

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBER**

Regular Meeting

May 10, 2022

The one hundred twenty-third meeting of the City Council of Charleston was held this date convening at 5:02 p.m. at City Hall and over video conference call (Zoom).

A notice of this meeting and an agenda were made available on the City's website May 5, 2022 and appeared in the Post and Courier on May 9, 2022.

PRESENT (13)

The Honorable John J. Tecklenburg, Mayor

Councilmember Gregg	District 1	Councilmember Waring	District 7
Councilmember Shealy	District 2	Councilmember Seekings	District 8
Councilmember Sakran	District 3	Councilmember Shahid	District 9
Councilmember Mitchell	District 4	Councilmember Bowden	District 10
Councilmember Brady	District 5	Councilmember Appel	District 11
Councilmember Gregorie	District 6	Councilmember Parker	District 12

Mayor Tecklenburg called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

The Clerk called the roll.

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

Councilmember Parker opened the meeting with an invocation.

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

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you very much. We have a few presentations and recognitions to make this evening. Before I do, I just want to make sure everybody knows, in the most unlikely event that we need to vacate the building, that we only have these two doors here to exit the big room and then one door over there. In that unlikely circumstance, do not use the elevator, but please use the two stairs going down to the first floor and then the one stair going out to the front, just in case, just for situational awareness. First up, I'd like to invite Sgt. Craig Dubose to join us and also joining us virtually is our own Police Chief, Luther Reynolds, to join us in a proclamation recognizing [National Police Week](#). You've been chosen to accept the proclamation this year."

Sgt. Craig Dubose said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg read the proclamation.

There was applause in the Chamber.

Sgt. Dubose said, "Thank you all so much. I'm Sgt. Craig Dubose. I'm the South Carolina Fraternal Order of Police Lodge No. 5's President, as well as a member of the Charleston Police Department. On behalf of both the Charleston Police Department and the Fraternal Order of Police, we thank you, City Council and Mr. Mayor, for this proclamation."

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

There was applause in the Chamber.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We also have Chief Reynolds online, and he would like to address us, as well. Chief."

Chief Luther Reynolds said, "Mayor, I just want to thank you, and I want to thank our Council, and I want to thank our residents for being so supportive, for taking the time to create and read this proclamation in honor of our families and our fallen heroes. We get a very unique, high level of support in the City of Charleston and the Lowcountry area, and I'm so grateful for that. It sends a very strong message as we recognize our 24 fallen heroes, we recognize their families, we recognize their significant sacrifice, the ultimate sacrifice, by giving their lives in service to our City, to our residents, to our communities. So, I just want to say thank you to the FOP, Craig, and they've really done a lot to be able to add names, and we're adding a name. We submitted a historical name to add it to the memorial this year in D.C. Sgt. Henry W. Buck was tragically killed in the line of duty on February 27, 1921. Sgt. Buck was providing an escort for a woman to retrieve her belongings from a residence on Ashton Street that was occupied by her estranged husband. He was shot multiple times by the husband as he attempted to talk with him and was rushed to the hospital where he died from his wounds a short time later. It means a lot to us. It means a lot to the families. The last thing I'll say is, it's not how heroes die that we celebrate, it's how they lived their lives in selfless sacrifice and commitment to others, and I'm so grateful to recognize them, and it's important that we do that. We have a contingent of officers from the Charleston Police Department that are going to D.C. for the Police Memorial, for the candlelight vigil, to make sure that we're represented and the families are represented this week. Thank you."

There was applause in the Chamber.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, if I may just make one more announcement then I'll call on Councilmember Bowden. I started the day off with an exhibit unveiling at our St. Julian Devine Community Center on the Eastside, and it was the artwork of our own Livability Officer, Kelvin Bluffton, who is an amazing artist. He did this whole series of portraits of First Responders and Law Enforcement Officers including State Patrol, Charleston Police, even Code Enforcement Officers and Parking Enforcement Officers from the City of Charleston, and including a portrait of former Police Chief Reuben Greenberg. Sarah Greenberg was there this morning when we unveiled his, and it was really a great occasion to mark the beginning of Police Week here in Charleston. So, a shout-out to Kelvin, he is an amazing artist and his thoughtfulness of doing this to honor law enforcement, but to also engage with kids, young people, to encourage them to consider a life, I'm looking right over here, young man, in public service and/or law enforcement. Think about that coming up, okay? I know you can do it. So, anyway, that was a great way to start the day."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Bowden.

Councilmember Bowden said, "Thank you, and I can't say anything better than what Chief Reynolds just said, but I do want to recognize that there were a couple of Sheriff's Deputies injured in a horrible crash yesterday. I didn't see any update on their conditions, but I think probably everybody around here right now is praying for them and so our friends who patrol many parts of our City, the donut holes that we talked about earlier, that they deserve our support. So, I just wanted to recognize those folks and let them know that we're praying for a speedy recovery."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes, sir. Thank you very much. So, once again, thanks to all of the men and women of the Charleston Police Department in particular."

There was a standing ovation in the Chamber.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, it's also [National Tennis Month](#), and I have a proclamation regarding that. I'd like to invite Laurie Yarbrough, who is our Recreation Center Manager, no, she's our Department Manager, but Peggy Bohne is with us. She's our Recreation Center Tennis Manager. We also have Lowcountry Tennis Association President Dee Mack and Bob Pfeiffer, who has served in the U.S. Tennis Association on a local, State, and national level, and any other Tennis Association officials, if you all would come forward and join me up here that would be great. We've got some real tennis enthusiasts here. Come on up, come on forward. So glad to, you all can come up here, I won't bite. That way we can get a picture together when we're done."

Mayor Tecklenburg read the proclamation.

There was applause in the Chamber.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, I would like to ask Laurie, or Dee, or Bob, or whoever would like, to come forward and speak and accept the proclamation."

Bob Pfeiffer said, "Well, thank you very much. Speaking for all tennis players in the Charleston area, and there are lots and lots of them as was indicated in the proclamation, thank you for the support that you provide to places like the Charleston Tennis Center. We think we have a great program here, in fact, we know we have a great program here, and by being involved in that program, it's helping the health of our community. I just, I can't say enough about what tennis has contributed and people from outside Charleston know that Charleston is one of the tennis epicenters, if you will, in the United States. Thank you very much for all the support, and I would also like to, on behalf of the group, and this is from one of our member organizations here, the Lowcountry Youth Tennis Association, so you can wear that proudly when you're out walking or jogging or---"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Playing tennis."

Mr. Pfeiffer said, "Playing tennis. That's right, and City Council, if you have the opportunity to put some money in Peggy Bohne's tennis budget, we would certainly appreciate that because the biggest thing that we need is courts. We've got the players, we just need the courts. So, thank you very much."

There was applause in the Chamber.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you. You good? Alright. Thank you all for being with us. So, finally, we have a proclamation, boy, time flies when you're having fun, recognizing the [20th anniversary of the Lowcountry Senior Center](#). Could the Lowcountry and Waring Senior Center Executive Elizabeth Bernat come join me, please, along with Waring Senior Center Wellness Manager Aleshia Parrish? They'll come up, I'll read the proclamation, and then we'll ask Elizabeth and Aleshia to say a word if they like. Oh, and we have some board members, I bet. You all come on up on the platform together that way when we're done you can get a picture with everyone. It will be great. Thank you all for being here. We appreciate it."

Mayor Tecklenburg read the proclamation.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thanks for all that you all do. You're really remarkable. Let's give them a hand."

There was applause in the Chamber.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Elizabeth, do you or Aleshia want to come forward and share a few words with us about the center and how it's going?"

Elizabeth Bernat said, "Thank you. Thank you all so much and I just, on behalf of all of the Senior Center members, want to thank you so much for your support in providing this wonderful service to both James Island, and we have the Waring Senior Center now, which is another testament to the appeal and the need and support for senior centers in our community. If you have not visited the senior centers, I would encourage you to stop by and visit them. It is like a breath of fresh air. Everyone is happy and having a great time. We've been celebrating all month, the month of May, at Lowcountry on James Island. We have photos up of 20 years of fun activities that have been happening, so I encourage you to stop by. Also, as a representative from Roper St. Francis Health Care, I would like to thank you for the public/private partnership that we have with the City of Charleston. It is a unique partnership, and it has worked extremely well for the past 20 years, and we look forward to continuing that. So, thank you so much."

There was applause in the Chamber.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "You good?"

Aleshia Parrish said, "Yes."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Anyone else want to do a testimonial? Thank you so much. Did we get a picture while you all were up here?"

Ms. Parrish said, "Yes."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, excuse me, also in the last week, Councilmembers and everyone, if I could share with you, we had our first in-person [Employee Service Award](#), retirement awards, and those kinds of things, but one City employee didn't make it to the breakfast to get their service pin. So, I would like to ask Councilmember Waring to come forward and get his 10-year anniversary pin with the City of Charleston. Keith Waring."

There was applause in the Chamber.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "There's your pin."

Councilmember Waring said, "Thanks a lot."

There was laughter in the Chamber.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. So, next up is to [approve our City Council minutes from April 26th.](#)"

Councilmember Shealy said, "Move for approval."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We have a motion to approve. Any additions, deletions, corrections?"

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Shealy, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell, City Council voted to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2022 City Council meeting.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "And next we have, we're already ready for our [Citizens Participation Period](#). Madam Clerk."

The Clerk said, "And, Mr. Mayor, we have 19 people signed up to speak."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "How many?"

The Clerk said, "Nineteen."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Let's do a minute-and-a-half."

The Clerk said, "Alright, the time is a minute-and-a-half. Katie Zimmerman."

1. Katie Zimmerman, Executive Director of Charleston Moves, thanked Council for their continued leadership on the Ashley River Bike and Pedestrian Bridge. It was a huge deal. It would be legacy making for the region. It would save a lot of lives and make commutes more enjoyable. She would bike home over the current bridge that night and be thinking about what it would be like going over the new one. She said May was National Bike Month, and locally they celebrated Mobility Month to honor complete streets, the ability to safely walk, bike, and utilize public transit throughout Charleston County. She said there were two bike rides coming up. On Sunday, they would be going over the Ashley River bridges and the Wappoo Cut bridge. They would stop for a little history tour along the waterfront at McLeod. She said they wanted to celebrate the progress with the Ashley River Bridge and point to the need to address the Wappoo Crossing at some point, which they would be working on. On Wednesday of next week, they would do a Ride of Silence over the Northbridge. She said if Council wanted to bike on Sunday, they could meet at Taco Boy downtown at 10:30 a.m. and next week on Wednesday meet at Frothy Beard on Sam Rittenberg at 5:30 p.m. She said both were police escorted thanks to the Charleston Police Department.

The Clerk said, "Time."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you."

The Clerk said, "Anthony Bryant."

2. Anthony G. Bryant said he just received his letter from the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) Administrative Procedures Act Title 1 and that letter along with the letter from the Supreme Court that he received, laid out that he was very unpopular Statewide. From 1789 to 1866, there were people held in bondage in the State, and they had overseers over them. His concern was what was reckless and reasonable, what was officer-involved critical incident reports cost benefit analysis, what was qualified immunity, a disparity analysis by race and income, and census tracks since they had changed so much in the City. In 2007, he made public comment on a study regarding local government spending sprees with Mayor Riley and Mayor Summey. He was not concerned about SLED or any Federal agency because he stood on what he believed in, that the Black man in South Carolina had a 99% chance, reckless or not reckless, that force could be used on them with no consequence. As a Black man, he believed that, and they wanted to see a public hearing.

The Clerk said, "Time. Mohammed Idris."

3. Mohammed Idris said he believed that racism was dead and that what they suffered from was greed, envy, jealousy, and ignorance. He gave Council a picture of Philip Simmons, the great ironworker, and it looked like he was hung. Racism was dead. He said they suffered from greed, envy, and jealousy. The portrait of the great ironworker was put there to try to start racism, so they were working to put a Philip Simmons' Multi-Purpose Cultural Center on that site. The Eastside Community Center complained that people were not picking up garbage cans in the neighborhood like they were supposed to, and they didn't do it like they did it downtown. He said they left it any kind of place, trash all over the street, and did as they pleased in their neighborhood. He said they would work constantly to put that multi-purpose Cultural Center at 63 Columbus Street. He said everybody wanted to come in their neighborhood and close down their place of entertainment. The people had been there for over 80 years, and they didn't bother anybody.

The Clerk said, "Time. Cashion Drolet."

4. Cashion Drolet, Historic Charleston Foundation (HCF), said she was excited to bring an award to City Council and to the City of Charleston. HCF celebrated their 75th Charter Day and celebrated their 75-year legacy on April 28th, and they presented the City of Charleston with a Whitelaw Founders Award. The award went to individuals, groups, or government entities for dedication to preservation of buildings and places or creation of buildings and places. The award was given to the City for the design of an exceptional civic building, Fire Station #11, the new fire station on Savannah Highway next to the Charleston 9 Memorial. It was a beautiful fire station. It had nine windows evocative of the fallen heroes, was clad in red brick, and had two historical fire bells that paid a nod to downtown Charleston historic fire stations. It was the first project that the City had done West of the Ashley since the Revitalization Commission was created, so it was an important architectural

precedent. She said they were excited to present the award to the Mayor and Council.

There was applause in the Chamber.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, Cashion, and it's so nice to be recognized by the Historic Charleston Foundation. We had a terrific time at the event you had last week, and it says a lot for focus on West Ashley and for the civic building next to such a critical place, important place, in our City to remember the fallen from that SuperStore site. I must just share with you briefly, last June 18th when we had the annual memorial service there, and the station was complete, we were just about to open it, and the sun was setting, and the lights were on in the station. You're facing those nine windows, each one for one of the fallen firefighters, and the emotion and the thankfulness from the families was palpable. It was just overflowing, and so it's a real honor to be recognized. So, thank you for that very much. Alright. Thank you."

The Clerk said, "Woody Norris."

5. Woody Norris, owner of Booze Pops, thanked the Mayor and Council for working with them and the small businesses last year. He and the Mayor had a conversation last year in which the Mayor was concerned about their licensing. He said they were making progress in Columbia, working with representatives and members of the Senate, trying to create a category for what they did. It would expand the footprint for not only them, but every restaurant in the State. He wanted to let Council know they were working on that, and they were going to have the legislation completed. He said they hoped to make a positive impact in the community. He thanked Council again for working with them last year as well as the Councilmembers who weren't there last year. He said they supported Council 100%.

The Clerk said, "Arthur Lawrence."

No one asked to speak.

The Clerk said, "Reverend Heyward."

6. Reverend Charles Heyward said there were some friend of his there who wanted to share their concerns about Gadsden Creek and Council's need to both restore and revitalize it. The Charleston Area Justice Ministry had been working on that concern and acknowledged there was a loud voice continuing to grow that far outnumbered what the City's plan might be, which would result in the destruction of Gadsden Creek. He said they wanted Council to know that the issue was first an environmental issue. It was amazing that the City would turn the Creek into a ditch, but it was an environmental issue because they also wanted to acknowledge the flooding on the Westside that took place. He said they were not ignorant of that. When he looked around the room into all of Council's eyes, he saw some very intelligent men and lady. He said they understood that it was about economics and, for some on Council, it might be about money in terms of what the City may gain or save. But for the people who lived in the community, it was first environmental, it was historic for the people who had lived there for generations, and it was also more an issue of justice.

The Clerk said, "Time."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, sir."

The Clerk said, "Audrey Lisbon."

- Audrey Lisbon, President of the Westside Neighborhood Association, asked the City to consider their sites on beautifying the greenspace and recognize that Gadsden Creek could be an asset as a teaching mechanism for teachers to train their children to learn about biology and science, with dreams of becoming the next biologist or scientist. She also asked Council to consider to stop filling the community with big buildings that took away from the quality of life in the Westside.

The Clerk said, "Steven Azzarella."

- Steven Azzarella, a member of the Charleston Firefighters Association, spoke regarding the 90-day review the Mayor called for in relation to the City of Charleston firefighters pay issue. He said they asked that City Council do the right thing and raise firefighters' pay to be competitive across the Country and the State, and help them improve their retention problem.

The Clerk said, "Patrick Moyer."

No one asked to speak.

The Clerk said, "Angela Barnette."

- Angela Barnette, Director of Planning and Real Estate for Charleston County School District, said she attended the last meeting and listened to some of the Councilmembers' concerns. She was there on behalf of their Board of Trustees and Superintendent to let Council know they had already drafted an agreement and sent it to Ms. Copeland and Ms. Creech. She said they were currently working on that, and they hoped to have everything taken care of and tidied up very soon. She said they appreciated Council's support and looked forward to really listening to what Council wanted, especially some of their concerns when it came to the history of that building. She said they were excited about the momentum they had with early college, and they wanted to see the success of that as they moved forward, but they also wanted to be good stewards in the community.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you."

The Clerk said, "Lin Kuhl Jay."

- Lin Kuhl Jay said she was a member of the Charleston Area Justice Ministry, but she spoke as an individual. She strongly supported the justice work being done by the Friends of Gadsden Creek. Driving nearby, she kept eyeing bright red flags all about town, all around the Peninsula, highlighting buildings and celebrating an organization's 75th anniversary. Quoting Historic Charleston Foundation's website, 'Great cities are tapestries. Their history, character, and uniqueness are the fabric from which they were woven.' She asked Council what was deemed worthy of preservation in Charleston. Were they, as a community, and Council, as the local leaders, actually honestly creating a City which was sewn from the diverse fabric of

all of Charleston's history, culture, and voices. For decades, Charleston and its Mayors had disregarded, taken from, and abused its Black residents within the Gadsden Green area with house seizures, placement of a landfill in the marshy areas surrounding the Creek, and egregious neglect. Currently, Council strongly championed the developer WestEdge, its next phase, and the filling in of Gadsden Creek. Going against science, and recommendations from the Dutch Dialogues, and the will of the people, which was growing, Council would be cancelling out one of the oldest ecological features of the Peninsula. Building luxury condos and adding a tremendous concrete footprint did not equal flood mitigation. She said to do right and to do justice.

The Clerk said, "Time. Martha Morris."

No one asked to speak.

The Clerk said, "Tony Daniell."

11. Tony Daniell said Memorial Day was coming up and he held up the helmet that his father wore during the Korean War. He said Council screwed over a veteran. When he talked about the roads since they met 42 days ago, 61,700 cars had gone by his house, and 11,130 cars had gone by Councilmember Appel's friend's house.

Mayor Tecklenburg called for order.

Mr. Daniell said, "Yes, sir."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Mr. Daniell, I'm going to ask you to refrain from addressing specific Councilmembers directly when you're addressing us as a body. Thank you, sir."

Mr. Daniell said, "Yes, sir. Alright."

Mr. Daniell continued and said 61,700 cars had gone by their house, and 11,130 had gone by the other complainants in the neighborhood. He said Council could not close a road without an order, and Council didn't have an order. Even if Council had an order, it had to comply with the court cases in the best interest of all, and it was not in the best interest of all. It was almost Memorial Day, and he had been coming before Council since his dad had a stroke 18 months ago. Thanks to Councilmember Brady, they had a traffic survey, so they had the data and knew what they were talking about. It was not speculation, but the hard facts. The hard facts were that he had 700% more traffic on his side of the neighborhood with the closed roads than they had on the other. There was no cutting through. That argument was complete nonsense because they could cut through right now by going one block further.

The Clerk said, "Time. Edward Washington."

12. Edward Washington said he was born and raised in Charleston and went to school at Burke High School. He had family and friends that lived in Gadsden Creek, and all his life he had noticed the bad problems of flooding. He was a representative of CAJM, and they adamantly opposed filling in Gadsden Creek and hoped Council would correct the flooding in that area. Growing up in that area, back in the '70s,

there had always been a flooding problem. It had not been corrected, and now it was 2022. He said they adamantly opposed the Gadsden Creek filling in.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, sir."

The Clerk said, "Joy Duncan-Smith."

13. Joy Duncan-Smith said she lived on the Isle of Palms and worshipped at St. Stevens Episcopal on Anson Street. She spoke in support of restoring and revitalizing Gadsden Creek, and she was also with her fellow citizens in asking and demanding reparations for the Gadsden Green community. In the recent past, Council had adopted several reports including the Dutch Dialogues, the City Comprehensive Plan, the Stormwater Design Guidelines, and the Climate Action Plan. All four of those reports explicitly stated a commitment to natural drainage solutions that worked with wetlands to address flooding. Those reports cited Gadsden Creek as a prime example of a tidal wetland that was an invaluable resource that should not be destroyed in favor of an engineered drainage solution. She asked that the City keep with its promises and commitments and reverse its support of the WestEdge permit application. As the majority landowner of the impacted site, Council had both the power and the responsibility to stand with them in taking the City in a new and more equitable direction. She said it was such a unique community. She had spent her honeymoon in Charleston in 1978, and it was a great place to be. She had lived in Charleston off and on for 20 years, and it was time to show the rest of the Country how to do it correctly, how to live in the 21st Century and respect the 18th, 19th, and 20th Centuries.

The Clerk said, "Time. Those were all of the speakers that we had. We did receive one comment from a citizen that stated he filed a letter of protest at the United States District Court regarding a 2010 police report, and that was the only comment we received."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, all, for being with us. Next up is our [Petitions and Communications](#). We have [appointments to three different Committees/Commissions](#). Can I entertain a motion?"

Councilmember Seekings said, "So moved."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Second."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Mr. Mayor, a couple of things."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We have a motion to approve all three Commissions?"

Councilmember Seekings said, "Yes."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Discussion."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie.

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Yes. On the Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission, it's not Reconciliation, it's Conciliation Commission."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Correction, duly noted."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Yes. Number two, it does not reflect my appointment, and I guess I got it to you a little late, and I'd like to amend by including my appointment. Can I do that? Can I amend this?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, the only catch is that Councilmember Gregorie was going to serve, and you no longer intend to. Is that correct, Councilmember?"

Councilmember Gregorie said, "I think we've had that conversation and, as a result, I wanted to--"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We have, but it's just relevant to your request."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Yes."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Because if someone else who has appointed someone, Councilmember, then agreed to serve on the Commission, then it kind of messes things up. You see what I mean? Because then they didn't get their appointment that they've already made here. You follow me?"

Councilmember Gregorie said, "No, I don't."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay, so I can give you an example. Just to pick somebody, Councilmember Shealy recommended Robert Doshier, right? So, say if next week, now we're still looking for one Councilmember to serve, if Councilmember Shealy were to step up and volunteer and serve, well then it doesn't really meet the ordinance because he is serving on the Commission, then he doesn't get an appointment. You follow me? So, if we're approving Doshier tonight, then that would put things out of sync. So, could I just request that we wait on your appointment until we resolve which other Councilmember is going to serve?"

Councilmember Gregorie said, "And if no one decides to serve, then what?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We may have to change the ordinance."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Correct."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Or have a vacant seat."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Alright. But, I guess, what I'm asking is, what you're saying is, that I will not have an opportunity to make an appointment until--"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I just want to be fair to all concerned, and if a Councilmember wants to serve, I would like them to have the, you know, since they've already solicited and asked somebody to serve as their appointment, I guess you could call that double-dipping, but it would be fair to that Councilmember now willing to step up and serve on the Commission that their appointee got approved, as well."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "I understand, but do we have such a Councilmember that wants to do that, Mayor?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Not yet."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "So, you anticipate that we will have one?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I certainly hope so."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "That will step up?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I hope so."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "And once that person steps up, then I will be able to make my appointment accordingly?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We will be able to resolve it one way or the other. Yes."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "You're confusing me. I have no idea at this point what--"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Are you suggesting that because I opted not to serve, I don't have an opportunity to appoint?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Not exactly. I just want to--"

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Come on, Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I just want to be, I want you to hold off, if you don't mind, so we make sure we're fair to those who have made appointments already. It's the pleasure of Council. If you all want to accept the appointment, that's fine with me."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Mitchell followed by Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Mr. Mayor, I believe, if I'm not mistaken, as I remember, I called in a name also."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "You did?"

Councilmember Mitchell said, "So, they called me and asked me to submit a name, but I think I did, but it's not on here."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Amber has already left our employ, so if you called it into Amber, I didn't get it. I apologize."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Because I still have his name. It wasn't Amber. Someone else called and left a message and wanted me to call to submit a name."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "And I think I called."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Was it Brittany?"

Councilmember Mitchell said, "I believe it was."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes. Okay. Well, I'm sorry it didn't make it to the list. I'll go back and pick that one up, as well, or if you want to make that nomination from the floor."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Yes, I'll make it from the floor to make sure he is on there. It's Alvin Johnson."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alvin Johnson. Alright. We have an appointment from Councilmember Mitchell, the name of Alvin Johnson."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid followed by Councilmember Seekings.

Councilmember Shahid said, "Mr. Mayor, if I could just chime in a little bit to clarify Councilmember Gregorie's question. I don't have the ordinance in front of me, but I think that the way the ordinance was written there are 13 members on the Commission, 3 members will be from City Council leaving 10 to be appointed by the Mayor and the remainder of Councilmembers. So, I think what the Mayor is trying to clarify, Councilmember Gregorie, is not to preclude your appointment, but not to have a person who has made an appointment as a Councilmember then have that person serve on the Commission, as well. So, that person would then have appointed himself or herself and a member of the community to serve. So, we just want to keep the ordinance clear, and if we could wait until we resolve the issue of who is going to take the third City Council slot, then that way it would resolve your request for an appointed person."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "That was my hope."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Seekings.

Councilmember Seekings said, "Well, I hate to be contrarian on this one, but, I mean, under that logic, that would apply to everybody as appointing somebody tonight. So, I just think let's get through this appointment process. If Councilmember Mitchell and Councilmember Gregorie want to add their people and then, internally, let's figure out a Councilmember to serve on there and we can deal with someone who has been appointed if that becomes an issue. I mean, I think under the logic that's been put forward, Councilmember Shealy, Appel, Brady, Waring, and Shahid have all gotten people recommended here. If they, in the next week or two, have an epiphany and decide to volunteer, they fall under the same---"

Councilmember Shahid said, "That's not going to happen."

There was laughter in the Chamber.

Councilmember Seekings said, "Well, I understand, but it would still be under the same logic."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I see what you mean. You're right."

Councilmember Seekings said, "So, let's let Councilmember Gregorie put a name out there. Put a name out there, Councilmember Gregorie. Here is your opportunity."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "As usual, your ice is colder than mine. My recommendation would be Carol Jackson."

Councilmember Seekings said, "He's put forth Carol Jackson. I will amend my motion to include the appointments as they put forward."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright."

Councilmember Waring said, "I second it."

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

No one else asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We're going to approve these three Commissions and the third one, Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission, will also include Alvin Johnson, recommended by Councilmember Mitchell, and Carol Jackson, recommended by Councilmember Gregorie."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, "Mr. Mayor, I actually have a question on another Commission, not this one. I mean, we made such good process on this one, I don't want to slow it up."

There was laughter in the Chamber.

Councilmember Waring said, "But do we have any other vacancies on the West Ashley Revitalization Commission? I didn't realize we had that many vacancies. I had one I wanted to put on. I mean, if we have a vacancy, I'll wait until the next meeting."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I'm not aware of one. I thought we had filled it up, but can I get with Brittany and get back to you?"

Councilmember Waring said, "That would be great. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes. Absolutely. Alright."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Sakran.

Councilmember Sakran said, "Just on that note, can you send that out to all of us if there are any vacancies on the West Ashley Revitalization Commission? I do have someone else that I would like to recommend, if there is a vacancy."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay. Sure."

Councilmember Sakran said, "Thank you, Mayor."

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

No one else asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Seekings, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell, City Council voted unanimously to approve the appointments and reappointments to the Recreation Commission, West Ashley Revitalization Commission, and Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission, as amended:

1. Appointments:

(i). Recreation Commission:

- a. Nicole Pettinelli – New appointment
- b. Barry Breibart – New appointment
- c. Lourdes M. Andino, PHD – New appointment
- d. Ronald Faretra – New appointment
- e. Katie Mell – New appointment
- f. Janet Sims – New appointment
- g. Don White – New appointment
- h. Vincent Ashby – Reappointment
- i. David Bendt – Reappointment
- j. Keith Kirkland – Reappointment
- k. Eric Jackson – Reappointment
- l. Andrew Tew – Reappointment
- m. Elizabeth Pickelsimer – Reappointment

(ii). West Ashley Revitalization Commission:

- a. Teresa Tidestrom – Reappointment
- b. Trudie Krawcheck – Reappointment
- c. Diane Hamilton – Reappointment
- d. Ryan Cumback – New appointment
- e. Aimee Sutton – New appointment
- f. Matt Moldenhauer – New appointment
- g. Drelle Parker – New appointment
- h. Jim Garrett – New appointment

(iii). Human Affairs and Racial Reconciliation Commission, as amended:

- a. Councilmember Jason Sakran
- b. Councilmember Stephen Bowden
- c. Kim Long (Mayor Tecklenburg's recommendation)
- d. Robert Burrell Doshier (Councilmember Shealy's recommendation)
- e. Bonnie Cleveland, PhD, ABPP (Councilmember Appel's recommendation)
- f. Carroll Frye (Councilmember Brady's recommendation)
- g. Jerome Harris (Councilmember Waring's recommendation)
- h. Robert B. Simons (Councilmember Shahid's recommendation)
- i. Sharon K. Milligan (Councilmember Gregg's recommendation)

- j. Alvin Johnson (Councilmember Mitchell's recommendation)
- k. Carol Jackson (Councilmember Gregorie's recommendation)

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Next up is [Council Communications](#). First, a [discussion regarding R156, H3126 signed by Governor McMaster](#). Councilmember Parker."

Councilmember Parker said, "Yes, thank you, Mr. Mayor. This was put onto Council Communications prior to the memo going out to you all, just so you all know, because it wasn't brought up. So, I figured I'd bring it here, but I did just want to read one section because I think it's relevant, and the Legislature got it right. 'The General Assembly declares the practice of discrimination against an individual because the individual has chosen not to receive a COVID-19 vaccination or booster is a matter of State concern and is in conflict with the ideals of South Carolina and the nation as this discrimination interferes with opportunities of the individual to receive employment and to develop according to the individual's own ability.' I think they said it perfectly. God bless South Carolina."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Thank you. Any further comments?"

No one asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Next up is a [discussion regarding the process for proposed new or amended ordinances to move from standings committees to the full City Council](#). Councilmember Bowden."

Councilmember Bowden said, "Thank you. I'll tell you all what I'm suggesting, and then I'll sort of give a little bit of maybe the background for it. Councilmember Brady has so graciously, as our informal parliamentarian, volunteered to chair an Ad Hoc Rules Committee. I remember when we passed the rules at the beginning of the year we said, you know, if something's not working, we can go back and look into it. Apparently, that's what's happened every year since he's been on Council, as well, and so he thought it would be a good idea to take a holistic view of our rules and see what could be optimized, so that's what I'm suggesting tonight. By way of background, the reason this came up, in my mind and the discussions I've had with other folks, is entirely how I am communicating this to my constituents. So, when I get the agenda on Wednesday evening, I read it and I send out an e-mail, generally Thursday morning, with, you know, what I think are the let's say three to five big ticket items on the agenda. Things that they may read about in the newspaper, things that I think we may have a good discussion on, weighty items, and what sometimes I can't see in reviewing that is the discussions that are bubbling up in committee that I haven't been aware of. You know, we're not all on each committee, for good reason, and the committees deserve to have their say at the end of the day, suggest whatever they want to suggest, and workshop things the way they want to workshop them, but sometimes I'm not aware that there was a really good discussion in the committee that I would like to be aware of. Sometimes that's the reasons that things are coming up, sometimes it's somebody adding something that's a really great idea, and so there were, I think, a couple ideas maybe floating out there about just a better process. So there's, you know, sometimes good discussion that I'm just missing, and I think there were good ideas floating out there about how to fix that particular problem, but then Councilmember Brady, being the sort of rules savant that he is, may have other ideas for things that, frankly, I just don't have enough experience to suggest to you.

So, I would suggest that we form an Ad Hoc Rules Committee to optimize our processes so that we can make sure that, especially when we're making really big changes, not things like passing out of Ways and Means and coming to us. A lot of times these things need to move

somewhat quickly, but that we can make sure that we are being as deliberative as possible, that it is being communicated properly to all of the stakeholders and community members, and that it is coming to us in a way that we've had the ultimate chance to communicate and deliberate over and that we're essentially ready to move forward on barring some unforeseen new development. So, given that he has graciously volunteered his time, I would say that we form a committee and appoint him chairman."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie.

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Because there is a process that takes place before it even gets to committee when we're talking about an ordinance or a legal document. No legal document or ordinance comes before this committee without clearing Corporation Counsel. Let's make that clear. I couldn't just write, I guess I can't, I couldn't just write an ordinance and present it to you. That would be unconscionable because it must pass the legal muster on whatever is developed, and so I want to dispel any notion that anything in form of a law, an ordinance, a resolution has to go through Corporation Counsel. It was implied during the last meeting almost as if something came before this body that did not clear Legal Counsel and, Mr. Mayor, I was a bit disappointed, particularly when staff is being criticized the way staff was criticized last Council meeting. In 14 years on this Council, I have never heard anyone describe anything that comes out of our Corporation Counsel as sloppy. In my 14 years, it was the first time I've ever heard that. Perhaps it was sloppy and appropriately called so. I didn't think so, however, but I do think that when staff is being described as something other than they are, as professionals, as a past manager, that would never, never move forward with me in anyone describing my staff as our staff were described at our last Council meeting.

So, I think it is very important that we make sure, got the look, that we make sure that when we are talking about an ordinance or a legal document of any kind, before it even gets to that subcommittee, it's already gone through a process with regard to our Legal staff. I think that's important for the record to also reflect that nothing with regard to an ordinance or any legal documents come before the body of a whole without it having gone through our Legal Counsel, Mr. Mayor, so there is a process before it even gets to the subcommittee. I'm responding to Councilmember Bowden. There is a process that before a legal document even gets here that it's gone through our Corporation Counsel. That's the way it's been for the last 14 years and, again, if you just bear with me a bit, some argue that you never see legislation coming from this body. There is nothing to restrict that. In fact, I have worked on legislation that came before this body, but that legislation had to pass the legal muster, the legal test. So, the Rules Committee that we are forming, I just think that before we get there we need to understand the entire process."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, sir."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid followed by Councilmember Brady.

Councilmember Shahid said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Councilmember Bowden called me to ask my opinion about what he brought up at today's meeting and so to respond a little bit about some of what Councilmember Gregorie was talking about, and he's right. The ordinances, the proclamations, whatever comes before Council goes through our Legal Department first for, as you said, Councilmember Gregorie, legal muster. I've got to applaud you for what you've done as Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee because you've made us slow down. We've gone through that Committee agenda, and we're spending millions of dollars, and it's like we're just not paying, the public's perception is we're not paying attention to it, and we're being somewhat cavalier which is not, of course, what we're doing. There is a process, and you are 100% correct.

There is a process of how the sausage is being made, literally, before it comes out to us. I think some of the concern that we had is that when we serve on a committee, and then we're about to make a bunch of committee reports in the next few minutes, those of us who served on that committee, we've got the advantage of hearing for the first time what that ordinance may be about or what that expenditure may be about. So, unless you sign in on Zoom, like I did this afternoon, I attended the Committee on Transportation because I wanted to hear about the Ashley River Bridge Crossing, unless you come to that, you have somewhat of a little bit of a disadvantage as to what may be transpiring. So, when we have a committee meeting and then the committee reports out and then makes a recommendation on a particular ordinance, sometimes if we're not fully informed about that ordinance, we may be left out or not up to speed at the very least. So, I think what we're trying to accomplish here is what you were trying to accomplish, Councilmember Gregorie, which is to hit the pause button a little bit to give us an opportunity to fully grasp some of the much more important ordinances particularly to have to come before us so that we're not drinking out of a fire hose. So, I like this idea, I think it's sort of important. We're not derailing the process. I think we're just trying to make sure that we're being more deliberative with the process, and I think that's something worthy of our consideration."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Brady.

Councilmember Brady said, "Yes. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I'd like to thank Councilmember Bowden for bringing this up and to our attention. As he mentioned, we talk about, I know some other people sitting around the table, as well, whenever the Rules of Council get passed in January, we always say literally, 'We can always go back and revisit them if we need to,' and I thought just bringing it up now gives us that opportunity to see how efficient are we actually operating. Like, we are the lowest kind of local level of government and, in theory, we should be the most efficient compared to when you get to several hundred members as you start moving up. I think it's time that we kind of sit down and look and make sure that we're operating in the most efficient manner that we can as we move things forward and, obviously, hopefully, for the betterment of Charleston. So, I would like to ask, Mr. Mayor, similar to what Councilmember Bowden said, he has graciously offered to serve on an Ad Hoc rules Committee, as well as Councilmember Waring, and I would ask that we create the Rules Committee, and we can report back, within I think 90 days is pretty fair, at the August meeting, and let us get time to look at what other Councils, especially the large cities around the State, how they kind of operate and how we can optimize the Rules of Council going forward, and we can report back within 90 days on that."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, "Yes. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I agreed to serve and am happy to serve, but when Councilmember Bowden called me, it was more like a timing issue, which I agreed with, and I think, I'm going to ask Mr. Summerfield to come to the microphone. We get involved with these committees, and we really get to working in those committees. I know you know that because you sit on virtually all of them, and we get full explanations. That's where the sausage is made and then when we come to the floor of Council those who have not served on the committee have been left out in some cases, especially the difficult issues, but when something goes through the Planning Commission, I'm not going to put you on the hot seat, Mr. Summerfield."

Councilmember Seekings said, "He wasn't even warmed up in the bull pen."

There was laughter in the Chamber.

Councilmember Waring said, "But when something goes through the Planning Commission and passes, how much time does it take before it comes before Council? It doesn't come, I don't believe, the next meeting. If a rezoning takes place, does it come, you know, the Planning Commission meets once a month."

The Clerk said, "Not to take away from Mr. Summerfield, but it usually comes the following month."

Councilmember Waring said, "That's my point. In other words, sometimes when we have really involved issues on the committee level, it's subject to come at the next Council meeting. For example, Community Development meets, I think, on a Thursday or met on a Thursday that particular week. The following Tuesday we had a complicated issue right in the public square versus the most complicated planning issues, when they vote on it, it takes 30 days before it comes before. So, I think when we meet in this Ad Hoc committee, Councilmember Brady and Bowden and whoever else wants to join, I think we have something that's actually working. By the same token, the ordinary shouldn't be held up. It should be able to come forward in an expedient manner. So, I just wanted to throw that out there."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Right. I think that's an excellent point. I mean, if there had been such a matter on the Traffic and Transportation Committee this afternoon, it would be before us within an hour-and-a-half, so there should be some consideration to that. Anybody before back to Councilmember Bowden?"

No one else asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Bowden.

Councilmember Bowden said, "Thanks, and everybody added great points, and that was sort of my intent going into this. Just quickly, Councilmember Gregorie, you mentioned subcommittees, and that's something that the State House does, that the Congress does. Most bodies similar to ours, legislative bodies, have some process where you can kind of see it bubbling up, and that's something that I would like to see. I mean with this, you know, a few members it would be difficult to do something like that, but whatever we can do, looking at other municipalities and things, I think would be great just to accomplish what everybody else has suggested."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Let me ask this, is there any objection to us proceeding with the Ad Hoc Rules Committee to review our rules?"

No one asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Would anyone else like to serve in addition to Councilmembers Brady, Waring, and Bowden?"

Councilmember Sakran said, "I'm happy to serve."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay. We'll add Councilmember Sakran to the committee, as well, and I'll be willing to serve, as well. Alright. Terrific. So ordained. Thank you for bringing that forward. Next up, speaking of Council Committees, is our [Committee on Traffic and Transportation](#). Councilmember Brady."

Councilmember Brady said, “Yes. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. The Committee on Traffic and Transportation, as the Mayor mentioned, met this afternoon at 3:30 p.m. and, as Councilmember Shahid had mentioned, we did receive an update on the Ashley River Crossing Bike and Pedestrian Bridge project. I’d like to thank, as everyone saw on the Ways and Means agenda, with the additional \$1 million that we are allocating from the Hospitality fee, that project, the risk-based budget, is fully funded now. I want to commend Councilmember Seekings, the Mayor, and Edmund Most from Capital Projects for their presentation to the COG. I also serve on that policy committee and was happy to vote in favor of the additional \$14 million that we are getting allocated from, technically from the Federal Highways Administration, but coming by way of the DOT, as well as a DOT allocation on that. Secretary Hall was in attendance and is very much in favor of this project. Councilmember Seekings did make note of that during our meeting, as well, that this is not going to include any scale backs in the scope of the project. This is going to be as it was originally designed, and it’s a huge win for the community. Once this bridge, as Ms. Zimmerman noted in her public comment, is completed, you will be able to go on the Greenway basically from downtown across the bridge and then go all of the way to my district near the Limehouse Bridge on Johns Island. It’s a huge win for mobility in the City to be able to do that without ever having to have bikes and pedestrians really have to get on a road other than to cross them on the Greenway, so that was really exciting.

Then, we received an update on the Transit and Bus Stop Design Guidelines from CARTA and what that looks like as those go up, as they are able to, in the City and here in the local area, as well, moving from, if you think of just kind of the flat where you stand and wait for the bus, and then there is the kind of benches, and then there is the full bus stops, as well, that have the shelters and other accessibility options. Then, we received, near and dear to my heart, an update on the Sanders Road Traffic Signal and Sidewalk Project. The signal went out to bid last year and, hopefully, will be delivered in October and completed by the end of this year, and that it’s going to be a mast arm light at Sanders and Bees Ferry Road, a very active corridor. Sanders is where the new C.E. Williams Middle School is, as well as West Ashley High School is right over there, and the Bees Ferry Library is there. There has been a significant increase in traffic along that road as it goes towards Bees Ferry, and then the sidewalk is actually going to connect Halfshell Lane to the school district property at C.E. Williams. A lot of people, especially in Carolina Bay, they prefer for their children to be able to walk to school and currently it’s somewhat dangerous, especially when it’s dark in the mornings, for them to not have a sidewalk to safely get off of the road and those, hopefully, are going through DOT comments right now, and, hopefully, it will get in the pipeline soon here for completion, and that concludes my report.”

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

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, “Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I just want to, I did attend the meeting this afternoon because I wanted to get an update on the Ashley River Crossing Pedestrian/Bike Bridge. I’m glad to hear that we got full funding, and my hat’s off to all of those who were involved in that process. Councilmember Seekings was very much involved in that, as well, and I’m glad for a lot of reasons that we’re maintaining the original design and width of this bridge. This is not going to be a bridge that’s just going to be used for recreation purposes. It is going to be a transportation bridge for folks who want to walk or bike across that bridge. It’s going to impact just about every aspect of West Ashley. So, thank you, Mayor, for your work on that, as well. I just want the community to have this bridge proceed, and I just remember that, those of us who have been around since 2016, one of the largest City Council meetings we had was 500 people showed up at

the Gaillard Center to talk about this bridge, so I know the community is heavily involved and interested in this. So, I just wanted to say thank you for the work that's been done by all of those who were engaged in it. A second point I just want to make as I listened into this committee meeting is that, as you talk about your Transit and Bus Stop Design Guidelines, I had mentioned this about some projects in West Ashley, Plan West Ashley has some specific ideas about that. I just want to make a comment that, as your committee is going through with that, to pay attention to some of the recommendations on those spots. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, sir."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Appel.

Councilmember Appel said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I just want to briefly make a couple of comments on the Ashley River Bike/Ped Bridge. Building infrastructure in this Country these days is very difficult, and that goes without saying, whether it's I-526 or the bridge. We're dealing with permitting, and cost overruns, etcetera. So, it's critical that, while this is a City-led effort, it can't just be up to the City of Charleston to get this done. So, I want to thank our friends at Charleston County, our friends at the State, SCDOT, a shout-out to Councilmember Seekings for helping to get the COG involved, and they've stepped up to the plate in a big way with a big check, I believe \$14 million or so, through the Fed, to the COG. It just shows if you try to go it alone with a big infrastructure project, you've got no hope. It's going to be hard enough when you've got everybody at the table, but at least you've got a chance, and I think we've done a lot, certainly with the Mayor's support, of getting everybody to the table because there will be some more bumps along the way, but when you're going into it united with a good team, you stand the best chance of meeting those challenges as they come. I look forward to riding across this bridge one day, and it's going to be great. Alright. Thanks, guys."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you. Anyone else?"

No one else asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Thank you for that report. Next up [Committee on Public Safety](#). Councilmember Shahid."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Move for adoption of the report."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Second."

Councilmember Shahid said, "I'm not going to be that fast."

Councilmember Waring said, "I second that motion, Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "This was Public Safety."

Councilmember Waring said, "Oh, Public Safety."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Same motion."

There was laughter in the Chamber.

Councilmember Shahid said, "There are a couple of points--"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We have a motion already that's on the floor. Any discussion? No."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, "Thank you. Items a, b, c, and d we took up in Ways and Means, but I do want to make one particular point on the MOU with the Fire Department. Chief Curia brought this up to our attention. We've added a new partner, which is the Mt. Pleasant Fire Department. They were not formally aligned with us on this MOU for cooperation to cover these zones, so that's an important part of that. We did receive a report from Chief Curia and Shannon Scaff on Emergency Management and the Fire Department. Let me just give you a quick rundown on what the Chief had to say. I think that Public Safety is critically important to our community and the update he had from that. So, the issues that he brought to our attention were numerous. Morale, vacancy, increased call volume, overtime pay, diversity, a leadership vacuum, strategic plans, and facilities. Let me just hit on a couple of real important points. The vacancy rate when the Chief took over in 2018 was at 21%. That means there were 74 sworn vacancies out there. Since then, that has dropped to, in 2020, to 9.3% and, in 2022, to 13% meaning that there are 50 positions open and we've got 25 candidates/recruits in our academies, so half of those should be filled at the next graduation ceremony. There are 400-plus positions available. Since he has been the Chief, he has added or replaced 105 personnel on that. Our call volume is up by 11%, so there is an increased demand on our Fire Department. The City Fire Department has maintained its ISO accreditation, the Insurance Services Office, and also accreditation through the Center for Public Safety Excellence. He made a big point to point out, which is really important for all of us, the inter-agency collaboration with the Police Department, which was shown through the Palms fire that happened a couple of months ago in West Ashley in my district and the work between the City, Police Department, and Fire Department. Also, I've got to give a shout-out to Shannon for the work that collaboration also included with the aftermath of that fire and helping people out, finding homes, getting them basic necessities over that. What's ahead of us that we need to be addressing is our control over overtime costs, a review of the pay plan. You heard a speaker come up and talk about the Human Resources Committee is going to be meeting on Thursday. We are falling behind in starting pay and pay steps. There are 24 Chief Officer positions available that we need to fill. That is the leadership vacuum that the Chief is concerned about mostly, and he has hired a Diversity Officer. Only 5% of our department are non-White and only 3.3% are female, and those numbers need to change dramatically. There have been work in progress or improvements when I counted them up, Chief, 15 stations throughout the City, in one form or another, a complete overhaul or updates on 15 different stations. That is a very quick and brief summary of the Chief's report. We had bounced them out before, and I just wanted to make sure they got the opportunity.

I did talk to Shannon today to just go over a couple of things with him, but they are busy working on their Emergency Management response. Hurricane season is coming along the way. They're working towards that. I've got a meeting with him to get an update and a little more detail this coming Monday, but I just wanted to let you know that his department is a department of three people, him and two others, and they're overtaxed, but they have done a terrific job. So, I just want to give a shout-out to Shannon and his team. Thank you, Mayor. That's my report."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Great. Thank you. Any questions for Councilmember Shahid?"

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Seekings, seconded by Councilmember Gregorie, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the Committee on Public Safety Report as presented:

---INSERT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT---

- a. Fire Department: Approval of Regional Partners Automatic Aid Agreement to guide operations of the following fire departments: Charleston, North Charleston, James Island, St. Andrews, Johns Island, and Mount Pleasant. This replaces a 2012 Regional Partners Agreement.
- b. Fire Department: Approval to authorize the Fire Department to enter a MOU with Berkeley County Emergency Management to install and monitor a weather station at CFD Station #18 on Daniel Island.
- c. Police Department: Approval of an Agreement between the City of Charleston and Charleston Dorchester Mental Health Center. The Agreement defines responsibilities incumbent upon both parties as part of the previously approved Connect and Protect Grant.
- d. Police Department: Approval of 2023 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program Grant for an after-the-fact submission of an application for the CESF grant in the amount of \$217,735 for computers and ancillary equipment to equip 15 police cruisers with mobile computer systems. The application was due May 6, 2022. There is no match required for this grant. However, there will be an ongoing annual operational expense of approximately \$60,000.
- e. Fire Department Update
- f. Emergency Management Update

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Next up is our [Committee on Public Works.](#)"

Councilmember Gregorie said, "So moved."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Second."

Councilmember Waring said, "I second. The item on Church Creek has already been discussed at Ways and Means, so I move for the adoption of the report, Mr. Mayor."

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

---INSERT PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITES REPORT---

a. Acceptances and Dedications:

- (i). Point Hope - a portion of Foundation Street (R/W varies), Hopewell Drive (57' R/W) and Pulitzer Street (50' R/W).
 - Title to Real Estate
 - Exclusive StormWater Drainage Easement Agreement

-- Affidavit for Taxable or Exempt Transfers

b. Stormwater Management Department Update:

- (i). Church Creek – Recommend Approval to Award the Church Creek Renaturalization and Flood Protection Project at Mowler Court Construction Contract to IPW Construction, LLC for \$246,604.25. Funding for this project is a combination of a National Fish and Wildlife Implementation Grant and the Drainage Fund.

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

Councilmember Seekings said, “So moved.”

Councilmember Shealy said, “Second.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Any discussion, additions?”

No one asked to speak.

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

(Bids and Purchases

(Budget, Finance and Revenue Collections: An ordinance to make additional appropriations to meet the liabilities of the City of Charleston for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021.

(Budget, Finance and Revenue Collections: An ordinance to recognize the usage of additional funds to meet additional appropriations authorized by Ordinance 2022-_____ for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021

(Budget, Finance and Revenue Collections: An ordinance for the issuance and sale of Waterworks and Sewer System Revenue Bonds of the City of Charleston in one or more series in the aggregate principal amount of not exceeding \$170,000,000 and other matters relating thereto.

(Planning, Preservation & Sustainability/Business Neighborhood Services: Approval to receive grant funds awarded by the National League of Cities for the City Inclusive Entrepreneurship (CIE) Resource Mapping grant opportunity in the amount of \$15,000. Funding will go towards an asset mapping of entrepreneurial resources and a report of recommendations for improving the ecosystem of entrepreneurial support. There is no City match required.

(Fire Department: Approval of Regional Partners Automatic Aid Agreement to guide operations of the following fire departments: Charleston, North Charleston, James Island, St. Andrews, Johns Island, and Mount Pleasant. This replaces a 2012 Regional Partners Agreement.

(Fire Department: Approval to authorize the Fire Department to enter into a MOU with Berkeley County Emergency Management to install and monitor a weather station at CFD Station #18 on Daniel Island. There is no cost to the City.

(Office of Cultural Affairs: Approval to accept a grant in the amount of \$75,000 from the SC Arts Commission’s Arts Emergency Relief program, funded in part by the American Recovery Plan, for increased operating support. There is no City match required.

- (Parks – Capital Projects: Approval of a Resolution to commit an additional \$1,000,250 from Hospitality Fee funds to support the Ashley River Crossing Project and authorize the Mayor to execute a letter of commitment stating the same to the U.S. Secretary of Transportation.
- (Parks – Capital Projects: Approval of Cainhoy Fire Station #20 (Clements Ferry) Professional Services Contract with Liollio Architecture in the amount of \$715,160 for the design of a two-bay fire station in the Cainhoy area near Enterprise Drive off Clements Ferry Road to replace the current Fire Station #20 which is a rented facility. Approval of the professional services contract will obligate \$715,160 of the \$5,456,500 project budget. Funding sources for this project are: 2005 GO Bond (\$1,569,900), 2014 GO Bond (\$2,300,000), and 2015 IPRB Bond (\$1,586,600).
- (Stormwater Management: Approval of Church Creek NFWF Renaturalization, Habitat Restoration and Flood Protection Project construction contract with IPW Construction, LLC, in the amount of \$246,604.25 to outfit City buy-out properties on Mowler Court and Wolk Drive to increase storage area to the surrounding neighborhood utilizing nature based and installing pocket wetlands. With the approval of the project budget, Staff is authorized to award and/or amend contracts less than \$40,000 to the extent project contingency funds to exist in the Council approved budget. Approval of the construction contract will institute a project budget of \$5,201,308 of which \$246,604.25 will be obligated for the contract. Funding sources for this project are: Drainage Fund (\$3,607,808), Stormwater Small Projects Line – item (\$123,500) and two National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Grants (\$125,000, \$1,345,000).
- (Police Department: Approval of an Agreement between the City of Charleston and Charleston Dorchester Mental Health Center. The Agreement defines responsibilities incumbent upon both parties as part of the previously approved Connect and Protect Grant.
- (Police Department: Approval of an after-the-fact grant submittal for the FY23 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program (CESF) in the amount of \$217,735 for computers and ancillary equipment to equip (15) police cruisers with mobile computer systems. The application was due May 6, 2022. There is no match required for this grant. However, there will be an ongoing annual operational expense of approximately \$60,000.
- (Request approval to authorize the Mayor to execute on behalf of the City a General Utility and Access Easement Agreement which grants the City permanent utility and access easements on a portion of the William Enston Homes, TMS Nos. 463-16-01-001, 463-16-01-005, 463-16-01-007, to install and maintain a pump station facility and a stormwater collection and conveyance system. The property is owned by the Housing Authority of the City of Charleston. (King Street and Huger Street)
- (Request approval of a Facility Use Agreement for the Piccolo Spoleto organ recital at First Scots Presbyterian Church on June 2nd and June 6th. There is no cost to the City. The property is owned by First Scots Presbyterian Church. (53 Meeting Street)
- (Request approval of a Facility Use Agreement with General Service Administration for use of the U.S. Custom House during Piccolo Spoleto for dates May 27th, 28th, and 29th. There is no cost to the City. The property is owned by the U.S. Custom House. (200 East Bay Street)
- (Request approval of a Facility Use Agreement for the Piccolo Spoleto organ recital at the French Huguenot Church on June 3rd. The \$250 sexton fee will be paid from Piccolo Spoleto donations. The property is owned by the French Huguenot Church. (136 Church Street)

- (Request approval of a Facility Use Agreement for the Piccolo Spoleto organ recital at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church on June 1st and June 8th. There is no cost to the City. The property is owned by St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. (405 King Street)
- (Request to authorize the Mayor to execute on behalf of the City a Right-of-Way and Utility Easement granting the Commissioners of Public Works a permanent easement and right-of-way on a portion of 17 Lockwood Drive for the installation and maintenance of utility lines. The property is owned by the City of Charleston. (TMS Nos. 460-14-00-010, 460-14-00-001) (17 Lockwood, Dr., Charleston, SC 29401)
- (Request approval of a Resolution committing the current Greenbelt funds allocated for allowable improvements as the matching funds for the Fort Pemberton – Public Access Improvements Project. The LWCF Grant request of \$261,000 requires a 50% match funded by the currently awarded City Greenbelt Allocation to be used for minor improvements of \$261,000 for a total project of \$522,000.
- (Please consider the following annexations:
- 2157 Fort Pemberton Drive (.24 acre) (TMS# 343-01-00-104), James Island, (District 11). The property is owned by Jack Narusevich and Jennifer Moeggenberg.
 - 1766 Ashley River Road (.49 acre) (TMS# 351-11-00-003), West Ashley, (District 9). The property is owned by Irmgard S. Titus.
 - 1776 Ashley River Road (.56 acre) (TMS# 351-11-00-004), West Ashley (District 9). The property is owned by Morris N. and Nancy B. Harper Revocable Trust.

First reading was given to the following bills and resolutions:

An ordinance to make additional appropriations to meet the liabilities of the City of Charleston for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021.

An ordinance to recognize the usage of additional funds to meet additional appropriations authorized by Ordinance 2022-_____ for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021.

An ordinance for the issuance and sale of Waterworks and Sewer System Revenue Bonds of the City of Charleston in one or more series in the aggregate principal amount of not exceeding \$170,000,000 and other matters relating thereto.

Resolution to commit an additional \$1,000,250 from Hospitality Fee funds to support the Ashley River Crossing Project and authorize the Mayor to execute a letter of commitment stating the same to the U.S. Secretary of Transportation.

Resolution committing the current Greenbelt funds allocated for allowable improvements as the matching funds for the Fort Pemberton – Public Access Improvements Project.

An ordinance to provide for the annexation of property known as 2157 Fort Pemberton Drive (.24 acre) (TMS# 343-01-00-104), James Island, Charleston County, to the City of Charleston, shown within the area annexed upon a map attached hereto and make it part of District 11. The property is owned by Jack Narusevich and Jennifer Moeggenberg.

An ordinance to provide for the annexation of property known as 1766 Ashley River Road (.49 acre) (TMS# 351-11-00-003), West Ashley, Charleston County, to the City of

Charleston, shown within the area annexed upon a map attached hereto and make it part of District 9. The property is owned by Irmgard S. Titus.

An ordinance to provide for the annexation of property known as 1776 Ashley River Road (.56 acre) (TMS# 351-11-00-004), West Ashley, Charleston County, to the City of Charleston, shown within the area annexed upon a map attached hereto and make it part of District 9. The property is owned by Morris N. and Nancy B. Harper Revocable Trust.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Next is [bills up for second reading](#). We have seven items."

Councilmember Brady said, "Move to take 1 through 7 together."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Second."

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

No one asked to speak.

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

- 2022 – 066** - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON BY CHANGING THE ZONE MAP, WHICH IS A PART THEREOF, SO THAT 63 COLUMBUS STREET (PENINSULA) (APPROXIMATELY 2.43 ACRES) (TMS #459-09-02-152, 153 AND 168) (COUNCIL DISTRICT 4), BE REZONED TO BE INCLUDED WITHIN THE SCHOOL OVERLAY ZONE (S) CLASSIFICATION. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY CHARLESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT.
- 2022 – 067** - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON BY CHANGING THE ZONE MAP, WHICH IS A PART THEREOF, SO THAT 100 LINE STREET (PENINSULA) (APPROXIMATELY 0.03 ACRE) (A PORTION OF TMS #460-08-01-040) (COUNCIL DISTRICT 3), BE REZONED FROM DIVERSE RESIDENTIAL (DR-2F) CLASSIFICATION TO COMMERCIAL TRANSITIONAL (CT) CLASSIFICATION. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY VICTOR WRIGHT. **(AS AMENDED)**
- 2022 – 068** - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON BY CHANGING THE ZONE MAP, WHICH IS A PART THEREOF, SO THAT 1939 PIPER DRIVE (WEST ASHLEY) (APPROXIMATELY 0.28 ACRE) (TMS #350-09-00-067) (COUNCIL DISTRICT 5), ANNEXED INTO THE CITY OF CHARLESTON MARCH 8, 2022 (#2022-041), BE ZONED SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (SR-1) CLASSIFICATION. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY SUSAN VIGEN.

- 2022 – 069** - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND PART 4 (ACCESSORY USES) OF ARTICLE 2 (LAND USE REGULATIONS) OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON, BY MODIFYING SEC. 54-214 (ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT) THEREOF TO ADD A THIRTY (30) YEAR AFFORDABILITY PERIOD FOR ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS AND TO CLARIFY THE EXISTING PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR APPROVAL OF ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS.
- 2022 – 070** - AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ANNEXATION OF PROPERTY KNOWN AS 1804 ABLE STREET (0.25 ACRE) (TMS# 351-02-00-035), 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 LANITA BROWN.
- 2022 – 071** - AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ANNEXATION OF PROPERTY KNOWN AS 2506 BIRKENHEAD DRIVE (0.25 ACRE) (TMS# 309-13-00-051), 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 2. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY CHRISTOPHER R. JEFFERIES.
- 2022 – 072** - AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ANNEXATION OF PROPERTY KNOWN AS 1940 CAPRI DRIVE (0.6 ACRE) (TMS# 350-14-00-039), 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 JEFFREY AND MEREDITH FOX.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Note that item #2 is as amended."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "As amended. So moved."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Next up we do have [one bill up for rezoning.](#)"

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Move for approval."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "That was the property that was discussed at some length earlier. The bank, Wells Fargo, former Wells Fargo at the corner, and you all just give me a minute while I'm signing these other ones that have already been ratified. We have a motion to approve. Was there any discussion on that one?"

Councilmember Mitchell said, "No."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "No."

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

An ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Charleston by changing the Zone Map, which is a part thereof, so that 1776 and 1766 Ashley River Road (West Ashley) (approximately 1.05 acres) (TMS #351-11-00-003 and 351-11-00-004) (Council District 9), be zoned General Business (GB) classification. The property is owned by Morris N. and Nancy B. Harper Revocable Trust and Irmgard S. Titus.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Any further business to come before us this evening?"

Councilmember Seekings said, "No."

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Jennifer B. Cook
Clerk of Council