

CITY COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING

Regular Meeting

September 22, 2020

The one-hundred and fourth meeting of the City Council of Charleston was held this date convening at 5:30 p.m. over video conference call (Zoom).

A notice of this meeting and an agenda were made available on the City's website September 17, 2020 and appeared in the Post and Courier on September 21, 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 5:30 p.m.

The Clerk called the roll.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, if you would like to join us, I'm going to ask Councilmember Gregorie to say an invocation for us."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Okay. If I'm not mistaken, I think we wanted to hear Councilmember Brady's prayer."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "No, I think it was double, but if you prefer, I'll call on Councilmember Brady."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "No, I'll do the honors. Let us bow our heads."

Councilmember Gregorie opened the meeting with an invocation.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, Councilmember Gregorie, you were right in a fashion. In addition to the invocation tonight, I would like to call on Councilmember Appel to give us a tribute to Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Councilmember Appel."

Councilmember Appel said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and this is quite an honor this evening. This past weekend Jews around the world celebrated Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. We are still endeavoring through 2020 like everybody else, but it feels nice to have another year to talk about. For anyone wondering, it's year 5,781 for us. Anyways, of course, this past

weekend was not all celebratory. Our nation and the Jewish people lost one of our greatest. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg passed away on Erev or eve of Rosh Hashanah. Jewish tradition holds a special distinction for those who pass during this holiest of time. In fact, those who pass mere hours from the dawn of a new year are considered Tzadik, or a righteous person. What a fitting distinction for the notorious RBG. The nation's outpouring of grief and commemoration of her life has really been something to behold these past few days. She offered all of us but particularly women, so much inspiration in life, and that carries forward despite her death. In these strange and polarizing times, there are a few national figures that unite us all, but RBG is surely one of them. Her best friend on the Court, Justice Antonin Scalia, and her could not have disagreed more on matters of constitutional interpretation, but that didn't stop them from traveling together, going to the theater together, and being friends together. After Justice Scalia's passing, RBG honored him and reminded us, 'We are different, we are one. Different in our interpretation of written texts, one in our reverence for the Constitution, and the institution we serve.' We could learn from their example, especially in these ultra-partisan times.

Yesterday I was asked to give the invocation at a Real Estate Committee meeting. I have to be honest. I'm not the most religious person. For that reason, I often offer moments of silence, of self-reflection, rather than attempt to recite a specific prayer I don't know it by memory. However, in light of Rosh Hashanah and with Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's passing, I felt compelled to use my time a little differently that evening. So, I did a little research and found an excerpt from Rabbi David Saperstein that spoke to me, and I'll paraphrase his remarks. 'In the Jewish tradition, the separation between prayer and action is slight. In scripture, God tells Isaiah, 'I don't want your fast and your sacrifice, I want you to deal your bread to the hungry, tear apart the chains of the oppressed.' Leviticus 19 says, 'to set aside a corner of your field for the poor and homeless, to pay the laborer a fair and timely wage, and to remove stumbling blocks.' Acts of social justice are religious activities just as much as prayer is. They are all woven together. After participating in the Civil Rights march in Selma, Alabama, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, one of this century's great religious figures and a close colleague of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said, 'It felt like my feet were praying.' Prayer is not just the communication we have with God. It is also the work we do to make God's values real to the world. I think God listens to both kinds of prayer with equal joy, and these sentiments are not uniquely Jewish, of course. They aren't. They apply to anyone interested in making the world a better place. I believe this is the tradition that inspired Justice Ginsburg to lead such a tremendous life of dedication and service, both as a practicing attorney representing the oppressed and later a Judge. She is responsible for helping women, minorities, and others achieve far more equity and more justice. In short, she made the world a better place. She did her praying with her feet.

One last thing, I learned earlier today that while I was scratching out these remarks that Justice Ginsburg will be the first Jewish person ever to lie in state in the Capitol in D.C. Think about that for a moment. Even in death, RBG is breaking down barriers. May her memory be a blessing, and may her life inspire us all to be better people and to build a better nation. Thank you."

Councilmember Appel said, "Well, thank you, Councilmember Appel. That was a truly powerful tribute to RBG. Well done. So, if I may ask you all just over my shoulder here, you can see the American Flag back there in the back. If you would all join me in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance."

Mayor Tecklenburg led City Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you all very much. Still, one of the hardest things to do on Zoom is to recite something together. So next, I'd like to share a proclamation. We've already discussed Vanessa Turner Maybank's wonderful next step into life with her retirement from the City and all that she will be doing. I have a proclamation I'd like to share with you, Vanessa."

Mayor Tecklenburg read the proclamation.

---INSERT PROCLAMATION---

There was applause.

The Clerk said, "Thank you very much."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "If I may, before comments from you, Vanessa, I would like to call on Mayor Riley to make any remarks that he would like to. Mayor Riley."

Mayor Joseph Riley said, "Thank you very much, Mayor Tecklenburg, members of City Council, and Vanessa. I have three vivid pictures in my mind. One is a City Council meeting already long and exhausting, several public hearings under Council's belt, a few more to go, and then a lengthy agenda still before us. I am worn out. I look over at Vanessa. She is perky, eyes bright, in complete control, and her cheerful countenance exudes utter calmness. She knows exactly where we are on the agenda and is undaunted by the lengthy list still ahead, never weary or shows that she might be.

Another picture in my mind is in my office when I was Mayor of this wonderful City, and Vanessa was seated across from me on the other side of my desk and with a huge stack of files on her lap filled with papers, and then in the chair next to her another stack of files, and then in the chair next to that another stack of files going over agenda items for the next meeting of City Council. She always had completely done her homework the most modest or erudite question about agenda items a week or ten days ahead, Vanessa knew it. She was thorough and complete in her preparation. That was so impressive, as was all of her work.

Another picture is Vanessa in Council Chambers leading a Tourism meeting with tour guides, members of the Tourism Committee, and citizens from neighborhoods affected by tourism, all with agendas and things to say. Vanessa was ever gracious, always wore a warm smile, and so impressively able to field any question or calm rough waters if any waters needed to be quieted.

I had to talk Vanessa into considering the job of Clerk of Council. She had not applied, but I knew she could do it, having worked with her when she was head of the Tourism office. I knew she could do it, and do the job in an exemplary way and did she ever. Vanessa, you are a superstar, and working with you was one of the great joys of my life. Congratulations to you, Vanessa, on your masterful job and all you have done for our City. Thank you."

The Clerk said, "Thank you very much, Mayor."

There was applause.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Speech, speech."

The Clerk said, "Is it my turn now?"

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

The Clerk said, "Mayor Tecklenburg and City Council, it has been my great honor to work for the City of Charleston. I can't believe how fast the time has come and gone. It has been a great opportunity to serve in your administration. Mayor, it was so heartwarming when you personally came into my office to ask me to work with you when you were elected. I really appreciated that, and thank you for your confidence in me. Also, I'd like to thank the Mayor and the Councilmembers for the beautiful roses behind me that I received this morning.

Councilmembers, and I have had a lot of Councilmembers. I've had the pleasure of working with numerous Councilmembers during my tenure, and it has been a wonderful experience to get to know all of you. Thank you for everything you have done for me, and more importantly, for my staff. It was and is a lot easier to get your work done when you know there are people who support you. Your support has been unwavering. So, thank you, Councilmembers.

Mayor Riley, I wasn't sure that you were going to be here, but I wrote something about you anyway. I would be remiss if I didn't say anything about Mayor Riley as he hired me out of a pool of 80 candidates and appointed me to both the Tourism Director and Clerk of Council positions. I certainly owe him a large amount of gratitude. Thank you very much, Mayor, and I end by saying, we know that you are far from being retired, and are working hard at the African American Museum.

To my many, many staff members, past and present, thanks for your hard work and willingness to do more, to stay at work later, volunteering to fill in when others were ill. I could go on and on. You are a wonderful team, and I am so grateful. I know you will continue to do well.

To my colleagues, we are a family. I've enjoyed working with you. Thank you for your kind words, support, cards, calls, etcetera. I could go on and on. It has been an absolute joy to work with you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

I would now like to take a personal moment to say thank you to my family members, and some of you have seen my son. He's double dipping, so he's coaching the football team at Zucker while he speaks to us, as well."

Mayor Riley said, "I remember when he was born."

The Clerk said, "I also want to thank my loved ones who are here that you can't see, many of my friends, and also my pastor. They're all watching us on YouTube. I close my remarks with a scripture from the book of Jeremiah that says, 'I know the plans I have for you. Plans to prosper you and not harm you. Plans to give you a future and a hope.' It is my hope for each of you that you will continue to have a long, wonderful, and prosperous future. Thank you for everything that you have done for me."

There was applause.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "God bless. So, Vanessa, if I may, it seems a little rude to ask anything more of you because you have given so much of your life and service to the City of Charleston and its citizens. We gave you a small token today of roses, of flowers, in commemorating this day in your honor. I'm going to ask you for just a little bit more of your time."

The Clerk said, "Okay."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "You may note over my other shoulder that there is an easel with an empty picture frame there, and upon the wonderful suggestion of Councilmember Waring, your old classmate, he and I are raising a little private funds in order to commission a portrait of you, Vanessa, that we would like you to give your time to sit for a portrait. That will hang in the City of Charleston City Hall in your honor for years to come."

The Clerk said, "Thank you so much. I'm glad I did this talk before you told me that."

Mayor Riley said, "Wonderful."

The Clerk said, "Thank you so much. I appreciate that."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Now, this is just a photograph we took of you."

The Clerk said, "That was from Skirt Magazine."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "This is going to wait until we get your painting of you finished. Anybody who would like to participate, if you don't mind, send the check to Councilmember Waring, and we think it will be a lovely time for you."

The Clerk said, "Thank you all so much and special thoughts to my friend, Councilmember Waring. We've known one another since our Carolina days many, many moons ago and his wife, Donna. Thank you so much. We're almost like relatives. So, I can't voice it enough. I'm just so overjoyed. Thank you so much for thinking of me and having a portrait done of me. Thank you very much."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thanks for agreeing to that. So, speaking of Councilmember Waring, and to just break this up a little bit because I have one more proclamation to make, Councilmember Waring was at the Charleston Water Service Commissioner's meeting today, and he would like to introduce someone from Charleston Water to make just a very brief, not a presentation, but a very brief share of what action they took today at their Commission meeting. Councilmember Waring."

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I have to wipe the tears from my tear ducts to even think about the happiness of my classmate. I'm telling you, I've known Vanessa since Carolina days, and she was a friend to us then, and one day my father came after being elected to City Council and told me about this new Clerk of Council, and she's just fabulous, Vanessa Turner Maybank. I said, 'Daddy, I know her.' So, my father had a nickname for her, and he would call her 'Peach.' I don't know if Mayor Riley if you knew that, but when he called her 'Peach' everybody knew who he was talking about. He could get away with that. If we were to do that today, we'd be in the 'Me Too Movement,' we'd probably get in trouble for being sexist or something, but Dad had a way of getting away with things like that. I could talk about Vanessa forever. So, I'm not saying 'bye' because I know I'll see her later. With that said, you're right, Mr. Mayor. You may have heard where some folks on CWS services, after a period of months, had gotten shut off. CWS has a wonderful program to help folks who need assistance, in particular, during this perilous time, and we've got a wonderful marketing person, Mike Saia, who is going to explain that in a little bit more detail to you all where CWS actually puts money up to help those in need to be able to keep essential services flowing. So, Mike, if you're online, I see your good picture there, and you're debonair. So, if you would be kind enough to come on."

Mike Saia said, "Thank you, Councilmember Waring, Mayor, and everybody else present. At Charleston Water, we greatly appreciate this opportunity because helping customers in need, it's our passion. It's always our top priority. I know I have to be brief, but I just want to use a quick timeline to bring everybody up to speed on non-pay shut-offs if you're not familiar. Way back in March, the Governor suspended all utility non-pay shut-offs statewide, and we certainly gladly complied with that. On May 13th, the Governor lifted that order, but we continued to hold off voluntarily because we knew our customers were struggling to pay their bills. So, we also took action back in May, and we doubled our \$5,000 monthly contribution that we give to the Palmetto Community Action Partnership, that's PCAP, and commonly known, but we doubled that from May through December, and that amounts to a \$40,000 a year increase, and PCAP is our primary bill pay partner. We refer a lot of people there, and they do a great job of handling that, and so we also back then gave them a one-time \$150,000 donation to that great organization.

Now, fast forward to June 30th, we had about 10,000 customers who were basically, for lack of a better term, ignoring their bill. Whether that was because they had to or because they wanted to, but it's a combination of those two things. So, we knew that we had to make every effort to keep those customers in good standing, and our Commissioners knew it, so we knew we had to reinstate shut-offs because those numbers were growing by the day, and we chose August 17th as a day to turn them back off. So, between July and August, we pulled out every single stop to notify those customers to plea with them to work with us to keep their water on. We sent letters, we made phone calls to 10,000 customers in that timeframe. We set up payment plans, and we connected them with third-party utilities, bill pay resources. We did media interviews with every outlet, social media website, you name it, the list goes on and on. But, since then, we've set up a record number of payment plans and performed endless referrals to PCAP and other agencies, and that work has kept the water on for countless members of our community. Now, we got that number from 10,000 down to about 4,000 as of August 17th when the shut-offs resumed, and that meant we were shutting people off, 125 may be up to 500 customers a day depending on the size of the billing cycle. But, all of those actions considered, our customers have only been using about that \$10,000 monthly contribution we've been giving to PCAP. They've only been using up that assistance. They haven't even touched that \$50,000 that's readily intact and fully available now. Also, this morning, at our Commissioners' meeting, we made another \$50,000 available for PCAP, as well, and we doubled the annual limit from \$500 to \$1,000 that a customer could qualify for.

So, as of October 1st, in about a week from now, there will be at least about \$110,000 in the Charleston Water System Bill Pay assistance available through PCAP. So, to look back and recap, we've made \$140,000 extra available. In closing, if you want to help a constituent keep their water on, it's so easy to do. All you have to do is simply have them call us, call our customer service number, and we can help them manage their account. We can work with them to get extensions, we can work with them to set up payment plans, and we can connect them with PCAP and various other funding sources that are available across the Lowcountry. A thousand dollars is a significant helping hand for customers in need. So, just simply refer them to us, and we'll take the ball from there, but the biggest challenge is having people actually pick up the phone and connect with us. So, if anyone has any questions, I'm glad to talk about everything we've done. Does anyone have any questions?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, Mike."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, "Yes, well, first of all, I'd be remiss because I'm looking at this guy in my corner over here in a coat and tie. Mike lives down the street from me, and he's one of the hardest working men I've ever known in my life because he's out working on his yard or adding something to the back of his house like a utility shed. He built a hurricane resistant dollhouse for his daughter. So, Mike, I didn't recognize you at first. I kept on looking and saying I'm supposed to know this fellow, but seeing you in a coat and tie, I didn't recognize you. So, thank you for what you do. He's a great neighbor. I'm honored that he lives down the street from me and just wanted to recognize him for all of the fine work he does for our community and a lovely family. Mike, it's good seeing you in a coat and tie."

Mr. Saia said, "Thank you, Peter."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, Councilmember Shahid, and thank you, Mike. We appreciate Charleston Water putting this together."

Councilmember Griffin said, "Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Griffin.

Councilmember Griffin said, "Yes, sir. I just wanted to just reiterate how great of a partner CWS is and how lucky all of our City of Charleston residents are to have CWS. You see all of the problems with the utility companies all over the State and even in other municipalities down here in the Lowcountry, but CWS has always been an amazing partner of ours. I'm lucky that my business also is CWS, and they are just constant, and their customer service is some of the best I've ever seen. They always get back with you, they help you in every way they can, and when they say that they've tried to help their rate payers every way that they could before the shut-offs happened, I truly believe that because I've seen that firsthand. I've seen it when people that weren't able to afford their bills and help them pay it, especially our elderly that live here in Charleston. So, I just want to give them a shout-out for just being such a great, great partner for the City, and I hope that other municipalities and local governments around this area will expand with CWS because they're the best we've got down here. Thank you."

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

No one else asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, Mike, thank you so much for being with us, and you all keep up the good work. We do value our partnership with you, and thanks for your service."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, I do have one more proclamation in continuing to build our inclusiveness and our diversity in our community, one of the growing segments of our local population is the Hispanic community. If you all didn't know, typically the mid-month from September 15th through October 15th is National Hispanic Heritage Week. If you don't know, the Mayor has begun a Hispanic Council that networks with now over three dozen members of our Hispanic Latinx Council that builds trust between our policing and our Hispanic community and builds relationships with the Hispanic community. So, I wanted to share that with you, and also a proclamation for Hispanic Heritage Month in the City of Charleston."

Mayor Tecklenburg read the proclamation.

---INSERT PROCLAMATION---

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you all for indulging me on that and sharing with you our ongoing relationships through our Hispanic Council with the Hispanic community here in Charleston. Thank you very much for that. So, next, we'll move right along on our agenda with our public hearings. We have a few of them up here this evening, I think nine or so. Christopher Morgan, can I turn it over to you for intros?"

Christopher Morgan said, "Yes, sir, Mr. Mayor and members of Council. Can you hear me?"

The Clerk said, "Yes."

Mr. Morgan said, "Our first item is rezoning E-1. This is the Sheppard Street PUD. This had been on previous agendas, and we had some issues with getting the property posted and advertised, but it's been all properly posted and advertised for tonight's meeting. This is TMS #460-04-04-074, #460-04-04-078, #460-04-04-080, and #460-04-04-086. It's 1.38 acres. It's a request for a rezoning from General Business, Limited Business, and Accommodations Overlay to Planned Unit Development for Sheppard Street. We have an image of it in the Century V Plan that shows as Urban and Urban Core. The Urban Core, of course, is our most intense category of recommended land use. These are the parcels that are involved. If you can see my cursor, this is King Street to the east. There is a new office building under construction, a five-story office building, on this portion of the site, and that will, of course, continue on. There are other parcels that include houses on them over here and over here that would become part of the PUD, as with the right-of-way here. To the west is the drainage shaft for the eastern end of the Septima Clark Parkway drainage improvements. So, that is the location of the PUD. Here are some of the houses that are involved. This house is part of the PUD, as is this structure. The structure in the middle is not part of the PUD. Of course, the office building is under construction on the grassy area here now.

Here are other houses closer to the drainage shaft and adjacent to the Septima Clark Parkway, and here are just some street views of the parcels and the houses that are involved. What the PUD calls for is a Mixed-Use area at the front that would allow for the office construction and parking that has already been planned on the site. Some of the houses would be moved to other areas to the Accommodations Residential Area, that's in green. The Mixed-Use Area towards King Street right now also has an Accommodations Overlay allowance that would have allowed up to a 50-room inn. But, with this PUD, the Accommodations Residential Area shifts to the area to the west near the shaft and the area in green, and there would be up to 30 Accommodations units in that area. The Planning Commission reviewed this, and they did have a couple of comments. These are not conditions. They were just comments of looking at the green space and open space requirement in reference to it and trying to increase affordable housing provided at maximum build-out. Of course, the developers are helping with potentially relocating one or two of the structures for affordable housing use, and that is the background on that rezoning request."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Great. Would anyone like to be heard on this matter? Do we have anyone signed up, Jennifer or Vanessa?"

The Clerk said, "Yes, Mayor. We have one person signed up for E-1, Mr. James Wilson."

1. James Wilson said he presented on this a couple of meetings ago, but they thought the project, while small, had some great impacts. It would restore some historic buildings and would reduce Accommodations Use. They had been working with the City on relocating at least one house for affordable housing use. Councilmember Mitchell had been kind enough to talk with them a couple of times. If there were any questions, he would be glad to answer.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, sir, and there is no one else?"

The Clerk said, "That's the only person I have on my list."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay. Then, the matter comes to Council."

Councilmember Griffin said, "I move for approval."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We have a motion to approve and a second. Is there any discussion?"

No one asked to speak.

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

2020 - 125 - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON BY CHANGING THE ZONE MAP, WHICH IS A PART THEREOF, SO THAT PROPERTY LOCATED ON SHEPPARD STREET (PENINSULA) (APPROXIMATELY 1.386 ACRES) (TMS #460-04-04-074, 460-04-04-078, 460-04-04-080 AND 460-04-04-086) (COUNCIL DISTRICT 4), BE REZONED FROM GENERAL BUSINESS (GB) CLASSIFICATION AND LIMITED BUSINESS (LB) CLASSIFICATION TO PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD) CLASSIFICATION (SHEPPARD STREET PUD), WITH THE PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES ATTACHED HERETO AND INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE TO SERVE AS THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR SUCH PROPERTY, AND REMOVING THE ACCOMMODATIONS OVERLAY ZONE (A) CLASSIFICATION. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY KING AND SHEPPARD PARTNERS, LLC; SHEPPARD PARKING LLC; AND LOWCOUNTRY MARKETING GROUP, LLC. **(AS AMENDED)**

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

Mr. Morgan said, "This is E-2, 2421 Ashley River Road in Pierpont, West Ashley TMS #355-16-00-025, 026, and 027. It's approximately eight acres. It's a request for a rezoning from General Business to Diverse Residential. The request is because this property is not going to be used commercially. It's going to be used for an affordable housing development, a townhouse development by Homes of Hope. It would also include as part of the development, the DR-1F property here at Dogwood. It would all be zoned DR-1F, so it would have unified zoning. This is Ashley River Road, running roughly north south in this location here in the east. This would get

this in unified zoning and work for the townhouses that are planned on the site. We have a couple of images. This is in our Highway designation in the Century V Plan, so this type of zoning would be appropriate there. This is an aerial view of the property. Again, you can see there is a local presbytery that has an office building on the site at present, and then there is an undeveloped area. With a tighter view, there are some other Commercial uses up and down Ashley River Road near it, and then Residential uses to the rear. Here, you see an aerial view that shows more clearly the Residential uses to the west, some of the storage and Commercial uses to the north and across the street. Here is just a view from Ashley River Road. At Planning Commission, it was recommended for approval of 6 to 0, as staff also recommended for the rezoning.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Alright. Did anyone from the public sign up to be heard?”

The Clerk said, “I have one person, Bernie Mazyck.”

1. Bernie Mazyck asked Council to consider voting in favor of the rezoning of the property because they believed affordable housing was critical to Charleston to ensure the efforts of Charleston to be the destination that so many people wanted to be a part of. Recent data found that 30 percent of residents in Charleston were classified as housing costs burdened. That number was over 35 percent for African Americans. Housing expenses in this category exceeded 30 percent of an individual’s income. Affordable housing was critical to the City to ensure that it was a beautiful and diverse city where so many current residents and others wanted to live. They really believed this project helped with that and encouraged Council to vote in favor of the rezoning. He thanked Council for the work they did and for making the City of Charleston a great place for so many to live.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Thank you, sir. Thank you for what you do for community development here in Charleston and throughout the State of South Carolina. We appreciate your work.”

Mr. Mazyck said, “Thank you, sir.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Is there anyone else?”

The Clerk said, “No, I don’t have any other person who asked to speak to Item #2 on my list.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “The matter comes before Council.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shealy.

Councilmember Shealy said, “Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Madam Clerk, I don’t know if you have Samantha Kubinski. It may be under a different last name. That’s what I had. It said she was trying to speak on there.”

Samantha Kubinski Durham said, “Hello, can you hear me?”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Yes, ma’am.”

2. Samantha Kubinski Durham said she was calling on behalf of the Canterbury Woods neighborhood. She said they appreciated and supported City Council's work on allowing more affordable housing to be available for residents, but they were concerned about the traffic flow. Canterbury Woods to downtown was typically a 25-minute commute. For her during rush hour, during non-COVID times, it doubled both ways. If the housing project were to be developed, they wanted to know what the plan would be to allow the roads to withstand the traffic that it was going to create and worsen.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you for your comments. Just to share with you, this is to hear your comments, not really a question and answer period, but we've heard that concern before about all development really and appreciate your comments tonight. Thank you. Are there any others?"

The Clerk said, "Mayor, I have one letter from Eli Poliakoff. You remember he wanted to say something last time, and because we deferred the items until this time, I'll read a portion of his letter. He says, 'The Charleston Redevelopment Corporation is providing this letter of support for the rezoning request submitted by Homes of Hope as listed in tonight's agenda. The CRC is a non-profit, non-governmental entity founded by the City of Charleston, the Historic Charleston Foundation, and the Housing Authority in the City of Charleston. The CRC focuses on the development and preservation of affordable housing in the City of Charleston area and helps secure local, state, and national funding for long-term housing affordability.'"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Great. Thank you so much for sharing that."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shealy.

Councilmember Shealy said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I, obviously, spoke against this before. Where this property is located is the worst traffic we have anywhere in the City of Charleston. It's getting worse because of the development that's going on in Dorchester County and where we have zoning requests that don't need to be made, or where we don't need zoning requests. Traffic is just getting worse and worse. I believe we should work on affordable housing, and I'm all for affordable housing, but not at the expense of the quality of life of our residents. This thing goes completely against the West Ashley Revitalization Plan to put any type of housing in this location. To me, it goes against all common sense to support housing where there is gridlock, and you can't have any other cars. I just feel like we're treating our Districts #2, #5, and #10, that have to come from far west, poorly. I think it's irresponsible, and I think it's not fair to them. If we truly wanted to follow West Ashley Revitalization, we would be looking at this property as a way to bring in a business to this location, instead of putting more traffic on the road. Three years ago, we spent thousands of dollars on a study that told us 'do not do this,' and we're doing it. We're putting more homes where we can't have any more cars on the road. The place is already an office, and it's probably turnkey for somebody, but by voting for this ordinance, we're ignoring one of the biggest concerns that this part of the City has, and we're making a bad situation worse. This ordinance just goes against quality of life for existing residents, and we've got to stop building apartments, condos, and other housing down Ashley River Road, down Glenn McConnell Parkway, and Bees Ferry Road, where there is no room for vehicles. We just shouldn't be making this zoning change in this part of the City. I'm, obviously, going to vote against this, and once again, I'm going to ask my colleagues to vote against it, as well. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Griffin.

Councilmember Griffin said, "I'm with you, Councilmember Shealy. I voted with you last time against it. I'm going to vote against it again. We need more affordable housing West Ashley, and we're going to get it in a lot of ways. I'm very excited about the affordable housing component of the EPIC Center and in those areas where they're dense and multi-use, as Councilmember Shealy said, this area is just so congested as it is. We've got a lot of projects coming that way that may clean things up a little bit. The DOT is working on the new flyover at Magwood. That could have a good impact and ease some congestion in that area. Until we see what that does, I'm really wary about adding any more homes in that corridor right there. So, for the time being, I support you on this, Councilmember Shealy. We still see the impacts of the development, such as the new section of Carolina Bay that comes out onto Glenn McConnell. I'm worried that any more residential units anywhere near Magwood and Hwy. 61 in that area, I just don't know how the traffic is going to be able to handle it. For a long time, we've been lucky enough, with school being virtual and people working from home, that traffic hasn't really been an issue. But, now that school's come back, I've seen it right away. Traffic is back. Out in our area, it's a very substantial drive. Just to my office is about 12 to 13 miles, and it takes a good 45 minutes in the morning. So, I'm really worried about that traffic component. That really is my only concern at this point. I would love to see more affordable housing in that area, especially where we could get affordable units out in my district. That would be great, but we've still got to solve that traffic issue because there is nothing good about affordable units if people can't get there. So, I'm with you on this one, Councilmember Shealy. I think it's a great idea. I'm just still wary about where we're at and I want to see where we go with some of these new infrastructure projects."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, thank you. Can I entertain a motion for further discussion, please?"

Councilmember Gregorie said, "So moved."

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We have a motion to approve and a second."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie.

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Yes, just a question, and I don't know whether or not we have the information yet. Has the traffic study been done yet?"

Mr. Morgan said, "I am not certain that the traffic study has been done. It's not required to be done before the rezoning request. It will be done as part of the TRC Review Committee."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "It sounds like we're putting the cart before the horse, to me. It sounds like we need that traffic study."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilwoman Jackson.

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I really appreciate that Councilmember Shealy has talked to me off the record, and now we're sharing what we each think about this property. I represent neighborhoods on James Island, and we're all suffering from the increase in population and the explosion of our housing market. This is, for a lot of us, a split-the-baby decision in terms of if we are creating worse suburban overgrowth but, frankly, this property is only available because we have a partner in Homes of Hope. They have one of the best reputations on the whole east coast for building housing that is good quality. They're using

a builder that is highly regarded, and this will be a permanently affordable homeownership subdivision. So, we don't get this chance, we don't get land that can be put into an equation where the land itself will be permanently set aside under the Community Land Trust model, and the homeowners will build equity in their improvements. They'll buy the house, they'll get a loan, they'll build their credit history, and then they will build equity, and when they sell, they'll be able to take equity with them. So, we are creating the kinds of housing opportunities that we know are very rare in a region like this. Most of the properties that we have an opportunity to entertain subsidies for or develop our own land go to multi-family housing, which is all necessary, especially in places where we want people to be able to live closer to where they work, but this is a homeownership opportunity that is very hard to come by. I do feel your pain and I'm happy to explain that we've taken votes that are going to impact the people who do commute up and down Ashley River Road. I think, as we took the first reading vote, we all agreed that these problems are not going away, and we do need to have partnerships across the State to help us take care of traffic in a more holistic way. So, I'm going to vote in favor, but I do feel your pain. So, thank you very much."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. This is one that actually Councilmember Shealy and I did a lot more homework on since the last time and riding out there. You all know I'm a big fan of permanent affordable housing. I actually voted in favor of this the first time around, but my understanding is that the traffic up in this area by the Highway Department was rated an 'E.' 'A' being the best, 'F' being the worse, and right now this is an 'E.' To date, I hadn't heard any traffic solution. Our Planning Department has done a great job over the years, helping to create connectivity of one development to another. This is a one-way in and one way out, and because of the way the grand trees are somewhat located up in there, it's going to be very difficult to even put in a center turn lane. So, in other words, hypothetically, when this development is built, in particular knocking off traffic, people headed away from town, those living here will have to make a left turn getting in, holding up traffic for all of the people going further down Hwy. 61, you know Bees Ferry Road, Canterbury Woods, Hickory Hills, Village Green, and the like, but the traffic out there is real. Instead of looking at the drawing, I would invite you to go out and see the morning traffic and get in it, and think about doing that Monday through Friday. Frankly, on Saturdays, I don't know, everybody must be going to Costco like me. It's pretty packed out there on Saturdays, as well. So, Councilmember Shealy has done a good job of making this argument. I am going to vote 'no' on the second reading. I would be in concert with. Hopefully, Councilmember Gregorie suggested it, a question about a traffic study. I think a traffic study should be in the order prior to giving the zoning because there has to be some solution for ingress/egress in this one right here. Right next to my office, they built 172 units, and I wondered how in the world those people were going to get in and out of there. This is on Ashley River Road, but that's a five-lane highway, and it had a center turn lane. As a matter of fact, there is no affordable housing, but people managed to get in and out because the infrastructure is in place for proper ingress and egress. That does not exist in this location right here. So, albeit, if this gentleman wants to do this under the Commercial zoning, I think our Planning Department will tell you it could be done, the housing still can go on. They have to do it under Commercial construction, which costs more, steel studs basically versus wood studs. So, I'm going to vote 'no' on this because, at the very least, we ought to get a traffic study. We have to find better ingress and egress for people to even get in and out of this one. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Then, I'm going to call on Geona Shaw Johnson for some remarks about the affordability. Councilmember Shahid."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. So, Mr. Morgan, maybe I missed this in your presentation tonight or our last meeting. How many units can be built on this spot if we approve this change?"

Mr. Morgan said, "Well, it's actually a reduction in the number of units that can be built, by virtue of going from GB 26.4 to DR-1F to 19.6, I believe. So, it's actually a reduction in density on the property."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Well, if you can sort of explain that to me one more time. Since its current zoning, what is allowed to be built out there?"

Mr. Morgan said, "You can do any range of Residential up to 26.4 units an acre, and you can do any type of Commercial, 24-hour a day Commercial. You can do a grocery store, you can do a pharmacy, you could do vehicle sales, things like that."

Councilmember Shahid said, "If we approve the change, then we'll reduce the density?"

Mr. Morgan said, "It will reduce the density. Yes, sir."

Councilmember Shahid said, "The comment from Councilmember Gregorie about the traffic study, I didn't quite hear the response to that. So, did the Planning Commission ask for a traffic study, or did you all make a recommendation for a traffic study?"

Mr. Morgan said, "They did not. Traffic studies are not required for a rezoning. They are a part of the Technical Review process, and they will have to be completed. I will say this about a traffic study in this location. You're talking about thousands and thousands of Residential units that are already out in this area. This site will probably have 75, 70, or 80 units something like that. It's going to be a tiny, tiny drop in the bucket of traffic. Will it be more traffic? Yes. Will it be as much traffic as a Commercial use that could be on this site? No. A Commercial use of this site would, in all likelihood, have greater levels of traffic."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Mr. Mayor, before you go to Mrs. Shaw Johnson--"

Councilmember Shahid said, "Can I just finish my comment?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Councilmember Shahid still has the floor, please."

Councilmember Shahid said, "I am very familiar with this area because it's not too far from where I live. I travel up and down this road, and Councilmember Shealy is right on point with this. It is a heavily congested road. I've gone the opposite direction in the morning to watch the cars, the commuters, coming down here. I feel his pain on this. He's been very consistent on voicing his opposition and concern for the traffic on this road. I certainly don't want to go in the wrong direction with the West Ashley Revitalization's studies and recommendations on this. So, I am concerned about the traffic, and I think that I would feel more comfortable if I had an idea of what the impact would be either way with renaming it as this current zoning on the traffic impact, or what would happen if we made it into a greater change in zoning. So, thank you, Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie.

Councilmember Gregorie said, "As a follow up to the traffic question, Christopher, given that it's already classified as an 'E' in an 'A' through 'F' scale, there is still a great likelihood with the number of units, when the traffic study is complete, it will probably say minimal effect. Can you tell me whether or not we have approved rezoning where the classification is an 'E'? In other words, where I'm getting is, I don't want us to set a precedent here that anything that is 'E' would be considered a 'no build' area for additional affordable housing. I know that all depends on numbers, etcetera, etcetera, but just given the number of units that we're talking about, even though it's classified an 'E', if we were to prove it with this downzoning, the traffic study will probably come back with minimal effect. The second part of my question if we don't downzone it, they could go with a larger number of units that could have even more of a negative impact on traffic given the current zoning. Am I correct?"

Mr. Morgan said, "Yes, sir."

Mrs. Shaw Johnson said, "Christopher, could I interrupt you a second because I wanted to answer the question that's being asked over and over again. So, Mayor and City Council, they have completed a traffic study. Basically, that traffic study indicated that it did not require any off-site improvements due to the low volume. As you all know, because they are looking for a change in the zoning from General Business to Diverse Residential, they're only planning to build approximately 75 townhomes. If they left it under the current zoning, they could build as many as 200 units there based on the size of the parcel, but that is not their plan. Their plan is to build 75 units of affordable housing that will remain affordable for perpetuity. I appreciate Councilmember Shealy and the other Councilmembers' concerns relative to traffic. This property has ingress and egress off of Dogwood instead of Ashley River Road. Maybe that doesn't make a big difference, but I think it makes some difference relative to the flow of traffic. I would just encourage us to think about the fact that if we stop building affordable housing, it's going to exacerbate the need for affordable housing. We already need about 52,000 units of affordable housing by 2030 to meet the current need. So, if we stop, then we exacerbate a problem that already exists. Based on my reading of the West Ashley Revitalization Plan, it called for the development of affordable housing. Remember, this is an attached development versus single-family detached. So, it marks off a number of the strategies we desire to employ when we're looking at building affordably priced housing in our community. So, I just ask you to contemplate all of that as you make the decision. As I communicated previously, they could still build the 75 units on this parcel. It would simply cost more because then they're building it to Commercial standards versus Residential standards. So, thank you for your time."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I see Keith Benjamin on the line. I know maybe it hadn't gone through TRC, but have you seen a site plan for this that you confirm that the ingress/egress is not on Hwy. 61? It's on the side road? Is that correct?"

Keith Benjamin said, "Yes. So, I'll admit that I'm going to check with Michael on TRC tomorrow afternoon. I have some basic squares, but nothing that is as that descriptive. I think the important thing to give a dichotomy of is what the traffic on the existing road is versus what the amount of traffic that is able to go across and impact is. You've got to separate that because there is legitimacy to the status of the right-of-way right now. I spoke to Councilmember Waring and Councilmember Shealy about that and about the amount of traffic that's on that primary road at peak hour. I've got to make that reference too, right? So, we're talking about peak hours, the afternoon and morning. Not throughout the day, but at peak hour it is an 'E' status. On Dogwood, it is not. The amount of traffic that's added, potentially, from that project is not substantial."

However, you have this exasperating issue. So, I think there is legitimacy on both sides, probably, of people who are having that conversation.

I think the other thing is that if traffic is to be the aspect of concern, what is the appropriate solution that would be welcomed by the surrounding community? The fact of the matter is what could be proposed by the owner of the right-of-way, that being the SCDOT, most likely would not be acceptable to that surrounding community. However, the Signal Response System SCDOT is planning to install along Hwy. 61, improvements of Glenn McConnell, not just the flyover, but the widening of Glenn McConnell or otherwise, play into those supporting aspects, as well. So, I think the decision piece, at least from a traffic standpoint is, the traffic along Hwy. 61 at such a status that the addition of any additional units is problematic? The fact is that the traffic study is not showing enough to even push SCDOT to do 'something.' The SCDOT will come back to us and say, 'this doesn't show enough impact,' to even suggest anything outside of what they're already doing with the right-of-way. So, the conversation with the State DOT would be more about the existing functioning of that road, which is not good at all, and what to do about it in its current state. So, even though it's hard to separate them, I want to kind of separate that conversation of the existing right-of-way and how it's currently functioning versus additions and subtractions."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Mr. Morgan, could you show us on the map again where the ingress/egress would be for this property as proposed?"

Mr. Morgan said, "If you all can see the share, it is off this property because this is also owned by the same group right here. I believe there is a signal at this intersection at Dogwood. I believe there are turn lanes on this portion of Ashley River Road at Dogwood at that signal."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Christopher, the lot and the ingress/egress, is it that wooded lot that I see?"

Mr. Morgan said, "Yes, it is, to the south of Dogwood."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Do you have a site plan from them at all?"

Mr. Morgan said, "We do not, as part of this presentation, because the zoning isn't dependent on a particular site plan. So, that's why we don't have one on this."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Well, I just want to make clear about the ingress/egress, but we've confirmed that it's not going to be on Hwy. 61. It's going to be on Dogwood."

Mr. Morgan said, "Correct. It's off of Dogwood."

Councilmember Waring said, "No, that's not accurate. If you put the drawing back up, Mr. Mayor. Well, let me get recognized."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Then, I think, somebody has seen maybe a layout. Is that true?"

Mrs. Shaw Johnson said, "I have."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Let me acknowledge Mrs. Shaw Johnson real quick now, and then I'll come to you, Councilmember Waring. Geona."

Mrs. Shaw Johnson said, "So, Mayor, they've done a preliminary TRC. Yes, sir, to Eric Schultz, and they have gone through because Eric and his team have looked at this. They've looked at the site. They've looked at the position of where the townhouses would go. Michael Mathis, from Keith's team, has looked at the ingress/egress off of Dogwood. So, that site design, there's a preliminary site design plan, has already been done. They hadn't made a formal TRC request, but TRC will do a preliminary, especially when you're bringing affordable housing online. That entrance, that ingress/egress, is off of Dogwood and not off of Ashley River Road."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, "Mr. Morgan, can you put that, I haven't seen that site plan, Mrs. Geona Shaw Johnson, but put that last drawing you had up showing the wooded overhead view, the wooded area. If you look at the bottom left corner of this site, the yellow line that backs up against the lots that are broken off. Ms. Shaw Johnson, can you tell me where the ingress and egress is to Dogwood?"

Mr. Morgan said, "I can tell you. I know you can't see my cursor, but at the corner of Hwy. 61 and Dogwood, you see there is a gas station as I am moving around it. Behind that gas station is where the ingress/egress is."

Councilmember Waring said, "I can see your cursor now. It's small, but I can see it."

Mr. Morgan said, "You can see it now. This is where the ingress and egress is. Right here."

Councilmember Waring said, "So, the vacant lot?"

Mr. Morgan said, "Yes, they own that, as well."

Councilmember Waring said, "Well, that's information that I didn't have. When I spoke to Mr. Benjamin and Councilmember Shealy, obviously, the only ingress and egress we talked about at that time was off of Hwy. 61, one way in and one way out. So, they have an acquired easement to get to this tract?"

Mrs. Shaw Johnson said, "They own that lot, as well. We, in fact, helped to facilitate the acquisition of that lot, and they purchased that lot at least a year ago now as part of this overall development."

Councilmember Waring said, "I sure would like to see that site plan because, believe me, I'm a big fan, you all know that, of affordable housing, but this traffic up in here desperately needs multiple ways in and out."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Understood."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Seekings.

Councilmember Seekings said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I've been listening very intently and have been watching this debate for the last couple of meetings. Frankly, I'm not really sure I

understand why we're having so much of a struggle on this. This is a property that, as zoned right now, is entitled to 200 units. They're asking for a zoning, which is effectively a downzoning, for one reason and one reason only. That is to be able to affordably build affordable housing, and we're wrestling with it. I think the better approach here, with all due respect, is to work with the developer, work on that site plan, think about the traffic patterns, but give them the zoning, so they can move forward and know what it's going to cost them to build those permanent units that we so desperately have talked about for decades. If we don't give them this rezoning, I mean I don't think this will happen, but it's possible that they just go build 200 units and will make it even worse. So, I think that the direction that we probably, as Council, should be taking here is looking and working cooperatively with the developer on the traffic patterns and give them the zoning. Because if not, I don't know that we're achieving anything in terms of the traffic patterns by denying it."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Understood. Alright. Are there any other Councilmembers that haven't been heard first? Then, I'll come back to you, Councilmember Waring."

No one else asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Then, I'm going to call the question."

Councilmember Waring said, "That second ingress and egress is important, and with all due respect, Councilmember Seekings, this is a time you do those negotiations. If they were going to build 200 units, they didn't need to come to us. They come to us because we're putting \$1.5 million in this project, in addition to working along with them. But for the \$1.5 million, these affordable housing units won't be going there. The second ingress and egress, as I said, is important. Until this meeting right now, I never had that information. I don't know that Councilmember Shealy or Councilmember Griffin had that information. I mean, that is very important information. I want to make sure that they don't have the right to back off that second ingress/egress to Dogwood. That's vital to this project that the traffic issue, in my opinion, virtually goes away, and Councilmember Shealy can tell that to his constituents, that they have multiple ways in and out."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Understood."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilwoman Jackson.

Councilmember Jackson said, "Well, just to answer that point, I am sorry that the developer isn't here. Evidently, he tried to get on and was dropped off, but my understanding, and maybe Mr. Benjamin or Mrs. Shaw Johnson knows, is that there will be no entrance directly from Ashley River Road?"

Mrs. Shaw Johnson said, "That's correct."

Councilwoman Jackson said, "It's going to be Dogwood only. So, basically, you will make a left turn onto Dogwood, the property will enter into a piece of a property where there is housing off to the next. The contiguous properties are already housing, and then you go into the bigger parcel that is currently GB. So, I really appreciate Councilmember Seekings' reasoning. I do feel like if we don't do anything, then somebody is going to buy this property at GB, and it will be a multi-family apartment by right. That's what happened out here on James Island. People were

debating what we would like the old movie theater to be. Well, sorry, it was GB, and it turned into 180 units of multi-family housing overnight. So, that's what happens."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We do have control, by the way, at TRC to shape the decisions for the ingress/egress."

Mrs. Shaw Johnson said, "Mayor, if I might just add, because Jeff Randolph is e-mailing me. He was trying to get on, and Don Oglesby is on, but we don't have his number registered and Michael Mathis, who is a part of Keith Benjamin's team, they also met with SCDOT to look at the entrance off of Dogwood. They suggested and recommended the ingress/egress off of Dogwood versus Hwy. 61. So, they suggest it, as well, to this developer and his team that that ingress/egress was off of Dogwood and not Hwy. 61. Probably a month or so ago, I did share with Councilmember Shealy, knowing his concerns about traffic, that their goal was to have their ingress/egress off of Dogwood Avenue. So, this information has been varying, Councilmember Waring. That's why you didn't know."

Councilmember Waring said, "No, that information needs to be provided to all of us. We shouldn't be finding this out now."

Mrs. Shaw Johnson said, "Right. I shared it with Councilmember Shealy. I called you, as well, because I knew you all would likely confer, and I said at that time the owner wants to do ingress/egress off of Dogwood. Subsequent to that, Councilmember, they went ahead and did a preliminary TRC and met with T&T staff. T&T staff wanted SCDOT staff to confirm that was the better option for this development in line with what their goals were."

Councilmember Waring said, "But the goal of getting something and acquiring a tract of land is hugely different. I hear tonight that they actually acquired the tract of land for the ingress/egress. That's a huge difference from having a goal."

Ms. Shaw Johnson said, "Well, they acquired the Dogwood land almost at the same time as the other portion of the land from the Presbytery. So, it was always a goal to have the adjacent property because the swathe that comes in off of Dogwood is actually adjacent. It literally feeds in."

Councilmember Waring said, "I saw it on the overhead. So, we can be assured that there's not going to be a bait and switch? In other words, we vote for this tonight, they get the zoning, that ingress and egress will be off of Dogwood."

Ms. Shaw Johnson said, "Yes, sir. That's correct."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Brady.

Councilmember Brady said, "My question was answered."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shealy.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Then, let's try to move on."

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

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Appel, followed by Councilmember Shealy.

Councilmember Appel said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Let me first say, to Councilmember Shealy, I completely sympathize with the traffic situation on Hwy. 61. I'm not over there all that much, but I hear the horror stories. I know it's awful over there, but we've got to get infrastructure prioritized at a state and local level here, not us, but really more with the County, to help us on these issues because if the litmus test is going to be, 'we can't add another car to overburden heavily traffic roads,' we might as well just downzone every undeveloped parcel in West Ashley and James Island, etcetera. I just don't think that's a tenable result. The other comment I would make is we are getting way ahead of the curve. We're putting the cart way in front of the horse right now in this technical discussion about access points. This is a rezoning. This is just to talk about use. This is a downzoning. This is making the development potential on this property less intensive. It's taking away development rights. Most of the time, when you downzone property, property owners are going nuts. I might suggest that, in complicated areas like this, one of the benefits of a PUD is you can really get a much better, much clearer understanding on the front end of what you're actually getting and what the site plan is going to look like. There's more of a design element in a PUD than there is in a DR-1F rezoning, and it seems like that's kind of the struggle here. I'm certainly not suggesting we go back to the drawing board on this, but maybe as a cautionary tale in the future, if we're going to be doing some of these great projects, affordable housing has to be our priority. Maybe we address some of these valid concerns that our colleagues have and our residents have by putting a little bit more of the design on the front end through a PUD, just so everybody has a much clearer understanding of what we're getting. Thanks."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shealy.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Then, I would like to call the question."

Councilmember Shealy said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. First of all, if we were looking at West Ashley revitalization, we would be looking at putting a business here. I heard what Mr. Morgan said. If you put a business there though, people are coming from the opposite direction to go to that business. We should be looking for businesses in this area to fill a General Business zone. We should not be putting additional traffic on there. Now, the ingress/egress, I think, it's important that somebody's not pulling out in it, but they still have to either get on Magwood Road or they have to get on Ashley River Road. Further up, that traffic is horrible all the way until you get to I-526 there. I think one of our most dangerous intersections, I don't know, Mr. Benjamin may or may not agree with me, but there is an accident all of the time at the corner of Ashley Crossing and Magwood Road. It's the most dangerous intersection we probably have anywhere. Well, these people are going to be going through there. The problem is people are trying to take a right turn on Magwood, a right or a left, but they're trying to make a turn. They're trying to come out so quickly so they can get in that traffic because there is a stop sign there. We're going to have more accidents there if we put more cars on the road, or they've got to come out on Ashley River Road, and it doesn't matter what the egress/ingress is. They're still going to jam up the traffic there by putting their vehicle on the road. So, I think the ingress/egress thing is, it's important. I really didn't realize, I'm sorry if I didn't hear correctly, about that property belonging to them, but I don't think that it really matters. We're going to put more traffic. The traffic doesn't end where this property starts. The traffic continues well past Magwood Road. These people are either going to have to get on Ashley River Road, or they're going to have to get on Magwood Road. Both of those roads are completely locked up and congested in the mornings. We're just

going to add more vehicles, and it's just not right. We should be looking to put businesses. We should be listening to the West Ashley Revitalization Plan where people live, work, and play, and we're not doing that. We're putting them where they're going to live there, and they're going to drive out of West Ashley to go to work. It's just not right. It's not fair to my constituents. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, sir."

The Clerk said, "Mayor."

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

The Clerk said, "I need to put something on the record. We went directly into the discussion. For E-2, we have five people opposed to the zoning ordinance of 2421 Ashley River Road. They say it will have a negative impact for existing residents and others that commute along the area."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Understood. We do have a motion on the floor to approve. Councilmember Gregorie made it, and it was seconded by Councilwoman Jackson. Is there any further discussion?"

No one else asked to speak.

The Clerk said, "Would you like a roll call? How do you want to do that, Mayor?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes, let's have a roll call."

The Clerk said, "Okay. Councilwoman Delcioppo."

Councilwoman Delcioppo said, "Aye."

The Clerk said, "Councilmember Shealy."

Councilmember Shealy said, "Nay."

The Clerk said, "Councilmember Sakran."

Councilmember Sakran said, "Yes."

The Clerk said, "Councilmember Mitchell."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "I have to say 'Aye.'"

The Clerk said, "Councilmember Brady."

Councilmember Brady said, "Nay."

The Clerk said, "Councilmember Gregorie."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Yes."

The Clerk said, "Councilmember Waring."

Councilmember Waring said, "I'm voting 'Nay' on this."

The Clerk said, "Councilmember Seekings."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Aye."

The Clerk said, "Councilmember Shahid."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Aye."

The Clerk said, "Councilmember Griffin."

Councilmember Griffin said, "Nay."

The Clerk said, "Councilmember Appel."

Councilmember Appel said, "Yes."

The Clerk said, "Councilwoman Jackson."

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Yes."

The Clerk said, "Mayor Tecklenburg."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes. The motion passes."

The Clerk said, "It does."

On a motion of Councilmember Gregorie, one (1) bill (Item E-2) received second reading. It passed second reading on motion by Councilwoman Jackson and third reading on motion of Councilmember Seekings. On further motion of Councilwoman Delcioppo, the rules were suspended, and the bill was immediately ratified as:

2020-126 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON BY CHANGING THE ZONE MAP, WHICH IS A PART THEREOF, SO THAT 2421 ASHLEY RIVER ROAD (WEST ASHLEY) (APPROXIMATELY 8.04 ACRES) (TMS #355-16-00-025, 026 & 027) (COUNCIL DISTRICT 2), BE REZONED FROM GENERAL BUSINESS (GB) CLASSIFICATION TO DIVERSE RESIDENTIAL (DR-1F) CLASSIFICATION. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY HOMES OF HOPE, INC.

The vote was not unanimous. Councilmembers Shealy, Brady, Waring, and Griffin voted nay. The motion passed 9 to 4.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Thank you. We will ensure, through the TRC process, that the ingress/egress is off of a side road, and the traffic impact is kept to a minimum. Next, Mr. Morgan. Let's take three and four together."

Mr. Morgan said, "So, three and four, yes, they are both related to 2 Race Street in the Westside, TMS #460-04-01-103. It's almost half an acre of land, and is owned by the Charleston Local Development Corporation. It's at the corner of Race Street and King Street. It has Multi-Family Residential to the north and to the south and Commercial uses to the east and to the south, as well. Then, the Westside neighborhood surrounds those other Commercial areas. The request is to go from General Business to Mixed-Use/Workforce Housing (MU-1/WH). It is also a request to go from the Old City Height District 2.5 stories to the Old City Height District of 3 stories. In the Century V Plan, it is in our Urban area, which would encourage densities that correspond with the surrounding area. However, we do have an aspect that we have a location of mass transit in this area, and we do have good walkability in this area, so that helps with the extra density that would come from this rezoning in this Urban location. You can see the image here has the LDC structure on it, as well as surrounding parking. You see some of the surrounding neighborhood here. Then, you zoom in a little bit more and, again, can see the structure closer. Here are the surrounding, I believe it's the Kings Crossing Apartments, which I believe are affordable units as well to the north. Those are the three-story buildings that you see surrounding it. Here it is from a street level and, again, from the street level. Planning Commission recommended approval of both of these items by the vote of 7 to 0. Staff, of course, recommended for them, as well."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Is there anyone from the public registered to be heard on this?"

The Clerk said, "No, I don't have anyone signed up for those two."

Councilmember Waring said, "Mr. Mayor, move for approval."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "A motion to approve, and we've discussed this before. Is there any discussion?"

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Waring, two (2) bills (Items E-3 and E-4) received second reading. They passed second reading on motion by Councilmember Shahid and third reading on motion of Councilmember Brady. On further motion of Councilmember Gregorie, the rules were suspended, and the bills were immediately ratified as:

2020-127 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON BY CHANGING THE ZONE MAP, WHICH IS A PART THEREOF, SO THAT 2 RACE STREET (PENINSULA) (APPROXIMATELY 0.46 ACRE) (TMS #460-04-01-103) (COUNCIL DISTRICT 3), BE REZONED FROM GENERAL BUSINESS (GB) CLASSIFICATION TO MIXED-USE/WORKFORCE HOUSING (MU-1/WH) CLASSIFICATION. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY CHARLESTON LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

2020-128 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON BY CHANGING THE ZONE MAP, WHICH IS A PART THEREOF, SO THAT 2 RACE STREET (PENINSULA) (APPROXIMATELY 0.46 ACRE) (TMS #460-04-01-103) (COUNCIL DISTRICT 3), BE REZONED FROM 2.5 STORY OLD CITY HEIGHT DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION TO 3 STORY OLD CITY HEIGHT DISTRICT CLASSIFICATION. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY CHARLESTON LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you. Mr. Morgan, number five."

Mr. Morgan said, "Here we have 1814 Harmon Street in the Four Mile Hibernian neighborhood in the neck of Charleston, Tax Map Number 464-02-00-052, approximately two acres, at the corner of Harmon and Herbert Street. It's a request to rezone from General Business to Light Industrial. This is a property that has had uses on it that almost look like Light Industrial type uses, but it has been zoned GB for a good while. The owners are interested in now zoning it to Light Industrial. In the Century V Plan, it does show as Industrial, so that would be in keeping with the Century V Plan. Here is an aerial image of the property. You can see it does look almost like an Industrial use that surrounds it. We have a closer view of it with containers and other things stored on the site. Here, we see large numbers of tires and other vehicles on the site. Here is a street level view, and here we have more views. At Planning Commission, staff recommended for approval, and Planning Commission did recommend approval at a 6 to 0 vote."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Are there any public comments on this one?"

The Clerk said, "Not for number five, no."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "It comes to Council."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Move for approval."

Councilmember Waring said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Mr. Morgan, I have one question out of curiosity. I happen to know this has been operating as a retread facility to put a new tread on big truck tires. I'm just curious, is that allowed under General Business? As you say, it does look like more of a Light Industrial type of use."

Mr. Morgan said, "Yes, sir. When they came into use, we were kind of shocked that it was still zoned General Business seeing what was going on there, but I can only assume that they have had their business license, and they were either grandfathered or they have had a business license that complies with the General Business zoning."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Right. So, probably grandfathered. If I came in today and wanted to open a retread shop, could I locate it in a General Business zone?"

Mr. Morgan said, "I know you can put retread tires on a vehicle and all in General Business, but I don't know if you can actually do the retreading function of the tires. I'm not sure of that."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Is there any other discussion or questions? Alright."

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Shahid, seconded by Councilmember Waring, 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 1814 Harmon Street (Peninsula) (approximately 2.1 acres) (TMS #464-02-00-052) (Council District 4), be rezoned from General Business (GB)

classification to Light Industrial (LI) classification. The property is owned by J. Gibson Properties, LLC.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "That was only for first reading. Back to Mr. Morgan."

Mr. Morgan said, "Now, we move to the Laurel Island PUD. This is on the Peninsula, of course. Its Tax Map numbers are 464-00-00-006, 002, 023, 038, 459-02-00-013, and 461-13-03-024. It's approximately 196 acres, including the old Laurel Island area itself, as well as some other parcels that are on Morrison Drive. It's a request to rezone from General Business, as well as Heavy Industrial and Upper Peninsula zoning, and to the Planned Unit Development for Laurel Island. It's owned by a combination of the LRA Promenade Group and Charleston County. We'll go through some slides now that give you a sense of it. Of course, it's in our Industrial and Urban Core recommendation in the Comprehensive Plan. So, of course, there are intense uses called for in those types of categories. This is an aerial view of the property. Again, this is the old landfill over here. This is the current County recycling center here on Romney Street. This is an older bus depot here. This is the County Development Disabilities Board Facility and some other County offices there, so those are the parcels that are involved. This is a little bit closer zoom-in of the Morrison Dr. parcels. You can see the nature of those essentially all paved and built on-site here, as well as here and at the recycling center.

Then, a little bit more of a zoom-in from an aerial and the recycling center. So, these are slides that discuss the PUD that is proposed for the property. I should give a little bit more background here on the existing zoning for just a second. That is the fact that with the current zoning, you can build a good bit of Residential, as well as many Heavy Commercial and Industrial operations. You can have 19 units an acre under Heavy Industrial for Residential, so you can get to several thousand, if not almost four thousand units, on the property. So, it's a very intensely zoned piece of property right now. You also have a Height District that's on the property at present that allows unlimited height, as long as you have certain setbacks from the right-of-way. So, it's a very intensely zoned piece of property. What is proposed is this PUD that we will go into some of the images from. Again, this is giving you a sense of where it is on the Peninsula. This is a conceptual site plan that shows the streets that would be constructed on the site. Again, a continuation of Romney Street in this location here, a bridge from the end of Cool Blow Street, the bridge over Morrison Dr., and the railroad tracks.

So, there would be unobstructed access from the railroad standpoint, unobstructed access to the site here, and, then, ultimately, another connection from Brigade Street to the west linking in with Brigade up around the Bridgeview neighborhood. The street grid was kind of copied from areas within the City and is based on City level street grids. I'm going to advance, and these are just some of the images. So, here we have the Height Districts that are proposed. Again, we worked carefully with the developers to make sure that, in the viewshed of the historic cemetery to the north and also from the two-story Bridgeview development, there were lower heights. We have just two-and-a-half and three stories in this light blue color. Then, you go to a little bit greater height in the middle here with eight stories, and then a 12-story district at the very center that has access to the most ways in and out, as well as the portion of the site that is most prominent from coming up from Morrison Drive. The areas in green show our open space. I'll go into those in a little bit more detail in a minute. This is an image of just conceptual boxes on the site for how those heights would be laid out. Again, there is already a good bit of height that has come in with new development adjoining Morrison Drive, such as the new technology center that is being built for the Digital Corridor, as well as new apartments in that area. These would be a similar scale with a little bit more height towards the very center here where it's most buffered from surrounding areas. The open space would be very significant in the development. Nearly 70 acres of open

development space and nearly 40 acres that would be publicly accessible usable open space. Just for comparison, the Hampton Park area is about 55 to 60 acres. So, you're talking about something that's on the level of almost the size of Hampton Park that would have lots of publicly accessible trails that go around the edges of the site. All of the edges of the site would be accessible to the public, as well as some playfields that would be located in close proximity to the Bridgeview development, and then interpretive trails around the Robert Mills ruins that are at the edge of the old landfill here. So, a very good addition to the green spaces within the City of Charleston here with this proposed development.

Here are the images that give the details of those open spaces. Then, this is the overall site plan here. Perhaps a very significant aspect of the development is the affordable housing provisions. Ten percent of the units will be affordable housing for perpetuity. Ten percent of the units would be affordable housing for ten years from the overall issuance of certificate of occupancy. The overall build-out in the program is for 275,000 square feet of retail, 2.2 million square feet of office. Of course, I've already mentioned the 39.2 acres of park area, a potential for 400 rooms of hotels, and potential for 4,260 dwelling units and, of course, 20 percent of those would have to be affordable units. This was reviewed by the Planning Commission. They had a number of conditions that they suggested, and this was working together with staff. So, I'm going to read through these just for clarification."

Councilmember Seekings said: "Back to those numbers you gave us again. You went fast, and it is a big project. Thank you."

Mr. Morgan said, "Sure. The square footage numbers? Okay. So, it's 276,000 square feet of retail, 2.2 million square feet of office, 39 acres of park, that's the usable open space aspect of the park, 70 acres of overall open space, 400 hotel rooms, and Residential of 4,260 dwelling units."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Thank you."

Mr. Morgan said, "Sure. So, 20% of these are the conditions that were recommended from the Planning Commission that 20% of all housing will be workforce housing with 10% of all units being permanently affordable, and 10% of all permitted units be affordable for ten years. Upon permitting for 1,278 residential units, the development will have achieved 20% of those units as affordable units. Upon permitting for 2,556 units, the PUD will have achieved 20% of those units as affordable units. This is to make sure that, as the development progresses, even with early phases, we're still getting a good 20% of the affordable units. The Planning Commission was concerned that the start time of the ten years of the affordability period would be adjusted to begin at the issuance of Certificate of Occupancy, or as otherwise directed by the Department of Housing and Community Development. Again, this is for the affordable housing, and it's the ten-year period. There are also ten years that are permanently affordable. Then, the third condition is that 50% of the residential units permitted, 10% of the retail square footage, and 10% of the office square footage would have to have been constructed, assuming road connections have been completed allowing this level of square footage. The fourth condition was that the development has 39.2 acres of usable, publically accessible open space. The only change to this figure would be due to acts of God or Federal or State regulatory changes. Fifth, the Planning Commission asked for a condition that there will be no gates on any of the streets in the development. With those conditions, staff and Planning Commission recommended approval, and it was a 7 to 0 vote at the Planning Commission."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, Mr. Morgan. Ms. Turner Maybank, has anybody from the public signed up to be heard on this matter?"

The Clerk said, "Yes. We have numerous people signed up. I think it is a total of 11 we have. I think nine that have signed up to speak, and then two I'll read their comments."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay."

The Clerk said, "So, do you want to do the speakers first or the comments first?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "It doesn't matter. Give us the comments first."

The Clerk said, "So, the comments are 26 people oppose the development of Laurel Island, and the other one is one person would like City Council to vote in favor of Laurel Island."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay. Let me interrupt you for just a second, Vanessa."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Sakran.

Councilmember Sakran said, "Thank you, Mayor. Vanessa, I have a constituent that texted me, Marcus McDonald. Is he on that list?"

The Clerk said, "Yes, he is."

Councilmember Sakran said, "Okay. I just wanted to make sure. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Great. So, let's proceed to those who signed up to be heard."

The Clerk said, "The first person would be Lawrence Green."

1. Lawrence Green said he was a member of the East Central Neighborhood Association. He spoke at the Planning Commission meeting and requested that the vote be deferred due to a lack of community engagement of East Central. With the assistance of the Laurel Island team, they had a community meeting in East Central for the project, in which they gave a thorough overview of what the project was going to be and paid special attention to the Cool Blow Street improvements, which was a concern. Of the people who were involved in the meeting that he spoke to at that time and afterwards there wasn't anyone that felt like their concerns weren't answered or said anything negative about it.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Great. Thank you for sharing that, Mr. Green."

The Clerk said, "Next is Scott Parker."

2. Scott Parker said he was a landscape architect in the City of Charleston, and he spoke in support of the Laurel Island PUD and its approach to the creation of new park space for the City. He applauded both the number of new parks that would be provided and the locations of the parks that would assure public access to the water's edge that surrounded the entire Island.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, sir."

The Clerk said, "Betsy LaForce."

3. Betsy LaForce spoke on behalf of the Coastal Conservation League. They had been following the Laurel Island Project for many years and had met with the applicant on the latest proposal numerous times. They reiterated their appreciation of the applicant's receptivity to their feedback and their consistent willingness to incorporate many of their comments. Each time they met with the applicant, the project was more flushed out than before, which was positive, but indicated that more work needed to be done around design and land use details before the PUD was ready for a vote. Laurel Island was one of the last remaining large scale development sites in the urbanized area of Charleston. City Council had an enormous responsibility of recognizing that this was a responsible place for growth, while also ensuring that the City did its due diligence to require that the PUD document, which was legally binding, would clearly chart the most appropriate path forward for a development that would transform the look and functionality of the Upper Peninsula for decades into the future. A Master Plan for the site should be part of the PUD process, not established after the rezoning, as currently proposed to happen with the creation of Laurel Island's own Design Review Board. They had serious concerns around the lack of public engagement for the project. They understood that public outreach during the time of a global pandemic was challenging, but they were still in the midst of a global pandemic and therefore shouldn't be taking any action on this major development until the City was able to properly host public meetings to meaningfully engage and inform the citizens about this project. With regard to the green space, they commended the applicant for their designation of usable open space in the form of pocket parks, paths, piers, and active recreational facilities. They supported the Planning Commission's recommended condition to require that the PUD commit to a minimum of 39.2 usable acres of publicly accessible open space. With regard to the affordable housing component, they commended the applicant for including 10 percent of the total units to be dedicated permanently to workforce housing. That was a voluntary move that they recognized. However, it was the City's last chance to permit a sizable new development in the open space. The applicant's proposal to include an additional ten percent of workforce housing to expire after ten years didn't go far enough to address Charleston's urgent affordability crisis. They encouraged that the expiration date be extended to 99 years, with an option from the City or a certified affordable housing organization to acquire ownership of the units upon the expiration date. City Council should not take action on the project until the points previously stated were addressed, and the public had a better chance to understand the details of the proposal. There was only one chance to get it right, and it was such a large scale development. Decision makers should not feel rushed to take action on it, especially in the midst of an ongoing pandemic.

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

The Clerk said, "Next is Andy Gowder."

4. Andy Gowder congratulated the Clerk on her recognition of service to the City. He spoke on behalf of the Preservation Society of Charleston. They weren't opposed to the development of the site. The plan had improved with limited public input. There had been improvements to the plan's provision of 39.2 acres of usable green

and open space. It was a proposed connection to the Lowline and to provisions for affordable housing. They continued to have two primary concerns with the PUD. One was public process, and the second was the PUD's lack of specificity and predictability. A level of public engagement in the process had been inadequate by the norms of the City and under the law. They had previously sent Council and the Mayor a separate letter detailing the problems with the public hearing before the Planning Commission who silenced many who wished to speak at that hearing. He asked that Council refer to the details in that letter. In August, they asked the Planning Commission to require the applicant to pause and undertake a more comprehensive and deliberate effort to properly inform the community about the details of the project and obtain resident feedback. They asked that of Council now. The PUD lacked an adequate land use plan, and its still vague provisions for development gave unusual zoning authority to the developer unchecked by the City's existing authority over zoning and development. The law required that the developers of Laurel Island provided a land use plan as an integral part of the PUD. What was included in the document did not meet the definition of the land plan adequate for a development of this size, scope, and importance. The PUD also gave way too much discretion to the developer once the PUD was approved. While the PUD called for the plan to contain the amounts of retail, office, and dwelling units, under the conversion matrix in Appendix D, the developer of Laurel Island could build by-right, without further review or the approval of Council, 11,589 dwelling units up from the stated 3,260 dwelling units. In addition, the proposed structure permitting an internal Architectural Review Board to determine the form and design of such significantly scaled building was flawed. They were concerned that the language of the PUD could be interpreted as providing the Laurel Island BAR with authority to change key zoning regulations such as uses, densities, and parking with no need for City approval. The PUD took an unprecedented level of control from the City and gave it to the developer. They asked that the City Government retain some regulatory control over the development of Laurel Island as it was built over the coming decades. They had other comments on workforce housing and traffic impacts in their letter to Council. They respectfully requested Council consider their points and send the PUD back to the Planning Commission for more extensive input from the community resulting in a better PUD that was more specific than the development allowed over the coming decades more predictable.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, sir. Appreciate that."

The Clerk said, "Next, we have Megan Mills to be followed by Robert Clement."

5. Megan Mills spoke on behalf of the Friends of the Lowcountry Lowline. They supported the Laurel Island's projects of inclusion of a minimum of 39.2 acres of green space with connections to the Lowline. The Friends of the Lowline agreed that the unique nature of the site as an island should be celebrated, and the network of green space and parks would be integral to the overall plan. They supported the emphasis on connections to public transportation and the incorporation of bicycle and pedestrian routes. They supported connecting Laurel Island to the community to the future Lowline Park that created pathways, so that people could use cars less frequently and walk or bike to the wonderful amenities on the Peninsula. They saw this as another opportunity to create the east and west extensions on the Lowline. They looked forward to continuing their

partnership with the public and private sectors to create a world class park for green spaces on the Peninsula and supported the Laurel Island's plans to their commitment to the preservation of the outer waterfront perimeter of Laurel Island for bikes and pedestrians. They needed to approach the new development with a multi-mobile transportation, not just single vehicles, and keep green space top of mind.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you very much."

6. Robert Clement congratulated the Clerk on her awards, as they were well deserved. On behalf of the Laurel Island team, he thanked a number of groups of people, particularly the residents that had given of their time to attend virtual and live meetings and charrettes over the last seven years. They gave freely of their comments and opinions to make their PUD and the plan better. He thanked Charleston County Council and the Coastal Conservation League for helping make the Cool Blow Street access possible. He thanked Dominion f/k/a SCE&G and Charleston Water System for their collaboration on how to best serve the Island and make the systems the most resilient in the community and to enhance the quality of life for Charleston's Peninsula residents. The Historic Charleston Foundation, the Neighborhood Associations, the Preservation Society, the Coastal Conservation League were working so hard and consistently reviewing and commenting on their multiple renditions of the PUD and the plan to make it better. He also thanked City Council, County Council, and the Charleston County School Board for their support of the TIF. Most of all, he wanted to thank the City's Planning Committee, the Planning staff Christopher Morgan and Jacob Lindsey, and Geona Shaw Johnson, who were instrumental in helping them create their affordable housing plan. They had come a long way and they had a long way to go. They had to do the design guidelines, they had to get bridges, and they had to get roads improved. He was proud of the plan for setting new standards for usable green space, bicycle and pedestrian mobility, permanent affordable housing, connectivity to the water, potential preservation of Singleton Park, securing the Exxon and Robert Mills' remnants, and for reducing the overall building heights across the property and changing the zoning from Heavy Industrial to Mixed-Use.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you."

The Clerk said, "Reg Christopher."

7. William Christopher said he was a registered professional engineer who had practiced in Charleston for over 30 years, specifically in the area of geotechnical and environmental engineering. He was also renovating a house at 59 Cooper for his family and would be moving to the Eastside soon. After being involved in many development projects in the Charleston area, he spoke in favor of the Laurel Island Project. He said the engineering approach was basically taking a former landfill over soft soils and turning it into a wonderful piece on the Peninsula of Charleston. That was a difficult problem, from both an environmental and geotechnical standpoint. It was basically reclaiming property that lots of times was not used to this effect and this gravity in the community and other areas. The designers had put in place a design approach that was both resilient and durable. The design was for elevations to be 8 to 15 feet above the new FEMA maps, and the Island

would not depend on existing Peninsula drainage. Those were important facts and this took something that many times was thrown away as not being able to be used, and taking a piece of property and making a wonderful use. He wholeheartedly supported the Laurel Island effort and looked forward to seeing thoughtful development add to the character of Charleston.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, sir."

The Clerk said, "Eddie Bellow, to be followed by Rhett Reidenbach."

8. Eddie Bellow said he was with the project team, and they were very proud of the plan and that a lot of work had gone into it. They felt it was a great addition to the City. It was part of the City, and they were excited to move forward.

The Clerk said, "Thank you. Rhett."

9. Rhett Reidenbach, Revere Group, said he was a civil engineer working closely with the design team on the development of the Laurel Island PUD. They had been working on the property for a long time. He was there with the team to answer any questions as they progressed through the proceedings and to yield some time to Brian Hellman, who was another member of the design team.
10. Brian Hellman said he was also with the team, and they were there to answer any questions Council may have.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you all."

The Clerk said, "Next, we have Marcus McDonald."

11. Marcus McDonald said he was calling on behalf of Charleston Black Lives Matter. They had several issues with the PUD, as it was currently standing. They urged Council to defer the decision in order for the PUD to get further community outreach, as it was lacking, especially during the pandemic. The virtual meetings and even some of the live meetings were not enough in order to get the information out to the public. There was one item in particular on the PUD they found extraordinarily deceptive. That was in Section 2.4 of the workforce housing section. It said, 'nothing should prevent or prohibit the relocation, replacement, or reduction of the overall percentage of workforce housing within the Laurel Island site from time to time.' It actually said that even if they had the ten percent in housing, they could reduce that percentage. Even though the ten percent perpetuity was great, they asked that they at least had that 20 to 30 percent perpetuity of workforce housing, as this was a once in a generation chance to build more affordable housing. Like somebody had said, they needed 32,000 units of affordable housing by 2030 to meet the current need. If they were going to give them the PUD, then they needed to ensure that they didn't do what they said in their PUD, that they could reduce or change it at any time they pleased. They found that very deceptive. In regards to the PUD, it needed to be flushed out, and it also needed to include things about prioritizing minority contractors in the building of the PUD because they felt like that was important, as well as making sure that it was inclusive for everybody. Where it was now, there was nothing in the PUD that said anything regarding prioritizing minority contracts. In regards to the Cool Blow Street traffic,

this was also an issue that needed to be resolved before going further. He urged Council to defer the vote until getting community outreach and the PUD was finalized to be more flushed out.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Thank you, sir. Appreciate your time and comments tonight."

The Clerk said, "The final one is Winslow Hastie."

12. Winslow Hastie with Historic Charleston Foundation said they had been actively engaged with the developers on the project in this iteration since mid-February. Their goal was to ensure the project became the model for infill development on the Peninsula. They wanted to see it enhance the surrounding neighborhoods and make sure that it contributed to Charleston's overall sense of place. They were proud to say that many of the key improvements to the initial proposal were suggested by HCF, and they appreciated the development team's willingness to address some of their concerns. The PUD proposal was markedly improved with changes recommended by the Planning Commission. However, there were still areas where HCF had concerns in where they thought additional improvements should be made before final approval by Council. They acknowledged the significance that ten percent of the proposed housing would be affordable housing and would be permanent. That did not go unnoticed, as that was a huge deal. They also believed the additional ten percent proposed, after some pushback from the Planning Commission, should be designated to last for more than ten years. They would push for 25, since they thought that brought it more in line with other affordable housing requirements in the City. They would like to see more detail on the management plans for the Robert Mills and Standard Oil ruins on the property, which were really less understood and required more documentation, interpretation, and stabilization. They thought that needed to be an important part of the project. The height zones adjacent to the Robert Mills ruins were proposed for 12 stories. They felt like, because of the adjacency to those important historic resources, they would like to see that tapered down, so the large, new buildings didn't overshadow that area of the northwest edge of the Island. They understood that the design guidelines were going to be a process that would follow the PUD approval, and the public would be involved, the BAR would be involved, but they would like see a more clear linkage between the guiding principles embedded in the PUD, which they thought were extremely important, and then the later Laurel Island design guidelines that were going to be developed. They wanted to make sure that, in particular, the design guidelines that were going to be developed subsequently included a strong commitment to sustainable and resilient design and construction.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Great. Thank you very much."

The Clerk said, "So, Mayor, I have a final comment. This is coming from Eli Poliakoff, and it says, 'The Charleston Redevelopment Corporation (CRC) is providing this letter regarding the proposed affordable housing initials for the Laurel Island Planned Unit Development. The CRC is an independent non-profit, non-governmental entity founded by the City of Charleston, the Historic Charleston Foundation, and the Housing Authority of the City of Charleston. The CRC focuses on the development and preservation of affordable housing in the Charleston area and helps secure local, state, and national funding for long-term affordability. The CRC includes the

Palmetto Community Land Trust, which places land in long-term trust protections to ensure affordability and accessibility for future generations.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Alright. Thank you very much. So, I think that’s the end of the public comments. Is that correct?”

The Clerk said, “Yes.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Yes, ma’am. So, the matter now comes to Council.”

Councilmember Mitchell said, “Move for approval.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “We have a motion to approve by Councilmember Mitchell and a second by Councilmember Brady. I actually saw Councilmember Gregorie’s hand up first.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie, followed by Councilmember Mitchell, and Councilwoman Jackson.

Councilmember Gregorie said, “Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I’m going to vote for the project, also. However, in showing the recommendations from the Planning Commission, particularly those that are related to the affordability, I would like to recommend one change because, I think, as it relates to the affordable units that are for ten years, that ten-year period starts to be counted once the occupancy permit is provided. However, while I do see in the recommendations from the Commission, it does provide the Department of Housing and Urban Development with some flexibility, I think, instead of at the time of the occupancy permit, that somehow we should try to amend the plan to say, ‘at the time the units are leased.’ While it may not appear to be a big deal, after occupancy, it may take 60 days, 90 days to lease up. However, our ten-year clock has already started. So, in order to preserve as much of that ten-year of affordability, I would recommend that we start counting the ten-year of affordability at the time the units are leased.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “I hear you. Alright.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Mitchell.

Councilmember Mitchell said, “Yes, Mayor, I just want to tell the Councilmembers that I’ve been working with the developers a long time, over and over again. We had various meetings, and my advice was for them to reach out to all of the neighborhood associations around, even the ones that aren’t particularly right next door, but to reach out to all, and they have done that. When they went to the Planning Commission, the Planning Commission advised them to do the same, and I had mentioned that to them. If changes come, I always advise them. I’ll call, and if changes come that we have to make, they have worked 100 percent with me on various changes that I have asked them to do. So, I’m going to support the project, but even with what my colleague said, Councilmember Gregorie, I’m going to ask the developers to look into that also. Just to take that under consideration, and see if that’s something that we can include in this PUD to make sure this might answer some of the questions for the community, if you may.

A lot of people said they didn’t hear about it, but I had them to go out to all of these different community organizations and to go out in the community, pass out flyers, and let them come to different meetings to hear about the plan, even if it was doing various virtual meetings on the plan and showing them the way the plan is going to be. This didn’t just happen yesterday. So, we have to take upon ourselves to get involved in certain things when these things are coming

about and not wait until the end. When we put things out for them to come forth, they need to start coming forward and stop coming in the latter part of it and say, 'Nobody knows about this, and nobody knows about that.' That is not true. You see, they know about it, but they don't come and take heed of it when it happens, when we put it out. That's all we can do, really, is give you the information that these things are out there, but you have to come forth and take the initiative to come forward. So, I'm asking the developers to look at that, what Councilmember Gregorie stated, and I believe that if people have suggestions or have any problems, you can give them a call, and work with them and see how you all can work things out, and maybe this can keep things moving forward instead of coming to a halt. So, you can give them a call, and then you could also give me a call because it's happening in the district I represent. I'm going to have to get out and speak with them, too. I'm there because I'm meeting the people every day. They'll tell you I'm always running. I'm running crazy like Ms. Jackson. She's always on the go, and she has got me sometimes beat with all of these different meetings, but I'm running in the community, in the district I represent. I'm out there. That's why I represent District #4, and I'm out there. So, that's what I'm telling people. They need to get involved, and if they have something, they can get in touch with me, and I can get in touch with the developers and say, 'Look you have to do thus and so to please the community.' That's all I have to say on that, but I'm going to support it."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, Councilmember Mitchell, and I will remind Council that this is first reading tonight. So, they will have the opportunity to consider anything like that and come back to it before the second reading."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilwoman Jackson.

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and thank you, Councilmember Mitchell. I really do appreciate that you go the extra mile to make sure that people who are not as tuned in or acclimated to check all of the websites and read all of the newsletters, or whatever, that you go door-to-door and find people in your neighborhood to make sure that they are aware and providing their opinion, especially for something this momentous. I was very happy to hear from Mr. Green tonight. I listened to the Planning Commission deliberation about Laurel Island, the two officials that they had, and I also listened to several of the virtual meetings around the community. I'm really glad to hear that Mr. Green's neighborhood did have the opportunity to be brought into the process and feel like they've had all of their questions and concerns answered in the short term. I'm going to support that we give this momentous project a first reading tonight, but I do feel that our responsibility, as Council, is to do more than just agree that this is the best plan that has come for this location in anyone's memory. I have the benefit of not having to go through all of those iterations. I did watch the charrette with Andres Duany's team back whenever that was.

So, I know a little bit about all of the blood, sweat, and tears that have been put into how to use Laurel Island land as one of the best located, best situated. I do believe that we should be overjoyed that we're not having to worry about elevation and stormwater concerns here. This really is one of the safest places to do a drainage system. I'm convinced of that. I think the civil engineer and the team has done a great job of documenting that. So, that's really my theme. The documentation, I think, is a responsibility of the Council. Whenever these neighborhood meetings have been held, and the Planning Commission has met, it's really been the plan that this fabulous developer team has put together, and they're going to work their brains out, I'm sure, in coming years to make sure that this plan turns into the outcomes that they've all envisioned a lot longer than we all have as a group.

But, our responsibility as elected officials is to make sure that the zoning is going to stand the test of time here. We're creating a unique zone, as we all know, and it's going to go far beyond my lifetime. Maybe Councilmember Appel and Councilmember Griffin will still be actively working and serving the community by the time the last item of this property is built out and celebrated and dedicated, but the rest of us are going to have to trust that what is being presented to us is actually most likely to succeed, and I really feel like that's our responsibility. So, I've been asking that question as often as I can, are we sure, among our experts and ourselves and our Legal team and our Planning staff, that what's represented in the PUD document is actually the vision that we're all excited to approve? I do feel like, with that question, we've heard different bits and pieces of examples where we're not quite sure about that.

There are some places in the actual document, and I confess I have not read 557 pages of the legal document that will actually be the zoning for this location. So, we're going to have to rely on the expertise of others who have read it and have now been able to focus in on some of the things where we know there might still be some inconsistencies. I personally do not want to see this property ever turn into 11,000 and some units. So, if that is really a possibility with the way the PUD document reads, then we need to do something about that in my opinion, and I do feel like there are some other places the gentleman, Mr. McDonald, pointed out. We don't want the future builders of this property to have the opportunity to say 'Well, at some point in 2020 we were putting forward 20 percent of all of the residential units would be affordable, and then in 20 years somehow we get the opportunity to say, no, we have to diminish that percentage.' So, I do think these are probably just iteratively things that have come together over time as the PUD document has been written and drafted and finalized and re-written and revised at the suggestion of everyone, but I do feel like we need the extra time. So, I would propose that we have a work session as Council. I think this would be a great opportunity to use the Gaillard, as we've been saying, and would be a great place to try and put to the test that we can meet in public, that we could invite representatives of the Planning Commission and all of the other stakeholder groups who have been giving their input to the developers directly, so that we could hear what they've literally had to say instead of an open meeting like this right now where we've had a snippet, but not full throated evaluations and opinions from the stakeholders who have been following along with this project for years. I think it's worth our time to do that, but if the Council can't see that we could have a full work session then I would ask that we have a group of volunteers from the Council that works with our Legal team and our Planning staff and the stakeholders and make sure that we're cross-checking the plan for what the PUD document is literally going to say at the end of the day. So, I'm going to vote for the first reading, but I do hope that we can figure out how to have a very meaningful drill down into what the document looks like compared to what we all believe the plan that we're wanting to approve. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, and I think we have and can take that opportunity to do so between now and the next week. Would anyone else like to be heard on this matter?"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Sakran followed by Councilmember Griffin.

Councilmember Sakran said, "Thank you, Mayor. I'm probably just going to try to drill down Councilwoman Jackson's comments to two bullets. I'm very supportive of the plan. I think Robert and his team have been very responsive to me. So, thank you, Robert, for that. The one thing that I have continued to hear as feedback and engagement, I realize that we're in the midst of COVID, I realize this project has been going on for a while, and a lot of hard work has gone into it leading up to this, but I think it is our responsibility to not just push information out passively, but I think it's our responsibility to at least engage the folks that want and have the interest and

do it in a way that we can do it over the next couple of weeks. I'm not trying to delay it. I'm certainly going to vote for this first reading, but if there is anything we can do in terms of reaching out to the neighborhood associations for one last opportunity for them to either come to a virtual meeting or come to an in-person meeting at the Gaillard that Councilwoman Jackson mentioned, I'm fully supportive of, and I think that would go a long ways, particularly in the Wagener Terrace and Hampton Park Terrace in North Central. So, those are my comments, and I think we owe it to our constituents to at least offer that opportunity."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, sir."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Griffin.

Councilmember Griffin said, "Yes, sir. Thank you so much. My comment is more of a general comment, but it definitely applies to this. This particular item is a really, really hot topic. It's a big one, and it's going to take up a lot of time, but we have a lot of other things that are important, too, and I'm looking down at the clock. It's 8:00 o'clock at night, and we're still in public hearings. One way that we could fix this is these big ticket items, maybe we should have special meetings specifically for them and have that item where we don't have to rush. We can get all of the public opinion, and we can debate it because I feel really bad for all of the people that are sitting on the line waiting for Citizen's Participation who are probably at home, probably need to cook dinner for their families, and they've been sitting on the phone for three hours, and we're still in the public hearings. So, I feel like we can't ever get the best of what we want to accomplish because we have such a loaded agenda with items. Everything is important, and we've always let somebody down, and in this case, we're letting all of the people that are waiting to speak during Citizen's Participation down, but they shouldn't have to wait three hours to speak, and Laurel Island shouldn't be minimized. So, I would love it if we could take some. I would be more than happy to meet more regularly and have some special meetings. Items like this, I mean, if we get a Planning document that's 600 pages long then it's a big deal, and we only got it within the last couple of days. So, I would be more than happy, and I don't know about everybody else, but on some of these really big public opinion projects, if we put those out to the side and did a public hearing for those by themselves because they're just so important. Just some food for thought."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Absolutely. Would anyone else like to be heard?"

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

Councilmember Appel said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I'm going to do my best to try to contain my excitement for this project because this is exactly what good urban planning is in the 21st Century. It's infill, density, putting development near transportation corridors, but it checks all of the boxes. That being said, I understand how a project of this magnitude can get people concerned. So, I tend to think that maybe having another public engagement along the lines of what Councilmember Jackson, Sakran, and several others have talked about is not the worst idea. I would just like to point out and kind of attempt to frame this discussion moving forward. For a development of this magnitude, this expense, this plan on the horizon, it's impossible to etch into sterling specificity exactly what you're going to get. Who in 2019 knew we were going to be dealing with a pandemic and all of the other things we're dealing with this year? It's very difficult to lock yourself into such a prescribed plan. No zoning does that. We just got finished earlier today talking about GB and the laundry list of uses that are allowed under that zoning category. This document that's before us right now already goes so far and beyond sort of honing in what's allowed. I just want to set expectations because there is no way all of these different

contingencies and hypotheticals and concerns are ever going to be able to be addressed in 2020 with a plan of this magnitude and temporal scope. So, I'm all for getting a closer look. I'm all for making sure we do our jobs, but let me tell you guys there are a lot of municipalities around the country that would literally be doing backflips of joy to have something like this come into their jurisdiction. This is exactly what we need to be doing, and the more we do this, the less development perhaps we would need to do down Ashley River Road and Hwy. 61 and on James Island and some of these other places where we know development is not up to snuff, or we know the State and the County have not been pulling their weight on infrastructure for decades. I mean this is what a good, smart development in the 21st Century looks like, and a lot of great work has been done. I look forward to the steps to come, and hopefully one day if I eat my vegetables and keep exercising and get a surf in every once in a while, I'll be able to see when I'm an old man maybe the last CO issued on this project."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. The Mayor and I went out on Saturday to walk this area, and I was just impressed with the size of this project and also impressed with the amount of development that is surrounding Romney Street, Brigade Street, Cool Blow, and all of the other areas on this side of East Bay Street, and certainly in my lifetime this part of the City of Charleston has changed. I remember when this was all part of what was called Auto Mile or Auto City with all of the car dealerships going up and down East Bay Street and Morrison Drive. It has changed from this commercial industrial sized area around here. This project is on the magnitude of what we're going to see developing in West Ashley at the EPIC Center at the old Citadel Mall area that we now call the EPIC Center. So, it's going to have a huge impact on this part of the community, and the concerns that we've heard from a lot of folks are genuine concerns as to what it's going to impact on the East Side of Charleston. You all may have forgotten, but back when we were going through the early stages of COVID-19, I raised this concern about folks having the ability to communicate and participate and voicing their concerns and voicing their objections to projects of this size, and we've heard it, and this is what's happened tonight. I don't want to steal Councilmember Mike Seekings' thunder on this, but one of the things we probably need to do with this is have a workshop on it so that we do hear from folks. I'm not in favor of a meeting at the Gaillard. I've expressed my concerns about that. We're still in a COVID-19 pandemic, and a lot of us will be exposed to a deadly disease if we meet in large groups of people. So, let's get that out of our heads again folks, but we do need to have a workshop on this, and we do need to hear from the community and make sure all of their voices are heard. I'm certainly going to vote for this tonight and congratulate Robert for what they have been doing with this team and the scope and size of this project and what it will really mean to that whole community and to the Peninsula part of Charleston. Thank you, Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Seekings.

Councilmember Seekings said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I will be very brief because it is late, and we've heard a lot. I've heard the words 'infill development' a couple of times tonight. This is a little bit more than that, I think. We are looking at 40 to 60 residential units, a couple of million square feet of office space, a big development. I don't know how many residential units are on the peninsula, but this is going to add a significant percentage of those units into our community. I do think it would be a good idea for the team to get together and have a Council workshop. There are still things on the community's minds, which come through us as Councilmembers, that we get asked every day, including today. I know this is high land, and it's up in the northeastern

portion of the peninsula, but I'd like to hear from you all about the infrastructure that's going in on the front end for stormwater and how it's going to interplay with where we are with stormwater. That's on everyone's mind. A workshop would be really helpful for us to be able, in our community, to talk about this 40-year development. Sometime between now and second reading, not to slow things down, but just to hear what you all have to say and answer some specific questions about this project on the design side, rather than conceptually as a PUD. I think it would be very advantageous for us, collectively, as we go forward. This is the biggest development that will happen on the peninsula in our lifetimes, so just to make sure that we can communicate back to our constituency about the things that are on their minds that aren't just specific to this project, but how this project interplays with all the concerns that are out there around mobility, stormwater, and the like. So, I'm going to vote for it for first reading, and I look forward to seeing a time where we can virtually do a workshop and answer some specific questions if you all don't mind. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you. Is there anyone else who hadn't spoken yet?"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, "Councilman Gregorie had his hand up before I did."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes, I'm trying to follow the practice of letting those who hadn't spoken yet speak, and then I'd come back for seconds."

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Listen, I'm going to vote for this for first reading. I agree with Councilwoman Jackson, Councilmembers Griffin, Sakran, Appel and Seekings. It's kind of a moving consensus here that we need maybe a little more openness to the process. I agree with that. I think we call a workshop or whatever. I know it's been a long time now that a lot of people have been talking about a joint meeting with Council and the Planning Commission. I think this would be a great one to do this on. I remember, and I know you do too, Mr. Mayor, about 20 years ago when the State Ports Authority wanted to put Global Gateway on that piece of property at the tip of Daniel Island. Mayor Riley and Council had a meeting at the old Gaillard at the time. You may remember Bernie Groseclose did his presentation. I'll never forget that. With that said, it was huge. This is also huge. Mr. Gowder said something that piqued my interest. He said that the Planning Commission's hearing was somehow less than normal, let's put it like that, in limiting public input. We don't need to have that potentially. I understand that's one person's opinion, but we don't need to have that one hanging out there. We have got time to give this first reading and maybe pull together out.

Respectfully, Councilman Shahid, I disagree with you on having something at the Gaillard. I think we can have it properly spaced. We can't let everybody in, but we can have a better improved public hearing than we're certainly having tonight. It's been seven years, and these developers have done a tremendous job trying to answer all questions and getting it to this point. Lack of public input should not be one of them, in particular, under this COVID-19 piece. We go to Cost-Co, we go to grocery stores, and we go to Home Depot. We put on our masks, we space properly, and we get things done. I think the City can get this one done. So, a special hearing on this one, I would agree with that. I would certainly support that. I am going to vote for this first reading. Thank you, Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright, now back to Councilmember Gregorie."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Yes. I'll be brief, Mayor. As I said earlier, I am going to support it. I have no problem with an attempt for additional public input. I think public input is extremely important, but perhaps I'm a little different. The reason why we have staff is to do 'staff' work. When staff does their work and makes a recommendation to me, as a Councilmember, I take them at their word. I don't want their job. I don't have 24/7 to work on something for one of these items. I'm just not going to do it. That's why we have staff and the reason why we have an administration led by the Mayor. So, for me, I will participate as best that I can. This is a huge project, but this is not our last bite at this apple. Even if we had a third reading, we're still going to have another bite at this apple, in terms of the issues that might come up along the way. I think that that's part of what makes this a good project, because it's a PUD, and because it's a PUD, there will be incremental times to this entire process over the next 20 to 30 years for public input. I go back to something that Councilmember Mitchell said. When we extend ourselves to do the kind of marketing and outreach on a project as large as this, one that we've been working on now for over seven years, it's been a long time getting to where we are, and there are a number of people that have not had that privilege to be a part of this entire process.

I'll just end the way I started. I don't want Jacob Lindsey's job or any one of these Department heads' jobs. As an ex-manager, I depend on staff to give me the appropriate recommendations. I'm not saying 'fly blindly.' Don't get me wrong, but I'm saying at least have enough information to discuss it with them intelligently, but I don't want their job. At some point, at least for me, when it comes to staff, I'm talking about across the board, not just our Planning Department, I hold them accountable when they make recommendations to this body. We could talk about this for the next 20 hours, but I don't want to do it. The recommendation's here from staff and the Planning Commission, and I'm done with that."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Would anyone else like to be heard?"

No one asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, let me just suggest to Council, and I see Robert and his team listening. There have been some questions raised this evening that I think are appropriate to be answered. The way the calendar falls, we actually have three weeks until our next City Council meeting being the end of September until the second meeting in October. So, maybe that first full week of October, before our next City Council meeting, we'll have another special meeting or workshop meeting, if you will, where the action will not be taken, but where we will allow developers to answer any of these questions that have risen tonight in except of further comments from the public if that's acceptable for everyone. I propose we do that."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Mitchell.

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Yes, sir. Mr. Mayor and Councilmembers, I agree wholeheartedly with Councilman Gregorie. I don't want their job either. I think we're having so many meetings. We have meetings through our nose right now. We are Councilmembers, and we are having a whole lot of meetings, even with the various Committees and other Commissions that we are on. We will be burned out. As Councilmembers and Mayor, we will be burned out. You'll be just sitting down there, folding your hands up because you're tired. We are having more meetings than any municipality that I know of in the Charleston area or this County. I'm telling you, those are the facts. No one has as many meetings as we have."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I'll take that under advisement."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "I'm telling you the facts. These are facts because I go around and check. They don't have the meetings we have. They are not on the various Committees that we are on that we have to go to. Half of them don't do that either. So, we are doing a marvelous of these jobs, but we have our staff, and that's what the staff is there for. That's their job, as staff, to bring things back to us, and we go through it that way. I think, Mr. Mayor, Chip McQueeney had his hand up. I don't know if he might want to say something."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Chip McQueeney, did you want to say something?"

Mr. McQueeney said, "Mr. Mayor, Mr. Lindsey threw me under the bus. He just wanted me to clarify whether or not the Planning Commission recommended approval of the first reading subject to certain conditions. I just wanted to clarify whether or not the motion on the floor includes those conditions recommended by Planning Commission, which I think Mr. Morgan covered, or just giving first reading without those conditions?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "It was our intent, I believe, to include the conditions."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "With the conditions."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Yes."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes. Are we in concurrence on that?"

Councilmember Brady said, "That was my understanding."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Yes."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "The development team, they actually agreed to those conditions, correct?"

Mr. Clement said, "Yes, sir, we did. I think that we are in favor of having this meeting that you're talking about. I think that an awful lot of stuff has been brought up. There seems to be confusion over legal language, and it may be beneficial if the attorneys for the City could meet ahead of time with our legal counsel because I think that it's just being misinterpreted. It's between Mr. McQueeney and Mr. Hellman that they can perhaps tweak the language or whatever to eliminate this confusion because there's no intent on our part of being confusing. So, I think that could help, and Councilmember Mitchell and Councilmember Gregorie, perhaps that can shorten this meeting that you were talking about, to address it then."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I'm happy to get the attorneys together, and I agree with what I've heard this evening. The thing that concerns me the most was that we might agree to something today, and 10 to 20 years from now, it's something different. That's a great point to make clear between our legal staff and your folks that we get straight. I think, as a Council, we definitely want to have that straight. So, let's go ahead and take action on the first reading. We'll get together. I'll take all of this under advisory and get the legal team together and then get back to you on steps forward between now and next week. Any final comments?"

No one else asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Mitchell, seconded by Councilmember Brady, 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 properties located on Morrison Drive, Romney Street, and North Romney Street (Laurel Island) (approximately 196.1 acres) (TMS # 464-00-00-006, 002, 023, 038, 459-02-00-013, and 461-13-03-024) (Council District 4), be rezoned from General Business (GB), Heavy Industrial (HI), Upper Peninsula (UP) and Diverse Residential (DR-3) classification to Planned Unit Development (PUD) (Laurel Island) classification, with the Planned Unit Development guidelines attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference to serve as the Development Plan for such property. The property is owned by Charleston County and LRA Promenade North LLC.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, thank you, everybody. I know this is a long meeting again, but it is an important matter. It is a big matter for our City, and so we just have to put the time into it. Thank you very much. Back to you, Mr. Morgan, for number seven."

Mr. Morgan said, "Yes, sir. Number seven, these next few are our annexations, so we can go through these pretty quickly. This is 2444 Quail Hollow Court. It is a part of West Ashley TMS # 355-16-00-069. It requests zoning of Diverse Residential (DR-1). It was General Office in Charleston County. It's actually just down the street from the Homes of Hope Townhomes that you were just talking about earlier. It's an annexation of existing residents for whatever reason. At one point, it was zoned Office in the County. All they want to have is the residents in this location at DR-1."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Does anyone from the public want to be heard, Vanessa?"

The Clerk said, "No, not for this. We don't have any more people from the public until we get to Citizens' participation."

Councilmember Griffin said, "Move for approval."

Councilmember Shealy said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Any discussion?"

No one asked to be heard.

On motion of Councilmember Griffin, seconded by Councilmember Shealy, City Council voted unanimously to give first reading to the following item:

An ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Charleston by changing the Zone Map, which is a part thereof, so that 2444 Quail Hollow Court (West Ashley) (approximately 0.09 acre) (TMS #355-16-00-069) (Council District 2), annexed into the City of Charleston September 8, 2020 (2020-121), be zoned Diverse Residential (DR-1) classification. The property is owned by Douglas R. Wurster.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Mr. Morgan."

Mr. Morgan said, "Okay. This next one is 2229 Weepoolow Trail in Ashley Hall Plantation. It's an infill annexation. It would be SR-1. It was R-4 in Charleston County. SR-1 matches the surrounding zoning in the City."

Councilmember Shealy said, "Move for approval."

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Any discussion?"

No one asked to be heard.

On motion of Councilmember Shealy, seconded by Councilwoman Jackson, City Council voted unanimously to give first reading to the following item:

An ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Charleston by changing the Zone Map, which is a part thereof, so that 2229 Weepoolow Trail (West Ashley) (approximately 0.32 acre) (TMS #353-12-00-017) (Council District 2) (2020-120), annexed into the City of Charleston September 8, 2020, be zoned Single-Family Residential (SR-1) classification. The property is owned by John Everett Mcinnis.

Mr. Morgan said, "Then, we have zoning E-9, 1551 North Pinebark Lane in Pinepoint, and another infill annexation. It would be SR-1. It was R-4 in Charleston County, and SR-1 is how we've zoned other parcels in this neighborhood."

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Move for approval."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Any discussion?"

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilwoman Jackson, 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 1551 North Pinebark Lane (West Ashley) (approximately 0.22 acre) (TMS #353-15-00-037) (Council District 7), annexed into the City of Charleston September 8, 2020 (2020-122), be zoned Single-Family Residential (SR-1) classification. The property is owned by Roscoe L. Bolton, III and Joy L.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you all for getting us through the Public Hearing matters. Next is to approve our City Council minutes."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Move for approval."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Vanessa, this is for August 18?"

The Clerk said, "Yes, August 18th, you had, and I think you've had an opportunity to look at. The one for September 8th, we were working on that, so I don't know that you've had an opportunity to approve those, but they're ready. They were sent out."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "They were sent out. Does anyone object to approving both of them?"

The Clerk said, "Well, it's up to City Council. I don't think they've had an opportunity to read the September minutes yet."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "That's what I was asking."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "I move for approval."

Councilmember Griffin said, "Second."

On a motion of Councilmember Mitchell, seconded by Councilmember Griffin, City Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2020, and September 8, 2020 City Council meetings.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "That was to approve both of them."

The Clerk said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, next we have Citizen Participation Period. How many folks do we have signed up to be heard, Vanessa?"

The Clerk said, "So, let me see, we have a number of people. Citizen's Participation has twelve people signed up, and then for comments we have eight. If you would like for me to read the comments first and then go to the speakers as we did last time, I can do that."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "That would be fine."

The Clerk said, "The first one is 31 people are in support of the Charleston Coalition for Wireless Safety Standards. Next, 19 people support the MOU between Enough Pie and the City to allow community art at Vivian Moultrie Park. One person said to allow more public participation at Planning Commission meetings. All voices need to be heard. Another person said they're against removing wetlands as it is home to wildlife. Increased building increases traffic. Another person said they were satisfied with the street block sizes, mix of uses, parking concealed by buildings, and ample park and green space. One person said to please ensure the architecture blends well with the nearby historic Peninsula areas. Another person is against building more hotels, luxury apartments, and movie theaters in the City. Finally, one person said to keep the mask ordinance in place. The number of COVID-19 cases in Charleston has decreased."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Great."

The Clerk said, "Alright, so now I'll go to Citizens' Participation."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Vanessa, if I may, you had how many? A dozen folk?"

The Clerk said, "Twelve."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Twelve, yes. Given the hour, let's see if we can keep it to a minute and a half each, and give them some time to close out. If I may suggest under this format, if you would call out one or two names at a time, rather than three or four. Thank you."

The Clerk said, "Okay. We'll start with Winslow Hastie and Steve Saltzman."

1. Winslow Hastie thanked the Councilmembers for discussing the St. Julian Devine Center's Smokestacks, and hearing from Craig Bennett. He applauded the members of Council for deferring the Smokestacks' discussion. As discussed during Ways and Means, the community members were concerned about preserving the stacks and supplied an offer to the Mayor to get a second opinion for other approaches. He appreciated the urgency removed due to the deferral. The concerns continued because under the City's watch, the iconic structures were allowed to deteriorate and become a public safety hazard. Mr. Hastie said the City knew of the stacks' condition several years now. They issued a FOIA to the City to get access to all reports, assessments, bids, inspections, and estimates to better understand the timeline. The City had not followed its own preservation rules. There were demolition rules on the books, and this could open the door for private sector citizens to find a path to go around the BAR and other groups. Mr. Hastie assured members of the Council the issue was much bigger than what it seemed and to proceed with caution.
2. LeeAnn Bain, President of the Charleston Tour Association, said the Coronavirus decimated businesses. She said several of the tourism businesses were barely holding on, and they sought relief from restrictions put in place by Council. Ms. Bain said it cost companies more to do business with regulations, and the Federal Government funds were almost depleted. The industry was in desperate times and asked if there was a way to work with the restrictions to develop businesses coming up, so employees would survive the winter months. She assured Council they were aware of the virus and understood its measures. However, carriage and walking tours took place outside. The Directors were able to safely conduct tours by distancing their groups, wearing masks, practicing sanitation, and communicating with customers to understand the safety guidelines. Ms. Bain asked Council to consider recommendations that would allow the tourism industry to thrive through winter as they were an essential part of the economy to the City, and they paid taxes to the City.
3. Karen Beard spoke on behalf of the Wireless Coalition for Safety Standards to ensure that residents, schools, and daycares were kept safe from wireless antennas. A memorandum was filed on September 8th that outlined how to slow down the wireless antennas in Charleston. She encouraged Council to study the document. It addressed the FCC's lack of oversight, local government's power, the liability insurance issue, and options to revise the current small cell ordinance. After careful study, City Councilmembers would understand why the Coalition Group existed and see their reasons. Thirty-one members from the Charleston Coalition for Wireless Safety Standards took the time to call in and voice their support.
4. Amelia Votapka said Mayor Tecklenburg stated in July that COVID-19 cases were rising at an alarming rate, and the City needed to do everything in its power to flatten the curve before hospitals became overwhelmed, and it would avoid another City shutdown. The only way to do that was to work together and follow the three W's: 'wash your hands, watch your distance, and wear masks.' According to the Department of Health, South Carolina had the highest number of reported cases on

- July 18th at 2,351 positive cases. As of today, there were 739 cases. The majority of the cases fell in the age range of 71 years or older. She noted the date was September 22nd, and it was time to move to the next phase of unmasking the healthy and protecting the vulnerable population. The State of South Carolina had a recovery rate of 93.5 percent according to the South Carolina's Department of Health website, and the choice to wear a mask should be left to individuals and not forced upon by fines.
5. John LaVerne, Owner of Bulldog Tours, said he had been in business for 19 years. He pleaded with City Council and the Mayor to lift restrictions, as the Tourism industry took a huge loss when the pandemic took over the City. His company was a walking tour company that practiced safety before the pandemic hit. As proof that they kept everyone safe, they had over 50 employees, none of whom tested positive for COVID-19 because of safety practices. Sales employees working from home, and the offices stayed cleaned. All communication was with customers to ensure they followed safety measures. His son had an immune deficiency and he wouldn't be asking to lift restrictions if he didn't think they could keep people safe. He was also the Vice-Chair of the Charleston CVB Board of Governors. He mentioned that it would help if restrictions were lifted to allow businesses to get back to operating capacities on behalf of all tour companies. It was not about greed, but about saving jobs and companies, bringing businesses back to life, and the City. The sidewalks were ghostly and depressing. Tourists came to Charleston to enjoy the history, and the industry needed help.
 6. Derek Evenhouse, General Manager of Old South Carriage Company and Walking Tours, said since reopening, tourism had been committed to safely operating while COVID-19 was still among the public. Tourists and locals had been able to get out of their homes and hotel rooms and come to town to explore the City safely. After four months of operating with safety measures, consistently reviewing standards and safety procedures of City protocols and the tourism company, they believed they could work in the COVID-19 climate. Tours were capped at ten people. However, lately, it had been far less. Based on the number of groups, tours had been going out with six to seven people per carriage or walking tours. The operating costs had increased, while the number of guests they had been able to take out had decreased. The majority of the employees had missed out on the most productive season of the year and had only one hope to make due in the fall season before winter came. The number of guests had climbed slightly in the last month, still hoping to rally in the next few months. The company would continue to operate safely and he asked for Council to consider lifting the capacity restrictions to allow more guests.
 7. Whitney Rainero spoke on behalf of the Charleston Coalition for Wireless Safety Standards. There were four ways the current Small Cell Ordinance could be revised to better protect the public. The first was to prohibit antennas from being directed, installed or operated within 300 feet of residents, schools, or daycares. The second was to require independent third party emissions testing. The third was to require all involved to have general liability insurance coverage. The fourth was to regulate the placement of wireless antennas based on historical considerations, esthetic integrity, property devaluation, and insufficient fall zones. The City should not be threatened by a lawsuit under the Telecommunications Act of 1966. The TCA pointed out that Cities would not have to pay monetary damages. The worst that could happen was that the Federal Court would order the City to take action on the permit. The City had the power to protect the residents of Charleston.

The Clerk said, "Thank you. I think that's it."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you very much. Anyone else out there, Jennifer, that we missed that has presented themselves or shown up?"

The Assistant Clerk said, "I don't see anyone."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay. Terrific. Vanessa, you think that's everybody?"

The Clerk said, "I think so. Yes, I called out their names a couple of times."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Great. So, thanks, everyone, for participating and sharing your comments with us. We appreciate that very much. So, that ends our Citizens' Participation Period. Next, we will go to Petitions and Communications. Before we approve these appointments, I do want to share with Council that I intended to also have recommendations to you by tonight in consideration of our next meeting of some new members on the Tourism Commission. I will get those to you this week, and we'll consider those for the next meeting. Before us tonight are the Citizens' Police Advisory Committee, Minority Business Enterprise Advisory Board, and Board of Zoning Appeals."

Councilmember Griffin said, "Move for approval."

Councilmember Appel said, "Second."

On a motion of Councilmember Griffin, seconded by Councilmember Appel, City Council voted unanimously to approve the appointments to the Citizen Police Advisory Committee, Minority Business Enterprise Advisory Board, and Board of Zoning Appeals.

- i. Citizen Police Advisory Committee
 - Matt Austin
 - Emily Broome
 - Vansh Nagpal
 - Peter Beck
- ii. Minority Business Enterprise Advisory Board
 - Mary Butler
 - Karl Hudson Phillips
 - Joan Robinson Berry
- iii. Board of Zoning Appeals
 - Geiza Vargas-Vargas
 - John S. Bennett

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, next, pretty briefly here, I just wanted to give Council a report. Katie McKain has been working arduously with our Resiliency and Sustainability Advisory Committee. I thought it was notable that Katie had gotten us to the point where we have some new numbers, new benchmark greenhouse gasses, and I thought that was worthwhile reporting to everyone. So, Katie, do you want to take it away? Give us a small report, please."

Ms. McKain said, "Yes, thank you, Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you."

Ms. McKain said, "So, the Resiliency and Suitability Advisory Committee met on September 10th, and all thirteen members were present. The first item on the agenda was the Charleston City Plan. Christopher Morgan gave an update about how the plan has started, and the public input process is open, how it will be synergistic with all of our flooding related plans and studies such as the Dutch Dialogues, the Flooding and Sea Level Rise Strategy, and the new Climate Action Plan. He said that this plan puts water first and that there are two upcoming water labs, actually tomorrow. All are welcome to join. You can sign up for these labs on the City Plan website at charlestoncityplan.com.

Next on the agenda, I spoke about sustainability next steps. We just recently completed our FY2018 greenhouse gas inventory. This was pretty exciting. I went over the review of this inventory, and it shows that our emissions have decreased by fifteen percent from 2002 to 2018 despite significant increases in population and, of course, in economic activity. All of this is a very good thing. Of course, we have a lot more to do. We only use this inventory as the basis for updating our Climate Action, and that was next on the agenda.

I talked about the Climate Action Planning process. This basically outlines actions to the use of greenhouse gas emissions. Of course, a key goal in the strategy is outlining climate mitigation action items that will be supported by both the community and, of course, City Council. So, we're excited to have many of you be a part of this process. The new strategy will draw inspiration from the Green Plan, which was done in 2010 with a whole lot of community input. So, we'll essentially be updating that plan. A Climate Action Taskforce will create the goals and initiatives of the strategy, and they will report back to the Resiliency and Sustainability Advisory Committee, who will then make a recommendation to City Council on that plan. Just like the Charleston City Plan, there are numerous ways to get involved in the Climate Action Planning Process. All that information is posted on the Sustainability web portal.

Next on the agenda, Mark Wilbert talked about the Army Corps of Engineers Peninsula Flood Risk Management Study. The Corps staff and City Staff have been going through all the comments submitted by the public. There were over 1,000 viewers that we have estimated have been engaged on the project even though it was a virtual engagement. So, that was pretty exciting to see that number so high. Mark mentioned the City and other partners have been participating in individual impact analysis, what the barrier could look like. The next big meeting is the Agency Decision Milestone in October, and we're excited. There is another public input session, and that was expanded. That will occur in early 2021 when the optimized plan is released. So, stay tuned for more on that. The next item on the agenda was mattress recycling, and I gave a quick update about how the City received a grant from South Carolina DHEC to support a pilot project for a mattress recycling program. We'll test how we'll collect and transport these mattresses. This program is currently being created, and hopefully, we can kick off the first recycling by the end of the year, perhaps in the New Year. More information will be forthcoming on that.

Then the next item on the agenda was the Charleston Rainproof update. I gave an update on this. There is a new map on our website that aims to showcase all of the rainproof projects in the City. Anyone can add their projects to the map. We encourage residents, businesses, organizations, you name it. I know Mayor Tecklenburg and Councilwoman Jackson have already added their rainproof project to the map, amongst many others, so anyone can go in there and add that to the rainproof webpage. There is also a new mini-grant program to incentivize new rainproof projects. We were able to partner with Keep Charleston Beautiful and Clean Cities Sweep to subsidize \$200 worth of native plants for the first few projects of new rain gardens this fall. So, if anyone is interested in applying for those funds, they are still available, and they are

open to residents, businesses, and organizations in the City limits. We just ask that you show your project data on our new showcase maps so others can learn.

Finally, the last item was the Charleston Medical District. Christine Von Kolnitz gave an update about how the medical districts leaders have been collaborating with lots of stakeholders in the City to develop for reduction measures and the holistic plan for resiliency, in concert with other City plans, into the effect that together we can achieve more. We had a public comment period. Two people spoke, and our next meeting is on November 12th. That's all."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you. Are there any questions for Katie?"

No one asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you for that update. I'm sure you heard, but that was pretty remarkable that over the last twenty years, even though our population was increased by fifty percent, our greenhouse gas emissions have been reduced by fifteen percent. So, that's a trend in the right direction, and Katie and her staff will be coming back to Council either later this year or early next year with an updated Climate Action Plan that will continue to reduce our greenhouse gasses, which are important for the high tides that we've seen. We want to keep our feet dry, as the Dutch would say."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay, so, next up is to approve a proposed settlement agreement. Chip McQueeney, I think, is going to make a quick presentation on this."

Mr. McQueeney said, "Yes, sir. If it's okay, I'm going to share my screen. City Council approved this back in February. It's a settlement agreement arising from a BZAZ case from Carmella's at 198 East Bay Street. It's a dessert bar. They serve late night use. It was a miscommunication between myself and the Plaintiff's attorney, which was Carmella's, about the time. Basically, City Council approved this with an after midnight capacity limited to 44, and the Plaintiff's Counsel asked for after 1 a.m. with the capacity limited to 44. City Council approved the midnight version. The settlement agreement was not finalized because it was not approved by the court, and the Plaintiff's attorney did not agree to midnight versus 1 a.m. So, I've discussed with the planning staff to get the recommendation. They were fine with changing it to 1 a.m. from midnight. The purpose of that was to stop people from gathering outside. So, once they hit the capacity, they can't let more people back in. They would not have to eject people at any point in time. If they're over the 44 or after 1 a.m., they don't have to kick people out, but they can't let anyone in anytime thereafter, even if they go below 44, because you don't want people waiting in line to get inside. That's the only change to the previous version approved by Council. If anyone has any questions, I'm happy to answer them."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Move for approval."

Councilmember Griffin said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We have a motion. Are there any questions for Mr. McQueeney?"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, "Mr. Mayor, I have to abstain from that one, as I did back in February, because we own property at the same sites."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Understood. Let the record show Councilmember Waring's abstention. Any other discussion?"

No one asked to speak.

On motion of Councilmember Seekings, seconded by Councilmember Griffin, City Council voted to approve an amended settlement agreement between the City and Carmella's, LLC, arising out of Case No. 2019-CP-10-4217, Carmella's. LLC v. City of Charleston, et al., relating to a request for a special exception for a late night use at 198 Easy Bay Street, Suite 100 (Charleston County TMS No. 458-05-04-003).

The vote was not unanimous.

Councilmember Waring abstained from the voting, and completed a conflict of interest form which is on file in the Office of the Clerk of Council.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, Chip."

Mr. McQueeney said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Next, is our update on the City's response to COVID-19. I'm going to call on Tracy McKee to give a brief update on our numbers. I think she's going to call on our Emergency Management Director, Shannon Scaff, to make a remark about that or another Emergency Management matter. Tracy."

Ms. McKee said, "Can you all see my presentation?"

Councilmember Shealy said, "Yes."

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

Ms. McKee said, "Thank you. Just a brief update on COVID and where we stand with COVID right now, I showed this graphic to you all a couple of weeks ago. It's just a visual of how we're doing in South Carolina, in comparison to the rest of the Country. You might remember South Carolina was a neutral color. The darker green the color, the more the cases are decreasing than on the increase, and we're pretty neutral. This is a snapshot I pulled today. You can see that cases are increasing in the western states, and we are in South Carolina, now a pale green. So, that's good to see. If no one saw it, or for those of you that might have missed it, DHEC did release a new analysis of their mask ordinances. So, this was kind of their third iteration through this. Really, what they've concluded, there's a lot of data and some statistics in that analysis, but really the effectiveness of masks is clear from the data they've analyzed. So, really quickly, how are we doing as a region and in this City? The dark line is the number of tests performed. Then, the orange bars are Charleston County new cases, and the gray are City of Charleston new cases. So, it just shows that we are declining in all of those numbers of tests done, as well as new cases.

At the City zipcode level, these are kind of the seven-day rolling numbers, so it's new cases per 1,000, as well as the infection rate. This dark blue line is actually the infection rate. I've got this 1.0 highlighted here in red. What that indicates is where we kind of go to a green with our new cases per 1,000. Last time, a couple of weeks ago, we were still in the yellow zone for that. So, now you can see, based on those bar charts in gray, that we've actually gone below that 1.0

threshold. So, where are we with our current indicators? We are green, pretty much across the board. Our positivity rate, that's the positivity rate for Charleston County over the past 14 days. Last time that was 11%. Now we're at 7%. So, that's starting to go down, and I think I mentioned the last time, WHO recommends getting under 5% positivity rate. So, we continue to move in the right direction, which is great. A quick update on employee cases, still only one hospitalization, which is very positive. We've had 123 total cases. We have zero currently active cases, which is fabulous, and 635 employee tests have been done.

While I have you captive for just a moment, I wanted to bring up the U.S. Census. That is probably coming to a close very soon, although that's still a little in flux. But, now is really the time to get that last push. So, for those that might be watching on YouTube, and just for Councilmembers to remind your constituents that they completed the Census, because it's really important for our entire community. How are we doing right now? Our response rate for the City of Charleston is currently at 64%. We're actually behind where we were in 2010. In 2010, we had about a 68% response rate for the City. In South Carolina, we are a little bit ahead of the State, but not by much. The South Carolina response rate is currently at 60%, and the United States, overall, is at 66%. We can drill down to different areas of the City. We can get down to the Census tract level. If Councilmembers want to see what the response rate is in their particular district, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. I'm more than happy to help you with that and help you get the word out about getting people to take the Census. I forgot to mention at the beginning, Shannon was going to, he thought it would be better to talk about this past weekend's activities at the Public Safety Committee. So, the Public Safety Committee should be on the lookout for an update on that. I'm happy to take any questions people might have about Covid-19 or the Census."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, "So, Tracy, our numbers seem to be on the right side with our COVID numbers. Is there anything you can tell us, besides the mask ordinances, that we're doing well with to keep those numbers down? My second question is, what can we do to help get better response for the Census?"

Ms. McKee said, "Yes. Those are great questions. Number one, with COVID, I'm not a medical professional, so I can really just tell you what the data is telling us. The mask ordinances have clearly, according to DHEC, been extremely important when they look at comparing jurisdictions that have a mask ordinance in place compared to those that don't. So, that's clearly, by their studies, extremely important. As far as the Census, I don't know if John Mitchell is still on, but he's been running point for the U.S. Census for the City. But, definitely, I think anything you can provide on social media, there are some great tools to post some things on social media and whatnot through the U.S. Census. I'm happy to share those links with you all and help you get access to those, if you'd like."

Councilmember Shahid said, "If you would just email that to us, Tracy, I think that would be helpful. The idea about the Census is just so self-evident as to why the Census matters. It goes into the allocation of Federal monies, grants. It's just an across the board benefit, not to mention redistricting lines, Congressional districts, and State districts. It's critical. Your areas can get underrepresented if you don't get those numbers out. I know we're late in the evening, it's 9:00 p.m., but those who are listening to this, and whatever we can do as Councilmembers, we need to make sure these numbers are pretty good, but we really need to get these numbers up to 80-85%. So, Tracy, whatever you can send us, that we can send out on social media, so that we can keep pushing, we need to be doing that."

Ms. McKee said, "I'd be more than happy to do that. Absolutely."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Tracy, if I may observe in a nutshell, it looks like the Peninsula of Charleston has the worst response rate. Is that correct?"

Ms. McKee said, "Yes, that is correct. One thing to maybe take note of, I think the worst response rate area is probably due to the fact that we had a lot of students counted in those Census tracts in 2010. With COVID, those students were not living in those Census tracts on April 1st, which is the date that counts for the big count, if you will. So, that could be impacting that, as well."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilwoman Jackson.

Councilwoman Jackson said, "I was going to ask, Tracy, if you would just volunteer to send us our individual districts and how we're doing, so that we can be motivated. Then, I'm sorry if I missed it, what is the cut off date? Is it October 1st or October 31st?"

Ms. McKee said, "I think that is still up in the air. My understanding was that I think it's the end of September, actually. But, there's talk about extending that due to COVID. But, I don't think that's been determined yet. I'll get those details and send that out through email."

Councilwoman Jackson said, "I think that's very important. Then, you just said something right before I was raising my hand about April 1st being the 'big one.' What does that mean? Are we out of luck?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "The Census is based on where you lived on April 1st. That was the 'big date.' If you were a student ten years ago, and you were living on Vanderhorst Street, but this year you were back at home with your parents on April 1st, you would get counted back at home with your parents rather than in your apartment or your residency in the City. Does that make sense? Did Shannon Scaff have anything he wanted to add to our report, Tracy?"

Ms. McKee said, "He wanted to actually give his report to the Public Safety Committee."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Great. Terrific. So, let's move on with the matters that we are asking for approval on, mostly renewals on COVID-19. I'll call on Susan Herdina in just a second, but just in a nutshell, here are the things that I view have changed. Extending the State of Emergency is not a change. That's the same. As I promised you all at the last meeting, after we discussed the amplified music, if our numbers stayed at least on the same good trend that they were, I would bring you an amendment to that, or a change, that allows live music and amplified music up until 11 p.m., rather than at 9 p.m. Then, most of the other ordinances we're asking you to renew. But, the one notable exception is what we used to call the 'stay-at-home' ordinance. About 95% of that stay-at-home ordinance had, in effect, become obsolete because of various actions of the Governor over the last few months. The only provision left in that stay-at-home was the gathering of ten in a public space, not to exceed a gathering of ten. So, just to let you all know, by not renewing the stay-at-home ordinance, which is what we're proposing tonight, that we're not going to renew that, the walking tours and the other pleas that we had tonight would, in fact, be able, as long as they're still following the other safety protocols of wearing a mask and social distancing, they would be able to take their numbers back up to what is normally allowed under our tourism regulations. Again, with the caveat that they would still be asked to wear a mask and do appropriate social distancing. With that intro, Susan, do you have anything to add to what I've just commented on?"

Ms. Herdina said, "Real quickly, on number five, I-5, that is the continuation of the local State of Emergency and the Declaration that indicates that it would be continued to October 30th. That's number five. Number six, as the Mayor said, that emergency ordinance is making just one change to the mask ordinance, and that is prohibiting amplified music in the restaurants and bars starting at 11 p.m., rather than 9 p.m. That ordinance, the expiration date is tied to the mask ordinance. So, on October 18th, the mask ordinance, Ordinance 2020-100, that includes this provision, expires. So, you'll want to take it up at the next City Council meeting on the 13th. Then, as the Mayor said, the last item, Item 7, is the continuation of some of our emergency ordinances. They are listed for you on page five. There are several temporary emergency ordinances that are going to be continued to October 30th. Two points, one is the stay-at-home ordinance is being allowed to expire, which means that there will no longer be, if Council approves this, the ten person cap that's currently on the walking tours or the carriages. The other important thing to note is that there's an amendment to Ordinance 2020-040, which basically says that City Staff will prepare a report on transitioning to in-person City Council meetings, to be presented to City Council at the next meeting on October 13th, 2020. So, those are the three matters that are up for consideration this evening. I'm happy to answer any questions."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Griffin.

Councilmember Griffin said, "Yes, sir. I've just got some statements I'd like to make, as long as that's okay with you. I spent a lot of time today on DHEC's website, looking at all the data cumulatively throughout the COVID crisis, and more specifically, over the last couple of weeks. I just want to go through some of these numbers because I feel like we haven't gotten these numbers. I want to paint them in my way, compared to some of the other ways I've seen them painted. The total number of cases in Charleston County, this is total, and this is on DHEC's website, as of the 20th at midnight, is 15,500, which is a rate of 3,768 per 100,000 people. This is based on Charleston County now. Our estimated County size is 441,000 people. So, that means out of 100,000 people, 3.7% have contracted the virus. In the past two weeks, we've had 516 cases in all of Charleston County. That means that out of 100,000 people, 125.4 got the virus. That equals 0.1% of our population in Charleston County.

As of 11:59 p.m. on the 20th, we have had, and this is the total throughout the entire COVID scenario, 509 hospitalizations out of 144,046 tests. That means that 0.3% of positive cases in Charleston County have been hospitalized. Two-hundred and fifty seven people in Charleston County have died. That equals 0.18% of positive tests. Two-hundred and fifty seven people have died, and that is a terrible number. It's very, very tough to deal with. There's no way to justify the loss of life, and I'm not trying to do that. I'm just saying that death is a part of life, and it's something that we have to deal with. 87% of people in Charleston County that contracted COVID and died had other co-morbid conditions. If you look at the number of nursing home deaths and cases, our numbers would even significantly decrease drastically. The average age of those who passed was 78 years old. After analyzing all of this data myself, my conclusion is that it's necessary that we continue to push to open back up. I'm not willing to live in fear of this virus, and I think by staying closed, I know that any death is bad, and any sickness is bad, but these numbers and these percentages are so minuscule that I am going to start voting against all of these emergency ordinances from here on out. The number of cases, over the last few weeks, is so low that, if we look at the DHEC website, the most recent number of cases on September 20th, we haven't had that low number of cases since June 20th or something like that. It's been over three months. You can say all you want that the masks, that municipalities and governmental agencies that push a mask ordinance are better off, and I agree with that. But, if you look at that statistic, it doesn't say what sort of mask regulations are in place. I would say that our mask regulations are the strictest

in all of the Lowcountry. I have to look at data to see whether or not I think that's effective. To me, I say it's not. If it were, we should have a lower number of cases, per 100,000, people than Berkeley and Dorchester County because they have a much less strict mask ordinance. But, if you look at their numbers on the DHEC website per 100,000 people, their numbers are lower than ours. So, I agree that we can have a mask, but we need to start easing off some of these restrictions a little bit because we're way stricter than anybody else. We're letting a disease, which kills and significantly hospitalizes less than 1% of our population in all of Charleston County, beat us, and we're better than that. So, that's my point. I'm not voting 'yes' for any more emergency ordinances. I'll vote 'yes' to end the music curfew, but I'm not voting for any more emergency ordinances. It's time for us to move forward. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, sir. Can I entertain a motion for numbers five, six, and seven?"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Sakran.

Councilmember Sakran said, "I wanted to say something. We can take a vote on this first, Mayor. Then, I'll come back to my question."

Councilmember Appel said, "So moved. I move to approve five, six, and seven."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Second."

Councilmember Sakran said, "Thank you, Mayor. In relation to all of this, I did get a question from a few constituents regarding the Farmer's Market as we open back up. I just want to say it's encouraging to hear that we are making these changes and moving into another phase. I'm not sure if Scott Watson is available, but the concern they had was that we are opening the Farmer's Market back up, which is great, but there was a limited capacity due to, obviously, space and social distancing. The concern they had was that folks were not going to be allowed to be on the grassy area in Marion Square. I've been in the Farmer's Market. I'm a vendor there myself for many years, and we had no issue being on the grass. These folks have had a very difficult spring and summer, and the least we can do is make sure we put this Market together. I guess, to Harry's point, we've got to move past phase one and move into phase two and phase three, which is doing things responsibly, keeping safety and medical professionals at the forefront, but we've got to move into the next phase. So, I guess my question is regarding the Farmer's Market. Why was that decision made, to not allow folks on the grass and really extend the offer to all Farmer's Market vendors?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I don't know if Scott is on the line or not. We reopened the Farmer's Market, both West Ashley and downtown, with essentials for farmers. We're moving back to Marion Square starting this Saturday from 8-12 p.m. We're also meeting in West Ashley near the tennis center on Saturday mornings with a different vendor. Let me just say that I think we have about ten vendors of essentials for Marion Square this week. In the ensuing weeks, we'll open up more space as we get in the swing and include other vendors, including, we're planning on having our full Holiday Market before the holiday season. We're, admittedly, taking it a step at a time, but we're taking those steps now. We've been open in other locations. We'll be open this Saturday. Give us another week or two, and we'll add more vendors and more space."

Councilmember Sakran said, "Thank you, Mayor. If we can communicate that to the vendors, I know that a lot of these folks are loyal to the City, and a lot of them have been coming

to the Market for ten, fifteen, twenty years. It would be nice to communicate that to them, as well. Thank you.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “As Tracy mentioned, we’re just one quadrant away from being able to move to our next phase, which is phase three. We’re getting there. I would say that our ordinances have helped those numbers come down and stay down. That’s been a very positive thing and a very safe thing. Really, all of these ordinances before you tonight don’t prohibit anybody from doing business. We’re just promoting that they be done in a safe fashion. The only provisions that I’m aware of that still prohibit any businesses are on the State level by the Governor. Alright, any other discussion? Councilmember Appel, did you want to say anything?”

Councilmember Appel said, “I’ve just got to say something quickly here. You all know how I felt about this issue on the front end back in March. I thought we needed to take bold and aggressive action when we did. I think we led the State in that regard. I think that when the history books are written, history will look upon the City of Charleston in a positive light. That all being said, I have to say, I think that Councilmember Griffin and Councilmember Sakran are onto something here. I think the reality of it is we have to find a way to live with this virus. This virus is not going anywhere. It will be with us well into 2021. I think today is an important step in that direction. The Pour House is in my district, and I’ve been talking with them for months now about this music rule. I’m very happy to see us take this step. I’m very happy to see us provide some relief to the walking tour companies. I think that we just need an attitude shift of how much we can do while maintaining prudence. Right? We know what works. It’s the masks. It’s the distancing. It’s the outside. But, when you start layering regulations on top of that, that’s when things start to get a little squirrely. Look, if the situation in the world changes, and we get this second wave and things get crazy again, we know what to do. But, we have a lot of people out there hurting and having difficult times. Our attitude needs to not be an obsession with numbers and graphs and charts and color-coding, things like that. We’ve got to get really tapped into what’s happening on the ground. I’ve got friends and colleagues that work at both Roper and MUSC. They said they hadn’t been pressed since way early in the Summer. That’s positive. That means things are working. But, we really need to pivot here in our approach. I think tonight is a very important and positive step at that. Thank you.”

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilwoman Delcioppo.

Councilwoman Delcioppo said, “I just want to understand. What is the reason to extend this State of Emergency? I didn’t understand why that needed to continue.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Right. Well, the Governor has done so on a State-wide level. Susan, there are some other implications. Could you address?”

Ms. Herdina said, “So, there are really two potential implications for the City. As the Mayor said, we are under a State declared State of Emergency. The Governor has renewed that for some additional time once again. Two main issues for us being under a local State of Emergency are, one, in the event that there are some funding opportunities that are presented to the City as a result of this, through FEMA or some other source, being under a local State of Emergency will be helpful in getting those funds. The second reason is, when we’re in this emergency state, the Mayor can take emergency actions if he needs to. Council can act quickly with its emergency ordinances. So, that’s the second important reason. It gives you more flexibility to act and respond. Third, there’s obviously a messaging component that comes with it, too, that we are continuing to take the COVID situation seriously and asking the constituents to do so.”

Councilwoman Delcioppo said, "Again, just because I don't hear of anybody else being under a State of Emergency. I think they're accepting the State. I don't hear Berkeley County under a State of Emergency."

Ms. Herdina said, "Again, we're kind of looking at it in a proactive fashion thinking that if there is some funding that comes available, it would be helpful to be under this State of Emergency, in addition to the other two things I just mentioned."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Jacob Lindsey has popped up."

Mr. Lindsey said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor and members of Council. Just to elaborate upon that, the State of Emergency also activates the ordinances which grant our restaurants outdoor dining, as well as relief from parking requirements, which is a very important thing right now during the pandemic. So, granting and continuing to grant the State of Emergency is what activates our restaurants to be able to take advantage of our COVID benefits. If Council is minded to do so, that is something that helps our restaurant industry."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Councilmember Shahid, did I see you a minute ago?"

Councilmember Shahid said, "You did. I'm not going to sit here and remain silent when I hear this stuff going on during Council. It's as if we have moved to another universe, that we have clicked our heels and, 'poof, there's no more pandemic.' Have you all forgotten that we hit a milestone in this country today? Two-hundred thousand people have died because of COVID-19. Two-hundred thousand people have died. All of a sudden, we're supposed to stop caring, and it's because 'death happens.' Death happens because there's a pandemic going on in this Country. The reason our numbers are so low in this community is because of what Councilmember Appel just said earlier. We took drastic actions to stop this spread from happening. Guess where we are right now, folks? We're at the end of September. Guess what happens at the end of September? Not only are college students coming back, but the weather is getting colder. The experts have said, in spite of what we may think or feel, a second wave is coming. An article I read recently gave this example as to how we're supposed to be looking at this pandemic. This pandemic is like a wildfire. Maybe that's a bad example to use with what's going on in the West Coast. But, while this disease is out there, and while we don't have a vaccine for this disease, it's going to spread. It's going to look for a victim, sooner or later. We've got people who have died in this community. We shouldn't take solace in thinking, 'oh, our numbers are down to less than 1% of the total population.' Those are real human beings out there who are being hospitalized, who are sick. Our teachers, firefighters, and police officers are being exposed to a deadly disease. We want to just go back and think life is normal. Life is not normal. It's not going to be normal for quite a while, and here we are talking about not voting for these ordinances. Some people have not voted for any of these mask ordinances. Those mask ordinances were an important factor in keeping our numbers down. We've got to remember where we are with all of this. We've got to keep on taking this stuff seriously. What's going to happen, as the weather gets colder, the numbers are going to go back up. We're going to see things changing around here. I'm not going to sit back and listen and think we've got a rosy picture here, folks. We don't have a rosy picture. Our picture is good, and it's better. God bless those medical providers because they figured out how to treat this a whole lot better. That's been one of the issues we've been seeing going on with all of this. But, I'm not going to sit back here and watch and think that we have a rosy picture going on with all of this. It's going to get worse. Our numbers, I hope I'm wrong on this, are going to go back up as the weather gets colder. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie.

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Yes, Mr. Mayor. I thought it was a very interesting data analysis that Councilman Griffin just shared with us. But, my question to Councilmembers Griffin, Appel, and Delcioppo, have you had a family member to die from the COVID virus or a friend?"

Councilwoman Delcioppo said, "I was just asking a question for clarification."

Councilmember Griffin said, "Yes, I have."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "You have? Okay. You said a family member, Councilmember Griffin?"

Councilmember Griffin said, "I've had friends and close family, yes."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Okay. And, in spite of that, if I'm hearing you correctly, you want us to relax our requirements?"

Councilmember Griffin said, "Yes, I do."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "You do? Okay. Well, I've had a family member to die, and the last thing that I want to do is relax the requirements, particularly given the direction that we're going. For me, it just doesn't make sense to relax now, simply because our numbers are going down. The numbers are going down because of actions that this City and this Council took. For us to just say, 'oh, everything's great now,' I strongly, strongly disagree with some of the interpretations of what is going on now, particularly as it relates to brown and black people who are dying from this virus at a much, much higher rate. I think I would be remiss, as a Councilman, at this point, particularly given the positive direction of our numbers, to do anything differently. I will not vote for extending from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. I'm not going to support that. I'm still waiting for us to continue to look at the science. I think when we get to about 5%, I think is the number we're trying to get to, then everything is going to open up. But, when those numbers start going up, because we're taking risks, I think we really shouldn't be taking at this point in time, then I think it will be our responsibility for the economic failures of the City, simply because we are abandoning our responsibility to all of our residents of the City of Charleston. So, I totally disagree with the approach to start relaxing at this point. In fact, I think we need to just maintain our course because it's apparent that the course is making a difference in many of the lives within the City of Charleston. Thank you, Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I haven't forgotten about you, Councilmember Griffin. But, I'm letting folks speak who haven't been heard yet."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring, followed by Councilmember Seekings.

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Listen, this Council and this Mayor, I think, have done a great job on this virus, going back seven months. You're right, Councilman Gregorie. Some of the steps we took definitely made a difference because there's not a vaccine, and certainly, the treatment protocols are still being improved as we speak. That said, none of us knew the magic formula. There was no magic formula out there, as far as strategy. So, we took the best practices that we knew of at that time. There was a time when you went in grocery stores, or certainly the big box stores, where they limited the amount of people that went in. I think Costco, we were all in lines out there. Who wasn't in a line at Costco? They would let in a certain amount,

and they would stop, let in a certain amount, and stop. Now, guess what? We come in, and you have to have a mask on. If you don't have one, I think they will still give you one. Three things we know that work definitely, from one end of this country to the other: Wash your hands regularly, put the mask on, and safe distancing. There is no science out there that says if you're listening to music at 9 p.m. it stops the spread of the virus. Actually, there's nothing that says if you stop listening at 11 p.m. it stops it. I think we can wear our masks and listen to the music. I think we can clean our hands, and I think we can safely distance and listen to the music.

When it comes to tour guide people, again, grocery stores, big box stores, drug stores, we all frequent those places, and we put best practices. These people can be able to make a living, spaced out, with best practices with these walking tours outside, as a matter of fact. That's not even in-house. So, in a gradual way, that we know what works, if we see people out there doing walking tours without a mask on and not spaced appropriately, I'm sure the City will take action. Opening back 100% as though the virus is no longer with us, I would not do that, but these two things that we're talking about, I think it's a graded way in the right direction. Our citizens have done a great job listening to what we've asked them to do, putting on these masks, and safe distancing. Actually, it's working. Even the young people, they might have them in their pockets, but they carry their masks with them. So, I'm going to support the piece of going to 11 p.m. and allowing these people, if they can do a horse and buggy ride, they can certainly do walking tours properly spaced. But, the other portion, I'm going to vote to support that."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Seekings.

Councilmember Seekings said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I'll be brief because it is late. I second Councilmember Waring's observations. I think he's spot on. I want to thank Mr. Lindsey for jumping in, too, because I think it is important, as we've gone through the last six or seven months and tied all these ordinances together, to recognize what some of the positive consequences of those ordinances have been. First and foremost, I think we're doing well with the public safety, but we've also given some industries the opportunity to, literally, survive as they go through. One of the things that has been positive, and has worked, and if you haven't been downtown, because it's been particularly used in downtown, is the ability to have outside dining. There have been some incredibly creative uses of our new ordinance by restaurant tours that have put some tables outdoors. That's been the link between them going out of business and being in business. Jacob, one of the things I just want to make sure we don't miss as we go along here is, I'm sure you've kept an inventory of the applications that you received for those outdoor permits. I know they go and do it and get the permit later. But, as we transition to phase three, four, five, I don't know, Mr. Mayor, when our emergency ordinance goes away, and we think of other things, I just want to make sure we have the tools in place to look at the outdoor dining, and see if we can't continue it without interruption from the legislative side, and that we're in a position to make sure that, to the extent we know who's out there doing it, we think it's working well for the City, that we have a seamless transition going forward, particularly with that issue because, again, it's been creative. It's working. I have not heard a single complaint from anybody in my district about the placing of some of the outdoor tables. Some of them are in places I never would have thought of. I just think we need to make sure we have a way to seamlessly transition as we go forward, without having to go back, Jacob, to a 30-45 day application process. That's just something to think about as we move forward. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I concur, Councilmember. Even if there was a vaccine widely spread tomorrow, and everyone had it, it's going to take a while for certain businesses, particularly restaurants and hospitality, to recover from this year. So, it's not like they would instantaneously

be better, even when we get the vaccine. So, you're right. To keep things that have made it easier for them will be a positive thing."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shealy.

Councilmember Shealy said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Councilman Griffin was saying he went on a website. I looked at Tracy's website, or what we call the Mayor's website. I call it Tracy's website. Anyway, I looked back, two weeks ago when we were looking at this, we were concerned. Schools were opening. Athletic events were starting. We were very concerned about that, and we were being careful. I believe the total number of active cases on September 8th, two weeks ago, when we met, was 547 in the City of Charleston. I looked at it today, and the total number today is 224 cases. So, we had all of that going on, and we had about a 60% drop, or more than half of our cases went away. I think it's more positive than we've been saying here on what's happening. I understand the cool weather, and I understand that can happen, but we also had, if you looked at the chart with the growth rate and, Tracy, certainly correct me if I'm looking at something wrong. But, the growth rate dropped more than half, as well, from 0.46 down to 0.22. Like I said, since two weeks ago, schools seem to have opened safely. High school, club, and recreational athletic events seem to be opening safely. Churches are starting to have people come back since then and have opened safely. It is time for us to start carefully opening up things. I know we're at that 7%, and not that 5%. Everything else is green. I do believe that we've got to start pushing to safely open up other things. I think that we should be meeting in person at the next meeting. I really believe that. If these athletic events can happen, schools can open, churches can open, all these different things are going on, and they're able to do it safely, and we do not see those numbers come up, and we've got zero active cases with City employees, I believe we ought to be meeting in person right now. I'm not saying we need to open up completely, but I think we need to start to open that back up, unless the numbers go the other way. Thank you, Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, thank you. I'll come back to Councilmember Griffin and then Councilwoman Delcioppo. Then, I'll ask to call the question. We'll take them separately, if you don't mind, because some people have indicated that they're going to support one or the other."

Councilmember Griffin said, "Just a couple more points. Number one, Mr. Lindsey made a good point about how some of these things we're doing for the businesses are tied into these emergency ordinances. We need to fix that. We don't need to have them tied into emergency ordinances. We shouldn't have to vote 'yes' on an emergency ordinance in order to help these businesses. We should be helping them regardless of whether we're in a state of emergency or not. In fact, a lot of what's going on will be good after we move on from this virus, and whenever there is a vaccine, and we move about our lives again. A lot of this outdoor seating and other things are working wonders, and it should stay as much as it can. Councilmember Gregorie brought up a point. He said it a few times about African Americans having a higher rate of cases and deaths than white people do. I looked on the DHEC website today, and I just can't agree with you on that. I've got the facts right in front of me, the data right in front of me. In Charleston County, the number of cases, 38.1% are white, and 26.4% are black. In terms of deaths, 48.1% are white, and 35% are black. Now, maybe there's a disparity in testing. We need to find more ways to offer testing to minorities, but I just want to make sure we're reporting the right statistics. I'm not trying to go off of emotion. I'm trying to go off of numbers. In terms of what Councilmember Shahid said, and for some reason, he didn't want to name my name, but he was obviously talking to me. I just sure hope there weren't any kids watching when you just threw that temper tantrum. If you're going to preach all this stuff about, 'we shouldn't meet,' well you shouldn't be having gatherings in your office. I know for a fact that you've had several, larger than ten people,

gatherings in your office for meetings. So, we all need to practice what we preach here is all I'm saying. Don't pound your fists and say we shouldn't meet, when I know for a fact that you've had several meetings. I really don't like the way this is going. Temper tantrums aren't going to fix anything."

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

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilwoman Delcioppo.

Councilwoman Delcioppo said, "Harry, you just kind of made a good segue. You all, this is why I think all of us can agree. We avoid social media and all of this because, when did we all become so angry? When did it get to the point that I can't ask a question for clarification, and all of a sudden, an accusation is hurled at me? What are we resorting to? We are letting this take over. We all talk about the way Charleston used to be. It's because it was filled with elegance and grace and people being able to have civil conversations and communicate cordially with one another, even if they were on opposite ends of the spectrum. I can tell you, on a quarter, whether you're heads or tails, you're still on the same quarter. So, it's okay for Councilmember Sakran to ask why people can't be on the grass, or whatever it is. We're all just trying to gain some clarification. I'm not here to feel bad. We're all trying to do the very best we can. We all want the same result. Maybe we're going to come at it from different ways, but pitting ourselves against each other is exactly what the world wants us to do. We're letting the divisiveness that's out there, that we cannot stand, now infiltrate here. The only people that are going to suffer from it are the very people who need us most. So, before anybody else says anything, I respectfully ask that maybe you play it through your head before you say it."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, Councilmember."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Mitchell.

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Yes, Mr. Mayor. I've been on Council awhile. I have seen some things go back and forth and seen how we might disagree. We still get through it. The way Council is going now, I have never seen this in my fourteen years of serving on Council. I've been here awhile. I'm the next senior Councilmember on Council right now. I may be a little older, but I grew up a different way. I was raised in a different way, to respect one another. We've got some young people today, even in the community, who don't respect anything. We all have to respect one another. I tell people all the time that we are the elders, and we're looking for the younger people to take us further. We are supposed to give them advice and show them what history is about, and they have to make their own decisions. I'm seeing some things on this Council right now that are not good. It's not good at all. I hear some things in the community that are not good about Council. It doesn't matter to me one way or the other because it doesn't bother me. As long as it stays at a distance, it doesn't bother me. I came up a long way, a rough way, with nothing. We had grace, and we had strong integrity in my family. We respect one another, and that's the way I grew up, with respect. So, we need to respect one another.

I mean, all those personal things, you throw it over your shoulder, you leave that out. If you see someone doing something, don't do it here in public. The public is watching us, and they're going to say, 'look at how they're acting. They're Councilmembers. Look at how they're acting on Council.' Some people just don't care. I have a problem with that because I carry myself with that. I'm in this community and see people acting funny, having facial expressions. I watch it, and I see through it all day long. I didn't just come here. I've been here for awhile. I've seen it, over and over again. I've got kids that are 50 years old, 40 years old, so I know how they come.

I've got some grands that are 20, 25, and 27 years old. So, I deal with young, the old and all. I've seen the different actions of young people, seen the different actions of older people, and middle aged people. We are Councilmembers here, and we are charged. We took an oath to do things for the betterment of the City of Charleston and for everyone in the City of Charleston. We should carry ourselves in a certain way. Right now, we're doing something a little different. Maybe I've been on Council too long. I don't know. We need to change the aspect of some of the things that we are doing, saying, and the way we're saying it. We're not here to hurt one another's feelings."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, Councilmember Mitchell. Councilmember Shahid, and then let's call the question."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Hold on a second, Mr. Mayor. I think I'm entitled to respond to some of the comments being made."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "I think I am, too."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Thank you. First of all, I'll apologize for pounding my fists on my credenza. I apologize if I offended anybody. Yes, Councilmember Griffin, I did have one meeting in my office back in May. That was to host all the folks on King Street, following the May 30th riot, so we could hear from the folks that were being hurt and their complaints and concerns they had about what was going on King Street following the riot of May 30th. But, for you to insinuate that I'm not practicing what I'm preaching, I'm going to tell you, I'm offended by that. I'll tell you that right on the line.. I've been very careful about how I've conducted myself as an individual and as a member of City Council. I don't mean to lecture anybody, but the numbers are what the numbers are. The numbers are that 200,000 of our fellow Americans have died because of COVID-19. We think those numbers are not accurate. We think those numbers are probably a little bit higher. The fact of the matter is that the science is very clear and very specific about all of this. The things that we've been doing have a positive impact on keeping these numbers down. That's the science. I'm not talking about any other conjectures that I have. I'm not a medical professional. I'm a lawyer, but I listen to the experts. The experts have told us that wearing masks, and the Director for the Center for Disease Control said that mask use is probably a higher and more effective way of combatting this virus being spread than when the vaccine is being developed and put into full use. A vaccine may not be available to us for a full year on a widespread basis. We have several members of our fellow citizens who are hurt because of the impact this COVID-19 has had on them, not just hurt because they've been in the hospital, but hurt because of the financial impact that this has had on them. The sooner we are able to get back to whatever we consider normal, the better off all of us are going to be. I apologize to anybody if I came across as being a little too strong. That was not my intent. But, what I've heard out of several people tonight was that we think we're back in an okay position. We're not back in an okay position. Yes, our numbers have gone down tremendously. But, it goes back to what we were instructed on, which is because we have taken these measures and taken them seriously. Now is not the time to relax that. Now is the time to remain on course because of where we're going to be headed in the coming months, with the weather changing, and other factors taking place with people being more socially active. So, thank you all for hearing me out. I apologize if I offended anybody. That was not my intent. But, sometimes you have to stand up and be heard to get the point across. Thank you all very much."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, Councilmember Shahid. We can take these matters separately. I'm just going to say, for the good news of the trend of our numbers, hallelujah. That's a good thing, but the fact remains, as has been noted here, the virus has not gone away. There are 30 states, or just under 30 states, where cases are rising again. So, there's nothing that could

prevent that from happening here again. It happened in May and June, and it could happen again. All of the measures that we've been taking as of late are not forcing anyone to close their business or close down. It's all a matter of just operating safely. That's all I really want for our citizens is to be back in business, to be back in school, to go back to church, to do all those things, but to just do it safely. With that being said, could I ask us to separate the three numbers and take a vote on number five first, which is the continuance of the declaration of state of emergency?"

Councilmember Mitchell said, "I make the motion that we separate them."

Councilwoman Delcioppo said, "Yes. I second to separate."

On a motion of Councilmember Mitchell, seconded by Councilwoman Delcioppo, City Council voted to approve the following Executive Order.

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

The vote was not unanimous. Councilmember Griffin voted nay.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "And number six. This is the one that changes the time on the live music from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Move for approval."

Councilwoman Jackson said, "I'll second."

On a motion of Councilmember Mitchell, seconded by Councilwoman Jackson, City Council voted to ratify the following Emergency Ordinance:

2020 - 129 - EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING EMERGENCY ORDINANCE 2020 -100 BY DELETING LANGUAGE IN SECTION 7 PROHIBITING AMPLIFIED MUSIC IN BARS AND RESTAURANTS AFTER 9 PM AND REPLACING IT WITH 11 PM.

The vote was not unanimous. Councilmember Gregorie voted nay.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Lastly, number seven. This is the catch-all for the emergency ordinances, but notably, it does not renew the stay-at-home order."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Move to approve."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Second."

On a motion of Councilmember Shahid, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell, City Council voted to ratify the following Emergency Ordinance:

2020 - 130 - EMERGENCY ORDINANCE EXTENDING CERTAIN EMERGENCY ORDINANCES RELATED TO COVID-19

The vote was not unanimous. Councilmember Griffin voted nay.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you all so much. I know that was difficult. I'm respectful of everyone's opinions on this matter. I know there's a lot of conversation about it. I just hope that we reasonably keep everyone safe going forward until we get a vaccine. Okay, Council Communications. First up, Councilmember Brady wants to talk about the Urban Growth Boundary. Can I just turn it over to you, Councilmember?"

Councilmember Brady said, "Yes. I appreciate that. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I've talked to several other members on Council about this. It's borne out of some discussions with folks on Johns Island, but I know the Urban Growth Boundary also impacts both sides of my district, as well as Councilmember Griffin and Councilwoman Delcioppo. We've had some conversations about being good neighbors. I think one of the strongest signals we can send on being a good neighbor is that, instead of the Urban Growth Boundary merely being just something in a planning document that we can kind of ignore as we want, because there are developments, including one on Johns Island that is happening outside the Urban Growth Boundary, that we would codify the Urban Growth Boundary into an ordinance, so that, in the event that a future Council wants to move it, or needs to make any substantial changes, it would have to go through three readings in order to change. That gives the public time to weigh in on it. I think one of the things this would do is put Wadmalaw Island, some of the unincorporated parts of Johns Island, at ease that the City isn't looking to expand and become like Houston. We can turn our attention to infill annexation which, I think we all know, with the donut holes that go on in a lot of our districts, is an issue. So, I think this helps us be a good neighbor out on the outer edges of the City, but also sends the message that we want to turn inwards and really focus on good land use, good planning. It's perfect timing, with the City Comp Plan, to really think about this. So, the little extra part on there was that I talked with the Mayor earlier. If we want to send this idea to a Committee, and that's the will of Council, that's fine. But, I do think Council probably has original jurisdiction on this because it concerns the City as a whole, in terms of our boundaries. So, with that, I'm happy to turn it over and listen to some comments."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilwoman Jackson.

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Thank you. Thank you, Councilmember Brady. Before you took your seat, I was privileged to sit in on the Johns Island Taskforce, where a variety of citizens, who are focused on Johns Island, have really done an amazing job of educating each other and the community and working on issues like this collegiately. So, I fully support what Councilmember Brady is trying to introduce tonight. I would hope that we could just send it directly to our Planning and Legal teams and have this available for us to vote on. For the record, James Island still has the City's version of the Urban Growth Boundary. The County took theirs away a few years ago. But, I would submit that, once we hear what the water consultants, our Dutch Dialogue friends, during the Comp Plan, are figuring out about the vulnerabilities on James Island on the southern portion of the Island, that we'll want to have that kind of statement and protection for the Urban Growth Boundary. I want to join the club, and I want this to happen soon. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you. Any other comments?"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilwoman Delcioppo.

Councilwoman Delcioppo said, "I appreciate this. Honestly, it's not something that I ever considered could be more set in stone. So, I would be interested in this conversation furthering, and what exactly this looks like, from a Legal and a Planning perspective. So, I appreciate you making me think about something that I haven't thought of before."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I think we have an Urban Growth Boundary in the northern part of your district. So, if it please Council, and Mr. Lindsey's on the line still, I'd like to ask him and staff to work on it and bring it to the Community Development Committee, which oversees Zoning matters. Is that okay with you, Mr. Chairman of Community Development?"

Councilmember Brady said, "Thank you, guys."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you. So, next is a discussion on the column of the Calhoun Statue."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Griffin.

Councilmember Griffin said, "Yes, sir. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. We had the actual statue come down within a few hours of our Council meeting on June 23rd. But, obviously, with it taking seventeen hours to just remove the actual statue, the column remained for a time. A few weeks ago, the contractor went back out there to remove the column, and there was significant damage done to the column in that removal. I'm just trying to get more information as to why that happened. I printed off a few documents from our previous meetings because, for me, I was all on board to move it to a museum. But, now I kind of understand that we don't really have a place for it to go. It's sitting in a warehouse. It's not accessible to the public at all. I don't feel like there's the movement that we said there was going to be on that. I don't feel like we're working with other partners to make that happen. I just want to kind of touch on a few of these documents that we voted on, that we signed. The first one was the actual Resolution, which stated that it would no longer be part of Marion Square. But, after its removal, the statue would be relocated to an appropriate site to be determined by the Mayor, in consultation with City Council, where it would be protected and preserved, and where the history of John C. Calhoun's life would be told. Now, obviously, that contradicts the emergency bid that was put out, which states that it will be transported and carefully unloaded to an undisclosed, covered, and secured facility, not accessible to the public.

I can understand that the warehouse setting is temporary, but on top of moving it to a place that's not publicly accessible, and then the agreement, Charleston Museum put their hand down and said, 'No, we're not going to take it.' We don't really have a place for it right now, and we've got a column that's been destroyed. I'm wondering why that happened. Why was it not as carefully taken down as the statue was? It even says in the emergency bid that 'the contractor will then begin to remove the tall granite column in sections, utilizing the available cold joints in the granite work. These sections will be loaded onto a truck and shipped to a separate, open air storage facility that is not accessible to the public.' But, instead, we had an excavator out there that literally knocked the column over and broke it into a million pieces. People that live in this City literally ran up in the middle of the night and grabbed pieces of the column and took them. They now have them in their possession. We've got a priceless column, regardless of the circumstances of whether or not you wanted the statue to be destroyed or remain or moved to a museum. We took a vote to move it to a museum, not handle this the way that we have.

Even in that meeting, I questioned a lot about where the money came from and everything like that and how we were paying for it. You said that the Resolution to remove the statue, that we gave you permission and authority to make arrangements, and you thought it was good to move it along as quickly as possible. But, I have just never comprehended that from what we actually did that night, which is that we authorized you to execute the necessary documents to enter into a contract for the relocation of the statue, and such contract would be presented to City Council at its next regular meeting. By the time we met again, the statue was gone. We met. We

approved this emergency bid after the fact for \$136,637. You stated at that meeting that the \$100,000 came from one private person that wanted to remain anonymous. But, how can I justify that to the public that are upset about how this procedure has taken place? I have to explain to them that a private citizen waved a big check in front of the City's face and we took the money, it influenced our decision, and we don't have to release that person's name. On top of that, we know that there was an interest group that was out there raising private funds. They raised over \$23,000, and your wife was one of the people on that list. How about those people? Was that contributed towards the removal of the statue?

I just have a lot of questions about how all of this played out because I took faith that we were going to do what we said we were going to do. We said we were going to take it down, put it in a space for a while. We were going to find somewhere for it to go. Now, here we have it not open to the public. Nobody can see it. I even wrote you a letter, almost a month ago, asking you if I could take a few politicians and people that were really interested in historic preservation to see it. You never even responded to my letter from August 28th. So, I guess I'm just wondering where we are and where we're going. Are we going to hold the contractor responsible for destroying a priceless piece of that statue? That column was worth a lot of money, but even more than that, you're talking about a piece of granite that's over 125 years old. How could we have allowed a contractor to come in and destroy it the way that we did? So, I guess where I am, is I'm very confused. I'm befuddled. I want to know our next steps. I hope, Mr. Mayor, that you'll allow me to get this group of people together to go see the statue, just so I can see for my own eyes that we are doing what we said we were going to do. Even that night, I was looking through the minutes. You and I had a conversation about it, and in the minutes, you said, 'the statue will be relocated to an appropriate site,' to be determined by you in consultation with Council. 'As I announced tonight, we will also consult with local historians, led by Robert Rosen and Dr. Powers, where it will be protected, preserved, and where the history of John C. Calhoun's life will be told. Do I have an MOU in place, ready to sign? No, I do not. So, this first step will be to go ahead and remove the statue. I can assure you that it will be taken down with the most care and will be protected as we take pause, listen to historians, consult with the Commission of Equity, Inclusion, and Racial Conciliation, and come to a decision with an appropriate site. That is our pathway.'

I just don't know whether or not we're actually doing that because we haven't had a lot of discussion about it. The History Commission briefly touched on it. I don't know that Robert Rosen and other historians have been consulted. Nobody knows what kind of shape it's in. I'd love to see what kind of shape the column is in. We paid \$136,000 in a time where we have a \$40 million deficit. We let private people raise money to help out with that. Is that going to be the new thing going forward? Are we going to let private citizens impact decisions that we make on Council by giving us money? If that's the way things are going to be, we need to make sure that's the case for everything. I'm just really confused about the process and where we're going. I know getting the column down, and the statue down, was the easy part. It's what we do next that kind of signifies our legacy as a City. Whether we like it or not, history is a part of this City, and we have to still consider historical preservation. I thought we made a good decision making a common sense approach and kind of meeting in the middle and saying, 'okay, people that want it destroyed, or people that want it to stay? We can't do either of those, but what we're going to do is we're going to put it in a place of higher learning or a museum.' That could be our legacy. There are things that aren't right and that are hurtful. We all came to that conclusion. But, to me, I feel really bad about this situation because of how it's been handled since that day. So, I just wanted you to know that. I hope you will take me up on my letter asking you to get a small group of people together, so I can put my eyes on it and just make sure it's in good shape."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, great. Thank you for all those questions and comments. I didn't take notes, so I don't know if I can respond to all of what you just mentioned. But, first I want to say I never got your letter. I'm happy to arrange for you to go see the statue. When you asked about it just recently and put it on the agenda, in fact, I went out to see it myself and took pictures of it. I'm happy to share those with you, and I'm happy to take you out there, as well, to show you the statue. It's in fine condition. It was carefully removed. It is a separate matter from the rest of the whole monument. It was never the intent to relocate the statue along with the column and the pedestal and the base, which still need to be removed. We plan to come to City Council at our next meeting with a proposed contract to remove the rest of the pedestal and the base, as I call them. I must share with you about the payment from the wonderful individual. That hadn't occurred at the time of our approval to remove the statue, so it had no impact on our decision, in my view. It just saved us \$100,000. So, our out of pocket today, rather than being \$136,000, is only \$36,000. I just view that as a savings to the City that had no impact on our decision whatsoever. So, I do want to call on Edmund Most, if he's on the line. He might have gone home by now. Edmund, are you out there? Just to share with you about the removal of the column. Edmund?"

Mr. Most said, "Yes, sir, Mayor, I'm here. So, when we were tasked to do this removal, it was quite an operation. It was an operation that needed to happen in a few days. There was an enormous amount of coordination with police and protection of the site, as you all know. There was a lot of unrest in that area. After City Council, when the contractor mobilized to move forward with it, it was actually a very scary situation, Councilmember. You were not there. I was. They actually loaded us into armored vehicles. There was a lot of stuff going on. But, the contractor did not have adequate time. They didn't have any drawings of this structure. There were a lot of decisions that they needed to make in a short period of time on how to remove this. In my professional opinion, I think they did a fantastic job, given what they had to deal with there. There were actually workers that asked for bulletproof vests, who were up in cherry pickers, because they were that concerned that night. So, the contractor did their best to remove the statue, as well as the column all in one night. But, as everybody knows, there were a lot of difficulties involved with doing that process.

They got the statue removed. It was taken down with absolute care, and it was transported, but they couldn't get the column down at the same time because of the amount of work that was involved with it, and the disturbance to Calhoun Street and the public because of quarantining off the site for security reasons. So, they had to come back, and they had to remove that separately. Unfortunately, in order to do that whole operation again, it would have been an obscene amount of money because of the weight of that column. To go into that park, cut down portions of the trees to get a large crane in there, or do it from the road, the contractor just said, 'look, I've lost money on this, but we said we were going to do this for the City. We want to partner with the City and do this for them.' But, they weren't about to remobilize another crane and lose several hundred thousand dollars. They wanted to see this project through to the end. So, that removal was limited to basically pulling it down. Yes, it did damage it. Yes, that's being reused and recycled. It's going to go back into some other construction project, although not a City project. But, that was the most appropriate method at that time, given the circumstances."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, I would follow up and say that the intent of displaying the statue itself, along with being able to tell the history, is still our City's intent. I must say that after it came down, you might say it was somewhat like a hot potato. I have consulted with Robert Rosen and Dr. Powers. I feel like it's unfortunate, maybe they'll reconsider it at some point in time, that the Charleston Museum would have been, I think, the best home for the statue long-term. They had concerns about its size, that's without the pedestal or any piece of the column whatsoever, and the weight of it, and whether it would work for them or not. We have had a couple

of what I would call bonafide offers from institutions that are willing to take it. But, the Racial Conciliation Commission is really just getting going, and I wanted to give them the opportunity, as stated, to review this matter. There's a committee that will be meeting soon on culture and monuments and so forth. So, admittedly, this hasn't all happened quickly, but under the circumstances, I'm not sure that's a bad thing. In the meantime, the Washington Light Infantry and the Sumter Guards, our partners with Marion Square, as from the beginning, still expect a complete removal of the entire memorial, if you will. So, once again, I'll be coming back to Council with a proposal on that last portion. So, that's about all I can respond to at this point. Would anybody else like to be recognized on this matter? Did I see your hand up, Councilmember Mitchell?"

Councilmember Mitchell said, "I had my hand up. I just wanted to say that the statue was removed. With all due respect to my colleague, Councilman Griffin, being a young man, you don't know the history behind this at all. This statue coming down was talked about way before you thought about coming on Council. We spoke about it years ago, but we were always told that it was under the Heritage Act. That's why it did not come down then. When we found out later that it was given to the City of Charleston, to the Mayor and Council, by the Ladies of the Confederacy, that's when it changed. It became property of the City. But, this statue was coming down. People wanted it down years ago. Back in 1997, they were talking about taking the statue down. If you go back and read the minutes, you'll see what I'm talking about. But, we always got stopped because of that. Like I was telling you, even back in the time of the Civil Rights Movement, I marched up and down around that statue. My parents told me about the statue and why it was there. They raised the statue up because people defaced it. This is part of history. History is in the book. You can read all day long. But, no one wants the statue. That's the problem around here. No one really wants it because they figure if they get it and put it in their place, then there are going to be some problems, and something else will take place. That's what is going to happen.

You may shake your head, Councilmember Griffin. But, I'm just telling you some things that I heard in the community. That's why it didn't go to the museum. The museum really doesn't want it because they don't want anyone to destroy their building. It's a problem because people still have some hurt feelings about that, even with what's happening in that particular area with the statue, the way it was portrayed to us, and the way it was portrayed to my parents, my grandparents, my great grandparents. We knew the history involved with this. You came up way after this. I told you, you are younger than my children and younger than my grands. They knew about the history, but then people don't respect us knowing our history. They talk about it, but they don't want to really talk about it because if you look at the action of the individual, you can tell the difference. What I'm saying is, yes, the statue came down. Yes, we said that the statue would be placed in a space for history, because it's history that people can go and see. They can tell the true history about the individual, but right now, I don't think anybody even wants the statue that we know of. People want to buy it. They want to take it away from here. So, we have to wait until we find that place for it to go. I was out there when it came down. I think you came by a couple of times to watch it. They'll find a place for it sooner than later. Someone will take it to display it and tell the true history on both sides, so people would know both sides of the history of the statue itself. I think that's what it's going to be. We're not going to throw it away because we said on Council that's not what we're going to do. I'm going to make sure it's being done that way myself. It's history. But, a lot of people aren't thinking that way. They were hurt because of those things, and you couldn't even imagine what people went through. You can't even imagine what I went through because you were not here. We will try to preserve the history of the statue and tell the story on both sides, the true story. That's the only way. If you want to bring up history, you can really see history. So, we have to find a way with Robert Rosen and whoever's looking at it,

to make sure they find a place that is suitable, and someone is willing to take it, preserve it, and make sure it will not be destroyed once they bring it up. That's another thing you will have to look at, too."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Appel.

Councilmember Appel said, "I just can't help myself. I have to read a statement, or a sentence from the Charleston Museum's letter, talking about John C. Calhoun. 'He was not a Charleston figure, and as such, his biographical history does not fit with the Museum's general purpose and mission of interpreting the cultural and natural history of Charleston in the Low country.' Not a Charleston figure, kind of makes you wonder what he was doing up there and what message it was trying to send. I think we're wasting time reiterating this, talking about the historic value of a column and contracts. We have so many more important things to do. It's getting late. What are we even talking about? I leave with one question. Have we tried to send it up to Clemson?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We have had an offer from an out of town organization but, again, I just thought, at this point, to let things cool off a little bit and let a little time go by, and let's see who's really interested in helping us tell the story and find a good home for it. That's kind of where we are."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Griffin.

Councilmember Griffin said, "It's just unbelievable some of the disrespect. I actually pushed this off two weeks because we were running late last meeting. Just like you have every right, Ross, to bring something up to Council, so do I. But, I'm not going to disrespect you when you bring something up to Council. So, I don't expect you to disrespect me. In terms of Councilmember Mitchell, I hope that I can live a long life like you. But, when I'm an older man, I'm certainly not going to try to degrade young people by saying all the time, 'well, you weren't around, so you don't know any better.' We've got to do better, guys. This is pathetic. It's just really, really pathetic. That's it. I don't have anything else to say this meeting."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, sir. So, next, I think we've taken care of this, Councilmember Griffin, the discussion regarding the walking tours, but if you want to add anything else on that. With the fact that we did not renew the stay-at-home ordinance, as I explained, that kind of resolved, I think, your concern with that. So, next is our Council Committee reports. First up is our Committee on Traffic and Transportation."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Seekings.

Councilmember Seekings said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and fellow Councilmembers. I may lose my battery here. I don't have my plug with me. So, if I do, Vice Chairman Brady, if you will take over for me, I'd appreciate it. Thank you very much. The Committee on Traffic and Transportation met about seven marches ago, or maybe that was this afternoon at 3:00 p.m., I don't know. We actually had a pretty interesting meeting. I would encourage anybody who's interested to tune into these meetings. It's especially easy now that we're doing it via Zoom. We had a discussion about Calhoun and St. Philip Streets and the Road Safety Audit that's being done by Stantec and Mr. Gillis, with the participation of our T&T team, Mr. Benjamin, who I see has chimed in here. Way past his bedtime, but that's okay. Thanks for being with us. The County, actually the DOT, is involved, as well. If you've been on those corridors, you know they're dangerous. There's been a number of recommendations that have been made from walking

crossings, left turn signals, some traffic calming measures, some bike/ped facilities. The good news that we heard today, I think, Keith, it was from the DOT or the County, is that these projects are actually, there's money to do them. So, if we can get them designed and put in place, we might actually be able to get some improvements to what is one of the busiest streets, not just on the Peninsula, but in the City. That's Calhoun Street and the intersecting streets going towards the College of Charleston. More to come on that.

We had some discussion about the non-consensual towing ordinance. We'll bring that back to you. You may recall that we made an adjustment to it at the last City Council meeting at about 11:37 p.m. For those of you who don't remember that, we squared up West Ashley so that, for nonconsensual tows, you wouldn't just get paid \$30 for towing an illegally parked car on private property. You would actually get paid a little bit more. We're going to try to bring back an ordinance to T&T that squares it up City-wide. It may be graded. That was a request of the Mayor. So, more to come on that.

We got an update, and thank you very much, from Mr. Most and Mr. Kronsberg, about the Build Grant West Ashley River Bridge. A lot is going on with that. Earlier at Ways and Means, we approved the first contract for that project with our consultants. So, that project is on course and moving forward. It's complicated. There's a lot to be done. I see Mr. Most is still on here if he wants to chime in, but the best course of action, at this point, I heard someone talk about this earlier, I think it was you, Councilmember Gregorie, is to leave staff to do their job. They are ready to do their job on this. They will give us reports as needed and, if not, we'll get a report back from Mr. Most and his team and consultants in January to keep you up to date on what's going on across the Ashley River. We're moving forward.

We got an update from Mr. Somerville on traffic calming. They had a busy year in 2020. Congratulations to them. We're still in the business of providing traffic calming, so if any of your constituents are looking for traffic calming, bring it to T&T, and we'll see if we can accommodate you. We will have some monies, I do believe, even after a tough budget year in 2021. The most recent installation of traffic calming that has been successful is over in Councilmember Appel's district on Sothel Avenue. I think that was a success. So, we're still in that business. A lot is going on around the City when it comes to T&T. None of those things require approval from you all, but I do think you need to know that the bridge across the Ashley is going on. There are some projects that the County seems to have funded, so we will try to keep things moving forward and keep you up to date. Mr. Benjamin, it's now 10:25 p.m., do you have anything to add?"

Mr. Benjamin said, "Absolutely not."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Alright, so seventh March at 10:25 p.m. That concludes my report. Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and fellow Councilmembers. Councilmember Brady, you're off the hook until next time. I've got 2% left on my computer."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, Councilmember Seekings. That kind of zoomed on past Ways and Means, but the contract to go to the 30% design is a big accomplishment for our bike/ped bridge. That's really a big deal. The complications of this Federal grant, and just getting everybody's approval in order to do what we approved tonight, took an incredible amount of work on staff's part. They've really done a yeoman's job on that."

Councilmember Seekings said, "I do think we need to shout out to Mr. Most and Mr. Kronsberg about that, Mr. Mayor. I see Edmund is still on here."

Mr. Benjamin said, "And Terry."

Mr. Kronsberg said, "If I can just jump in here, Terry is our private manager that we hired to manage this project. She is a professional engineer, and she's got about 15 years of experience. She was going to be on this call to make a presentation, but it's her birthday. She was in a closet and waiting for her time up, so Edmund and I gave her a little bit of reprieve to go and enjoy her birthday party. We'll introduce Terry at the next meeting when we bring an update to T&T. Anyway, she has done a great job. She has gotten down into the weeds on this project. She has really taken it by the horns. This contract will bring us to 30% design drawings. We'll hit our deadline for the RFQ, RFP, in September of next year, and it has been a lot of work. This will set us up, as soon as we get approval from the FHWA, with the pre-award approval letter, we'll issue a notice to proceed, and the design team is ready to start rolling. As the Mayor referenced, and I think I referenced once already, this will bring us through September 2021. We'll have 30% drawings. It will also set us up with the RFP, at which point we will advertise for the design/build contractor team to start the construction of this project at that point in time, just a little bit after that September deadline. Again, a lot of details, a lot of moving parts. That sounded a lot easier than it was, but it's really a monumental moment for the City."

Councilmember Seekings said, "And not to put any added pressure on you all, but the eyes of both sides of the Ashley River are on you. So, go forward and prosper. You have to make us all look good. Everyone is waiting for this one."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Absolutely. Well, thank you for that report. Next up is Committee on Public Works."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, "Mr. Mayor, I'm going to outlast Councilman Seekings on his report. Items (i) and (ii), as well as the ordinance, B, as shown on your agenda, passed our Committee unanimously, and I so move this adoption at City Council."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Second."

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

- (i). Barberry Woods Drainage Improvement – Approval of Fee Amendment #1 with WK Dickson & Co., Inc. in the amount of \$192,745.00 for additional engineering and design services for drainage improvements in the Barberry Woods area of Johns Island. This work is funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Grant and the Drainage Fund to evaluate existing drainage ways within Johns Island for preservation and natural system restoration.
- (ii). Barberry Woods Drainage Improvement – Approval of a Professional Services Contract with The Water Institute of the Gulf in the amount of \$42,255.00 for Masterplan Services as part of the Johns Island Restoration Plan to Improve Flood Resiliency. This work is funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Grant and the Drainage Fund.

- b. An ordinance amending Chapter 27 of the Code of the City of Charleston, by amending Flood Hazard Prevention and Control Requirements in Section 27-105 to reference FEMA's updated flood insurance study for Charleston County, effective January 29, 2021.

First reading was given to the following bill from Public Works and Utilities:

An ordinance amending Chapter 27 of the Code of the City of Charleston, by amending Flood Hazard Prevention and Control Requirements in Section 27-105 to reference FEMA's updated flood insurance study for Charleston County, effective January 29, 2021.

Councilmember Waring said, "That's the extent of my report, Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "That ordinance, by the way, will start a process for our approval of the new FEMA flood maps that will go into effect January 29th of next year. Those maps are available online, and Stephen Julka can get them to you if you need them. Alright, next up, Committee on Ways and Means."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie.

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Move for approval."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Second."

On a motion of Councilmember Gregorie, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the Committee on Ways and Means report as presented:

(Budget Finance and Revenue Collections: An ordinance authorizing the issuance of City of Charleston Public Facilities Corporation Installment Purchase Revenue Bonds (City of Charleston Project), Series 2020; authorizing the execution and delivery of certain instruments relating to the issuance and sale of the aforesaid bonds, each between the City of Charleston, South Carolina and City of Charleston Public Facilities Corporation, a Bond Purchase Agreement among the City, City of Charleston Public Facilities Corporation and the underwriter, and a preliminary official statement and an official statement; and other matters relating thereto.

(Police Department: Approval to accept the 2020 VOCA grant in the amount of \$74,826 for the salaries and fringe benefits of (1) Elder Advocate and (1) Resource Specialist that reports to the CPD Family Violence Unit. A cash match of \$18,707 is requested to be budgeted.

(Police Department: Approval to accept the 2020 Port Security Grant in the amount of \$274,766 for the Munson Retrofit and the Night Vision and Laser Designator for Harbor Patrol and SWAT. A cash match of \$91,589 is requested to be budgeted for 2021.

(Parks-Capital Projects: Approval of an Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding with the Charleston County School District for cost share of the construction of a track around Stoney Field by Gulfstream Construction. Work will include a surcharge program, building a retaining wall along the marsh, cut of wall at each stadium face, perimeter fencing and the base and asphalt surface course. The City's share of this will be \$460,895 (50% of the bid price of \$921,790). Approval of this MOU will obligate \$460,895 of the \$3,018,480.50 project budget. Funding sources for this project are: 2005 GO Bond (\$399,048), 2018 GO Bond (\$2,600,000) and Capital Contribution (\$19,432.50).

- (Parks-Capital Projects: Approval of the Ashley River Pedestrian Bridge Professional Services Contract with HDR Engineering, Inc. of Charleston in the amount of \$2,009,112.81 for design build contract support, contingent upon FHWA approval of pre-award costs. Work performed under this contract is necessary to bid the Design Build Contract by next fall in order to obligate the FHWA Build Grant funding. The City has been working under the direction of FHWA with assistance from SCDOT to negotiate the contract with HDR that is in compliance with Federal guidelines. Approval of this professional services contract will obligate \$2,009,112.81 of the \$22,749,750 project budget. Funding sources for this project are: BUILD Grant, Charleston County, General Fund Reserves and MUSC. Notice to proceed will not be given to contractor until City has received approval award letter from FHWA and subsequent funding from Charleston County.
- (Parks-Capital Projects: Approval of International African American Museum GMP Change Order #5 with Turner Construction Company in the amount of \$229,150 for changes to include low voltage and revision to track lighting as coordinated with exhibitry. Approval of Change Order #5 will increase the Guarantee Maximum Price (GMP) Contract by \$229,150 (from \$58,892,872 to \$59,122,022). This change order is fully funded by the IAAM. Funding sources for this project are: Accommodations Tax (\$13,200,000), Charleston County Accommodations Tax (\$12,500,000), State Funding (\$14,000,000), IAAM Contributions (\$53,000,000).
- (Stormwater Management: Approval of the Johns Island Restoration Plan to improve flood resiliency professional services contract with The Water Institute of the Gulf in the amount of \$42,255 for Masterplan Services as part of the John's Island Restoration Plan to improve flood resiliency. The professional services contract will obligate \$42,255 of the project budget. Funding for this project is coming from a National Fish & Wildlife Grant (\$117,500) and Drainage Fund (\$117,500).
- (Stormwater Management: Approval of Barberry Woods Improvements Fee Amendment #1 with WK Dickson & Co., Inc. in the amount of \$192,745 for additional engineering and design services for drainage improvements in the Barberry Woods area of Johns Island. This fee amendment will add an additional 60 calendar days to the contract. Approval of Fee Amendment #1 will increase the professional services contract by \$192,745 (from \$498,050 to \$690,795). Funding for this fee amendment is coming from a National Fish & Wildlife Grant (\$117,500) and Drainage Fund (\$117,500).
- (Housing and Community Development: Mayor and City Council are asked to approve the Coordinated Agency System Agreement that allows staff to participate with Charleston County and Service Providers across the Tri-County area to address a continuum of care for persons who are frequently in contact with the criminal justice system. The Homelessness Coordinator is the individual from the Department of Housing and Community Development that participates in these discussions and recommendations.
- (Planning, Preservation, and Sustainability (Business and Neighborhood Services): Approval to submit a grant application to Municipal Association of South Carolina in the amount of \$25,000 for the implementation of new wayfinding signage in the Central Business District. BNS plans to submit the application by September 25, 2020. There is a 15% match. The City match will be in-kind by accounting for Business and Neighborhood Services staff time and fringe benefits.
- (Discussion of report from Bennett Preservation Engineering
- (Parks-Capital Projects: Approval of a Professional Services contract with Bennett Preservation Engineering, PC, in the amount of \$89,355 for engineering services related to the partial removal and preservation of the St. Julian Devine Community Center Smoke Stacks. Approval of this engineering contract will obligate \$89,355 of the project budget \$3,110,000. Funding sources for this project are: 2015 General Fund Reserves (\$250,000)

- 2018 General Fund Reserves (\$400,000), Cooper River Bridge TIF (\$2,250,000), and Charleston Parks Conservancy Contribution (\$210,000). (*DEFERRED*)
- (Parks-Capital Projects: Approval of a Construction Contract with Demolition Environmental Company, LLC (DECO) in the amount of \$485,990 for the partial demolition, removal and preservation of the twin smoke stacks located at the St. Julian Devine Community Center. 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 \$485,990 of the project budget \$3,110,000. Funding sources for this project are: 2015 General Fund Reserves (\$250,000), 2018 General Fund Reserves (\$400,000), Cooper River Bridge TIF (\$2,250,000), and Charleston Parks Conservancy Contribution (\$210,000). (*DEFERRED*))
- (Request authorization for the Mayor to execute a change order to the Agreement for Voluntary Cleanup Contract Services (Revision 1) Housing Parcel (VCC 17-6523-NRP) (the "VCC") from S&ME, Inc., relating to that certain parcel, containing 0.71 acres, more or less, located at the southern terminus of F Street (Charleston County TMS No. 4600404118) pursuant to the attached "Change to Agreement for Services" with S&ME, Inc. The change order would increase the scope of services S&ME proposes to perform on the site, as required under the VCC, to include additional soil quality assessment and to prepare a corrective measures ("CMP") and media management plan ("MMP"). SCDHEC will require these additional measures under the VCC. The change order will increase the total contract price from \$76,945.00 to \$86,110.00, for a total increase of \$9,165.00.
- (Authorize the Mayor to execute an MOU with Enough Pie for the installation of an artistic mural on the I-26 bridge columns between Cypress and Romney Streets near the Vivian Moultrie Playground. (41 Ashley Avenue – Vivian Anderson Moultrie Park)
- (Approve an Agreement to Buy and Sell Real Estate between the City and Shade Tree Holdings, LLC, a South Carolina limited liability company, for the sale of approximately 3.329 acres located on Wildst Battery Dr. (at the intersection of Maybank Hwy. and Wildst Battery Dr. on Johns Island), to the City for the purchase price of \$800,000. (TMS: 313-00-00-337)
- (Consider the following annexation:
- 1858 Christian Road (TMS# 353-14-00-095) 0.22 acre, West Ashley (District 7). The property is owned by William J. and Elizabeth K. Trull.

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

An ordinance authorizing the issuance of City of Charleston Public Facilities Corporation Installment Purchase Revenue Bonds (City of Charleston Project), Series 2020; authorizing the execution and delivery of certain instruments relating to the issuance and sale of the aforesaid bonds, each between the City of Charleston, South Carolina and City of Charleston Public Facilities Corporation, a Bond Purchase Agreement among the City, City of Charleston Public Facilities Corporation and the underwriter, and a preliminary official statement and an official statement; and other matters relating thereto.

An ordinance to provide for the annexation of property known as 1858 Christian Rd (0.22 acre) (TMS# 353-14-00-095), West Ashley, Charleston County, to the City of Charleston, shown within the area annexed upon a map attached hereto and make it part of District 7. The property is owned by William J and Elizabeth K Trull.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "That included our Real Estate report, by the way, that included the acquisition of a piece of property on Johns Island for a second fire station that will be built over on Johns Island. It's a great location. So, thanks to Leigh Bailey and the Fire Department for

finally figuring that out and getting us a good property to provide more service for our citizens over there. Okay, now for third reading, we have three ordinances up.”

Councilmember Mitchell said, “Move for approval of one, two, and three.”

Councilmember Shealy said, “Second.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “We have a motion to approve and a second. We approve the Church Creek Stormwater Drainage Basin authority, at least giving it a second reading, providing for the sale of our refinance our stormwater bonds, which is going to save us some money, and an annexation. Any discussion?”

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Mitchell, three (3) bills (Item L-1 through L-3) received second reading. They passed second reading on motion by Councilmember Shealy and third reading on motion by Councilmember Mitchell. On further motion of Councilmember Shealy, the rules were suspended, and the bills were immediately ratified as:

- 2020 - 131 -** AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 27, STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND FLOOD CONTROL, TO ADD AN ADDITIONAL ARTICLE TO BE NUMBERED AS ARTICLE IV, AND TITLED CHURCH CREEK STORMWATER DRAINAGE BASIN AUTHORITY WHOSE PURPOSE IS TO REVIEW, RANK, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL ON THE SELECTION OF CHURCH CREEK STORMWATER DRAINAGE BASIN PROJECTS, PRIORITY, AND FUNDING
- 2020 - 132 -** A SUPPLEMENTAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF ONE OR MORE SERIES OF CITY OF CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, STORMWATER SYSTEM REFUNDING REVENUE BONDS; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.
- 2020 - 133 -** AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ANNEXATION OF PROPERTY KNOWN AS 1569 N PINEBARK LN (APPROXIMATELY 0.27 ACRE) (TMS# 353-15-00-033), WEST ASHLEY, CHARLESTON COUNTY, TO THE CITY OF CHARLESTON, SHOWN WITHIN THE AREA ANNEXED UPON A MAP ATTACHED HERETO AND MAKE IT PART OF DISTRICT 7. THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY ELIZABETH AND NICHOLAS CURRY.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Next, there are no bills up for first reading. So, the last piece of business is to advise you that our next regular meeting will be three weeks from now on Tuesday, October 13th. But, I may be in touch with you about having an interim workshop meeting for us to take up our discussion on Laurel Island and any other matters that we want to take up in the meantime. Anything else for the good of the order?”

Councilmember Seekings said, “Mr. Mayor, if I can just very briefly, I want to thank you, Mr. Mayor, and fellow Councilmembers, for the kind card you all sent me. It has been quite a summer at the Seekings’ family household, and your thoughts and well wishes really are taken to heart. I appreciate it. I really do. I got the card yesterday, so thank you very much.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "God bless you. We hope your recovery continues on. Councilmember Mitchell, did you have something else?"

Councilmember Mitchell said, "No, I was giving a thumbs up to Councilman Seekings. God bless you, and good health."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Good night everybody. Thank you for the long meeting. I appreciate it. A lot of good stuff happened and good conversation. Thank you so much."

There being no further business, City Council adjourned at 10:26 p.m.

Jennifer Cook
Interim Clerk of Council