

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBER**

Regular Meeting
February 14, 2023

The one hundred thirty-eighth meeting of the City Council of Charleston was held this date convening at 5:22 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 February 9, 2023 and appeared in the Post and Courier on February 13, 2023.

PRESENT (13)

The Honorable John J. Tecklenburg, Mayor

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

Mayor Tecklenburg called the meeting to order at 5:22 p.m.

The Clerk called the roll.

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

Councilmember Mitchell opened the meeting with an invocation.

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

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Well, thank you, all, for being with us this evening. First, we have a few presentations and recognitions, the first one is a recognition. It was requested by Councilmember Sakran, by the way, who is the current Chair of our Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission, and I'd like to ask him and our Manager of that Commission, Adrian Swinton, to come forward and join me. What he has asked us to do is to recognize the members of the [Special Commission on Equity, Inclusion, and Racial Conciliation.](#) Those Commission members who served so diligently and so faithfully to the City of Charleston, and I'm just going to acknowledge that the way the recommendations from the Commission kind of resolved themselves here in City Council, I feel like it just didn't give us the adequate opportunity to thank you, to thank you for your efforts throughout your deliberations and recommendations that were made to Council. It was no easy task.

So, without further ado, and hopefully I've got everybody who are RSVP'd that they would be here, would you all please join us up here on the podium. Katie McKain, Kenneth Battle, Tracy Doran, Melissa Barrett, Amy Southerland, Najeema Davis Washington, Vanessa Halyard, Marla Robertson, and graduate students, Virginia Long and Katherine Holmes, Abraham Champagne, Colleen Condon, Alvin Johnson, former Councilmember Carol Jackson, John Mitchell, and Otha Meadows.

If there is anyone else that served on the Commission that didn't get their name in that happens to be with us, please come forward, as well, and, yes, I wanted to ask Councilmember Gregorie to join us, because at that time both he and Councilmember Sakran served as co-Chairs of that initial Commission. So, I'm going to ask Councilmember Sakran and Ms. Swinton if they would like to make any comments. And, by the way, I hope you all can stay around for just a little while. After Public Participation, Adrian is also going to give the first report to Council of the subsequent and now current Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission. We will be doing that tonight, so your work goes on, and I hope there is some solace and goodness out of that. Councilmember Sakran."

Councilmember Sakran said, "Good evening, I appreciate the Mayor and fellow Councilmembers taking the time tonight to acknowledge the hard work of our Special Commission. For the record, we charged this group of talented volunteers with doing something we knew would be controversial. We asked them to unapologetically review policies and practices, have difficult conversations with each other, and then assemble all of those recommendations regardless of the political weight those recommendations carried, and that is exactly what you all did. I'm sure I'm going to miss a few people, and I'm going to publicly name all of the folks that are on here, because the Mayor has done an awesome job of doing that, but I do want to say and recognize Councilmember Gregorie for his contributions as well as our former Manager of Equity, Inclusion, and Racial Conciliation, Amber Johnson. They really helped lay the groundwork for the progress and were very instrumental in creating the permanent Commission, which we commonly refer to as the Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission.

As many of you recall, the reaction, outcry, and hysteria over some of the recommendations was not only proof that this work is critically important for our community, but illustrated to me some of the double standards and hypocrisy that is baked in our system. We heard from some who said that these discussions and recommendations created divides in our community where there were none. We heard from others who expressed discomfort and suggested we tone down our rhetoric in order to make them feel a bit comfortable. I bring all of this up this evening because we are seeing the same tactics being directed at our school boards, education leaders, and putting our teachers in the most difficult of situations. The fact of the matter is this: that teaching children about the full history of all people in Charleston and discussing the role of slavery and racism is not Critical Race Theory, it is not intended to make white kids feel guilty or Black kids feel powerless. It's called history, and no offense to the critics, but learning about history should be emotional, and it should be visceral. It's literally the definition of education and learning.

I want to publicly thank my fellow Councilmembers who took a risk politically. Oftentimes, you forget about these things. We forget about the relationships that we have with folks, and there were folks in this Council and in this Chamber that had to take a political risk. I want to thank you for that courage. That is courage. That's leadership. That's not going back to your district and listening to your constituents, that's doing what is right for not just your district, but what's right for Charleston. Fast forward to today, the Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission is in full swing. We meet monthly, and while the progress has been slow for some, it has been steady, strategic, and intentional. I would encourage those in the community who are so vehemently opposed to the formation of a permanent Commission to perhaps attend one of our meetings. We would love for you to participate and join the conversation.

I want to say thanks again to the volunteers who gave up their time on the Special Commission, and the volunteers who are working on HARCC right now. Thank you to Adrian

Swinton for her continued leadership. She helped shape this important work. Adrian and former and current Commission members, I want to let you all know that your immediate contributions may go unnoticed, but please know this: you are helping to reshape and redefine how the City operates and how it confronts and deals with its role in the institution of slavery. These changes will outlive this Council, sorry, this Mayor, and certainly outlive the loud minority. Thank you for the opportunity, and it's been my pleasure to serve as co-Chair of the Special Commission and co-Chair on HARCC, and I look forward to our continued work together. Thank you so much." There was applause in the Chamber.

Ms. Swinton continued, "To the Mayor, Mayor Tecklenburg, Council, to co-Chairs Councilmember Gregorie and Councilmember Sakran, and the Special Commission, the great Maya Angelou once penned, 'Just like moons and like suns, with the certainty of tides, just like hopes springing high, still I rise.' I say to this Commission of leaders who rose to the challenge of sitting in uncomfortable spaces, breaking down barriers of taboo that racial equity should not be one of an intellectual conversation, but stood in the gap producing what is not ink on paper, not a report, but a contribution of time, sacrifice, schedule alterations, and countless hours of dedication. Thank you, my fellow brothers and sisters, for rising. I commend each of you. Thank you."

There was applause in the Chamber.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Councilmember Gregorie."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "I would be remiss if I didn't say something here today. First of all, I want to thank everyone who took the challenge to do what we had to do in spite of knowing what the consequences of our contributions would be. We were very clear that we were not going to play games, that we were going to call it exactly like we saw it and see it today. I definitely need to thank the co-Chair. He continues to be the kind of leader and beacon that this deserves. And, I'm going to say something that might not be popular. It's not about Black people changing, it's about white people having to change, and I'll repeat it. It's not about Black people having to change, it's about white America having to change and accept the reality that we're here to stay and to continue to build this Country as we've done in the past. So, I want to thank all of my colleagues. While I'm not with you, I am with you, because before we left, we made sure that we institutionalized many of our decisions and recommendations. It's in the City Plan. Our City Plan is one of the best that I've ever seen that has inclusion and equity all throughout it. We did what we were supposed to do, that in spite of the challenges, in spite of villainizing us, we did it, folks. Thank you very much. I love all of you, and Happy Valentine's Day."

There was applause in the Chamber.

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. It wasn't lost on me what Councilmember Sakran and Councilmember Gregorie have stated, but I've got to tip my hat to both of those gentlemen and to the fellow standing next to them, Mr. Jerome Harris, who I've gotten to know over time. The birthing of this Commission, as Councilmember Sakran mentioned, was very painful, and there are several people in this room who did put aside political concerns and wanted to do what was the right thing to do. That was the result of many meetings, many conversations, but also that we all listened, and Councilmember Sakran and Councilmember Gregorie listened, and they came out of a spirit of compromise to create this

Commission. It was hard, and it was difficult, but we can see you from here, from down here we see you guys up there, and it really is a beautiful thing to look at, and the diversity that is represented with this Commission and the work that you all do is really a beautiful thing. We appreciate what you have done, I appreciate my colleagues for stepping forward at that time when they did, and go forth, Happy Valentine's Day. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you. Now, the co-Chair of the original Commission was Jerry Harris and the current co-Chair of the HARCC. Now, I'm going to have you back up on the next presentation, as well. Would you like to speak now or then? You're going to be back in about two minutes. Alright. Well, again, our heartfelt thanks to you. I hope that's conveyed and comes across. You all really did make a difference. I know it was, as I said earlier, the way it resolved with the recommendations, it seemed a little awkward. But, as Councilmember Gregorie pointed out, we really have baked in recommendations into a Comprehensive Plan, other things that we are doing at the City, our Police Racial Bias Audit and following up on those recommendations, and also the continuing work of the HARCC. So, it's all been for the good. God bless you and thank you, again, for being here tonight to be recognized. Thank you."

There was applause in the Chamber.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Next, we have a [Resolution recognizing Black History Month](#). I'm going to ask Jerry Harris to come back up. I incorrectly stated a moment ago he is co-Chair of the present Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission. He's President of the Charleston Branch of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. If you would join me, Jerry, at the podium, and I'll read this Resolution, and then I'd like to ask you to make a few remarks, and thanks for the other members to be here, as well. Thank you, all."

Mayor Tecklenburg read the resolution.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, next, I'd like to ask Jerry Harris, who is also the President of the Charleston Branch of that Association, just to share some remarks with us about Black History Month. Jerry."

Jerry Harris said, "Thank you, Mayor. It was a year and five days ago, this Council passed the Ordinance finally establishing the Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission. At that time, this Council gave evidence to or thoughts that Frederick Douglass shared with us some years ago, which is 'Where there is no struggle, there is no progress.' This Council, as a body, did struggle. In struggle, there is pain. In struggle, there is conflict, but hopefully, as Dr. Woodson suggested in creating the campaign which is now known as Black History Month, that 365 days a year people will take advantage of the information that's readily available to them to understand and discover that Black history is American history, and American history is Black history, 365 days. It is the failure of us to have that ingrained as part of our socialization that created the conditions that led to the kind of conflict and discomfort in this body, in this room.

The Association is 109 years old, as the Mayor has indicated. We brought 1,400 people from all over the Country to appreciate the tourism trade here in Charleston. We are an economic engine. History is an economic engine. I think it was Faulkner who said 'History is not dead. In fact, it's not past,' and the tourism trade here in the City represents the reality of that. At the same time, the architecture of something called race, which we know is not true, has generated something called racism, which creates a lot of disfunction. History, Woodson believed, and we believe, is an antidote to that.

Councilmember Mitchell was excused from the Chamber at 5:46 p.m.

Standing with me are members of the Association, many of whom are involved in a wide range of activities, teaching and promoting information about Charleston that might happen to have an African American lens. Dr. Butler, the Director of Avery, a powerful young person, Ph.D., who also is an author, and does some tremendous work pulling together and supporting things that are going on in the City. Avery is an example of Black resistance. The theme for this year is Black resistance. The existence of Avery, created in the Jim Crow era, is an example of that. Dena Davis, a past president of the organization, Julie Allen Davis who is a descendant of the Crafts. If you don't know the Craft story, a husband and wife team who miraculously escaped slavery in the 1840s became abolitionists, and their stories made Charleston famous. Right now, the most recent book about the Crafts is about #6 or #7 on the Best Sellers List. If you haven't read that book, you should read it. Margaret Seidler. Margaret is a tireless member doing projects. She just joins organizations so she can create trouble. On your desks, you will see the historic marker card that the City has helped fund. Margaret, in fact, was a leader in that effort. Lee Bennett, Lee is a historian at Mother Emanuel. Lee is a resource any time of day. Tourists from all over the Country come to look at and see the building, while he provides the history. And it's that context, that information, that's important.

Councilmember Mitchell returned to the Chamber at 5:47 p.m.

I'll leave you with this story. Again, if there is no struggle, there is no progress. The purpose of education is for us to discover who we are, where we are now, so that we can change and make things better in the future. I trust that you, as members of the public, and the City Council, will not just give us this Resolution today and say, 'Okay, Black History Month, 28 days, it's over, let's move on to the next thing.' Black history and American history is a 365 days a year challenge to us all. If we're going to reduce the nonsense and the conflict and move forward and make the City better for everyone, we need to embrace that in our hearts, not just with our mouths, right? And not just with our political rhetoric. Thank you very much."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, Jerry."

There was applause in the Chamber.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. We have one more resolution tonight, and this is to honor [National Mentoring Month](#) which, in fact, was last month, but that's okay because we view mentoring as being a year-long activity in the City of Charleston and our region, right, Sam? So, if I may ask Mindy Sturm, who is the Director of our Mayor's Office of Children, Youth, and Families, Sam Bellamy, he's the Mayor's Mentoring Consortium Co-Facilitator, Stacia Bennett, Kids on Point, Cal Morrison, Charleston Youth Leadership Council, and Eric Jackson with R3, Inc. to join me at the podium. And we have a Resolution for mentoring, as well."

Mayor Tecklenburg read the Resolution.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "But I'm going to say that the year of 2023 should be mentoring year in the City of Charleston, so just to cover that. So, these fine folks behind me are involved each and every day in helping mentor the youth of our community. I'm going to ask Mindy and/or Sam to come forward, if they would like to share a few comments about what we're doing. Sam, you want to start?"

Sam Bellamy said, "I will keep it really, really brief. I think the Resolution said it all. January is an opportunity for us to elevate and amplify the message of mentoring. We know naturally that potential is equally distributed, but opportunity isn't. So, I'm proud to stand side by side with some of my fellow mentoring comrades. I thank Mindy, the Mayor, and the City, for the support of our young people, and we thank you so much for this Resolution."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Mindy, you want to share any comments?"

Mindy Sturm said, "I would like to just say I really thank you, Mayor, for your leadership on this. I think that, and Council as well, with your voices we can really elevate this in the community with you all talking about it. I think that's a wonderful way to get the word out, and I do agree everyone has mentors along the way. I still need them and so, I just want to thank you, all, and thank the Mayor for his support."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, all."

There was applause in the Chamber.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, just to let you all know, I guess it started about two years ago when we were still in the midst of COVID and recognizing the kids, how important mentoring was to them, and Sam really took the lead, you all, of connecting with all of the various non-profits and organizations, and we're still welcoming people that we find out about, to come together in a consortium, and he offers expertise and advice. They get together. We've had some mentoring fairs. We did one at Joint Base Charleston, we did one at Boeing, where we, basically, have a trade show of all of the different mentoring groups in the Charleston region and solicit volunteers from those organizations. We've had hundreds of volunteers come forward through these efforts to support these fine organizations. So, thank you, Sam, and the rest of you for the work you've been doing and helping the youth of this community. We really appreciate it. Alright. Next, we have [approval of City Council minutes from January 10th](#)."

Councilmember Shealy said, "So moved."

Councilmember Brady said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We have any corrections, deletions, or comments?"

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Shealy, seconded by Councilmember Brady, City Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2023 City Council meeting.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, next up already is our [Citizens Participation Period](#). We welcome everyone that's come here to share remarks with us, and Madam Clerk will help lead the order on that. How many folks do we have?"

The Clerk said, "We have five people signed up to speak. Did you want to set a time limit?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Two minutes."

The Clerk said, "Alright. The time is two minutes. Mohammed Idris."

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

1. Mohammed Idris said racism was dead and buried. It was killed and executed in 1976 by Imam Warith Deen Mohammed who was the son of Elijah Mohammed. He asked Council to help him to get \$3 billion to solve the ethical problems in the community. He said he had a great experience with five European young ladies the previous day. He said they did a wonderful job at the hospital when he was taken there by emergency. He said henceforth, Council was going to see Mohammed Idris like they had never seen him before. He was going to come after Council seats #4, #6, #7, #8, and #9, and said the whole world was going to know about them, because he wanted them to help the community like the community had helped them to be in those Council seats. He said the community would be coming at Council on every medium possible, and they were going to get that \$3 billion to do the work they wanted and needed to do in Charleston, South Carolina.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, sir."

The Clerk said, "Former Councilwoman Jackson."

2. Carol Jackson, 1461 Patterson Avenue, commended the Mayor and Councilmember Parker for pursuing what she considered to be a wonderful case study for how they were serving a community that had been overlooked, underserved, and not respected in the ways of the typical services they provided for citizens. She said she was speaking in particular about the neighborhood that was on the south end of James Island known as Artillery Point Neighborhood Association. She said Councilmember Parker and the Mayor had been working for the last 18 months, since they figured out that there were over 35 properties, and they were making the list as accurate as they could. They knew there were about 50 properties that were annexed into the City in 1997, and one of the top reasons for annexation was that they would have the opportunity to connect to the Charleston water and sewer system, and 25 years later that had not happened. There were a lot of real reasons why it took so long, but there was also a lot of reasons that they knew they wanted to improve as they worked together as a more holistic society. The project was underway, the funding was at 90%, and they looked forward to coming back and giving Council a report on how things were going.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, too."

The Clerk said, "Anthony Bryant."

3. Anthony G. Bryant, 2123 Courtland Avenue, Charleston, SC 29403, said there were still 32,000 people on the Peninsula, and they were still downtown. He said there was a documentary on jazz music in 2006 that said, 'It was a happy day when the first unhappy slaves landed on these shores.' He believed in the separation of church and state because of slavery and Jim Crow. He said politicians enforced and administered injustice on Black folks during that period of time. Any time religion in America was presented to him, he wanted to know who they were talking about and who they were talking to. Homeland Security had a partnership with faith-based organizations. He said he made a public comment on a national level to that effect. It was a fact that

Homeland Security was 22 Federal agencies such as the FBI, DEA, and groups that had been put into their communities since the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s Crime Bill. He said every piece of progress they had made as Black folks, there was a crime bill behind it. What happened in Memphis, Tennessee was a reflection of that. Black on Black crime was self-hatred toward each other, and they couldn't control that. He said what the white man did to them was make them hate themselves and to fear them, and that was the problem. Those who were afraid to be Black, afraid to speak up for Black folks, and those who promulgated what happened in Memphis, Tennessee were the problem, too. He said Black lives didn't matter to some Black folks for a couple of hundred years. He quoted Dr. Martin Luther King who said, 'Truth forever on the scaffold, wrong forever on the throne.'

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, sir."

The Clerk said, "Amy Chico."

No one asked to speak.

The Clerk said, "Tony Daniell."

No one asked to speak.

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

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Is he maybe going to be online?"

The Clerk said, "He is not online. No, sir."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay, just checking."

The Clerk said, "We did receive some comments. All of the comments received online and by telephone were sent to the Councilmembers in full. This is a summary of comments provided by those that have not already spoken at the meeting tonight. One comment online asked Council to proceed with the pedicab BID and said that bureaucratic red tape stifled innovation and investment in the City.

One comment online urged Council to stop the flying of the Confederate Flag at the Battery every weekend, as it was offensive to residents and tourists, and those that flew it there carried guns and acted aggressively.

One comment online asked the City to take an active interest in holding permit holders accountable. They said not having control over a City-sanctioned event was dangerous and unprofessional.

We received two comments by phone opposed to permits being issued to Flags Across the South.

We received one comment by phone opposed to permits being issued to Flags Across the South. They also stated that 97% of all of the disorderly conduct citations issued in the City were issued to African American youth. They also asked Council or the Clerk to announce at

Council meetings that citizens can and should participate in City government by calling the hotline which is 843-579-6313.

Tony Daniell submitted a comment regarding Council not opening an illegally closed road, and those were all of the comments we received.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Thank you, Madam Clerk. Did anyone else want to be heard that didn’t sign up for any reason?”

No one else asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Well, thank you, all, for being with us. We appreciate your comments and being with us, listening in, and Happy Valentine’s Day to everyone.”

Councilmember Seekings said, “Mr. Mayor.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Seekings.

Councilmember Seekings said, “If I might, please, I would like to move, pursuant to our rules and as a matter of personal indulgence, I have a family matter that I need to attend to. I would like to see if we can move and take K.1. out of order, which is the report of the Traffic and Transportation Committee. I wouldn’t otherwise do that, but I think the Council may have a couple of questions from that report, and I’d like to give it before I have to leave, and I’m going to have to leave very briefly.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Absolutely. With the pleasure of Council and without any opposition, we will move forward to K.1. and come back to our Petitions and Communications, so I’ll call on Councilmember Seekings, Chairman of the [Committee on Traffic and Transportation.](#)”

Councilmember Seekings said, “And thank you, Mr. Mayor, and fellow Councilmembers for indulging me and allowing me to take this out of order. I know there are a number of people who want to be heard, and we will make this as brief as we can. The Committee on Traffic and Transportation met last Tuesday, February 7th at 4:00 p.m. We had a number of items that we took up, and I’m going to run through quickly, and I suspect there may be a few questions from each one of you or some of you around this table.

We got an update, by the way, on our Bike Share Program. As you know, we’re now into a second generation of the Bike Share Program, now being administered by Lime. Lime is an international company that has really tailored their program quite nicely to Charleston. The report is good, and getting better. It’s getting a lot of usage. They’re getting better at positioning their bikes and making sure that the rules of the road are followed, particularly on the Peninsula. Currently, that being going the right way down one-way streets, staying off sidewalks, and because of the fact that they’re not just a transportation company, but they’re a tech company, we’re going to work on some geofencing to help along the routing system, so going along well. A couple of things, there was a request and some conversation about expanding the program into West Ashley and to James Island. West Ashley is a natural with the Greenway sitting there with the West Ashley bike/pedestrian bridge coming right at us sooner rather than later. I think there is a lot of sentiment internally, and there is ability on Lime’s part to do that, so they’re going to look into it. Councilmember Parker asked about James Island, too, and we’ll make sure that

they put that into the consideration umbrella, and we will move forward, but they are a dynamic company. They're doing great, so far so good.

We then took up a discussion, just a discussion, about our Pedicab Program in the City. As you may recall, we amended our Pedicab Ordinance about eight months ago, maybe nine months ago now, to give us the ability to expand that program from the current 15 daytime decals and the 30 nighttime decals, to expand it by six both day and night. We went through a process that was actually a RFQ process that was failed. We did not put it back out. So, we put it on the table and brought it back up after six months at the request of one of our members of the Committee. We had a discussion about it, and I believe that it's best said that the upside of that discussion is there are various opinions about what we should do, but we should do something, and so we're going to put it on our agenda next time to vote whether or not to move forward with adding six decals or not, against the backdrop of a number of things having happened, not just in the City of Charleston, but particularly on the Peninsula. Since we passed that ordinance, we're coming down the pipe with the Peninsula Plan. We've already hired our consultants, we've reconfigured King Street, we're still going through that process which has made access to King Street a little more difficult for a number of people, not just the pedicab team. The DOT Road Safety Audit is going to come up for discussion next month, as well. So, put all that into the mixer, I think, that we will bring it back up, I know that we're going to bring it back up. We're going to vote on whether to put it back out again for RFP or keep it *status quo ante* based on a debate and vote, and we'll bring it forward to you next month.

We did not get an update on the City/State street dichotomy on, particularly the Peninsula, but across the City, and I have in my hands, and I'll make sure it gets distributed to all of you, a map that shows in any part of the City where we owned streets as opposed to the DOT. I've got one right here, and you can see this is the Peninsula. It is a crazy checkerboard out there. For purposes of us moving forward with certain initiatives, particularly the initiative that Councilmember Sakran has been pushing in his district, we need to get ahold of what we own, what we don't own, and how many people we need to get involved, so we are going to work through that. Mr. Somerville, Mr. Fountain, Mr. O'Brien, and I had a conference call a couple of weeks ago on trying to get together a package on not only what we own, we know what we own, but what it really costs us, and what the consequences are of us taking back certain roads so we can expand our authority and influence in those areas. I think that's a fair way of stating it, Mr. Mayor, anyway."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We deferred that item."

There was laughter in the Chamber.

Councilmember Seekings said, "We did defer that item. So, alright, but I just want to make sure, Councilmember Sakran, in particular, knows that we haven't forgotten about it and really the impetus for that conversation was the activism by your constituents and you on that particular issue, so, again, more to come on that.

We took up valet parking at 88 Broad Street which is right outside of City Council Chambers just to the left of Meeting Street in front of the soon-to-be-open tomorrow night Sorelle restaurant. They have requested a valet spot. We approved it conditionally pending agreement by other neighbors along there to allow them to use four spots after 6:00 p.m. for valet. We're also going to take up the Valet Program and rethink it, both in terms of specifically identified valet spots for certain businesses, and then community valet spots in highly dense areas like Upper King Street. Again, more to come on that. To Councilmember Gregg's great

delight, we took up the Fairchild at Riverlanding Intersection Improvement Project and passed it unanimously. I don't know if he wants to comment on that, but some good things coming to Daniel Island. Then, finally, we took up an ordinance to amend Chapter 21 of the City of Charleston Code and passed that unanimously, so unless there are any questions. What did I miss?"

Councilmember Shahid said, "We deferred it."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Oh, we deferred it. I'm sorry. We deferred it. I apologize. That was at Councilmember Shahid's request. That's the Truck Parking Ordinance. It came before us, and we want to make sure Councilmember Shahid gets his input onto it, and maybe look at a couple of the exceptions that were built in there, so we deferred it to the next meeting to give Councilmember Shahid a chance to appear and for us to maybe think about the language. So, I apologize about that, and that is where we are. So, with that, I'm happy to answer any questions and that is, for now anyway, my report."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie followed by Councilmembers Shahid and Parker.

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Yes, that was going to be my question, whether or not we were going to address the squatter trucks that we have West Ashley. So, you are going to try to make those changes within this provision?"

Councilmember Seekings said, "So, just so you know, our Legal Department did exactly as asked. They did present to us a proposed ordinance. We just wanted to make sure, Councilmember Shahid had a busy day last Tuesday, we want to make sure he gets before the Committee to pitch it, and then we'll take it up."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and I don't want to delay your departure, but I just to make sure I heard as to the City/State street maintenance and what we own and what we don't, that's including streets in West Ashley, as well?"

Councilmember Seekings said, "The entire City of Charleston all somewhere, if you ask Dale Morris, 157 miles, if you ask me, 200 miles, all of it, every road in the City, we've got a map, we know who owns what."

Councilmember Shahid said, "And I can just report to Council that the discussion we're having about the squatter trucks has gotten the attention of a lot of folks. It's improving even by us just having this discussion, so we're making some headway on it, but we've got to get this ordinance right and get this ordinance passed. Thank you, all, for your work."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Parker.

Councilmember Parker said, "Thank you for answering that. James Island, we're excited for that package, the street package."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Right. We've got it. We'll make sure. Let's get it out, Robbie, to everybody just so they can see it. It's fascinating when you look and see."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "It is."

Councilmember Seekings said, "By the way, the further you get off the Peninsula, the more roads we actually own, so because of the recent development."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes."

Councilmember Parker said, "Daily, daily struggle there, but just one last thing, sorry to keep you."

Councilmember Seekings said, "No, that's fine."

Councilmember Parker said, "I just want to say that the Calhoun Street repairs, I have heard from more and more people in the past week or two, the repairs in front of Roper, you know, I don't know who did it, I don't know who is taking credit for it, but that is something long overdue, and people are grateful. Let's keep it going."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Where is that at, Councilmember?"

Councilmember Parker said, "Calhoun right in front of Roper."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes."

Councilmember Seekings said, "As soon as you give kudos, people come out of the woodwork to take credit for it."

There was laughter in the Chamber.

Councilmember Parker said, "Hey, just keep it coming. I mean, just keep it coming, anyway."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Give it to Mr. Somerville."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, Mayor Riley advised me to take credit for something whether you did it or not because they're going to blame you for everything. So, Councilmember Parker, you get the credit on this one, you brought it up first."

Councilmember Parker said, "Wait, I told everyone that the City did it."

There was laughter in the Chamber.

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shealy.

Councilmember Shealy said, "Yes. Are those maps available or are they accessible online or can they be accessible online for all of us to see?"

Councilmember Seekings said, "The answer is yes. It's hard to dig them out. We'll make them accessible through Robbie's site, and we'll send everybody a copy tomorrow."

Councilmember Shealy said, "Great. Thank you."

Councilmember Seekings said, "And, again, they're fascinating, but it will take a little bit."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Appel.

Councilmember Appel said, "Since I can't help myself, when we get a clear picture of all of the roads that the City owns, we're going to need to have some funding to do some things with them. So, if you haven't already put this on your calendar, please tune into the next meeting of the Budget Ad Hoc Committee. We're going to be discussing potential new fees under some recent State legislation, among other things a road maintenance fee which the Supreme Court has upheld, or rather the Supreme Court originally struck down and the legislature indicated that they would be allowed moving forward. So, this is an opportunity for the City to have a dedicated revenue stream to help actually do some of the road improvement measures that Councilmember Sakran talked about, and I think we can all talk about in our respective districts. So, the funding piece is an important piece of the puzzle, and we're going to be making some progress on that, hopefully, at our next Budget Ad Hoc Committee meeting. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie.

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Yes. So, you will have a cost benefit analysis with regard to the roads and the streets? Just to piggy-back on Councilmember."

Councilmember Seekings said, "The answer to that is no, but it doesn't mean we don't care because we do. What we're trying to cobble together is what the actual carry cost is for the roads that we do own. That's the objective. It's going to take some time to do, but we will keep working towards getting that metric for you."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "So, are we also trying to acquire or be responsible for roads that normally we wouldn't be, the State-owned?"

Councilmember Seekings said, "Well, let me just give you an example of kind of how this came to pass, and where we are. We have traditionally in the City owned roads two ways. By expansion and development through roads that are built in subdivisions, or by necessity, and I'll give you two examples. One, the corner of Bennett and Rutledge, which is in my district where we wanted to put a stop sign. Rutledge there was a DOT road, and it didn't meet their criteria, basically because we didn't have a long and deep enough accident report, not enough bad stuff had happened. So, instead of fighting with them, we took back that block, example one. Second, a bigger example, is Murray Boulevard and the Low Battery Seawall. In order to build the Low Battery Seawall, and re-build the road, and all of the utilities below it, we would have had to meet DOT's standards, specs, and codes if we kept the ownership with the DOT rather than taking ownership back. One of the things that the DOT doesn't allow is utilities underneath the road. Well, it would be impossible for us for drainage, and for sewer, and for all of the hookups along there, so we took Murray Boulevard back. What we're trying to get a handle on is what it actually costs us to own a particular road. Like Cannon Street, we own the block of Cannon Street in front of the fire station, the next block over between St. Philip and Coming Street, we don't own it. So, the practicalities of it in terms of future projects and the cost of carry, so when someone comes back and says, 'Let's take a road back,' we can actually have a

conversation not just about how we're going to manage that road, but what it's going to cost us to carry it over the course of fill-in-the-blank here, and we just aren't there yet."

Councilmember Brady was excused from the Chamber at 6:17 p.m.

Councilmember Gregorie said, "I guess my answer is somewhere within all of that."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Well, the answer is no. I mean, we're not going to do a cost benefit analysis until we know the costs."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Okay."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "But the State DOT does have estimates on how much it costs to maintain a road."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Right. That's all I'm talking about."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "And we have their general numbers, and I know this item was deferred, but I can't resist now, I've got to share one fact with you all."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "I wasn't quite finished, Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Because I asked GIS when this matter came up to do a fresh review of how many streets in the City are City streets versus DOT, because when I came into office and asked the question, the ballpark number that was given to me, in the City of Charleston about 80% of the streets were DOT and about 20% were City streets. Well, what has happened over time as we've accepted more streets, as Councilmember Seekings described, but also over time we've accepted a lot of neighborhood streets. All of these new neighborhood streets, all of these new neighborhoods, Johns Island, Daniel Island, new neighborhoods particularly in the suburbs, all of those streets are City streets. We accepted them when they were built to our specification, so we have to maintain them long term. So, anyway, they did a ballpark, and rather than 20% of the streets in our City being City streets, it's more like 45%. So, I think in relatively short order, you would be able to say about half of the streets within our City are City streets, and we have a responsibility to maintain them, and we have absolutely no source of income dedicated to street, and highway, and crosswalks, and sidewalk maintenance. So, it's something that this Council definitely wanted to address, and I had suggested we do it this year."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie.

Councilmember Gregorie said, "So, I can complete what I was saying. I mean a bit of good news, you know, I think thanks to Councilmember Sakran, we now have a crossing guard at the corner of Grove and King. I don't know whether or not the other intersections also have them, but we do have a crossing guard at the corner of Grove and King, and I want to thank Councilmember Sakran for his efforts in that area."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Right. Any more questions or comments to the T&T report?"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, "I just want to build on this one point that we've all been discussing. It is critically important that we get control of some of these roads in our City, and I'll just use Orange Grove Road as an example which is a major artery in my district. It is a State road, and we cannot get the traffic speed limit reduced because it doesn't meet, as you pointed out Councilmember Seekings, the criteria, even though that road is totally surrounded by residential communities. So, I applaud what you are doing, and we've got a lot of work to do to further that and thank you for your report."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Right."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregg.

Councilmember Gregg said, "Just so we're all aware, I don't know if you know this, but it costs about \$250,000 to repave one mile of a road in good condition. So, as we think about taking ownership of some of these roads, it's \$250,000 using current DOT funding cycles. The South Carolina DOT is on a 100-year repaving cycle, so, think about that as you go back to your districts, and we might expect DOT to repave our roads once every 100 years. I don't think that's going to cut it."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "They told me 99."

Councilmember Gregg said, "Yes, 99, I'm sorry, I rounded up."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Seekings.

Councilmember Seekings said, "So, just very briefly, to Councilmember Gregg's point, and he's right, it's very expensive to pave. We own a lot of roads that we don't pave. We don't do paving, and the County and the DOT still do paving through some obligations that they've got, and that's one of the things that we want to get a real handle on. Just because we've taken ownership of some of these roads, we're not paving them, I mean, others are with our money, by the way. I mean, if the half-cent sales tax is collected, it's our money that we're spending there. So, again, this is the very nascent stages of a process to really get a handle on what we own, what it costs us, and what the long-term prospects are if we start taking things back so we can do things like build the Low Battery, put a stop sign up, lower speed limits, and all of the common sense things we would like to do that we don't get to do because we are under a separate set of rules. I just want to make sure, Mr. Somerville, did I miss anything?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, the Committee report did include a definitive matter for Daniel Island."

Councilmember Brady returned to the Chamber at 6:33 p.m.

Councilmember Seekings said, "Correct. We need a motion."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So we do need to vote on the Committee report."

Councilmember Seekings said, "So moved."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Second."

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

No one else asked to speak.

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

- (i). Bike Share Program Update – Robert Somerville, Trisha Botty, and Adriana Lopez Hernandez
- (ii). Pedicab, 6 Decal Discussion – Robert Somerville
- (iii). City/State Street Maintenance Discussion – Councilmember Seekings (*DEFERRED*)
- (iv). Valet Parking 88 Broad Street – Robert Somerville, Mallary Scheer – Legal
- (v). Fairchild at Riverlanding Intersection Improvement Project – Daniel Island – Mallary Scheer, Legal
- (vi). An ordinance to amend Chapter 21 of the Code of the City of Charleston (Offenses Ordinance) by adding a new Section 21-2 to Article 1. (Parking or Staging of commercial vehicles) (*DEFERRED*)

Councilmember Seekings said, "Thank you, all, very much."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, Councilmember Seekings. We hope all is well."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, now, back to our section on [Petitions and Communications](#), we have three items up. First is a report, as mentioned earlier, from [Adrian Swinton who is our Manager of the Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission](#). Adrian, would you come forward? As she's coming forward and just a last tidbit, Councilmember Gregg, thank you for your advocacy to get that agreement done to improve the intersection over on Daniel Island. I saw the next day there was a letter to the editor, so you might call that individual and let him know you got that done. Take credit for that. Adrian Swinton."

Ms. Swinton said, "Thank you, everyone, again, for your attention. We have a progress report. As stated earlier, we wanted to stay in compliance, so we are here to give a progress report on where the Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission, known as HARCC, is at the current moment.

So, just a little background, Council may already know, but for those who are listening in and those who are here, on June 9, 2020 the Mayor and City Council voted to create the Special Commission for Equity, Inclusion, and Racial Conciliation. This Commission was charged with dismantling systematic racism when it comes to a policy level. The Commission consists of six Councilmembers and over 40 volunteers. They were divided up into seven Subcommittees, and those were Criminal Justice Reform, Economic Empowerment, Health

Disparities and Environmental Justice, History and Culture, Housing and Mobility, Internal Review, and Youth and Education. That report totaled over 100 recommendations. The Special Commissions were recognized here today. There are several others who weren't here, but we want to acknowledge the leadership. City Councilmembers were those six, and the co-Chairs for the whole Commission were Councilmember William Gregorie, along with Councilmember Jason Sakran. We have former Councilmembers Carol Jackson, Marie Delcioppo, and Councilmember Ross Appel, and Councilmember Keith Waring. Community members were also there, but we had leads for each of the seven Subcommittees. So, Housing and Mobility was Tracy Doran, Economic Empowerment was Alvin T. Johnson, Jr., Health Disparities and Environmental Justice was Dr. Kimberly B. Willis, Criminal Justice Reform was Jerome 'Jerry' Harris, and taking the lead for Youth and Education was Crystal Robinson Rouse, History and Culture was Dr. Felice Knight, and Internal Review was Daron Lee Calhoun, II. We also thank you for the leadership. That transitioned into the Human Affairs and Racial Conciliation Commission (HARCC). So, on February 9, 2022, Charleston City Council established HARCC as a permanent Commission. These are our current members. Our co-Chairs are Councilmember Jason Sakran along with Mr. Jerry Harris, Councilmember Stephen Bowden, Councilmember Michael Seekings, Bonnie Cleaveland, Carroll Frye, Alvin T. Johnson, former Councilwoman Carol Jackson, Robert 'Bob' Simons, Kim Long, and recently appointed Rev. Dr. Adam Shoemaker. This compiles the HARCC Council, and we have a very diverse group.

We had several focal areas. So, the way we approached this, as Councilmember Gregorie stated, we saw the City Plan. The City Plan has an element of equity and resilience component to it. And, so, we reviewed the Special Commissions for intersectionality for the City Plan. And, we prioritized three areas. It was Economic Empowerment, Housing and Mobility, and Criminal Justice Reform. We looked for the intersections, and then we created the Work Groups. The Work Groups met and did recommendations via the progress report that was distributed to Council. The recommendations, we asked that you are going to review the recommendations, and it is very important and vital that we get those recommendations to Standing Committees. It is only when we operationalize that we're able to implement those recommendations.

We are making progress, and we want that progress to be known, and we don't want it to become stale. That's why it must go to Standing Committees. I'll show you an example of that. For example, Transportation. The City Plan states, 'Work to improve access to comfort of the CARTA stations in the City of Charleston through connections with neighborhoods and expanding the street furniture and other amenities provided at stops.' That's what the City Plan said. So, the Special Commission's recommendations that align right with the City Plan, just in different wording stated, 'Collect and analyze more area specific data to pinpoint the locations and neighborhoods which would benefit from increased street-scaping, lighting, and right of ways in order to properly access mobility needs across the City.' The progress that we've made with this is HARCC had a presentation done by Morgan Grimes, and Morgan is the Community Outreach Coordinator for BCDCOG, and she does it for also the neighboring jurisdictions. So, she was able to incorporate and collaborate with HARCC, and we will also be a part of those conversations moving forward. And, we are working with them in neighboring jurisdictions to advance existing plans to provide water taxi/high-speed ferry systems as a public transit option. So, we have a path forward. We will review the final recommendations. We have four left, but we decided that we're going to work on two this time. So, those two that we're highlighting are History and Culture, and we're going to go inside the City of Charleston and look at Internal Review. We're also going to look at Health Disparities and Environmental Justice and Youth and Education. They won't be left behind, but we're going to focus on those two for the current time.

These are the goals we have. Our next review will be July 2023. The recommendations from the three will be passed through Council, and the City Progress Report for Culture and History and Internal Review will be disseminated to City Council for a discussion. We want to increase the engagement and the retention for the Racial Equity Corps Group. The Racial Equity Corps Group is essential for the City, because it represents each department of the City. We are working towards breaking down silos, creating partnerships, and collaboration. So, that is very important to understand what department has what culture, and what they're working on, because we don't want to speak on some work that we're not sure of, and we want to see if we have an opportunity for collaboration. And also, develop a Dashboard. We've been working on our website, and that is updated, but we need a way of tracking how these systems are working and what would benefit us when it comes to racial justice and racial equity.

Councilmember Appel was excused from the Chamber at 6:30 p.m.

So, a couple of my updates, many of you may not have known me before here, but I have worked at MUSC, and I worked in the Office of Equity. So, what is important to me is collaboration when it comes to internal and external. I have done this with many partnerships. So, internally I work with the Office of Innovation, Housing and Community Development, Minority Business Enterprise Office, the Mayor's Office for Children, Youth and Children, CPD, and I also have standing meetings with the Procedural Justice Director, Jillian Eidson, who also did a presentation about traffic stops at our last HARCC meeting. Human Resources, when it comes to onboarding, and creating the DEI video so that everyone could see that. That is a pillar with the City of Charleston. Planning, Preservation and Sustainability also take a lead in the Racial Equity Core Group.

Externally, I have worked with the leadership over in Charleston County. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, the Lowcountry Black Cultural Network, I'm on the Advisory Committee there, The Sofia Institute, doing racial healing circles, Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce, I'm on the Steering Committee, as we will have our first DEI Festival happening in 2023 this year. And, I also think it is fundamental to meet with those community leaders.

Doing presentations, I was privileged to have done a presentation with Housing and Community Development during their orientation for sub-recipients, the Commission on Women, Minority Women Enterprise Board Retreat, Center for Creative Retirement, that is associated with the College of Charleston, and the Association for Study of African American Life and History, also. Thank you for your time. Do I have any questions?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Any questions for Adrian?"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Sakran.

Councilmember Sakran said, "No questions. I just want to say thank you, Adrian, for the update. It's been tremendously helpful to see the progress, not just because I'm chair, but I feel like fellow Councilmembers probably want to know what's been going on, so I do want to say thank you for that. One thing I just want to emphasize that was embedded in this is for the chairs for our committees, particularly Public Safety, Community Development, and Traffic and Transportation, some of the recommendations that are embedded in the Special Commission Report that HARCC is pouring through, those recommendations will be coming to your Standing Committee, so please be prepared for dialogue, discussion. This effort is not going to come to fruition unless we take what we're talking about in theory, on paper, and bringing it to actual

action and legislative change. So, I just want to let you all know that those will be coming and we encourage you to have healthy debate, but they're coming your way."

Councilmember Appel returned to the Chamber at 6:33 p.m.

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

No one else asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, thank you, Adrian. We are so glad to have you as part of the City of Charleston team. We hate it for MUSC that you left them, but we're so glad to have you here, and you're doing a great job. Keep it up."

Ms. Swinton said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, next up we have a report on our Climate Action Plan and other matters of the [Resilience and Sustainability Advisory Committee by Katie McKain.](#)"

Katie McKain said, "Good evening, everyone. I just have a brief report from our latest Resilience and Sustainability Advisory Committee meeting, which was on February 2nd. We had 11 of 13 members present. The first item on the agenda, Dale Morris gave a lot of updates on some resilience projects. He keeps you very well informed on those, and I know you have some workshops on them, so I won't go into great detail on them.

Next on the agenda I presented a progress report on the implementation of our Climate Action Plan. The progress report is available on our website, and it has been e-mailed to all City staff. I believe you have all received a copy. I would encourage you to check it out if you haven't already, and let me know if you have any questions or any suggestions. That is only one and a half years into the whole five-year Climate Action Plan, so we're still pretty early in the process.

Then, finally, on the agenda, we continued the discussions on electric vehicle infrastructure policy for new construction, because we know that it is really costly and cumbersome to go back and retrofit buildings, so they have the electrical panel capacity, conduit, and wiring to add the charging stations in the future, and we're facing that right now in our City garages. So, the Committee at this point, reviewed a draft policy for this, and we look forward to continuing discussions with the development community and welcome anyone who is interested in providing input to improve that ordinance to contact us, and that's all."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Any questions for Katie?"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Parker.

Councilmember Parker said, "Not as much as a question, just thank you, Katie. I mean, you are, I can come to you, I can call you, e-mail you with the thread of an idea and you can take it and move it all forward, and you've done that for me multiple times, and I appreciate it. James Island appreciates all that you're doing. Thank you."

Ms. McKain said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Anyone else?"

No one else asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, Katie. Keep up the good work, as well."

Ms. McKain said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, "Before Katie leaves the microphone, we had a meeting about a couple of weeks ago, and part of her process, on some of these lots that the City acquires because of continuous flooding, some of the alternative uses when we turn them into victory gardens, or raingardens, and the like, the portion of the budget that we pass cut her out. It's a small amount, so when we do mid-year budget adjustments, it may be as much as \$10,000, I'm looking over at our CFO, who has a way of pulling rabbits out of a hat, instead of waiting until the following fiscal year, I think there may be a way to help with funding this year on some of those alternative uses to help get kids, families, involved when we come out with these raingarden ideas, maybe having hot dogs, balloons, to get the community to join in. That's the type of thing we're talking about doing. So, thank you, Katie, for all that you do."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I think in the meantime, she's trying to solicitate some grants or donations to try to keep that program alive this year despite what we do mid-budget, right?"

Ms. McKain said, "Yes. If anyone's interested in donating up to \$10,000 to support the Charleston Rainproof Program, just contact me. Thank you, all."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, "Based on what Councilmember Waring just brought up, why aren't we having Katie report to the Public Works and Utilities Committee more frequently? Yes. I mean, what you just said, Councilmember Waring, it's important. I totally overlooked it, and I think things that you have brought to our attention, that fits right into what we are doing with stormwater and public utilities and works. Let's get you in front of our Committee from time to time."

Ms. McKain said, "Sounds great. Sign me up."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Remember that every drop of water that Katie retains in a garden is a drop of water that doesn't have to go through your drainage pipe."

Councilmember Waring said, "You should see the smile on our CFO's face over there."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, Katie. Appreciate it. Good work."

Ms. McKain said, "You're welcome."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Lastly, Amy Wharton is going to make a report on our [Citizen Services Desk](#), 724-7311, just in case you needed that number."

Amy Wharton said, "Good evening, everyone. This will be brief. Just a quick outline of our Citizen Services, Citizen Services is a non-emergency hotline for City services and information. We formed it in mid-year 2018. It has five staff members, and it's an easy way for

our citizens to report a problem, request a service, a complaint, and any City function that they have in one unified place, single point of contact. Any questions? Three ways that citizens can contact Citizen Services, it's online and that's the address, by phone, which the Mayor just said the number, and then by e-mail, as well. Technology: so Cisco is the Call Center module that with workflows, that's what everybody calls into, Gov.QA is a Customer Request Management System, and that's used to track all of the requests received through the Call Center, GIS, Online Maps and Interactive Web Applications, which I'm sure all of you use our GIS option, as well, City App, Mobile app which allows customers to submit requests, and then we have Citibot, as well, which is another app that our customers can utilize.

In 2022, Citizen Services handled 72,617 calls. That's an average of about 6,000 calls per month with an average talk time of 1 minute and 24 seconds and average hold time was 20 seconds. 88% of those calls were handled by our staff immediately. They're easy questions, questions that are easily answered, not necessarily easy questions. I said that wrong. Sorry. Then, some of it's just forwarding it on to other jurisdictions, etc.

Request Type of Frequency: 16,302 service requests were entered into Gov.QA. All of those are assigned to a department for some type of response. 8,119 of those requests came from the phone calls, the 72,000 phone calls that I talked about in the previous slide, 8,141 were generated through the online portal, and then the remaining come from various sources: direct reports by City staff, customer comment cards, e-mails, City App, etc. The top ten requests were, I'll just read out the top three which are garbage can requests and complaints, garbage not collected, and broken malfunctioning parking meters, and then trash not collected. Those were the highest volume of calls, and then, you can see the rest of them that were minimal.

So, our Service Level Agreement (SLA) is to respond to requests within one business day. This does not mean that it's completed. It just means that somebody has to respond to it within one day. Our SLA was 72%, so that means 70% responded to it within one day. We're currently looking at our SLA and how to better track it developing realistic timelines for when things should be completed and actually tracking the completion time, so that is something that we're working on and not just the response times, and that's really all I had. Anybody have any questions?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Any questions for Amy on this?"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie.

Councilmember Gregorie said, "I mean, we use it, we use this system. Can you still track status? It's status, right?"

Ms. Wharton said, "Yes."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Okay. That's really good."

Ms. Wharton said, "That's the Gov.QA module, so we can look at and see where something is, and if somebody calls back, then we can look to see if it's already been entered. We don't enter it again. We just follow up."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "It works for us very well."

Ms. Wharton said, "It does."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Sakran.

Councilmember Sakran said, “Just very quickly. Thank you, Amy. Number one, it’s amazing that it wasn’t until 2018 we did this, so thank you, Mayor, and the rest of the team. It’s been helpful for a Councilmember, especially new Councilmembers. A lot of the questions I get can really be directed to this service, and then, the last piece, I’m glad to see in the top rated questions the number one wasn’t ‘Who is my Councilmember?’”

There was laughter in the Chamber.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “They do handle calls like that, as well.”

Ms. Wharton said, “It could have been, but see that would have been an immediate thing that’s answered and not tracked necessarily.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “But I find it amazing, you all, that over 16,000 actual work orders in a year’s time get put in for everything from repairing a sidewalk to a pothole to picking up the trash, or repairing or replacing a trash cart. How we managed before we had these wonderful folks answering these calls, and they do it so politely, by the way, they’re kind of supervised immediately by Brian Sheehan who is our City Ombudsman, and then, during emergencies like when we have a hurricane coming through town, and we’re taking emergency calls, they’re actually open 24/7 taking calls in our emergency response, so these employees even do more than just this 8-hour day. Whenever the need arises, we have that Call Center Unit that we can use for other purposes, as well. They’re very responsive, and I think all of you use them. Sometimes it’s easier just to tell our citizens ‘Oh, you’ve got a little something you need to report, just go ahead and call 843-724-7311, and that way it gets entered into the system and gets tracked.’ But I just thought at least on an annual basis that we should share these numbers with you all and let you know how many calls we’re seeing, and particularly, about the categories, as well. Any other questions?”

No one else asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Alright. Thank you, Amy. Appreciate it very much.”

Ms. Wharton said, “Yes. Thank you.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “So, we had our T&T Committee already, so we can go next to our [Committee on Public Safety](#), Councilmember Shahid.”

Councilmember Shahid said, “Thank you, Mr. Mayor. The Committee on Public Safety met yesterday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. The first order of business was the approval of an amended ordinance dealing with noise from Sound Trucks. This ordinance dealt with the amplification component. That recommendation was passed unanimously by our Committee. As you may know, if you’ve been hanging around Broad Street at any time, there seems to be a particular driver who travels up and down Broad Street at certain hours of the day with his amplified complaint about government of some sort, so I think that will help address some of the noise issues that people have been complaining about from that.

I’ll skip to the Racial Bias Audit in a second, but the other consideration we need to vote on was approval to submit an application for the FY23 for a School Resource Officer. That dealt

with approving resource officers for, I think, three schools. The Chief is on the line, but it was Memminger, School of the Arts, and what other school? That's just left my attention, but this was a grant to fund those officers, SROs, at those three schools. The Chief is on the line. He can add more comment to that than I have.

Then, we'll go to the Racial Bias Audit Report, and I think we've got Captain Cretella available. Let me just remind you very briefly that we passed this Racial Bias Audit in 2019. The results of the audit had 72 total recommendations and 48 findings which were then broken down into 5 sections. As of to date, over 98% of those recommendations have been achieved to compliance, and 37 are at full compliance, but I'll let--is Captain Cretella available online, Chief, and he can discuss that report?"

Chief Luther Reynolds said, "Yes."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Chief, you want to lead off on that?"

Chief Reynolds said, "Sure. Actually, Tony's going to lead us off, and I'll kind of add my comments after him."

Captain Tony Cretella said, "Thank you, sir. So, just for everyone's awareness, when we started the Racial Bias Audit, we asked them to focus on five different areas. The first area was traffic stops to include our field contact cards, the second area was use of force to include deadly and non-deadly interactions, the third was the complaint process that also involved our internal and external complaints, the fourth one was community-oriented policing practices, and the last section, which was our fifth, was a focus on recruitment, hiring, promotions, and personnel practices.

So, as Councilmember Shahid said that over the past three years, we achieved a compliance status of roughly 98.5%. When we talk about compliance, I'm going to give you some examples just so we're all on the same page. So, to start off there are 37 recommendations that have reached a status of full compliance with an annual review. This means that we've satisfied the recommendation, however, it's so important that we go back and review it, and this could apply to policy and procedures. Some examples might be the Constitutional issues and motor vehicle stops policy, our response to resistance policy, or even the Office of Internal Affairs policy. Part of these recommendations also looked at to develop a strategic plan for recruitment and hiring, develop a comprehensive annual training plan, and to also incorporate de-escalation and a training-based scenario training. Once again these are just some examples of our recommendations that have achieved the full compliance with annual review status.

Then, next we have 33 recommendations that reached a status of full compliance and by that we mean that we've achieved the status, and there is nothing else that we can do with the recommendation. An example of that would be as one of the recommendations was to add a sanctity of life statement within applicable policies, so we did that. We added sanctity of life to two policies, our response to resistance policy and also our lethal and less lethal weapons policy. So, we satisfied that recommendation, but once again, there is nothing else for us to do with it. Another example would be to develop a disciplinary matrix which is internally to discipline our officers should we need to go there. So, once again, we developed it, and there is nothing for us to do with that. So, that's why those recommendations were labeled full compliance.

The last recommendation is for the third-party review process, and we are happy to say that after all of this work over the last two and a half years that we are finally at a point to announce that we have identified a State university that we've been in communication with. We are in negotiations with a contract, and we are hoping to present a formal contract to City Council by the next meeting and get that signed off on so we could progress with the third-party review, and those are the ways that we classified all of the recommendations.

And, just some further nuggets out there to talk about the importance of the audit, is over the course of the last year and a half, we've done roughly three press releases and more interviews just to communicate with the public where we are with the audit. There was conversation about creating a final report or a mid-year report, and we basically said that when we create these reports, they either end up sitting on someone's desk, or they end up in an e-mail that's really not applicable or usable, so we created the Dashboard with the help of our GIS unit. They did a phenomenal job. We've updated it twice last year, and we also added a feature on there that says when it was last updated, and that was a recommendation from CPAC. We listened to CPAC and their concern was, 'We don't know when the last time it was updated,' and, you know, they had a valid point so we were able to do that. We've also routinely presented CPAC with some updates throughout the course of the year and then in addition to that, we added some hyperlinks to the Dashboard and as we grow as a department and create more reports and more ways to make this audit successful, we will continue to update it and provide routine updates. Any questions in reference to any of the recommendations, or the Dashboard, or what we've done so far?"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie followed by Councilmember Bowden.

Councilmember Gregorie said, "It's not really a question, but I guess it's more of a request, and I do know that we have the Dashboard for us to track incidents, etc. But, is there a way for you to report to at least the Public Safety Committee the reductions in stops that might be racially motivated? Why I'm saying this is because I'm sure that you've gotten the note from CAJM which alleges that there are still some issues that remain that need to be addressed some of which, I think, are legitimate questions. I don't know whether or not they have any substance, is what my issue is. So, at some point, I'd like for the Public Safety Committee to sort of give us a report on change because that's not what I've heard yet. I've heard that we've done the recommendations etc. etc., but have we had any changes based upon the allegations which caused us to do the report, which for me is a better way for all of us to see whether or not there, in fact, has been change."

Councilmember Shahid said, "I asked that specific question, not as to the stop part."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Councilmember Shahid, can we let Captain Cretella respond to Councilmember Gregorie first and then I'll call on you. Actually, Councilmember Bowden was next."

Captain Cretella said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. So, in reference to your question, it's a great question to have. There were some disparities, and we finally have gotten to the point now where we worked for the last three years to make all of our data essentially talk to one component. Prior to this, we have the data available, but you had to take each individual report and layer it on top of one another, and it was not feasible to do. So, within the last month, we were able to link all of the data together and now that we have this data, we are going to work on training for our officers. We just went through Geo 29 which is our Constitutional issues and

motor vehicle stops policy that has been through our Command review process internally. We'll be presenting that to our department within the next two weeks to get them fully trained on that, and then, hopefully, within the next two to three months we will have a report to the Public Safety Committee on what the data was prior to that and to see if anything has changed within those 45 to 60 days on when we present that material."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Bowden.

Councilmember Bowden said, "Thank you. Captain Cretella, I'm going to press you a little bit on this, and I hate, I never want to ambush staff. You guys work hard, you're here late, and so I passed along some of these questions earlier. So, I'd like to know, and the Racial Bias Audit is getting pretty dated now, I mean, this was completed years ago. What's the most recent data showing on racial disparities, specifically motor vehicle stops, use of force incidents, and decisions to search once the stop has been made?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Captain, could you hear that question?"

Captain Cretella said, "Yes, sir. So, in response to that, as I just stated, all of our data sets just sort of literally linked up early this year, so we finally have these reports, and we're able to do that, and like I said it's taken us a while. As you know, in government some things take longer than normal, and one of the big key assets was for us to get a check mark on our uniform traffic citations which is unique, so we were able to track this data. One might think how hard could it be, but it's a State-owned system, and it's only applicable to the City of Charleston throughout the whole State of South Carolina. That almost took a year to a year and a half to essentially get that to the point where we are now, and we are finally having the data come. So, like I said, it literally just came through probably around the first of this year that the systems were able to talk to one another.

So, now that we have that information available, we have to digest it, we have to see if there are any disparities, and to just check with our policies and see what our objectives are, and like I said, hopefully, 45 to 60 days from now, we can provide a report to the Public Safety Committee and I would say give an overall depiction of where we are and where we want to be if there are any issues there."

Councilmember Bowden said, "Okay. Well, I would hope that we could get that specific question answered a lot faster. I mean, this entire Racial Bias Audit report criticized the data keeping, and I appreciate the qualitative answer there. That's great information for all of us and certainly something I can take back and explain to my constituents, but I want to hear numbers. I want to hear quantitative data that tells us whether we are continuing to see these disparities after the work that's been done so far. Without that data, we're flying completely blind with all due respect, and so, I'm a little disappointed that we can't have that answer tonight. I want to move on a little bit. What do you all feel, you mentioned partnering with a university, was that the, I think we authorized some money to continue a partnership with USC a couple of weeks ago, I guess, are we going to see some information coming out of that about what causes disparities and when can we expect that partnership to start bearing fruit?"

Chief Reynolds said, "Mayor, if you will, it might be good for me to kind of wrap a little bit of context into this discussion at this point, if that's okay?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Sure, Chief."

Chief Reynolds said, "So, I'm just going to kind of add context to this because there is way more to this than just numbers and disparity, and there are people in that e-mail, Councilmember Bowden, with all due respect, they kind of are almost intimating that none of these other things matter, it's only the numbers that matter. To me, our policies do matter, our culture matters, our training matters, the people that we hire matter, how we recruit them, the retention of our people matter, so there's a lot more to this than just the numbers. We've worked with the Police Executive Research Forum, a very highly respected organization that I'm the Vice-President of, we work with the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Major Cities Chiefs of Police Association, we've hosted meetings here, we've hosted meetings online, we've sent people to different conferences, and we've worked with the Association and Society of Evidence Based Policing. Just one example of the five areas that this audit focused on is hiring and retention. If you look around the Country, if you look around the region, if you look around the State, agencies are getting crushed. They're not able to hire. If you look at what happened in Memphis, there were failings in the hiring process, there were failings in the standards, there were failings on so many different levels, and we actually have become a national model, people are coming to Charleston. We're actually going around the State and around the Country to actually talk about evidence-based approaches, and how we hire, and our retention, and a whole variety of things, and our training of the people that we hire and the culture that we have within our organization.

We've incorporated partnerships, as you mentioned, with USC, with Clemson. We've got our Procedural Justice Director position filled which was an extensive search and it did take time, and I said the day that this audit was done it would probably take us five years to sort through the data questions and the data issues. What I will tell you, and I'll tell everybody listening, and I know that I have the support of the Mayor and the community, is that we are not just going to make the numbers match up. We're not going to placate people just to talk about the numbers in some check the box manner, and say, 'Okay, we'll de-police these communities to make the numbers look better.' I have people pleading with me from a lot of the communities that are being impacted by shootings, violent crime, gangs, retaliation shootings, and a whole variety of other things, for more cops, more policing, more partnerships, and so this is a lot more than just the numbers. The numbers are absolutely very important, and I'll just say that the CNA audit is an ongoing extensive body of work. It's adaptive. We are adapting, and we are creating evidence-based practices and outcomes, problem-solving efforts, and how we police our community, and I'll get to an example, maybe a more concrete example. As Tony said, we just began getting some of this data in 2021, 2022, and then currently move forward, and we have a portal that was started with the White House Data Initiative under President Obama, and the Committee, and the Council on Policing well before I got here. A very amazing practice of sharing data and I challenge you to find many organizations in this Country that have the extensive data that we have. It's still not enough. There is still a lot more that we need to do. Disparities do exist. We're closely examining. We're asking ourselves, 'Why do we police in certain areas? When are we policing in those areas? Where? Who's involved? What can be changed?' We'll never abandon or de-police in those communities that need us the most, and I'll give an example with traffic. We had significant issues with our Traffic Division, and we were very public about some of those problems that existed and about some of the things that we've done since then to do more with traffic. I'll tell you I talk about the three 'Es,' people get tired of me probably talking about it, engineering, enforcement, and education. Enforcement is but one

small piece of the equation of traffic. The number one complaint in every community in our City, in every region in this Country, is traffic. It's a significant problem, and in our City alcohol-related fatalities were a very significant problem, and, so, we focused on that with our Traffic Division on the areas where the highest number of fatalities, injuries, and personal property damage, where the quality of life complaints were, and where assorted other issues were occurring. This past year, as a result, our DUI enforcement efforts and a variety of other things have increased, and the alcohol-related fatalities have plummeted. The bottom dropped out. The number of alcohol-related fatalities were significantly lower.

Just last week we talked about in our Citizens Police Advisory Council, and I have to say these things, because there has been a tremendous amount of work put into this by a lot of people, and we have done a lot with this audit, and we will continue to do a lot to make sure that we get to the right place, we're not there yet, but we talked about traffic stops openly and invited the whole community. We announced it through the media and a whole variety of other areas of why, when, and where we do traffic stops, how we do them, what to expect, what our policies are, what our trainings are, what our outcomes are, and we continue to do a lot of Citizens Police Advisory Academies. I would encourage you to participate in that. Numerous other Councilmembers have, and we are redefining what good police work looks like. It honors and respects all. We want to reduce crime and save lives while respecting those we interact with. We're building relationships with all of our partners, with our residents, and with our youth. We've created LENS which is a 501(c)(3) Police Foundation which has done a lot to help us get funds for different initiatives within the communities and building trust and outreach efforts. We continue to pivot to a better place on so many levels, and numbers are important, but I will tell you there is a lot more to this audit and the culture that we have in our Police Department and the outcomes that we're achieving, and it's an ongoing effort, and its real change, its lasting change, and it's focused on outcomes. I will tell you we want to answer those questions, and we can't answer them all tonight. I share those questions. I'm very passionate about it, and we continue to drill down, but it's not as simple as a lot of people want to make it, and I'll stop there."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, did you have a follow up?"

Councilmember Bowden said, "I do, and I'm actually, and I appreciate all of that information, and I have been clear with anybody who has asked that CPD is second to none as far as Police organizations go. I think we lead in this area I think we lead in this region, and I appreciate everything that you just said, Chief Reynolds with the exception of criticizing the community members who are asking these questions as demanding de-policing. It's a frustrating implication, but, to me, as a policymaker, I appreciate that you're changing policies, and I want to know about that, but what I cannot make decisions on is qualitative information that is completely devoid of the data. Nobody's asking anybody to manipulate the numbers or try to achieve a particular outcome that makes us less safe, that make the numbers bear out a certain thing that makes us less safe, and I want to make sure that that is being made perfectly clear. I simply want to know what the data shows. Have we gone far enough? Are the policy changes working? And, I appreciate that that sounds like it's going to come, and I will look out for it in 45 to 60 days. I'll leave it there, but I just think that people in our community who pay taxes, and work hard, and live in our communities deserve better answers than what they just got."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, sir."

Chief Reynolds said, "And let me just say anybody who has any questions, I would never criticize. I think those are great questions. I think there are questions that have come to us from day one, and we are embracing those questions, and we want to get better answers, and we want to get better outcomes, so I'm not criticizing anybody."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Sakran.

Councilmember Sakran said, "Thank you, Mayor. I do have a question for Captain Cretella. When will the third-party assessment cover each of the four major areas in the Racial Bias Audit? That's number one, and are you going to lean on some of the community for some of those questions or forming of the direction on moving forward? I would say you've got a built-in Commission, the HARCC Commission led by Jerry Harris who is also on CPAC, right here to help with that. So, I guess my initial question is when will the third-party assessment cover each of those four major areas?"

Captain Cretella said, "Thank you, Councilmember. So, what we're looking at is, hopefully, like I said by the next City Council meeting, we could propose the contract, and it will be accepted. Once it's accepted then the contract lays out everything that we're looking at, and there are aspects within the contract that they will be working with CPAC, that they will be working with the community, you know, this third-party entity is not just going to come in with closed blinds and just focus on straight CPD. Part of it was talking about the community-oriented policing practices, so they will be charged with going out in the community and seeing, are we making a difference in the community? Do we have the trust within the community? So, absolutely, we will be working, like I said, with CPAC and with the community, as well."

Councilmember Sakran said, "And I realize that this effort is Herculean in terms of like collecting data particularly when the data was probably disparate, different sources, it was not combined in one central location, but why has it taken so long to basically begin the third-party assessment? Has it been cost?"

Captain Cretella said, "No, sir. So, what we wanted to do is the third-party review would come in, and we wanted to bring them at the very end and that was one of the recommendations, actually the last recommendation, from CNA was to have the third-party review come in and actually assess each one of the recommendations, 72 of them or there's 71 actually, and just to say, 'Have we met the threshold?' If so, good job. If we haven't met the threshold, what we need to do to improve it or how do we need to maintain it? You know, what's going to be our response to ensuring that we are maintaining it and reporting it back out to the community. And it wouldn't make sense on the front end or the middle end to bring the third-party review in because we want to make sure that we had enough of these recommendations fulfilled to actually give them some substance to work with."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "If I may interject, Captain, have they estimated how long it would take for them once the contract is approved to do this review?"

Captain Cretella said, "They have, Mr. Mayor, and it's--"

Cassandra Payton said, "It's three months, Mayor, from contract execution."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay. Thank you."

Ms. Payton said, "Yes, sir."

Councilmember Sakran said, "Thank you, Chief, and thank you, Captain."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Councilmember Sakran, did you have a follow up?"

Councilmember Sakran said, "No."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "You're good."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, "Thank you. Let me just circle back around to Councilmember Gregorie's question and to Councilmember Bowden's question because this was my last question that we brought up yesterday. I don't want to use the word nice, but it's important that we've complied with certain components of the audit, but complying with certain components of the audit, does that mean that we have completed the job? Because the questions that you all asked are a critical part because this is an ongoing process, maybe a daily process, to some extent to other questions you asked about stops, and how does that compare? Just because we completed an audit or checked off a box on an audit doesn't mean that we are 'in compliance' with what the audit has recommended. The work here is never going to be really done, quite frankly. This is something that we're going to have to be reviewing on a regular basis to self-test ourselves, to self-evaluate ourselves, and I said what the work the CPD is doing, they're committed to doing this. They've exhibited that, but we do have to give you some numbers that you could use so you have available to make the comparisons of where we were, where we are, and where we're going, and that's really critical with any good audit, I think. In adopting the practices, there's some recommendations that do require that we have completed something that may not need to be further reviewed, and Captain Cretella gave us some examples of that during the Committee report, but there are other ongoing components of this audit that we need to be on top of on a regular basis, and get back reports to make sure that we are continuing that compliance component, if that makes sense what I'm saying. So, I think the questions you all have raised have been very good questions, they understand those questions, and will come back hopefully with a report on the third-party review contract and let you know where we stand with that and then get this other data up and running that we can answer some more of these questions. We're not done. I mean, you look at it and say we have 98.5% compliance, that doesn't really mean anything except we've checked off a lot of the board boxes. It really means we've got a lot more work to do further down the road."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Right."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, "Mr. Mayor, I actually want to thank all of the dialogue that took place today. We went through, I'm going to pay a fine, one hell of a struggle, just to have the Racial Bias report done, and now we're to the point of actually checking boxes, having hard questions, and the leadership in the room to answer those questions. Frankly, there was a time when the leadership in the room tried to help stop all of this from happening. We wouldn't have had this conversation because there would not have been a Racial Bias Audit. Now, in my opinion, we lead the State in this. North Charleston took upon their Racial Bias Audit because of the action steps Charleston did, and we're all joined at the same hip. We crisscross municipal

boundary lines all of the time, so we have a professional Police force in Charleston, and we certainly want a professional Police force in Mt. Pleasant, North Charleston, Goose Creek, and certainly the region we travel every day. So, Councilmember Bowden, I really applaud you for the challenging questions you have asked. Councilmember Sakran, the exact same thing. This is what Councilmember Gregorie spoke about when he was applauding the Committee on Racial, Equity, and Inclusion when he said, I'm paraphrasing, 'White folks have to change.' There were times those questions that you asked would have never been asked, Councilmember Bowden, and the same thing with you, Councilmember Sakran, and we all get better as a result of that dialogue that took place. If the answers aren't readily available, we have a professional Police force that's going to do the research, and I have full faith and confidence they're going to report back numbers and the numbers will be honest numbers, and that's all we want. If the numbers are good, we want to hear those. If those numbers are negative, we want to hear them, as well, because we have the people to take the corrective action in place. Because of CAJM, CAJM brought something called pre-text stops to this Council. I think in a previous five-year period the City of Charleston had had over 130,000 pre-text stops, and in the Black community, that's referred to as 'driving while Black.' You actually get stopped, no probable cause, you get pulled over, and by the way, that's not just something in Charleston, that's something that's known from one end of the Country to the other in particular among African Americans.

Our Chief has told us that we don't police like that anymore, but when I asked, frankly, the previous Police Chief that, we got no answer. He didn't want the question, and 67% of those 131,000 pre-text stops were African Americans and we represent, at that time, 25% of the population. 131,000 pre-text stops, 67% were African American which represents about 25% of the population. That's what our Police force was doing. We don't do that anymore. Now, there are some more questions and challenging changes that we need to make, but we are all in this together. I have never felt like that before that we were in it together, but we are in this together, and on the other side, we're all going to be better as a result. So, I don't want anybody to walk out of here tonight thinking Councilmember Bowden isn't applauded for what he did, the challenging questions that he did, or Councilmember Sakran, or Councilmember Gregorie. We're all in this together. When I saw what happened in Memphis the other day, I actually had a conversation with Chief Reynolds. When I saw that, you couldn't tell me that those guys hadn't done that before, and that certainly goes beyond color, but I immediately thought what percentage of that Police force, now those guys who did it were also college graduates, but I'm wondering, what was the percentage of the Police force in Memphis has college degrees versus our college degrees? I grew up in this town that there was a time when we had a bully Police force, that's a fact. In Charleston, we had a bully Police force. We have a professional Police force today, and we take pride in that. So, the good, hard questions as asked in the public forum, and I believe our professionals respond, and I thank our Councilmembers for doing good work of being good Council people for the people you represent. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, thank you, all. If I may just add a comment or two. I don't think there is a better example of the expression that this is a journey and not a destination. When Captain Cretella reports that we've checked these boxes off, one thing that he explained to us that over 30 of those recommendations are clearly recognized as annual recurring topics, so to speak, that need the numbers every year, and the review for continued improvement, and even with the independent review of the audit's recommendations, we already recognize that this is an ongoing thing. And, Councilmember Bowden, I share your frustration that it's taken so long to get the data synced to where we're talking with the State and all like that, I mean, it's almost unfathomable why that would take so long. It did, so we're now in a good spot. We're finally syncing the information, we're going to be bringing it back to the Public Safety Committee

and to this Council those kinds of numbers and review of all those different topics, not just traffic stops, but a show of use of force, etc. that we need to know those numbers and the specifics in order to shape future policy, and that along with the review that we'll hopefully approve at our next meeting, that they just reported will take another three or four months, I think you're really going to see it come together. That doesn't mean that's the end of it. It just means we keep another step down this journey and this process, so I thank you, all, for your questions and attentiveness, and Chief, and Captain, thank you, all, for the report. More to come. Councilmember Shahid, did you have any other report?"

Councilmember Shahid said, "Well, I want to finish up the report, but I just want to add to what Councilmember Waring said. I wish I could tell you, Councilmember Waring, that pre-textual stops are stopping, but they still very much are existing, not with the City of Charleston Police Department, but in our community. I deal with it on a regular basis. Councilmember Bowden deals with it on a regular basis, and it undermines public trust and integrity when those things still occur. I wish I could tell you someday that will end, but I just don't see that on the horizon anytime soon. It's ongoing for us that we have to do, but I do applaud our Police Department, and our Chief, and their leadership. You're right, they are listening, they are responding to the questions, but we've got a lot more work to do, and I think that we'll be back with more information and answers. As long as I'm on this Council and involved in this administration, we will keep on pushing those responses.

I think we talked about the school resource officers. Two other discussion items that we had. We wanted to just highlight that the Salute to the Blue banquet, Councilmember Shealy, myself, and Councilmember Appel attended that with the Mayor of course."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "And Councilmember Parker."

Councilmember Shahid said, "And Councilmember Parker, that's right. You came a little late."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "But she was there."

Councilmember Shahid said, "We didn't see you until later on, we were up front in the room, but four of us were there. It was a wonderful evening. It highlighted the accomplishments of several of our Charleston Police Department officers and civilian employees. We want to tip our hat to Ben Navarro and to his group. They funded this banquet which was a first-class event, and it was just so wonderful to be able to sit with some of these officers and interact with them. Councilmember Appel and I sat next to the animal control officer. She wrestles alligators, so I would not wrestle with her at all. It was all really quite impressive, and I just wanted to highlight that.

The second item, and you touched upon this, Councilmember Waring, a little bit already, but the Memphis Police Department is just a sickening, sickening sequence of events. But the Mayor and I were in communication with Chief Reynolds when that video was released, and we were prepared in the event that there was a riot. I think there were 20 folks who showed up at Marion Square either Friday or Saturday night, but we were prepared in the event if there was something necessary for us to respond to in case of a riot. But we did talk a little bit more about what happened in Memphis, and it goes back to the lack of training, the lack of supervision, allowing these fellows, and you're right, Councilmember Waring, this was not their first rodeo on doing something like that. You could tell by the reaction to it, and they were even publicizing and sharing videos of Mr. Nichols as he was laying in the street literally dying from his wounds that

evening. So, we question the lack of humanity when we see a fellow human being doing something as terrible to another human being and when they're wearing a uniform and wearing a badge, it just adds to this whole level of where are we in this Country, where are we in this world when we see how people just disrespect humanity? It was an awful event. Hopefully, that the City of Memphis reacted to it quickly, suspended those officers, arrested them, and charged them, and we, hopefully, learn more and become better citizens for our community because of incidents like that. That's my report, Mayor, and we've got to pass the request for the school resources application and the amendment to the noise ordinance. I so move."

Councilmember Waring said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Parker.

Councilmember Parker said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to, the SRO grant, I am so excited to see this. I didn't make the Public Safety meeting, but this is something that myself and County Councilmembers have received a request for on James Island, and I just want to learn. I have to dive in and learn a lot about SROs and SSRTs and it's wonderful what our Police Department does to step in when the County, the Sheriff's Office, and/or the School Board can't fund a full-time SRO at schools, so this is really exciting. I guess my question is, is three all that we can ask for?"

Councilmember Shahid said, "No, this was just a grant to fund for those three schools. It was Memminger, James Simmons, and Charleston Math and Science, but we do have SROs in other schools throughout that are in the jurisdiction of the City which includes Berkeley County, as well, and throughout the other City schools. I think we have them, no, we don't have them in any private schools I don't think, but we do have the other police officers who are Rapid Response Officers in case of an event at a school. Those are the differences between the SROs and the SSRTs."

Councilmember Parker said, "Right. So, that's sort of my question because we have some schools that don't have a full-time SRO, so the SSRTs from CPD fill in, but a lot of times they travel to other schools. So, this may be, if Chief's still on the phone, maybe he can, you know, I'm just curious if this is--"

Chief Reynolds said, "Yes. I think your question is a good one, Councilmember. Thank goodness we live here where people want the police in the schools and, I mean, there are other places around the Country that are getting rid of their SROs and all kinds of crazy stuff. The requests I get here is every school wants one, and we have approximately 52 schools, and we can't put an SRO in every school. So, could we have asked for more grants? Yes, but the question is, can we actually put a cop in every elementary school and all of the different charter schools? That's why we have the SSRT to find that right balance, and the answer is we could have put in for more, we always can, I think, put in for more, they're always wanting more, and we have to find the right balance with what we have with traffic issues and violent crime and just being out in all of our communities and special events etc., etc. So, we feel like we've found the right balance. We look at it every year, and this was a tweak to add another one at Charleston Math and Science, and that's where we were able to expand it a little bit, and we continue to meet with the principals, and you're right, they all want an SRO. I mean, they would do anything to have a full-time SRO in every school in the County, and every school in the City, and we just, frankly, can't do that. That's a debate that comes up every year, and it's a good one."

Councilmember Parker said, "Okay. Alright. Thank you, and, yes, I mean, the SROs and SSRTs, the kids, the schools love them. So, thank you."

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

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Sakran.

Councilmember Sakran said, "Thank you, Mayor. It's my understanding that the School District does contribute to the funding for the SROs, right? So, it's a match of some sort between the City and the School District?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "That's correct. Chief, what's the total number of SROs that we have both individual in schools and the teams?"

Chief Reynolds said, "I actually couldn't even tell you with the SSRTs and SROs. We have all of the high schools covered, our bigger high schools we have a couple different SROs, all of our middle schools, and some elementary schools plus SSRT."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, it's dozens, but these three were just a supplement to a pretty good size staff that we have. Alright. Any other questions?"

No one else asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I need to call the question so we can approve that ordinance on number one."

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

- (i). Ordinance to amend Chapter 21-Offenses; Article II-Noise; Division 2-Sound Trucks; to update definition of Sound Truck.
- (ii). Approval to submit an application for the FY23 SCDPS School Resource Officer grant program to cover the salary and fringe for (3) SRO's for the FY23-FY24 school year.
- (iii). Update and presentation regarding Racial Bias Audit Progress
- (iv). Discussion regarding "Salute to the Blue" Banquet
- (v). Discussion on the Tyre Nichols/Memphis Police Department video and CPD preparation

First reading was given to the following bill:

An ordinance to amend Chapter 21-Offenses; Article II-Noise; Division 2-Sound Trucks; to update definition of Sound Truck.

The vote was not unanimous. Councilmember Parker voted nay.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We have a no."

Councilmember Parker said, "Yes."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay. So, next up is our [Committee on Public Works](#), Councilmember Waring."

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. All of the actionable items on Public Works were passed unanimously, and I move for the adoption of those items."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Any discussion or questions?"

Councilmember Waring said, "Well, I have two things I want to talk about. I just want to get the actionable items passed."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay, and which items were those, again, Councilmember?"

Councilmember Waring said, "Well, all of the actionable items on the agenda that required funding, obviously, (iii), (v), (vi), (vii), and (viii)."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay. Terrific. Any discussion or questions?"

No one asked to speak.

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

- (i). Authorization to notify SCDOT that the City intends to accept maintenance of 4210 SF of concrete sidewalk, 514 LF of granite curb and 1 residential horse carriage stamping in conjunction with the project at 518 East Bay Street.
- (ii). Environmental Services Update
- (iii). Update on Dominion Tree Trimming
- (iv). Update on AT&T Utility Work
- (v). Low Battery Seawall Repairs-Phase IV Fee Amendment #12: Approval of Low Battery Seawall Repairs-Phase IV Fee Amendment #12 with Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson in the amount of \$460,014.50 for the design of the next phase of the Low Battery Seawall from King St. to South Battery (~1,200 lf). Approval of Fee Amendment #12 will increase the professional service contract by \$460,014.50 (from \$\$3,754,570.36 to \$4,214,584.86). Funding sources for this project are: Hospitality Funds (\$17,077,901.53), Municipal Accommodations Tax Funds (\$15,651,479.68), Charleston County Accommodations Tax Fees (\$400,000.00), CWS Contributions (\$4,874,746.00) and 2022 Hospitality Revenue Bond (\$37,002,490.53).

- (vi). Spring-Fishburne Drainage Improvements Phase 5-Pump Procurement Change Order #1: Approval of Spring-Fishburne Drainage Improvements Phase 5-Pump Procurement Change Order #1 to the pump procurement contract with Xylem Water Solutions in the amount of \$183,840.00 for the disassembly of the 3 pumps and additional shipping costs and an additional \$162,605.60 for the remittance of Use Tax. Approval of Change Order #1 will increase the procurement contract by \$183,840 (from \$5,467,600.00 to \$5,651,440.00) with an additional \$162,605.60 being approved for the remittance of Use Tax for the pumps. Funding sources for this project are: King St. Gateway TIF (\$26,003,011.00) and the SC Transportation Infrastructure Bank (\$12,449,652.00).
- (vii). Concord Street Pump Station Upfit Professional Services Contract: Approval of the Concord Street Pump Station Upfit Professional Services Contract with Ruby-Collins, Inc., in the amount of \$542,490.00 for pre-construction services for the rehabilitation and upfit of the Concord Street Pump Station. Approval of this contract will obligate \$542,490.00 of the \$8,800,000.00 project budget. The funding source for this project is the Drainage Fund.
- (viii). MUSC Pump Station Upfit-Army Corps of Engineers Design and Construction Assistance Agreement: Approval of the MUSC Pump Station Upfit-Army Corps of Engineers Design and Construction Assistance Agreement with the Department of the Army for design and construction assistance for the upfit and rehabilitation of the MUSC (Courtenay St.) Pump Station. The agreement is for \$3,000,000.00 in Federal funding and \$1,000,000.00 in City funding. Approval of the Agreement will obligate \$1,000,000.00 of City Funding. Funding Sources for this are: 2023 Stormwater Operating Budget (\$500,000.00) and Drainage Fund (\$500,000.00).
- (ix). Update on Spring/Fishburne Drainage Project
- (x). Update on Glenn McConnell Parkway Drainage Pipe Project
- (xi). Update on Dupont Wappoo Drainage Improvement Project (*Requested by Councilmember Keith Waring*) (**Information Only**)
- (xii). Discussion regarding Lake Sandhurst (*Requested by Councilmember Peter Shahid*) (**Information Only**)
- (xiii). Discussion regarding procurement thresholds (*Requested by Councilmember Keith Waring*) (**Information Only**)

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Now for further discussion."

Councilmember Waring said, "Well, thank you. We had a number of discussions. One, I'm going to ask Mr. Fountain to get with Councilmember Shealy afterwards, again, for the sake of time, which dealt with Glenn McConnell and a pipe going underneath. I don't know if you had a chance to get together on that, but one I want to highlight was the discussion regarding procurement thresholds. In this City we have been at \$30,000, \$40,000, I don't know, for 20

years, and again, back to the same meeting that I want to give credit where credit is due, that Councilmember Parker pulled with our Sustainability Committee, on some of the smaller projects hopefully being able to move through faster and more efficiently. As a result of that discussion, the problem arose again which it arose several times about why projects slow down so much, in particular, smaller projects, but the piece about increasing that threshold from \$40,000 to \$100,000, but for that meeting wouldn't be on this agenda today, or but for that meeting would not have made it to our Ad Hoc Budget meeting. So, our staff is supposed to come back with an ordinance that will increase the threshold from \$40,000 to \$100,000 which will enable some of the smaller projects to get through a lot faster. So, Councilmember Bowden, you did a good job the last time, Councilmember Parker did a good job this time which it was a moot item for years. We needed to do it, but now it's taken to action steps, so I wanted to give credit there. Beyond that, any items on the report you all would like me to touch on. Councilmember Shahid."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Yes, and thank you, Councilmember. I wanted to talk a little bit about Lake Sandhurst. We did talk about that yesterday in our Committee. Just for Council's information, in my district is Sandhurst neighborhood which is off of Sam Rittenberg Boulevard and Orange Grove Road. There is a lake that was created when the neighborhood was established back in the 1960s. There are about 30 homes that are surrounded by this lake. It was not just a retention pond lake, it was a lake that was deep, people swam in it, people boated in it, it has a beautiful view from the backyards of many of these houses, but there are stormwater drains that fill into this lake, and it is soaked up. I've been in contact with Mr. Fountain about it and our Legal Department about it. There may be some issues dealing with the condition of the lake right now and the City's responsibility as to maybe some maintenance that has to go along with it. I just wanted to bring that up for information at this point. I met with the folks. They have their own Association dealing with this problem, and I met with them last month, and hopefully we'll get some more answers on how to help them with those problems. Just for information purposes only."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shealy.

Councilmember Shealy said, "Yes. Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and Mr. Chairman, and I know Mr. Fountain's going to talk to me afterward. I just want to ask the question, I want to thank Councilmember Bowden for his questions that he asked there, as well, in Committee, but I know at one time, we were capping these pipes because there were going to be requirements and regulations and some approvals needed. Now, are these different requirements the reason we have to split this, or have we just decided not to cap them?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I think the requirement remains. It's just a matter of the timing of the permitting is a lot longer than the County project is running on. We won't have our permitting in time."

Councilmember Shealy said, "Okay. So, the permitting didn't have anything to do with not capping them because if we capped them, we would still have the same issue?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "That's right."

Councilmember Shealy said, "Okay. Thank you. That's all."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Parker.

Councilmember Parker said, "Yes. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Mr. Chairman, I'm not on the Committee, but Environmental Services Update, just curious about staffing. How is it looking?"

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you for that question because it was one of the shortest reports we've had all year. Everything is working fine. They're on time on everything, and we complimented Mr. Alltop and Mr. O'Brien on that because that's been a topic for so much of the previous year and coming into this year, but they have really hustled and hired and gotten on time picking up our trash. I can say this from personal experience. I can hear the trash truck in my house on the back street, so when I hear them on the back street, I have to hustle to get my trash can out there. Normally, last year I could take some time. I can't do that now. I have to hustle out before 8:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m. to get it out there. So, they're on time."

Councilmember Parker said, "That's great. I was just curious because I know last year, I think we were at 16 individuals, I mean, in our entire Environmental Services Department."

Councilmember Waring said, "And they have also commented that the pay raise has helped a lot in being able to hire additional people. The pay raise that we have fought, paid, worked, and scratched, added up the calculators, it's making a difference with new hires in that department in particular."

Councilmember Parker said, "Okay. Thank you for that update. Then, just the Dominion tree trimming, I know that was an issue at the last--we don't have to go too deep, I'm just, did we have conversations? Are we open to having conversations with them?"

Councilmember Waring said, "I'm going to let Councilmember Appel answer that. He spoke to it eloquently yesterday."

Councilmember Appel said, "So, I encourage you to check out YouTube, there is a really good summary. There's too much to get into right now, but Dominion has a mandate from the State, PSC, and they have to trim these trees, and the question comes down to the process, the coordination, the communication, and things of that nature. We have a new agreement in place between the City of Charleston and Dominion. It allows for more care and attention to be placed on certain specific trees. Mayor Tecklenburg made a very good request to the Dominion staff for them to maybe pay some special care and attention to some of the oldest neighborhoods that we've got in West Ashley and James Island that has just the best trees in the City. No offense to anybody else, but when you talk about Riverland Terrace, and you talk about Old Windermere, and neighborhoods like that, you're talking about 70-, 80-year old grand trees. I think there is an acknowledgment on Dominion's part that they're going to cooperate with us in that respect, but a big part of this is communication. I think it falls upon all of us on Council to do what we can to help explain to our constituents the process because we all know what happens when people see these cuts. There is a natural, understandable, visceral, emotional reaction to seeing Mother Nature treated that way, and it probably goes back to our evolutionary past like when we see our environment getting handled like that. We've all seen the Facebook posts and the way people react. I felt that way.

So, it's a process, it's a communications challenge to try to explain to constituents why Dominion is doing this. It's important. They have to do it for a service reliability prospective, safety prospective, and things of that nature, but it needs to be done in a measured, professional, transparent way. The reason we had this item on the agenda yesterday was just to make sure all of the different players in the process Dominion, the City, Council were all just clear on all of the various components so that when it's time for the contractor to have the chain

saw in their hand going to cut a tree that nothing is lost in communication. We have that timeout, so we make sure we're following all of the procedures, we're communicating properly, and we're managing this, but they've got to cut these trees, you all. There's going to be a lot of people upset about it, but we've got to manage it, and long term, we've got to get much more committed to getting power lines under ground in our neighborhoods. We've improved that process. I think we still need to make sure we're doing everything we can to fund those projects and get those projects moving because that's ultimately the solution is to take the issue off the table. The Crescent in my district, Country Club II, both of those neighborhoods have done complete neighborhood-wide undergrounding projects, Wappoo Heights is very close to getting underground, and then, Old Windermere is moving its way up the old list. So, we're doing these projects, but we've got to make sure that we're continuing to fund and make that process work as good as it can, and then continue to coordinate with Dominion and just really make sure that when they're going through these neighborhoods, extra care and attention is being placed so that we do what we've got to do to preserve Dominion service reliability, we're doing what we can do to maintain safety, but at the same time we're protecting this beautiful and natural resource that we have, so that's it in a nutshell. I probably went a little longer than everyone wanted, but it's an important issue, and we've got to keep our eye on the ball. Thanks."

Councilmember Waring said, "I want to say one other thing. As part of that conversation, the Mayor had a very good idea. He asked Dominion about some of these neighborhoods, the older neighborhoods, that have these 70, 80, 100 year old grand trees, can we ask for special consideration in those areas? But, one of the things when the Mayor brought that up, Councilmember Appel came up with, 'Well, maybe we can come up with just undergrounding short distances.' If you've got, I don't know, 20 grand oak trees on a particular street, undergrounding that portion and then coming back up on the other line as opposed to doing these V cuts. I actually think that was a very good idea that should turn into an action step, and now, what's that bill with the fee income, maybe we can generate additional fee income to preserve our older neighborhoods with the grand trees to incorporate the idea that you came up with Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We don't have to do the whole neighborhood at once."

Councilmember Waring said, "That's right."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We can pick the most special spot and try to do those as smaller projects and preserve those trees and those neighborhoods' character."

Councilmember Waring said, "I thought it was a wonderful idea that shouldn't just die with a conversation. It should move to an action step. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Absolutely."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie.

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Yes. Mr. Mayor, I understand the why's, but the results are tragic. They really are. They totally destroy the streetscape of neighborhoods, and trust me, I've seen after the cutting how they grow, and it looks pretty good over time, but when you do it every two years instead of every five, we never---"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Every two years?"

Councilmember Gregorie said, “Yes. Yes. I know it’s supposed to be every five years, right, not on Grove and Dunneman. Sorry. It’s been every two years. Well, at least it’s been done twice in the last couple of years, I’ll say. Because I was about to compliment them because the trees were growing beautifully, they were looking better---”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “And here they come again?”

Councilmember Gregorie said, “Destroyed it. I mean, our neighborhood looks horrible. Grove Street, Rutledge Avenue, Dunneman, I can go on and on. It’s not good. I mean, and I think it even affects our property value if you want to know the truth because it destroys the streetscape. It’s horrible. Hopefully, when spring comes and there is a little growth, I may feel better, but right now it’s horrible. I can show you some pictures, Mayor, that you would say, ‘Wow, this tree is going to die,’ and they do kill a few, too, as a result especially in neighborhoods where we paid to have the trees planted. Because in our neighborhoods, we had that option and we did, \$150 or whatever, but, I mean, the bottom line is I understand why it’s being done, but the process, Mayor, it really, really looks bad. I agree underground, yes, but you’ve got to get everybody in the neighborhood to agree on that. I’m ready to go underground.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Not anymore. We can do short distances now.”

Councilmember Gregorie said, “Okay. Let’s do my block.”

There was laughter in the Chamber.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Yes. That’s part of our new arrangement. Alright. Anyone else?”

No one else asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Councilmember Waring, is that the end?”

Councilmember Waring said, “That’s the extent of my report. Thank you.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Thank you. Alright. Thank you, all, for that discussion. Next up is [Committee on Ways and Means.](#)”

Councilmember Shealy said, “So moved.”

Councilmember Mitchell said, “Second.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Any discussion on any of that including the Real Estate report?”

No one asked to speak.

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

(Bids and Purchases

(Parks Department: Approval to accept the 2023 Keep South Carolina Beautiful Annual Support Grant in the amount of \$10,000, to be used for litter prevention,

beautification, and sustainability efforts conducted by Keep Charleston Beautiful. There is no match required.

(Mayor's Office for Children, Youth, and Families: Approval to submit the continuation grant application to CNCS for the AmeriCorps VISTA Project, which will allow us to provide up to 21 VISTA member positions, 2 VISTA Leader positions, and 16 VISTA Summer Associate positions to local non-profit organizations and public agencies working to move clients out of poverty. There is no match required per the terms of the grant, we provide the cost share funding amount through Site Fees received from participating organizations.

(Budget Finance and Revenue Collections: Approval of a 1st Amendment to Agreement between the City of Charleston and Bridge Corporate Solutions, LLC for additional realtor services related to the location and acquisition of land for public safety purposes. A sales commission is only paid with successful completion of a transaction generated by the contractor and would be included as a part of the land acquisition cost by the City. Commission is 4% of the sales price up to \$4 million and 3% for anything thereafter.

(Fire Department: Approval to apply for the 2022 Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG). The department is requesting cardiac monitors, airway kits, and training simulators to equip and train personnel in advanced life support skills. This is an after the fact request since the application period closes on February 10, 2023. The grant requires a 10% match of \$66,500.

(Stormwater Management Department: Approval of Low Battery Seawall Repairs-Phase IV Fee Amendment #12 with Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson in the amount of \$460,014.50 for the design of the next phase of the Low Battery Seawall from King St. to South Battery (~1,200 lf). Approval of Fee Amendment #12 will increase the professional service contract by \$460,014.50 (from \$3,754,570.36 to \$4,214,584.86). Funding sources for this project are: Hospitality Funds (\$17,077,901.53), Municipal Accommodations Tax Funds (\$15,651,479.68), Charleston County Accommodations Tax Fees (\$400,000.00), CWS Contributions (\$4,874,746.00) and 2022 Hospitality Revenue Bond (\$37,002,490.53).

(Stormwater Management Department: Approval of Spring-Fishburne Drainage Improvements Phase 5-Pump Procurement Change Order #1 to the pump procurement contract with Xylem Water Solutions in the amount of \$183,840.00 for the disassembly of the 3 pumps and additional shipping costs and an additional \$162,605.60 for the remittance of Use Tax. Approval of Change Order #1 will increase the procurement contract by \$183,840 (from \$5,467,600.00 to \$5,651,440.00) with an additional \$162,605.60 being approved for the remittance of Use Tax for the pumps. Funding sources for this project are: King St. Gateway TIF (\$26,003,011.00) and the SC Transportation Infrastructure Bank (\$12,449,652.00).

(Stormwater Management Department: Approval of the Concord Street Pump Station Upfit Professional Services Contract with Ruby-Collins, Inc., in the amount of \$542,490.00 for pre-construction services for the rehabilitation and upfit of the Concord Street Pump Station. Approval of this contract will obligate \$542,490.00 of the \$8,800,000.00 project budget. The funding source for this project is the Drainage Fund.

(Stormwater Management Department: Approval of the MUSC Pump Station Upfit-Army Corps of Engineers Design and Construction Assistance Agreement with the Department of the Army for design and construction assistance for the upfit and rehabilitation of the MUSC (Courtenay St.) Pump Station. The agreement is for \$3,000,000.00 in Federal funding and \$1,000,000.00 in City funding. Approval of the Agreement will obligate \$1,000,000.00 of City Funding. Funding Sources for this are:

2023 Stormwater Operating Budget (\$500,000.00) and Drainage Fund (\$500,000.00). (Parks-Capital Projects: Approval of Fire Station #19 Renovation Change Order #1 with Satchell Construction, LLC, in the amount of \$37,692.73 for duct cleaning, flooring change, additional demolition services, lighting changes, new doors and 36" kitchen hood. Approval of Change Order #1 will increase the construction contract by \$37,692.73 (from \$194,056.00 to \$231,748.73). Approval of this change order will amend the project budget, increasing the project budget from \$225,000.00 to \$237,573.07. The funding sources for this project are: Reserve, Deferred Maintenance (\$225,000.00) and the Maintenance, General line-item in the Facilities Maintenance Operating Budget (170100-52410)(\$12,573.07).

(Housing and Community Development: Mayor and City Council are requested to approve a grant derived from Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids (HOPWA) funds in the amount of \$341,000 for the acquisition of land in the West Ashley community of the City of Charleston. PCAP needs to close transaction by March of 2023. *(To be distributed under separate cover.)*

(Mayor's Office for Children Youth and Families: Approval to accept a grant for \$25,000 from the CFE Fund to build capacity of the Bank On Charleston efforts to provide safe, affordable bank accounts to unbanked and underbanked individuals. Through this grant, we will focus on increasing the number of new bank accounts, conducting outreach and promoting Bank On to connect residents to financial empowerment services and resources, and provide matching funding for individuals who open a new bank account as funding allows. There is no match required.

(Police Department: Approval to submit an application for the FY23 SCDPS School Resource Officer grant program to cover the salary and fringe for (3) SRO's for the FY23-FY24 school year. There is no match required for this grant.

(Fire Department: Continue the annual contract with South Carolina Department of Mental Health, Charleston Dorchester Mental Health Center in the amount of \$21,942.84 for specialized mental health services to area firefighters and their families. This contract was due in October 2022, but there has been discussion as to the length of contract and renewal periods.

Executive Department: Authorization for the Mayor to execute on behalf of the City of Charleston an amendment to the Public Defender Contractor extending the term through December 31, 2023 in the amount of \$60,000.

(Approval of the Third Amendment to the Lease Agreement between the City of Charleston and the Charleston Digital Corridor Foundation. The property is owned by the City of Charleston. (997/999 Morrison Drive) (TMS# 461-13-01-056/057) [Ordinance] **(AMENDED)**

(Authorization for Mayor to execute an Emergency Access Easement across an easement owned by the City of Charleston to Sher Brothers, LLC (owner of Silver Dollar) to facilitate a required emergency exit for its patron. [Ordinance]

(Authorization for the Mayor to execute on behalf of the City of Charleston the First Amendment to the Option to Lease between the City of Charleston and the Grove on Johns Island, LP, a South Carolina Limited Partnership for the period ending, May 31, 2023. Except as modified by this Amendment, all terms and conditions of the Option to Lease shall remain in full force and effect. The property is owned by the City of Charleston. (Fenwick Site/Johns Island) (TMS# 346-00-00-004)

(Approval of an Amendment to the Lease Agreement extending the Lease between the City of Charleston and Traverse Point, LLC (landlord), for use of the building for the Police Department for an additional year until March 31, 2024. Base rent will increase by a rate of 3%. (2093 Executive Hall Road, Charleston, SC 29407) (TMS# 351-01-00-049) [Ordinance]

(Please consider the following annexations:

- 635 Magnolia Road (0.34 acre) (TMS# 353-13-00-031), West Ashley, (District 9).

The property is owned by Michael Dysart and Laurie Griese.

- 9 Apollo Road (0.20 acre) (TMS# 418-13-00-229), West Ashley, (District 9). The property is owned by Sue B. Chanson.

First reading was given to the following bills:

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute on behalf of the City a Third Amendment to Lease Agreement pertaining to the Lease Agreement between the City and the Charleston Digital Corridor Foundation of property located at 999 Morrison drive dated January 19, 2016, as amended by First Amendment to Lease dated January 9, 2018 and Second Amendment to Lease dated May 28, 2019. (AMENDED)

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute Emergency Access Easement Agreement for the benefit of Sher Brothers, LLC

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute a Lease Amendment between City of Charleston and Travesse Point, LLC to extend the lease term an additional year to March 31, 2024, for property located 2093 Executive Hall Road, Charleston, SC 29407.

An ordinance to provide for the annexation of property known as 635 Magnolia Road (.34 acre) (TMS# 353-13-00-031), West Ashley, Charleston County, to the City of Charleston, shown within the area annexed upon a map attached hereto and make it part of District 9. The property is owned by Michael Dysart and Laurie Griese.

An ordinance to provide for the annexation of property known as 9 Apollo Road (.2 acre) (TMS# 418-13-00-229), 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 Sue B. Chanson.

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

Councilmember Brady said, "Move to take 1 through 17 together."

Councilmember Shealy said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes. I believe we've got 17 of them, and I think they're all as presented, so no amendments. Any questions or conversation about any of these?"

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Shealy, seventeen (17) bills (Items L-1 through L-17) received second reading. They passed second reading on motion by Councilmember Mitchell and third reading on motion of Councilmember Brady. On further motion of Councilmember Shealy, the rules were suspended, and the bills were immediately ratified as:

2023-019 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON BY CHANGING THE ZONE MAP, WHICH IS A PART THEREOF, SO THAT 1320 FOLLY ROAD (JAMES ISLAND) (APPROXIMATELY 0.46 ACRE) (TMS #427-01-00-011) (COUNCIL DISTRICT 6), BE REZONED FROM LIMITED BUSINESS (LB) CLASSIFICATION TO

GENERAL BUSINESS (GB) CLASSIFICATION. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY JOSEPH FIPPS.

2023-020 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 54 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON (ZONING ORDINANCE) BY AMENDING PORTIONS OF THE RHETT'S COVE PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT MASTER PLAN AND DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES TO AMEND SECTIONS RELATED TO LAND USE, ZONING CRITERIA, BUFFERS AND PARKING (RHETT'S COVE PUD - JOHNS ISLAND) (APPROX. 10.6 ACRES) (TMS# 279-00-00-029, 279-00-00-030, 279-00-00-031 AND 279-00-00-035).

2023-021 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE 2 (LAND USE REGULATIONS), PART 2 (PERMITTED USES BY BASE ZONING DISTRICT), SEC. 54-207, P OF CHAPTER 54 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON (ZONING ORDINANCE), TO EXTEND CONDITIONAL USE PROVISIONS TO ALLOW AN INCREASED NUMBER OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS ON LARGER LOTS.

2023-022 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON BY CHANGING THE ZONE MAP, WHICH IS A PART THEREOF, SO THAT 372 LYNWOOD DRIVE (WEST ASHLEY) (APPROXIMATELY 0.33 ACRE) (TMS #310-12-00-079) (COUNCIL DISTRICT 11), ANNEXED INTO THE CITY OF CHARLESTON DECEMBER 6, 2022 (#2022-177), BE ZONED SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (SR-1) CLASSIFICATION. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY RICKY BRADLEY.

2023-023 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON BY CHANGING THE ZONE MAP, WHICH IS A PART THEREOF, SO THAT 521 ST. ANDREWS BOULEVARD (WEST ASHLEY) (APPROXIMATELY 0.33 ACRE) (TMS #421-03-00-113) (COUNCIL DISTRICT 11), ANNEXED INTO THE CITY OF CHARLESTON DECEMBER 6, 2022 (#2022-170), BE ZONED SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (SR-1) CLASSIFICATION. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY ZEYI CHEN AND ZHIRONG YANG.

2023-024 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON BY CHANGING THE ZONE MAP, WHICH IS A PART THEREOF, SO THAT 1401 RIVER FRONT DRIVE (WEST ASHLEY) (APPROXIMATELY 0.21 ACRE) (TMS #352-10-00-036) (COUNCIL DISTRICT 9), ANNEXED INTO THE CITY OF CHARLESTON DECEMBER 6, 2022 (#2022-172), BE ZONED SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (SR-1) CLASSIFICATION. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY MADDIECO LLC.

2023-025 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON BY CHANGING THE ZONE MAP, WHICH IS A PART THEREOF, SO THAT 1603 PINECREST ROAD (WEST ASHLEY) (APPROXIMATELY 0.09 ACRE) (TMS #351-12-00-060) (COUNCIL DISTRICT 9), ANNEXED INTO THE CITY OF CHARLESTON DECEMBER 6, 2022 (#2022-171), BE ZONED SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (SR-2) CLASSIFICATION. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY MADDIECO LLC.

2023-026 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON BY CHANGING THE ZONE MAP, WHICH IS A PART THEREOF, SO THAT 1731 EAST AVALON CIRCLE (WEST ASHLEY) (APPROXIMATELY 0.28 ACRE) (TMS #352-13-00-136) (COUNCIL DISTRICT 9), ANNEXED INTO THE CITY OF CHARLESTON DECEMBER 6, 2022 (#2022-174), BE ZONED SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (SR-2) CLASSIFICATION. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY MADDIECO LLC.

2023-027 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON BY CHANGING THE ZONE MAP, WHICH IS A PART THEREOF, SO THAT 1754 JERVEY AVENUE (WEST ASHLEY) (APPROXIMATELY 0.09 ACRE) (TMS #352-10-00-069) (COUNCIL DISTRICT 9), ANNEXED INTO THE CITY OF CHARLESTON DECEMBER 6, 2022 (#2022-173), BE ZONED SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (SR-1) CLASSIFICATION. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY MADDIECO LLC.

2023-028 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON BY CHANGING THE ZONE MAP, WHICH IS A PART THEREOF, SO THAT 2056 PIPER DRIVE (WEST ASHLEY) (APPROXIMATELY 0.25 ACRE) (TMS #350-09-00-114) (COUNCIL DISTRICT 5), ANNEXED INTO THE CITY OF CHARLESTON DECEMBER 6, 2022 (#2022-169), BE ZONED SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (SR-1) CLASSIFICATION. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY ALYSANN LEE SIEREN AND CARL A JOHNSON.

2023-029 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON BY CHANGING THE ZONE MAP, WHICH IS A PART THEREOF, SO THAT 2161 WAPPOO HALL ROAD (JAMES ISLAND) (APPROXIMATELY 0.56 ACRE) (TMS #343-01-00-027) (COUNCIL DISTRICT 11), ANNEXED INTO THE CITY OF CHARLESTON DECEMBER 6, 2022 (#2022-175), BE ZONED SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (SR-1) CLASSIFICATION. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY TAYLOR HILL.

2023-030 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON BY CHANGING THE ZONE MAP, WHICH IS A PART THEREOF, SO THAT 2190 SAINT JAMES DRIVE (JAMES ISLAND) (APPROXIMATELY 0.20 ACRE) (TMS #343-01-00-079) (COUNCIL DISTRICT 11), ANNEXED INTO THE CITY OF CHARLESTON DECEMBER 6, 2022 (#2022-176), BE ZONED SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (SR-1) CLASSIFICATION. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY JEFFERY BOLEN.

2023-031 - AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON, A QUITCLAIM DEED TO DOMINION ENERGY SOUTH CAROLINA, INC., FOR A PORTION OF THE FORMER RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR MARSH STREET, CLOSED AND ABANDONED BY THE CITY PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION ADOPTED AUGUST 19, 1986, NOW DESIGNATED AS CHARLESTON COUNTY TMS NO. 458-01-04-025, SUBJECT TO THE RESERVATION IN FAVOR OF THE CITY AND ITS AGENTS OF ANY AND ALL NECESSARY WATER, SANITARY AND STORM SEWER, AND OTHER UTILITY EASEMENTS WHICH MAY RUN THEREON.

2023-032 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NUMBER 2022-201 PROVIDING FOR THE ANNEXATION OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1610 POINSETTIA ROAD TO CORRECT CERTAIN SCRIVENER'S ERRORS THEREIN, INCLUDING THE CORRECTION OF THE COUNCIL DISTRICT TO REFLECT DISTRICTS ADOPTED IN 2022 BY CHANGING THE DISTRICT FROM DISTRICT 9 TO DISTRICT 7, CORRECTION OF AN ERROR IN THE NAME OF THE PROPERTY OWNER ROBERTO ABBAH TO ROBERTO ABBATI, AND BY DELETING THE ANNEXATION MAP AND ANNEXATION PROFILE ATTACHED TO THE AFORESAID ORDINANCE AND SUBSTITUTING IN ITS PLACE AND STEAD A CORRECTED MAP, MARKED EXHIBIT A, AND AN ANNEXATION PROFILE ATTACHED HERETO AND INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE HEREIN.

2023-033 - AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ANNEXATION OF PROPERTY KNOWN AS 39 RIVERDALE DRIVE (.30 ACRE) (TMS# 418-14-00-061), WEST ASHLEY, CHARLESTON COUNTY, TO THE CITY OF CHARLESTON, SHOWN WITHIN THE AREA

ANNEXED UPON A MAP ATTACHED HERETO AND MAKE IT PART OF DISTRICT 9. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY ANDREW STEEN.

2023-034 - AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ANNEXATION OF PROPERTY KNOWN AS 480 MAGNOLIA ROAD (.17 ACRE) (TMS# 418-13-00-151), WEST ASHLEY, CHARLESTON COUNTY, TO THE CITY OF CHARLESTON, SHOWN WITHIN THE AREA ANNEXED UPON A MAP ATTACHED HERETO AND MAKE IT PART OF DISTRICT 9. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY TRICIA SANDUSKY AND RYAN SANDUSKY.

2022-035 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2-ADMINISTRATION; ARTICLE II-CITY COUNCIL; DIVISION I- GENERALLY BY MODIFYING SEC. 2-24 (ADOPTION OF ORDINANCES).

The vote was not unanimous. Councilmember Parker voted nay on Item L-17.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, we did have one item I saw listed here is withdrawn, number 19. Do you want us to have a [motion to withdraw number 19?](#)"

The Clerk said, "Yes."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "So moved to be withdrawn."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Second."

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

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Mitchell, seconded by Councilmember Gregorie, City Council voted unanimously to withdraw Item #L-19.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Next we do have [one item up, I think, for first reading](#) and that came out of our Ad Hoc Rules Committee Report, so I'm going to call first on Councilmember Brady."

Councilmember Brady said, "Yes. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. So, the Ad Hoc Rules Committee met on Friday at 2:00 p.m. to kick off the ruining of the Friday afternoon before going into Valentine's Day weekend, so, but I just wanted to note on what we have up for consideration tonight. So, there are two things, one is related to the appointments in terms of doing a change for how appointments come through from the Mayor's Office. I would add that that passed unanimously out of the Rules Committee. You can see the language in here where the Mayor would submit the slate for his appointments to the committees as well as the chairs by the first meeting in December, and then the approval by Council could be given no later than the second meeting in January understanding that time of year we have the holidays and that type of thing. So, it effectively gives a month for review, and as I said that passed unanimously out of Committee. The second portion was at the request of the Clerk's Office. Some cleaning up of some of the language in the statute there just moving some things around for how stuff got listed on the agenda, that type of thing, and that passed unanimously out of the Rules Committee, as well. So, I do want to thank Councilmember Sakran, Councilmember Bowden, and Councilmember Waring, and the Mayor for serving on a committee that really dived into the minutia of our ordinances as they relate to the Rules of Council and how we propose ordinances

and everything else, so I do want to thank you guys for your service. Hopefully, it didn't take up too much time, but I would ask that we adopt that as presented."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Is that a motion?"

Councilmember Brady said, "That is a motion."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "And I had a couple of questions."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie.

Councilmember Gregorie said, "The first question has to do with how vacancies will be filled. I think the way it's written now is that those vacancies will be filled based upon the Mayor's recommendation, and I think that vacancies should be filled the same way we do the others. The Mayor makes the recommendation, comes to Council, Council says yea or nay on the vacancies, that's the first thing. The second thing is on ordinances and how those ordinances get to ratification. I think we should do the same thing across the board. In other words, when the administration and when we say staff, we're really talking the administration, when the administration forwards an ordinance, I think that it should go through the same process. We should have two weeks just like we do for when Council or other Commissions submit, I think that when the administration submits, the same procedure should be applicable unless it's an emergency of some sort, but I don't know why we're making those distinctions. An ordinance is an ordinance be it from the administration, from this body, or other Commissions, I think all should be handled exactly the same unless there is an emergency. Give us two weeks. One of the biggest complaints, especially Councilmember Lewis, one of the biggest complaints that we always had was we would come in, and there's an ordinance on our desks that we have not even reviewed that needed to be voted on. In order for us to safeguard against that, give us two weeks on any ordinance that comes before this body unless it's an emergency. Why are we making the rules different for the Legislative Branch than we are for the Administrative Branch or the Executive Branch of government? It should be the same across the board unless it's an emergency ordinance that we've got to get done. Why not give us two weeks on all of them is my recommendation for changes to the amendments to the ordinance? One, vacancies, they go through the same process, and two, all ordinances be it from the Legislative Branch or the Executive Branch should go through the same process is an amendment I would like to add unless I'm reviewing it incorrectly because right--"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Bowden followed by Councilmember Shealy.

Councilmember Bowden said, "Sorry to interrupt. This is just a point of order. Didn't we, we voted on the adoption of ordinances."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "No."

Julia Copeland said, "2-24, Councilmember."

Councilmember Bowden said, "That was number 17."

Ms. Copeland said, "We can revisit it with amendments."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Did that include that one because I did raise it at the last Council meeting and my question was, where was the information regarding the submission of ordinances? I think I did, and it was my understanding that it would be done now, so maybe I misunderstood, but I definitely, even if we did and we've already voted on it, I'd like to offer an amendment at some point."

Ms. Copeland said, "We will look at it."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "I just think with the Legislative Branch, the policymaking branch, if we're going to spend two weeks, the Committee, then to the body as a whole, the same thing should happen when the Executive Branch is pushing ordinances through. This does not apply to the Executive Branch. Am I correct in terms of the process for getting an ordinance through first, second, and third reading?"

Ms. Copeland said, "So, if it's coming directly out of Committee how it's written right now, there is a two-week cooling off period if it's coming directly out of Committee. If a Legislator or a Councilmember wants to introduce legislation, it starts with Council Communications, Council directs staff to draft, then it goes to the next Standing Committee, and then the Committee will send it back to Council for consideration. So, the two-week cooling off period is just if it's coming directly out of Committee without a Councilmember bringing it to the floor first."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Okay. But if it comes from staff which to me is the Executive Branch, we can call it staff, but it's still the Executive Branch, how does that process work based upon how it's currently written? It doesn't have to go through all of that."

Ms. Copeland said, "Well, technically, I mean, if it's coming from staff, it would start at a Committee level, technically, and then Committee would present it to Council. Council would either give it a first reading at that presentation, or they could push it for more review by Committee. I've seen that happen before."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Or it could come directly to this body without going through a Committee."

Ms. Copeland said, "It could come directly to this body for first reading."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Correct, and the body, as a whole, then makes the decision. All I am saying is let's make sure all of them go through the exact same process."

Ms. Copeland said, "Understood."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "That's all."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I appreciate that suggestion."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid followed by Councilmember Gregg.

Councilmember Shahid said, "I just want to change the conversation on another topic, Mr. Chairman."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Could I call on Councilmember Shealy first? I had recognized him prior and skipped over him."

Councilmember Shealy said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I agree with Councilmember Gregorie on something. The way this is written right now in the case of a vacancy in any committee or in the chairpersonship of any committee from any cause during the Mayor's term of office, he shall fill such vacancy. I agree that I think this should go through the same process especially if we're looking at a new chairperson. If it's not going to be the vice-chairperson that takes that, which almost seems to make sense, then I think that the full Council should agree on that replacement."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. So, let's keep our conversation right now on the motion that's on the floor which has to do with the Committee Appointments, and this point is relevant."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, "Well, if we're going to just focus on 2-49, I'll defer until we go to the next topic of discussion."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Appel.

Councilmember Appel said, "So, I'm not a big fan of the changes that we're making to 2-49. I think that the Mayor as the Executive and the Head of Council under our strong Mayor form of government, he is akin to the Speaker of the House under our system that we've had for generations. I mean, that's just a fact, and so this is unprecedented. There's not a single municipality or county in the region that does this. The Town of Mt. Pleasant that has a weak Mayor form of government, the only power the weak Mayor has is to appoint committee chairs and committees. This is a radical departure from our precedent. It's an anti-conservative measure. We're just changing the form of government due to a circumstance that happened with Councilmember Seekings and the Transportation chairmanship which has now corrected itself. I think it's a knee-jerk reaction, I think it's a solution to a problem that doesn't exist, and I think it's going to cause extremely counter-productive logrolling battles on Council, factionism, pitting members of Council against one another. Because what's going to happen when the Mayor proposes somebody to chair a committee when there's a sense on Council that there's a problem with that. You're going to have people pressing their green button and saying and taking positions publicly why that person shouldn't be on this committee or should be on that committee. This is what's going to happen next year if we adopt this, so I think this is not something we ought to do. It's unprecedented. It's, in my view, in search of a solution to a problem that doesn't really exist, so I'm not inclined to support this. I would suggest that perhaps as a way we could make this a little bit better is we allow the Mayor to appoint the members of the committee, and we just have the chairs up for consideration because every single position on every single committee is just going to be thrown onto the floor of Council. How is it going to actually work at this first meeting in January? People are going to make motions from the floor to take themselves off of committees they don't want to be on, people are going to make motions on the floor saying somebody across the table doesn't deserve to be on X committee because of this reason and that reason and the other reason. Let's at least minimize the damage here by just focusing on the chairs of each of the committees."

I think the Mayor has an important role in this City structure that we've had in place for decades to establish a committee structure that can help execute an agenda, and I think there ought to be a really good reason for the Mayor's decisions to be subverted, so to that level I think there should be a supermajority requirement, a two-thirds vote requirement to usurp one of the Mayor's selections as committee chair. Because otherwise, I think we are just going to have unbelievably counter-productive battles on the floor, and I just don't think it's a good policy. I just think that we ought to be a little bit more circumspect before we make such a radical change to existing structure. When I say radical, I mean there is nobody in the region that does this, and I challenge supporters of this legislation to point to examples that are contrary to that position that I have. I'll just close by saying again the weak Mayor for the Town of Mt. Pleasant, the weak Mayor, the weak Mayor, his only power that distinguishes himself from other councilmembers is the ability to appoint committee chairs and committee appointments. So, we are taking that power away from the Executive in our strong Mayor form of government, and I don't think it's good for this administration, for a future mayor, and mayors beyond that. I think we're rushing into this. If you vote for this, you are taking a radical anti-conservative position with respect to the structure of government. When the Supreme Court makes a decision that people don't like and people toss out the idea 'let's expand the Court,' what is the reason why that is considered not a prudent decision? It's because we're changing the structure of government because we don't like the results that certain decisions were made under the existing framework. I just think it's not a good idea, and I think we ought to reject this or at the very least put some more detail and structure into this so that we're only talking about committee chairs, and we include a supermajority vote so that we at least give Council some pause before trying to reverse proposals that are set forth by the Executive. So, with that, I'll rest."

Councilmember Waring said, "Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring followed by Councilmember Mitchell.

Councilmember Waring said, "You had your hand up before me? Go ahead."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "No, I don't have too much to say about it whatever they're going to do, they're going to do, but I'm going to say that this is something that has been in effect for 100 years. That doesn't mean it's correct. Changes are being made every day. Now, I've been here almost 20 years. Councilmember Lewis was sitting here, and he was the Chairman of Community Development and that next year, they made me Chairman of the Committee and made him co-Chair. I sat right here, and I saw what was happening, and I said, 'Mr. Mayor, no, Councilmember Lewis is Chair. He likes being the Chair. Let him be the Chair and I'll be the co-Chair, and I will learn,' and we did right here on the Council floor. We were right here on the Council floor, and that's the way we did it. We made that change right then. Everything just went smooth. Some people are afraid of changes, and I have seen many changes since I have been here, many changes. Some of you, like I have said, are just new, but I have seen the changes that have been here because some people do not want to change.

I told you all before when we sent someone up to the Attorney General's Office, we sent two Councilmembers up there, what we could do and what we can't do, but we can do a lot of things with seven votes because seven votes was the one that gave the power that they have to the Mayor as it is. That was right after I came on Council, and I knew every last one who was on Council prior to me getting on Council, and I think Mayor Tecklenburg knew the Attorney General during that time because he was an employee of the City, and that's who gave the Mayor the power. Council is the only way to take it back, but they have to specify what they

want back, that's what the Attorney General said. But, he said, 'Now, let me tell you something, I'm not going to say it's not going to be a fight,' but that's the only person can do it is Council because Council gives it and Council takes it away, but you have to specify what you want to be involved in when you're doing it. That's all it is. That's simple. That's it. That's the current form we have under Home Rules, Mayor and Council form of government. That's all it is, but changes are always taking place, and we're going to sit here and let things happen that have been happening for 100 years, that didn't mean it was right.

I see a lot of things currently that aren't right, and I've been here a while not only on Council, but in the community a while and seeing what's taking place, and what's happening, and what's going on, and how people are feeling on both sides. That's why I try to stay in the middle and try to work with everyone on both sides, but we just have to look at things, and it's not going to hurt anyone. I don't think there's going to be a big fight on Council like some people think it is. We really normally don't have that. Some people might look back, and they will say they will vote their own conviction because that's your conviction. You've got the right to do that. That's your right, but I don't think it's going to be a big fight on Council or mix up on Council because we changed something in an ordinance or whatever the case may be. I haven't seen that happen since I've been here. So, we should not instill that in people's minds so that can happen. Sometimes we can instill in people's minds so they can put that on the table that it could happen. That's not the way I do things. I don't do it that way. I sit here and listen, and sometimes you will see me sit here, Mr. Mayor, and don't say one mumbling word and just listen. I listen carefully, but I know how to come back if I want to, but I sit here and let it go on because time is short. None of us might be sitting in these seats, and we are talking about who is going to come behind us. Districts have changed, people have changed, and they could vote every last one of us out of here, but that's all I've got to say. We've got to start being mindful and stop this kind of fishing, what we feel as personal things. I don't believe in that kind of carrying on."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, sir."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, "I'll defer to Councilmember Gregorie. I know he's already spoken."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Yes, and I'm going to have to leave in a minute anyway, but I just wanted to respond really quickly. What makes a mayor a strong mayor? Seven votes. Come on, come on. What makes the Mayor a strong Mayor is seven votes. His ability to come around and get the votes for his issue, and he is pretty good at that for the most part. He doesn't get everything he wants, but I think what makes the Mayor a strong Mayor is being able to get seven votes. All of this other stuff is not even relevant at least to me. Get your seven votes, and you've got your strength. We had a Mayor for 40 years, he had his seven votes in his pocket most of the time, and when he didn't, he came around like he does, too, and tries to convince folks to take the position. So, to me, all of this is just, I don't know, it's all about the Mayor having the ability to get his seven votes. That's his strength. Nothing else matters. That's his strength, and that's why much of his agenda has gotten through because he was able to convince seven people around this table to take his position. With that, Madam Clerk, I'm going to have to pull out, okay."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring followed by Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Waring said, "The first thing I want to do is I want to thank my colleagues for their reconsideration. I want to thank Chairman Brady and the Mayor. We had a lot of discussions on this, and the part that gets me on this is we've gotten through a Racial Bias Audit of the Police Department, we've had a review of our process, we just got through thanking members of the community who serve on the Racial Committee, and now the HARCC, so when it comes to the collegial conversations between colleagues on Council, with all due respect, Councilmember Appel, I believe we can do that. We can do it. It was Councilmember Brady that came up with the suggestion--I suggested the Mayor make his suggestions the first meeting in December, Councilmember Brady said, 'You know what,' I suggested the first meeting in January, and it was his thought process, he said, 'No, carry it to the second meeting in January. That gives more opportunity,' and this is my term 'cross-pollination,' between Councilmembers talking about positions with the Mayor and back around again. So, when we get to the end of the second meeting, if it takes that long until the second meeting of January, it's a quick vote.

The truthful part about it is there is no such thing as being the Mayor and a Speaker of Council. There's just no such position to say. I mean, nowhere in America. The Mayor is the Presiding Officer, that's what he is. As the Chief Executive Officer of this City, he is the Presiding Officer and is to ensure an orderly floor in a meeting. That's the primary purpose of a Presiding Officer, so we won't turn into Animal House. I think better of our colleagues than it's going to be a floor fight. I just really don't believe there's going to be a floor fight because we have standing committees now, so you're talking about just tweaking those committees.

One of the things Councilmember Brady didn't touch on, but you did see in the ordinance, the number of Councilmembers on most committees went from four to five which would enable more people to get on a committee and solve some of the issues that, frankly, Councilmember Parker brought up. The Real Estate Committee had just about everybody from West Ashley. I didn't realize that until she brought that up. It wasn't on purpose. I think we kind of evolved into that. For any Councilperson to come on and think that they don't have a prayer getting on one committee or the other, that's a problem with that process. That process needs to be more open. Every committee in this City, that's the process that it goes through. The Mayor recommends, in some cases we recommend people for the Planning Commission to the Mayor, and the Mayor brings it to us, and we commit to the route and we vote on it. But when it comes to the standing committees that we serve on that's the only time that's happened when we have no say. That's just not right. I mean, Councilmember Mitchell is right. If it's been there 100 years, that doesn't make it right. I can go through a lot of laws that were laws that I'm sure glad they changed.

So, I think some of the conversations, and I think it will be collegial, between Councilmembers, 'You're on Sustainability, I'd like to get on Sustainability, or maybe I want to get off of Sustainability,' that's a conversation I look forward to having with our colleagues. Councilmember Gregg being an engineer, not being on the Public Works Committee, I don't think that's on purpose. I think it's an oversight, but I actually think the Committee would be improved by having an engineer that's on Council that's seeing it from different angles because we get elected by sections, but we really are here to serve collectively the whole City. When we vote on the budget, I don't vote on the portion that subscribes to District #7, and you only vote on the portion that subscribes to District #11. We vote on entire budgets for the whole City, so it's that collective thought process that makes us better.

So, I want to thank, again, my colleagues for reconsidering and thinking about this because there was a time where we weren't even going to have this discussion on the floor of Council. We've had the discussion, and I think we're better for it. I do believe this is a better result. I thought about that, the hybrid position of being Mayor and Speaker of Council, there is no position in America where the Chief Executive has the Legislative Branch or even a Judicial Branch. There is a reason it works in this democracy, that separation of government. So, I always like your passion, brother, but I hope you would support this. Mr. Chairman, you had the motion on the floor, I hope the idea about being consistent through the ordinance, I didn't think about that at the meeting where replacements the Mayor would recommend, I think that should be even easier. As far as replacing one person, every year the Mayor comes with us and we normally find that out at the meeting who the Mayor Pro Tem is going to be, and normally that's a unanimous vote. So, picking one person, Council can do that, as well. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid followed by Councilmember Bowden and Councilmember Sakran.

Councilmember Shahid said, "I wasn't going to comment about 2-49, but since we brought it up, I agree with my colleagues on one thing that's critically important. The system of how we are appointing members to committees needs to be addressed because of points that we have. We do need to take in consideration our backgrounds, you know, what is our occupation or our profession, where do we live, do we have racial balance on these committees, do we have special expertise or special concerns or something of special importance to us, or because of the district that we represent that we have concerns about where we need to be heading with the committee appointments. For a lot of times, we're jockeying around trying to make sure those balances fit and sometimes it just doesn't, and you used the example, Councilmember Waring, about our one engineer on the Council not being on Public Works and Utilities which is a really good point or the balance about how many folks we have from West Ashley on Real Estate. So, I'm going to vote against it as it stands for this reason. I think there is a way to fixing this a little bit differently, and one is that the City Councilmember appointment should be based on certain criteria and that criteria should be what we have been outlining. Let's make sure that we have a balance. I'm real concerned, and that was what my initial question was going to be as to Section 2.5, as to the rationale for increasing the size of each of these committees. I mean, all of us are overworked, and that means when you start adding more Councilmembers to these particular committees, that means we're going to get more appointments on these committees, and the idea of a committee, as I understand it, is to be a subsection of the whole to take in consideration that particular issue that is before that committee be it Public Works, or Public Safety, or Traffic and Transportation, whatever, to come and hear the discussion about that particular item that is before that committee and then report that out to the committee as a whole. When you start having five members or six members, you're not becoming a subsection, you're becoming a minimum majority almost, and it is defeating the idea of what we're trying to do in committee.

A committee is supposed to be a reflection of a smaller section of the Council. We're 12 members and you start putting five and six, then you're creating almost a majority of the Council, and I think that's the wrong message of methodology and how you want to conduct government. The Mayor is the Presiding Officer of this Council, and there is this crossover that we talked about at the last Council meeting we had. There is this crossover between the Executive and the Legislative Branch. It's an odd situation. Some councils in some cities have a president of council. We don't have that in this form of government which is separate from the Mayor. The Mayor is, whatever you want to call it, the Presiding Officer, the President, the Speaker, whatever term it is, but he is the Presiding Officer, and the Presiding Officer's

responsibility is to include committee appointments. That's what a Presiding Officer does. You see it in almost every organization aside from City government that the presiding officer of any organization appoints his committee or her committee members.

I see that some of the changes in here seem to be good and see that some of the changes would address technical kind of issues, but when we get to Section 2.49 and 2.5, I just have a little bit of a heartburn with it. Your point, Councilmember Gregorie, is what you said about what makes a strong Mayor."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Seven votes."

Councilmember Shahid said, "You know what makes us a weak Mayor? Seven votes. It's the reverse of that."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Oh, I know that."

Councilmember Shahid said, "I know you know that. So, what I would like to do is as it stands now, I'm going to vote against it unless we make some changes to it. I just am not comfortable with this way it's written particularly increasing the number of committee members on Council. I think we're heading in the wrong direction with this thing."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Bowden.

Councilmember Bowden said, "Thank you. Whenever, look, last time this came up I don't think I did a good enough job of emphasizing that, for me, really this is like a 51% no, 49% yes. I mean, if I had a few more weeks, I might change my mind again, but I do really like Councilmember Appel's suggestion. I don't know about the vote threshold, but I think, to me, this ordinance would be better if it just pertained to or if Council would be approving chairmanships. That really seems to be where the issue came from in the first place and then I don't think there's a huge problem with sort of trading positions. I know that Councilmember Gregg reached out to me about potentially swapping some spots. I mean, that all can still go on, but just to sort of bring in the check that you're suggesting without creating too many new unforeseen issues, I'd like to see us consider the chairmanship issue."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Sakran.

Councilmember Sakran said, "Thank you, Mayor. I will be brief. I did vote yes for this out of our Rules Committee, but I still have some concerns around the specificity, and I'm not going to try to articulate for Councilmember Appel. He does a good enough job of that on his own, but, for me, it's the specificity about the process. Certainly, we're all collegial. Certainly, the process worked with Councilmember Seekings recently. I get all of that, but the issue that I have is really forethought. When you look at the definition of forethought, it's two pieces. What are we currently doing? We can address that right now. This issue would not happen because we all could just discuss this collegially, but forethought is about the future and what could possibly be, so when we're not here, our role as Legislators and as leaders, is to think about the potential for ten years from now. The lack of specificity on how we make decisions is my concern meaning how will that conversation occur when the Mayor puts a slate of folks on a standing committee, are we going to have that debate in Council? Are we going to rely on our collegiality to discuss that off hours, off time? Without the lack of process, without the lack of clear delineation of how those discussions should happen, what is the guarantee that it could go off the rails, and what does that process look like when it does go off the rails? Again, I don't think that's going to

happen with us, but how do we know a future Council in five or ten years that that's not going to happen with a new mayor? That's what my issue is with the current draft. So, and Councilmember you have said this several times, we're there, we're getting there, this ordinance is almost there, I think it could be made improved to meet some of the needs that we wanted and the intent we want. It's not there yet. I do think with some of our tweaking we can get there. I think Councilmember Bowden and Councilmember Shahid have both indicated that they're not very supportive, but maybe we can get there with some of that support. I'm on the fence even though I did vote for this out of Rules, but my concerns are the same today as they were at the last meeting is specificity about how we make the decisions."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Appel.

Councilmember Appel said, "Well, thank you, and I'm just looking at this language. It says, 'City Council shall have the responsibility to approve such recommendation appointments no later than the second meeting in January.' I'm concerned that this is unconstitutional as written. I think that this language purports to bind future councils and to dictate to council when it must take a certain legislative act by putting in a deadline. Trust me, I know this area of the law pretty well, and I think that this is requiring a vote of council and it's requiring a vote of council by a deadline. So, I'm just going to throw this out there that aside from all of the policy issues that I talked about, I'm not sure that this language is defensible. I mean, let me put it this way. What's going to happen if there's a log jam on some of these issues in the second meeting of January? Is Neil going to lock the door and prevent us from leaving unless we vote to approve a slate? This Council composed of the human beings in this room cannot force a council ten years from now to take a legislative act by a deadline."

Councilmember Waring said, "We have a deadline now."

Councilmember Appel said, "What deadline?"

Councilmember Waring said, "The first meeting in January."

Councilmember Appel said, "Right, but it's not a legislative act. It's the Mayor appointing the position."

Councilmember Waring said, "I don't see the difference."

Councilmember Appel said, "It's a big difference, and I appreciate all of these talks, all of this commentary, about seven votes. That's an obvious statement that's true. I agree it's true. Our predecessors vested the Mayor with these authorities, the Mayor is an Executive, and he's a Legislator. Guys, that's not unprecedented, it's not news, it's not anything unique to Charleston. I mean, to get to Councilmember Sakran's point, we are upsetting an apple cart structurally on the hope, and whim, and prayer that everything is just going to be great. Maybe it will be great for the vast majority of the time, but I can foresee very serious problems, disruptions, through these processes I've laid out, and I'm not sure this is Constitutional as written."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Mitchell.

Councilmember Mitchell said, "I'm just going to say this, Mr. Mayor and colleagues, I'm not a lawyer, and I'm not looking for a lawyer to be here to tell me anything."

Councilmember Mitchell said, “A lot of people think that I’m just sitting here and was here living in this City all of these years and probably dumb to the fact or dumb to not know. That’s not true. Everyone talks about ‘this is what it’s like’ and ‘it’s going to be right, the law is that, this is what happens, seven votes.’ You can go and wrap all around the City and talk about all of this stuff that ‘we are a lawyer’ and ‘this is unconstitutional’ and all of this kind of thing, I understand all of that stuff. I understand what you’re saying. I’ve got people in politics. Jim Clyburn is in my family. I’ve got people in politics that I know. So, we’ve got to stop it, we’ve got to stop all of this carrying on. You might be an attorney, and I applaud you. You do a good job, but nobody knows it all. That’s what I’m saying. Nobody knows it all. I don’t even know it all. I worked for HUD all of these years. I don’t know it all, but it’s not going to be mixing up on Council. I’ve been here almost 20 years, and changes have been made along the way since I was here. A lot of changes have been made. A lot of the ordinances were changed because of what Council saw needed to be done, and I’m still here going through it. Maybe I’ve just been here a little too long, and I need to get off of here. This is what’s going on. Change is going to take place. We’re sitting in these seats, but these seats don’t belong to us. They belong to the people out there in the community, and I keep telling people that. I always tell everyone I’m not afraid to lose an election because the seat is not mine. I’m just sitting here because the people put me here to represent them. I’m out here in the community, and I’m not knocking any of my colleagues, but nobody sitting in these seats is out in the streets as much as I am. If you want to walk the street at 2:00 in the morning, and come and be with me sometime and see what’s going on.”

Councilmember Gregorie said, “I do.”

Councilmember Mitchell said, “You know, I mean, in the streets walking. I mean, out there standing on the corner, what they call the drug dealers and everything else and getting them to change their ways. I’m out there because this is my home. I grew up in the trenches. A lot of you all can’t walk in the shoes that I’m walking in and what I had to go through to even get to this point. So, it’s a long way I’ve come. Listen, I’ve got kids older than half of you all in here. So, what I’m saying to you all is the change is going to take place, and it could be good changes, but you’ve got to step out on faith. Step out and do what you feel is right and step out for the others, not for you personally, not for myself, but for others. That’s what we’ve got to do, and we’ve got to keep on going, the change is going to be good. Bowden that’s here. He is a young man. He is coming up. Councilmember Appel, you’re a young man, you’re coming up, but change is going to take place, and we’ve got to go on with the change. You might be here to make other changes, but right now we have to go through this. Let’s go through it, and let’s get it done, so we can go home.”

Councilmember Waring said, “Mr. Mayor.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “It is Valentine’s Day.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregg.

Councilmember Gregg said, “Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I’ll make this quick. For the record, I did not say this was going to be a quick meeting tonight.”

There was laughter in the Chamber.

Councilmember Gregg said, “I am the junior member of Council as we all know. I would say that in my short time here, just about a year now, the best experiences I think I’ve had and the best things that have come out of this Council have been things that we have mulled over

and molded together, and I don't see how this would be any different. I voted against this on the first time. I'm going to vote for it now for the reasons that you all discussed, and most of the senior members here have a lot more experience here than I do. Regarding the part on binding some future Council to a vote, I mean, we do that now on the budget, so I don't see how this would be any different than the budget."

Councilmember Shahid said, "We don't have to pass it."

Councilmember Gregg said, "Well, I would argue that the citizens of Charleston and our employees would say that we do have to still pass it. Well, anyway, I think, I appreciate the changes that have been made. I think this will be better for us. The last thing I want to say, I promise, is we've been fortunate to have really good Mayors in our tenure here in Charleston, but we're not guaranteed that in the future. It would be a lot easier to have a bad mayor than it would be to have seven bad councilmembers. So, we've talked about the possibility of seven bad councilmembers--"

There was laughter in the Chamber.

Councilmember Gregg said, "Alright. Well, I clearly, I think it would be easier to have one bad mayor than it would be to have seven bad councilmembers, but I will end it with that."

Councilmember Waring said, "I want to put a motion on the floor to defer."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Councilmember Gregorie wanted to be recognized."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Yes."

Councilmember Waring said, "Well, I want to put a motion on the floor to defer."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Second. That's what I was going to do, too."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay. We've got a motion to defer, and that takes precedence. Alright."

Councilmember Waring said, "That will give us some more time to think about it, so let's defer and go home."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Any discussion on the motion to defer?"

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Waring, seconded by Councilmember Gregorie, City Council voted unanimously to defer Item M-1.

Councilmember Sakran said, "All of that for a deferral."

There was laughter in the Chamber.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Happy Valentine's Day. Hey, you all, we're not done yet. I'm sorry. We do have an [Executive Session](#) requested on a few items. One, to receive Legal advice on a lawsuit that we've been in with the City of North Charleston and another item to receive a Legal update on the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Community Assistance Visit and other building matters. So, can I entertain a motion that we go into Executive Session?"

Councilmember Brady said, "So moved."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Second."

On a motion of Councilmember Brady, seconded by Councilmember Sakran, City Council voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 8:12 p.m.

Councilmembers Gregorie and Waring were excused from the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

On a motion of Councilmember Shahid, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell, City Council voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 8:49 p.m.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Let the record show that no action was taken while we were in Executive Session. Is there any further business to come before us tonight?"

No one asked to speak.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Jennifer B. Cook
Clerk of Council