

## CITY COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING

Regular Meeting

July 14, 2020

The one-hundredth meeting of the City Council of Charleston was held this date convening at 5:04 p.m. over video conference call (Zoom).

A notice of this meeting and an agenda were made available on the City's website July 9, 2020 and appeared in the Post and Courier on July 13, 2020.

### 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 5:04 p.m.

The Clerk called the roll.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, Madam Clerk. Now if you all would like to join us, Councilmember Shealy will lead us in an invocation."

Councilmember Shealy opened the meeting with an invocation.

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

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you. So, we have a few presentations and recognitions this evening. We haven't had those in a couple of meetings. So, first is a proclamation recognizing Dekeiya Cohen who is a constituent of Councilmember Shealy's. She is a remarkable young lady, and I think she joins us tonight via the Zoom meeting, as well. So, Councilmember Shealy could I call on you first to introduce us all to Dekeiya? Then, I'll read the proclamation."

Councilmember Shealy said, "Yes. Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and colleagues. I appreciate you all allowing us to honor Dekeiya tonight. Dekeiya grew up with my oldest daughter. She is a very special young lady. She's not only athletically talented, but she's extremely intelligent, respectful and determined. She probably has the most positive outlook and maybe the best attitude of anybody I know. I had the honor of coaching Dekeiya when she was really young growing up, playing in our City of Charleston Recreation Department, and I was just a dad volunteering. I don't take any credit for her athletic ability, but I will tell you that I had an opportunity

to coach her and one other lady, Amber Campbell, who went on to play professional, played for Wake Forest and started as Guard for four years. I can tell you, those two girls made me look like Mike Krzyzewski or Pat Summit or somebody like that, and I don't take any credit for any of that but, boy, they sure made me look good. I do remember a day when I saw Dekeiya out on the soccer fields at Ackerman Park, and Dekeiya was trying out for, I think, Charleston United Soccer Club, but she was probably about 12 years old. I waited for that to get over with, and I said, 'What the heck are you doing out here, Dekeiya?' and she said, 'Well, the West Ashley soccer coach said I could be a pretty good soccer player.' I said, 'Dekeiya, you're going to be great at anything you do but, please, tell me you'll never put down that basketball.' So, I'm happy that's the case and that she hasn't done that.

I do want to say to our Recreation Department that, Laurie Yarbrough and Robin Cooper, thank you for what you do. Dekeiya is just one example of how we get kids started down the path to success. Dekeiya, as a matter of fact, you can still see using our City grounds, particularly Bees Landing Recreational Facility, in the off season. She goes out there and shoots the ball a little bit, and every once in a while there are some guys that want to take her on, and she'll show them what a real basketball player is out there at Bees Landing. So, Dekeiya is just getting started with her professional career, but after playing four years for Baylor, and a lot of people know the history of Baylor Women's basketball, outstanding second to none, although I would have liked to see her play for Coach Staley, but she did a great job at Baylor, and I wouldn't wish anything different for her. But, since she entered playing professionally, she went to Spain first, and she is the leading scorer in the league in Spain. Now, she has been named the Import Player of the Year, the Freshman of the Year, and the overall Most Valuable Player of the Year in her professional league in Turkey. Again, she's just getting started to play professionally, and it's going to be a blast to watch Dekeiya as she advances over the next few years. So, congratulations, Dekeiya. I'm excited that it's going to be Dekeiya Cohen Day in the City of Charleston. So, congratulations."

Dekeiya Cohen said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, Dekeiya, if I may, I have a proclamation for you that I will send to you and, frankly, much of what's in the proclamation Councilmember Shealy just relayed to us all just because he knows your story so well, but needless to say."

Mayor Tecklenburg read the proclamation.

---INSERT PROCLAMATION---

There was applause.

Ms. Cohen said, "Thank you so much."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "The floor is yours, young lady, if you would like to make a few remarks."

Ms. Cohen said, "Yes. Thank you so much. This means everything to me, and I love the City. Whenever I'm playing, I think about it a lot, coming home and just making everyone proud. So, just to have my own day is really an honor. I couldn't imagine anything like this. So, I'm just glad that basketball took me to places I could never imagine, and I just try to stay focused and do whatever I can. It's paying off, I guess. So, I really appreciate this. Thank you so much."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, God bless you. Congratulations, and we know you've got a bright future ahead of you. You've already seen that. Thank you, Dekeiya."

Ms. Cohen said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, next we have, again, from Councilmember Shealy, a proclamation regarding National Collector Car Appreciation Day. I'll read this first, Councilmember Shealy, and then ask for your remarks."

Mayor Tecklenburg read the proclamation.

---INSERT PROCLAMATION---

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Councilmember Shealy, do you want to add any remarks?"

Councilmember Shealy said, "Yes. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. You know for the last three years, I've had an opportunity to be part of the National Collector Car Appreciation Day in Charleston. It's the 11<sup>th</sup> year that they've celebrated this, but for the last ten years in a row they've driven their cars, kind of like in a parade fashion, through the City of Charleston and actually out through West Ashley ending up over at Magnolia Gardens. They did a little bit of an abbreviated part of that this past Saturday, but Sergeant Trevor Shelor who was with our Police Department has been heading this up. He grew up in West Ashley. He's now retired from our Police Department, but he also serves as a reserve Police Officer for us. He's just done an amazing job organizing that parade through Charleston and the surrounding areas, and like I said, this past Saturday, he had it very organized. They were very careful with their social distancing and doing what they needed to do there to stay safe. I just want to thank them for their efforts. I'm so happy we're able to continue to do this and just want to say thank you for the effort and the caring, caring for, and restoring these cars for all of us to enjoy. Hugh Hiott is another one that works along with Trevor and makes this parade possible. So, I just appreciate them allowing me to be a part of it, and if you really want to see a great video, go to YouTube and search 'Car Collector Appreciation Day Charleston', there are different ones from different years. I think the 2018 is a great video to see if you want to take a look at it, but I just thank them for all of their work. I don't know if Trevor is on the meeting or not, but I want to thank him for his efforts."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Trevor, are you out there? I'm not sure."

The Assistant Clerk said, "I don't think he's on the call."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay. Well, thank you again, Councilmember Shealy. That's a great effort."

Councilmember Shealy said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, very briefly, I just wanted to recognize, given the fact that we enjoy a Sister relationship with a city in France which is Flers, France, I sent today a letter of congratulations to the Mayor there for a Happy Bastille Day, and I see that Councilmember Shahid is in the spirit. You might notice the fireworks, and it almost looks like an oil derrick. That's actually the Eiffel Tower there that the fireworks are floating around. So, they're definitely in the spirit, and we've communicated our good wishes to our Sister City in France. I'll let you all know if we hear back from him this week. I'm sure we will, and then lastly, I'm kind of adding this to the agenda with your all's forbearance, that it came to my attention that this coming next Tuesday is

the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of Congressman James Clyburn. He'll be 80 years old. I have this really long proclamation, but I'm not going to read the whole thing because many of you know of his many accomplishments, but they are many, and that's why it's on a longer piece of paper because it takes that to get them on there. I will send this to Congressman Clyburn in honor of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday next Tuesday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, on his birthday. We also claim that to be Jim Clyburn Day in the City of Charleston. Happy 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, Congressman Clyburn. By the way, he is helping us on all kinds of issues including finding extra funding for the Ehrhardt extension of the Spring/Fisburne Drainage Project. His staff is working very hard on that for us right now. He's been instrumental in including local governments in this latest version of the Cares Act, and we have been giving his office the information about our budget shortfall. He has been helping the City of Charleston which is nothing unusual. Congressman Clyburn has been helping the City of Charleston throughout his congressional career. So, without further ado, we'll move next to the approval of City Council minutes from June 23<sup>rd</sup>."

Councilmember Brady said, "So moved."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Any corrections, deletions, additions?"

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Brady, seconded by Councilmember Shahid, City Council voted unanimously to approve City Council minutes from June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Next, we have our Citizen's Participation Period."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized The Clerk.

The Clerk said, "Yes, Mayor, what we are going to do today is we have a number of people who were on the list and left comments, and so, we will start with that list. It's pretty comprehensive, but we put them into categories. The first would be those persons who left comments that they oppose the mask ordinance. That was twelve people. Then, 109 people support the mask ordinance. One person would like to limit the number of people who gather for weddings. Two people would like the postponement of reopening public schools. One person would like public schools to reopen. Twenty people were disappointed in the John C. Calhoun statue removal. Three people supported the John C. Calhoun statue removal. Thirteen people support the development of Ghost Island. One person opposes Ghost Island development. Seven people think that we should have a shutdown in the City. One person is asking you to allow mail-in ballots for the election. Another person is interested in doing business with the City in regards to street corner shopping. A gentleman is interested in purchasing the John C. Calhoun statue for preservation in Tennessee. Seven people oppose tax money being used for further removal of the Calhoun statue columns. Finally, one person wanted to express her support for increased citywide restrictions to protect against COVID-19 spread. That is from the comment section."

The Assistant Clerk said, "Vanessa, this is Jennifer. I was just going to add, all of the comments received by phone and online were sent to Council in advance of the meeting."

The Clerk said, "Okay. We also had ten people who had the opportunity for people to sign up and leave comments. I don't know how you want to handle this, Mayor, with the timing. So, I will call them by name. Do you have a particular amount of time?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, we have ten folks signed up?"

The Clerk said, "Ten people have signed up."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Two minutes."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Takes a little time. Let's say 90 seconds a person."

The Clerk said, "90 seconds?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "A minute and a half, that's right."

The Clerk said, "Okay, so the first person would be Ken Schneider, followed by Chris Swain. You have 90 seconds, Mr. Schneider."

Ms. McKee said, "We are going to actually go to Mr. Swain. Mr. Schneider is not on the call."

The Clerk said, "Okay. Chris Swain."

Mr. Swain said, "Hi, this is Dr. Swain. Thank you for having me. I'm going to defer to my attorney, Trenholm Walker. If there's any time afterwards, I'm happy to speak then if you have any questions for me regarding Ghost Island. Trenholm did sign up to speak also, by the way."

The Clerk said, "Next is Ms. Pringle Franklin."

Ms. Franklin said, "Yes, can you hear me?"

The Clerk said, "Yes, I can."

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

Ms. Franklin said, "Last time I spoke to you, City Councilmembers, I do want to congratulate you for getting the Calhoun statue down so quickly. It didn't seem quick, but anyway you did it. Congratulations. I understand now that you are contracting with the Turner Construction Company to take down the columns. First, I want to say, I wish the column could stay in Marion Square and could have some uniformed symbol put on top of it. If that can't happen, and if it has to be removed, I hope that the City recognizes that this is an important relic, and that you are planning to save the column and hopefully repurpose it for a future date. The last point I want to make is that all across the country, all kinds of crazies are coming out of the woodwork. They are just lambasting American culture, American heritage, and fighting against Columbus and Lincoln, and even an Elk statue in Portland, Oregon has been attacked. So, let's please protect our culture, our American heritage, in Charleston. I approve of what's happened with Senator Calhoun coming down. That's a completely different ballpark than our Founding Fathers and the symbols that should be unifying to us all. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, ma'am."

The Clerk said, "Next is Courtney Burks followed by Diane Hamilton."

Ms. McKee said, "We're going to go straight to Diane Hamilton because Courtney Burks' phone number is not on the call."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright."

The Clerk said, "Okay, Diane Hamilton."

Ms. Hamilton said, "Good evening, Mayor Tecklenburg and members of City Council. I'm Diane Hamilton, speaking on behalf of the Maryville/Ashleyville Neighborhood Association. We are asking for your support for requesting final review for the South Carolina Board of Health and Environmental Control in relation to their having issued a permit to Dominion Energy to conduct a directional bore from Mamie Street to Ghost Island. Our reasons were outlined in the letter sent to you earlier today. Pollution and contamination of Old Town Creek, and the quality of life in neighborhoods that are adjacent to the island, as well as protection of burial places are our top priorities. We also want to thank our Councilmen Waring, Shahid, and Sakran for working with the Association on this issue. Thank you for listening."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, ma'am."

The Clerk said, "Okay. Next, Trenholm Walker."

Mr. Walker said, "Thank you very much, Mr. Mayor and members of Council. Trenholm Walker, 66 Hazel Street. As Dr. Swain said, I represent him and Debbie with respect to Ghost Island. I sent a letter to all the Council earlier today that outlines the many reasons we would submit the City should not be involved in the appeal of the Dominion permit to do the directional bore. As I said in the letter, Dr. and Mrs. Swain purchased the island. They removed two barges of trash, cleaned it up, planned to make almost all of the island a garden. They're also going to protect and honor the remnants of the former above ground tomb, something that has never been done, a tomb that has been vandalized for over 100 years. They would also like to build, one day, a small cottage. For these actions, they've been vilified on social media, attacked as insensitive. They've watched as government officials in the media have been bombarded with misinformation, which I addressed in my letter, all in an effort to work up a frenzy against them. Once more, they find out on the eve of the Council meeting, just as happened last December, that Council is going to discuss their property including ways that some want to throw up roadblocks to keep them from doing what we submit as the preservation of this island, not its desecration. The Swains have been fully cooperating with City zoning, City Building Department, City Fire Marshal and others, other City personnel, since last December to make sure the 'i's' are dotted and the 't's' are crossed. If this Council has concerns about what the Swains are doing and wants to know more, we suggest the better course is to sit down with the Swains, rather than contesting Dominion's permit to provide electricity to their property or figuring out ways to down zone or to deny City permits before they've been applied for. We'd ask let's collaborate, not litigate. Thank you."

The Clerk said, "That included a little bit of the time that was asked. That was 2:17."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, Mr. Walker."

The Clerk recognized Gus Smythe.

Mr. Smythe said, "Hello, Mr. Mayor. Hello, members of Council. Thank you very much for hearing us. Can you hear me?"

The Clerk said, "Yes."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes, sir. Welcome."

Mr. Smythe said, "Thank you. I am calling on behalf of Chris Swain. Of course, barrister Trenholm there is much more eloquent than I. But, I would like to say it's confusing for a lot of people who are trying to understand the issue on Ghost Island, why the City is deciding we can and can't have electricity and why they would try to block a citizen, a tax paying citizen, from getting electricity to their property. That mystery has yet to be solved. Apparently, according to the lady from Maryville, there are three members of Council who are involved with trying to get this done, but as far as we can see, for citizens of Charleston, there was a garbage dump that the Swains have worked very, very hard trying to turn into a botanical garden, and they're being stopped. The question out there is why? Thank you for your time."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, sir."

The Clerk said, "Thank you, the next person--"

Councilmember Griffin said, "Madam Clerk?"

The Clerk said, "Yes."

Councilmember Griffin said, "Mr. Schneider supposedly is on the line. I guess he's on mute. It's an 847 number. I don't know if Tracy can unmute him or not."

The Clerk said, "Okay."

Ms. Mckee said, "I'll certainly look for him. I'll look again, but the number that he signed up with wasn't on. Looks like he might be signing on, so we'll add him at the end if that's okay."

The Clerk said, "Okay, so we will now have Rory Wojcik."

Mr. Wojcik said, "Thank you, Mayor and members of the Council. I've addressed Council prior about Mary Murray Drive, and today I wanted to talk about King Street. Creating a safe environment for the public is as important as ever, but choosing or making decisions based on one piece of information is never going to be good. I expect and understand that all of you are making decisions based on a plethora of information coming in. Increased guidelines and ordinances to protect residents and tourists need to be enforceable, and of course, some merchants and business owners will balk at them. Enforcing capacity rules for establishments will help limit the COVID spread, and a direct response to this public safety effort is severely limiting the ability for locally owned establishments to turn a profit. You create one rule, and there's an effect afterwards. A solution to this problem is creating parklets along King Street to increase public space and also incentivizing the public to walk and be less reliant on the use of cars. They support local businesses. They create a sense of place in neighborhoods and also benefit by allowing more space for patrons of these locally owned businesses along this corridor. I suggest that a two parklet per block space will be enacted to allow support of locally owned businesses along that area."

The Clerk said, "Time."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you so much."

The Clerk said, "Next is Billy Saunders."

Mr. Saunders said, "Hi, can you hear me?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes, sir. Welcome."

Mr. Saunders said, "I'll make this quick. I'm kind of confused as to what's going on with Ghost Island. I've been by there several times, and it's nothing but becoming a beautiful thing. From Charles Towne Landing, I would think that we would rather have a beautiful botanical garden to look at than the trash dump. The second thing is, from what I understand, Mr. Swain has some property. The property is all zoned as residential. Why would the City zone it as residential and now say that he can't build on it? That's got me confused, why he can't build a little, single cottage and the City would try to restrict it. I'd like those questions answered. Thank you very much."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, sir."

The Clerk said, "Thank you. The final person is Bethany Nemetts."

Ms. Nemetts said, "Hi, Mayor and Council, I am Bethany Nemetts. I am a long time resident of the Peninsula. I've got three kids, and I'm the wife of a small business owner of several businesses in the hospitality industry. Obviously, we've experienced a negative financial impact from the first shutdown. We've gone through homeschooling and the challenges of reopening businesses safely. We've had employees infected with COVID-19 and tried to offer guidance and the support and contact tracing of any exposures. We have seen firsthand the general willingness of Charleston visitors, and occasionally citizens, to embrace mask wearing and social distancing. We continue to see a steep decline in income as South Carolina and Charleston dominate national news as a new epicenter of the outbreak. In the midst of all this, we watch as our Federal and State, now local officials, continue to do too little too late to manage this. Our friends in healthcare share this dismay, and they wonder why they've been left out to dry when they're risking their lives to save ours. We know we have a nursing shortage. We know new cases continue to climb. What I wanted to say is that the proposed ordinance that you're voting on tonight is again too little, too late. We know from science that indoor gatherings are extremely risky, and we need to close all indoor bars, indoor dining, as well as gyms, and other indoor gathering spaces at this time. Our long-term economic recovery hinges on your willingness to act wisely and forcefully now."

The Clerk said, "Time."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, ma'am."

The Clerk said, "Mayor, that concludes our list."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Mr. Schneider is on board, though."

The Clerk said, "Okay."

Mr. Schneider said, "Hello?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes, sir. Mr. Schneider."



Mr. Schneider said, "Hi, I just wanted to say, first of all, that a municipality in the financial world is viewed the same way as a C-suite or the boardroom. When investors lose confidence in that C-suite boardroom, Councilmembers and Mayor, they take their investment and they flee. So, we're starting to see that on King Street. On May 30<sup>th</sup>, the City completely left us to fend for ourselves. I don't know if you all have been out there, it looks like the 1990's, and it doesn't feel safe to myself or just about anyone else there. So, the question is, barring COVID and everything else, what is really being done to address the safety issues that are going on, on King Street? If you all don't know what's going on out there, you have to communicate with the Police Department because there are issues every single day. One day, someone is going to go back to New York or Chicago, and they are going to post something about Charleston, and the straw is going to break the camel's back. So, that's my question."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, sir. We appreciate that. We appreciate everyone's comments and for being with us, all of the emails, phone messages, as well. Apparently, there were hundreds of those, and we appreciate everyone's input. So, next we'll go to our Petitions and Communications."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "First up is my recommendations on the appointment of two Municipal Court Judges. I'm not sure if they are with us this evening on Zoom. I think they were invited. First up is Lindsey Byrd. She's been a prosecutor in the Municipal Court for some time now. She knows our court inside and out. By the way, I also wanted to thank Chairman Shahid and all of the committee members of the Public Safety Committee who interviewed 19 different candidates that we had. It was really a remarkable task just for the Committee to get through those interviews. I really appreciate the energy and thoughtfulness all of you put into conducting those interviews. So, we can take them separately or together. My second recommendation is Emmanuel Ferguson, who's a young man, but he's had a very robust career working in the U.S Attorney's office, the Solicitor's office, and private practice, really all levels of criminal prosecution. Both of these fine individuals would be a great addition, I feel, to our Municipal Court."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Move for approval of both candidates, Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you."

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Any discussion?"

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Shahid, seconded by Councilwoman Jackson, members of City Council voted to approve to appoint Lindsey McClain Byrd and Emmanuel Ferguson as Municipal Court Judges.

The vote was not unanimous. Councilmember Seekings voted nay.

The Clerk said, "Was there one 'nay'? Did I hear a 'nay'?"

Councilmember Seekings said, "There was a 'nay'."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "A 'nay' from Councilmember Seekings."

The Clerk said, "Okay, thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Ms. Lindsey, are you on the call by chance? I just thought I'd give you the opportunity to say 'Hi' if you are here. Emmanuel Ferguson, are you on the call?"

No one spoke.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "They didn't get signed in. I'm sure most of you know them, and we'll be interacting with them soon."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Mitchell.

Councilmember Mitchell said, "If they aren't on the line this time, may you ask them to try to be on the line next time at the next City Council meeting?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I'll be happy to. Absolutely."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Thank you."

Ms. Byrd said, "Mayor, this is Lindsey Byrd. I'm present on the call."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Oh, great Lindsey. We can't see you, but we can hear you. Do you want to take just a minute and introduce yourself to Council?"

Ms. Byrd said, "Sure, thank you. As the Mayor said, my name is Lindsey Byrd. I've been the Deputy Prosecutor for the City for the better part of the last almost six years now. Before that, I was prosecuting in the Charleston County Solicitor's office under Scarlett Wilson. I have really enjoyed my time with the City, and I am just very grateful for your approval tonight. I want to thank the Councilmembers, Shealy, Shahid, Seekings, and Sakran for the opportunity to meet with them and for their recommendation to the Mayor, so thank you all."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, Ms. Byrd. We appreciate it very much. Emmanuel Ferguson, did we miss you? Are you here?"

No one spoke.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I'll ask him to come to the next meeting."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Mr. Mayor, he just sent me a text saying that he is on the call, as well. I'm not sure if he's muted or not."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay. You want to call out his number? Maybe Tracy can find it?"

Councilmember Mitchell said, "I would just like to see them in person. That's about it."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Alright, we will do that."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay. So, we'll see maybe later if he can be on Zoom. Next, I'm going to defer this to tomorrow or maybe the next day. I will send you all the recommendation for members of the Central Business District Improvements Commission that we will take up under bills for first reading. But, I want to get them going as quickly as possible. So, after we give approval here

this evening, hopefully, I will follow up with you all by email in the next day or two with some recommendations with those members. So, that brings us to the City's update on COVID-19, and I'd like to start with a quick update from both Tracy McKee and Shannon Scaff."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Mayor, may I ask a question real quick before we get out of that?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes, sir."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Just on the King Street thing, because I do think there are a number of people who are interested in what's going on, on King Street. Is this something that's going to come back to us at the next City Council meeting? How are we going to deal with this?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, do you mean the Commission that we're forming tonight?"

Councilmember Seekings said, "Yes."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "It will get first reading tonight. It is an ordinance, so it will require a second and third reading at our next meeting. But, my intent was to go ahead and share with you my proposed recommendations. Actually, the way the ordinance is written, I think that it's my choice to choose the members, and if you all approve it that way, and then, they would have the opportunity, understanding that they couldn't take official action until the ordinance gets second and third reading, to go ahead and meet and start to address issues that our Central Business District is facing."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Okay, thanks. I just think, procedure wise, people are interested in how this is all going to go. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes. So, Tracy do you want to lead off or Shannon? We'll start with Tracy. It looks like she's ready."

Ms. McKee said, "Yes, sir. I am. Good evening everyone. Let me turn on my video to you. So, I'm just going to do a quick update, and I drew the short straw again. I think Shannon is on the line again in case we have questions specifically for Shannon, but we wanted to keep it brief. I'll just give you guys a quick update on what's happening in the City.

Just really quickly, I think we are all familiar with the prevalence of COVID. Basically, all this is the total number of cases per thousand people. You can see that, Charleston, we're not getting any better. 26.1 is our prevalence of COVID positive cases compared to Charleston County, which is 19.8, and then Berkeley County is 10.9, and the state is at 11.4. So, growth rate since Memorial Day, I know I've covered this a couple of times, but this is really just about how rapid transmission is occurring in an area. So, the orange line is our City's rolling seven day growth rate, and then the solid blue line is what's happening in the state. The red dash line is where we get into, it basically puts us in a red status, if you will, for that particular metric. The yellow is where we are kind of in that warning stage, if you will. You can see that we kind of dipped below the red line for a little while. You can see after today's numbers here, the tail end of that, we're starting to see that 4<sup>th</sup> of July impact now.

So, what's really telling, I think, is the new daily cases per thousand people and why this is important is it's basically looking at what's manageable for our medical systems and to allow for efficient contact tracing. So, again, here the City is orange and then the state is in blue just in comparison. Then, the red dash line is where we are really in that danger zone. So, you can see that, right now, we just took a big upturn with today's new numbers. Our hospitals are very much

feeling it. I'm going to talk just briefly about that in a moment. I did want to bring everyone up to speed on what's happening with City employees, as well. So, to date, we've been extremely lucky. Zero of our employees have been hospitalized due to COVID. In total, we've had 89 positive cases. Currently, we have 21 active cases, and we have 56 out waiting for test results. This has improved a little bit, but kind of like we are starting to see the numbers today, I hope I'm wrong, but I believe we may see another uptick in these numbers as we start to see the impact from the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. Just for reference, when we were kind of in that last little spike, we actually, at one point, had over 100 employees out waiting for test results. This next graph kind of shows that. I mentioned this before. We are tracking every day, our employee status, where they are, if they are in an office, or working remotely. This pink is actually sick leave being taken, so you can see we've had a big increase in the amount of sick leave. This is a combination of folks who are either positive and home sick or awaiting test results.

We talked about testing a lot. So, really quickly with the hospital systems, we're hearing more and more how stressed our systems are. With the numbers that just keep coming in everyday, that's going to continue to increase. I just want everyone to know that Shannon Scaff is working very closely with our hospital systems to make sure that they get the resources that they need, and we're doing everything that we can for them to support them. Also, mobile testing, right now, MUSC has mobile testing out on Johns Island at Haut Gap Middle School. MUSC has projected out the next week, maybe two, for kind of hotspots. After that, they have not determined where their next spot will be for mobile testing. All of that is updated on the DHEC website. I do want to also mention that there are a number of other efforts being worked on around testing, nothing finalized yet, but it is really important. Just because the volume of testing, the amount of time that people are waiting for those test results, is also increasing. So, it's not getting better. I think we all know that. As these cases end up in the hospital, these patients end up in the hospital, it's going to continue to get worse."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Hey, Tracy, may I ask a quick question?"

Ms. McKee said, "Absolutely."

Councilmember Shahid said, "So, there's been some confusion about whether or not folks need a doctor's permission or authorization to be tested. Can you all comment on that one part for me please?"

Ms. McKee said, "Sure, yes. It's my understanding that right now if you go to these testing sites that are on the map here, to my knowledge, you do not have to have symptoms, but you have to go to through telehealth and actually register and get an appointment to get tested. The mobile sites, you don't even need an appointment. You can just show up, and they do the registration there on site and you get tested. As we all know, everything changes daily, but that's the last bit of information I have regarding our testing sites."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Thank you."

Ms. McKee said, "You're welcome. That's all I had, so I'm happy to entertain any additional questions and certainly invite Shannon Scaff to jump in if he wants to add some additional tidbits for you all."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Sakran.

Councilmember Sakran said, "Thank you, Mayor. Thank you, Tracy, for the data. A couple of quick questions. Is there a report out on where some of the additional testing sites will be? Can you

give us a status on that? I've heard from a lot of small business owners that when their staff do suspect they're positive, or hear about it, it's imperative that they get tested, and the turnaround time is quick, so that's number one. Then, number two, just an update on where we are at the hospitals, in terms of capacity. It would be nice to hear what their status is in terms of incoming."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, that's a nice lead in. Also, on the call tonight is Dr. Chris McLain. He's the head physician officer, Chief Physician Officer, at Roper St. Francis healthcare system. I've asked Dr. McLain to be with us tonight to give us a report on just that. So, if I may, without further ado, call on you, Dr. McLain, to give us an update."

Dr. McLain said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Thank you, City Council, for giving me some time tonight. Roper's update, so you know I represent the Roper St. Francis healthcare with four hospitals in our area. Across our four hospitals, we have 140 inpatients. This is what it was around 2:00 p.m. It's very dynamic, but 140 inpatients, that represents about a 75 percent capacity rate on our inpatient capacity. That's 40 percent of those inpatients. 140 is our capacity, but if you look at all the patients in our hospitals, it's about a 75 percent capacity. Our ICUs have been fluctuating anywhere from 70 to 80 percent of capacity through the incidents. Today, we are right around 72 percent. Our biggest issue is not so much bed capacity as much as it is staffing. You alluded to the strains on the workforce and City government, and we're not a stranger to that either. Our biggest issue has been nursing and provider capacity, just from the providers themselves getting infected from the illness and having to stay out of work.

As has been noted in the media and kind of mentioned before we initially, about two weeks after Memorial Day, did see an influx in younger patients with the disease. Then, as that spread through the community, we began seeing older patients that were requiring hospitalizations. We fully expect that to be the case after the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. So, we are looking towards this weekend and into the next week, expecting quite a bit of a surge to come. So, the capacity issues we're having now, we only expect to become magnified over the course of the next one to two weeks. So, it just presses on the urgency to act now in order to try to stem the tide."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "In my reports from Dr. Cole yesterday, I think they had 111 active COVID admissions in their systems. In a very similar way, he quoted the number, but it was hundreds of staff members who are also a bit active or out of work right now. So, there is a serious capacity situation there."

Dr. McLain said, "We're in communication with all of the hospitals in the area, so if you calculate all of the inpatients right now that are suffering from COVID disease, it was roughly, around a little over 300 considering all of the hospitals."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, thank you, Dr. McLain, for being with us. I got your letter this morning, and we are responding to try to help connect you with resources, both with DHEC and the CDC, and I have had a conversation with them today, as well."

Dr. McLain said, "I really appreciate that and I hope that's the case. I just want to re-emphasize, and use a few more seconds, just to really emphasize the severity of the situation. I know that as City Councilmembers and as the Mayor, you have a lot of things on your plate and a lot of things to weigh, but the severity of this is very critical, especially, viewing what is likely coming in the next week."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Sakran.

Councilmember Sakran said, "Thank you, Dr. McLain. One more question I do have is, folks in the public get caught up in the mortality rate versus those that are checked into the hospital for long, extended periods. So, if the concern is really the capacity at the hospital, can you explain a little more about the capacity and how that overwhelms versus the mortality rate? I think folks care about the mortality rate and assume that it's just like the flu. So, can you explain that a bit more for us?"

Dr. McLain said, "Sure. I'd be happy to. A couple of things you have to consider, I'll start with mortality because that's where you started. The mortality rate is very variable with this disease depending on your resources to care for it. So, many of the things that we use to care for this disease process are scarce resources. In other words, they easily can overrun our supply when you think about the oxygen supply, the ventilator capacity. Some of the critical drugs that we use, that have been very successful at helping to curve the acuity of this disease, are in limited supply. One that we use in the first week of therapy is Remdesivir, and it's on government allocation. So, literally we have to apply for each case that we're using, and it has to be approved to be used. When you talk about that type of control restraints on the supply chain for the treatment of this disease, anytime you elevate the rate of incidents and the rate of admissions for this disease, your ability to care for it in the best way possible is extremely limited. If you look at one day, we had a 65 percent increase in our census, or our number, of COVID patients that were in the hospital in one day. So, when you start thinking about that, what we just experienced with Memorial Day and now looking forward to next week, you can easily, it doesn't take much imagination to imagine seeing all of our resources being stripped. When that occurs, then your ability to curve that mortality and keep those numbers low is significantly strained, in bed capacity, nursing capacity, oxygen support capacity, all of the things that we use. When the other components of this illness is that some of the disease is easy to turn around and responds well to therapy, and they go home. Some of them don't, and they require extremely long hospitalizations which then occupy bed capacity and that nursing capacity for, we've had up to 45 days in isolated spaces. Overwhelmingly, the length of stay is not that long for these patients, but when you have even a small percentage of the patients requiring that, your ability to continue to handle elevated caseloads gets very strained. Eventually, you're stuck with caring for all those long term patients and not having any way to offload them in order to take care of the new wave that's coming. That's what's got me most concerned about where we are currently. We had a hard enough time handling the Memorial Day surge when it occurred. If we now stack on top of that what may be coming, it's a significant burden, and it's going to be, most likely, a significant increase in mortality if we are not able to provide the care that we know we need to provide."

Councilmember Sakran said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Seekings.

Councilmember Seekings said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Dr. McLain, thank you for spending some time with us and what I know is a busy time. I appreciate it. So, obviously, you all sit around and think about this a lot, and if we were to ask you, what we're going to talk about tonight, sort of what's on your wish list, numbers one and two, out here in the world that we can do to ease your burden, what would you tell us?"

Dr. McLain said, "I think first and foremost would be masking. I think we have great evidence for that and insisting on that through our community in our retail spaces. The second would be taking a hard look at areas that we know are high risk areas for community members to be in to spread the disease. So, places like bars and restaurants and taking a hard look if it makes sense to have these open right now, given what we are facing. I think another thing that we are asking for is resource management. Again, if there are any opportunities to come along side and partner with the

government agencies, that we do that to mobilize that. It is the most critical resource right now in the entire Charleston community in healthcare. So, anything we can do to move that message up the line and allocate the proper staff that we need here, we need to do that. The other things are supplies. I know I mentioned earlier that working with City government, and I appreciate their help, but we can see when this surge comes, that the PPE levels are going to be strained. Testing is a big issue for us, as was mentioned earlier. The testing turnaround time from some of our outside vendors has been strained. So, anything we can do to allocate resources to those testing centers and encourage both our private and public providers in that testing to increase supply is critically needed.”

Councilmember Seekings said, “Thank you.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Griffin.

Councilmember Griffin said, “Councilmember Seekings pretty much covered my point.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, “Yes. Dr. McLain, thank you for your assistance and just being very direct with us. I think what you said, we need to do. When you mentioned your resources, and you talked about your medical personnel, have you experienced a high number of your personnel being affected directly with the virus and what kind of rate that you’ve experienced with that?”

Dr. McLain said, “Yes, we have. A significant portion of our resources have been affected. As far as an overall rate compared to ours, it falls in line with what you see in the community. So, we haven’t noticed any increased relative rate within our walls with respect to our workforce than what you see out in the community. The age has also been pretty parallel to what we’ve seen in the community, as well. We do an extent of contact tracing on all of our teammates that have contracted the disease and can say with certainty that the overwhelming majority, to the tune of 99 percent, appear to be community spread and not from within the healthcare arena. So, I think when you add in the difficulty we have with some of our testing resources, that’s something I have been very proud of as a health system, knowing that we can’t test every single patient that comes in the hospital because of testing resource scarcity. The fact that we’ve been able to continue the safe practices we have inside of our walls has just kind of demonstrated that it works. If we take that same approach of masking, social distancing, and other social interventions, if we take that approach out in the community, I would expect to see some more decrease in trend.”

Councilmember Shahid said, “Thank you. Just to follow up with another question with you, our academic school year is going to kick into high gear in about a month’s time, which is going to include elementary, high school, and our colleges that are local here. What is your concern when those events start gearing up, and we start having large numbers of college-aged students returning to campuses, and elementary, high school, and middle school students returning back to their schools?”

Dr. McLain said, “So, I think it’s the similar concerns that everyone has with it. I think anytime you have an opportunity for people to be gathering together in large gatherings, there is concern for exponential spread. Those will be the concerns. I would say that with proper interventions, I think there are things that can be done to significantly decrease these trends. I think the things that we have been outlining, the distancing, masking, handwashing, all of the things that you have been considering yourselves, I think can be put in place. I think, as far as my official recommendation for schools at this time, I would have to see what happens over the next

four weeks. I think that's going to tell us as we get a little closer to the game time to make that decision because things could change. If we make significant social interventions, we can see this thing settle down as quickly as we saw it elevate."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Thank you so much."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, Dr. McLain."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Appel.

Councilmember Appel said, "Thank you Mr. Mayor, and thank you doctor and everybody at Roper and MUSC and all of the folks on the frontlines. I've got a lot of friends and family in the medical profession, and what these guys and girls are doing every day is just truly exceptional. These are real heroes today. We all know about the masks, well at least a lot of us do, pulling some other people along here. But, we all know about masks, we all know about social distancing. The one thing that I don't hear about as much, and wanted to get your expert opinion on, is really what the message ought to be to the 'vulnerable' populations, the elderly, the folks with comorbidities, whether it be obesity or lung disease, heart disease, things of that nature. Do these folks need to quarantine essentially, stay away from hardware stores, stay away from going to church, stay away from places where they can be exposed to people? It seems to me that this is the element of the messaging that I don't hear too much of, but from all accounts, these are the folks that actually stand the greatest likelihood of getting sick and potentially dying. That's not to say young people are immune. They certainly aren't, but would taking some more proactive measures by these vulnerable populations help in these difficult weeks and months ahead?"

Dr. McLain said, "Yes. I appreciate the question. I definitely think that when you talk about quarantine or limiting your exposure to possibly getting transmission of the virus is certainly an effective measure. I can tell you all of the people I know that are high risk, including my mother, I have been counseling her to stay home and stay out of public spaces as much they can. We go and get her groceries. I can tell you that what I'm doing at home is good advice to what we give other people. I definitely think those measures are important. I think though, that if we try to curb the severity of this incident by simply telling our at risk people to just stay home, I think that would be short-sighted in what we can do to really make a meaningful impact, mainly because if you have spread throughout the rest of the community, then your ability to truly isolate yourself from transmission from this gets dramatically harder. Mainly, because there is only so much you can do to protect yourself. You have people delivering the mail. You have people that have to bring you groceries. There is only so much you can do to truly isolate yourself, and so, as the community burden increases, then the likelihood of spreading, even to those people being the most careful, becomes higher."

Councilmember Appel said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Dr. McLain, I was just thanking you and all of your colleagues. Councilmember Appel said it well. You all are truly heroes in serving our community right now, and we thank you."

Dr. McLain said, "Well, thank you so much. I've had the opportunity to really witness heroes in action, so I appreciate that. I appreciate the time you've given me tonight, as well."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, if I may suggest we take four, five, and six, one item at a time, is that okay with Council? The first item would be the Executive Order, simply continuing the



Declaration of State of Emergency, similar to what Governor McMaster did the other day for the whole state. Susan Herdina, are you on the line? Is there any report to number four that we're asking for approval?"

Ms. Herdina said, "Mayor, this is just from Counsel, good afternoon. This is just a continuation of the Declaration of State of Emergency, Mayor, your proclamation which we've asked Council to consent with. It runs until July 31<sup>st</sup>, but it can be modified before that if you choose to do so or extend it after that. We thought July 31<sup>st</sup> was a good period because it would expire after our next City Council meeting. So, at the next City Council meeting we could consider whether it needed to be extended or not."

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

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We have a motion to approve. Do I hear a second?"

Councilmember Waring said, "Second, Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Any discussion on just the State of Declaration of Emergency?"

No one asked to be heard.

On a motion of Councilwoman Jackson, seconded by Councilmember Waring, City Council voted unanimously to approve Item I-4 as presented:

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

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, next is kind of a combination of emergency ordinances. Susan, if I may call on you to give us a summary of everything under number five."

Ms. Herdina said, "Yes, sir. Basically this is consistent with what we've done previously. Also, we are extending, until July 31<sup>st</sup>, several ordinances that we have already had in place and have been continuing. They are listed on page four of the proposed ordinance. It has to do with price gouging, meeting telephonically, and temporary procedures for public hearings, allowing affordable housing units to be approved by an administrative officer, the decreasing risk of exposure to COVID19 in retail businesses and the stay at home emergency order. We also, at the request of the restaurant industry, have extended the emergency order on new or additional outdoor dining to August 31<sup>st</sup>. The other ones are extended just to July 31<sup>st</sup>, and Meg maybe can speak to this, Meg Thompson. But, we had gotten the request from the industry to extend that one longer than the other ones, so we propose that in this ordinance."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "That's the one that gives our restaurants a little more latitude in using outdoor space, sidewalks, parking areas etc., and to give them a little more assurance that will continue."

Ms. Herdina said, "Yes, sir."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Sakran.

Councilmember Sakran said, "So, if I'm understanding, this would expire July 31<sup>st</sup>?"

Ms. Herdina said, "All of them, with the exception of the outdoor dining one, and that one will expire on August 31<sup>st</sup>. The other ones will expire on July 31<sup>st</sup>, but you can consider them for an extension at the next City Council meeting if you'd like to do that."

Councilmember Sakran said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Just to explain Councilmember Sakran, I personally would be fine giving the restaurants even a longer period of time, but since this is an emergency ordinance, we're only allowed for a 60 day window, but we can always extend it for more. So, could I entertain a motion to number five and all those combinations of emergency ordinances?"

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Mr. Mayor, I move for approval."

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

The Clerk said, "Who was the second?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Mitchell."

The Clerk said, "Okay, thank you."

On a motion of Councilwoman Jackson, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell, City Council voted unanimously to approve Item I-5 as presented:

**2020-085 - EMERGENCY ORDINANCE EXTENDING CERTAIN EMERGENCY ORDINANCES RELATED TO COVID-19.**

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, next up is an Emergency Ordinance requiring persons to wear face coverings or masks in certain circumstances in our City. Actually, we passed this already, but we made some significant amendments and changes to it. So, if I could call on Susan one more time, maybe to summarize those new things in this ordinance."

Ms. Herdina said, "Yes, sir. So, hopefully everyone received a copy of this amended ordinance. We sent it out under separate cover yesterday afternoon, and the changes are highlighted in bold and underlined. The most significant things are limiting the indoor capacity in bars and restaurants to 50 percent of their occupancy, or a square footage calculation if for some reason the business is not aware of their occupancy limit. So, there is an alternative calculation here that's been recommended by the Fire Marshal. Again, these are just for the period of the emergency ordinance which we basically said could be in effect for as long as 60 days, but could be terminated before that."

The first major change is limiting the capacity in bars and restaurants to 50 percent. This is only indoor dining. It doesn't apply to outdoor. The second major change is prohibiting amplified music in bars and restaurants after 9:00 p.m. This would apply to both music that's played outdoors, as well as indoors. The rationale behind that, Folly Beach did something similar to this a couple of weeks ago, and the rationale is two things. One, the consensus is that the amplified music attracts crowds for one thing, which we're trying to get away from as much as possible. The second thing is, basically, if you're in a situation where there is amplified music, you're shouting over that music, which means there's a greater risk of you spreading the virus, rather than if you were speaking in a normal tone. The idea is that by limiting the capacity in the bars and the restaurants, as well as prohibiting the amplified music after 9:00 p.m., you are really going

to see a decrease in the gathering of the crowds in the bars and restaurants which, I think we've heard over and over again from the medical community, are some of the big sources of the problem here. We did some clarification on the masks. There were some questions about did it apply on the streets, on the sidewalks, and in public spaces, and the answer is 'yes, it does', as well as inside public spaces, public restaurants, all retail spaces, and big box stores. The important thing, though, with regards to that is we are not asking the employers to force customers to wear masks. We require that they make their employees wear masks. We're not forcing them to have customers wear masks. However, what the ordinance does say is that if a customer walks in, and they're not wearing a mask, they should be warned about our ordinance, advised of the ordinance, provided a copy, and after that point, the retailer or the business can refuse service to that person.

Mayor, I know you can speak to this point. We were on a telephone call yesterday with a number of other Mayors, and one from the community said, in this kind of a situation, the owner should ask for help from public service, the police, or livability rather than they themselves getting into a tussle with their prospective customer. They should seek the help of the police department to come in and help diffuse that situation. However, while we are not expecting the employers to enforce the mask rule for the customers, we are expecting them to abide by the reduced occupancy level in this ordinance, as well as the amplified music restriction, and they can be subject to violating this ordinance if they fail to abide by those two parts of this ordinance.

Other key factors are we've stepped up the enforcement in the sense that, in addition to having our Livability officers out there, we are asking the Fire Marshals, Building Inspectors, as well as the Police Department to be available to enforce the ordinance, which we think is important. We have also, with respect to the masks, and I apologize I'm sort of going a little bit all over the place, but basically going back to the masks, we're increasing the fines. If you are found to be in violation of the mask ordinance, increasing the fines from \$50 to \$100 for the first offense, \$200 for the second, and \$500 for the third. But, again, I want to emphasize that the idea here is to educate and to work with people, not necessarily be issuing citations. So, I think, Mayor, hopefully I've covered everything. The idea is that this would go into effect on the 15<sup>th</sup>, tomorrow at 9:00 p.m., to give the businesses a little bit of time to adjust to this."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, the requirement was already there for businesses to have their employees wear masks, so that's not a whole lot of new in a way. It's basically toughening this up, increasing the penalty, and adding more accountability. Yes, we're still relying on education and compliance, but we do have some more enforcement, in addition to what the Governor did effective last Saturday, prohibiting alcohol consumption or service in bars and restaurants after 11:00 p.m. We think that this is the best practice for trying to flatten the curve, shy of closing businesses again. That's one thing I think we all agree for our economy. We don't want to get back to closing down businesses.

You've heard from Dr. McLain tonight and all of the numbers, if we aren't successful in flattening the curve again, it's inevitable to me and the many people I talk to that that's where we will head if we get to the point where our healthcare system truly is overwhelmed. Let me go on to say that you've all heard the reports. Just yesterday in the New York Times, the Charleston Metro area was designated one of the top 10 worst metro areas in the country in terms of the growth of COVID-19. The Washington Post had an editorial last Friday advising people not to come to South Carolina. Commonly over the last week, we've seen that the whole State is third or fourth in the whole world in terms of the rate of increase of COVID-19. Just today, the state had its second highest number. Unfortunately, again, leading the pack, was Charleston County. We now enjoy the dubious distinction of the highest number of cases in the state of South

Carolina. Today was a record for us at 412 cases. You add Berkeley and Dorchester, there were over 600 new cases in the Charleston Metro area just reported today. The numbers are going in the wrong direction. This is exactly where we did not want to be, but we are here. So, I believe that short of shutting things down again, this is our best effort to try to flatten the curve and make a difference. We must get this thing under control.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie followed by Councilmembers Sakran, Griffin, and Councilwoman Jackson.

Councilmember Gregorie said, “Maybe I missed it, but doesn’t the ordinance also have penalties for businesses that don’t conform, and their licenses can be revoked?”

Ms. Herdina said, “So, basically we do have the authority, under State law, if a business is not complying with ordinances, to suspend their license. There is a process that you have to engage in to do that involving a hearing before the License Committee. So, there are a number of procedural steps that have to be taken, but we do have the ultimate authority to do that. We also have added into the ordinance the fact that if there are a certain number of violations against the business, either owner or management, they could be deemed to be a public nuisance. If they are found to have been in violation of the ordinance, and then that, too, can subject them to the process of having their business license suspended. Again, this is something that the City would not do lightly. There are procedural steps in place to safeguard businesses in that respect, but at the end of the day, this Council does have the authority to do that and that is one of those serious measures that we’re proposing in the ordinance.”

Councilmember Gregorie said, “Thanks for that answer.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Sakran.

Councilmember Sakran said, “Thank you, Mayor. Ms. Herdina, can you clarify and maybe elaborate on the live music piece as part of the ordinance, so we can get some clarity for business owners? I guess the question is it just live music, or can restaurants still be playing sound through their house sound system?”

Ms. Herdina said, “It’s amplified music in bars and restaurants. I guess I’ll defer to the Mayor to explain what that means exactly, but I guess if it’s someone with a guitar sitting at a stool and is not using an amplifier, that is not illegal. Again, we’re talking bars and restaurants who have got speakers hooked up to the music. That is what we’re trying to address, again, so that people aren’t forced, in order to talk, to speak over that loud amplified sound. Mayor, do you have a better explanation for that?”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “The intent is to just address loud music, either live or recorded. So, a DJ who’s blasting out sounds would be applicable, as well, or a karaoke event, something like that. If you’re in an elevator and there’s like background music, I doubt that anybody has to overly express themselves to speak over something like that. That wasn’t the intent of what we’re saying here, but loud, loud music, where people have to start shouting to express themselves.”

Councilmember Sakran said, “Thank you.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Griffin.

Councilmember Griffin said, "Yes, sir. My first point is I think that we need to either a) shut this City down completely, the bars and restaurants especially, or I know this is going to sound a little harsh maybe, we've got to learn to live with this thing. What we're doing in this ordinance is we're making a certain group of businesses, it's almost impossible for them to operate and be able to pay their staff and take the losses that they are going to take. Number one, 9:00 p.m. is, you know, I don't see how we can come up with these times. 9:00 p.m., 11:00 p.m., we don't have any data to support it. It's just a meritless time. I can understand that we've got to do more. But, to me, the only thing that makes sense to me is to either shut everything down, or we've got to live with this thing the way it is because this model that we've created with these regulations, these new rules, putting the burden back on the businesses, increasing the fines when, to my knowledge, we haven't written one ticket so far. So, how can we already increase the fine exponentially when we haven't even enforced a mask ban that we put into place two weeks ago?

Another point, I look every day at the numbers. We've been wearing masks for two weeks. Why haven't the numbers gone down? Why are they still going up the way that they are? Is it because we're not doing a good job enforcing it? If that's the reason, we should be looking at ourselves. I don't understand why we need to go from \$50 up to \$100 - \$200, \$500, when we haven't written one ticket yet. It doesn't make sense to me. We should be passing out masks to those that are underprivileged and that need help because the same people that are going to be getting tickets or getting enforced are the same people that are not going to have the accessible resources to get masks. We should do a better job as a City making sure that neighborhoods that need masks get them. I don't think we're doing a good enough job there. At the end of the day, this could go on for a long time, but common sense tells me that, you look at when the numbers started to spike, there's really a couple of instances. Number one was after George Floyd died, and there were protests around the country, a lot of numbers spiked then. We allowed gatherings of up to 3,000 people with no permit, and you can't tell me that those large gatherings didn't increase some of the numbers. The other incident was Memorial Day. The numbers across the south rose exponentially after Memorial Day. You wonder why South Carolina rose so much. Yes, we can say that we opened up too fast, but you have to kind of look at our procedure in all of this.

Number one, I would expect people from the other parts of the country to travel to Charleston during the summertime. I would expect people from around the country to travel to Charleston during holiday weekends. Is there a chance that travel from other parts of the country could have contributed to our rise in cases? Maybe that's a question that we need to be looking at more. I know the Director of the CDC made that comment today, that people traveling from all around, especially the northeast, came down south for Memorial Day weekend, and there's a very good chance it could have spiked our numbers. So, I would like to see the number of cases from out of state and who has spent time in our hospitals down here.

My other point is, we have to look at where we're going with this. I don't see our businesses surviving on this business model that are already hurting as it is. I don't see us becoming this military type city where we've got Livability officers lined up and down the street questioning people and writing big fines. I don't think we want to scare people away from going out. However, we closed down first. We were one of the first to close down in the state. South Carolina closed down very quickly, and then we opened up full blast. We should have probably looked at some of these ideas before we shut down completely to see if they would make a difference. Now, we're trying these procedures on the back end, and obviously, this new ordinance or this amendment is ridiculously tougher than the one from two weeks ago. It has a lot more implications. So, I guess we're admitting that just wearing the mask isn't enough, or the original ordinance that we created wasn't enough. I can understand that because the number of cases are still rising exponentially every single day. I guess my question is, what if this doesn't

work? What's the next step? What are we going to do next? We don't really have any more options besides closing everything down once we go past this point. So, I think that we should just skip this part and go straight to the closure. Either close everything down, or we just need to live with it and do the best we can because I don't think this is going to work. I don't think that just wearing the mask that we voted on two weeks ago, it obviously hasn't made that big of a difference. If it had, then we wouldn't be voting on this tonight. I'm very conflicted with all of this, guys. I think that we either need to close everything down, or we need to keep everything open. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, thank you, Councilmember Griffin. You raised a lot of points there, and rather than responding to a lot of them, I'm going to keep going to the Councilmembers. Those are some very good points. I'll just refer to one. Back in March, when the CDC came out with recommendations about how opening up ought to occur, that you wait two weeks and follow the numbers, and wait two weeks, and follow your numbers. I'm sorry, but everybody, from the national government to the state government, basically threw that out the window and didn't go by it. To my knowledge, the best organization who followed that kind of protocol, the closest, is in fact us, the City of Charleston. We have that kind of measured reopening. We still haven't opened our City offices yet, other than the Permit Center, for that reason alone because our numbers have never qualified us to move to the next step. So, you make some good points, but I'm going to keep going around and hear from other Councilmembers. I had seen Councilwoman Jackson, Councilmember Mitchell, and back to Councilmember Gregorie."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilwoman Jackson.

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Yes, I agree, Mayor. Thank you, Councilmember Griffin. I do think you gave us a lot of good points and food for thought. I, too, wish that we had been more strict earlier on. We've gotten ourselves in a place where it's going to be very hard to improve radically in the four to five weeks that we are hoping our community will have success, so that our children can go back to school. I think that is a huge goal for the majority of the community. That is going to define normal work life for a lot of parents, and obviously, the health and wellbeing of our kids. I do believe what the Pediatric Association has tried to make clear that kids are holistic human beings, and they need to be together in their growing up years that define how they deal in the community. Keeping kids isolated is an act against normal human nature. I think that this is probably the best that we can do for right now. I would like to ask the Mayor to convene a group of business owners who primarily have entertainment as the core of their business model. A lot of bars play music, but they don't need to have music after 9:00 p.m. in order for people to continue to hang out and be with their companions until they can't drink any longer at 11:00 p.m. That will probably send people home. I'm sure it already has the last week, but I think we have a handful. I don't know how many are actually in the city. The only one that I know well is the Pour House, and I know there are other establishments on upper Meeting Street that thrive on having live music, and that's what drives their audience. So, I do hope that we can convene a group like that and see what we can do to support their loss of income. We can still help them get some sort of small business loan or other things that would really keep them going if they wanted to be open up until 9:00 p.m., or up until 11:00 p.m., but they don't get the audience because of the failure to have live music on site.

My biggest take away from what you said, Councilmember Griffin, is something I agree with wholeheartedly. We did not enforce the mask ordinance that we put into place two weeks ago. We had 15 people going around how many square miles of City neighborhoods? Obviously, they mostly stayed on the Peninsula. That is what they had to do based on the volume of mask wearing violations. It was an impossible task that we gave our Livability officers. Now that we're

going to throw the full force of our ability to enforce with all of our Public Safety personnel, I think we're giving ourselves a fighting chance. I don't know if I really care if we increase the fines, I agree with you. We probably should just start giving out fines and let people realize that that is going to happen to them and if they walk down the sidewalk with their mask hanging off their ear, that doesn't count. You need to have it on. That's our whole point. I do think that we have to give ourselves a chance of enforcing to the full extent of our capacity. We have not done that. So, those two things. The other thing you said that I really resonate with is those same enforcement officers should carry masks with them. We should make every effort to get masks into the neighborhood, faith communities, and other places where people are still being helped with food, deliveries, and things like that. Make sure that everybody has access to a base covering that's going to sustain them. One use ones are not enough. We need to find masks that can be washed, and literally, be a part of someone's going out of the house. Put it in your pocket, don't leave the house without it, just like you do your driver's license. I'm going to vote for this, but one detail that I was hoping we can maybe make an explanation under Section 6, where it says 'the alternative way of deciding the maximum number of occupants inside is to measure 36 square feet.' I think we should define 36 square feet of space. I'm assuming we mean dining room and where the customers are actually going to be. I do think we should make that clear in case some restaurant owners think they should be counting the kitchen and the bathrooms and all of the places where people wouldn't really be having any customer service. That would be my only edit to the document. Thank you very much."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you. That recommendation came from the Fire Marshal. You're right. Part of what we're doing here is to increase our ability to enforce. I will say that thousands of masks have been given to us, and we bought thousands. Many people have given them out. I got a shipment of some thousands of masks from the Bloomberg organization. We were giving them out on Johns Island this past weekend. Some of you went with me up and down King Street on Friday night. Almost every restaurant, bar, and store had free masks available. So, there are masks around. I was going up and down the street offering free masks with people walking by. You wouldn't believe how many people responded saying, 'Oh, I have a mask. It's in my pocket.' Then, I'm like 'okay, what good is it doing in your pocket? You've got to wear the dang thing.' So, anyway that was one of my experiences."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Mitchell.

Councilmember Mitchell said, "I understand and agree with most of what my colleagues were saying. Even on King Street, I missed the walk the other day because I had another meeting I was in, but on King Street where I live, and I drive on Friday and Saturdays, even on Thursdays, you see the people out there with no masks on. They have the masks in their pocket, but they will not wear them. The young people will not wear them, and they said no one can tell them to wear it. I'm telling you facts. When I am out there, even in these little convenience stores, where Councilman Lewis is right now, people come into the store and they say, 'well they can't serve you if you don't have a mask on.' They want to fight. 'No one can make me wear this mask if I don't want to.' Three different times he was approached that way. I went to Food Lion one day, and the same thing happened. They have a sign that says they will not let you in the store if you don't have a mask on. So, now we in the City of Charleston are trying to be proactive and do something as simple and easy as we can, and not trying to hurt anyone. So, we are taking step by step by step. That's what we are doing in the City of Charleston, not gangbanging them. Sure, we can shut the whole City down, oh yes, we can do that. That's one thing that can happen, but we are still trying to give the businesses some chance to still operate. Just asking them in their businesses to 'wear a mask.' Come in with a mask on. They do not wear masks. The younger people are not wearing masks."

My daughter, my grand right now, works in Walmart. They tried to attack her in Walmart because she asked them to put a mask on, right in Walmart. She works there, and she's worked there a long time. I have another grand that works at the Tanger Outlet Walmart, and one works at the Mt. Pleasant Walmart. The same thing is happening. The people have the masks in their pocket, but they don't want to wear it. They say, no one can tell them, 'you're taking my Constitutional right', and that's what they are telling them. So, we're here trying to be a little proactive and trying to give people a chance to still operate to try and do a little something to defend for their family. We're putting in our fines and maybe they'll look at the fine and say, 'I don't want to get a fine on my business, so I'm going to do this, I'm going to do that.' It's just a deterrent that we are trying. We don't want to try to tax everyone, not here in the City of Charleston. That's the way I believe we are going. We are trying to ease things in. I hope people understand that. They should see that because we can do a whole lot of things with the ordinance, but we are not doing it. We are trying to ease everything in and hope that people will abide by the ordinance and abide by what we are trying to do. The businesses can still operate with certain things. That is all we are doing here, and that's what I believe we are doing here, by being out there all of the time.

I'm out here. They can tell you. I'm out here at 1 o'clock and 2 o'clock in the morning every morning, every night because of the district I have. That's what I am. I see things. I'm out there standing and talking, but I keep my mask on, too. I'm wearing it when I'm around everyone. The people I'm around, half of my Councilmembers don't want to be around. I'm going to say that whole-heartedly. They are not going to stand out there with them, but I am there because that's the only way that we are going to make a difference. That's my belief. So, what we are trying here in the City of Charleston, we are trying to be a little proactive, and trying to ease it in and say, 'this fine is going to be that fine, and that fine is going to be this fine.' Nobody wants to get a fine, so they might change and make some different opinions on doing things in their business. Loud music, just cut down the music. On King Street, you drive down King Street, you'd think this was New Orleans, Louisiana on Friday and Saturday. Music this way, and music that way. Boom, boom, boom. You can't hear yourself walking down King Street or even driving down King Street. This is an obvious thing. They can still operate and make some money to be able to tend to their family, and that's all we are saying. That's the way I believe what's going on now. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie.

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Councilman Griffin said so much."

Councilmember Griffin said, "I tend to do that."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "I'd like to peel it back just a bit because I think what you said is that wearing a mask is not working. So, we have two alternatives. We either shut it down, or we learn to live with it. I wonder where I've heard that from before. Learning to live with it is just simply herd immunity. 'Only the strong survive.' So, if we deal with the mask issue, we know, and CDC has said that if we all wore masks, the spread will go down significantly. The City of Charleston, while I will agree with you, while we had a mask ordinance in place, enforcement was, in fact, lacking. I think as a result of that, it's a part of why we are where we are now. However, I do think within the stronger enforcement provisions in this ordinance, we at least owe ourselves an opportunity to enforce and to even make some examples out of people. I think, until we start making examples out of people that we are serious with regards to enforcement, then I agree with



you. Things will continue as usual. A lot of folks will not be wearing the masks, and as a result, subjecting many of us to the virus. I think if this ordinance, with these enforcement mechanisms in place doesn't work, then we may be headed to what you're suggesting, shutting the whole thing down. We may be. I think that we do owe ourselves, as well as the businesses in this community, an opportunity to adhere to the rules, regulations, and restrictions accordingly. I echo what Councilmember Mitchell said. 'All you've got to do is go down King Street and take a look. Folks aren't wearing masks.' I think as we ratchet up, the number of people who will be able to enforce it, that we owe the business community and ourselves an opportunity. Remember now, Councilman Griffin, you were one of the ones who voted to allow this stuff to be voluntary, even with the restaurants."

Councilmember Griffin said, "You're right, I did."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "At that time, I strongly opposed..."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Councilmember Gregorie something happened to your audio."

Councilwoman Delcioppo said, "Dudley, we can't hear you suddenly."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Okay. I don't know what's going on. My internet is probably not as good. The point I'm making, Councilman Griffin, is I think that you made some very, very good points, but I do think that health and the economics of this city go hand and hand. If you push herd immunity on this town, you talk about an economic impact. You're talking about 'we won't have to shut it down.' The world will shut us down. You talk about tourism? If you go with herd immunity, this city will be shut down for years, for years. So, while I'm in agreement with you that the lack of enforcement with respect to mask wearing is a part of our issue here, I do think that the extreme of going to herd immunity, and this new language of 'lets learn to live with it' is not the right approach. I think what we need to do at this point is to pass this thing. If it doesn't work, we may have to go to your first recommendation, shut it down, and shut it down now. Remember, we have to look at this long-term. We are a hotspot in the world. The world now knows about Charleston, the number one City. So, it may have to reach a point where we may have to shut this place down and get things cleaned up, so that not only are we protecting the health of our community, we're also protecting the economic long-term benefits of our community. We can't look at this in a short-term vacuum. We've got to look at every step that we take as a long-term fix to our economy, as well as to the health and wellbeing of our residents."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "At this juncture, can I ask to entertain a motion to approve number six? We never got one on the floor."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "So moved."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "If I could just recognize anybody that hadn't been heard yet on the motion. Councilmember Sakran, I think I called on you once before. So, let me go to Councilmembers Waring and Shahid, and then we'll come back to you for a quick follow up."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Listen, I agree with most of what has been said. If you can remember, Councilman Griffin, when we did have a shutdown, and we

did open back up, I think it was one of the two bad actors or whatever, we were going to try to get them to come in compliance. I think some of the members of the peer group spoke to those bad actors. I initially think it worked, but I think it's simpler than this. People are talking about their civil liberties. You don't have the civil liberty to infect somebody else. That's what's going on here. I'm going to support this, but I can tell you right now if there was a motion, I'm ready, willing, and able. I'm ready for my email to blow up on this, to go to the shutdown, I would vote for that.

I'll tell you why. Health is more important than the economy. You don't have the economy without health. You look at, did anyone see the Washington Post this weekend? A South Carolinian, Kathleen Parker, who is a nationally syndicated columnist, had an article in there about 'stay away from South Carolina.' We can't have that be our brand. We advertise ourselves and, quite frankly, we are one of the best walking cities in the country, if not the world. So, leaving politics and everything out of it, and I think that's why we never had a national strategy to date on this because you have politicians making the decision. When you get down to the Mayor and Council level and certain County Council levels, you're at the footprint of the people. We can't go to the grocery store without running into constituents. You can't go to the dry cleaners without running into constituents. Some of these constituents we have down here are fearful. What are we going to do? I'm sure of all of us have gotten that question in person and online. So, what can we do? We know what works. The science has told us what works. We've got a wonderful medical professional on the line still holding on. He could have gotten off after he gave his medical update and answered our queries, but he's still on because he cares about the decision we're going to make today. So, when it comes to the health and safety of the citizens in Charleston, I would vote to shut it down, and if that causes me to lose my seat, I still will feel that I made the right decision on behalf of the people.

Costco is pretty good. If you go in there, you're going to put a mask on. I haven't seen where anyone has really argued with that. These businesses, if they don't want to step out to help preserve the environment in which they invite patrons in to be safe, then as stewards of the City, for people's health, I think the next vote would be to close down. I think we need to send out a clear message. So, I'm going to support this. There is no playbook out here for this. We haven't had a pandemic before. I wish there was a book out there that said, 'do these ten things, and we're going to fix it all', but we're learning as we progress through this. This whole country and Dr. Cole is learning as we progress through this. I've learned along with you, Councilman Griffin, along with the Mayor, along with all our other colleagues on this meeting today. I'm going to support it, but if our numbers continue to spike like an Apollo, little rocket going straight up, if you see the charts, that's what the chart looks like, a little Apollo rocket you see blasts off. That's how our charts are. Those are lives we're talking about.

We saw in the paper there was a five year old that died from this. Making the hard call? That's not a hard call for me. So, I'll vote for this. Thank you, Mr. Mayor, for the time, but if the numbers look poor, and we have to come back and vote like we did before to shut it down, count me in because I think we need to protect the people's health first, so we can have an economy later. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid, followed by Councilmembers Brady and Seekings.

Councilmember Shahid said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor, members of Council, Madam Clerk. We had a playbook about 100 years ago on dealing with an epidemic or pandemic. The City of

Charleston opened up too soon, and the result of that was deadly. We didn't learn from that 100 years ago. We are a municipality with limited jurisdiction, and our partners around us have not always been fully cooperative with us. This takes a universal act on what we're trying to accomplish here. We are in a medical crisis. We are in a medical crisis, and that means we need to take extraordinary steps. We've done that. When we did that initially, we had very good success with our numbers. Our state and our country started reopening against the best advice of our scientists and our medical professionals. We opened too soon, and because of that we've seen these numbers rise. We passed an ordinance to take effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>, and we're going to have a report from our Public Safety Committee meeting in a few seconds. We brought that up as part of our report from Dan on how we're going to enforce that ordinance. The main goal of all of that, the main goal of that ordinance being in effect, was to provide for folks to comply with this ordinance, to comply with wearing a face covering, to go out and provide education and information to our general public as a need to go out there. Not to take a punitive measure on this, but to get people to voluntarily comply with. Those of us who were out there with the Mayor on Friday night, all of those antidotes that you just relayed were absolutely true. We walked up and down King Street from 9:30 to about 10:30 or 11:00 p.m. The number of folks who used their face masks either as something to put in their pocket or chin strap was astonishing. We handed out, I don't know Mayor, how many, but we handed out a good number of masks to those folks up and down King Street. The restaurant folks and the bars and the other establishments were very appreciative of our efforts in doing that because they wanted folks to be in compliance with that.

Then, we saw young people, shoulder to shoulder, lined outside to get into a bar without a face mask on. It was a very discouraging visual for us to observe what was taking place. We tried level one, and now we've gotten to level two. Level two now is this ordinance with much more enforcement power behind it, much more teeth behind it. We've got to enforce this. We've got schools that are going to open up in about a month's time. Our college campuses are going to be populated again within a month's time. Our population is going to increase significantly in the City of Charleston in about a month's time. That's going to be a good barometer for us to see where this all leads to.

I hope that all of our higher education institutions are going to be very forceful in complying with those students who are on campus while they're on campus or off campus to comply with this face covering ordinance. Otherwise, we will see these numbers go up higher. So, here we are. We've got this ordinance in front of us. There's another tool in our box. Let's give it a shot, see where it ends up, and the comments that you all are making are right on point. If this doesn't work we may be back to level two again which is shutting down the City. So, I urge all of us to go ahead and vote for and support this ordinance. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Brady.

Councilmember Brady said, "Yes, thank you, Mr. Mayor. I don't want to belabor anything that anyone else has already said. I think it's easy, especially for a little people in the general populace to have a degree of cognitive dissonance because they are removed from seeing what's going on in the hospitals every day. My wife works at MUSC. She's had to do two weeks in the COVID unit. She's a physical therapist, and just personally knowing the toll that it takes on her to have to treat those patients and watch some of them pass away, and I have nurses that live on my street work all over the area. To hear it from the frontlines, they are getting overworked. Some even had to take pay cuts. They're tired, and if we can do, even if this one step doesn't work, and

I want to address there are people that have been saying 'well the guidance has shifted, it said one thing, it's saying something else now.' That's how science works. You learn more, the more that you find out about it, especially in communicable diseases. You learn more as you go along. So, it would make sense that the science wouldn't be working and that we would be shifting guidance. So, if we know the masks work, lets beef up the enforcement. We know that, especially in enclosed environments, and this is true of any kind of airborne droplet, communicable disease, that being in an enclosed environment is unhealthy, especially when it starts to increase. People have asked about the times, and I'm glad Ms. Herdina commented on that. I think you were spot on. It's not that the disease doesn't come out after 9 or the disease doesn't come out after 11. It's just that those are the times that congregation will generally begin in a bar environment. None of us want to see businesses struggle and go out of business, but if we're not going to have people that can work those businesses because they contract this disease or not going to have people to visit those establishments, then there's no point of having an economy in the first place. I just encourage everyone that if we can do anything to just help ease the burden on our healthcare frontline workers, including my wife, not only would I greatly appreciate it, but I know they would, too."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Seekings.

Councilmember Seekings said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I'll be very brief because a lot has been said. I think one of the messages that if anyone is watching or listening, or just thinking about where we're going after this is if we come back and have this conversation again at this level, I think everyone knows what our next step is going to be. Dr. McLain used a term that I think we should all keep in our minds as we go forward, not just us on this call, but everyone in this community. He said, when we asked him what's your best advice to us to curb this thing, to get a handle on this thing, to get out on the other side of this thing, he said, 'significant social intervention.' Everything that we do as a community, I think we need to ask ourselves, 'are we making some form of significant social intervention to get to the other side of this?' What is one of the catch phrases we've heard since we were kids about law enforcement and public safety and taking care of your environments? 'If you see something, say something.' We've got to get to a position now, in this community, if we see people putting us at risk or in danger, say something. Don't be afraid. We're going to pass this tonight but, from now on, the significant social intervention has to be a collective effort of all of us to encourage people strongly, not just through fines, but through making it part of your daily routine to get on board and get beyond this. If not, we will be having this conversation. It will hurt our economy, it will hurt our health. It will hurt all of those things. So, significant social intervention at every level, not just at the government level is something I think we need to make sure the message is out there. No one has the platform more so than you, Mr. Mayor. Let's make sure that we get out there, and let people know that this is the most important thing you can do right now for your community is get on board, do things that we know will make you safe, wear masks, socially distance, stay at home if you can, and we'll get beyond this. If not, we're going to be talking about it this time, maybe even next year. That's not what we want to be doing."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "It's in everybody's self-interest. Speaking of 'see something, say something,' I did want to share with you and anyone listening that we have a Livability officer embedded in the call center who is taking calls regarding this matter. Rather than calling 9-1-1, any citizen can call 724-7311, our regular Customer Citizen Service Desk, and if you see something, say something. Call that number. I've got two more that haven't been heard from."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Appel, followed by Councilwoman Delcioppo.

Councilmember Appel said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I think Councilmember Seekings really hit on a serious and important point here. This needs to become a social norm that's widely accepted. This thing has, unfortunately, become politicized which is just the worst thing you can do in a national pandemic. I mean, you look around the world, and you see left-leaning governments doing what they need to be doing. You see right-leaning governments doing what they need to be doing. This is not politics. We know what works. This isn't rocket science. It's 'wear a mask', it's 'social-distance', it's 'crush the curve, and don't let off the gas.' But, we've failed to do that and, frankly, this should not even be at the City Council level. The fact that it is demonstrates a failure of leadership at the Federal, State, and regional levels. I might rub some people the wrong way by saying that, but that's the reality of it. The countries around the world that are making progress on this thing are not handling it at the City Council level because the reality of it is, our tools are limited in terms of enforcement and in terms of geographical and jurisdictional scope. Right? We can shut the bars down, the late nights on King Street, but the young 20-year olds that we saw on Friday night, Mayor and Councilmembers Shahid, Sakran, and Delcioppo and everybody else, they're going to Shem Creek. They're going to house parties. They are young. It's the summer. They don't have anything to do. They want to get drunk, and they want to hook up. That's the reality of what's going on, and there's only so much we can do. It's going to take much more cooperation from all levels of government, from the culture, from everybody, to start getting this thing under control.

This should be a sign of patriotic pride, to wear a mask, not some 'you're a wuss' or 'you're some girly-man because you're wearing a mask'. That's the interaction I was having on Friday night when I was walking around handing masks out to dudes. It was a weird dynamic, but that's where the culture is right now. Here's what we're looking at. No school in the fall, no college football in the fall. Can you believe that, in the United States of America, we are really looking at not having college football this fall? That's a reality. You've got the conferences right now playing little games, everything's getting cancelled more likely than not. That is a national failure. We are failing, right now, as a nation, and it's outrageous and should be embarrassing to every American. We just celebrated July 4<sup>th</sup>, American Exceptionalism. We are an exceptional country, but we are failing this test on a national and state-wide level. It's embarrassing. We're going to be watching premiere-league soccer playing in Europe while we're, it's going to be pathetic. Other countries are doing a better job, so we've got to find a way to get a hold of this. There's no ordinance that we can pass that's going to get a hold of this on its own. It's going to take much more than that, but this ordinance that we have before us tonight is an important start. I'm much more inclined, call me crazy, to listen to Dr. McClain than some of the maniacs on Facebook that think this is a New World Order plot to take away people's liberty and things like that. It's absurd where the discourse is in this country, but we can set the example. We can start to take action.

The last thing I'll say is this is going to put late-night businesses, music venues, out of business. I heard from the Pour House, a wonderful establishment in my district over on James Island. They said this amplified music thing is going to put them out of business. I don't think that was the intent, necessarily, behind the ordinance. This ordinance has got the best of intentions, but that's the reality of it. That's one of the problems of having these decisions fall upon local government because we can deliver the boom, we can shut a business down or severely curtail their income, but we can't put money in their pocket. We can't soften the blow. Only the Federal Government, maybe the State Government, can do that. That's what's necessary because these businesses are being called upon to do, and act, for the betterment of public good. That's the

reality of it. So, I don't know, I've covered a lot of ground. I know we've talked a lot about this. I think this ordinance is the right step. We've got to pick up on enforcement. The society and culture has got to wake up before we preside over an unnecessary, self-inflicted, national tragedy."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilwoman Delcioppo.

Councilwoman Delcioppo said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and my fellow Councilmembers for giving me some time. I guess the fact that we've gotten to this point is very disheartening and just blows my mind. I feel like only a couple months ago we were so happy that we were below 400, and that seems like it was just a couple weeks ago and, gosh, what we wouldn't give to only have 400 cases now."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Statewide."

Councilwoman Delcioppo said, "Exactly. This is about respecting one another and the fact that a government has to step in and teach you what you should have learned in Kindergarten is beyond me. You cannot expect a single mom, working at least one full time job, living paycheck to paycheck, to also be a schoolteacher, daycare worker, and extracurricular activity counselor. She can't do it. Believe me, single moms are superheros, but there are only so many hours in the day, and that's what we're asking them to do, to sacrifice being able to provide for their family because their children can't go to school. Teachers shouldn't have to choose and make these decisions. I know that Councilmembers Seekings and Appel mentioned it and every single one of us, I know business owners are hurting, and I feel that pain. I hear it from businesses all over the place, how much they're hurting. I also hear from moms and dads and our senior citizens across the board, everyone is hurting. This is an equal opportunity offender, this virus. I'll admit, I came into this going, 'I don't think I can support this. I can't put one more government stipulation on the public.' But, then I thought more and more about it, and if our citizens aren't going to do it themselves, we're kind of left with no choice.

I hate the idea of writing someone a ticket because they won't put a mask on, but I don't know what else to do at this point. Some businesses are never going to reopen, businesses that have been around in Charleston for 40+ years, and that's awful to think about. I hate that, and I hate that they can't play music after a certain time or serve alcohol after a certain time and all of these things. I just don't know any other solutions at this point, and I want them. Honestly, we can pass every law in the book, but until folks decide that they want to respect themselves and one another, we're just going to keep spinning our wheels. If I knew I infected someone with Coronavirus, I would feel like the biggest jerk. If you infected me with Coronavirus, I'd think you were the biggest jerk. This is so hard, and I hate these no-win situations that we've been put in over and over. I can already feel my inbox exploding, like other Councilmembers have mentioned. I just beg of anyone who hears my words to think about your grandma. She's scared. You would put on a mask to make your grandma feel better. So, when you go to the grocery, other people's grandmas are in that grocery, so put on a mask for them. Regardless of your personal feelings, do unto others. Live that Christ-centric life, and if Christianity is not your faith, I did an invocation a couple of weeks ago showing that every faith comes down to the same thing, and it's that we are all created in God's image, not only certain people, all of us are. So, I just please ask of people to take that to heart and think about those single moms and think about those kids. Really lean on that, because it sucks. It really does, and none of us like having to do this."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you for your passion and your remarks. All faiths tell us to love one another and to care for one another. We're at the point where we can't do that, as a society, if we're spreading this disease. Many times, we might be infected with this disease and not even know it, so that's been part of the problem. I'm also sorry that this impact is so heavy on some of our core businesses. Charleston is all about being a food town and hospitality town, but just the nature of the business, when you're drinking and eating, you have to take your mask off and you're congregating, and that leads to the spread of this contagion. You're right, we're just between a rock and a hard place. This is not fun for anyone. Thank you for all your thoughtful comments. Can I call the question at this point?"

On a motion of Councilmember Mitchell, seconded by Councilmember Gregorie, City Council voted to approve Item I-6:

**2020-086 - EMERGENCY ORDINANCE REQUIRING PERSONS TO WEAR FACE COVERINGS IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES IN CITY OF CHARLESTON, LIMITING CAPACITY IN BARS AND RESTAURANTS, AND PROHIBITING AMPLIFIED MUSIC IN BARS AND RESTAURANTS AFTER 9 P.M., TO REDUCE RISK OF EXPOSURE TO COVID-19 DURING THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY AND RECOVERY. (AS AMENDED)**

The vote was not unanimous. Councilmember Griffin voted nay.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay, that was a little long. Do you all want to continue right along or take a little break?"

Councilmember Shahid said, "Yes, keep on going."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay, we'll continue right on. Next up is Committee on Public Safety. Councilmember Shahid."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. We had a meeting on July 1<sup>st</sup>. I appreciate all the work the members of the Public Safety Committee have dedicated to all this. We received an update on the May 30<sup>th</sup> riot. I forwarded it to all members of Council, the four-page report summary that we received from Heather Malloy and also the link to the tapes of the 6.5 hours of radio transmission that were capsulized for us. You should have that available to you. There was reference to a Freedom of Information request and also part of the internal review of what occurred on May 30<sup>th</sup>. Any questions about that, I'd be glad to answer. I think Chief Reynolds is available for us. There were some other instances that occurred over the weekend regarding the assembly at White Point Gardens. But, they were continuing to make arrests from the riot on May 30<sup>th</sup>, and they are continuing to enforce these civil unrests. We also got an update on the vandalism at the Charleston 9 Memorial Park. There was an arrest made on that. It was not connected to any of the other civil unrests that we experienced in the City. Like I mentioned earlier, we did get an update from Dan Riccio on the face mask covering ordinance, and I stated earlier that the purpose of that was to provide for an educational component to face coverings and to get people to comply with that. Then, we had an update on the construction on Fire Station 11. I think Chief Curia and Chief Reynolds are on the line for any other questions. But, Chief Curia, can you just give us a quick update on where we now stand with the completion of Fire Station 11? Then, we'll call on Chief Reynolds to comment on anything that we may have regarding my comments about the update from May 30<sup>th</sup>."

Chief Curia said, "Certainly. Good evening, everybody. Just a very quick update on Fire Station 11, when we met on July 1, this is information that was passed on by Jason Kronsberg, the building was 87% complete. Jason estimated that it could reach substantial completion by the end of July. The Mayor asked if substantial completion was at the end of July when the Fire Department would be able to occupy the building. The best guess I've gotten is that, with the punch list the Fire Department will generate, we may be able to be in that building by September. I drove past it this weekend, and there's noticeable work being done. Just publically, I want to thank everyone for pushing this to completion for us, especially Jason. I do know that he is on the line, so if there are specific technical questions about the construction timeline or where we stand, Jason would probably be the most appropriate person."

Councilmember Shahid said, "I just want to add, and Chief Curia's available, we all got an email about Fire Station 8. So, we're going to call another Public Safety Committee meeting in the next couple weeks or so to give an update as to the status of those stations, Station 8 and some more ideas about capital needs for the Fire Department. Chief Reynolds, I see that you're available. Anything that you want to add onto what I commented on about the update from the May 30<sup>th</sup> riot?"

Chief Reynolds said, "Just a couple things, one of the things that was highlighted by our attorney, Heather Malloy who gave the briefing, was that in all that night, there were ten arrests made associated with the evening of the 30<sup>th</sup>. Since that time, a total of 74 arrest warrants have been issued, and I actually believe it's a little bit more than that. That's the total that was covered in the Public Safety Committee meeting. There have been some additional arrest warrants. Twenty-seven offenders have been identified, and actually that number, again, has increased. Sixty-five of those with warrants, at that time, had been served. The total number of offenders who have been arrested to date, then was twenty-three, and that number has increased. The charges included arson, burglary, inciting a riot, assault and battery on citizens and Police Officers, and damage to property. There continues to be additional follow-ups. One of the things with this past weekend, that I think you wanted me to mention, is that we have reinstated our permitting. So we, although we continue to grapple with the Covid challenges, have reinstated our permitting. That enables us to work with the protest groups and have a little more accountability. We've had a lot more success because of that. If I could, just briefly, read you a statement that, kind of ironically, overlaps what was just discussed with Covid, and what we're talking about with these protests. I just got this from Chief Holbrook, and it's in reference to the passing of Columbia Police Officer Robert Hall. 'It is with a heavy heart and tremendous sadness that Columbia Police Chief, Skip Holbrook, announces the passing of Master Police Officer Bob Hall early this morning, after receiving treatments at Baptist Hospital since July 5<sup>th</sup>. 57 years old, Hall, and 35 year veteran of CPD, died from complications due to Covid-19. Prior to becoming ill, he was a valuable part of their Special Events Unit and did a variety of things which included responding to the riots and the hostile protests at CPD Headquarters on May 30<sup>th</sup> and May 31<sup>st</sup>.' Just echoing the seriousness of what's already been discussed, I just got that as we were sitting here."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Thank you, Chief Reynolds. I think that just sort of drives home the point that we have our medical personnel on the front lines. We have our first responders on the front lines. They're the ones who are constantly exposed to this virus. We've got to always keep them in our minds as to what we're sending them out to do. Our hearts are heavy with the loss of our sister city in Columbia's loss of their 35 year veteran of the Police Department. We've just got to always be diligent. Thank you for that report, both Chief Curia, and Chief Reynolds."



Councilmember Waring said, "Mr. Chairman?"

Councilmember Shahid said, "Yes, sir?"

Councilmember Waring said, "Listen, I have a question about Fire Station 11. I've ridden by and, you're right, it's looking a whole lot better. Lights are on. I'm not asking for this answer today, but certainly we can get this before the next meeting, but we know that station is late. So, I'd like to know how many days it's late, and I believe, where we were, if we weren't out by a certain amount of time, we had to pay rent. I'd like to know how much rent we've paid. So, if that information can be provided to myself and Council between now and the next meeting, that would be great."

Councilmember Shahid said, "I think we can get that for you. Also, I think that part of our contract with the builder went into that stage of building component, as well. We can get those numbers to you, Councilmember Waring. They would be owing us, I think."

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

Councilmember Shahid said, "Thank you. Thanks for the question. That's all I have, Mr. Mayor. There's nothing we have to take a vote on at this point."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you. Next, we'll go to our Committee on Public Works and Utilities. Councilmember Waring."

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Public Works and Utilities met yesterday at 4:00 p.m. As you see on your agenda, we had a discussion about a report from the Underground Advisory Committee. In effect, the net of that was that the tree-cutting is, although in some cases terrific, within the proper guidelines of the contract. A lot of the conversation centered on trying to beef up our ability to put lines underground and search for best practices, not only here but in other municipalities across the region, not just State, but outside the State. I'm with the understanding, and the Committee is too, that there are a number of ways to fund putting lines underground. That's the real long-term solution on that. I would say both of them went into a dual conversation between the undergrounding, as well as tree trimming. Down under Item B, Stormwater Discussion, it was just a discussion on the Angel Oak parking area, which is actually very preliminary, and the City is in conjunction with Lowcountry Open Land Trust and others to be very sensitive in how that parking lot is done. There are no drawings out there. I know you might have gotten calls from media on that, I know I did, to show plans for the parking lot, but we are very much in the preliminary process, very early on in that. A conversation that Councilmember Seekings is owed some credit to, we had a coordination discussion with a CWS representative, our Committee, and Mr. Fountain on coming together on these sinkholes and arches, in particular where the City has been picking up the responsibility. We all know, we know now anyway, that it's a joint responsibility. That went very well, I would say, on that conversation. Then, we got into the Stormwater Updates and for that, I'm going to turn it over to Mr. Fountain. Mr. Fountain, if you could begin the Stormwater Update, please."

Mr. Fountain said, "Sure. Thank you, Councilmember Waring. I'll just run through these very briefly. Let me know if anyone has any questions. Spring/Fishburne Phase 3, that project has hit substantial completion, basically the tunnel work and the functionality of the project are now complete. The King Street US 17 Ramp has been reopened, and we're just basically finalizing some surface site restoration at Harmon Field and some of the other sites over the next couple of weeks, and then that contract will be closed out. Note that it did come in under budget for the

total project cost. That was a nice thing with that phase of the project. Spring/Fishburne Phase 4, the excavation work is continuing between the Ashley River Bridges. That's the main work you'll see for the next few weeks on that location. We are moving along with the test pile work for the H piles and getting ready to go into production. The H piles are the pile supports for the outfall structures out between the bridges on the box culverts. So, we'll send out and release the water into the Ashley River. Spring/Fishburne Phase 5, we mentioned that this was the Mayor's favorite update of the meeting, that the Infrastructure Bank had approved \$21.5 million towards the project last week. We are currently working on finalizing the scope with Davis & Floyd for the pump system design and bid support. These pumps are very, very large pumps and have a very long lead time. They are kind of custom manufactured for each application. So, we'll actually finalize the design and then procurement for those pumps in advance of the actual final design and construction contract for the remainder of the pump station. That should be coming to Council in the next couple of months."

Councilmember Waring said, "Mr. Fountain, if you would pause right there. Mr. Mayor, would you address that \$21.5 million funding that came into the City from that application. I think that deserves a little bit more explanation, Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "From the SIB Board?"

Councilmember Waring said, "Yes, sir."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I know you all have heard, we sent out a notice, and it was in the paper. So, we're excited to get the approval of a 50/50 match for the balance for completion of an estimate for the Spring/Fishburne Tunnel System that basically covers a 500 acre area. It will pay for the last phase, Phase 5, the pump station portion of the project. In addition, Charleston County was successful and got awarded a grant to help complete the transportation improvements at Main Road and Savannah Highway all the way from Bees Ferry out to River Road on Johns Island, improvements to Main Road to the tune of \$40 million. It was a County application, but it was also on our city-wide transportation plan, so both of those are just very good and exciting news. I thank the Governor on this count for helping us and a vocal member of the SIB Board, Chip Limehouse, and the other members for their support, Senator Campsen, other officials helping make that successful. I think, mostly, it was the application itself, so thanks to Matt. Councilmember Shealy, where are you? There you are. I think of you often whenever we get a successful grant. Sarah Fichera, our grant writer, did a fabulous job writing this up, and you were such a proponent in getting her hired when you came back from The National League of Cities. She's more than paid for herself, Councilmember Shealy. Thank you for being such an advocate for that."

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. That funding was just so important. It virtually affects, the funding, all twelve districts and this entire City, so that was a really big one. If you remember, Mr. Mayor, the staff had to really work, literally, around the clock over the weekend to get that application in. So, kudos to everybody on staff, Legal, everybody, that participated in getting that application to the SIB. Continue, Mr. Fountain. I'm sorry for cutting across, but I thought that one was worthy of highlight."

Mr. Fountain said, "Thank you, Councilmember Waring. Moving onto the other projects, Medical District Tunnel Extension, we've prepared easement documents and provided those to the MUSC Board, who is currently reviewing the documents to provide dedication that we can then bring back to Council for approval. The Low Battery Project, the exterior wall removal and replacement is complete. We basically have the walkway platform installation ongoing, and we're

working on the installation of the actual drainage structures in the roadway corridor. The King/Huger project, we've received our DOT encroachment permit. We've completed our final environmental sampling work, and we're finalizing our bid phase preparation for the surface drainage improvements on the project. We've also completed the preliminary engineering work on the pump station, and we're putting together the scope with the consultant for the final design and permitting of the most optimized pump station and outfall from that preliminary work, and we'll be bringing that to Council in the next couple of sessions. I should point out the construction of the project is still looking to get going this calendar year. We will see some traffic impact during that, so we'll need to spend a lot of time coordinating with the community and the neighborhood and get the information out about that one, but the first phase of that project will provide some very minor flood improvements. But, really the focus of that first phase is to collect the water and bring it to the pump station that will be installed in the second phase of the project. That one is making good progress. Forest Acres project, AT&T did provide us with an update that they had completed a significant amount of design work for DOT in response to some DOT encroachment permit applications regarding the impacts to Playground Road for relocating their duct bank, so that we can continue our portion of the drainage project and are waiting to hear back now from DOT on how that will be resolved.

The Market Street project, we have received almost all of our City permits. We're just finalizing our last T&T permit based on the mid-block crossing, which we expect to have resolved pretty shortly. Our DOT encroachment permit has been reviewed, and DOT only came back with minor comments, so we expect to have that approved shortly. At that point, we'll be able to take the fully permitted project to Dominion, and Dominion will start work on their undergrounding design. We'll be coordinating with them on that project. The Central Park Drainage project, the City has provided its final comments on the final draft report to our consultant. The consultant is making their last revisions on that. We should have it ready to present to the James Island Drainage meeting on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. We'll then need to look at moving forward into a design permitting on those phases as well. We've talked with Charleston County, who wants to collaborate on that project and we'll look at some different options for splitting up different parts of the project, so that will be another good, collaborative project with, hopefully, funding coming from both agencies. The Barberry Woods Drainage Improvement project, we are just about finalized on our contract for preliminary design services. That should be coming to the next Council meeting for approval for that drainage improvement design. The Windermere Drainage Improvement project, we are currently negotiating with the engineering firm that was selected by the selection committee. We should have that scope negotiated and ready for Council review within the next six weeks or so, and we'll bring that to Council, as well. The Church Creek Storage projects, that request for qualification advertisement is currently on our bid line. We had our preapplication meeting with a number of interested parties. Qualifications packages are now due back to the City on July 23<sup>rd</sup> and will get a final selection from the Selection Committee, who will review those packages. Broad/Lockwood Sunny Day Flooding Concept Review, we have reevaluated the draft report from our consultant and made some comments. We're just waiting to get back that final draft to be able to discuss the results on that approach. Again, that's looking for some type of wall or other method of preventing sunny day flooding on Lockwood down near the Broad Street intersection. This is just a concept, so different design options are available through that approach."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Matt, who's the consultant on that one?"

Mr. Fountain said, "So, that's JMT. JMT is doing very similar work on the Battery on a much larger scale. They have the same geo-tech work and the same basic knowledge of the site and geotechnical loading, so they're able to do quite a bit of cost efficiency on giving us data that they're basically using from one design on one project just down the street on this project, as well.

Waterfront Hotel, this one's a little unusual in that it's kind of a collaborative project in that the hotel had to relocate a drainage pipe that was an easement on the hotel property. As part of that relocation, they agreed to basically up, not just replace a single pipe with a new pipe and new tide gate and Army Corp of Engineering permitting for the relocation, but to install a second pile supported pipe along those lines. So, that was the original 1984 recommendation for that section of the Peninsula, so that drainage basin should now be brought all the way up to standard with brand new pile supported pipes with outfall valves, and we should see some real improvement to flooding in that area, as well. The City granted a small portion of the cost to the additional pipe. That pipe is actually constructed, and we're just finalizing backfill and surface improvements at this point. Dunoon Drive, that project has been completed and closed out at this point. Lord Calvert, that project has been completed and closed out. Weims Court, the first two phases, and repairs are complete and closed out. We're underway on our third phase of the repairs today and believe we'll be able to complete the project with just this third phase and not need another step, as we keep finding additional failures and impacts. We think we've gotten all the way to King Street at this point and will be able to restore drainage through that whole corridor. The Sherwood Drainage Improvement project, fence removal, is complete. Tree removal is complete. Field ops are on the project site laying out swale and pipe installation work, and we also discussed at the committee meeting how this drainage would actually be modified slightly to improve the drainage at King Richard, which is a little community just to the north of this project site. It will let that community be able to drain south, as well as north, which is the original design of the community to relieve their flooding.

The South Anderson check valve, this is a collaborative installation on James Island with the Town of James Island who is paying most of the cost, while we provide most of the technical support. That actually is being installed tomorrow morning at that location just north of Camp Road which will help with most of the flooding south of Camp Road and east of Folly Road. Mueller Drive, we have our field survey scheduled and have that contractor on board to layout easements, so we can develop our final project plans on that property. Concord Street Pump Station, we completed some emergency maintenance. It was on the bids and purchases today. That basically involved dewatering the pump station using the Port Authority cruise area parking lot, which was available at the time and sending divers down into the pump station to remove some debris that had been clogged into the pumps. We're prioritizing moving forward with some of our rehabilitation and reconstruction work for that pump station. We've talked about it briefly, but we're at about 20 years of age on the pumps and control system. So, we're going to bring that scope back to review because we really want to get that prioritized and make sure we don't see any excessive down time on that station.

For Floodplain, we just had a couple of items. We did close on another property for the property acquisition from the flood damaged properties at 1167 Shoreham Road on James Island. We've closed on it. Now we have to demolish the property, and we'll be looking to retrofit that property like we did in Church Creek to create a benefit, not just a removal of the structure and the small benefit we get from that. We also did get finalization with our CRS cycle visit. We did get it pushed back slightly to early December 2020. It's going to be December 9<sup>th</sup>, so we have our final date, and we'll be trying to drop our score by one level to get an additional 5% of insurance savings on anyone who owns a flood policy in the City of Charleston. We discussed a rehab project briefly at 914 King Richard, preparing some building permits to see if the 50% rule applied. I think Building Services was going to provide a follow up inspection to make some additional checks and evaluations on that property. I think that's all I had, Councilmember Waring, unless there are any questions."

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you, Mr. Fountain. You all see the comprehensive approach that Mr. Fountain touches on for drainage projects in all twelve districts. It's all across this City that progress is being made. Thank you, Mr. Fountain, for your comprehensive approach. I really do appreciate that. We had a discussion about the Dominion boring under the creek to supply power to Ghost Island. Obviously, there were some comments on it tonight during public opinion. We had a long discussion on this aspect of whether we should be advocating for the electric service of small islands. It's not personal. These people are great people. I've met with them myself, but we have a lot of these islands in and around Charleston, marshland. Should we be doing that? The Neighborhood Association has already filed an appeal. The prospects were put to our committee should the City take an official position on this electrification of those islands, or that island in particular, because it will be precedent setting. So, we brought the discussion forward to City Council. Obviously, neighborhoods on both sides of that island aren't satisfied with it. These people have the right, I guess from Planning, to build a house. I don't think we're trying to rezone the property, but they also can build off the grid. I mean, they've got television shows out there how people secure power through solar power and other alternative means. So, the idea of a power line going underneath the marshes and coming up, should we support that as a City or should we take a stand on that as a City? I see Councilwoman Jackson's hand waving, so I'm going to recognize her if that's okay, Mr. Mayor."

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I was trained, in order to put this on our discussion agenda, we need to have a vote of Council in order to do that. Am I correct about that?"

Councilmember Waring said, "No, it's coming off the Public Works Committee. It's just reporting out to City Council our discussion, unless City Council chooses to take action, or the Mayor chooses to take action, we can. But, we don't have to add it to the Council agenda."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We can technically discuss it, but if we wanted to take action, we would first have to add that to the agenda, which this body can do."

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Well, I would like to start a discussion, and I hope it would end in action. I listen in, as you all know, to the discussion at the Public Works Committee. I do think you covered a lot of very pertinent and probably compelling topics for what the Council should be considering into the future and making more of a zoning issue on these hammock islands, as we've been educated to call them. But, I think for this particular case, it is an active development site, a single development site. There's a very simple next step that I would encourage the Council to discuss and then actually take a vote on putting a motion forward. So, my discussion is that the simple next step is literally to authorize the Mayor to send a letter to the permit officer who's been shepherding this permit that Dominion Power has been needing to get in order to install electricity using a 1,100 foot run under the marsh that surrounds this hammock island. Right now, the permit has been approved at the local DHEC staff level, and it's being appealed. So, all we need to do, in order to keep this simple answer going and give this site the respect that I personally believe it deserves as a historic location that has one of a kind history in Charleston, is to authorize the Mayor to send a letter to DHEC asking for a full DHEC Board hearing about this appeal. We don't have to give our opinion one way or the other about what we think about whether the marsh should be disturbed for this purpose. We don't need to weigh in about electricity. All we need to do is say that we think this case needs a full DHEC board hearing, and I would assume that it does because it's a unique site. More importantly, it's part of the Maryville/Ashleyville community. Well, it was a town that is now a beloved and historic neighborhood in the City of Charleston. Then, it gives 30 days for the applicant to do his knitting with the community and with us to really help us understand the holistic intentions for this site."

There are a lot of rumors flying around. I don't do social media anymore because it's just too uninformative, but I know that there are a lot of rumors flying around about what the real intention of the owners is for the site. I don't think we need to go there, but I do think we need to offer an opportunity for the owner to come in, and now he has an attorney, and give us a very start to finish picture for what this site is intended to be under their ownership, and also include the Maryville neighborhood into that. Then, the regulations that are in control take over.

I do feel like it's fair for us to say, especially with new Councilmembers in office since January, that this whole case came before us as sort of an after the fact set of circumstances where the owners had put in place, and the dirt was disturbed in a variety of ways by the installation of a self-sufficient infrastructure basically, and a water repository for drinking water, solar panels, a packet system for septic, a shed. So, there were a lot of things that were actually constructed and done on this island before any of our inspectors or permit staff knew anything about it. That's where we were left with the Council in December of 2019. So, I know there's a stop work order. I'm totally assuming that the owners have respected that and have not made any more changes to the property until they can go through these proper regulations, but I do think that we have an opportunity to, at least, give this property the full hearing that I think the weight of its history and location in Maryville/Ashleyville deserves. My one word for the owner, and I know they probably have all of the law and regulations on their side as their lawyer has laid out in front of us today, but I guess I would appeal to their sense of community. My faith informs that 'to whom much is given, much is required,' and I think this family has been given much in the way that they've used their resources for good in this community and, as a result, they are in a place that is very dear. Yes, it had been neglected. I understand that they have done the right thing by taking away trash and garbage and corrosive materials off this site. That's all wonderful, but I do feel like they should be going the extra mile to live into their vision for the property and really bring all of us along into it. So, that's what I have to say. I would like to see us take a vote to authorize the Mayor to send this letter. It's a very simple request that he would be making of DHEC staff, and then they would have a full board hearing in 30 days. Thank you."

Councilmember Waring said, "Councilmember Sakran, it's your district, and I think Councilmember Shahid's district. Any comments?"

Councilmember Sakran said, "I just want to echo Councilwoman Jackson. I fully support Ms. Hamilton, Ashleyville/Maryville's appeal for this to DHEC. Three things I just want to echo in that appeal, which is one, the environmental concern I have with that island and that community. It's one of the oldest communities we have, so I certainly have some environmental concerns. Number two, based on my understanding, a lot of the work that was done has not been permitted, and I haven't received a full answer on whether that work was permitted. I'm happy to have that conversation with the owners and sit down with them in person. I'm available for that. Lastly, the question of whether there is, essentially, a cemetery and human remains left on that island, that hasn't been fully answered for me. So, those three things need to be answered, but I fully support Ms. Hamilton and Ashleyville/Maryville's appeal and their decision. Thank you, Councilman Waring, for calling on me."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Thank you, Councilman Waring, and I'll weigh in, as well. So, the island actually sits within my district, and for those of you that are not familiar with it, this is an island that is situated right across from Charlestowne Landing. It sits across the creek from the Maryville/Ashleyville neighborhood, and as Councilmember Waring reminded me yesterday, the new County park that is soon to be developed is right behind this, as well. It's a very unique island. The owner purchased it and to their credit, and I say this with all due respect to them, they have done a marvelous job of cleaning this island. I forgot the amount of garbage that was stated

as what they took off that island, the debris, the trash that was dumped there. They've done a magnificent job of providing a sense of sanctity to that island.

Historically, it was called Ghost Island because the early settlers would bury their dead on that island. There were some other folks in the Lining family, historically, that we can document at one time were buried on that island. That's why it got the name Ghost Island. There are some questions as to what human remains are on that island. There have been reports that none exist out there whatsoever, so there's still a question in many people's minds as to what still exists on there. I pass by this island when I take my pleasure boat around. I see it. There are solar panels out there. There is a structure out there, and Councilmember Jackson and Councilmember Sakran, your inquiry is correct. A stop work order was issued to them in December 2019. The work that they reportedly started on out there was not permitted and so that work has ceased. I can't tell if there has been any more work there. It doesn't look like there has been. This area is very sensitive to a lot of folks, particularly to the folks who live in the Maryville/Ashleyville area. It is very important to them. I want to work with the owners. They have a right to use that property within the restrictions of our City's Code and our City rules and regulations. There's going to be a huge issue as to what they are going to be allowed to build out there, if anything at all. One of the issues, and I had this conversation with Chief Curia and our Fire Marshals, is that it will be a problem with responding to a distress call. This is an island, and there is no land access to that island. So, whether or not they are going to be permitted to get a Certificate of Occupancy is going to be very questionable because the police and fire departments are not going to be able to respond out there in a timely manner if it's something to do with life saving or life issue matters or property issues. So, we're a long way down this road, as to whether or not, what's going to be eventually constructed out there. I just don't know. But, I want to support my constituents who are asking us to intervene in this. This is a good start to do that. Thank you."

Councilmember Waring said, "Okay. Mr. Mayor, just procedurally, my report is concluded, believe it or not. Most of it was for information."

Councilmember Griffin said, "Mr. Chairman."

Councilmember Waring said, "Councilmember Griffin, I hear your voice."

Councilmember Griffin said, "Yes, I'm driving down the road and am not able to be seen, but I would like to make a couple of points if I can, and anybody else who'd like to speak. I just wanted to sort of talk about a couple of things we talked about yesterday for the whole group. Number one, I believe the Mayor said yesterday that he doesn't actually need our consent in order to write a letter to DHEC or a federal agency on behalf of a permit application. In fact, he said yesterday he's done that before, so I don't even think it needs a vote in order for him to do that. If he wanted us to vote on it for the pleasure of making it a full Council vote, I could understand that, but he doesn't need our approval based on what he said yesterday to do that. In regards to this property, I made my points pretty abundantly clear yesterday that I don't think we should be getting involved in this. We're going to have our chance. We've got an active permit application for the City. We would have our time to handle that situation, as well as they're going to have to prove that they can take emergency personnel out there, and the Fire Marshal is going to have to approve it. There are going to be opportunities for the City to be involved. To be honest with you, if I were somebody who was looking to buy property in the City, and I was listening to this, I would never buy a piece of property in the City of Charleston because I think that this is just getting a little out of control. This is not something that we should be taking up as a Council. That's my personal opinion."

In terms of Mr. Swain, Mr. Chris Swain is a Citadel graduate and wears the ring and abides by the honor code. We have not only honor, duty and respect, but our honor code of 'a cadet shall never lie, cheat, or steal, nor tolerate those who do.' I have a hard time believing that he's trying to come up with some lie about what that property's intended purpose is. I have heard from everybody who's involved in that project that it's going to be a botanical garden with some sort of shack for somebody who is going to tend the property. I don't think there are any ulterior motives there, and I don't think it's respectful for us to insinuate that there may be some hidden agenda for somebody who has been a great partner so far. Those are my points, and I'm not going to support writing a letter if we take a vote on it. Thank you."

Councilmember Waring said, "Alright, Councilman Griffin. Bear in mind, Councilman Griffin, people looking at property to buy, if we took your statement on not buying property in this City, if the City didn't step up to protect it, we wouldn't actually have Waterfront Park. Did you know that was supposed to be a private development? The City stepped in and said it should be for all to enjoy. So, there are many things around this City right now, but for, frankly, the City's vision stepping in, the public wouldn't enjoy. So, when it comes to right now, in this same historic watershed, the Carl Richardson Park, which looks directly across this watershed to the replica of the Adventure at Charlestowne Landing, was going to be a private development. The City stepped in, this City Council, many people are still around the table that voted eminent domain. So, when you get on that ship, and you look back at Ashleyville and that park, you won't see, I'll have to quote Mayor Riley. He said, 'you won't see somebody with a grill and a 6-pack looking at patrons on the Adventure.' So, there are times when the government steps in. St. Andrews Boulevard wouldn't be there but for eminent domain and the government coming through and putting that highway there. I'm sure the private developer that wanted to put condos where Waterfront Park is today walked away dissatisfied somewhat, but the City compensated him for the property. Charleston's a good place to do business. Mr. Mayor, I want to get back to the procedures on this one. We did have an executive session on the abandonment of an easement, and our Legal Department is hopefully working on a solution to come back to Public Works. If it passes Public Works, we'll bring it forward to the next Council meeting. But, I think that's the extent of my report, Mr. Mayor. Now, if we want to move forward in adding this to the agenda, or you want to write the letter or whatever, but for the Public Works Committee, that's the extent of my report."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Thank you. We can just move along to our Committee on Traffic and Transportation. Councilmember Seekings."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. The Committee on Traffic and Transportation met today at 3:00 p.m. We had a robust meeting. We took up a number of things, most important of which, for the purposes of tonight, and I see Mr. Benjamin has now chimed in. He can give me some back up on this. You all may recall, thanks to Councilmember Brady through the Traffic and Transportation Committee, we sent to the Bike/Ped Committee of the City of Charleston, the charge of taking a look in our current challenging times of COVID, at some Open Streets, broad policies, and perhaps some specific projects that we might be able to recommend back through Bike/Ped to Traffic and Transportation and onto City Council. The Bike/Ped Committee has met on a number of occasions with everybody participating. Today, we received a report from the Bike/Ped Advisory Committee, which I sit on and so does Councilmember Brady. A report was actually given to us by the co-chair, Matt Moldenhauer, which recommended three specific courses of action in response to the charge of coming back to City Council. They are the following: The first is to take a block, essentially, of the south side of the Market and turn it into a bike/ped mall, turn it into an open street. It would be between Church and State Streets, if I'm not mistaken. That was a recommendation that was made unanimously by the committee, and it also was made in conjunction with some conversations with Mr. Benjamin



and Ms. Thompson. She was asked to go back both to the purveyors in the Market and the brick and mortar tenants along the south side of the Market for their input. If not unanimous, it was very close that this was an idea that the merchants in that vicinity endorsed wholeheartedly. So, we brought that recommendation to Traffic and Transportation, which was to turn the south side of the Market into a bike/ped mall, hours to be determined later.

The second was to continue to investigate the use of parklets on a temporary basis anywhere in the City other than on King Street. As you recall, parklets are just the taking of some space that's available and turning it into commercial space principally for the food/bev industry, although I think you could use them for many other purposes. The Civic Design Center has been working on a parklet program, which was endorsed and adopted by the Bike/Ped Committee. The recommendation from that committee was to move forward and see if there are places in the City we can actually put some parklets in and take advantage of some space, again, at times when outdoors is better than in, and some economic challenges are out there. The final recommendation was to ask Mr. Benjamin and his team to get with DOT and look at the possibility and viability of taking one lane on Wentworth Street between King and Meeting, which is the south lane. If you close your eyes and think about it, Wentworth is one way out of the City between Meeting and King Streets, so to take that southern lane and turn that into a two-way cycle lane basically. That's got its own set of issues and some logistical problems but, again, it was recommended unanimously to have Mr. Benjamin deal with the DOT to see if we can actually make that happen. That would actually provide one of the very few connections, east-west, across the Peninsula for bicycle and ped traffic. We can't do it right now. So, those are the three recommendations that specifically came from the committee, the south side of Market Street to implement, to look at some places to put in parklets, and to authorize Mr. Benjamin to go forward and see if Wentworth Street two-ways on the south side, one way lane, is a viable alternative for bike/ped infrastructure. Those three recommendations were adopted by the committee unanimously to come forward to Council for authorization back to Mr. Benjamin and his team to move forward. I believe that's the one thing that's going to need the approval of this Council, and I would ask actually that we take that up before I give the rest of my report."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Is there a motion for approval?"

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Move for approval."

Councilwoman Delcioppo said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Any discussion on the Bike/Pedestrian Advisory Report and recommendations?"

No one asked to speak.

On the motion of Councilwoman Jackson, seconded by Councilwoman Delcioppo, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the Bike/Pedestrian Advisory Report and Recommendations from the Traffic and Transportation Committee as presented.

Councilmember Seekings said, "Briefly, Mr. Mayor, a few more things. The hard working Troy Mitchell gave us the update today on signal maintenance and project updates in the City. It was exhaustive. They're doing a lot of work. If you need to know, he's got a spreadsheet that we can share with you, but there's a lot of signalization work going on across the entire City. His team is very hard at work on that. We also got a report from Mr. Kronsberg, Mr. Most, and their team on the Ashley River Bridge Crossing. I think, Mr. Mayor, and fellow members of the committee,

that the operative word in that report was 'complicated,' but moving forward. We are going to get a full report from them at our next T&T meeting. We are going to make that a regularly reported item on T&T going forward because I know that everybody is interested in that project, where we stand, and where we are with permitting, and we have done some preliminary work on the permitting side, where we are with finance, and where we are as a practical matter. We will get to that as we go forward, but that was the first of many reports we will get. I think to sum up what they told us, 'complicated, moving forward.' We have a team on it. We have hired, by the way, a specific project manager from the City to do nothing but work on that project. She is getting up to speed as we speak, which is difficult in this day and age, but she's doing it. So, that's moving forward. Lastly, we had an application for Original Certificate for a taxi, and we had a traffic calming approval for Bluewater Way in Bolton's Landing, both of which were approved. I believe that is the conclusion of my report, Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Technically, do we need Council approval on the certificate?"

Councilmember Seekings said, "We do. On the certificate, but not the traffic calming."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Can I entertain a motion to approve that?"

Councilmember Brady said, "So moved."

Councilwoman Delcioppo said, "Move for approval."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Any discussion?"

No one asked to speak.

On the motion of Councilmember Brady, seconded by Councilwoman Delcioppo, City Council voted unanimously to approve the Application for Original Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity: Charleston Car Service, LLC (Taxi) as presented from the Traffic and Transportation Committee Report.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you for that report. I must say, we didn't call on Mr. Benjamin, but he could have gone on just as long as Matt Fountain did with all the things that we're working on and approvals that have come on down the line for funding for city-wide transportation projects, but given the hour, if you don't mind, we'll come back for a report to Council on that."

Councilmember Seekings said, "If I might, just very briefly, Mr. Mayor. I do apologize to Mr. Benjamin. It is late. He did give us a very comprehensive report on many projects that are going forward cooperatively with the County, and I think, Keith, at our next meeting, we'll give everybody an update. Maybe we can send them out a report in advance, if that's okay."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "And the DOT, as well."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Yes, DOT. The hour is late and getting later."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilwoman Jackson.

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Thank you. I actually had that same exact thought as Mr. Fountain was giving us all of his list of amazing projects to cover all the bases. So, I was going to

make some cute, little remark about keeping up with the T&T list. I do look forward to giving T&T the chance to educate how their work is going and how responsive it is to everything that the citizens have been asking for.”

Mr. Benjamin said, “Mr. Mayor, I got the note that the County Council approved the Transportation Sales Tax list just a few moments ago, so either right after this meeting or first thing in the morning, you’ll get a quick email from me on all the projects in the City of Charleston that were funded through the TST.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Excellent. Great work. Thank you, Keith. Alright, so next we go to our Committee on Ways and Means. Councilmember Gregorie.”

Councilmember Gregorie said, “Move for approval.”

Councilmember Mitchell said, “Second.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Any discussion?”

No one asked to speak.

On the motion of Councilmember Gregorie, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the Ways and Means Report, as presented.

(Bids and Purchases

(An ordinance authorizing the borrowing by the City of Charleston, South Carolina of not exceeding \$40,000,000 in anticipation of the collection of ad valorem taxes and license fees for fiscal year 2020.

(Parks-Capital Projects: Approval of a contract with Turner Construction Company in the amount of \$136,637 for the removal of the John C. Calhoun Statue located in Marion Square Park. The contract includes Task 1, the removal of all bronze work, and task 2, the removal of the stone column pedestal down to the 2<sup>nd</sup> tier base. The total cost to the City is \$36,637, as \$100,000 was donated for the removal of the statue. The remaining funding will come from contingencies, as this is not a budgeted item. This is an after the fact approval as authorized by the Resolution passed by City Council on June 23, 2020.

(Planning, Preservation and Sustainability: Approval of a contract with Dutch Dialogues consultants to analyze the Army Corps of Engineers 3x3x3 study and advise the City. *(To be sent under separate cover by the Planning Department)*

(Parks and Capital Projects: Approval of construction contract Change Directive in the amount of \$32,056.00 with Turner Construction. This work is time sensitive and required for utility rough-ins that will allow the contractor to keep working there by saving potential delay costs. This work is part of larger Change Order that will be brought to Council for approval once the final costs have been determined.

(Request approval of a Parking Agreement with Anson House Condominium Association for continued lease of ten (10) parking spaces in the Maritime Center Parking Lot per year-to-year lease with the condition of relocation upon termination at current lot. (10 Wharfside Street; TMS: 459-00-00-170)

(At the request of the Washington Light Infantry and Sumter Guards Board of Officers (the “WLI”), request authorization for the Mayor to execute a quitclaim deed and other necessary documents to quitclaim the portion of Marion Square

on which the Calhoun monument formerly stood to WLI. The City does not own this portion of Marion Square. The quitclaim deed is being executed to help clarify WLI's title to the subject property. (Ordinance)

First reading was given to the following bill from Ways and Means:

*An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute a Deed and any other necessary documents, approved as to form by the Office of Corporation Counsel, Quit-Claiming to the Washington Light Infantry and Sumter Guards Board of Officers the City of Charleston's right, title and interest, if any, to that certain portion of Marion Square being thirty-six (36) feet square, lying with in the center of the former drive from Calhoun Street to the great gate of the "Old" Citadel and 110 feet from the inside curbing of the pavement of Calhoun street (as such inside curbing existed on September 16, 1885), and subject to certain exceptions and other matters to be approved by the Office of Corporation Counsel.*

*An ordinance authorizing the borrowing by the City of Charleston, South Carolina of not exceeding \$40,000,000 in anticipation of the collection of ad valorem taxes and license fees for fiscal year 2020.*

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Now, for bills up for second reading. We have two items."

The Clerk said, "Mayor, we actually have one item now because the applicant has asked that number two be deferred. So, we're just going to take up item one."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay. Item one is to amend the business license ordinance. Is there a motion to approve?"

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Move for approval."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Any discussion?"

No one asked to speak.

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

**2020-087 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE BUSINESS LICENSE ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2020.**

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Next, bills up for first reading. We have the ordinance that I mentioned earlier, creating a Commission entitled 'Central Business District Improvement Commission.'"

Councilmember Shahid said, "Move for approval."

Councilmember Waring said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Any discussion on this?"

No one asked to speak.

On the motion of Councilmember Shahid, seconded by Councilmember Waring, City Council voted unanimously to give first reading to the following bill:

*An ordinance to amend Chapter 23 of the Code of the City of Charleston by deleting Article IV. Sections 23-46 through 23-48 in their entirety and substituting in their place new Sections 23-46 through 23-49, creating a Commission entitled "Central Business District Improvement Commission" and describing its membership, mission, powers and duties, and organization.*

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "As I mentioned, I will send you all a list of member for the Commission. I have already decided and have asked Councilmembers Seekings and Mitchell to be the Council representatives on the Commission."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Mayor, at our next Council meeting, if we can just put five minutes aside to make a few comments about this when we take it up for second and third reading. The hour is late, but there are a few things that I think would be handy for everybody to know."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes, sir. I'd be happy to. We'll have second and third reading of this matter next time, and we can elaborate at that time. Absolutely. We did have a zoning matter, number two, unzoned former property on Summerville Avenue to zone to General Business. This is first reading."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "So moved."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Any discussion?"

No one asked to speak.

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

*An ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Charleston by changing the Zone Map, which is a part thereof, so that a portion of previously unzoned former Summerville Avenue Right-of-Way (Peninsula Neck) (approximately 1.40 acres) (TMS #464-02-00-107) (Council District 4), be zoned General Business (GB) classification. The property is owned by 1834 Summerville Ave LLC.*

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "The next regular City Council meeting will be July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 for those guests who are on the line with us. We do have on the agenda a request to go into executive session to discuss legal advice regarding the WestEdge development. I will share, for those who are listening in and joining our meeting, that we do not expect to take any action whatsoever on this item after the executive session. We will have to reconvene just to adjourn the meeting, but that will be the only purpose. Can I entertain a motion to go into executive session?"

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Move to go into executive session."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Second."

On the motion of Councilmember Mitchell, seconded by Councilmember Shahid, City Council voted unanimously to go into executive session at 8:15 p.m. to discuss legal advice regarding the WestEdge development.

On the motion of Councilmember Shahid, seconded by Councilmember Shealy, City Council voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 8:45 p.m.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Please let the record show that no action was taken while we were in executive session. Thank you all, Council. I appreciate everyone's comments and expressions tonight. It was long, but a very good meeting. Goodnight."

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Vanessa Turner Maybank

Clerk of Council