

**CITY COUNCIL  
VIRTUAL MEETING**

Regular Meeting

April 14, 2020

The ninety-fourth meeting of the City Council of Charleston was held this date convening at 5:02 p.m. over video conference call.

A notice of this meeting and an agenda was made available on the City's website on March 4, 2020 and appeared in The Post and Courier March 8, 2020 and are made available on the City's website.

PRESENT (13)

The Honorable John J. Tecklenburg, Mayor

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

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

The Clerk called the roll.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Now if you would like to join us, Councilmember Seekings will lead us in the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. I have the flag back behind me."

Councilmember Seekings opened the meeting with an invocation.

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

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you very much. I appreciate everyone's efforts regarding our virtual meetings. I do want to be thankful to the Council, our staff, and to our citizens for allowing us to continue to do the work of the City. It's important for us to continue our City's business. Normally, this week, every year, we would have a presentation regarding the remembrance of the Holocaust. Joe Engel and others would normally join us. He's always such a delight to be around. If I may, even though he is not with us this year, just read a couple of lines of our normal proclamation that during this upcoming week, we in Charleston, remember with sadness, that in addition to the six million Jews that were murdered as part of the Holocaust, there were five million additional folks, for a total of eleven million people murdered during the Holocaust. We also remember the resisters, the rescuers, and the survivors, including Mr. Engel. We encourage our citizens to remember the victims of the Holocaust and firmly commit themselves, our citizens, to promote human dignity by confronting intolerance and hate whenever

and wherever it occurs. I invite all citizens of our community to join in the Yom HaShoah for Holocaust Remembrance Program, which will be done virtually this year, commemorating the Holocaust. The week of April 19 – 26, 2020, is the week of remembrance in memory of the victims, survivors, rescuers, and liberators of the Holocaust, and I did want to bring that to everyone's attention.

So a couple of other announcements, if I may, one of which is in this time where we're asking folks to stay home and stay distant in the City, some of our staff have worked on the initiative to help bring people together. So, I think it will be live tomorrow, in addition to our website and a new Facebook page called One Charleston, that we will be bringing together information from throughout our community about recreation that can be done at home, and arts and crafts, cultural events that are active in our community, like a live stream performance of the symphony, the Charleston Jazz Group, and Charleston Stage. You'll have a one-stop shopping center, so to speak, of resources, not just for assistance to businesses like we've talked about at our meeting the other night, but also cultural events, recreations, how to donate, how to volunteer, all of these things that are going on in our community during this time of the Coronavirus crisis, in essence, bringing us together even though we have to stay apart. We'll send out an email of the press release tomorrow, but we're dubbing that as One Charleston, and again it will be on our website and also on a separate Facebook page. I want to thank Bethany Doman from our Recreation Department and the folks at Cultural Affairs for helping to put all of that together.

Lastly, as a third announcement, then I'll be glad to open up to any questions you all may have. A lot of two years' worth of preparation now has gone into a big celebration that was supposed to kick off this week at Charles Towne Landing. It is our 350th birthday as a City this coming Saturday. I want the many, many people, volunteers in the community, Committee members, staff members, but I do want to shout out to Councilmember Shahid and to Jonathan Greene, who served as the co-chairs of the committee. We will have a virtual announcement this Saturday from Boone Hall, down the street, and we would be making an announcement, but it will just be virtual, online, not something for folks to come to or anything. We'll make a small remembrance of our birthday with many more things to come when we're all able to gather and get back together. Councilmember Shahid, do you want to add anything to that little announcement?"

Councilmember Shahid said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor, for that recognition and my appreciation to your staff and the City staff that are helping me with this. This is going to be a very modest, commemoration with, hopefully, we have some church bells that will be rung, maybe a prayer, and some readings that we're going to try to condense this all within an hour's worth to mark the day as a day that is the 350th day that English settlers arrived at what is now called Charles Towne Landing. Thank you for your support on all of this, and thanks to Council for their support on this over the years, so we will continue. This is just a time to mark the date and then we'll, hopefully, pick up with our other planned events if not this year, we'll slowly pick them up next year. Thank you, Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Great. Were there any questions?"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Griffin.

Councilmember Griffin said, "I hope that all of our Council can keep in our thoughts and prayers our Charleston County Sheriff's Office, especially Deputy Officer Jeremy LaDue, who passed away early Monday morning in West Ashley. I know that it's been a very, very tough time

for our brothers and sisters over there at Charleston County and to Deputy Jeremy LaDue's family. My best friend was his roommate at the Academy. It's just a very, very tough time, and I know that we'll be offering support during this time. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Absolutely. Thank you, Councilmember Griffin."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie.

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Yes, not really a question, but I like your branding, One Charleston. You know why. I love it."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I read it in some campaign, I remember."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Only Dudley would ask that question."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So next, we will move on to the approval of our City Council minutes."

The Assistant Clerk said, "Mr. Mayor, I think Councilmember Appel had his hand up."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Appel.

Councilmember Appel said, "Both of my grandmothers would be severely disappointed if I didn't thank you, Mr. Mayor, for making those very heartfelt comments about Yom HaShoah, the annual Commemoration of the Holocaust. I just want to thank you, not just on my behalf, but if may say on behalf of our Charleston Jewish community. That is just a tremendous thing for the City of Charleston to recognize. If Joe Engel was here, he would say something witty and clever and funny and have everybody laughing, so I won't even attempt that, but this was really heartfelt, and it just goes to show that humanity has been through the worst over our history. We're going through some troubles right now, but we've always known a way to preserve and get through it. I have no doubt that we'll be able to do that today, but thank you very much, Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "God bless, thank you. So, our approval of City Council minutes for February 25, 2020 and March 10, 2020. Are there any additions, deletions, improvements?"

On a motion of Councilmember Griffin, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell, City Council voted unanimously to approve City Council minutes for February 25, 2020, and March 10, 2020.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Next, is our Citizen's Participation Period. We did advertise that folks could participate by email, US mail, voicemail, or register to make remarks. So, Jennifer or Vanessa, may I turn it over to you all?"

The Clerk said, "I think Tracy is going to do this part for us."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay, Tracy, thank you very much."

Ms. McKee said, "Bear with me. I'm going to share my screen, so you all can see the comments that came in. We only had one submittal come through the portal, and this was the only comment that came in, and then we didn't have anyone sign up. Well, I shouldn't say that. We did have one submittal for the Citizen Participation List. Thank you, Councilwoman Jackson,

for testing the site for us. But, we only had one comment that was submitted, and you can see that here in front of you.”

1. Ginny asked Council to vote against or defer Item I(a) on the agenda. She wrote that the Resolution confused racial effects with effects that may disproportionately affect all citizens with low income. She asked that it be amended to reaffirm the City’s commitment without creating an unintended risk.

Councilwoman Jackson said, “Yes, thank you. On my speaker comment, I want to thank the staff for going this extra mile. I think it probably went out a little too late yesterday for people to catch on to it. But, I do intend to advertise they need to be more interactive going forward, so thanks very much, Tracy and everyone who did this.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Griffin.

Councilmember Griffin said, “Did we allow people to submit the other options this time as well, like last week, or two weeks ago?”

Ms. McKee said, “We did. We allowed people to call and leave a voicemail for comments, as well as leave a voicemail if they actually wanted to do the Citizen’s Participation and speak. But, I believe Jennifer checked that this morning again, and there were no voicemail messages that were left.”

The Assistant Clerk said, “That’s correct.”

Councilmember Griffin said, “No emails to the Clerk, either?”

The Assistant Clerk said, “I did not receive any, no.”

Councilmember Griffin said, “Thank you.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “So, I might ask all the Councilmembers at our next meeting, if you all don’t mind, sharing on your own social media, or otherwise email this, how folks can participate through the different means. I think that would be helpful. I had allotted 30 minutes for this, but we got it covered, so I guess we’ll move along to the Resolution affirming Charleston’s commitment to the values of equity, fairness, and justice in responding to COVID-19. That was what that one comment was about, but I would like to share with you all that the wording that we used came to us from the National League of Cities, with just minor modifications for Charleston. Amber Johnson, our Diversity and Racial Conciliation Officer, put that together. We thank her, and I would like to entertain a motion to approve this. Any discussion?”

Councilmember Gregorie said, “Yes, just a question, Mayor. At one of our other meetings, I did request that we find out what is going on in our various pockets of poverty, such as Gadsden Green and our other public housing communities. Have we talked with Don Cameron at all?”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Yes, I got an email response from him that was not long, but a kind of comprehensive list of what they had done. I asked Liz Bailey to send that to you all. Did you all get it?”

Councilwoman said, “Yes, sir.”

Councilmember Shahid said, "I thought we did."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "I probably missed it, Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "It's probably in your inbox."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Okay."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "A very comprehensive list of outreach, flyers that they had put out. In fact, it was one of the things I was going to mention, in addition to our homelessness efforts that Chris Jardin and Geona have led reaching out to those in our community. The outreach by the Charleston Housing Authority, the outreach by Jamie Roper to our seniors. I believe we've really been following the goal of fairness and equity in our response thus far with those kinds of efforts."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes, sir. Any other comments or questions?"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilwoman Jackson.

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Thank you, I basically just had a word interpretation question. The second to the last 'whereas' goes right before the 'therefore,' where it says 'whereas a result the City is committed to centering racial equity and to providing affordable responses,' I don't really know what the word centering in this is supposed to mean. Maybe it's an art term that I don't understand as a non-lawyer or something like that."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I don't know if it's legalese or not. Again, we did take the lead on the National League of Cities. The way I read that use of the word was kind of like when you say you're going to look through the lenses of equity that you're committed to centering equity. In my mind, it meant the same thing that you have a certain focus on it."

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Appel.

Councilmember Appel said, "Sorry about that. I had my hand up from earlier, so we can pass. Thanks. Sorry about that."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "No problem. Anyone else?"

No one else asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Shahid, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell, City Council voted unanimously to adopt a Resolution affirming the City of Charleston's commitment to the values of equity, fairness, and justice in responding to COVID-19.

-- INSERT RESOLUTION --

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "While we're talking about COVID-19, I did want, just because I'm going to propose we meet twice this week, tonight and Thursday night, we're going to ask Shannon Scaff to give us a very brief report on COVID-19 efforts."

Mr. Scaff said, "Good Evening, Mr. Mayor, members of Council. Here are the numbers as of 4:00 p.m. According to Johns Hopkins, there are 1,978,769 cases with 125,196 deaths. In the United States, we are looking at about 598,670 cases, with 25,239 deaths. Then, according to DHEC, as of 3:53 p.m. today, 3,553 total cases with 97 deaths. In Charleston County, 353 total cases with two deaths and in Berkeley County, 98 cases with three deaths. I spoke to some folks from DHEC earlier. We did have a slight decline in the number of cases over the last few days, but they wanted to caution us in coming to our own conclusions regarding any trends. They expect to kind of bounce around a little bit. You'll recall in previous reports, the University of Washington is providing a study on this and dividing numbers to DHEC and the latest. They do this a couple times a week, the peak number of cases to include hospitalizations, would be around April 30. Peak deaths projected would be May 2nd, and that's 16 deaths projected on that date. August 4<sup>th</sup>, projected deaths in the State would be 680. Again, that's the University of Washington that's providing those forecasting numbers to DHEC. Pending your questions, that's all I have."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Any questions for Mr. Scaff?"

No one asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Just one other COVID-19 item that I don't believe I shared with Council, and I certainly feel I should, is I know we'll be exploring other issues at our budget workshop. I did want you all to know that we did proceed to implement a three-month hiring freeze, so that if any position had been advertised and interviewed already, we are proceeding with those hirings, but beyond that, at this point for the next three months, we've already put in effect a freeze on hiring new employees with the caveat that on a case by case basis that if there was some critical operation personnel, and this does not apply to sworn police and fire positions. Other than Police and Fire, and people who have already made it through an interview, currently we're not hiring in response to COVID-19. I don't think I shared that with you all before, so I wanted to let you all know that. Alright, we're going to move on to our Committee Reports. First up is Committee on Community Development."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Mitchell.

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Yes, Mr. Mayor and Councilmembers. The Community Development meeting was held on April 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m., and we had two items listed first which was the update on the Stimulus Package Small Business Loans, and that was explained by Meg. She was giving us some information on new development that was being funded with funding sources. I believe it was –."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "PayPal."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "PayPal. It was giving out some information that a person can go and apply for a loan there to help small business. Then, item B was a discussion proposing to support the City's small business community. I also had our City Attorney come and explain to us certain aspects on what can be done. Also, the Chief Financial Officer explained to us that right now we are strapped. We don't have any money in the budget to do anything right now as far as our budget is concerned. Then, we also had a discussion that the Attorney explained to us

that if we wanted to add anything to the agenda, we would need a two thirds vote. We had an additional item added to our discussion pertaining to a small business loan coming from Councilwoman Jackson. They received something from Aiken, and it was sent to all the Councilmembers to read, but they received it only an hour before the meeting. So, we added that to the agenda. We had a two thirds vote, and it was just a discussion. Nothing was approved there, so those are the items that we had on Community Development.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Thank you.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Griffin.

Councilmember Griffin said, “So, you all didn’t take any official votes, right? It was for discussion only.”

Councilmember Mitchell said, “No votes were taken at all. Everything was a discussion and for information purposes.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “I might like to add that in the State of South Carolina, as of today, they’ve reported \$2.7 billion of loan approvals to over 14,000 companies in the State. We talked about this yesterday. It was off to a very rocky, choppy, start, but hopefully they’re moving in a better direction and getting some things going. Alright, so next is our Committee on Public Works and Utilities.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, “Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I hope I can be heard now. The Committee on Public Works and Utilities met yesterday, and as you see on your agenda, the Acceptance and Dedication of Right-of-Way was moved and approved unanimously, and that’s my motion for the Dedication, that we accept the Dedication as shown on your agenda.”

The Clerk said, “Councilmember Seekings said second.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “We have a second. Any discussion?”

On a motion of Councilmember Waring, seconded by Councilmember Seekings, City Council voted to approve Item A of the Public Works and Utilities report as presented:

**a. Acceptance and Dedication of Rights-of-Way and Easements:**

- (i) Dedication and Acceptance of Quit Claim Deeds from SCDOT for portions of A) Westcott Court B) Doughty Street C) Ehrhardt Street.

Councilmember Waring said, “On the Stormwater Management Department update, b (i) the approval of the Fee Amendment #5 with Weston & Sampson Engineers for not quite \$90,000. \$89,866 to design and permitting of gulf culverts on Glenn McConnell Parkway, that was also approved unanimously, as well as b (ii). Mr. Mayor, if you will, would you please, this isn’t what I thought it was. B (ii) also passed unanimously, but I really want to go back before I get emotional on b (i) and b(ii). Mr. Mayor, could you touch base on the importance of the collaboration that took place for those dedications of the Quit Claim Deeds for Westcott Court, and Doughty Street, and Ehrhardt Street. The significance of the Medical University and Roper St. Francis, etc.?”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you for bringing that up. Doughty Street is right in the midst of the Medical District. When I first became Mayor, five years ago, I was invited to this meeting of all the hospitals, MUSC, Roper St. Francis, and the Veterans Administration. I guess a year or two before, they had formed this district effort of hospitals in the City together, and the first thing that they wanted to do was create a parklike greenway space using Doughty Street, the actual street, and the right-of-way, which we had to, it was a State street, so we had to go through the trouble and ask for it to become a City street so that we could then give permission to the hospital district to form this gathering space. It's really quite nice. They have food trucks come. It's really a park. They spent some money improvements on it when we first gave them the temporary right to use the street and now, with this more permanent right, they're going to invest some more money and make it truly park like. But, it's all planned to continue to have enough access in case a fire truck or emergency personnel need to utilize the space, they can get through. So, anyway, I was just sharing last night how it seems like a simple dedication, but really it was a big effort that's a benefit to the employees, and boy, do they deserve it right now, those healthcare workers over there, to have a little spot where they can enjoy themselves from time to time."

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. That's really important because it opens up the quality of life for the patients, students, as well as the thousands of employees over there. So, thanks for all of your efforts on that, Mr. Mayor."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to add, while I do think that it will be great for the medical community, I think it's also going to be great for Councilman Sakran's and my district, Districts 6 and 3 because they will also have the opportunity to enjoy that park. Thank you."

Councilmember Waring said, "You are right. Okay, great. I ask for a motion to approve item b (i) and b (ii) please. It passed unanimously."

No one asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I'll note that Councilmember Shealy pointed out, even though it's in his district, that first project is of great benefit to everybody in the Church Creek Basin and that one of the two areas where we're buying flood prone properties, one is in Shadowmoss and one on James Island.

On a motion of Councilmember Mitchell, seconded by Councilwoman Jackson, City Council voted to approve items b(i) and b(ii) of the Public Works and Utilities report as presented:

**b. Stormwater Management Department Update:**

- (i) Long Branch/Church Creek Drainage Improvements – Approval of Fee Amendment #5 with Weston & Sampson Engineers in the amount of \$89,866.00 for design and permitting of culverts under Glenn McConnell Parkway in concert with the road widening project conducted by Charleston County. Funding is available in the Drainage Fund.
- (ii) Hazard Mitigation Grant – Approval to accept Hazard Mitigation Grant 4346-007-R with SCEMD for the acquisition and demolition of two flood prone structures in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) to reduce future impacts from flooding. This award is for a Federal Share of \$381,093.00



and a City Match of \$127,031.00. Funding is available in the Drainage Fund.

Councilmember Waring said, "The last item was b (iii), which was a pretty good discussion on small projects. Most of Council can remember going back, at least a month ago, we asked all Councilmembers to get to Mr. Fountain and his team, any small drainage projects that fit this category so all districts can be represented. We have limited amounts of money obviously, so before the money runs out, hopefully we'll get good quality projects that all districts can say they participated in. It's not a race to the front of the line, but certainly the money will run out. So, if you have a project that you're thinking about, please contact Mr. Fountain and his team, or me, in the Storm Water Department. Mr. Fountain's report is coming up, but can you explain the Hazard report coming up? Can you explain the small project that you shared with the Committee on yesterday?"

Mr. Fountain said, "Yes, I'd be happy to, Councilmember Waring. Thank you. So, the discussion on this item sort of centered around, we have a million dollar budget allocation for small project work we've been working on with the Public Works and Utilities Committee and Chairman Waring's guidance there, and the Mayor's input for how we want to prioritize and allocate funding from that sort of pot of money into actual individual projects. I think we've had some good discussions on that. Councilman Waring just brought up requesting if there's any additional input that needs to be provided from other Councilmembers about projects that may be outstanding in their districts that we're not aware of, that we haven't accurately captured on our pending project sheet. We discussed at the meeting yesterday that one of the things just not to be lost in that discussion is that there are a number of projects that we've been working on for the last few years that are sort of on hold, pending allocation of some of these funds. We wanted to note, many of these projects are relatively low cost, immediate impact projects. I think the Clerk did pass out some of the information with some color coding that we had added in. These green coded projects are only \$130,000 of allocation, and they included projects like the Emerald Forest at Arrow Wind Drainage Box installation, the Mueller Drive Greenwich Improvement rear yard project, the PawPaw Street Drainage improvement of a yard swale, the Sherwood Forest Drainage Improvement. We've done actually quite a bit of easements acquisition and work with the Housing Authority for preparation to install a drainage system in that area. Then, Weims Court drainage improvement where we've seen some failure of a system and have a replacement project in hand. These are all the items that we had bids in hand.

We know how much the work is going to cost and the contractors are literally just kind of waiting for the approval of funding. We did discuss these projects at the Committee, and there is interest in moving these projects forward, just to keep from holding things up while we figure out what to do with the remainder of the allocation. It is important for us to allocate the money appropriately. So, as Councilmember Waring pointed out, we don't just have a race to the front of the line of where this money gets spent, but many of these projects are ones that we've been working on for a couple of years. We just want to get them closed out and finished as we're contemplating what we're going to do with money and moving forward."

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you, Mr. Fountain. I think there were three, four, or five projects that you--"

Mr. Fountain said, "Yes, the Emerald Forest at Arrow Wind Drainage Box installation, the Mueller Drainage Improvement, the PawPaw Street Drainage Improvement, the Sherwood Forest

Drainage Improvement, and the Weims Court Drainage Improvement. Those all combined for a total of \$130,000 for the five different short term projects there.”

Councilmember Waring said, “Okay. So, as you can see, our staff is doing things in a real frugal way, and you see those dollars right now are being spent in a diverse way across the City. I have a feeling out there that there may be one or two projects that members of the Committee don’t know about, members of our staff may not be updated on, and you may know that needs to be done and in the various districts around the City. Thank you for your extra input on that. With that, that was pretty much the extent of my report.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilwoman Jackson.

Councilwoman Jackson said, “Thank you, Mr. Chairman Waring, and Mayor. Listening to the discussion, and I appreciate that you all tolerate that I listen in to the Public Works meeting. I think maybe because we’re talking about this to a bigger audience of citizens that we could give a little more clarification or examples of the things that are already on this list. My observation and my listening in is that most of the things that have ended up on the small projects was from the Stormwater crews who were out trying to maintain and figure out the drainage systems. These are hopefully items that we know have caused very specific problems that we’ve got a fairly timely way of fixing. They’re not going to be part of huge improvement projects like we are watching the DuWap Basin and now, waiting excitedly for the Wambaw Basin study, and we’ve done the inventory of James Island basins. We’ve got Barberry Woods and things like that so, I just think that it would be respectful of us to identify that this little list really is just the things that we know are broken. For example, Rivers Point Row, from my understanding, the road is collapsing because a pipe failed. So, it’s pretty much of an immediate need. The other one is in the works for a problem off of Secessionville, on Harborsun, that supports the outfall for the Westchester neighborhood, Councilmember Gregorie’s District 6, and then goes into Harborsun for District 12. That literally is an eroding canal that is the major outfall for those older neighborhoods going into the newer neighborhoods. So, it’s not anything that we’ve been talking about in the long range planning framework. I just think it’s helpful for us to put it in that perspective. I also know that there’s still a priority tool, correct Mr. Fountain, that’s underway and expected to come forward in the next few months that would really help us be able to evaluate some of the things that are less obvious to be working on.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Yes, we are definitely fixing things that we know have been problematic, and I think we are just two or three months away, correct me if I’m wrong, Mr. Fountain, on the prioritization tool that’s being developed. I think you’re right on that.”

Mr. Fountain said, “Yes, that’s correct.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Okay. Alright, duly noted. Thank you, Councilmember Waring, for that report. Next, our Traffic and Transportation, Councilmember Seekings.”

Councilmembers Seekings said, “Thank you, Mr. Mayor. The Committee on Traffic and Transportation met via Zoom today at 2:00 p.m. Everybody was on time, thank you. We discussed three matters that need approval of this Council. The first was an Ordinance to amend 31-77 (a) and (b), which allows both TNCs and cab drivers to use various means to get background checks that are required. That passed unanimously. The second is the approval of an LOI with the County regarding Avondale and a coordinated effort to make sure that Charleston County’s US-17 roadway project goes smoothly. Mostly, it’s with Magnolia where we’re going to need some land

acquisition and some help. It's revenue neutral to us, but it will take some coordinated effort between the City and the County. That also passed unanimously. The final thing was the Lockwood/Beaufain maintenance agreement for approval. For those of you who might remember, we've been working for some time to get a crosswalk and some road improvements at the corner of Lockwood and Beaufain. The County is taking the lead on this. It is funded. It is approved. The plans are done. There's going to be some landscaping required when this project is completed. The landscaping falls to us, and the request was to approve the landscaping plan today. That also passed unanimously. So, I would ask approval of this report, specifically items three, four, and five."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Any further discussion from Council at large?"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, "Just a big shout out to our Director, Mayor, and to our Police Department. A vehicle went through the intersection at Sycamore and St. Andrew's Boulevard yesterday at some point due to the storm that we had. It totally knocked out the lights at that intersection. It devastated the power box, the utility box, which governed the electrical control switches there. I passed those messages on to Mr. Benjamin and the Police Department, and SCDOT actually had jurisdiction over this. They were going to come out on Thursday to address this very dangerous intersection. I've been following my emails, and they addressed it. So, I want to give a big shout out to Mr. Benjamin, to our Chief, and our entire Police Department and Dominion Energy for getting on that project rapidly and addressing that traffic control signal at Sycamore and St. Andrew's. Thank you all for a job well done."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Anything else from Committee Reports?"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring followed by Councilmember Appel.

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I just have a question for Councilmember Seekings. Is there any more money left for speed bumps?"

Councilmember Seekings said, "We had a report from Mr. Somerville on the speed bumps today. There is a little bit of money left, and there's some discussion about whether or not that would be used for maintenance for additional speed bump requests. I think that Mr. Benjamin, if he's on the line, he knows the exact amount of money that's out there, but I will tell you it's not a lot. But yes, there is some. Mr. Benjamin, do you know what the total amount is? I forgot to ask today."

Mr. Benjamin said, "It's about \$20,000 that's left. A new speed bump is about \$4,000. The main thing we want to stress is, I know you all send out inquiries from citizens who request traffic calming some, and we definitely take those inquiries, but our staff does not go out and do a study until we get the prerequisite petitions in knowing that the neighborhood is also on par with that move. Then, with those two combined, bring that to Traffic and Transportation Committee for approval."

Councilmember Seekings said, "We can get a list for you, Councilmember Waring, at the next meeting if you'd like to know how many applications meet the requirements that are actually pending, which I don't think there are any, but we'll find out."

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Thank you."

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

Councilmember Appel said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I just wanted to give a big thanks to the Traffic and Transportation Committee regarding this Avondale letter of intent regarding the realignment of some roadways over there. This is part of a very exciting project that's been on the books for a long time. This impacts my district, District 11. It impacts Councilmember Shahid's district, and also Councilmember Sakran, as well. This is a very exciting project. This is an important piece of it, and also none of this would have been possible without Keith Benjamin's efforts, Eric Pohlman's efforts, and our Legal Department papering all of this. It's a complicated transaction. It's essentially, I wish I had the visual here to show, but this essentially entails lighting up Nicholson in Byrnes Down. Now I'm drawing a blank on the name of that restaurant across the street."

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Triangle."

Councilmember Shealy said, "Triangle."

Councilmember Appel said, "No, this is that steak shop, sandwiches."

Councilmember Sakran said, "DB's."

Councilmember Appel said, "Yeah, that's right, so that's where that is."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "It was originally the Krispy Kreme location."

Councilmember Appel said, "I remember that. I actually remember that. I'm dating myself. But in all seriousness, this is a very exciting project, and it's great that we're continuing to work on very progressive, innovative, planning projects with a variety of moving parts, private sector, governmental partners in this, even while we're dealing with this COVID-19 crisis. So, I hope a lot more to come on this, but I really encourage folks to take a closer look at what's in the works here for Avondale and also the US 17 roadway project. There's a lot of exciting work underway, and I look forward to continuing this conversation of work in the future. Thank you."

Councilmember Seekings said, "So, thank you. On behalf of Mr. Benjamin and Mr. Pohlman, it's incredible. Good things come to those who wait. They've actually worked hard on this. This project was first envisioned when your district was District 8. So, that was over ten years ago. Now, it looks like we'll actually get some movement. It's much needed. That would be a game-changer for that gateway area of Avondale in West Ashley. So, keep your eyes out, and we'll keep encouraging them."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright, thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you, I guess this question can go to Councilman Seekings or Councilman Appel. Through that alignment, will there be any way to create additional parking over there?"

Councilmember Seekings said, "I think that's probably a question, well maybe Councilmember Appel, but probably for Mr. Benjamin. We can probably get you all some plans as they unfold for what that all looks like."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "That is one of the goals, is that it allows accumulation of a couple of parcels to include part of one of the existing streets. So, it creates a bigger footprint, doesn't guarantee it's going to happen, but it does set the stage for a possibility of a small deck or even just a larger surface lot."

Councilmember Waring said, "That's great. Thank you, Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "That was a part of the motivation behind it all. But, it also just makes sense from a traffic point of view and access to our Fire Station there on Nicholson. So, there are multiple benefits. So, we need to call the question on approving those three items."

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

- a. An ordinance to amend 31-77(a) and 31-77(b) to expand documentation options required for a taxi cab operator license and a chauffer's license
- b. Avondale LOI Coordination with Charleston County US17 Roadway Project
- c. Lockwood/Beaufain Maintenance Agreement
- d. Director's Update

Give first reading to the following bill from Traffic and Transportation:

*An ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Charleston, South Carolina, Chapter 31, Section 31-77(a) and 31-77(b) to clarify and to expand the options for required documentation necessary to receive a chauffer's license to operate a taxi cab or limousine in the City of Charleston.*

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay, great. Terrific. Thank you again for that report. Next up is our Committee on Ways and Means."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Move for approval."

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Second."

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

(Bids and Purchases

(Fire Department: Approval to submit the 2020 State Homeland Security grant in the amount of \$75,500 for Charleston FD Collapse Search and Rescue Team. There is no financial impact with this grant in the FY20 or 21 budget. This is a no match grant.

(Fire and Police Departments: Approval to submit the 2020 Port Security Grant in the amount of \$632,323 for equipment and software; requesting to budget a cash match of \$158,081 for 2021.

(Parks-Capital Projects: Approval of JPR, Jr. Ballpark Electrical and Structural Repairs Professional Services Contract (Electrical Renovations) with T.Y. Lin International in the amount of \$26,500 for construction administration for the electrical repair work at Joe Riley Stadium. Approval to increase total professional services amount for T.Y. Lin International from \$48,400 to \$74,900 going over the \$50,000 procurement threshold. The Professional Services Contract will obligate \$26,500 of the \$1,998,545 project budget. The funding source for this project is the General Maintenance line-item in the 2020 JPR, Jr. Ballpark Budget (023010-52410).

(Parks-Capital Projects: Approval of International African American Museum Professional Services Contract Fee Amendment #5 with Moody Nolan, Inc. in the amount of \$305,815 for changes in design to the lobby, redesigning the current restrooms, coffee bar, and cost room, removing gift shop glass, adding a Ronin Security System, removing FHC wall, revising the office layout, and relocating the theater entry door. Approval of Fee Amendment #5 will increase the professional services contract by \$305,815 (from \$10,875,402 to \$11,181,217). Funding sources for this project are: Accommodations Tax (\$13,200,000), Charleston County Accommodations Tax (\$12,500,000), State Funding (\$14,000,000), IAAM Contributions (\$53,000,000). However, this change order will be paid entirely by the IAAM.

(Stormwater Management: Approval of Church Creek Drainage Basin Improvements Fee Amendment #5 with Weston & Sampson Engineers in the amount of \$89,866 for design and permitting of culverts under Glenn McConnell Parkway in concert with road widening project conducted by Charleston County. Approval of Fee Amendment #5 will increase the Professional Services Contract by \$86,866 (from \$528,365 to \$618,231). Funding for this project is the Drainage Fund.

(Stormwater Management: Approval of Hazard Mitigation Grant 4346-007-R with SCEMD for the acquisition and demolition of two (2) flood prone structures in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) to reduce future impacts from flooding. This award is for \$508,124 with a Federal Share of \$381,093 and a City Match of \$127,031. Funding of the City Match amount of \$127,031 will come from the Drainage Fund.

(Housing and Community Development: Mayor and City Council approval is requested for the submission of the Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan, Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice, Application for Federal Assistance (SF 424 Forms) and the corresponding documents to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the 2020-2021 program years. Attached the 424 Forms, HUD Certification forms and the budget. This request has been coordinated with the Community Development Advisory Committee, the Community Development (CD) Committee of City Council and a component of the goals of the Con Plan approved by City Council. Approval is also requested for the execution of contracts for each organization based on the approved budgets/awards. The contracts will be reviewed and vetted by City of Charleston Corporation Counsel prior to the dissemination of the contracts to the nonprofit agencies. Contract templates are attached for your information.

(Approval to authorize the Mayor to execute the Agreement of Purchase and Sale between the City of Charleston and Peter Lewis Buck conveying the property located at 87 Cooper Street for the purchase price of \$201,834. This property is being sold subject to the City

of Charleston Single Family Affordable Housing Restrictive Covenants with an affordability period of 90 years. Peter has also applied for a \$10,000 loan and \$2,000 grants from the City's Employer Assisted Housing (EAH) Program. The grant and loan are provided through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). (TMS: 459-05-04-122) [Ordinance]

(Authorize the Mayor to execute the necessary documents between the City of Charleston and 1776 LLC for the acquisition of a vacant parcel known as the Fenwick Property measuring 12.647 acres with 10.4 acres of usable land and located on River Road in the City of Charleston, Charleston County, South Carolina, depicted in that certain plat recorded in Plat Book L19, Page 0505 as Tract B-2-1 and bearing Charleston County Tax Map No. 346-00-00-004, for a purchase price of \$3.5 million (TMS: 346-00-00-004)

(Authorize the Mayor to execute on behalf of the City of Charleston ("City") any and all documents necessary to quitclaim Grants Court (Peninsula) (District 3) to Manx Holdings, LLC, in exchange for an easement permitting access over a portion of Grants Court from Nunan Street to 4 Grants Court (Charleston County TMS No. 460-07-02-222) (Peninsula) (District 3) and 4 Nunan Street (Charleston County TMS No. 460-07-02-221) (Peninsula) (District 3), upon approval of any such documents by Corporation Counsel (TMS: 460-07-02-222 and 460-07-02-221; 4 Grants Court and 4 Nunan Street) [Ordinance]

Give first reading to the following bills from Ways and Means:

*An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute on behalf of the City of Charleston ("City") an Agreement of Purchase and Sale, in which the City agrees to sell to Peter Lewis Buck the property located at 87 Cooper Street (Charleston County TMS No. 459-05-04-122) (Peninsula) (District 4) for \$201,834.00, subject to the City of Charleston Single-Family Affordable Housing Restrictive Covenants, with an affordability period of ninety (90) years.*

*An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute on behalf of the City of Charleston ("City") any and all documents necessary to quitclaim Grants Court (Peninsula) (District 3) to Manx Holdings, LLC, in exchange for an easement permitting access over a portion of Grants Court from Nunan Street to 4 Grants Court (Charleston County TMS No. 460-07-02-222) (Peninsula) (District 3) and 4 Nunan Street (Charleston County TMS No. 460-07-02-221) (Peninsula) (District 3), upon approval of any such documents by Corporation Counsel.*

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We just have one bill up for second reading of 4 Nunan Street."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Move for approval."

Councilmember Shealy said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We have properly moved and seconded. Any discussion?"

No one asked to speak.

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

**2020-050** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON (“CITY”) AN AGREEMENT OF PURCHASE AND SALE, IN WHICH THE CITY AGREES TO SELL TO SHAWN ELAINE ANDERSON THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4 NUNAN STREET (CHARLESTON COUNTY TMS NO. 460-07-02-221) (PENINSULA) (DISTRICT 3) (THE “PROPERTY”) FOR \$201,834.00, SUBJECT TO THE CITY OF CHARLESTON SINGLE-FAMILY AFFORDABLE HOUSING RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS, WITH AN AFFORDABILITY PERIOD OF NINETY (90) YEARS, AND FURTHER SUBJECT TO A PERMANENT GENERAL UTILITY EASEMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF AND APPURTENANT TO THE ADJACENT PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4 GRANTS COURT (CHARLESTON COUNTY TMS NO. 460-07-02-222).

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Believe it or not, that is the end of the agenda. I did want to ask Council since we have the meeting on Tuesday this week, I suggest that we have another meeting on Thursday just to update on the Corona crisis, and then we’ll go back next week to meeting Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Is that suitable for everyone? Without objection, we’ll go ahead and plan on that. Then just one more time, I started out saying this, but I just want to thank everybody, and particularly our staff for being able to continue on, conduct business, important services our City provides. Even in the midst of the coronavirus crisis tonight, we approved additional equipment for our Fire Department, we sold properties for affordable housing, we were able to purchase a lease, agreed to a contract to potentially purchase some property where we can provide affordable housing, move forward with small drainage projects, transportation improvements like at Lockwood and Beaufain Street. So, to be able to continue the everyday business during this time of the City, I view it as really important. So, I just want to thank all of you and the staff for making all of that possible. Anything further to come before Council tonight?”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shealy.

Councilmember Shealy said, “I just wanted to ask Ms. Herdina if this meeting counts towards the pizza?”

Ms. Herdina said, “No, I think we suspended that offer during this.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, “Believe me, that was the exact same thing I was going to say. I wanted our Counsel to tell us what kind it was.”

Ms. Herdina said, “Little Caesars after this, I’ll pick it up for you.”

Councilmember Waring said, “Thank you, Mr. Mayor, that’s all.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “There being no further business, we stand adjourned. We’ll see you all Thursday. Thank you very much.”

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.



Vanessa Turner Maybank  
Clerk of Council