

## CITY COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING

Regular Meeting

April 13, 2021

The one-hundred and seventeenth meeting of the City Council of Charleston was held this date convening at 5:24 p.m. over video conference call (Zoom).

A notice of this meeting and an agenda were made available on the City's website April 8, 2021 and appeared in the Post and Courier on April 12, 2021.

### PRESENT (13)

The Honorable John J. Tecklenburg, Mayor (*excused at 8:45 p.m.*)

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 5:24 p.m.

The Clerk called the roll.

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

Councilmember Waring began to open the meeting with an [invocation](#).

Councilmembers Waring and Shealy lost their Wi-Fi connection.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, you all, I think we'll come back for a repeat of the invocation. It looks like they dropped off completely. It might be our Wi-Fi service in City Council Chambers, the bandwidth. Maybe we'll give them one moment and see if they sign back on. What do you think?"

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Let's give them one more minute."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes. While we're waiting for them, I'd like to welcome Melanie Alston and Ms. Joyce Taylor, who are with us this evening. I see them now on my Zoom screen here. They are the granddaughter and the daughter of Ms. Martha Lou Gadsden, who passed away recently. You all may know that Joyce is the wife of our former Deputy Chief Jerome Taylor. Is Jerome with you, as well?"

Deputy Chief Taylor said, “Yes, sir. I’m here.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Chief Taylor, it is so good to see you all.”

Deputy Chief Taylor said, “Thank you.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “I haven’t seen Councilmembers Shealy and Waring come back on yet. So, if you all would bear with me, I’d like to proceed with our first item on our agenda, a [Resolution](#) in remembrance of Martha Lou Gadsden.”

Mayor Tecklenburg read the Resolution.

---INSERT RESOLUTION---

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “God bless, and Ms. Taylor or Ms. Alston, if you all would like to share any remarks or so, we celebrate her life, but share your sadness in her loss.”

Joyce Taylor said, “Good evening. I’m Martha Lou’s daughter, Joyce Taylor, and on behalf of our family members, close friends, and everybody in Charleston that had the opportunity to eat some of Martha Lou’s food, I know you had a good time. So, on behalf of the family, I’d just like to say thank you. My mother lived 91 years, and that’s a legend, so we’ll go down in history as Martha Lou’s children. So, Charleston, thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you for what you have done. Thank you for staying along with her and listening to her little funny words during the time that you had to wait on your food. She wanted to make sure that everything was right. So, I’m going to miss her, and we all are going to miss her, but God has his way, and she lived a good life, and I’d like to say thank you to you all.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Well, you are more than welcome. God bless you all.”

There was applause.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Thank you. Ms. Alston, did you want to share anything?”

Melanie Alston said, “I just want to piggy-back off of what my Aunt said. I’d just like to take this opportunity to thank you guys for honoring her. I mean, it’s really a big deal, and it means a lot to our family, so we appreciate it from the bottom of our hearts. Thank you so much.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “You’re welcome and so well deserved. Deputy Chief Taylor, Jerome, it’s always good to see you and thank you for being with us this evening, as well.”

Deputy Chief Taylor said, “Thank you, sir.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Well, God bless.”

Councilmember Gregorie said, “Mayor.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie.

Councilmember Gregorie said, “Yes. I would be remiss if I don’t say to the family that, of course, I miss Ms. Martha Lou, and I miss the cooking. An unbelievable place to go and have good home cooking like your mama cooks.”

There was laughter.

Councilmember Gregorie continued, “For that alone, she will be missed, but, I think, Mayor, as a Council, while I think a proclamation is great, I think it would be good if we look into trying to put a marker where Martha Lou’s Restaurant was, so that people will forever know her contributions to the cuisine of this City, Mayor. So, I think at some point we need to look into seeing whether or not we can get a State marker put in that area. I know the land is sold, but I’m sure that someone would allow us to do something like that, Mayor, and I think we should look into it.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Alright.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Mitchell.

Councilmember Mitchell said, “I think Councilmember Gregorie heard what I was going to say because he said the same thing I was going to suggest. Insofar as Martha Lou is concerned, I go back with Ms. Martha Lou from the Ladson House time in the ‘50s and ‘60s. That’s where I first met Martha Lou and Alice at the time giving me the good hot dogs, and any time I went in there, they gave me two hot dogs on the bun because they know me. They call me ‘Bobby’, that’s all they know me as. ‘Come on in, Bobby, come on in, Bobby,’ she always called me. No ‘Robert’, just ‘Bobby.’ So, I’m going to miss her when I go by, and she used to say, ‘I haven’t seen you in a long time.’ I would say, ‘I’m still here’, and she would say, ‘Come by and see me some more’, and I would say, ‘Alright. Will do.’ But, I’m going to miss her because we go way back, way, way back, and I can remember those times. We all had a nice time. Joyce was there. I remember Joyce. We came up together, in church together, way back when.”

Ms. Taylor said, “That’s right, in church.”

Councilmember Mitchell said, “It happened back in the ‘50s, so I go back with the family. When I heard about Ms. Martha Lou, it kind of hit me a little bit because I know when she called me when the restaurant was closing, and I was working with her. She said, ‘Bobby, you know, I’m a little old now, I’m just going to let it go. I’m not going to try and do nothing else.’ I said, ‘Okay, it’s your call, whatever you want me to do,’ and she said, ‘No, no just leave it alone.’ That was the last time I spoke with her, at the time when she closed the restaurant. So, she’ll be missed, but we’re going to try to do something else, as Councilmember Gregorie stated, and we will work with that because that’s all in the district I represent. So, we’ll try to get something going, and God bless you all.”

Ms. Taylor and Ms. Alston said, “Thank you.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Sakran.

Councilmember Sakran said, “Yes, sir. I just wanted to say, as a fellow restaurant owner, I just want to acknowledge the hard work that it takes to get to 30 some years here in Charleston. I also want to just say to the folks that do not know to kind of look at Charleston’s food culture,

Martha Lou was a trailblazer, and the work and food speaks for itself. There was a New York Times column I read this past weekend and this, to me, sums it up. 'In the cosmology of southern cooking, Martha Lou is no dwarf planet, wrote New York Times food editor. 'It is close to the sun itself.' So, we've talked about all of the fancy places downtown. It all started at Martha Lou's. I just want to say thank you for her legacy, and it's nice actually meeting you all. Thank you."

Ms. Alston said, "You're welcome. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Once again, God bless you, and thank you for being with us tonight. Thank you, Joyce and Ms. Alston."

Ms. Taylor said, "Thank you."

Deputy Chief Taylor said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "By the way, I'll announce that we're still working on getting Councilmembers Griffin, Shealy, and Waring connected again. I see Councilmember Shealy coming on line now, so we must have gotten that resolved. They're coming back on. Alright. So, I was going to come back to the second half of your invocation, but we'll still come back to you for that. I must admit to you since the invocation got interrupted there, I forgot for us to jointly pledge allegiance to the flag. So, let's do that at this time. The flag is right over my shoulder. If you will please join me, we will pledge allegiance."

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

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you. So, I'm going to continue on, and at this time, we'll move to the [Proclamation declaring April Child Abuse Prevention Month](#), and joining us is Beverly Hardin, who is the CEO of Carolina Youth Development Center (CYDC) and, Beverly Hutchinson, I believe she is with us also this evening. She is the Director of Development and Marketing for Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center."

Mayor Tecklenburg read the proclamation.

---INSERT PROCLAMATION---

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Just the other day, we planted pinwheels, which are a symbol of raising the awareness of child abuse because they are somewhat a symbol of the fun that children ought to be having. A child's life should be dedicated to having fun, learning, and opportunities, not being abused and suffering through child abuse. So, we raise awareness this month, and now if I could call on Beverly Hardin with the Carolina Youth Development Center to say a few words."

Beverly Hardin said, "Yes, sir. Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and thank you so much to the Council for making this a priority and making this important, and you're exactly right. I wish I had my pinwheel. I don't know why I didn't think of that. I should have brought my pinwheel. Our kids should be laughing, playing, and having fun and, Mayor, you well know CYDC has been around since 1790. We opened our doors as the first municipal orphanage to give kids who had no place to go, no safe place to go, a home, and 230 years we have been serving children in Charleston who didn't have anywhere else to call home, and we do that again today. Today our mission is getting bigger, our mission continues to expand, and not only are we working to provide safe haven and healing to children who have experienced trauma, we're also working to reunite them

and to heal the problems in the families that led to the disbursement to begin with. Most importantly, we're working very hard with partners like Dee Norton to make sure that we can prevent the separation from happening to begin with. CYDC just recently celebrated the grand opening of our Family Support Center. The whole intention of the Family Support Center is to be able to reach back into the homes and say to parents, 'Let's help you before things get to a point where they can't be fixed.' It's just real important to us that we have partners like the Council and partners like you, Mr. Mayor, who are committed to protecting our children, protecting our families, healing our children, healing our families, and we thank you so much for taking time to honor this important work today."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, Beverly, and I can't see everybody at once on the Hollywood Squares here. Beverly Hutchison, Beverly, are you with us, as well, or anyone with the Dee Norton Center?"

No one asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, just know that they are our partners, as well, and do remarkable advocacy work for children in our community, and we thank them for their continued work, as well. Thank you, Beverly, for being with us."

Ms. Hardin said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, next we have a proclamation, this was the month of proclamations, you all, bear with us. [Fair Housing Month](#) is this month, and I see Otha Meadows with us tonight. Otha, is George with us, as well?"

Otha Meadows said, "Yes, he should be."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay. George Bresnihan is with us, as well, and we'll celebrate something about his achievements in just a minute, but here is a proclamation."

Mayor Tecklenburg read the proclamation.

---INSERT PROCLAMATION---

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I want to present to you, our partner in fair housing matters and many other Affordable matters, Otha Meadows with the Trident Urban League. Otha."

Otha Meadows said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Thank you, members of Council. I would like to thank Geona and her team in the Department of Housing and Community Development. Thank you on behalf of the Urban League. Every year we look forward to receiving this proclamation from the City because fair housing is so important to our community. I don't think I have to tell that to anyone on the call here. We really look forward to doing this work, but what I want everyone to understand this is not the work of the Urban League alone. The Urban League works in partnership with the City to bring a Fair Housing program and to affirmatively further fair housing on behalf of all of the citizens in the City of Charleston. I think today Geona is going to recognize the work of George Bresnihan, and I want to thank her and this opportunity to recognize the work that George does here at the Urban League day in and day out. When I came to Charleston, I asked George to hang around and help me build the Housing Department. That was 15 years. So, I want to publicly thank him for the time and energy that he has put into the work that we do

at the Urban League, specifically in the area of Fair Housing. Over that time, George has helped hundreds and hundreds of people buy their first home. He has helped hundreds and hundreds of individuals increase their credit worthiness. He has done a yeoman's job in addressing Fair Housing infractions in our community, and I would like to go on the record in saying that he is absolutely the best at what he does, and I want to thank him personally for his hard work and dedication. The Urban League is working extremely hard to meet the new certifications that are going to come due in August that will be required for us to continue providing Fair Housing counseling, so the staff is working very hard to pass that exam and those certifications. So, I just, again, want to thank George, and thank you for your continued support of the Urban League."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, Otha, very much. Geona."

Geona Shaw Johnson said, "Mayor, I don't have much further. George has been in the industry now over 25 years, so in recognition of both Fair Housing Month and his dedication thereto, we wanted to honor George tonight by presenting the proclamation to George. I don't see him, but hopefully he hears us and, George, we appreciate all you do for the citizens of the City of Charleston, the one-on-one housing and financial counseling that you provide to put citizens in a better place financially. Words can't express how important that is to long-term sustainability and living a better life. So, we thank you, again, for all that you do. Thank you, Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, Geona. George, are you out there?"

No one asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Hit \*6 if you're on a phone rather than the Zoom call."

No one asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I've known George for many years myself. Otha, when you were speaking and saying hundreds and hundreds of folks that he has helped, I was thinking hundreds and thousands because he has been at it a long time. Hasn't he, Councilmember Mitchell? He truly has helped a lot of our citizens' fair housing needs and housing needs in general. So, he's done just a yeoman's job, and we thank him for his service to this community and all of the people that he has helped. So, please pass that along to George, Otha, if he wasn't able to hear us this evening."

Councilmember Waring said, "Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you. You're right about Mr. George Bresnihan. I don't know if a lot of people know this, but he is a career man out of the Navy. His son is also, I think, a Captain of a Frigate or Destroyer in the Navy right now, following in his father's footsteps. Then, he went on and became an executive out at BP Amoco and then came and joined in with Mr. Meadows over at the Urban League. He has been giving to this community for a long time, and you're right, I don't think it's in the hundreds, it's in the thousands that he has helped. You're right about that. So, a job well done but you know what, he's still working, so I'm glad he's still contributing back to the community. Job well done."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "George, did you want to say a few words?"

George Bresnihan said, “Yes. Thank you, Mr. Mayor, members of City Council, and Geona and her team in the Department of Housing and Community Development. We’ve worked for over 20 years probably as far as I can remember. Thank you on behalf of the Urban League. We have made inroads into fair housing basically because the City of Charleston was always with us. We look forward to receiving the proclamation from the City. Fair housing is so important to our community, and it’s a lot of work that has to be done in the future. Thank you for taking this opportunity to recognize me. When I came to Charleston, I asked to hang around for a little while to work in building the Housing Department. That was more than 15 years ago. Over that time, I’ve seen firsthand the work that we do in helping clients buy homes and other things that affect them through fair housing. I want to publicly thank the City for providing us with the opportunity, and I would personally want to thank Geona. She has really been in our corner and has really given us good guidance.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Well, God bless you, George. Thank you for all you have done and, you all, this is where Fair Housing, the rubber hits the road. I can tell you that.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Mitchell.

Councilmember Mitchell said, “Yes. I would like to say to George congratulations. When you first started out, I was doing it all at one time, fair housing and everything else. When I met George, George was with the Urban League and George said, ‘Well, I’m not going to stay here too long. Mitch, you want to take over?’ I said, ‘No way.’ He said, ‘Come on, and give me a hand. You can work part time.’ I said, ‘No way. I had enough of it, 33 years was enough of it.’ So, I would say to you, George, congratulations and keep on keepin on. I’ll give you a little push when you need it.”

There was laughter.

Mr. Bresnihan said, “Okay. Thank you.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie.

Councilmember Gregorie said, “Yes, Mr. Mayor. George, thanks a lot for all that you have done over the years, and I hope within this year the City can give you a bigger gift, the gift of enforcement as we continue to contemplate attempting to pass a fair housing law substantially equivalent to the national law, which will go beyond your outreach activities but give you the opportunity to assist the City in enforcing the law. I think that could be the greatest gift that we could give you, and I commit to you that as long as I’m here, I will continue to fight for fair housing, and I will continue to try to get our City to pass such a law. So, you have fun, my brother. We’ll talk soon.”

Mr. Bresnihan said, “Thanks Dudley, and I’m glad you’re there in my corner. Thanks very much. It’s been my pleasure working with you throughout the years.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Great. Well, God bless you. Thank you, George. We’ve got one more proclamation. This one is regarding [Crime Victims’ Rights Week](#), and we’re blessed to have with us Ms. Vickey Cornelison-Grant with the Medical University, and she is very ably assisted by Mikaela Porter, who used to interact with many of us in her former role at the Post and Courier.”

Mayor Tecklenburg read the proclamation.

---INSERT PROCLAMATION---

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Ms. Cornelison-Grant, you’re on. Thank you for being with us.”

Vickey Cornelison-Grant said, “Well, thank you, and good evening to you, Mr. Mayor, and good evening to our esteemed City of Charleston Councilmembers. We at the National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center support many activities on behalf of victims both in our community and around the nation. We also support victim service providers and resiliency directors, etcetera, places where mass violence events have occurred. The theme for this year’s National Crime Victims’ Rights Week is support victims, build trust, and engage communities, as you said, Mr. Mayor. It represents a renewal of our commitment to acknowledge, serve, and honor crime victims and survivors. We thank you for presenting us with this proclamation, and we dedicate it in honor of those impacted by violence and to the many devoted professionals who serve them daily on the frontline. Thank you so very much.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Yes, ma’am. Thank you for being with us and the work you do. It’s highly recognized here in the City of Charleston and, Chief Reynolds, I don’t know if you want to add any comments, but our Charleston Police Department has made a priority of focusing on assisting those who have been victims of crime. Chief.”

Chief Luther Reynolds said, “I just would add my thanks and appreciation. It’s making a huge difference. It’s a big deal, and that’s what it’s all about is all of the support that we get. We couldn’t do it without you.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Thank you very much.”

Ms. Cornelison-Grant said, “Thank you.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Alright. So, that concludes our proclamations and presentations for this evening, and next we have two public hearings that are before us. Mr. Morgan, are you out there and will present [number one](#)?”

Christopher Morgan said, “I am, Mr. Mayor, and I’m also going to have Ms. Johnson, I think she may have a few things that she wants to say about this first item for a public hearing and also Mr. McQueeney. We’ve got just a few slides on this that I can screenshare. So, this is an amendment to the Workforce Housing Districts and Opportunity Zones in our Zoning Ordinance and Land Use Regulations to provide for an increased fee-in-lieu for encouraging required workforce housing units onsite. It was reviewed by Planning Commission last month and recommended 8 to 0 in favor, and now it comes to you all. Some of the provisions that I think you all are familiar with, but we just have a couple of slides here, and Ms. Johnson or Mr. McQueeney if you want to chime in on any of these, feel free to. But, the current fee-in-lieu amount of \$5.10 per square foot would go up to an accommodation of \$7.50, \$10.00, \$12.50, and \$15.00, and these are all at different categories of development and number of units all in an effort to encourage more units to be built on the site. Additionally, the affordability period has been changed in this ordinance from 25 to 30 years, so those units that are built on the site would stay affordable for 30 years. We have an example here and, again, if Ms. Johnson or Mr. McQueeney wanted to go through any of this, but these are the square footages of a hypothetical building, what the difference would be, and I’m happy to answer further questions on this ordinance.”

Ms. Shaw Johnson said, “Christopher, the only thing I would add is the fact that in addition to increasing the period of affordability, we also added an escalator to the ordinance that allows for an increase. It allows for the increase to take place based on either the Consumer Price Index or the Area Median Income, whichever is higher, but beyond that you have done an excellent job of providing an overview. Thank you.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Terrific. Madam Clerk, did anyone sign up to be heard on this matter?”

The Clerk said, “Yes, we had one person who would like to speak. Did you want to set a time limit?”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Two minutes would be great.”

The Clerk said, “Alright. We have Cashion Drolet. If you’re on the line, you can join us by Zoom or press \*6.”

1. Cashion Drolet, Historic Charleston Foundation, said they were thankful and grateful to Council for bringing the ordinance forward that evening. Affordable housing was one of Charleston’s greatest challenges and had approached a crisis level. Through their work with the Charleston Redevelopment Corporation and the Palmetto Community Land Trust, HCF was a partner of the City in addressing the crisis, and an MU-WH zoning was an important tool in the City’s toolbelt. HCF was very supportive of the fee increase, particularly in light of the findings by community data platforms highlighting the City’s dire housing needs. They believed the ordinance was a creative approach, and they very much would like City Council to approve it. They were encouraged to see the affordability period extended to 30 years, and offered their thanks to Geona and her team for inclusion of that in the ordinance, and they encouraged Council respectfully to move the ordinance forward.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Great. Thank you, Cashion, and thank you for your partnership on these matters. If there was no one else, the matter now comes before Council.”

Councilmember Mitchell said, “Move for approval.”

Councilmember Shealy said, “Second.”

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

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilwoman Jackson.

Councilwoman Jackson said, “Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and thank you, Christopher and Geona. I do strongly support this amended version of our MU-Workforce Ordinance. I was just curious was it extended, the inclusionary time that went from 25 to 30 years? Did the Planning Commission have that change, or did they vote on the 25 years just out of curiosity?”

Ms. Shaw Johnson said, “They voted on the 25, but there were strong suggestions that we revisit it and part of revisiting it, we also reached out to the developers who participated in the

MU programs who asked if extending that the additional five years would have any long-term impact, and they indicated it would not, as well, so we covered our bases in that regard. Thank you.”

Councilwoman Jackson said, “I’m really happy to see that we’ve been able to incrementally increase. I hope we will continue to work on that as a community. We all know that 30 years seems like a long time in the beginning, but it goes fast, especially in an area like this where property values, I mean, I don’t know if we’ve ever seen a huge drop in property values other than the great recession that we came through. At that point, property values just sort of froze because nothing was happening in the real estate market, and then they took off like a rocket. So, I do think we need to be doing whatever we can to make affordability on the Peninsula and as long as possible. Thank you.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Thank you. Are there any other comments or questions?”

No one else asked to speak.

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

**2021-039 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND PART 15 (WORKFORCE HOUSING DISTRICTS AND OPPORTUNITY ZONES) OF ARTICLE 2 (LAND USE REGULATIONS) OF CHAPTER 54 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA (ZONING ORDINANCE), TO PROVIDE FOR AN INCREASED FEE IN LIEU OF DEVELOPING REQUIRED WORKFORCE HOUSING UNITS ONSITE. (AS AMENDED).**

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “[Item No. 2](#), Mr. Morgan.”

Mr. Morgan said, “I apologize for the number on here. This is actually Ordinance Amendment No. 2, but this is for the new Conservation Zoning Ordinance. This would create conservation development within the Zoning Ordinance and add relevant definitions to Sec. 54-120. This is coming to you from the Planning Commission, who also recommended unanimously for this with a 9 to 0 vote. These slides are here if you all want to look at these again. We’ve shown them to you before. I think you all know kind of the background on this, so I’m going to zip through them, but we have them here if you’ve got questions. The districts it’s applicable to are SR-1, SR-7, RR-1, and Conservation. You have to have a minimum of ten contiguous acres. It has the same net density as the base zoning, but the exception is for ADU’s and workforce housing units that don’t count towards that net density. It has a lot of prioritization of existing site features in the design approach. It requires a lot of up-front analysis of the site so we know the best way to develop the highest areas of the site so we can keep the lower areas of the site green and in a more natural state. It’s hopefully a method that we would use in new zoning regulations as we move forward with our Comprehensive Plan and our better utilization of the higher areas of the City. It also takes into account many of the recommendations we’ve come forward with in the Comprehensive Plan analysis, such as water first, limited impervious surface, preservation of existing wetlands, and green infrastructure and pre-development analysis of the hydrology. It also has knowledge towards housing variety and affordability as part of the ordinance and, of course, these are figures that are from our Comprehensive Plan process that show the need. These were

mentioned earlier in the meeting tonight. Each area of the City, the estimates of need for housing of affordability, allowing those to not have to spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing. This is how many units would be needed and part of the justification for having affordability in the Conservation Ordinance. With that, we're sending it forward to Council for final approval."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay. Madam Clerk, did we have anyone who wanted to address us on this matter?"

The Clerk said, "We do. We have two citizens. The first is Betsy La Force."

1. Betsy La Force, Coastal Conservation League, reiterated their support for the proposed Conservation Development Ordinance. This tool had the potential to serve as a model for innovative land use changes that will need to follow the adoption of the updated Comprehensive Plan later this year. Accumulative flooding impacts of the past five years, combined with planning efforts like the Dutch Dialogues, reminded them of the importance of maintaining undisturbed forests and pre-development hydrology of a site before it's permanently altered. Incorporating the Conservation Development Ordinance was a good first step to help facilitate smart growth at a time when they needed it most. A time when available land was scarce, development pressure was high, and climate conditions were changing. They applauded the thoughtful aspects of the ordinance, such as the pre-application site review process to require the developer to identify the most critical features of the land for protection and the preservation plan before altering the ecology or placing any permanent structures on the site and the requirement to maintain at least 50 percent of the conservation site as open space for the support of forested wetlands, grasslands, soils, undisturbed forests, and other upland ecosystems, which were so vital for the City's overall health, resilience and quality of life. The ordinance followed best practices of the recommendations from the Dutch Dialogues for how the City should be managing land and water, and they believed the logical order of operations for development approvals outlined in the ordinance should become the status quo for how future projects take shape in the City.
2. Cashion Drolet, Historic Charleston Foundation, said they were very supportive of the Conservation Development Ordinance and echoed the thoughts shared by Ms. LaForce. They believed the Conservation Development Ordinance would afford further protection of wetlands, trees, historic structures, and coastal resources in suburban areas of Charleston. The ordinance was consistent with the recommendations made in the Dutch Dialogues Charleston final report as it would allow for prioritization of development on high ground and would avoid placement of future residents in risky, flood prone areas. Additionally, they were very encouraged that the ordinance incentivized the inclusion of workforce and affordable housing. HCF encouraged Council to vote in favor of the ordinance.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Great. Thank you. So, if no one else, then the matter comes to Council."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Move for approval."

Councilmember Shahid said, “Second.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, “Yes, Christopher, would you mind bringing back up that screen that showed the number of units per area?”

Mr. Morgan said, “This one?”

Councilmember Shahid said, “Yes. So, how is that number determined? Do you know?”

Mr. Morgan said, “This was determined by our consultant, who was doing a deep dive on our housing issues by looking at the number of housing units in the area, what people’s incomes were, and the cost of housing in these various areas of the City.”

Councilmember Shahid said, “Okay. I don’t know if you were on the call earlier when I asked Geona about the inventory that we have in West Ashley now. Do you have that information handy by any chance?”

Mr. Morgan said, “About the total number of affordable units?”

Councilmember Shahid said, “In West Ashley.”

Mr. Morgan said, “I don’t have that in this presentation, but we can get that for you, happy to.”

Councilmember Shahid said, “Yes. I think Geona was going to work on that, as well. So, thank you for that. Appreciate it. That’s all I had, Mr. Mayor.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Alright.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie.

Councilmember Gregorie said, “As a part of the formula to make this determination, don’t they factor in expected to reside to determine what the need may be? How many people are we anticipating moving to Charleston?”

Mr. Morgan said, “These are figures to have the folks who already live here be able to live in affordable housing. This is not with factoring in the growth. This is for the existing residents of Charleston.”

Councilmember Gregorie said, “So, it really could be higher?”

Mr. Morgan said, “With people coming in, absolutely. Yes, sir.”

Councilmember Gregorie said, “Yes, that’s a necessary factor in determining the need.”

Mr. Morgan said, “Yes.”

Councilmember Gregorie said, “Expected to reside, in addition to what you just articulated. So, we haven’t factored in expected to reside in this formula. We’re flying blindly in terms of what our need is.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Well, this says for both existing and future residents. Christopher and Geona, you all want to double-check with your consultant and make sure they included some rate of increase in population?”

Mr. Morgan said, “For clarification, I do think that there is the City in-house projections to 2030 as part of this. I should clarify.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “I think they did use some factor of increase, Councilmember. For us to create 16,000 units between now and 2030 is a heavy, heavy lift. I can say that.”

Councilmember Gregorie said, “And billions.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Yes. Alright.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilwoman Jackson.

Councilwoman Jackson said, “Thank you. I just wanted to maybe state the obvious, but it really struck me as we heard our two public comments about this particular ordinance that we have found a synergy between the conservation movement and the traditional historic preservation movement that began on the Peninsula. I think it really demonstrates the depth of our community in terms of the way they look at issues, how they advocate, and all of a sudden we’ve got two groups that on paper would never really find that much in common talking to us in sync about how we’re going to develop suburban lifestyles into the future. So, I think that’s a remarkable accolade to those groups and the way that they have helped us consider planning as we’ve been going along over the last years. I’m going to vote for this. It’s been a long time coming. I think it’s a much more thoughtful set of parameters, conditions, and regulations on areas that are yet not built in our different boroughs. I do have to state my concern about trying to incentivize the workforce housing in places that are most likely to be far outside of our normal transit corridors and certainly a lot of the high drying connected areas where we know we’re going to be incentivizing affordable housing attainability. It’s going to be a concern, I think, case by case. Are we putting people in locations to live, work, and commute that might be affordable in terms of the mortgage that they pay or the overall housing costs that they pay? But, they’re going to pay the price potentially in commuting costs and transportation costs, and lifestyle costs when it takes you an hour to come and go from your job and your family is at home needing the parenting that everyone wants to provide to their families. So, I saw that in northern Virginia, and I do feel like it’s something we have to be conscientious about.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Thank you very much. Are there any other questions or comments?”

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

**2021-040 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE 2 (LAND USE REGULATIONS) OF CHAPTER 54 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON (ZONING ORDINANCE) BY ADDING THERETO A NEW PART 19 (CONSERVATION DEVELOPMENT) AND BY ADDING RELEVANT DEFINITIONS TO SEC. 54-120 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE.**

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Thank you all, kindly. That concludes our public hearings for this evening. Next is our [approval of our City Council minutes.](#)”

Councilmember Griffin said, “So moved.”

Councilmember Shahid said, “Second.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Are there any deletions, additions, or edits?”

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Griffin, seconded by Councilmember Shahid, City Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2021 City Council meeting.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Next up is our [Citizen’s Participation Period.](#) Madam Clerk, I’ll turn this over to you.”

The Clerk said, “Yes. We have eight people signed up. Would you like to set a time limit?”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “We’ll keep the two minutes, please.”

Councilmember Mitchell said, “Mr. Mayor, I think we need to go back to the invocation before we go on to that since Councilmember Waring is back on the line.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Yes, that would be entirely appropriate. Councilmember Waring, we had an interruption there in the midst of your invocation. Would you mind going back to that?”

Councilmember Waring said, “No, sir. Not at all. Thank you, Councilmember Mitchell and Mr. Mayor. Let us pray.”

Councilmember Waring gave the invocation.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Thank you for that most thoughtful prayer. Appreciate it.”

Councilmember Waring said, “Yes, sir.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Madam Clerk.”

The Clerk said, “Our first citizen is Dave Echols.”

1. Dave Echols said it was tough to follow those proclamations and the great work that they were doing on affordable housing, so kudos to everyone. He thanked the Mayor and Council for their time and said he wanted to reiterate a few things to everyone, May 4<sup>th</sup> was opening day. He wanted to make sure that the community

and City Council was aware of that, as they got back to allowing a little bit of gathering and some baseball was back and open for business. They were adhering to the task force that had approved the ball park for roughly 2,300 fans per game, socially distanced. That's where they were to open the season for May 4<sup>th</sup>. The ball park's priority was to keep everyone safe while enjoying the expectation of coming out to the ballpark. They had protocols in place to do that. They were well aware of every market in the state dealing with the COVID pandemic differently. Just as an observation, there were five professional baseball minor league teams in the State of South Carolina. Charleston had the most restrictions on those teams to operate. That was making it difficult on all businesses, and they were no exception. The last was to ask for City Council as they decided how the City was going to continue to battle and come out of the pandemic, that as much of a timeline could be conveyed to help them operate the Joe would be welcome so they could plan effectively. They were opening up, but they actually had 18 games in the month of May. With the new scheduling, that was almost a third of the season and roughly 2000 fans a game was not a sustainable model for professional baseball at the Joe. He realized the extreme, extenuating circumstances, and he appreciated everybody's help in keeping the community safe.

2. Tony Daniell said there were a lot of heroes in Charleston, a lot of known heroes and a lot of unknown heroes. It was an honor to be there tonight. He still had the same problem of 89 residents in his neighborhood jamming through one exit. One good thing was that a road couldn't be opened or closed on a vote of the neighborhood, otherwise they would have neighborhood bullies closing the road and shoving traffic on senior citizens. His father had lived in the neighborhood probably the longest of anybody. He knew of two other families that had been there since he started in 1965. But, all the rules on how to close a road were based on the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment which said every person had due process of law. Then, the court, under Mullane vs. Central Hanover, said due process was notice and an opportunity to be heard, and so he wanted to talk about the notice requirements contained in Title 57 and in the two court cases, First Baptist vs. City of Mauldin and Rock Hill vs. Cothran. They all basically said the same thing, that it was based on equality. It was not a democracy in the neighborhood. If they looked inside the notes he sent, there was a YouTube video of 13 minutes of one car. There were three roads that paralleled his neighborhood, there was one car on two of those roads during a time of complete chaos over on Burning Tree Road. There were nine requirements to be able to close the road. The City didn't meet any of them. They partially met one because they voted to decide whether or not to close the road or not, but they voted to not close the road. He didn't know how the road got closed, but Councilman Stevens specifically said that they were not closing roads. The next requirement was to send a registered letter to everybody affected. No registered letters were sent. It had to be posted in the newspaper three times. It was posted twice. Twice didn't count.
3. Miguel Torres said he was a 24-year resident of Charleston Country Club II. There was a self-proclaimed HOA. There was no such animal in this neighborhood. They had misrepresented the neighborhood with Dominion Energy, the City, and other agencies. Their false misrepresentation of the neighborhood had caused a lot of misinformation and a lot of issues in the neighborhood. One of the issues that needed to be addressed was the barrier on Frampton needed to be removed for

the safety of students and family of Harborview Elementary. Traffic on Harborview, Frampton, and Burning Tree were at a dangerous and unsafe level. If the City agreed with the signage that was on Inverness, they had to agree with the signage to be placed on Harborview, Burning Tree, and Frampton. The next thing was the City must enforce their codes and the laws. If they were not enforcing codes and laws, which was speeding on these roads, illegal parking, blocking of driveways, blocking a fire hydrant, blocking of the intersections, blocking of emergency vehicles, and blocking of the entry and exit of the neighborhood, he didn't understand why this was such an issue. He said their Councilmember had done nothing. He was kicking the can down the road, and they needed something done.

4. John Dangerfield said he had an item for rezoning and was on the line in case the Councilmembers had any questions in regards to a second reading for items three and four. He didn't think there were any questions, but he wanted to be available.

Mayor Tecklenburg asked, "What address was that for, Mr. Dangerfield?"

John Dangerfield answered, "It was for the rezoning of two parcels located on John's Island."

Mayor Tecklenburg, "I see it now. That's 3486 Maybank Highway."

John Dangerfield, "Yes, sir, that is correct."

Mayor Tecklenburg, "Thank you so much."

5. Elaine Jenkins said she had presented at the last Council meeting and had signed up to speak this evening just in case there were questions about the project. It was listed as Item L#1, the rezoning of 569 and 571 King Street.
6. Frannie Henty said she had tried to reach out to staff and the City Council about Lakeside Townhouses, but she hadn't heard back. She said they were very grateful for the energy efforts and the new garbage cans that saved energy and were better for the environment. The issue was that their garbage day was changed to Monday. There were a lot of folks in the neighborhood who were elderly, and they couldn't roll the big garbage cans out to the streets. They relied on the landscapers to help them, but they couldn't contract the landscapers to work on Sunday. They really needed another day. If Council could please work with them, they would appreciate it.
7. James Bessenger said he had spoken with them last month, but he wanted to go over a few things that they had said in the last Council meeting. He said Councilmember Appel said last month, 'there's never been a shutdown in South Carolina.' He said that was a lie, as he had voted for it. Councilmember Brady had talked about not wanting to lift the mandate because he wanted to make sure that the light at the end of the tunnel wasn't a train. He said he was photographed with Councilmembers Shealy and Griffin without a mask, shoulder to shoulder. He asked if the train passed by. He said Mayor Tecklenburg was at Colonial Lake at a photo op, posing for pictures with no mask right next to people when he (Mr. Bessenger) had been scheduled in June for jury trial for not wearing a mask out in

public. Mayor Tecklenburg sent Captain Bruder to his house to deliver the ticket. He wanted to know if they were hypocrites or just liars.

8. Rita Kazirskis asked for a show of hands for of how many Councilmembers saw people attack the United States Capitol in January and use flagpoles as weapons? She asked if they remembered the incident last summer at the Battery when the guy broke his flagpole over a young man's back. The attacker continued to charge the young man after beating him over his back and only stopped because somebody else knocked him down before he could continue to hurt him. If the young man had been beaten so badly that he ended up in a coma, would they have decided by now to find a way to reduce the risk of injury and anything like it from happening again? She said last Sunday at the Battery was Charleston's own live, weekly celebration of white supremacists, church bombers, lynchers, and lost segregationists, and they had watched one of the klan nearly get into a fist fight with an elderly tourist. He started shouting and waving his arms for a few minutes, and he went up to the elderly tourist and started bumping his chest into him. It wasn't the Police presence, but their frantic shouting for the Police that finally de-escalated the situation. The Police were sitting in their vehicles a block away and had no idea that anything was going on. Would it take a tourist actually suffering a cracked skull for them to finally decide to find a way to improve safety? What if it was somebody they knew that got hurt? What if it was their wife, or their child, or even their nana? The simple presence of a police officer kept some trouble from happening. Had the police been standing near protesters, instead of a block and a half away, in their vehicles, it was quite possible that none of those incidents would have escalated to the points that they did. She was hopeful that the Police who were paid to work at the Battery every weekend would decide to exit their vehicles and be present nearest to the obvious highest risk areas to help reduce the potential of harm to all citizens versus waiting for somebody to get hurt and then punishing the bad guy. Other cities had taken action to reduce the risk of injury to people while continuing to allow everyone to exercise their First Amendment rights. They were looking for Council to do the same.

The Clerk said, "One person sent an email saying that the Army Corps had no intention of using the recommendations from the Dutch Dialogue Waggoner Ball study in suggestions from Clemson students. She said that it seemed to be the responsibility of the local government. One person recommended a 13 minute YouTube link that showed no traffic on Fairway Drive and Inverness Drive on James Island and that it backed up traffic on Burning Tree Road and Frampton Drive. Three people referenced Amendment 14, Section 1 that said no State shall deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law. 44 people said that the LowLine was a critical improvement to the Peninsula that would create jobs, improve green space, safe paths for pedestrians and cyclist's mobility, and connectivity improvements. They asked that funding be approved to begin construction. One person said that to close a road in Charleston, one must meet multiple requirements referenced in the City Council meeting of June 15, 1976. The City had met none of those requirements, and Fairway Drive and Frampton Street should be reopened immediately. One person said that City Council should not renew the facemask requirement in the City. One person was in support of the appointments for the Army Corps 3x3 Advisory Committee and supports the extension of the COVID-19 emergency ordinances. Two people oppose the construction of 295 Calhoun St. and stated that the building lacked aesthetic in comparison to the historic charm of Charleston. Those were all the comments that were received."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Thank you, Madam Clerk. I appreciate that presentation. Thank you to all the citizens who participated and shared your comments with us tonight. Next up is our Petitions and Communications, and first thing is our [appointments to the Army Corps 3x3 Advisory Committee](#).”

Councilmember Mitchell said, “Move for approval.”

Councilmember Shahid said, “Second.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Griffin.

Councilmember Griffin said, “Yes, sir. Thank you. I am going to vote against this because I don’t think any of these people aren’t upstanding members of our community, I just feel bad that there’s a very good chance that we won’t move forward with project. I feel bad that we’re asking these people to dedicate months of their time to meet, when if you took a poll of the Council right now, we may not even have seven votes to pass it as of today. I think that we’re doing a disservice to all of these people to waste their time for months.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said. “Alright, anyone else have a comment?”

No one else asked to speak.

On a motion by Councilmember Mitchell, seconded by Councilmember Shahid, City Council voted to approve the following appointments to the Army Corps 3x3 Advisory Committee:

- Councilmember Perry K. Waring
- Councilmember Michael S. Seekings
- Dan Batista
- C. Douglas Warner
- Bob Habig
- Lawrence Green, Jr.
- Susan Lyons
- Cashion Drolet
- Kevin Mills
- Laura Cantral
- Jordi Yarborough
- Dennis J. Frazier
- Herbert Maybank
- Hagood S. Morrison

The vote was not unanimous. Councilmember Griffin voted nay.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Thank you, sir. Alright, next is a Resolution to acknowledge and celebrate--”

Councilmember Shahid said, “So moved.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “[Earth Day 2021](#), to reaffirm our City’s commitment to continuous improvement in environmental stewardship and express our commitment to support and protect

the environment. Katie has been working diligently on our climate change plan, and we'll be bringing that update to our Sustainability Committee and to Council next month, that's the best expression of our support for Earth Day I think we could possibly have."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg asked, "Any further discussion?"

No one asked to speak.

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

*A Resolution to acknowledge and celebrate Earth Day 2021, to reaffirm the City's long-standing commitment to continuous improvement in environmental stewardship, and to express the city's commitment to continuing to support and protect the environment.*

---INSERT RESOLUTION---

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Next is our update on the City's [response to COVID-19](#). I believe that Shannon Scaff is online. I want to commend him and his whole team who have been coordinating with community healthcare partners to provide as many vaccinations as possible in our community. Our own vaccine outpost at 180 Lockwood Dr. is averaging, I'm told, close to if not over a 1,000 vaccinations every day. So we are making a difference you all, and I really want to thank you, Shannon, and Tracy and all the team members. So with that Shannon and Tracy, you want to give us an update?"

Tracy McKee said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I'll go ahead and get us started tonight. Cases at the local level have really hit a plateau since early March, but according to our friends over at MUSC, there's really still quite a bit of virus in our community. They're really concerned about that because of the presence of variants. I know that we have heard a lot about variants. I recently learned from the team that MUSC has actually been sequencing the COVID tests that they're doing at MUSC. So, they've been collecting that data really since December, and you can see on this chart how the variants have been showing up in that sequencing that they've been doing. The box with the dashed line around it, that indicates variants of interest and variants of concern that they're tracking. The difference between those is really the variants of interest, or the ones that don't really have much evidence of worse outcomes, but this is something that they're still looking at. The variants of concern are the ones that there is evidence of higher transmission rates, as well as worse outcomes. So, it's a combination of those variants that are tracked in that box. Why they're so concerned about the variants is because that 40% of tests that they sequenced in March were from those variants, both variants of interest and of concern. Why that's critical is that 50% is that threshold where cases really exploded in Europe and caused another wave, where we've seen things in Europe shut down again. That's why they're kind of on high alert, if you will. And they really kind of feel like we're going to, unfortunately, no one has a crystal ball with these things, but they expect that we're going to know a lot more in 30 days if our vaccination rate has been effective enough to prevent another wave from these variants. Unfortunately, we just don't know. All we know is 50% is what's been seen in other places. We haven't hit that threshold yet, thank goodness. Hopefully won't get there, but it is definitely a concern.

The big takeaway that the MUSC team provided to me, as far as these bearings are concerned, is that the variants pose risk to both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. People that have not been vaccinated have a greater risk of worse outcomes by being exposed to these variants and getting ill from them. I think that everyone has heard this, the more variants there are, the greater the chances of vaccine breakthrough where you can actually still get sick from COVID after being vaccinated. Another frustration that they're having right now is that the symptoms of COVID-19 and seasonal allergies are indistinguishable in most adults. So adults that think they're having seasonal allergies are actually sick with COVID and continue to spread the virus. So, that's a really frustrating thing that they're seeing. The really big takeaway from the team was that continuing to use masks as a tool will really help interrupt transmission and should be considered necessary until high levels, high levels of vaccination make COVID-19 a rare illness in Charleston. And we're not quite there yet, so they really wanted to emphasize that they felt that keeping masks as a tool was critical.

So where are we with vaccinations? This is the distribution of South Carolina vaccinations each week since December. You can see it's taken a little decline. The decline is due to a decreased number of the Janssen or Johnson and Johnson vaccine, and based on what we all learned this morning, that might not necessarily be a bad thing. So, hopefully we'll continue to see more Moderna and Pfizer coming into the State in the coming weeks. Across the U.S. we've had more than 189 million people in the U.S. that have gotten their first doses of vaccines, which brings us to 36%, over 36% of Americans have now received at least one dose. 22% have been fully vaccinated. So how are we doing in South Carolina in comparison? This is from our City dashboard, but it pulls directly from the DHEC data. In South Carolina we're at 29% of immunity through vaccinations. Then we also put on there the 1.2% that have some natural immunity through having the disease. Charleston County, we're looking good. We're tracking right along with the rest of the U.S. Almost 37% have immunity through vaccination, and that is just one shot though. So, that is 37% have received at least one dose, so they have some level of immunity. And then another almost 8% from natural immunity. Lastly, where we are with City employee cases and vaccinations. We currently have zero active employee cases. Yes, which is wonderful, and we've gotten 24% of our staff that have been fully vaccinated. So that's 24% who've received two doses, and then another 16% who have had some sort of natural immunity through having the disease. And with that I'll turn it over to Shannon and happy to answer any questions."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "I've got a question for you. As we continue testing, and we find that people are positive, are they being given the antibody?"

Tracy McKee said, "Are they getting the vaccine? Is that what you're asking?"

Councilmember Gregorie said, "No, no. There are some, and I think that MUSC has been using it. It's an antibody for people that test positive for the virus, and what this antibody will do is decrease hospitalizations, decrease symptoms, etc. Are you familiar with it?"

Tracy McKee said, "I'm not."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I am."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "You are, Mayor?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Well, I have spoken with Dr. Cole about this, and they are administering that treatment, but apparently they filter or they give it to select patients who they think it’s appropriate for. It’s not for everybody apparently.”

Councilmember Gregorie said, “Oh, okay, thank you.”

Councilmember Waring said, “Mr. Mayor, I’d like to ask a question of Ms. McKee, please.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Yes, sir.”

Councilmember Waring said, “Tracy, can you tell me what’s the percentage of City Councilmembers that have been vaccinated?”

Tracy McKee said, “Of Councilmembers?”

Councilmember Waring said, “Right, out of 12 Councilmembers, what’s the percent that has received the vaccine shots?”

Tracy McKee said, “I’m not sure. I’m not sure that we’re getting that information unless you’ve provided it to HR.”

Councilmember Griffin said, “We could do a show of hands.”

Councilmember Waring said, “Yeah, I mean we’re only 12. We could find out right now, or at least do a roll call. Mr. Mayor, could we get the Clerk to do a roll call on that?”

The Clerk said, “Well, some of that might be private information.”

Councilmember Appel said, “That’s an ADA violation, I can tell you that for sure.”

Councilmember Gregorie said, “It’s private, yes.”

Councilmember Waring said, “I can volunteer to do it. I’ve had my shots. The ADA is not going to come and get me for saying that.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “You can certainly volunteer that information, if you like, but I don’t feel comfortable doing a roll call vote.”

Councilmember Waring said, “I don’t mind doing it.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shealy.

Councilmember Shealy said, “Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Tracy, on the percentages that were given of people that were immune, last week, it was actually on April 8, I got a MUSC newsletter that I get in my email all the time. Dr. Michael Sweat had said the immunity to the coronavirus had hit 60% statewide, and it was just a little bit lower than that for Charleston County. I don’t think that it went to the city level, if I remember, but, it was close to 60% for the County. Is the City that much lower in immunity than the rest of the County and the rest of the State?”

Tracy McKee said, “It shouldn’t be. Those are actually County numbers, and they are probably doing some different epidemiology estimates with those numbers. I’m just taking the exact numbers from the DHEC website. So, I’m taking what’s coming exactly from DHEC, and they may be doing some extrapolation with the data they’re receiving, as well. They might be adding in the number of people. I’m just taking actual testing results. We know that there are people that never get tested. We never get documented COVID cases, so they may be doing some extrapolation there.”

Councilmember Shealy said, “Yeah, I just think that’s a significant difference, and this was a week ago. You know, certainly that number has increased now with the amount of vaccines that’s happened since then, so.”

Tracy McKee said, “I can double check because I was kind of keeping tabs on their calculations to make sure that we were very similar and close in numbers. So I’ll go back, and I talk to Dr. Sweat pretty regularly, so that’s an easy thing to tidy up.”

Councilmember Shealy said, “Okay. I know you also said 8% decrease over the last two weeks. Now two weeks ago, I think we had a leveling out, but if you look back four weeks, we actually, since we have talked about this last time, there’s actually been about a 20% decrease in those. And in the last week, I believe it’s been about 16% because I watch those charts, as you know, I talk to you about it. So, we’ve had a significant decrease above 8%, if you go back four weeks and you go back to the last seven days.”

Tracy McKee said, “Yeah, it’s been a little bit of a roller coaster, but if you look at, it’s kind of hard to look at the daily numbers themselves, so it’s better to kind of look at the overall trend. When we do look at the trend over the last eight weeks or so, it’s definitely flattened out. We definitely haven’t been on an upward or downward slope significantly.”

Councilmember Shealy said, “Okay, thank you.”

Tracy McKee said, “Sure.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid followed by Councilmember Griffin.

Councilmember Shahid said, “Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Tracy, the number that you gave us, about 37% were immune through vaccination or natural, and you base that on them just having one shot. So what would that number be if they’ve received the second shot?”

Tracy McKee said, “I didn’t pull that number. I mean, I can pull up the DHEC website pretty quickly. They’re reporting that, as well, the number and percentages that have received two doses of Moderna and Pfizer and then the one of J&J.”

Councilmember Shahid said, “Okay, and do you know how many people may have received their first shot, have not followed through with their second?”

Tracy McKee said, “I do not. I have not seen that reported in the DHEC data.”

Councilmember Shahid said, “Okay. One more final question for you. I think that this has been sort of batted around by the professionals. If you have been fully vaccinated, you are still potentially a carrier or spreader of the virus. Is that the recognized science on this?”

Tracy McKee said, “So, the guidance is, as we all know, changing constantly, and I do want to say, I am not a medical professional, so I am just really reading the guidance, like you are and having regular conversations with our friends over at MUSC to try and have as much information for you all as I possibly can. But, the most recent guidance from CDC that I looked at just the other day was that if you have been fully vaccinated, you can gather with people in small groups that have also been vaccinated. There’s still recommendations that, you know, as far as outside of small gatherings, that is not currently recommended by the CDC.”

Councilmember Shahid said, “Thanks, Tracy.”

Tracy McKee said, “You’re welcome.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Griffin.

Councilmember Griffin said, “Yes, sir, thank you. Tracy, what percent of South Carolinians 16 and older are eligible for the vaccine?”

Tracy McKee said, “Percentage of 16 and older?”

Councilmember Griffin said, “It’s 100, isn’t it? Technically, what we’re being told, pretty much everybody in the state is now eligible, correct?”

Tracy McKee said, “Yes, that’s my understanding.”

Councilmember Griffin said, “I just want to make sure that information is out there because there are people that still don’t know that.”

Tracy McKee said, “Yes, yes.”

Councilmember Griffin said, “We also have a clinic coming up April 21, correct? At Arthur Christopher?”

Tracy McKee said, “I was going to let Shannon talk about all the City supported vaccination efforts that are going on, but, yes, I’ll let him share all those details”

Councilmember Griffin said, “Let me, and if you don’t mind, I’ve just got one more thing to say because you’ve got the perfect slide pulled up right now. Zero active cases for City employees. That’s something to be really proud of. You know we don’t get a lot of opportunity to praise our hard work during these tough times, but that’s something to be very proud of as a City. And I hope now that we’re at zero, and we’re doing such a great job, and our City employees are getting vaccinated. I know that 24% isn’t as high as we’d like it, but 24% is better than it was two weeks ago when you reported these numbers, so we’re moving in the right direction. My last thing that I want to say is I hope that we can get to a point where we can, we’re doing such a great job vaccinating people, I’d love it if we can get to a point where we can allow our contractors to get into the Permit Center, normal business hours again. I know they’re in the office full days, but

contractors can only go into the Permit Center from 10 to 3. I hope that we can get to a point pretty soon that contractors, especially small business owners, can get in there and get their permits for normal business hours. Thank you.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Thank you, sir. Shannon?”

Councilmember Gregorie said, “Mr. Mayor, before we go to Shannon, I just have a follow up question for Tracy.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Yes, sir, Councilmember Gregorie.”

Councilmember Gregorie said, “Tracy, I think back in March 2020 we talked about collecting data to determine whether or not the fact that many of our employees have been working from home, and has that had an effect on productivity? If it hasn’t, are we looking at whether or not we should continue remotely in terms of some of our functions, and as a result, save not only the City dollars, but also save individual dollars? Are we tracking data that way?”

Tracy McKee said, “So, we have been tracking, we recently stopped as many employees are now getting vaccinated and taking advantage of vaccination opportunities. We recently stopped tracking those data points, but up until really just a few weeks ago, we were tracking every day, people who were out sick, who was working remotely and that sort of thing, so we have really a full year of that information. I’ll let the Mayor kind of talk about plans going forward maybe.”

Councilmember Gregorie said, “I mean, not only is it going to affect how we do business, it’s going to affect how the Country does business in the future.”

Tracy McKee said, “Yeah, I mean, I will say that at least my working with all the departments and people that have been working remotely, and I usually get a lot of complaints when things aren’t happening, and that has not happened. I feel like the productivity has been very high with everybody really trying to figure out how to get things done. And it’s been amazing. The teamwork across the whole organization, not just within departments, but across departments. I really have never been prouder to be part of such an amazing team.”

Councilmember Gregorie said, “It would just be great to see some type of cost-benefit analysis with regard to remote versus on-site.”

Tracy McKee said, “Absolutely.”

Councilmember Waring said, “Mr. Mayor, I have one more question for Tracy. Tracy, you’re real popular today, by the way. I agree with Councilmember Griffin. This is a very powerful slide, and that zero looks wonderful. I agree with what was said about, disclosure with health issues, but, how are we validating this 24% fully vaccinated and then the 16% natural immunity? In other words, where do we go to get the numbers to back that up?”

Tracy McKee said, “So, that’s a really great question. Our HR department put together a wonderful incentive program for employees. When you get vaccinated you send a copy of your vaccination card over to HR. They keep it confidential. I don’t get information about who’s been vaccinated and who hasn’t. They just report out total numbers of who they’ve gotten the completed

vaccination cards for. Not everyone is turning in their cards, so that's our best estimate based on the cards that we have. And then, of course, on the natural immunity, we did all of our contact tracing and everything like that in-house. So, again, all of that information was kept confidential in the HR department, but they did keep a running database, if you will, of all the people who had tested positive and all the contact tracing that they did."

Councilmember Waring said, "Great, you answered that beautifully. So then we just need to have HR reach out to City Council and we can send our cards in confidentially?"

Tracy McKee said, "Yes, sir."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Now, Shannon you want to give us an update on your information?"

Shannon Scaff said, "Yes, sir. Good evening, Mr. Mayor and members of Council. Thanks, Tracy, for all that you continue to do to help the team. It really has been a team push, as she said, for well over a year. We're starting to transition in emergency management into some focusing on hurricane preparations, as well. June's right around the corner, so the hurricane task force is back to work, reassembled, and marching us down the road of that, as well. MUSC administered 5,272 vaccines last week bringing our total number of City supported vaccines up to 23,405 as of Saturday 4/10/21. The Gilliard Center hosted a Harris Teeter vaccine clinic today (4/13/21) and will be hosting another one tomorrow (4/14/21). Harris Teeter plans on administering 800 Moderna vaccinations per day. The hours of operation will be from 9am until 5pm. Fetter Healthcare will hold a clinic at Arthur Christopher on 4/21/21 from 9am until 2pm. They plan to administer 1,500 vaccinations. Fetter Healthcare will make a determination in the next few days on whether or not to use the Johnson and Johnson vaccine given the latest news there. In the event they do not use the Johnson and Johnson, they will administer Moderna. On March 30, trained City of Charleston Recreation Department staff began assisting citizens with the vaccine appointment scheduling process at seven City facilities throughout the Peninsula, West Ashley, and James Island areas. You saw the percentage of employees that have shown proof of vaccination. We're working with the Latinx advisory council to communicate important vaccine related information to the Spanish speaking community. We've had conversations with them several times over the last week or so, most recently today. Emergency management is working with Ms. Lydia Cotton of that advisory council to establish a plan for a grassroots effort to actually go to John's Island with a translator and meet with folks to provide information and answer questions. We hope to have someone from the medical university to assist us. Like Tracy said, we are not medical professionals. We're doing the best that we can to get the information out there as accurately as possible. Again, what we are looking at, by May 12 would be 23,405 number of vaccines administered. We have three dates coming up with 1,600, 1,500, and an additional 1,600 for 4,700 total for additional efforts coming up. We're continuing to press forward with this, and we'll continue to do so as long as necessary. That's it for me, happy to take any questions."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Any questions for Shannon?"

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Yes, just one. Any projections on when we may reach full vaccination in the city?"

Mr. Scaff said, "Tracy, our mathematician, you got any guesses on that?"

Tracy McKee said, “Oh goodness, you know, I guess it really depends on if we keep getting the supply of vaccinations. It’s been on a steady increase, but as you might remember from the chart distribution, it does go up and down a little bit. So once we can continue to get more supply, I think that’s just going to be the key. The demand currently still seems to be outweighing the supply.”

Mr. Scaff said, “I mean, what I can tell you is Fetter is knocking it out of the park. Obviously, the Medical University with 180 Lockwood is knocking it out of the park every day. Local places of worship have really stepped up, and we’ve established some dates with them. We’re looking at Johns Island and some areas maybe out there that we can help with the Latinx community. So, we’re just going to keep pushing and get them done as quickly as we can. At lunchtime today, we had about 200 additional vaccines that were yet to be spoken for, so we did a push with the media. Jack O’Toole and his office got it out there just in the nick of time for the lunch news broadcast, and we saw a huge wave of folks come in in the afternoon. At that time, we had 500 available for tomorrow, and I expect many of those have been spoken for, but we’ll do another push tomorrow, as well.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “So, I think Councilmember Griffin’s point is very pertinent that everyone over 16 is now eligible, and a lot of folks didn’t even realize that. So, there was a lot of population still out there that hadn’t made their reservation and hadn’t made plans yet, so the more we can promote this, the sooner we get to that herd immunity and the sooner we all get back to a new normal. So, anyway, let’s all keep pushing the word and thanking our staff and supporting them in their efforts to get the word out. So, next, I’d like to call on Susan Herdina to review with us the [Executive Orders and Emergency Ordinances](#) that are out there that are up for renewal. Susan.”

Susan Herdina said, “Yes, sir. Good evening, everybody. The first item on your agenda is Item I-4, which is an extension for 30 days to May 13<sup>th</sup> of the local Declaration of State of Emergency. This is consistent with the Governor’s Executive Order 2021-018 that was issued on April 7 where he extended the State of Emergency in the State due in part to the continuing spread of COVID in the State and throughout all of the Counties. That’s Item I-4. Item I-5 is our standard extension for 30 days of a number of ordinances that have been in place for a while. I just want to read through them with you and bring to your attention a proposed amendment to the mask ordinance. So, Item I-5, again, is the extension of certain existing Emergency Ordinances. The extensions would be for 30 days to May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and we are talking about seven ordinances. They are listed on page six of Item I-5 in your agenda package. It’s the consumer price gauging, it’s the suspension of the requirement of the physical presence of Councilmembers at Council, it’s the Emergency Ordinance regarding temporary procedures for public hearings, it’s the Emergency Ordinance allowing affordable housing units to be approved by an Administrative Officer, it’s an Emergency Order regarding recommending decreasing risk of exposure in retail businesses, it’s the Emergency Ordinance requested by the Police Department requiring parade permits to be limited to 25 or more, and then the last one is the one that relates to masks, mask wearing in the City, and that is currently Ordinance 2021-024.

At the Mayor’s request, I sent to all of you this afternoon, hopefully you have all received it, a proposed amendment to that ordinance. If you will give me a second, I will just quickly summarize what the proposed amendment would be. There are a couple of key changes, and I believe that this came about as a result of a couple of different things. One, of course, looking at the continuing guidance from the CDC on mask wearing, taking a look at what is transpiring in our community, and also based on conversations that people on the Task Force have had with

MUSC. The first key change is that we are strongly encouraging masks to be worn in all public places, however, we have tailored or limited the number of specific public places where masks would now be required, and those are listed in the proposed amendment. Basically, persons entering into City-owned buildings or facilities would be required to wear a mask, both patrons and employees in retail businesses and restaurants, while providing or using commercial or public transportation, however, tours are excluded from that going forward, if the amendment were approved, and participating in a City permitted event. So, those would be specific categories where wearing masks would still be required in public places. The last is to clarify or to basically state that masks would not be required in office environments where six feet of social distancing could be maintained, so that's a change too. That's a quick summary, and I'm happy to answer any questions that anybody has about any of these ordinances or that particular amendment."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, Susan."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Griffin followed by Councilmember Seekings.

Councilmember Griffin said, "Yes, sir. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Like I asked earlier, anybody in this State that's 16 and older is eligible for the vaccination. I went downtown this past weekend to do some people watching, and Charleston is back. It is full. I mean, our streets are swarming with people. Some wear a mask, some don't. Nobody's yelling at each other, upset, because one person has a mask on and the other doesn't. They just go about their business. It's called the free will of the people. Now, every one of us is not above the law, but every one of us, in some capacity I'm sure, has broken this ordinance in some way, shape, or form because it's just impossible to adhere by. I've been accused, Councilmember Shealy, Councilmember Brady, we were out picking up trash in our district, and we took a picture without our masks on. We clearly broke the rule. Should we be fined \$100 while we were out doing civil service? Mr. Mayor, you were accused of not wearing a mask when you were taking pictures at ribbon cuttings. Should you be fined for that? Absolutely not. It defies logic what we're doing here at this point. So, I would love to support this new amendment with one condition, let's get rid of the fines. It's time to quit fining our citizens and fining the people that are coming to the City. We have written \$80,000 or \$90,000 worth of mask fines. People get the point. We were never trying to make a profit off of that. We were never trying to make a new revenue stream. So, I would ask that we amend that ordinance to get rid of the fining mechanism, and I will support it."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, sir."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Seekings.

Councilmember Seekings said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Susan, I just have a question. I was making some notes as you were going through the various Emergency Ordinances and what's affected, and my head spins a little bit because we have done it so many times. Didn't we tie the relief from the parking requirements in the King Street Corridor to the Emergency Ordinance, or did we get beyond that?"

Ms. Herdina said, "We actually are on a different cycle with that, and that will not be up for renewal until May I believe."

Councilmember Seekings said, “Okay, but if for some reason we just abandon in total the Emergency Ordinance, that still stands on its own, and we can debate and take that up at a different time?”

Ms. Herdina said, “Correct.”

Councilmember Seekings said, “Thanks.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Terrific.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shealy.

Councilmember Shealy said, “Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Since talking to Tracy, I actually pulled up the MUSC website, and I’m looking at the MUSC.edu article from April 8<sup>th</sup> that does say the immunity of the Coronavirus in the State has hit above 60 percent Statewide. As fast as this vaccine has rolled out and ramped up, certainly that number has already increased and is going to continue to increase. The better news is the majority of those being vaccinated are the people, the ones that will be hospitalized that would get very, very sick from this, and I’m sure that percentage of people is much higher than 60 percent if it’s 60 percent across the State. When you go back to our [innovate.charleston-sc.gov](http://innovate.charleston-sc.gov), the website that Tracy helps us with, you can look on there, and you can see we’re showing green everywhere except one category. It’s only because two weeks ago we leveled out, and it goes back 14 days, and we leveled out about eight or nine days ago. That’s the only reason that one is not showing green. But, that was just the tiny period, one week, between March 22<sup>nd</sup> and March 29<sup>th</sup> we leveled out and actually went up just a tick, but we pretty much leveled out. But, if you look back one month or four weeks, you will see that those cases have dropped. If you go to that website, you can clearly see that those cases have dropped almost 20 percent since March 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> when we were talking about this before. Four weeks ago and over the last week, it’s made a significant drop. You can see it when you look at the chart. It’s made a 16 percent drop in the last week. So, we’re in much better shape than we were when we discussed this last time, and it appears that we’re only going to improve. Everything shows that we’re going to improve, and we’re getting more vaccines. Once again, I said this a month ago, the ordinance has done its job. I think it’s time to let it expire, and it’s time for us to move forward as a City. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Thank you.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Brady followed by Councilmember Gregorie.

Councilmember Brady said, “Yes, thank you, Mr. Mayor. I’ll be brief. I want to thank Councilmembers Griffin and Shealy for coming out for the West Ashley Circle clean-up. We had our bright orange safety vests on. It was a great time. But, I’ll just talk a little bit, and I appreciate Councilmember Shealy sharing those statistics, as well, as the caller had mentioned, last month when I had spoke about voting to extend the mask mandate, we wanted to make sure that the light at the end of the tunnel was not the train. That it was, in fact, daylight, and I think you can see, I’ve been looking at the same numbers that Councilmember Shealy has done, with the vaccine available for ages 16-plus, adding in people who already have immunity and the declining cases, I think we can definitively say that there is daylight here at the end. So, therefore, I’ll be voting to not extend the ordinance because I agree with Councilmember Shealy that it has served its purpose, and we’re at the point where we can turn the corner. Because if you rewind back to

when we first imposed the mask mandate, we said we wanted to get to the point where everyone that wanted a vaccine could have one, and we're at that point now. So, I appreciate everybody, but I'll be voting against this."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, sir."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie.

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Yes, Mr. Mayor. While the numbers look great now, I kind of agree with MUSC that the next 30 days will really tell the story to determine whether or not these variants will have an effect with regard to spiking, if any. So, I will vote for this to be maintained. I don't think that we need to declare victory too quickly because we're really not quite out of the woods yet. We've seen what has happened in other countries, we've seen what has happened in other states where the numbers are going up instead of coming down and, yes, we're at a plateau, but I do think that we owe ourselves, and we owe our constituents a bit more time to be consistent with what the science says and be consistent with the recommendations from MUSC. If I read it correctly, Tracy, and correct me if I'm wrong, they're recommending to continue to wear masks at least until we get data to determine whether or not the variants will have an effect. We also know that the variants can fight against it. We know that we're not protected even if we're vaccinated against some of these variants. So, I just think that there is too much out there that's unknown, and I think that the City of Charleston should continue to be a leader, and I've not always agreed with recommendations that came from the State level. I just don't want to be a part of a situation that we vote in such a way that we put our people in harm's way. I'm not going to be a part of that, and it's consistent with where I've been coming from throughout this pandemic. I just think that it's too early for us to just abandon it. I agree with everybody. This City looks wide open, Mt. Pleasant looks wide open, and the traffic is unbelievable. You're absolutely correct, but any time I'm out there, I am fearful that people may needlessly be putting themselves in harm's way. So, I just wanted to make sure that the record reflects that. We don't have enough information on the variants and its effect on the folks that are vaccinated and just the effects in general. So, lifting any restrictions at this point, I would not support."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, thank you, Councilmember. It is true, if I may make a comment or two myself, that the numbers have leveled out. I'm so proud of our team for helping our community get more vaccinations out. Yes, everyone over 16 is eligible, but a lot of younger folks haven't gotten the word yet. We're still in a situation where supply is a limiting factor, supply of vaccinations, even though they're better than they were a month ago. There's still many more people to be vaccinated. There is the concern, as Councilmember Gregorie noted, about the variants. I was surprised to hear that 40 percent of all positive tests in March were, in fact, some of these faster spreading variants. That being said, it's clear to me that the light we see, Councilmember Brady, is sunlight. We can see the clearing up ahead. We're not quite out of the woods, but it's daylight, and we can see it. Science has shown us that transmission is mostly by aerosol particles and mostly indoors where ventilation is not as good as being outdoors. So, I think this amendment to the mask ordinance is a most reasonable step. It still recommends wearing of a mask in all public places, but basically outdoors, it's not required. It's just recommended, and indoors it would still be required. Dan Riccio will tell us that most our experience from an enforcement level, frankly, for indoors has been about education and not about writing tickets. Just from a practical point of view, that's the way the enforcement was easiest to get done. Most of the tickets that we've written, frankly, were for people who were outdoors. So, this change in the ordinance would make a meaningful change in the enforcement, Councilmember Griffin. It would make it a lot easier for our team. It would be more focused on

education, and I'd recommend that we keep this alive in this modified version. I think it's a step-by-step process, and we're almost out of the woods, but not quite there yet."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Appel, followed by Councilwoman Jackson.

Councilmember Appel said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I was out on upper King Street Saturday night. Councilmember Gregorie, it doesn't feel like things are back open. Things are back open in a very big way, and things have been open since last summer. We had a month and maybe a week or so when under the Governor's order, restaurants were closed for indoor service, and some other businesses were closed, bowling alleys, movie theaters, things of that nature. All told, the vast majority of the economy has been open throughout COVID-19. We have made progress. Vaccinations are up. It's a great thing, and it's an exciting thing, but, guys, here's the reality, there is an astonishingly high percentage of people in this Country who will never get a vaccine because they believe in QAnon. They get misinformation from all kinds of sources. We have a problem in this Country with education and listening to experts and misinformation. Guys, we're not going to have the numbers ever go to zero. We're never going to have the vaccinations get to where they're supposed to be, and it has nothing to do with supply. It has to do with people's will and desire, so we have to be realistic about what the success parameters are here. The economy is wide open right now. It is wide open, and as a product of that, we have an enormous amount of people out in the streets enjoying our City.

The thing that's changed my thinking is the impact of our mask ordinance on our front-line Livability Department Code Enforcers, who have been called Nazis, who have been called the Gestapo, who have been called the worst names in the world. It's just so sad and pathetic to think about the way people are over emotionalizing, getting triggered by this stuff, making this some sort of Paul Revere liberty vision quest of some kind. It's sad, and it's pathetic. Mature, educated countries around the world, you don't see this in Israel. This isn't a right-left issue around the world, but it is in America. It is. It's where we are. It's where we're going to be on this issue. It's sad. It's an indictment of our culture. It's an indictment of our politics. Here's where we are. Here's the thing, it pains me that we're having to put our Livability people on the front lines of experiencing this abuse from the people they have to have these interactions with, who want to put them on a cellphone video, that want to put them on social media to make some sort of point, so they can get 72 views on their YouTube page and think they're some celebrity or something. It's sad, and as our City starts to open up more and more, we're going to need our Livability people doing other things. We're going to need our Charleston Police officers doing other things.

The reality of it is that the people who want to wear a mask are going to wear a mask. Law can only go so far. Law is about setting norms. It's about setting societal expectations and trying to set a good example. I think we've done that in a very strong way over the past year, but we're at a point right now where I believe if we were to pass this amended ordinance, which I'm in support of, we'll see people wearing masks out on the streets tomorrow. We'll see people not wearing masks on the street tomorrow. I don't think the people that wake up in the morning and put a mask in their pocket and put it on when they're getting out of their car to walk down the street are doing so because they're afraid Mr. Riccio is behind the corner over there and is going to jump out and give them a ticket. They're doing it because they're decent people. They're doing it because they're following the CDC's guidelines. We are where we are in this Country on this issue. I think that by passing this amended ordinance, which I think strikes the right balance, we're taking the brunt off of our front line Livability people. We're taking the brunt off our Charleston Police Department, which God knows, has been through a lot over the past year or so. I'll add

one other point. There was another senseless, horrible shooting in this County in Minnesota this week. Why did it happen? Expired tags and air fresheners dangling on their rearview mirror. George Floyd, a fake \$20 bill. Eric Garner, loose cigarettes. We need to be judicious about when we send our Livability officers into an interaction with the public. We need to be judicious when we send our Charleston Police Department into an interaction with someone in the public because these days things can get crazy. It's unfair for us to put our people in that situation. We need to just be cognizant of that.

So, I think this is a good idea. The more I start to think about the impact on our front line staff, the more that this started to become a reality for me. Guys, we have to realize that while we've made great progress on COVID, the end game here is not zero cases. We're never going to be New Zealand. We're never going to be able to just stamp this thing out. COVID is going to be with us for a long time. It's here. It falls upon us as individuals to set good examples, to follow the guidance, to stay on top of the news and the developments. With an economy that's wide open, it's time for us to begin to get back into the normal swing of things. I agree. I think we need to be meeting in person as soon as we can. I agree we need to have our permit center opened up. There are a lot of positive benefits that are going to come out of COVID, using Zoom for all kinds of different meetings and things of that nature. We can't allow too much of the COVID norm to become ensconced into the way that we do business. We have to continue to strike the proper balances and reopen and readjust in a reasonable, deliberate way. So, I'm in support of the ordinance, and I hope we can get to the point where in May we may be able to take the entire framework out, but this is a good step in the right direction. It's going to drastically minimize the amount of interactions we have to have with the public, and I think we'll be better for it. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thanks. Councilwoman Jackson."

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Thank you. I'm happy to associate myself with the Councilmembers who are going to support this revised version of the ordinance. I do think it strikes a really good balance. I, too, have been very concerned about the pressure and the impossibility of the enforcement jobs that we've been putting on our Livability officers. Knowing that even, the good thing is people are coming back to Charleston. We need them, we need their revenue, and we want them to experience our City in the way that we are pleased to do. Those numbers are impossible to enforce on, so we are going to have to learn how to trust the goodwill of people who are conscientious, looking out for others, living by the gold rule, whatever your faith leads you to call it. I'm not ready to give up on the fact that we are just going to have a bunch of stubborn, self-centered people not wearing a mask. I do feel that we need to work hard about getting vaccines. I do feel like we need to work hard to make sure that we are distributing the vaccination opportunities, encouraging them, and educating them. I do think that our own City, along with all the other efforts in the region, has made a huge inroad in educating people who historically have had reasons to fear big brother enforcing things that have not been respectful of people's health and wellbeing. I think those are the people that I want us to serve, people who are naturally worried about historical trends that would be continued in this new era of government needing to take action like this in the vaccination world. I do feel like we're making progress, and we're going to peel off people, a few at a time, church by church, civic center by civic center, neighborhood by neighborhood, playground by playground, and I think we need to continue to work hard on that. I hope we get to the day where we have a lot more demand than supply. I do worry about the announcement that was made today. We'll just see how that goes with Johnson and Johnson and get past that. I'm going to vote for this. I did have a couple of detailed questions under the section five exceptions list. Why are we removing exceptions? I couldn't figure that out. Maybe I'm just

too tired to read it clearly, but why are we taking the step to remove ‘as an exception, any person traveling in their personal vehicle’ or ‘any person alone?’”

Councilmember Seekings said, “Because it doesn’t apply outside.”

Ms. Herdina said, “Yes. Then so we’re straight, we’re striking that but also ‘anybody utilizing public or commercial transportation.’ That would still be required. So, that’s stricken. These cross outs in Section 4 are really an effort to reflect what has been transpiring in the City in the last couple of months. There’s no need for the personal vehicle one because, as Councilmember Seekings said, you’re going to be outside. That’s covered in the new Section 4. If you’re in a public or commercial transportation, that’s going to be covered in Section 4.”

Councilwoman Jackson said, “How about number four, ‘while participating in a sustained outdoor physical activity?’”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Outdoor.”

Councilwoman Jackson said, “Right. So, basically we’re saying that everything outdoors is not going to be regulated. Okay, I understand.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “That’s correct.”

Ms. Herdina said, “That’s correct with the exception of if it’s a City special permitted event. We may require masks for that. Otherwise, everything outdoors is not requiring masks.”

Councilwoman Jackson said, “So, we’re just trying to make it consistent. I appreciate that. Thank you. That’s all I have.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Seekings.

Councilmember Seekings said, “Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I’ll be brief because there’s been much said about this already, but I was struck by the opening comments you made, Mayor, about we’re sort of in an education phase. At this point, we need to make sure people know where we are, what’s going on, what’s available to them in terms of immunization, what the numbers really look like, and what good, responsible behavior is. Councilwoman Jackson noted that the way we have an ordinance now is impossible to enforce. I was taken. I listened very carefully, to Councilmember Appel’s impassioned plea to take this out of Dan Riccio’s hands and get him off the front lines because of the abuse that he’s been taking, and we’ve all seen it. If you’ve been on King Street and seen anybody who’s in Code Enforcement, they’ve gotten crushed out there. I just don’t think the amended ordinance, with all due respect, Councilmember Appel, does that because it still makes it a violation of our City Code, and it’s finable to be in certain places without your mask on.

What I would suggest, humbly, is a compromise on this, Mr. Mayor and fellow Councilmembers, that we take the ticket book out of Dan’s hands and put some masks in his hands and send them out there and go forward and do some education and let people who are responsible, go out there and be responsible. We’ll have it on the books that you have to wear in certain places, and let’s go out there and educate it. If we know that it can’t be enforced, we know that they’ve been abused, the current ordinance still requires them to go to even greater lengths to enforce, to give out tickets, because they have to go inside. I just think that we’re setting up a

logical dichotomy that will never work, and is not consistent with reality. If it pulls away the ticketing part of it and puts masks in Dan's hand, I'm in favor of it."

Councilmember Griffin said, "You didn't make that motion."

Councilmember Seekings said, "If not, well you said it, you didn't make a motion. If it doesn't, then I think we need to rethink this. Those are my two cents worth, and I would encourage everyone to think about that before we vote on this tonight. Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and fellow Councilmembers."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Sakran.

Councilmember Sakran said, "Thank you, Mayor. I'd like to just second Councilmember Seekings' approach on this. I gain comfortability in getting Dan off of the front lines. I just want to say to Dan and everyone in Livability, I know it's been a crazy year, and you're just doing your job as a civil servant, so I just want to say thank you. I would be completely in favor of this if we can get Dan off the front lines, and if I have to make a motion, I'm happy to, but I do want to say a couple of things before I conclude. We have to set a calendar date and work towards that calendar date of getting back into Council. Put it on the calendar, let's focus on it, let's work toward it, and if things change on the ground, we shift, but we've got to get back to working in Council. I will say, we've got to get back to City operations in person. Councilmember Griffin is absolutely correct. I've heard from small business owners and contractors, and the difficulty in doing the work that they're doing in the job that they're doing when they can't get ahold of somebody in person is immense. I will respectfully disagree with Tracy. Our job is to work with people. We're not a tech company. We're not Amazon. Our job is to work directly with our constituents, and that requires face-to-face meetings. We've got to get back to that. Councilmember Griffin, thanks for bringing that up. I know most of the Councilmembers are supportive of that. I just want to make sure we get something on the books and start planning for a date in the future to get back to Council and opening the City up for the work that we do, which is working directly with our citizens. Those are my comments. If I have to make a motion to amend this, I'm happy to do that."

Councilmember Waring said, "Mr. Mayor, I ask for a point of order. I think Councilmember Sakran has a great point there. Do we have a motion on the floor? That's my point. That's my point of order."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Councilmember Sakran, I will entertain a motion, if you'd like to make one."

Councilmember Sakran said, "I'd like to amend the ordinance. I'm not an attorney, so I might need help from our attorneys."

Councilmember Waring said, "Well, did Councilmember Seekings make the motion and you wanted to second it?"

Councilmember Sakran said, "Yes, I just want to second Councilmember Seekings' motion."

Councilmember Waring said, "Councilmember Seekings, was that your motion?"

Councilmember Seekings said, "I'm happy for that to stand as a motion."

The Clerk said, “Councilmember Seekings, just to clarify for the record, is your motion to amend the mask ordinance, or are you amending the amendment?”

Councilmember Seekings said, “No, to amend what was presented to us as an amended ordinance to take out any fines.”

The Clerk said, “Okay, so the motion is to pass the amendment to the mask ordinance with the added amendment of removing fines.”

Councilmember Seekings said, “Yes.”

The Clerk said, “Okay. Thank you.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Do we have a second on that?”

Councilmember Sakran said, “I’ll second that.”

Mr. McQueeney said, “He’s not going to be handing out masks, is he?”

Councilmember Seekings said, “That was sort of a figurative point of speech to say that when we’re out there, we should be educating.”

Mr. McQueeney said, “I just wanted to make sure.”

Councilmember Seekings said, “We’ve got plenty of them, by the way, at CARTA. We’re happy to give you all a bunch, and you go put them out there.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Point of Order. We’ve still got plenty of masks to give out. This motion is just applying to the one, we’ll just take this one mask ordinance, and we’ll come back on the State of Emergency and the other ordinance since we’ve had all this discussion if that’s okay with everybody. Any further discussion on the amended amendment to the mask ordinance?”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, “Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I’m fine to go along with the amendment to the amendment. I just want to ask Susan to sort of clarify for us. If we pass this ordinance without the penalty component in there, what is the impact on institutions, businesses, and restaurants that do not comply with this ordinance?”

Councilmember Gregorie said, “Nothing.”

Councilmember Mitchell said, “Zero.”

Ms. Herdina said, “If we strike the provision on penalties, it’s an ordinance without any teeth, frankly.”

Councilmember Shahid said, “In other words, this is not an ordinance at all.”

Ms. Herdina said, “Well, we do pass ordinances that don’t necessarily have fines and penalties in them, and that’s what this would end up being.”

Councilmember Shahid said, “How would this act from a practical standpoint if we have the ordinance without the penalty phrase in there?”

Ms. Herdina said, “Well, there is a provision in the ordinance already that talks about working in the enforcement section. It talks about the City, Fire and Livability working with businesses and communities to develop a marketing strategy, signage, and mask availability. In effect, this is an expression of Council’s view and a direction for Livability and other offices to work with the community, but in the event of a violation, there would be no enforcement authority.”

Councilmember Shahid said, “So, I just want to run this scenario around...”

Ms. Herdina said, “There’s no penalty provision.”

Councilmember Shahid said, “Right. If I’m a business owner or an institution, and I want to require masks being worn inside my restaurant, my business, my house of worship, do I have that option to enforce and require people to wear a mask inside that house of worship, that restaurant, that retail establishment, that hotel, whatever?”

Ms. Herdina said, “I believe you do. I mean, you are the owner of the business, and you have that authority to conduct your business in a way that is not violating any Federal, State, or local law. What you’d be doing is adding additional restrictions that were not running a foul or inconsistent with Federal, State, or local law. I think so.”

Councilmember Shahid said, “So, that is that business person or that establishment has the right to say to a patron or a congregant, ‘I require you to wear a mask because that’s the City ordinance inside my establishment?’”

Ms. Herdina said, “Correct.”

Councilmember Shahid said, “I’m saying this out loud as a rhetorical exercise so that the public understands what we’re doing here and appreciate the impact of all of this because there are several institutions that want to require this to be in effect, and that they have that option of doing that. My second follow-up question with all this is because I have talked with Dave Echols about the RiverDogs, and he was very kind in his presentation tonight. How is this going to impact his ability to go operate the RiverDogs at the Joe Stadium if he wants to do it at 50% capacity?”

Ms. Herdina said, “Well, that’s a City facility, so what he needs to do is submit a request to the task force that has been operating since March of last year, which looks at each request and makes a decision about whether or not to increase the capacity. At this point, we have not received a request from him, but certainly, the task force will look at it. He has brought to the City’s attention, I know this, other institutions, which are other baseball fields that are increasing their capacity, so we’ll take a look at that. That is a little different. That is a City facility, so we do have greater control over that.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Well, we’ll be glad to look at it for him.”

Councilmember Shahid said, “I just want to echo some of the comments that we’ve heard tonight. I don’t want to rehash all of that, but I think there is a huge mask fatigue going on in our community. Every other ordinance that has passed, it is based upon goodwill. We do not have a police officer at every intersection whether or not someone’s going to stop at that stop sign or stop at that red light. We don’t have police officers doing radar at every roadway to see if someone is speeding. We operate, and hopefully, this community will continue to operate, with goodwill and good intentions of following this ordinance the way that we have got it proposed to be amended. We do have to take into consideration the lessons that we had over 100 years ago when this City was encouraged to open up too soon, and it had a catastrophic impact on our community. Several more people died because we opened too soon, and the variants are something we cannot take lightly. There’s a huge problem. We need to be on our guard with this. The reality is what we have seen on King Street. I’ve seen it, as well. I’ve seen the crowds come down here. I just assume that if I had my druthers, we’d have a big ‘ole bonfire in Marion Square and burn all my masks that I have. I’m just tired of wearing it, to be honest with you. I hate it, and it is a pain to wear, particularly when you are trying to be in a courtroom or a court setting, and you can’t hear because people’s voices are muffled. I get it, and I’m part of that crowd that would like to get rid of these masks just as soon as possible, but our number one responsibility to this community is public safety. We have to make sure that however we act, we act with that in mind to ensure the safety of our community, regardless of the outside pressures that are put on us by other people who want to get rid of this stuff, who want us to meet prematurely. Our number one responsibility is to make sure that we’re taking care of our community, and that’s our job. I think this is a pretty good balance in trying to accomplish that, and I hope that by doing this, the community will see that we’re looking for them to be our partners and work with us and act in good faith, just as we would expect them to stop at a stop sign or not speed down the highway. Thank you, all, for the opportunity to talk and address you all.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Thank you. Councilwoman Delcioppo and then Councilmember Mitchell.”

Councilwoman Delcioppo said, “I just want to express my support for, what are we calling it, the amendment to the amendment? I think Councilmember Shahid kind of set up a good segue. One of your big motivations to go get vaccinated is because it kind of gives you this sense of ‘wow, maybe my life can start to get a little bit more back to normal.’ I’m guilty of it. I got vaccinated and waited my couple of weeks. The first thing I did Friday night was meet up with some girlfriends, and all of us were like, ‘we got our shots,’ and we were hugging each other and, you know, super excited to finally hang out together and let our guard down a little bit for the first time in a year. I think that’s people’s natural response, and I don’t want to demotivate someone from getting vaccinated because it’s kind of like, ‘well, what’s the point of getting vaccinated? I still have to do all of these things.’ So, I think we can have scientific data around that, but in our hearts and in our heads, we’re having a hard time making that connection. So, I can sympathize and empathize with that and guilty of that just like others. I think we can mandate it in our City buildings, and businesses can take it upon themselves. Target, for example, in Mt. Pleasant, I was just there yesterday, and Mt. Pleasant doesn’t have a mask ordinance, but if you go into Target, they require face coverings. So, those businesses can still do that. I think this is the right move to make, and certainly, we can reassess. I think those people who have been wearing masks are going to continue to, and those people who haven’t, we’re not going to change their minds. I’m tired of the ugliness, and to what other Councilmembers have said, the fighting and the name calling and everything else, it’s just not...”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Helpful.”

Councilwoman Delcioppo said, “Exactly. It’s more detrimental than anything else, I feel. So, I feel this is the right move to make, and I appreciate Councilmember Griffin bringing it up, to begin with, and then others have carried it forward.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Thank you very much.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Mitchell.

Councilmember Mitchell said, “Yes, Mr. Mayor. I wasn’t going to say anything, but I live on King Street. I don’t think any Councilmember here, I love you all to death, are out in the community or in the streets more than I am. I’m out there at one or two o’clock in the morning driving up and down King Street. Seeing what I’ve seen, there are a lot of people coming into Charleston and flooding King Street. Just last week, they had lines out there, long lines. And if they’re coming from out of town, coming from Ridgeville or wherever they’re coming from, and bringing down you don’t know what, they’re coming and bringing it here. I look at my grandson and kids because they’re here, too. I’ve seen things that are going on in this City. When we started with this mask ordinance, I was looking at not removing the mask ordinance until May. I had in my mind that we’ll do something in May. One of the Councilmembers alluded to the synagogue and the churches. Our bishop told us we couldn’t even go into a building until September. We can’t even go in a building, any of the buildings in the State of South Carolina until September? Why? Safety of others who might feel that they know everything and don’t know any better. We’re going to be congregating together even if we sit apart because you don’t know who has what, and who has not taken the test, or who hasn’t gotten the vaccine or not. We know everyone is not going to get a vaccine. I know this, too. Everyone in my district, and I have a very diverse district, they were telling me, ‘Councilmember Mitchell, vote to keep the mask ordinance until May.’ That’s what they told me, so I’m going on what they told me. Let’s see what happens in May. That’s what we talked about when we first started. Mr. Mayor, how long have we had this mask ordinance in place? Could you give us an idea?”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “How long we’ve had it in place already?”

Councilmember Mitchell said, “Yes, just approximately.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Probably 9-10 months now.”

Susan Herdina said, “I believe it was around March 16<sup>th</sup> maybe.”

Councilmember Mitchell said, “Okay, now when did the vaccine come out? Approximately, when did they start the vaccine?”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “That’s four months ago.”

Councilmember Mitchell said, “Four months ago. So, these are the current things in a nutshell. We started the vaccine four months ago. This pandemic started last year, and you can’t wait a couple of months to see what’s going to happen? Come on, people, what are we thinking sometimes? I know Dan is still on the line.”

Dan Riccio said, “I’m here.”

Councilmember Mitchell said, “Okay, what do you think about this, Dan? I know what’s happening. I see you all out there. I know what happened to the Police Department with the name calling, but I take name calling, too. If you come in my district, I don’t think any of you would want to represent my district with the name calling. What do you say, Dan? It’s a job. There’s a job to do. You’re looking out for others when they’re not looking out for themselves. Are you a brother’s keeper? Yes, we are. In a lot of instances. Dan, I know you get beat up a lot, but what do you think about that?”

Mr. Riccio said, “Well, with all due respect, I think at this point, grown adults need to make their own decisions. They need to recognize if they have become vaccinated. We don’t know this. We don’t know the interactions of every individual we come in contact with. Yes, we have received a tremendous amount of argumentative name calling and abuse. I want to thank each and every Councilmember, Councilmember Appel, all of the above, that have supported us, but at this point, Councilmember Mitchell, I love you, but I have to respectfully say, at this point, we need to move forward. We need to put the onus on each individual to make their own decision whether they feel safe or not. If they do, they do. If they don’t, they don’t. The ones that don’t feel safe will not enter an establishment or walk the streets without a mask on. The ones that feel more confident will not wear a mask. So, I think at this point, I agree with lesser restrictions, but I will tell you that it’s up to each individual to make that decision on their own. I’m, at this point, confident that with all our progress that we have gone through with enforcing, there’s a point in time when we have to say, ‘Okay, people have to make their own decision based on their own interactions, their own personal interactions.’ I’ve been vaccinated. I feel confident. I still wear a mask. I will not go in public without a mask because I feel I need to, but others don’t. So, at this point, I will respect your decision with the ordinance, but I feel confident with Council’s decision and moving forward and voting the way they want to vote.”

Councilmember Mitchell said, “Alright. Thank you, Dan. I just wanted to get your input on that. Mr. Mayor, I don’t think I’m going to go yet, but I’m satisfied.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Yes, sir. Can we call the question? Is anyone else really highly motivated to say anything else? Okay, on the floor is the amended amendment. It will still recommend mask wearing out of doors, will not require it, will require masks to be worn indoors, essentially, but no monetary fines will be imposed.”

Councilwoman Jackson said, “Mr. Mayor, can I just ask a procedural? I mean, if we vote this amended amendment up or down, then would we come back and vote on the amendment? Let’s say we vote it down. Would we come back and vote on the amended ordinance that’s been in front of us?”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Well, somebody could make a motion, but right now, what’s on the floor is the amended amendment.”

The Clerk said, “Mr. Mayor, can we do a roll call vote?”

Councilmember Griffin said, “Roll call vote, please.”

The Mayor said, “Please call it out, Madam Clerk.”

The Clerk said, “Councilwoman Delcioppo.”

Councilwoman Delcioppo said, “Just if you are in favor of the amended amendment?”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Correct.”

Councilwoman Delcioppo said, “Aye.”

The Clerk said, “Councilmember Shealy.”

Councilmember Shealy said, “Aye.”

The Clerk said, “Councilmember Sakran.”

Councilmember Sakran said, “Yes.”

The Clerk said, “Councilmember Mitchell.”

Councilmember Mitchell said, “I’m going to have to say nay.”

The Clerk said, “Councilmember Brady.”

Councilmember Brady said, “Nay.”

The Clerk said, “Councilmember Gregorie. I don’t see him. He may have dropped off. We’ll come back to him.”

The Clerk said, “Councilmember Waring.”

Councilmember Waring said, “Aye.”

The Clerk said, “Councilmember Seekings.”

Councilmember Seekings said, “Aye.”

The Clerk said, “Councilmember Shahid.”

Councilmember Shahid said, “Aye.”

The Clerk said, “Councilmember Griffin.”

Councilmember Griffin said, “Aye.”

The Clerk said, “Councilmember Appel.”

Councilmember Appel said, “Yes. Wear a mask, get vaccinated.”

The Clerk said, “Councilwoman Jackson.”

Councilwoman Jackson said, “Yes.”

The Clerk said, “Councilmember Gregorie.”

Councilmember Gregorie said, “Yes, I’m back. I don’t know what happened. I guess we’re in a voting phase?”

The Clerk said, “Yes, sir.”

Councilmember Gregorie said, “I definitely had a salient point that I just wanted to make for the record. Do we do it after the vote? I’m on my phone now because I couldn’t.”

The Mayor said, “How would you like to vote?”

Councilmember Gregorie said, “I’m going to vote against it, but I’d also like the record to reflect what I was about to say during discussion.”

The Mayor said, “Okay, we’ll come right back to you.”

Councilmember Gregorie said, “I appreciate it. Thank you.”

The Clerk said, “Mayor Tecklenburg.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Yes.”

The Clerk said, “The motion carries.”

On a motion of Councilmember Seekings, seconded by Councilmember Sakran, City Council voted to ratify the following Emergency Ordinance:

**2021-041 - EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING EMERGENCY ORDINANCE 2020-134 BY DELETING LANGUAGE IN SECTION 6 RELATED TO RESTRICTIONS ON SALE OR CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL AND IN SECTION 7 RELATED TO RESTRICTIONS ON PLAYING AMPLIFIED MUSIC IN RESTAURANTS AND BARS. (AS AMENDED).**

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

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie.

Councilmember Gregorie said, “Yes, I thought that Councilmember Shahid made a really good analogy with the stop sign. The way I look at it is if people decide that they’re not going to adhere to the stop sign, if they get caught, they get a ticket, but we don’t remove the stop sign. If people can ignore the stop sign and just keep driving through, there’s going to be an accident, and someone may die. I think that analogy is consistent with what we’re doing right now in terms of weakening the mask ordinance substantially. I also feel that it sounds as though we’re setting a precedent that if enough people decide that they’re not going to obey the law, then we get rid of the law. So, I think that we’re setting a precedent here. We have to be very, very careful, but remember, if you don’t stop at the stop sign, you’re either going to get a ticket, you’re going to be in a wreck, or you’re going to die. Thank you.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Thank you. Can I now entertain a motion that we approve [the executive order and the other new ordinances](#) of number five?”

Councilmember Shahid said, “So moved.”

Councilmember Brady said, “Second.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Any discussion on those?”

No one asked to speak.

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

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

**2021-042-** EMERGENCY ORDINANCE EXTENDING CERTAIN EMERGENCY  
ORDINANCES RELATED TO COVID-19

The vote was not unanimous. Councilmembers Shealy and Griffin voted nay.

The Clerk said, “And that was two nays?”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “I think Councilmembers Griffin and Shealy.”

The Clerk said, “Thank you.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Seekings.

Councilmember Seekings said, “Just very briefly, while we’re on this topic and have been for a long time, Susan and Chip, just make sure that we don’t lose in translation that parking ordinance. I just want to make sure we have some debate on that before it expires, and we get it permanent and expanded. Please just make a note to not let us forget about that if you don’t mind. It’s working, whoa, it’s working.”

Mr. McQueeney said, “We work with that as an economic recovery movement, so it’s supported by a different set of circumstances.”

Councilmember Seekings said, “Okay, thank you.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, “Can we get a five minute break?”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Yes. I do want to make one comment prior to us breaking, and then we’ll come back for our Council Committee reports. I want to address this remark, Dan Riccio and all his fine Code Enforcement Officers and also to our Police Officers, who have been engaged in the enforcement of this mask ordinance, I am sorry that you all have had to take abuse and the unpleasantness. You were doing your job in the very best fashion and form. I want you to remember this one thing: you saved some lives out there doing what you did. I believe the efforts you made raised the compliance of this City, generally speaking, which saved and reduced the

number of cases, reduced the number of people who might have died, so please keep that thought in mind. Thank you for your service.”

Mr. Riccio said, “Thank you. That means a lot to my guys and myself. That’s why we still strive to continue to do what we do, but hearing that helps. Thank you.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “You’re welcome. Let’s take a five minute break. We’ll be right back.”

City Council recessed at 8:07 p.m.

City Council reconvened at 8:17 p.m.

Councilmember Griffin said, “Mr. Mayor, the benefit of coming to City Hall is that Rick Jerue has all the best snacks, peanuts, apples.”

Councilmember Gregorie said, “And you’re not inadvertently cut off either.”

Councilmember Griffin said, “No.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Well, I don’t know about that, but you’ve discovered my secret.”

Councilmember Griffin said, “We all got cut off.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Might be one of the reasons I’ve put on a few COVID pounds over the last year. Alright. How are we doing, Madam Clerk?”

The Clerk said, “I think we have a quorum.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Alright. So, if I could reconvene us, and we’ll move along with our Council Committee reports. First one up is our Committee on Community Development, Councilmember Mitchell.”

The Clerk said, “Mr. Mayor, was there a Council Communication?”

Councilmember Griffin said, “Yes, ma’am. That was mine.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Oh, I skipped that. I’m sorry. An update on the [short-term rental ordinance](#) from Councilmember Griffin.”

Councilmember Griffin said, “Mr. Mayor, we’ve had a pretty long night, and all I was wanting were the number of citations and number of permits. So, if we could just get those emailed over to us, we can move on.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Okay. Dan, you got that?”

Mr. Riccio said, “Yes, sir. I can do that for you, Councilmember. I’ve got a list right here.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Alright. Any other questions about short-term rentals from anyone? Hearing none, we’ll proceed with our Council Committee reports. First up is [Community Development](#), Councilmember Mitchell.”

Councilmember Mitchell said, “The Community Development Committee met on March 25<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. We had three items on the agenda. The first one was a Resolution to certify 220 Nassau Street as an abandoned building. That was approved. The second was from Classic Development Corporation to request funds, and that was also approved. Number three was for information only. I ask for us to approve those items as listed.”

Councilmember Waring said, “Move for approval.”

Councilwoman Jackson said, “Second.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Items number one and two. Any discussion on either of those?”

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Waring, seconded by Councilwoman Jackson, City Council voted to adopt Items a (i) and (ii) from the Committee on Community Development Report:

---INSERT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT---

- (i) Resolution to certify 220 Nassau Street as an abandoned building
- (ii) Classic Development Corporation – Request for Funds – Bull Creek Development

The vote was not unanimous. Councilmember Shealy voted nay.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “And then, was there a [second Community Development meeting](#), Councilmember Mitchell?”

Councilmember Mitchell said, “Yes. Councilmember Waring was sharing that for the Public Works Committee.”

Councilmember Waring said, “Well, that was just a discussion on the TIF funds. That was information only. I think everybody participated well and got a greater amount of information. I wanted to thank Amy and her team for all the good work and putting together a difficult subject and making sense of it, so thank you, Ms. Wharton.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Absolutely. So, the [Committee on Recreation](#) has been rescheduled or will be rescheduled.”

Councilmember Gregorie said, “Mr. Mayor.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie.

Councilmember Gregorie said, “Most of the things that we were going to discuss would not require a vote. However, I would wish and hope that we could vote as the body of the whole on the renaming of Chapel Street Park to Vangie Rainsford Park. This was a request that came

from Councilmember Mitchell, and I think the timing is very important, if I'm not mistaken, on this one, Mr. Mitchell."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Yes, it is."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "We can pull that from that Committee report, I don't know if we can, and just vote on the new business, and that's the renaming of the park."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I think that's appropriate since it's on the agenda. Can we have a motion on the floor to do that?"

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Second."

Councilmember Waring said, "Yes, please let us all know, Mr. Mayor, when that renaming comes. I'd like to be there. She's been a wonderful volunteer for this City."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Yes. I'll make a little motion, Mr. Mayor, on that. As of May, it will be a new President of the Mazyck-Wraggborough. This is her last term. She will not be the president anymore after May. Normally they don't have any meetings during May, June, July, and August. So, when they come back, and after her mother died, she's running back and forth to take care of the property up there that her mother had. I think this was more fitting, and the reason why I did this is when the City of Charleston didn't have enough money to do the fountain in the park, the Wraggborough Association raised the rest of the money to complete that park, right up from the Neighborhood Association during that time with Vangie's leadership. All of that was done with a lot of money they raised to complete that, so I thought it was more fitting for it to be named after her."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, it is most fitting, and she's been a remarkable neighborhood leader and servant to our City. It's very appropriate. Any further comments or questions?"

On a motion of Councilmember Gregorie, seconded by Councilwoman Jackson, City Council voted unanimously to rename Chapel Street Park to Vangie Rainsford Park.

Councilmember Waring said, "Well, Mr. Mayor, I do have a question for Recreation."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes, sir."

Councilmember Waring said, "I mean, can we get a brief update from Mr. Kronsberg on Stoney Field and W.L. Stephens Pool?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Is that the pleasure of Council? I don't think it would take too long for him to do that. Alright. Mr. Kronsberg, are you on the line here?"

Mr. Kronsberg said, "Here."

Councilmember Waring said, "Just a Cliff Notes version. This is a quick update."

Mr. Kronsberg said, "Okay, I don't have my notes in front of me, but the W.L. Stephens Pool will be opened up as a seasonal pool due to the fact that the roof is inoperable and our

inability to get the correct ventilation into that pool area. We'll be opening it up, I think, July 1<sup>st</sup> as a seasonal pool. We'll be taking out all the walls, opening up to the air and getting enough air in there to improve the air quality until we have the opportunity to reconstruct it."

Councilmember Waring said, "Okay, thank you."

Mr. Kronsberg said, "Stoney Field, we just approved the submittals for the turf and the track surfaces, so the rubberized track surfacing will be the same surfacing they use in all the other high school facilities, and the synthetic turf will be similar, as well."

Councilmember Waring said, "Okay, that's good."

Mr. Kronsberg said, "There's some work going on inside the building with the HVAC and the outfits for the locker rooms. The additional surcharge for that track area is in place and doing its job. So, that's not all of it, but that's ..."

Councilmember Waring said, "That's great. Thanks a lot. I appreciate it, Mr. Kronsberg."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Councilmember Shealy, did you have a question?"

Councilmember Shealy said, "Yes, sir. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I thought while we were on Recreation, do we know when we're going to have the update for the study that's going on?"

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Councilmember Shealy."

Councilmember Shealy said, "Yes, sir."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "As we rework the agenda for the Recreation Committee, that is one agenda item, as well as updates on many other projects."

Councilmember Shealy said, "Okay, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate it."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Thank you. See there, Councilmember Gregorie, I think we saved you from having a meeting."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Yes, you did. No, I saved you, Mayor, from having a meeting."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I love it. Next up is [Committee on Public Works](#). Councilmember Waring."

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. As you see on your agenda, Items 4 (a) and 4 (b), which passed on Ways and Means, passed unanimously on the Public Works Agenda. I so move its passage."

Councilmember Griffin said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Any discussion?"

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Waring, seconded by Councilmember Griffin, City Council voted unanimously to adopt Items a (i) and b (i) from the Committee on Public Works Report:

a. Acceptances and Dedication of Right-of-Way:

(i) Approval to notify SCDOT that the City intends to accept maintenance responsibility for approximately 75 LF of granite curb, carriage stamp driveway and handicap ramp in conjunction with the project at 370 Huger Street (S-99).

b. Public Service Updates:

(i) Daniel Island Beresford Creek Bridge Replacement Design Contract-Approval of a contract with JMT, Inc. in the amount of \$439,455.13 for surveys, detailed traffic analysis, subsurface utility engineering and coordination, geotechnical investigation, environmental permitting, roadway design, bridge hydraulic analysis and structural design, plan development and construction phase support engineering for the replacement of the road bridge over Beresford Creek on Daniel Island. Funding source for this project is 2018 General Fund Reserves (\$1,700,000.00).

Councilmember Waring said, "The briefing on the electric garbage truck was, frankly, fabulous. We certainly look forward to the grant that's going to be part of getting these trucks, and hopefully putting us towards a cleaner air solution on that, but that was just for discussion. We had an executive session on a resident that came, well, here it's listed as it was an Executive Session, so I need to correct the agenda. A resident who had quite a bit of flooding in the backyard and, frankly, a very good, hearty conversation, which is probably going to result in a recommendation from the Committee for it to go towards a small project that Mr. Fountain will hopefully get on the '22 year budget. Beyond that, I move for the adoption of the remainder of the report."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Second."

Matt Fountain said, "Councilmember Waring, can I make a quick note on that?"

Councilmember Waring said, "Yes, sir. Go ahead."

Matt Fountain said, "I think Jennifer is making the same note. The Executive Session was not on the agenda for the Public Works and Utilities Committee agenda. You're correct that there was an item for Lochmore Terrace that was discussed, but that's a separate item from the Executive Session, which I think..."

Councilmember Waring said, "You're right. Thank you. We did not have an Executive Session."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Right."

Councilmember Waring said, "As far as me, that's the extent of this report."

On a motion of Councilmember Waring, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell, City Council voted unanimously to accept the remainder of the Committee on Public Works and Utilities Report for information:

b. Public Service Updates:

- (ii) Briefing on grant submittal for electric garbage trucks.

c. Stormwater Management Department Updates:

- i. Stormwater Manual Taskforce Update
- ii. King/Huger Project Update
- iii. Discussion of Drainage Easement at 3 Lochmore Terrace (Requested by CM Griffin)

Councilmember Waring said, “Alright. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Thank you. Next is our Committee on [Traffic and Transportation](#). Councilmember Seekings.”

Councilmember Seekings said, “Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Fellow Councilmembers, the Committee on Traffic and Transportation met today at 2:00 p.m., and thanks to Committee member Brady who was in his car driving home, we got real and live updates on the traffic situation in West Ashley. I believe there were some traffic jams. I believe there was a little bit of an accident along the way, so it was a very exciting Traffic and Transportation in real time, in real life. So, thank you for that, Councilmember Brady. Thanks to Mr. Kronsberg we got a very detailed update on what’s happening with the BUILD Grant for the West Ashley Bridge. Suffice it to say, if you have any specific questions please get with Mr. Kronsberg, but don’t take too much of his time because it’s a very busy time for that project. They are going through many administrative levels of making sure that we are in a position to get the RFQ and the RFP out. For our design build team, that’s the next big benchmark. We will see some preliminary, perhaps 15% finished drawings of what the movable part of that bridge will look like maybe in the next 30-60 days, and I’ll share that with Council. I think the Committee was satisfied with Mr. Kronsberg, Mr. Most, and their report that we’re moving very much forward and are on schedule for that very important project. We had a signal maintenance agreement and projects update from the other very eloquent Mitchell at the City. He gave us about as complete a report as you can get, and I can just tell you that there is a ton of signal maintenance going on in the City. If you want to know specifically anything in your particular district, we will get you a list. I won’t even pretend to try to list them all, plus you would all not want to sit here and listen to it again for about 30 minutes. The takeaway from Mr. Benjamin and Mr. Mitchell is they are super busy out there, really working as hard as they can, and anything we can do to support them and get some technological updates to our system will really lessen their workload. So, that was essentially what happened. We got some general director’s updates from Mr. Benjamin. I don’t think I’m missing anything too specific, so nothing to vote on. That’s my report. Nothing to be adopted.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Thank you, sir.”

The Clerk said, “Mr. Mayor, I’m sorry to interrupt, but just to remind everybody, if you can keep your microphone on mute while others are talking. We’re starting to get some feedback. Thank you.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Thank you. Councilwoman Jackson.”

Councilwoman Jackson said, “Yes, may I tag onto your report, Chairman Seekings? I think, unfortunately, it was very sobering, part of Mr. Benjamin’s report that literally as we were in our Committee meeting that started at 2:00 p.m, that we got the news both from the CPD and from the Charleston Moves, who follows a lot of what’s happening on the bike/ped front, our region lost another pedestrian, another biker, who was walking his bicycle across the North Bridge. From what everyone says, that’s the fourth person killed on that bridge since 2015. Mr. Benjamin went on to tell us that there is now at least a cooperative work plan going forward between North Charleston and the City and the County to pool their resources to have a concept created for how to best improve that bridge. I hope and pray that we can get to it as soon as that concept is out there. SCDOT definitely needs to be part of that responsibility. It’s a terrible situation, and we’re keeping two communities that should be having the synergy that a bridge creates between two increasingly vital parts of our cities, Rivers Avenue and Sam Rittenberg. Why wouldn’t we want to have something major improved there? It’s a sad thing that we have to use a tragedy to motivate us, but I really hope we can.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Thank you. Councilmember Shahid.”

Councilmember Shahid said, “Yes, sir, Mr. Mayor. This is right in my district. I’ve been in regular communication with Katie Zimmerman and the coalition that she’s created and working towards this bridge replacement or the addition of a bike/pedestrian path over. The County has allocated some money for study, actually, some alternatives to implement over this area. North Bridge has become a very popular place. If you ride over there, particularly after hours in the spring or summertime, there’s a huge congregation of folks who are using the pier and dock that’s out there. Losing just one person is tragic enough, and unfortunately, the bridge is the only means of access for people who are not using this for recreation. This is their ability to come or go to the grocery store, to go shop, or to get to work. The alternatives over there are very limited. The County had worked with, I think Councilmember Seekings mentioned this earlier, a process for a bus to stop at a certain location. You can load your bicycle on it to get you over the bridge, but unfortunately, that’s not an every hour process. There’s a lot of work to be done over here, and I appreciate the concerns that my colleagues have with this. I’m going to need all of your support sometime in the future as we work towards coming up with some hard solutions to this. All the work that we’ve done with the Ashley Crossing, we’re going to double our efforts to accomplish the same goal with what we’re doing over here in North Bridge. Thanks for your input. Thanks for your concern. I’ll be looking for your other ideas and help and support.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Absolutely. Next is our [Committee on Ways and Means](#). Councilmember Gregorie.”

Councilmember Gregorie said, “Yes, Mayor. I move for approval as corrected and or amended.”

Councilmember Shahid said, “Second.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Any discussion?”

No one asked to speak.

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

(Bids and Purchases)

(Parks Department: Approval of the Keep South Carolina Beautiful 2021 Palmetto Pride Grant Award in the amount of \$8,625. Grant funds will be used toward litter cleanup and beautification initiatives within the City of Charleston, as well as general program costs. There is no City match required.

(Parks Department: Approval to submit the 2021 AARP Community Challenge Grant for the amount of \$12,000, to be used in landscaping, irrigation, and Wi-Fi Hotspot installations at Hampstead Mall Park. There is no City match required.

(Office of Cultural Affairs: Approval to apply for \$6,000 from South Carolina PRT's Tourism Advertising Grant Program, to support the 2021 MOJA Arts Festival. A 2:1 City match is required. Matching funds will come from corporate sponsorship and private donations.

(Police Department: Approval of a contract between the City and Turning Leaf Project. Turning Leaf provides a post release re-entry program for recently released inmates. The amount to be paid by the City is \$50,000.

(Budget Finance Revenue Collections: An ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of a not exceeding \$19,000,000 Special Obligation Redevelopment Bond (Horizon Redevelopment Project Area), Series 2021, of the City of Charleston, South Carolina, and other matters relating thereto.

(Budget Finance Revenue Collections: An ordinance to provide for the issuance and sale of not exceeding \$20,000,000 General Obligation Bonds of 2021 of the City of Charleston, South Carolina, to prescribe the purposes for which the proceeds of the bonds shall be expended, to provide for the payment thereof, and other matters relating thereto.

(Public Service Department: Approval of the Beresford Creek Professional Services Contract with Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc., in the amount of \$439,455.13 for surveys, detailed traffic analysis, subsurface utility engineering and coordination, geotechnical investigation, environmental permitting, roadway design, bridge hydraulic analysis and structural design, plan development and construction phase support engineering for the replacement of the road bridge over Beresford Creek on Daniel Island Drive. Approval of the Professional Services Contract will obligate \$439,455.13 of the \$1,700,000 project budget. The funding source for this project is 2018 General Fund Reserves (\$1,700,000).

(Housing and Community Development: Approval of an amendment to the award of \$2,000,000 to \$2,600,000 to Classic Development Company and Flat Iron Partners for the development of fifty-seven (57) rental apartments in the West Ashley community for persons earning sixty (60%) percent and below the Area Median Income (AMI). The funds were awarded from the General Obligation Bond approved in November 2017; committed in 2019. The developer has experienced increased costs due to lumber prices, structural building elements and water mitigation measures. The total budget increased by \$1,889,050. This development helps to meet the critical need for affordably priced rental housing in the West Ashley community.

(An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute on behalf of the City a First Amendment to the Development Agreement with HPH Properties, LP, dated August 1, 2015, pertaining to lands located in the West Ashley area of the City comprising approximately 299 acres and bearing Charleston County TMS Nos 301-00-00-033, 301-00-00-042, 301-00-00-043, 301-00-00-054, 301-00-00-057, and 301-00-00-114. **(DEFERRED)**

(Request authorization for the Mayor to execute a Second Addendum to the Memorandum of Agreement (the "MOA") dated October 9, 2018, between the City of Charleston and the

Lowcountry Lowline, also known as the Friends of the Lowcountry Lowline (the “FLL”) governing the use by the FLL of \$250,000 toward surveys, environmental reports, construction budgeting, and other design and engineering expenses for the first phase of the improvement and construction of the Lowline Park. (Consider the following annexation:

- 3919 Savannah Highway (1.83 acres) (TMS# 285-00-00-205), West Ashley, (District 5). The property is owned by Lillie and Carl Smalls.

(Executive Session in accordance with 30-4-70(a)(2) of the South Carolina Code, to receive legal advice regarding the Charleston School of Law transaction. (*Deferred for discussion at City Council*))

*First reading was given to the follow bills:*

An ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of a not exceeding \$19,000,000 Special Obligation Redevelopment Bond (Horizon Redevelopment Project Area), Series 2021, of the City of Charleston, South Carolina, and other matters relating thereto.

An ordinance to provide for the issuance and sale of not exceeding \$20,000,000 General Obligation Bonds of 2021 of the City of Charleston, South Carolina, to prescribe the purposes for which the proceeds of the bonds shall be expended, to provide for the payment thereof, and other matters relating thereto.

An ordinance to provide for the annexation of property known as 3919 Savannah Highway (1.83 acres) (TMS# 285-00-00-205), West Ashley, Charleston County, to the City of Charleston, shown within the area annexed upon a map attached hereto and make it part of District 5. The property is owned by Lillie and Carl Smalls.

Susan Herdina said, “Mr. Mayor, I just was confirming, and I think Councilmember Gregorie’s comment covered this, but that there was a matter we were deferring having to do with the HPH Properties and the Development Agreement.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Correct. That was the first item from the Real Estate Committee. It’s deferred.”

Susan Herdina said, “Yes, sir. Thank you.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Alright. So, next up is [bills for second reading](#). We have 1-12. I want to put on the record that I recuse myself from number 12.”

Councilmember Mitchell said, “Move for approval, 1-12.”

Councilmember Shahid said, “Second.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Alright. Any discussion on any of those?”

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Mitchell, twelve (12) bills (Items L-1 through L-12) received second reading. They passed second reading on motion by Councilmember Shahid and third reading on motion of Councilmember Mitchell. On further motion of Councilmember Shealy, the rules were suspended, and the bills were immediately ratified as:

- 2021-043 -** AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON BY CHANGING THE ZONE MAP, WHICH IS A PART THEREOF, SO THAT 569-571 KING STREET (PENINSULA) (APPROXIMATELY 0.12 ACRE) (TMS #460-12-02-070) (COUNCIL DISTRICT 4), BE REZONED FROM GENERAL BUSINESS (GB) CLASSIFICATION TO MIXED-USE/WORKFORCE HOUSING (MU-2/WH) CLASSIFICATION. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY JASEGA, LLC.
- 2021-044 -** AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON BY CHANGING THE ZONE MAP, WHICH IS A PART THEREOF, SO THAT PROPERTIES ON MAYBANK HIGHWAY (JOHNS ISLAND) (APPROXIMATELY 37.29 ACRES) (TMS #279-00-00-056 AND 057) (COUNCIL DISTRICT 5), BE REZONED FROM SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (SR-1 AND SR-4) CLASSIFICATIONS TO DIVERSE RESIDENTIAL (DR-6) CLASSIFICATION. THE PROPERTIES ARE OWNED BY ST JOHNS CENTER LLC AND 4 S MAYBANK LLC.
- 2021-045 -** AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ANNEXATION OF PROPERTY KNOWN AS 3486 MAYBANK HIGHWAY (9.62 ACRE) (TMS# 279-00-00-055), JOHNS ISLAND, CHARLESTON COUNTY, TO THE CITY OF CHARLESTON, SHOWN WITHIN THE AREA ANNEXED UPON A MAP ATTACHED HERETO AND MAKE IT PART OF DISTRICT 5. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY ST. JOHNS CENTER, LLC.
- 2021-046 -** AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON BY CHANGING THE ZONE MAP, WHICH IS A PART THEREOF, SO THAT 3486 MAYBANK HIGHWAY (JOHNS ISLAND) (APPROXIMATELY 9.62 ACRES) (TMS #279-00-00-055) (COUNCIL DISTRICT 5), PENDING ANNEXATION INTO THE CITY OF CHARLESTON, BE ZONED DIVERSE RESIDENTIAL (DR-6) CLASSIFICATION. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY ST. JOHNS CENTER, LLC AND CHARLES P. YOUMANS, JR.
- 2021-047 -** AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON BY CHANGING THE ZONE MAP, WHICH IS A PART THEREOF, SO THAT PORTIONS OF SUBJECT PROPERTIES ON ST. PHILIP STREET, LINE STREET, KING STREET AND ACKERMANS COURT (PENINSULA) (APPROXIMATELY 0.32 ACRE) (PORTION OF TMS #460-08-02-015, 109, 110, 111 AND 112) (COUNCIL DISTRICT 4), BE REZONED FROM 2.5-3 STORY OLD CITY HEIGHT DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION TO 3.5 STORY OLD CITY HEIGHT DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION. THE PROPERTIES ARE OWNED BY EVENING POST INDUSTRIES.
- 2021-048 -** AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON BY CHANGING THE ZONE MAP, WHICH IS A PART THEREOF, SO THAT PORTIONS OF SUBJECT PROPERTIES ON ST. PHILIP STREET, LINE STREET, KING STREET AND ACKERMANS COURT (PENINSULA) (APPROXIMATELY 1.5 ACRE) (TMS #460-08- 02-010 THROUGH 013, 015, 109, 110, 112, 113 AND 117) (COUNCIL DISTRICT 4), BE REZONED FROM 6 STORY OLD CITY HEIGHT DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION TO 7 STORY OLD CITY

HEIGHT DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION. THE PROPERTIES ARE OWNED BY EVENING POST INDUSTRIES.

- 2021-049 -** AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON BY CHANGING THE ZONE MAP, WHICH IS A PART THEREOF, SO THAT 2181 WAPPOO HALL ROAD (JAMES ISLAND) (APPROXIMATELY 0.37 ACRE) (TMS #343-01-00-032) (COUNCIL DISTRICT 11), ANNEXED INTO THE CITY OF CHARLESTON FEBRUARY 23, 2021 (#2021-019), BE ZONED SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (SR-1) CLASSIFICATION. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY HURLEY LIVING TRUST.
  
- 2021-050 -** AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON BY CHANGING THE ZONE MAP, WHICH IS A PART THEREOF, SO THAT 2182 PARKWAY DRIVE (JAMES ISLAND) (APPROXIMATELY 0.20 ACRE) (TMS #343-01-00-144) (COUNCIL DISTRICT 11), ANNEXED INTO THE CITY OF CHARLESTON FEBRUARY 23, 2021 (#2021-022), BE ZONED SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (SR-2) CLASSIFICATION. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY PETER DEEN WEY AND LEIGH MENDELSON WY.
  
- 2021-051 -** AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON BY CHANGING THE ZONE MAP, WHICH IS A PART THEREOF, SO THAT 2138 GOLFVIEW DRIVE (JAMES ISLAND) (APPROXIMATELY 0.22 ACRE) (TMS #343-06-00-013) (COUNCIL DISTRICT 11), PENDING ANNEXATION INTO THE CITY OF CHARLESTON, BE ZONED SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (SR-1) CLASSIFICATION. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY GREG WHITE.
  
- 2021-052 -** AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE VIII OF CHAPTER 30 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON TO ESTABLISH A NEW PROCEDURE FOR CREATING NON-STANDARD SERVICE DISTRICTS WITHIN THE CITY OF CHARLESTON AND TO AMEND THE ELECTRICAL FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH DOMINION ENERGY SOUTH CAROLINA, INC., FORMERLY KNOWN AS SOUTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY, TO PROVIDE FOR AN ADDITIONAL METHOD FOR FUNDING NON-STANDARD SERVICES.
  
- 2021-053 -** AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ANNEXATION OF PROPERTY KNOWN AS 738 SAINT ANDREWS BOULEVARD (0.26 ACRE) (TMS# 418-15-00-081), WEST ASHLEY, CHARLESTON COUNTY, TO THE CITY OF CHARLESTON, SHOWN WITHIN THE AREA ANNEXED UPON A MAP ATTACHED HERETO AND MAKE IT PART OF DISTRICT 3. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY ROBERT A. LIMEHOUSE, IV.
  
- 2021-054 -** AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ANNEXATION OF PROPERTY KNOWN AS 1908 2<sup>ND</sup> DRIVE (0.20 ACRE) (TMS# 350-05-00-006), WEST ASHLEY, CHARLESTON COUNTY, TO THE CITY OF CHARLESTON, SHOWN WITHIN THE AREA ANNEXED UPON A MAP ATTACHED HERETO AND MAKE IT PART OF DISTRICT 7. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY JOHN H. AND JOHN J. TECKLENBURG.

Mayor Tecklenburg recused himself from voting on Item L-12 and completed a Conflict of Interest Form which is on file in the Office of the Clerk of Council.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “So, our next regular meeting is going to be Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. Oh, no, that’s a special meeting on Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> on our municipal elections and redistricting, and then the next regular meeting will be Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. There is an agenda item here for Legal advice or update on the Charleston School of Law matter. I also am recused from that, so if I may call upon you Mayor Pro Tem at the end of the Executive Session to adjourn the meeting. Is there any other business to come before us other than the Executive Session?”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, “Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I have a question. I know the ordinances have passed, but could Ms. Herdina address the piece about when we will be meeting in person again? How does that ordinance address that?”

Susan Herdina said, “Well, at this point in time, the emergency ordinance suspending the rules for in-person meetings has now been continued to May 14, I think it is.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “So, while she’s checking that, I do want to share with you that I met with our IT staff in Council Chambers and asked them if they could rig up a combo meeting where we would be able to meet in person, but also to share the benefits of Zoom for those who can’t or choose not to attend and for the public, as well. I think they’ve made some progress and when this is done, I’d say June at the latest, we should reconvene in person, but maybe with a blended capability, which some people have been participating by Zoom. Let’s see if we can do both.”

Councilmember Waring said, “I agree with that, Mr. Mayor, but we didn’t get to discuss that because I guess the way we kind of close out those sessions, but a month ago we spoke in terms of the second meeting in April. I think June is too long. Every major public, elected body is meeting in person. I feel confident that the majority of City Councilmembers, although that’s a private issue, have taken their vaccine shots. There’s only 13 of us. I know we have staff, but we can meet in person. I mean, I have some people saying that we’re hiding out. While we were debating that mask ordinance we had 44 people tapped onto this meeting. We’re getting to the point where, frankly, some of us don’t even want to ride downtown, kind of getting lazy. We can do business in person. We’re going to have some positive take aways from this Zoom aspect because, obviously, Committee meetings certainly, I think, should be considered going forward, but City Council meeting and Ways and Means, we need to get back. So, I was going to put a motion on the floor to be considered at the next meeting that, not to be voted on tonight, two things: we meet in person on the 27<sup>th</sup>, I think we do it before June, and then secondly, we put a motion on the floor to have Police officers, as we used to have, at the entrances at City Hall. I think in light of the world we’re in today, we need professional, trained officers. Actually, it’s more for your and staff’s protection. We come down here during normal sessions once or twice a week, but we’re just operating in a different world today, and I think we need proper professionalism at those ingress and egresses of City Hall. So, not to be discussed tonight, but I did want that on a motion. We can vote it up or down at the next meeting, Mr. Mayor. Those two items.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, “Yes, sir. Sort of to respond to Councilmember Waring’s comments, we are planning on having a Public Safety meeting to address some of the concerns that he just raised. Councilmember Waring, I would ask, let us go forward with that meeting we’re trying to get scheduled sometime next week or the week after to get it.”

Councilmember Waring said, “Okay, I’ll defer to your Committee. Thank you, Councilmember.”

Councilmember Shahid said, “Councilmember Seekings has been pushing me to get this set up, so we’re just not ready to have that meeting, but once we do that, we can report out to Council the steps about what we need to do to get back to in-person meetings. So, I think this is where we’re headed, but we just want to make sure that we’re being very diligent and very smart about that process.”

Councilmember Waring said, “Let me get some clarification, Councilmember. Are you talking about in-person meetings, or are you talking about having trained Police officers at the entrances and exits?”

Councilmember Shahid said, “Both. Mainly, it’s the security part of it.”

Councilmember Waring said, “Okay, the security part. Yeah, let me defer that. I’ll happily await the results of your Committee.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Alright.”

Ms. Herdina said, “Just to respond to the question, based on what was done tonight, the suspension of the physical person’s requirements would be until May 13<sup>th</sup>, but Council always has the opportunity to revisit that and modify that, if it wants, prior to that time.”

Councilmember Waring said, “Okay. Thank you. That gives us two more weeks to think about it. That’s why I’d like to have it on the agenda. Nothing urgent tonight.”

Rick Jerue said, “Just to address Councilmember Waring, we actually, as a staff, have met with the Police Department about that security issue, and they’re actually, the very same issues that you raised, and they’re going to be meeting.”

Councilmember Waring said, “Okay, thank you.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Alright. Anything else to come before going into Executive Session? Chip McQueeney would like to be recognized.”

Mr. McQueeney said, “Mayor, I just wanted to mention this in-person meeting is whatever you guys want to do. When I did the research early on on this, and I drafted the provision for the different bodies that meet, I intentionally made it so that bodies couldn’t meet without other people present because, to me, if you’re going to have a non-physical presence meeting, there should be no physical presence. This is just something to think about. You shouldn’t have 13 people in a room that are supposed to have an open meeting with the rest of the people watching it. It sort of increases the sensitivity and that wasn’t, nobody directed me to do that, I just did the research on what other people were doing, but that’s a big reason why I put that in there is to ensure that there wasn’t just verbal communication. It’s also the idea of like a Board of Zoning Appeals, for

instance, meeting together without any members of the public present or Clerk present or anything sends a bad message versus everybody participating virtually. That's my opinion, but I just wanted to let you guys know that I had looked at that."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you. Alright. So, can I entertain a motion to go into Executive Session?"

Councilmember Shahid said, "So moved."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg was excused from the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

On a motion of Councilmember Shahid, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell, City Council voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 8:45 p.m.

On a motion of Councilmember Shahid, seconded by Councilwoman Delcioppo, City Council voted unanimously to come out of Executive Session at 9:49 p.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Jackson said, "Let the record reflect that we heard legal advice in Executive Session and no action was taken. May I have a motion to adjourn?"

Councilmember Brady said, "So moved."

Mayor Pro Tem Jackson said, "We're adjourned. Thank you."

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

Jennifer B. Cook  
Clerk of Council