

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Special Meeting

July 29, 2021

A Special Meeting of City Council of Charleston was held July 29, 2021, convening at 4:13 p.m. over video conference call.

A notice of this meeting and an agenda were made available on the City's website on July 26, 2021.

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 4:13 p.m.

The Clerk called the roll.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Now, if you all would like to join, Councilmember Sakran would you please lead us in an invocation and Pledge of Allegiance?"

Councilmember Sakran said, "Sure. Thanks, Mayor."

Councilmember Sakran opened the meeting with an [invocation](#).

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Amen. So, the Pledge of Allegiance, if you will please join me, we have the flag over here."

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

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, kindly. So, first we have a Committee Report, our [Committee on Ways and Means](#). Councilmember Gregorie."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Move for approval."

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We have a second to accept the results of our Ways and Means Committee. Are there any further comments or questions?"

No one asked to speak.

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

(Parks-Capital Projects: Approval of the St. Julian Devine Community Center Improvements Twin Smoke Stacks Construction Contract with ICC Commonwealth in the amount of \$519,000 for the disassembly of the interior liners of the St. Julian Devine smokestacks. With the approval of the project budget, staff is authorized to award and/or amend contracts less than \$40,000, to the extent contingency funds exist in the Council approved budget. Approval of this Construction Contract will obligate \$519,000 of the project budget \$3,098,069.36. Funding sources for this project are: 2015 General Fund Reserves (\$250,000), 2018 General Fund Reserves (\$400,000), Cooper River Bridge TIF (\$2,340,000), and Charleston Parks Conservancy Contribution (\$108,069.36).

(Executive Department: A Resolution providing for an election for the determination of the question of whether the City of Charleston shall be empowered to issue and sell General Obligation Bonds of the City of Charleston in the amount of not exceeding \$39,000,000 or such lesser amount as provided herein to defray the cost of Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Projects in the City of Charleston in order to implement the Charleston Parks and Recreation Master Plan. **(DENIED)** **(Councilmembers Brady, Shahid, Appel, and Mayor Tecklenburg voted in favor of the item. Councilmember Mitchell abstained from voting on the item.)**

The vote was not unanimous. Councilmembers Brady, Shahid, Appel, and Mayor Tecklenburg voted in favor of Item #3 on the Ways and Means report. Councilmember Mitchell abstained from voting on Item #3 of the report.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Next up [we have four bills.](#)"

Councilmember Shahid said, "Move for approval."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We've got a motion to approve and a second."

Mayor Tecklenburg continued, "So, Steve Ruemelin and Heather Mulloy worked diligently on these. We presented them to you at our last meeting, and we got first reading on them. Steve or Heather, do you all have anything to add since our last meeting? Could I just ask for that? Thank you, Heather. I hope you're feeling better."

Heather Mulloy said, "I am. Thank you so much, Mayor. I would just like to say the Legal team worked diligently over the past several months to put these together and put them in front of you. We do know we had many First Amendment activities that came through our City within the last year, and we wanted to make clarifications and present a better process, improved process I should say, for these First Amendment demonstrations. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you very much. Heather did a lot of research on this. Is there any discussion?"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilwoman Jackson.

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Thank you, Mayor, and thank you, Heather and Steve. I know how much, I mean I don't know in terms of actual minutes and hours, but I know from speaking with Chief and some of the other officers that this had a lot of consultation, and you all really did an inordinate job to make these changes to the laws that are going to be clarifying to the public and the users of these First Amendment rights and opportunities for all of our citizens and visitors to our City, so I'm very appreciative of that. I do think, Mayor, that we've heard from citizens who have demonstrated that they have a dedication to following the opportunity for First Amendment statements to be heard in public over the last few years. I was hoping that maybe you could give us a little rundown about some of the citizen comments that you specifically addressed face to face the other day. I know that one of the concerns was that we were publishing versions of these ordinances that didn't explain the changes that we actually made. I tried to send that out, but it was at the last minute this afternoon because we got copies of the amendments that we gave first reading approval to on the 20th that were annotated the typical way that ordinance amendments are done. So, the original text is not bolded. If there is anything removed, it's bolded and crossed out, and, then if there is anything new, it's bolded text. That's the way the documents came to us. So, I think that's one thing that maybe we should clarify. We're not trying to do a bait and switch and change laws out from old to new. We're amending existing laws.

The one new one was to make a definition of First Amendment practices, rights, and opportunities as well as separate out what we always just called the 'Parade Permit,' which has evolved into sort of a mushy definition. Now, we have a Parade Permit Ordinance that will be handled by the Special Events and Department of Recreation which is the much more appropriate place for that staffing to be done. But, Mayor, you said to me a little while ago that we've always had inherent in these ordinances the opportunity for regulating and enforcing the fact that officers have the right for their orders to be obeyed. So, could you just speak to that for a minute? I think those are the two things that I heard the most from citizens who thought that we were making these laws less Constitutional as opposed to more. I do agree that they are more clear, that they are more specific, and we are making sure that we are practicing the protection of First Amendment rights."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, thank you. This has been a journey of improving, in my view, and clarifying a number of ordinances that the City had and, yes, renaming things that were more appropriate. We had an ordinance called 'Parade Permits' that was issued through our Police Department that, for the most part, weren't anything about having parades. When we have our Martin Luther King Parade, our Emancipation Day Parade, and our St. Patrick's Day Parade, none of them needed to get a parade permit. They needed a Special Events permit. So, some of it was just going back over ordinances that might have been formed 20 and 30 years ago and naming them appropriately, so it may have content from the form of 'Parade Permit,' but recognizing formally the rights of our citizens to express themselves. That's why we named this new ordinance the 'First Amendment Demonstration Ordinance.' It makes those things clear, I believe, and some aspects may have shifted from one thing to another like to really apply for your St. Patrick's Day Parade, you should go to the Special Events application and ordinance to control that. Then, there were a couple of things that reach over everything, and that is addressing the new Open Carry Gun State legislation. Heather spent a heck of a lot of time more on this in the weeds than I did. So, Heather, help me out here if I'm not explaining all of this very well."

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Mayor, can I make one suggestion? I think one of the other questions was about we removed a reference to flags as weapons which that's just in a different place."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, that got moved to the Weapons Ordinance, and it applies I think no matter what happens in the City. Whether or not you have a permit or not, you're not supposed to use a flagpole as a weapon. So, that got covered in the new Weapons Ordinance. It may not be in the Demonstration Ordinance, but it's in the Weapons Ordinance and that's covered. As to your question of obeying a lawful Order, I think that's a legal matter. That's a law. You must obey a lawful Order of law enforcement, and I was going to ask Steve or Heather, again, to comment on that."

Ms. Mulloy said, "Sure. Thank you, Mayor. So, the Legal team in developing these new ordinances or amendments to ordinances really went back to the drawing board and looked at our basic Constitutional principles of protecting citizens' First Amendment rights to free speech and free demonstration activity. So, we wanted to define that so that it was clear before people, and they knew what issues applied or which parts of the ordinances applied to demonstrations. We titled them differently, too, as the Mayor said, to decrease the confusion of using terms like 'parades' so, now there are First Amendment Activities, and there is a lot of clarity. So, we know that the protection of First Amendment rights is seminal to all citizens, and we also know that restrictions on time, place, and manner are permitted pursuant to Constitutional law, and those can be placed on First Amendment Activity if they are reasonable and if there are justifications, so that is something that can be done now. For instance, when a Police Officer gives an Order or maybe limits some of the activity, some of those things could be falling under time, place, and manner restrictions, so it's really important that those Orders are followed. These apply regardless of you having a permit or not. They apply to First Amendment demonstration activities. We really went back to the drawing board so that we could make that clear and make those applications apply because you want to be able to keep citizens safe when they are engaging in these demonstrations. We also want to have ingress and egress to certain areas, and you also don't want to have obstruction of roadways or sidewalks etcetera, so all of that was taken into consideration when we put this together. Additionally, I wanted to mention that part of this entire plan for the Legal team was to, in addition to the ordinances and making changes for clarity, we are putting together some frequently asked questions. We will be putting those on the website for the public. We are finishing those up, so, that if people have questions about a Special Events permit, a First Amendment permit, etcetera, they can go to the website. We will also be putting links to the new ordinances on the website, and I know that the Charleston Police Department is working right now to put something on their website very soon so that individuals know what the rules are and where they can go. Additionally, they will be putting their permit application online too because there will be some changes made to that. So, there is a lot more in the works to improve this process."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Then, I'll share as we discussed before, there are really three buckets. The third bucket is if you have a private event and want to rent some space at one of our parks, that's also possible. That's not a Special Event, it's not a demonstration. So, you can apply to have a wedding at the gazebo down at White Point Garden or Hampton Park, and you do that through the Parks Department application and, again, that will be part, Heather, will it not, of our frequently asked questions to explain that option, as well. Great."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and I just want to remind my colleagues of the process that we've gone through with this. We had a joint meeting with Public Safety and Recreation on the 19th to go over these proposed ordinances. We had a very good discussion and presentation from the Legal staff and from the Police Department as to the purpose and need for having this done, particularly to have it done before August 15th. Then, our report to full Council was made at our July 20th meeting, which gave the citizens an opportunity to comment on these ordinances as they were going forward. I want that to be heard very loudly and clearly because some of the comments I've seen online and even a phone call I got just before Council started was that we were depriving people an opportunity to weigh in on this, but you've had the opportunity to weigh in on this back on July 20th. The other point that I think that has been batted around as Heather has talked about and the Mayor has talked about and Steve has talked about, is to providing clarity on this process. That's really important. One of the things that this ordinance does add, in addition to the clarity part of it, is that if you feel like you have been denied a permit, you've got an appeal process that's outlined, as well, on this. The other distinction I just want to make to the public and to my colleagues is this point, there is a difference between assembling, which we are not restricting if you are assembling spontaneously or if the number of folks is less than 25. That has not changed at any point at all. There are certain rules and laws that have been passed about that and important decisions have been issued concerning the size of those assembling, but what is important that we make a distinction upon is assembling and then marching or parading. As Heather has pointed out with that, we have the ability to manage the controls of the where's, when's, and how's of those taking place. So, the spontaneous or the size of the crowd to assemble does not necessarily give the right to march because the Police and the citizens have a responsibility of making sure of public's safety, not just for those who wish to march or parade, but also to the other citizens who are not participating in that march and parade. So, these are very important distinctions that I think we all need to take into consideration, and I certainly would urge us to pass, give second and third reading approval of all of these various ordinances. Thank you, Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you. Are there any other questions or discussion?"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Griffin.

Councilmember Griffin said, "I just wanted to reiterate the point that I made earlier in our Ways and Means Committee, that I feel like there is something that I don't understand about why we are having a City Council meeting, a meeting of our entire body, and we don't have a Citizen Participation Period. I would like to get a clarification on that. I understand that this is considered an Emergency meeting, but to Councilmember Shahid's point, yes, people had an opportunity to speak at our last City Council meeting which was last week, but whenever we vote and take up an issue for a first reading and a second reading and a third reading, that gives the public at least two public opportunities to speak to City Council before a vote is taken. Whereas, in this case, that wasn't the case. Now, I'm not saying whether or not I agree or disagree. I voted 'yes' on these ordinances the first time around and, to be honest with you, I would probably vote 'yes' again on this one. However, I think that we have an obligation as a body to honor the rules of our Council, and when we have a City Council meeting, there should be a Citizen Participation Period. That shouldn't change. These ordinances were not planned to be brought up today. They happened to be brought up today because of the other issue that we took up earlier today, which was the Bond Referendum. We should have citizen engagement whenever we have an ordinance and pass a second reading and turn it into a law. There should be an opportunity for citizens to speak up. We're never going to be able to bring people to the table and work on these issues that we have Citywide if our citizens feel like we're meeting behind closed doors and getting something passed without them having the opportunity to speak. So, on these four ordinances today, I'm going to

abstain because I don't feel like we should take any vote where we don't at least have public engagement if we're meeting as a body, as a City Council."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Thank you, sir. Councilmember Jackson, did you want to be heard again?"

Councilwoman Jackson said, "I wanted to speak just as we were trying to make sure that the public understood the clarity of the documents in front of us. Maybe we've had an example of that in recent days. Just because a group has applied for a first amendment protection gathering permit to be in one location doesn't automatically give that same group the opportunity to walk and march in places that they have not already been approved to have a marching route. Is that not, correct? I do think we had an example of the difference in the recent days."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Heather?"

Ms. Mulloy said, "I hope I'm addressing your question correctly. If I'm not, let me know. When a group applies for a permit for a first amendment demonstration, and it would also apply if it's kicked over to a special events first amendment demonstration, that person who applies for the permit specifically gives the information as to what they would like to do, where do they want to be, what location, they have to write down if they want to march or not, the street locations, etc. The person applying has to be specific because there needs to be an evaluation if there are sufficient resources to support that, to provide safety for the protestors and citizens, do roadways need to be blocked, etc. So, there's a whole process that's involved when someone applies for such a permit. Then there's an evaluation period to determine whether or not that can be done. Things may pop up, such as someone else may be at that location at the same time, maybe it would take too many resources, or maybe there is a better route. That's where those time, place, and manner considerations come in that are constitutionally supported. A government is permitted to do so.

That's where there's an evaluation process. If there's an alternative route that can be given, if the route that is requested specifically or location, as you said, is not available, then an alternative can be offered and sent back to the permit team, whereby the permit team will agree to the new, alternate route. Once the permit is completed, it's very clear as to what the parameters are of the permit, and it's also very clear that if those parameters aren't followed, then there could potentially be a violation. Does that answer your question?"

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Yes, thank you very much."

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

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, "I won't be long on this one. Listen, I voted for the first reading, but I do believe that the public should have more input, and this process doesn't allow for it. I'm not going to go for it for that reason. I can see the work that's been done, but transparency matters, and the public should have more input, even though we may not like what they say. They have the right to be heard, and in this environment right now, they don't. I think we should have this at a regular meeting to be voted on."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Mitchell.

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Mr. Mayor, is this just the second reading?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes, sir."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Well if some of my colleagues have some concerns, can we do the second reading and then do the third reading next month? Would that hinder anything at all?"

Councilmember Waring said, "A public hearing on the third reading."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Right."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Mr. Mayor?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Let me call upon Ms. Herdina, whose face beamed up just a moment ago."

Ms. Herdina said, "I just wanted to remind Council that the reason why we wanted it to get second and final reading today was so that it would go into effect before the open carry law went into effect on August 15th. That was the reasoning behind adding it to the agenda at this time."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, "I just want to reiterate that point that Susan had made and that the other part of all of these ordinances that we have discussed was to include the exemption that was granted by the open carry law, so some of these ordinances are addressing that open carry law, these restrictions that we can't have dealing with periods of assemblage, so if we don't pass this today, the open carry law goes into effect on August 15th, and then these ordinances will not take effect until later. So, this is the deadline we're having for this."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I would just also add, I welcome our citizens' comments and am not afraid of any comment they might make about us or me, but we do have the ability to amend anything. So, we pass this this afternoon, and some citizen's comment leads to another perspective or review that at the pleasure of Council you would like to amend and change, we always have that right. Any other comments or questions?"

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Mr. Mayor?"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Sakran.

Councilwoman Jackson said, "I was just hoping now that our--"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Councilwoman Jackson, let me call on Councilmember Sakran. He hasn't been heard yet."

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Okay."

Councilmember Sakran said, "Thank you, Mayor. I'm going to have to agree with Councilmember Griffin and Councilmember Waring. I guess I'm still not clear. Is there a reason we can't vote on the second reading and then bring it back to the next Council meeting? I'm hearing a 2-day discrepancy between the open carry and then what we're trying to do. Is that a significant challenge? I guess I still don't understand."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "It would just mean that this would not go into effect until after the open carry legislative act goes into effect."

Councilmember Sakran said, "Right, and I think weighing the fact that we do not have the public available for comment, for me, outweighs any advantage that we would have in getting this passed tonight, so I'm going to vote no, as well."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilwoman Jackson and then Gregorie.

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Thank you. Now that we do have Ms. Herdina for a few final hours, I was hoping maybe she could address Councilmember Griffin's question. Is it legal for us, are we within our rights or way of operating under our rules to not have citizens' comments when we do have an official Council meeting that involves second readings? I think we should know that for the future, even if we don't make any changes for right now."

Ms. Herdina said, "I don't believe we're required to have citizen participation at a special meeting. Going forward, if Council would like to seek approval to provide for that, we can do that. I'll certainly defer to any of the other lawyers if they have any other thoughts or Jennifer."

The Clerk said, "I don't know if this would be helpful just to add, but typically when we have our special and emergency meetings, and just for clarification, this is not an emergency City Council meeting. This is a special meeting. Typically when we have those meetings, we don't have a citizen participation portion on the agenda. Susan can correct me, but the special meetings are really just for certain, specific items. We did have public participation at our previous meeting last week when these were up for first reading. These have not been amended. The ordinances have not been amended since then. That's why it was not on there. I don't know if that addresses any of those questions, but that's been our practice in the past that we've not had citizen's participation on every emergency agenda or every special City Council agenda."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie.

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Mayor, this is a question for Legal. If we don't pass this tonight, wouldn't State law be in effect? And if State law is in effect, and our ordinance really tracks it, the law is still in effect and enforceable regardless of what we do this evening. Am I correct?"

Ms. Herdina said, "Well, I'll defer to Steve or Heather on this, but I think, Councilmember Gregorie, the concern is if this ordinance is not passed and if there was a gathering, the City would not have any authority, as I understand it, to prevent open carry at one of those demonstrations. So, that's the reason why we were trying to go ahead and codify the law that would basically say at the time that the open carry law went into effect, at that same time, you could not open carry at a City permitted event. Steve or Heather, you're more familiar with the act. If you want to jump in and supplement that, please do."

Mr. Ruemelin said, "I'll just state that the open carry law states that municipalities may restrict the otherwise lawful open carrying of a firearm on public property when we issue a permit. Under our current permitting scheme, we could make that a condition of the permit without the ordinance in place. I think what the ordinance does, is it clarifies that and expands it to special events and Parks permit situations, as well. I think under our current ordinances, we still could prohibit someone from open carrying at an event that we permit."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Chief Reynolds, do you want to add any perspective to this conversation?"

Chief Reynolds said, "I would just say I appreciate the thoughtfulness of this and the detailed response that went into it. It's been very collaborative. I think it's been very well researched. I think there was a lot of outreach to municipal attorneys around the Country, other cities that are similarly struggling with making sure we balance the first amendment rights of protestors and how to do it safely, how to respect our monuments, and allow other citizens to have access to our monuments, i.e., the Battery some of the other monuments, to be able to share that and do it safely. The law very clearly gives us the ability to, as has been articulated already, determine time, place, and manner. We need to do that, and we have been doing that. This is something that will further that, that will actually help those people who are participating in and those that want to do it lawfully, some have chosen not to, but those that want to do it lawfully, that want to apply for a permit, that wants to do it safely. This gives them a little bit more information. I think it makes it more palatable for them and for the City. As has been articulated, can we move forward without this? Yes. The law is there for us. It supports us in doing those things that we've been doing, that we've been talking about. I think this ordinance adds a little bit more clarity, and as has been articulated, it connects into this August 15th date, the idea of open carry. When we made the arrests a few days ago, one of the persons who was involved in assaulting a police officer and spitting on a police officer, and not to get too detailed into that event, that was predictable, that was preventable. It shouldn't happen, but it did. One of those individuals had two handguns in his backpack. Some of the individuals were wearing ballistic vests and helmets and other things.

When you look at these types of events around the Country, when you look at what happened on May 30th of last year, when you look at some of the language being used, the profanity, the lack of cooperation with the Police, there's a need for us to have clarity in these conversations and events to make sure that everybody, all the participants, the protestors, the Police, public safety, our citizens, and our businesses are protected, and it's safe. We're going to continue to do that. I've made it clear that we're going to make more arrests for those people who choose to break the law, who choose to assault the Police, and who choose to be unsafe about their activities. I'll just leave it there. Whether this passes or not, we're going to do everything possible to keep our City safe and to protect peoples' rights, and to protect the Constitution. It's not an easy thing to do, so the more we have these conversations openly, which I feel like we've been doing that, the better, so people have total clarity about what our expectations are, what the law is, and what we're going to do."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, sir. Alright. Any final comment or question?"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Appel.

Councilmember Appel said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I would just say that, by my read, these ordinances are not really major substantive departures from existing practices. It's more about streamlining and making the process clearer and more efficient and, ultimately, making the jobs of our brave men and women officers easier. We had an incident this week. We've had multiple incidents over the last year and a half, and I don't think I need to remind anybody on this Council about that. If we had a public hearing on this where people could call in on Zoom, we'd probably hear from 7 people. We all know who they are, but let's think about the thousands and thousands of other people we represent that we're called upon to make decisions on behalf of every single day, right? They don't want chaos in the streets. They don't want another May 30th. They don't show up to Zoom calls. They don't show up to City Council, but it's our job to represent them today. I think this is going to come off bad. I don't care what these activists have to say about this ordinance. We have a duty and an obligation for this City to keep this City safe. Some

of the activity and conduct that we've seen in the streets lately is completely out of line and unacceptable. These people know better. They're doing it for publicity stunts, Instagram followers, and enough is enough. You're not going to spit on our cops. You're not going to carry around guns at these events, and that's unacceptable. This is what we have to do as a City to keep our citizens, our businesses, and our officers safe, and the two dozen people that like to protest every week, they're just going to have to deal with it. Thank you. I look forward to voting for this tonight. We don't need a public hearing to do our job."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you. Alright."

On a motion of Councilmember Shahid, four (4) bills (Items E 1-4) received second reading. They passed second reading on motion by Councilmember Mitchell, and third reading on motion of Councilmember Shahid. On further motion of Councilmember Mitchell, the rules were suspended, and the bills were immediately ratified as:

2021-105 AN ORDINANCE TO ADD A NEW ARTICLE III TO CHAPTER 25 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON RELATED TO FIRST AMENDMENT DEMONSTRATIONS TO PROVIDE GENERAL PROVISIONS AND DEFINITIONS, TO PROVIDE OPEN CARRY RESTRICTIONS AND OTHER SAFETY PROHIBITIONS, TO PROVIDE A PERMITTING PROCESS, TO PROVIDE REGULATIONS, AND TO PROVIDE FOR PENALTIES.

2021-106 AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL ARTICLE IX OF CHAPTER 19 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON RELATED TO PARADES AND TO AMEND ARTICLE IV, DIVISION 8 OF CHAPTER 2 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON RELATED TO THE SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE TO PROVIDE NEW DEFINITIONS, TO INCREASE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE, TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR THE SPECIAL EVENTS PERMITTING PROCESS, TO PROVIDE OPEN CARRY RESTRICTIONS AND OTHER SAFETY PROHIBITIONS, AND TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS RELATED TO PARADES.

2021-107 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE I OF CHAPTER 22 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON RELATED TO PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR THE RESERVATION PERMITTING PROCESS FOR RESERVED USE OF PARKS, TO PROVIDE OPEN CARRY RESTRICTIONS AND OTHER SAFETY PROHIBITIONS, AND TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES TO BE INCLUDED IN THE PARK RULES.

2021-108 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE X OF CHAPTER 21 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON RELATED TO WEAPONS BY AMENDING THE PROVISIONS RELATED TO CARRYING OF HANDGUNS, CONCEALABLE WEAPONS AND FIREARMS, CONFISCATION OF WEAPONS, AND BRANDISHING OF WEAPONS TO BE COMPLIANT WITH STATE LAW.

The vote was not unanimous. Councilmember Sakran voted nay. Councilmember Griffin abstained.

The Clerk said, "I have one nay, Councilmember Sakran, was there anyone else?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Councilmember Griffin, I believe."

Councilmember Griffin said, "I abstained, sir."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "He abstained."

The Clerk said, "Alright. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Well, thank you all for that good discussion. We will have a robust citizens' participation at our next meeting, and I'll repeat that if there's any part of these ordinances that it makes sense to amend and change based on future comments and conversation, we can always do that. Thank you all for coming together, and this meeting stands adjourned if there's no further business."

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Jennifer B. Cook

Clerk of Council