain real property, containing approximately 0.31 acres, shown on the attached exhibit, and being a portion of the right-of-way for US Route 17, bounded on the north by US Route 17 (King Street Off-Ramp), on the south and east by the Septima P. Clark Parkway (US Route 17) (SB), and on the west by the intersection of Fishburne Street and Coming Street.

(Consider the following annexation:

-- 2182 Parkway Drive (0.20 acre) (TMS# 343-01-00-144), James Island, (District 11). The property is owned by Peter Deen and Leigh Mendelsohn Wey.

(Executive Session in accordance with Section 30-4-70 (a)(2) of the South Carolina Code to discuss negotiations incident to a proposed contractual relationship and receive legal advice regarding the 99 West Edge Parking Garage.

First reading was given to the following resolution and bills:

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute, on behalf of the City of Charleston ("City") that certain governmental real estate lease to Medical University of South Carolina ("Tenant"), for 1,143 parking spaces and a covered bus shelter located at the southwest corner of Fishburne Street and Hagood Avenue, known as the Fishburne Ballpark Parking Lot.

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute, on behalf of the City of Charleston ("City") that certain Option to Lease to Lowline Housing, LP, Inc. ("Tenant") the City's real property, containing 0.708 acres, more or less, and designated as Charleston County TMS No. 460-04-04-118, under which the Tenant will develop a minimum of 55 affordable residential rental units.

A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to take all necessary action and execute all necessary documents on behalf of the City of Charleston to accept from the South Carolina Department of Transportation that certain real property, containing approximately 0.31 acres, shown on the attached exhibit, and being a portion of the right-of-way for US Route 17, bounded on the north by US Route 17 (King Street Off-Ramp), on the south and east by the Septima P. Clark Parkway (US Route 17) (SB), and on the west by the intersection of Fishburne Street and Coming Street.

An ordinance to provide for the annexation of property known as 2182 Parkway Drive (0.20 acre) (TMS# 343-01-00-144), James Island, Charleston County, to the City of

Charleston, shown within the area annexed upon a map attached hereto and make it part of District 11. The property is owned by Peter Deen and Leigh Mendelsohn Wey.

Councilmember Appel recused himself from voting on Item 8b of the report and completed a Conflict of Interest Form which is on file in the Office of the Clerk of Council.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Now we have bills up for [second reading](#). I think we have 1-8 on there."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Move for approval."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Any discussion on any of those items, 1-8?"

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Shahid, eight (8) bills (Items L-1 through L-8) received second reading. They passed second reading on motion by Councilmember Mitchell and third reading on motion of Councilmember Shahid. On further motion of Councilmember Mitchell, the rules were suspended and the bills were immediately ratified as:

2021-011 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON BY CHANGING THE ZONE MAP, WHICH IS A PART THEREOF, SO THAT 14 F STREET (PENINSULA) (APPROXIMATELY 0.10 ACRE) (TMS #463-16-03-041) (COUNCIL DISTRICT 4), BE REZONED FROM DIVERSE RESIDENTIAL (DR-1) CLASSIFICATION TO DIVERSE RESIDENTIAL (DR-2F) CLASSIFICATION. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY WILLIAM R. JAMES.

2021-012 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON BY CHANGING THE ZONE MAP, WHICH IS A PART THEREOF, SO THAT 578 MEETING STREET (PENINSULA) (APPROXIMATELY 2.13 ACRES) (TMS #459-01-03-031) (COUNCIL DISTRICT 4), BE REZONED FROM GENERAL BUSINESS (GB) AND LIGHT INDUSTRIAL (LI) CLASSIFICATION TO MIXED-USE/WORKFORCE HOUSING (MU-1/WH) CLASSIFICATION. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY EXCHANGE REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS LLC.

2021-013 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 578 MEETING STREET (PENINSULA) (APPROXIMATELY 1.25 ACRES) (TMS #459-01-03-031) (COUNCIL DISTRICT 4), BE REZONED FROM 2.5-3 STORY OLD HEIGHT DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION TO 3.5 STORY OLD HEIGHT DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY EXCHANGE REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS LLC.

2021-014 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 54 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON (ZONING ORDINANCE) BY AMENDING SUBSECTION 15. OF SECTION 54-306 – OLD CITY HEIGHT DISTRICTS AND THE

FOOTNOTES TO THE OLD CITY HEIGHT DISTRICT CHART IN SECTION
54-306.X.

2021-015 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON BY CHANGING THE ZONE MAP, WHICH IS A PART THEREOF, SO THAT 2891 DONCASTER DRIVE (WEST ASHLEY) (APPROXIMATELY 0.31 ACRE) (TMS #358-10-00-087) (COUNCIL DISTRICT 10), ANNEXED INTO THE CITY OF CHARLESTON DECEMBER 15, 2020 (#2020-178), BE ZONED SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (SR-1) CLASSIFICATION. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY DEBRA SOTTILE.

2021-016 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON BY CHANGING THE ZONE MAP, WHICH IS A PART THEREOF, SO THAT 333 FLEMING RD, UNITS C1-C4 AND D1-D4 (JAMES ISLAND) (APPROXIMATELY 0.29 ACRE) (TMS #343-07-00-113 THROUGH 120 AND A PORTION OF 343-07-00-193) (COUNCIL DISTRICT 6), ANNEXED INTO THE CITY OF CHARLESTON JANUARY 12, 2021 (#2021-005), BE ZONED DIVERSE RESIDENTIAL (DR-1F) CLASSIFICATION. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY AV SG SOUTHCOURT, LLC.

2021-017 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON ("CITY") AN EASEMENT AND OTHER DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE ACCESS RIGHTS TO CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 179 NASSAU STREET (TMS # 4590503001) FOR THE PURPOSE OF RELOCATING ONE GEAR BOX AND ONE TRANSFORMER TO DOMINION ENERGY SOUTH CAROLINA, INC.

2021-018 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON ("CITY") A TRANSFER AGREEMENT AND OTHER DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO CONVEY THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 36 COOPER STREET (CHARLESTON COUNTY TMS NO. 459-06-01-008) TO CHARLESTON COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION, DOING BUSINESS AS PALMETTO COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERS, FOR \$68,449.00 FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MINIMUM OF FOUR (4) AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS, SUBJECT TO THE CITY'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING RESTRICTIVE COVENANT AGREEMENT.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Number nine is deferred, and we now come to number ten."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Griffin.

Councilmember Griffin said, "I'll make a motion that we withdraw this item off the agenda."

The Clerk said, "Mr. Mayor. The item Councilmember Griffin was referencing is Item 16."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Oh, I'm sorry."

The Clerk said, "But Item 10, I did want to note, just for the record, Item 10 is being withdrawn at the request of the applicant."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay. Do we need a motion to withdraw number 10?"

The Clerk said, "We don't. I just noted that on there. The applicant does not want to proceed forward with it, as well as number 14. The applicant has requested withdrawal of that ordinance, as well. I also just wanted to note for Council that the one ordinance that is set to expire is Item 15, and that is set to expire March the 24th of this year."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Terrific. All right, so numbers 10 and 14 will come off. Duly noted, and you can take care of that. So, I apologize, Councilmember Griffin, as [Item number 16](#). Now, I call on you again."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Griffin.

Councilmember Griffin said, "I'll make a motion that we withdraw this item."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Number 16. Do we have a second?"

Councilwoman Jackson said, "I'll second."

The Clerk said, "Mr. Mayor, we had a motion from earlier in the meeting already from Councilmember Griffin and Councilmember Shealy."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay, you're counting that motion even though it was made back then. That's fine. Okay. Any discussion to withdraw number 16?"

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Griffin, seconded by Councilmember Shealy, City Council voted unanimously to withdraw item L-16 from the agenda:

An ordinance to amend Chapter 27, Stormwater Management and Flood Control, of the Code of the City of Charleston, to add a new Article IV to provide fill requirements for all new construction, developments, and redevelopments within the City. (WITHDRAWN)

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So next up for bills for [first reading](#) we have an ordinance to create a board and commission called the City of Charleston Storm Surge Protection and Feasibility Advisory Committee. I think you've read about it, but it's basically to provide citizen information engagement regarding our corps of engineers' 3x3 study."

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Move for approval, Mr. Mayor."

Councilmember Brady said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Any discussion?"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie.

Councilmember Gregorie said, "I just had a question. In looking at the composition of the task force, I do see where there is an at large person. But what really stuck out with me, and I know this is for Peninsula and that we're dealing with the Army Corps of Engineers, our recommendation, but what stuck out to me is there is no West of the Ashley representative there. I know it's Peninsula, but as we move forward with this issue, especially where that water is going

to go, it would be great for someone from West Ashley, and when I say West Ashley, I'm including James Island, John's Island, but I just think that there needs to be somebody there. And then, in addition, Mayor, and I know we haven't as a Council really dealt with the issues yet in terms of equity. I just think, somehow, that has to be intertwined in here, especially when we deal with the environmental issues. We are going to do an environmental assessment that somehow we fold in, looking at everything we do, Mayor, through an equity lens. And it would be great, again, for us to at least have some sense of equitably how will this affect different areas of the City, particularly those areas that are lower income, are minority, and I just think that somehow we need to start pushing that into the discussion, knowing that when we're dealing with Federal agencies, there are always non-discrimination provisions, Title VI, etc., etc., but a lot of times that gets lost in the mix. So, somehow, I want to try to get us to start, you charged me with this, but we need to start looking at things through an equity lens, and that's everything we do. I don't know how we do that, Mayor, but I'm just saying, I just think that somehow we need to bring that into the discussion."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So thank you, and I certainly will keep that in mind when I make recommendations to the next meeting as to actual membership. I had intended to include a Councilmember from West Ashley, and honestly, that was the intent of number 9 on the committee, and a member from the social justice community. So, we will certainly try to be inclusive."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Okay, thank you, Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilwoman Delcioppo.

Councilwoman Delcioppo said, "So, two points. They're going to kind of contradict each other. Just as though you're considering what happens in West Ashley, James Island, John's Island, there's also that concern with what happens on the eastern side, as well. What happens on the Cooper River side? So if we're going to talk one, I think we need to talk the other, as well. I think 17 members is a lot. That's a lot of conversations happening, and I think that just bogs things down. I'm always a big fan of less than 10, maybe 12 at the most. And I don't like putting on their plate also to secure funds and to seek out fundraising opportunities. I think if this is to get the community engaged, that's what we want is unfiltered community engagement, maybe alliances or things like that and something else for them to have in the back of their mind. Other than that, I'm supportive of it. Those are just my two concerns."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, thank you. I hear that. I do think the reference to funding is a concern that our community has shared over the last few years, of how we're going to pay for all these infrastructure improvements, and there needs to be team support for it to work out. I mean, I don't view this group to be primarily involved in fundraising or anything of that nature, but certainly I want to keep in mind the thought processes and ideas of how we're going to pay for all these expensive projects going forward."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilwoman Jackson.

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I also have my reservations about assisting with the solicitation of private funds. I mean, maybe that would be appropriate once the committee has, you know, sort of gelled and really done the major part of their work, which is to help us make sure that we're designing and desiring a seawall that works for the citizens and the community. So, I would leave that open. I'm happy to vote first reading with that language in there, but I do think that we should be, you know, really drilling down onto how much of a credential you

would have in terms of an eligible member that you would like to appoint. And also I feel very strongly that you need to have someone from West of the Ashley. I think I feel equally strongly that when you think about where the seawall will go, the impact, and what we've been talking about, I know there's no barrier reef being proposed right now, but in terms of the impact of tidal surge, I think this might be one time when James Island is out there as the most vulnerable coastline, if that's going to be the consideration of the committee. So, I would strongly urge you to think about the geography of the West of the Ashley communities. I'm sure that the bigness of the membership can be managed by having working groups and task forces, assignments, and things. We've managed to do that very successfully with the James Island Creek Water Quality Task Force. We added a lot of members that, I think, are now strategic, and it's a big number, but we've divided into very strategically placed working groups, and I think that's a great system, so I'm not too worried about 17 members at this point."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Griffin.

Councilmember Griffin said, "Yes, sir, Mr. Mayor. I just wanted to do this before we vote. I'm inclined to vote 'no' on this. And my reason why is because I don't want to give the public the perception that I support this idea of a seawall. I don't. And I know that this commission or committee is going to spend a lot of time on that issue, and I think it's a waste of resources, and I think we should be investing those resources looking at other projects. So, for those reasons, I'm inclined to vote 'no' on this. I don't want to give anyone the perception that I'm supportive of the seawall project because I'm not."

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

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Seekings.

Councilmember Seekings said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Before I make my comments, I just want to say that I totally agree with having citizen input and communication about what is sure to be, if it goes forward today, tomorrow, or somewhere down the road, the largest public works project we've ever had in the history of Charleston, and it's an important project, and it's also an important issue. A few things I'd like to point out and comment on, some of which have already been made, on our agenda, the title of this commission is the City of Charleston Storm Surge Protection and Feasibility Advisory Committee, but actually the ordinance that we've been given is for the City of Charleston Peninsula Coastal Flood Risk Management Study Citizen and Business Advisory Committee, so I think we need to all be on the same page as to exactly what we're talking about. The actual ordinance is much broader than what is published in our agenda, that it's going to look at both the storm surge, the Army's 3x3 study, and other issues that are out there. In fact, that specifically references in the ordinance that it will be looking at storm surge protection and flooding from all causes. What is most immediate, clearly, is the Army Corps 3x3 project, which we, as a Council, are going to have to take up in terms of our support and funding in this year, this calendar year. I 100% agree with comments made by Councilwoman Delcioppo and others that this commission is too big. It needs to be much more focused and smaller and manageable. It needs to be nimble. I really believe that, Mr. Mayor, if we give this first reading, I suspect that it would be a good idea to go back and revisit and find a number, somewhere around nine people, who are committed to getting really involved in this quickly, that have the time and expertise to do it, and then can report back to the community independently about what's happening with the Army Corps of Engineers study and other projects that we need to pursue both on and off the peninsula. If this is going to be a group that's going to look broadly at the issue

of flooding, clearly, there's an entire City's worth of things to look at, so I would encourage us collectively and, Mr. Mayor, for you to look at the makeup of this commission and help pare it down a little bit, make it more nimble, and let's all make sure we know what we're voting on and what the objective of this commission is because, as drafted, it's not as published in our agenda. So with that, I'm happy to give it first reading, but I think we need to think about it before we actually put it on the books."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "All right."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I really appreciate the initiative on creating this commission. I think it's overdue, and we need to be pushing forward with it, but being the Chair of the West Ashley Revitalization Commission, I have to join my other Councilmembers on questioning the size and would urge reducing it somewhat. Anywhere between nine and eleven commission members, I think, would make it more nimble and more focused. Let's go ahead and give it first reading tonight and just maybe contemplate, if you wouldn't mind, thinking about reducing the size of it, just so you get more of a surgical focus on what we're trying to accomplish here."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Mitchell.

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Yes, Mr. Mayor. I understand what all of my colleagues are saying, and this is going to be a very big impact if it ever happens, but I don't know if it will ever happen to most of the area that I represent right now, with the wall coming all of the way from the Eastside going all of the way up to probably or almost close to Bridgeview, if you may. So, even when they're picking out these people that are going to be on the Committee, you need to look at those areas very carefully to find individuals that are going to really be able to give good input to what you are looking for, not just putting people on the Committee even from the Eastside that don't have much interest in pursuing what we are looking for because you're going to have people on the Committee that you put on there, and they are not really interested in what we are going through. They're just wasting time to me, and that's just my opinion on it. But, you need to have some people, a cross-reference of people, from that particular area, which is the Eastside, from downtown, from West Ashley, James Island, or whatever the case may be, but you need to get key people, I believe, that are really interested in knowing what they are getting into and knowing what they are looking for and not people spinning their wheels because we don't need that. We've had too many people spinning their wheels on a lot of different Commissions and Committees that we've sat on before. So, if you're thinking very seriously about this because it is going to be a lot of money that they're talking about, and we need to get this going as soon as possible, I don't care how many people you're going to have on it, but you need to have key people from the community who are ready and willing to sit down and give good input of what we are looking for. I think this is going to be a long drawn out thing, and I don't think any of us on Council are going to be around anyway even if this takes place. That's just my opinion on it. I know I'm not going to be around anyway. So, just have the good input there for people to have a guide to go by and something that we look at very seriously."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Right. Well, I appreciate everyone's input, and we'll give it some serious thought. I do want to share that there are a number of folks that have already reached out who were very interested in being engaged and being a part of this. I do want to make clear, Councilmember Seekings, that but for the Army Corps of Engineers 3x3 Study, we would not be coming forward with this group, that's clear. So, I know it's basically limited to the Peninsula. We

have other groups that have studied other areas. We've got a Church Creek Area Committee Authority going now, but this Committee is intended to be engaged and follow the recommendations of the Army Corps 3x3 and we have, as a Council, a workshop planned for, I think it's later this month, to really dig into the details of where we stand on it right now. I hear you about the number, it could be unwieldy. I appreciate that. For some reason, I think it's been a little easier to manage the larger groups with the zoom meetings sometimes, and Councilwoman Jackson makes a good point about our James Island Water Quality Task Force. We must have 30 people on there, and we divided it up into three groups that focus on different areas, and it really has worked quite well. So, I think Mark could do a good job managing that. You want to be inclusive, Councilmembers Gregorie and Mitchell, and have people from various parts of the Peninsula and the community, and the Aquarium really wanted to participate, so I added them in there. So, I'll certainly reflect on it and see what names I come up with before I come back to you. We don't have to fill them all right away, that's for sure, if we don't have people that aren't committed to really following this and being engaged in it."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Seekings.

Councilmember Seekings said, "Just very briefly, thank you for your comments, Mr. Mayor. What I might suggest is just to clean up, if in fact, this really is a focus, especially in the short term, on the 3x3 study, I think the ordinance should really reflect that, and it is much broader than that. As currently drafted, it talks about storm surge protection and flooding from all causes. If we're looking at this issue, the 3x3 study, let's just put it out there that that's what we're doing. I think that would be actually helpful for the focus of this Commission. It certainly would have to take into account the effects in places other than the Peninsula, but let's get them focused from the get-go so the mission is clear."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, we'll try to make it clearer. Janie Borden helped write it up and Mark. I mean, it does say the Army Corps of Engineers Peninsula Coastal Flood Risk Management Study. That's the 3x3 study. It refers to the National Economic Development Study, which is a part of that 3x3. The Preliminary Engineering Design (PED) is also specifically part of the Corps 3x3 plan, as it's been outlined to us. So, it seems to me there is a lot of specifics here regarding that Corps 3x3, but we can drill down on it further. That's for sure."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilwoman Jackson.

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Yes, I just have two quick things. I would agree that maybe just the name itself is unwieldy, and if it's only going to focus on the Peninsula, which I agree is the right focus with the ramifications that the Army Corps' game plan has for the coast, but as you famously said over the years, Mayor, that 'If it walks like a duck, then we should call it a duck.' So, I think we can work on the name. I was responding to resonating with Councilmember Gregorie's request that we make sure that we have a representative from what I would call the Environmental Justice Community, and then I noticed that there is a term in there, the Social Justice Community. So, is that the same thing? Can we just call it the Environmental Justice Community and make sure we've got a representative from the African American neighborhoods? So, whether they're included inside the wall or outside the wall, we want to make sure that we're taking care of any concerns that in the future that those neighborhoods will have. So, I don't know if Social Justice Community is, maybe there is an art term for that is something different."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Great. Well, I think we intended one and the same and, Janie, I see writing notes. We'll make some edits to this when we come back to you for second and third reading."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Listen, I agree with Councilwoman Delcioppo and Councilmember Seekings on the size of this Committee. I think it needs to be scaled down. I do agree we need to keep it within the Corps study. We probably have the best climate or the best communication on Council now when it comes to addressing flooding problems from one end of this City to the other, and I do not want to interrupt that or affect that in a negative way. We just got through looking at a Comprehensive Maintenance Program in part on the Peninsula, and you had people from West Ashley applauding that. A year-and-a-half or so ago we voted because of an overrun on the Septima Clark/Spring-Fishburne Project. We committed Stormwater dollars for five years, I think it was, before we got that money from the State, which meant there were not going to be virtually any major projects west of the Peninsula, West Ashley, James Island, and Johns Island. Thank God we all put together, the Governor and the people in Columbia, saw fit to do that grant. Now these projects are back on again in large part.

It's been since 1984 since the people in West Ashley, James Island, and Johns Island have been looking for flooding solutions in their areas of the City, and that constitutes, no doubt, the larger populated areas and citizenry in this town. The last thing I want to go to is back to a parochial fight. Prior to where we are now, if you looked at the spending for flooding fixes, it was heavily skewed on the Peninsula for obvious reasons, but it occurred to the peril of West Ashley, James Island, and Johns Island. I mean, virtually you go back and look at the dollars that were spent. It was horrendous. It was almost like Hospitality and Sales Tax dollars always were spent on the Peninsula, and the thought was no tourists come West Ashley, James Island, and Johns Island. Well, that's not the case anymore, and those dollars, I still would say, are not fairly spent, but we are beginning to get some dollars to West Ashley and James Island. Maybe not so much Johns Island, Councilmember Brady, but we've got to come up with a better plan on that. But the fixes in West Ashley, James Island, and Johns Island, from a cost standpoint, we can take one major project on the Peninsula, and we can take those dollars and fix everything in West Ashley, James Island, and Johns Island. So, the last thing I want to do is get into a tiff, if you will, with a Committee that's in power with the Peninsula that's injecting politics among the 13 people right now that, I think, have great synergy in addressing problems Citywide.

So, I don't want to have a conversation after the meeting or around the water cooler about stuff like this. Any time you get an area that includes over 70,000 people in this City that gets together and votes to say that Spring/Fishburne Septima Clark needs to be fixed, and we have to go back and tell our citizens, 'You guys have got to wait until 2024', or whenever it was, it hurts to do that. It feels like you're failing your people to do that. So, we now have been given a second chance so, I think, this piece about, I know we're kind of dancing around it, but the piece about building the wall, I think we need to have an up or down vote on that on Council. I've seen accounts in the newspaper where our match is going to be in excess of \$600 million. I dare say if our lives depended on it right now, all 13 of our lives, where are we going to get that money from or we would have to die, they would have to kill all 13 of us. We don't know where that money is coming from. So, we're beginning to put a lot of staff time now and volunteer time into this, and I think it's only fair we begin to figure out where that money is coming from and to what sacrifice, projects that are going to be put in abeyance.

We've got them there from 1984 coming forward, that have been on the books since 1984, and through this Mayor and this Council, we're now addressing some of those. One of the ones, Councilmember, is in your district, King/Huger Street. We're now working on that. It's only been 30 years in coming, thirty years to spend \$6 million on a certain part of the Peninsula. Politics

kept that from happening, if politics weren't there to get seven votes to fix a project like that. So, I throw a word of caution out there. We do not want to create a political lobbying group, if you will, that will cast a negative synergy in what's being accomplished Citywide right now. So, I have some intimidation about that. I'm fine with the group going forward, but that group needs to be brought up to speed, not only on the Peninsula, but projects that are now being addressed Citywide and the complications with stopping all future projects that are being nationwide. When we refinanced a bond the other day, we saved \$5 million in interest, and do you know what we did? We went over there off Central Park Road and at least are beginning to accumulate funding to fix a problem, again, that we've known about for decades, and you know what? It was a unanimous vote almost that came from the floor. I mean, that's great synergy approaching our problems of the Battery, the Low/High wall, Phase 1, Phase 2, unanimous votes all of the way, and we're all proud of what we're doing. So, I don't want to upset that apple cart, but I just throw the word of caution on that one, Mr. Mayor. So, I think narrowing the scope will do that given the feeling of a broad spectrum. I think the last thing I want to do is get in a tug-of-war, and we get in a circle and start shooting at one another. That will be the feeling for the whole City if we were to create that."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Right. Well, Councilmember Waring, I appreciate those words of wisdom and caution. Once again, I would just say, we wouldn't even be forming this if not out of the need for engagement and input to the Corps 3x3 study. They picked the area to conduct this surge protection study and, in addition to that, we hope that they will also be taking a look at the drainage aspects within the area, which compliments the whole study, so I do hear you loud and clear. There is no intent whatsoever here to exacerbate or create any kind of rivalries amongst us or sections of the City. There were reasons why the Corps did this and, I think, we may end up at the end of the day, not agreeing to move forward with a plan with them. That will be up to Council, but I feel it's our responsibility to give it the best shot at analysis and determination whether this is good for our City long term or not and let the chips fall where they will. Once we do that, and part of this has been the desire of our citizens to have more input and engagement on this process, and that's what this is all about. So, I've been listening, and I'll make some modifications when I come back to you at the next meeting, but I appreciate getting first reading on this, and it won't be long. It will help, I think, us all focus on it when we have the workshop meeting on this topic. When is that going to be Madam Clerk? I think in just two weeks."

Councilmember Griffin said, "Next Thursday."

The Clerk said, "At 3:00 p.m."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, that will be very timely. We'll have that workshop meeting before we come back and have second and third reading and recommendations on this Committee, and I think that will help everyone's overall perspective on it. Alright. Are there any further comments?"

No one else asked to speak.

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

An ordinance to amend Chapter 2, Article IV, Boards and Commissions to create a new Division Twelve (12) to be titled as "City of Charleston Storm Surge Protection and Feasibility Advisory Committee".

The vote was not unanimous. Councilmember Griffin voted nay.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you. The ayes have it. Is there any further business to come before us tonight?"

Councilmember Waring said, "Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, "By the way, I do have two things, so if we're down to Miscellaneous Business on the agenda. That's where we are?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes, sir."

Councilmember Waring said, "Yes, sir. I do have [two things](#) I want to add on the next agenda. One stems from the Community Development meeting where staff came up with the spending program, albeit for information, but I'd like to put it on Council to vote. When it comes to TIF dollars, I think the priority should be flooding, affordable housing, and then the LowLine or whatever else comes in. As you know, we were presented some information, from a spending standpoint, put a high priority in placing the LowLine first. Now, I'm a supporter of the LowLine, but I've got to be frank, I'm not going to leap forward and support leap frogging the LowLine in front of flooding and, obviously, affordable housing, especially since the State altered the law to allow land purchases with TIF dollars last year. The graph that we were given, the grid that we were given showed about \$16,600,000 in the next one to three years that we've spent on the LowLine, and when it came to drainage in the area, it could be ongoing over the next ten years. Affordable housing was to be five to eight years, and the total was \$5 million, and drainage was \$15 million and the LowLine being \$16,600,000, I actually want to put on the agenda for Council to vote on priority spending on these TIF dollars because when monies that come out of the TIF area can go to drainage, that allows dollars to go out of the Stormwater Fund, across the City, that aren't eligible for TIF dollars. One of the items that came up in that discussion was the Cooper/Jackson Drainage Basin, and to my knowledge, we hadn't set aside \$5 for that. I may be facetious, but we hadn't set aside any serious money for the Cooper/Jackson Drainage Basin, and it was estimated that that is going to cost \$20 million or \$25 million. Part of this subject was shovel ready projects versus projects that aren't shovel ready, but the reason we are fixing the Low Battery Wall today is because we have been putting money aside for that. This is my tenth year on Council, and every year I've been on Council, I voted for monies for the Battery Wall. There has not been a year that we have not, and those votes have been unanimous, by the way."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, Councilmember, I'll be happy to put it on the agenda. It's not on the agenda tonight."

Councilmember Waring said, "Okay, that's good, that's fine. So, if we could get that on the agenda--"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "But I would respectfully say that, as Councilmember Mitchell mentioned when he gave his report, he did expect those three matters to come back to Community Development Committee first before coming to Council, and just respecting protocol, if that's alright with you, it would come back to the next Community Development Committee and then it can get reported back to Council."

Councilmember Waring said, "Well, my point is the spending priority out of TIF funding. I think we should have an up or down vote, and maybe these instructions should go to Community Development, so when staff comes back with a spending priority that is not aligned with drainage, affordable housing, and down the line after that, that message needs to go out, not only to Community Development. That message needs to go out to our staff because our staff needs to know what is the spending priority on these dollars. One of the problems with TIF in the past has been previous administrations, albeit stormwater rise wasn't what it is today. We did above the surface pretty things with those dollars. Now, we need to do things below the surface with them, so I just want to put that on the agenda. That information certainly can be on the agenda when Community Development comes back, but for staff to flip the script and come up with a spending priority that is less than certainly what our citizens are asking us for, I think we need to have an up or down vote. If the majority of Council wants to spend in a different direction, then that's democracy, but plainly that's all I'd put on the agenda."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. We'll be happy to do that, but you said there were two items."

Councilmember Waring said, "That's right. The second item is, I really do believe I want to take our Legal staff out of our advice. You, with all due respect, have recused yourself from the Charleston School of Law issue. Our Legal staff works at your pleasure, but you're having a conflict. They're in a very gray area right now. I saw that and some of us who are on Council when we had the Internal Audit with Mr. Majernik. He worked for the City, and he was trying to do his best job at an unbiased report."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Can I address that?"

Councilmember Waring said, "Let me finish my thought. I'd like, with all due respect, Mr. Mayor, I'd like to put up a motion on the floor at our next meeting for Council to consider hiring Legal counsel to advise City Council on the Charleston School of Law issue."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, that really won't be necessary because I was trying to interrupt you to say that's exactly what we're doing."

Councilmember Waring said, "No, let me go further. The last time we did that Legal staff hired without Council's input, an attorney out of Columbia. What attorneys are to be hired should be approved by City Council, not by our Legal Department. Now, in my opinion, that was a mistake the last time. We had no input on that. We had no input on the cost. We were told who the attorney would be, and we were told what that cost would be and certainly we bore the brunt of it. We should bare the brunt of it up front, and the attorney or attorneys that are to advise Council on this issue, that should be decided by a vote of Council and not our Legal Department."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Councilmember, upon your request, which can be made at any time, we will put it on the agenda for you next meeting."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilwoman Jackson.

Councilwoman Jackson said, "I was just going to say that since I am Mayor Pro Tem and acting as Mayor in this issue, that I have been consulting with our Legal team about the outside hiring. So, I would be happy to have the Council be educated and brought up to date about that whole situation."

Councilmember Waring said, "Now, this is different from what I'm asking, Mr. Mayor. I'm asking that a motion be put on the floor at the next meeting for City Council to have a vote to hire Legal Counsel to advise it on its rights, legalities, or whatever, in particular, the agreement with the Charleston School of Law."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "If that's a motion, I second it."

Councilmember Waring said, "Well, no. I'm not putting it on the agenda for a motion."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Oh, okay."

Councilmember Waring said, "It's an agenda item for next meeting."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "It's not on the agenda for tonight, but he's asking for it to be placed on the agenda, which is fine."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Okay."

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I see Ms. Herdina's face lit up here. Would you like to address this?"

Ms. Herdina said, "Only to mention that Council did direct us to take certain action after the last Executive Session. We have done that, and I was planning on having it in Executive Session at the next Real Estate Committee meeting, to advise the Real Estate Committee and then Council on where we are on this matter. I mean, certainly, Councilmember Waring, you can move forward with your motion, but I just wanted to let you know that we have taken a number of steps and are prepared to discuss the matter in Executive Session at the next Council meeting."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Terrific."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Seekings.

Councilmember Seekings said, "Just very briefly, Ms. Herdina. If we're going to do that, I mean, it's great that it comes through the Committee, but this is obviously going to be something that's for full Council. Do we really need to have an Executive Session at Real Estate and then at Council, or should we just all hear this at one time together? I think this is the one time, Councilmember Gregorie, that I would say we probably ought to just bypass Real Estate and just come straight to City Council, and let's take it up together."

Ms. Herdina said, "I have no objection to that. I was just offering that out of respect to the Committee."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. We'll have it on the agenda. Is there any further business to come before us this evening?"

No one else asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Hearing none, we stand adjourned."

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Jennifer B. Cook
Clerk of Council