

**CITY COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING**

Regular Meeting

October 13, 2020

The one-hundred and fifth meeting of the City Council of Charleston was held this date convening at 5:32 p.m. over video conference call (Zoom).

A notice of this meeting and an agenda were made available on the City’s website October 7, 2020 and appeared in the Post and Courier on October 12, 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 5:32 p.m.

The Clerk called the roll.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Councilmember Jackson was here, and Councilmember Waring might be having a little challenge getting on. I see him online right now and, Councilmember Waring, we just called the roll. We’re counting you present, and you are on our agenda to give our invocation if everyone would like to join. Councilmember Waring.”

Councilmember Waring said, “Thank you, Mr. Mayor. In entering to pray, I’m saying a prayer for the pandemic. It’s actually not mine. It’s actually by a lady. Her name is Cameron Bellow. She is actually out in Seattle. She is a Mom and a homemaker. Let us pray.”

Councilmember Waring opened the meeting with an invocation.

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

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Thank you, Councilmember Waring. That was a lovely prayer. I would like to note Councilmembers and those who are on the line the passing of two amazing individuals and citizens of the City of Charleston. I will be presenting a proclamation from Council at their family services from myself and from you all, and that’s to Ade Ofunniyin, lovingly known as ‘Dr. O,’ who founded and headed up the Gullah Society. He was the grandson of the famous Philip Simmons, and he was an amazing person. He helped us not too long ago, the City, with reinterment of remains that were uncovered at the Gaillard. He was just an amazing individual.

In addition, our City suffered the loss of Judge Bernard Fielding, who served many years in the Probate Court and whose family is well recognized here in their funeral services business and an amazing individual, attorney, Judge, business person, human being in Judge Fielding. So, I do want to note their extreme value to our City and their passing.

We do have two proclamations. The first is one recognizing, he's a friend of all of us I should say, and that's Quintin Washington, and this was proposed by Councilwoman Delcioppo and Councilmember Griffin, but I must say, Quintin, we all consider you our friend, and this proclamation goes out from all of us."

Mayor Tecklenburg read the proclamation.

---INSERT PROCLAMATION---

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I'd like to call on Councilwoman Delcioppo and Councilmember Griffin if they have any remarks and then from Mr. Washington."

Councilwoman Delcioppo said, "Well, Quintin, you are a treasure, and as much as I could go on and on about you, I actually had a few familiar faces who can express that probably a whole lot better than I could. So, here we go."

Councilwoman Delcioppo played a video for City Council.

Raymond Owens said, "Hey, Quintin, this is Raymond Owens over at News 2. About a week or two ago, I was talking to another friend of mine in the business about one of your interviews and how much I got out of it. I just want to say keep doing great journalism and congratulations on the proclamation."

Christian Senger said, "Quintin, congratulations on being honored by City Council tonight. I'm so happy for you, and it's so well deserved. I have always admired your hard work and dedication to providing community service here in the Charleston area, and I know so many others are appreciative of all that you do for this community. It's an amazing service, and thank you for doing that. I know you don't do it for the accolades or the recognition, but this is well deserved. Keep doing what you're doing with Quintin's Close-Ups. You're so appreciated in this City."

Bill Sharpe said, "Quintin Washington, this is Bill Sharpe, and congratulations on this proclamation. If anybody deserves it, Quintin, it is you. You have interviewed so many Lowcountry personalities, TV personalities, and others, including 'moi,' yours truly, and you always do a great job. You let the personality, himself or herself, tell the story, and that's, I think, one of the best things you do. One of the many good things, excellent things, about your interviewing, Quintin, is you let people tell their story. So, once again, Quintin Washington, we love you. We think you're terrific, and this proclamation is well deserved. I'm Bill Sharpe, Live 5 News, and Quintin, I'm proud to call you a friend."

Brian Hicks said, "Every time I finish an interview with Quintin, I walk away saying, so that's what that feels like. Quintin knows everything that's going on in this community. He always does his homework, and he asks the right questions. Sometimes it's a tough question. Quintin is the very definition of community journalist, but as much as anyone that he interviews, Quintin Washington is providing a public service to Charleston."

Leyla Gulen said, "Hello, my name is Leyla Gulen, and I am the host of News Now on Fox 24. When I moved here five years ago, I soon realized that I chose the right community to be a part of. When I met Quintin Washington for the first time, he had asked to interview me, and I quickly learned that I was about to join a very impressive roster of individuals whom he chose to tell their stories. His commitment to community, his determination getting interviews I can't even get, and his commitment to telling stories is an inspiration, and I am so proud to call him a peer, a colleague, but most importantly, a friend. Love you, Quintin."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Thank you, Councilwoman Delcioppo. Councilmember Griffin."

Councilmember Griffin said, "Yes, sir. Thank you so much. Quintin, you have a special place in my heart. From the first moment I met you, I was so nervous. I didn't even have a suit at the time I was running for office. I was wearing like some sort of leather jacket, and you didn't dismiss me even though I'm sure you could tell I had no idea what I was talking about. You just looked at me, you made me feel special, and you gave me a platform for the first time. I have never ever turned down a request from you, and I never will because in my eyes, you are what Charleston is. You are somebody who always brings optimism. You always have a smile on your face. You make us all better people, and you never sugar coat anything. You don't throw softballs. You make us do our jobs better, and we're very, very lucky to have you in this City. God bless you always, and thank you for your friendship. Everybody here is a friend to you because you've never met a stranger, and I hope you know that while there may be a few people around this City that don't show you the respect that you've earned, everybody on this Council and 99.9 percent of this community love you with our whole hearts."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, Councilmember. Mr. Washington. Again, Happy Quintin Washington Day. Would you like to have a response and share a comment with us, sir? We can't hear you, but Happy Quintin Washington Day. So, we have one other proclamation. This is recognizing the 230<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Carolina Youth Development Center, and they're almost as old as the City of Charleston, not quite, but any organization that's been around for 230 years in our City deserves recognition, but particularly when you do such good things. So, if you will indulge me."

Mayor Tecklenburg read the proclamation.

---INSERT PROCLAMATION---

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Brady.

Councilmember Brady said, "Yes, thank you, Mr. Mayor, and if you hear my dog barking in the background, I apologize. But, I have the distinct pleasure of working for the Carolina Youth Development Center and being able to come to work every day. It's an immense sense of pride not just for the long history, but for the good that we get to do day in and day out here in the community. I'm sorry, Bev. I don't have a video, but I would love to turn it over to our CEO Beverly Hardin and hear a few words from her, as well."

Beverly Hardin said, "Thank you so much, Mayor, and thank you so much to the City Council for this wonderful recognition. We really, really appreciate it. It is quite the milestone, and we're so proud to be celebrating our 230<sup>th</sup> birthday. That just doesn't happen very often. We really appreciate the proclamation. We are so thankful that through hurricanes, and wars, and floods, and now a pandemic, our 230-year legacy has proudly withstood the test of time. Through

it all, we've grown, changed, transformed, and we continue to ensure care, healing, and preparation for South Carolina's children and families. Thank you for this proclamation, and thank you for your commitment and service to our community and our children and families."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "God bless you. Thank you for the work that you do. It's really amazing."

Councilmember Griffin said, "Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes, sir."

Councilmember Griffin said, "I think Quintin has found a way to unmute himself and would like to say a few words."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Oh, great. Quintin, are you there?"

Mr. Washington said, "Thank you to obviously Councilwoman Marie Delcioppo and obviously Councilman Harry Griffin for this proclamation, and thanks to the City Council, as well. This is home. I love what I do, and it's my job to hold you all accountable and get the truth out of you, and I hope I can continue to do that. I hope I can continue to provide a public service to this community. So, thank you so much."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "You're most welcome. You do provide an amazing service to our community, Quintin."

Mr. Washington said, "Thank you."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie.

Councilmember Gregorie said, "I just wanted to tell Quintin, I'm coming Quintin. I know it's been a couple of years. It's coming, alright, soon."

There was laughter.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Councilmember Appel, did you have your hand up?"

Councilmember Appel said, "Mayor, I was just going to say that Quintin had found a way to unmute himself, and now that I've got the floor, I just want to recognize Quintin. He is the man. In a time when media is bias from the left and from the right, you're never going to find a more straight shooter than Quintin Washington. All I'll say for any news media outlets nationally, regionally, locally that are watching, you will hire yourself one amazing journalist if you're looking for one right now. They don't make them better than Quintin Washington."

Mr. Washington said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I want to say congratulations, but he has a unique place in this community. Investigative journalism, he comes with a smile, and I

promise you after the hard questions, and everything's over with, he's going to leave with a smile, and you will, too. I don't know many people in investigative journalism that come out that way, but look at all of the online interviews. Look at the beginning and look at the end. The interviewee, as well as Quintin, is smiling afterward. He's just a friend to everyone. Thank you so much for what you do, Quintin."

Mr. Washington said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, Quintin. Is there anyone else?"

No one else asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, while we recognize folks, he is not expecting this and might even be embarrassed, but I wanted to thank Councilmember Appel and his wife, Alexis, for coordinating and providing a luncheon one day recently for our public service workers, particularly our environmental services workers. They work so hard. They're on the frontline every day looking after our City and serving our citizens, and Councilmember, thank you for going out of the way to provide a Rodney Scott barbeque luncheon for everybody. I think it was the week before last. I appreciate that thought and effort. We do have one public hearing, and it's a requirement of this Justice Assistance Grant. So, I'm going to ask Chelsea Taylor, I believe, from the Police Department to maybe set this up, and then we'll see if anybody has any comments. Chelsea, welcome."

Chelsea Taylor said, "Thank you, Mayor. Thank you, Councilmembers. I'm actually going to pass it off first to Deputy Chief Broughton, who is on the call. She is going to provide a brief overview on some of our collaboration with mental health practitioners in the area and the programs that CPD has been undertaking, and then I'll probably take it back over from there after she's had the opportunity to speak."

Deputy Chief Naomi Broughton said, "Thank you, Chelsea. Mr. Mayor, City Councilmembers, thank you so much for giving me this opportunity to talk about something that I'm passionate about and the Police Department is passionate about and is so important for the success of our collaboration with our other agencies. In 2014, we saw a need to work with our mental health Charleston/Dorchester County Mental Health on some of the issues we're dealing with, and we entered into an agreement that we were the first Police Department in the State to embed a mental health professional in our Police Department. What started out to be just a program to focus on children who witness violent crimes or any crimes has morphed into something else. Every child who witnesses some kind of violence is touched by a mental health professional or victim advocate, and that's like I say, never been done in the State before. It's a model that has now led to nine departments in the Tri-county area looking at our program and receiving grants to provide mental health professionals in their department. It brings that mental health professional to our department where every morning our victim advocates, our detectives, our mental health professionals can look at the reports, can look at who needs to be contacted to get the assistance to these children, which now has grown to any victim of crime. It does a lot of other things, and I can talk for hours, but I don't think we have the time for that tonight."

I just want to say that our mental health professional, Denise Jones, who we've had for the last six years and is leaving us for a wonderful promotion with the Department of Mental Health, went well above and beyond what we required from the initial program. Denise would go out on calls with us. She would do commitment papers, she would follow up relentlessly with people who experienced a mental health crisis, she would collaborate with detectives, she would

collaborate with officers to make sure they went back to the house and saw some of these children. It's such a wonderful program that we're so proud of, and I can't say enough about what Denise has done, but it also led to a lot more collaborations with Dr. Fucell and the Charleston Center with Kristy Danford and CCCJ. Like I said, I don't want to take all of Chelsea's fire because I'll talk for hours. I just want to say this grant is an opportunity to continue to be at the forefront of dealing with issues in law enforcement that are very difficult and sometimes challenging. Any time we can get training, any time we can collaborate, any time we can give tools to our officers to ensure that we're providing that population of mental health, substance abuse disorder, and homelessness, it's a win for the whole City. So, I ask you to please look at this grant and help us get those tools we need to be so successful and be the model that we are throughout the State. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, DC Broughton. Thank you for all you do. Chelsea, back to you."

Ms. Taylor said, "Yes, sir. Thank you all. I want just to touch a little bit on the purpose of the JAG grant. This is actually a formula grant, so the City was allocated a certain amount of funding to use towards a variety of funding objectives. So, the purpose of this grant is essentially going to be able to allow the department to revisit our calls for service and identify some of those calls for service that are low level crimes. So, from my perspective, as the grant coordinator, having that data available is extremely helpful when we're pursuing other competitive grants to try to look at co-responder teams. Further, it's going to train an entire team of subject matter experts who will be familiar with the justice system. I also wanted to just provide a brief overview of the work CPD has undertaken related to the opioid epidemic, and this is also through our community partnerships and other grant opportunities. It should be noted that while the programs that I'll discuss began as a responses to the opioid epidemic, these initiatives ultimately seek to identify rehabilitative response to all substance use disorders. Further, we recognize that many of the justice involved individuals suffering from substance use disorders are experiencing co-occurring disorders of mental illness, and as DC Broughton noted, may also suffer from housing instability, and as such, the department continues to pursue this subject matter expertise and research evidence based programs that encompass an access to a resource for all of these issues. So, I do just want to start by saying all of our officers have been trained in naloxone deployment and carry it with them while on duty. Several of our officers have emotional stories about their experience administering Narcan, and we do hope to gather those and share them with the public in the near future to bring awareness about these issues in our community.

Since February of 2019, CPD has been a partner agency in the Addiction Crisis Task Force, which is a conglomerate of County stakeholders that range from law enforcement and treatment facilities, peer support groups, non-profit organizations among many, many, many others. The task force was spearheaded by U.S. District Court Judge Bruce Hendricks, and it essentially pulls together experts across these fields to identify gaps in services. Since joining the task force, CPD has made improvements to our data collection and mainly our overdose tracking. This past February, we joined with the Charleston County Sheriff's Office and the Charleston Center to form the Metro Quick Response Team. The goal of this team is to respond to an overdose within a 48-hour period and connect that individual with the pathway to recovery. We had about five CPD officers, many of who have personal connections to the opioid epidemic, who volunteered to be on this team and received training from the Charleston Center on the language of recovery, the science behind substance use disorders, and actions that they can take to reduce stigmas surrounding substance use disorder.

When we look at this program and practice, essentially, a CPD Quick Response Officer will be notified that an overdose occurred. They will then contact and pair up with the Peer Recovery Coach at the Charleston Center, and then the two of them attempt to contact the individual and offer them local resources. Unfortunately, as I'm sure a lot of you can imagine, this program has been significantly limited due to the Coronavirus pandemic, but we do look forward to growing this program and plan to evaluate its efficiency after this pilot phase. In addition to our involvement with the Addiction Crisis Task Force, we did recently receive a grant from the Police Assisted Addiction Recovery Initiative. This organization is best known by its acronym PAARI, and this is to hire on a capacity building position through their AmeriCorps VISTA list of programs. So, the position will assist the Metro Quick Response Team and the task force, both evaluating our current programs related to mental health, substance use, and housing instability. They're going to assist us with researching credible co-responder models and solidify our existing community partnerships. So, we have not yet hired anyone for this position. Applicants are prescreened through PAARI, but we are looking forward to the opportunity to support and create non-arrest pathways to treatment and recovery, and hopefully, we'll be able to take more informed strides towards this goal with the support of our community partners. So, I'm happy to answer any specific questions that I can related to these grants or the grant that's currently on for public hearing, and I thank you for your time."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you so much, Chelsea. Madam Clerk, did we have anyone from the public sign up to say anything about this?"

The Clerk said, "We did not have anyone sign up to speak on this matter."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Are there any questions or comments on this matter?"

Councilmember Griffin said, "I move for approval."

Councilmember Shealy said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilwoman Jackson.

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Thank you, Mayor. Thank you so much for being with us, Deputy Chief and Chelsea. I'm sorry I don't know your title, but I know you're doing great work for the CPD bringing in very innovative and collaborative opportunities, and I think that's just really a no brainer, to sort of make the obvious point that we are hoping to impress the community and win a lot of friends for our Public Safety Division, and the way that we are approaching doing our jobs in the community for people. We all know that there are many reasons that the police are on the frontline, but dealing with the kinds of conditions and situations that you were just explaining to us, Chelsea. So, I do feel like as much as we can make those connections for people, so we're not seen as some monolithic policing department, but we are doing the work that the community needs done to provide true safety and health for our citizens. I just can't be more proud to be on this team with you all, hearing a little bit behind the scenes what you and Wendy Stiver are doing in recent months. It's just amazing to think that we have these jumping off places that we can all go together. So, thank you so much for being with us. I really appreciate what you told us tonight."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, Councilmember. Is there anyone else?"

No one else asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Griffin, seconded by Councilmember Shealy, City Council voted unanimously to approve the following item:

*Approval to accept the 2020 Justice Assistance Grant for \$27,875 to fund overtime costs for the CIU and training related to police-mental health collaboration. There is no match required for this grant.*

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, Chelsea, Chief, Deputy Chief, all of you, thank you so much, and it just shows the holistic approach to public safety and policing that the Charleston Police Department I think is becoming well known for. If you think about mental illness issues, domestic violence, victims of domestic violence, victims of child abuse, opioid and substance abuse issues, it's just an incredible holistic approach in addition to the main stage of crime enforcement, law enforcement that you all provide our community. It's just amazing. Thank you. Alright. So, next is our approval of City Council minutes. I think we've got September 22<sup>nd</sup>."

Councilmember Shahid said, "So moved."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Are there any additions or deletions?"

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Shahid, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell, City Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 City Council meeting.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Next, Madam Clerk, is our Citizens Participation Period. If you would lead that for us, I would appreciate it."

The Clerk said, "We have nine people signed up to speak and, Mayor, would you like to set a time limit?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes. Let's allow two minutes each because we also need a little time for you to share with us the e-mails, phone calls, and things like that, that we've received."

1. Zoe Berg said she was the Project Manager for Americans for Responsible Technology, which was a national science-based environmental health non-profit organization in New York. They worked with municipalities across the country to protect residents' interests when dealing with the telecom industry's deployment of wireless equipment in public rights-of-way. Despite the recent passing of H4262 a/k/a the Telecom Giveaway Act, there remained effective local measures that the Charleston City Council could take to protect constituents in residential areas from 5G small cell antennas. While they could not prevent Telecom from installing equipment that complied with FCC requirements based on health concerns alone, there were some things they absolutely could do and include in an updated small cell ordinance, such as requiring a Telecom applicant to demonstrate a significant gap in personal wireless coverage at the desired installation site using dropped call data, implementing antenna installation setbacks from sensitive areas such as residences, schools, daycare facilities, requiring randomized RF radiation

emissions testing of all wireless sites on an annual basis at the expense of the applicant, and requiring applicants to provide proof that they had general liability insurance without a pollution exclusion. Insurance companies generally regard wireless radiation as pollution. She spoke with a woman from Rochester, New York, who recently had a 5G antenna installed 20 feet outside of her bedroom window. Immediately after the installation, she started having two to three nosebleeds a day. Once highly athletic and healthy, she was now constantly dizzy, nauseous, and fatigued. Her local legislators won't do anything to help her, and she feared for the health and safety of her family. She knew the Council likely felt pressure from the Telecom industry as were many other local officials across the country.

2. Cashion Drolet with the Historic Charleston Foundation (HCF) said the Foundation remained opposed to demolition of the St. Julian Devine Smokestacks as they believed they were a defining feature of the Eastside skyline. They wished the City would defend BAR ordinances and become a preservation example for Charleston's community. They maintained that there was a solution for the preservation of the smokestacks and that it was within reach. There were some creative solutions that had been proposed by Councilmember Shahid and others, and they were encouraged by the Ways and Means discussion earlier. HCF was supportive of hitting pause. They were supportive of a task force to give them some clear input as they learned more information on the condition of the stacks to address the financing conundrum they faced and to protect the community adjacent to the stacks. They had not exhausted all avenues to find a solution, and they asked City Council to follow the lead of Ways and Means earlier and grant a reprieve from the demolition order and the task force the appropriate time to find a safe solution so that the iconic smokestacks were not lost. She thought it was Councilmember Shahid that said earlier once the smokestacks were gone, they were lost forever. They encouraged Council to follow the lead of Ways and Means from earlier that day.
3. Kristopher King with the Preservation Society thanked Councilmember Shahid for bringing forward a good plan, a path forward for the smokestacks, and wanted to thank all members of Council for the conversation that night and listening to the community. They were excited about Council creating the opportunity for them to work with Council. Their goal was for the preservation, and they were going to work as hard as they could for that outcome, but also thought it was equally important that Council was presented with the information necessary to make the best decisions, as well as to uphold their processes. They had that opportunity now, so they were most appreciative for that. They continued to believe they could work together to ensure the best outcome for the Eastside, and they thanked Council for the opportunity.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "You're welcome. Thank you, Kristopher."

The Clerk said, "I'm going to go back and repeat some of the names: Steven Long, Kimberly Dean, Ronald Faretra, Karen Beard, and Stacy Hudson."

No one asked to speak.

The Clerk continued, "That was all that we had to sign up to speak, and then we did receive some comments. Thirty-one people wanted to encourage City Council to preserve the St. Julian Devine Community Center smokestacks as it is an integral structure of the Eastside community. One person said public input needs to be allowed for further discussion of Laurel Island development. One person asked for City Council to support the removal of by-right cluster for R1 zoning. One person asked for pictures of the John C. Calhoun Statue for proof that it had not been mishandled. Thirty-one people were in support of Charleston Coalition for Wireless Safety Standards, and three people want the City to think about how its spending is prioritized as CPD receives an overwhelming bulk of taxpayers' dollars. That was all of the comments that we received."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Terrific. Thank you. For the last call, any of those individuals that were called out, are you on the line? Can you \*6?"

No one asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Hearing none, thank you, everyone, for your participation in all of those forms, and we'll move on to our Petitions and Communications."

Stacy Hudson said, "Hello."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes, ma'am. Who is that, please?"

Ms. Hudson said, "This is Stacy Hudson."

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

4. Ms. Hudson spoke on behalf of Charleston Coalition for Wireless Safety Standards discussed the passing of the Small Cell Security Act. Charleston residents were looking for a way to keep small cell antennas out of their neighborhoods and away from schools. That was their bottom line. They asked Council to find a way to provide a safe wire solution for internet means. Wire transmissions were faster, safer, more reliable, cyber secure, and energy efficient as compared to wireless transmissions. The only reason wireless transmissions were being pushed by the Telecom industry was because wireless was cheaper and more profitable for the Telecom industry. It had nothing to do with the quality and speed of internet service. Charleston residents were asking for 'fiber to the home.' Fiber could be run into individual homes just as copper wire was run by the companies many years ago. Telecom companies were already using vast amounts of fiber optics to send clear signals much further distances than wireless, but they stopped short of running fiber in the homes. When excellent speed and quality were delivered to the home via wire, the homeowner could decide whether to hardwire home devices or to use Wi-Fi. She said, of course, the safe option was to hardwire devices, but the homeowner should have a choice. Their choice was taken away when Wi-Fi was mounted on the lamppost outside their homes, and that could be avoided. She asked that they be sensitive to the citizens' need to have a say about the types of exposure they were subjected to and to control their health. If small cell antennas were placed near their homes and schools, they wouldn't be able to get away from the RF microwave radiation. There were people who were already sensitive to the effects of 4G, and they would like the choice to avoid ion radiation increases and to preserve their health.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you so much. I'm glad I had a last call. So, thank you for sharing that. I know the Wireless Coalition, by the way, had given us some recommendations. Our Legal staff has been studying those and, Councilmember Waring, with your blessing at the next or soon-to-be future Public Works Committee meeting, we would like to make a report back to the Committee and then to Council on those matters."

Councilmember Waring said, "By all means, Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you. So, next up is Petitions and Communications, and I would kindly ask forbearance of Council to allow me to defer the Tourism Commission appointments because there are a few people that after all, may not be able to serve, and there is not a Commission meeting between now and our next Council meeting. So, I will come back to you for our next meeting and ask for those recommendations."

Councilmember Griffin said, "Second."

On a motion of Mayor Tecklenburg, seconded by Councilmember Griffin, City Council voted unanimously to defer the Tourism Commission appointments until the next City Council meeting.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "But we're good on these recommendations for the Commission on Women."

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

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Is there any discussion?"

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilwoman Jackson, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell, City Council voted unanimously to approve the appointments and reappointment to the Commission on Women:

Jennifer Brown (Reappointment)

Kendra Snipe (New Appointment)

Claire Gibbons (New Appointment)

Trischia Khouri (New Appointment)

Tina Singleton (New Appointment)

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Next is our update on the City's response to COVID-19. I'm going to call on Tracy McKee for a few remarks about how we're doing in the City, and then she is going to introduce Dr. Michael Sweat from the Medical University. Tracy."

Tracy McKee said, "Thank you, Mayor. Good evening, everyone. I hope everyone's having a great evening. I think this is the earliest I've gone in quite a few weeks now. So, this is good news. So, I'll be very brief in my update tonight. I think everyone knows our local numbers remain low, which is very good. Just a quick update on employee cases. Still no new hospitalizations, which is excellent. We do currently have just one active case. With our numbers being low, we did move into Phase III of our opening plan. That became effective October 5<sup>th</sup>. The biggest change with our move to Phase III was that City buildings have returned to their normal security access. That doesn't mean a return to business as usual. We still are encouraging phone conferencing, video conferencing, and that citizens use digital services whenever possible. However, when there is a need for in-person meetings, masks are required, distancing is required, conforming to posted occupancy limits on conference rooms and offices, and we're also trying to be very cognizant of time because we know that this is airborne now, so that time factor is a trigger when we talk about contact tracing. We're asking when it is necessary that we limit those to less than 15 minutes.

So, what's happening kind of at the local level here? This is just an updated chart. I've shown you this before. The City new cases are the gray bars compared to what's happening in Charleston County and the number of tests performed. The number of tests is the red line at the top. So, you can see here in the last just couple of weeks, tests as well as cases are trending just slightly upwards, but what does this look like when we get down to kind of our metrics. So, here is the rolling seven daily new cases per 1,000. So, it's kind of that rolling average, if you will. So, that's the blue, and then we can see that infection rate on the orange line. Then up here, this dash line, which is the 1.0 for our infection rate, that's our threshold of when we might need to go backwards if that does happen. So, we're trending a little upwards, but we're still below that threshold, which is very good. I've shown this before, so I thought it was good to put these in context over time. This comes from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health (JHU). Here is that snapshot from September where South Carolina was very neutral in color. Remember, the redder it was cases increased, the greener, the more the cases are decreased. On September 21<sup>st</sup>, we were at least a nice pale green in South Carolina. Yesterday, I pulled this again from JHU, and you can pretty much see across the country things are looking a little bit pink. In South Carolina, we are just a smidge pink, which is basically neutral, if you will. In daily cases across the U.S., I think everyone is aware that cases are going up ever so slightly, and this is a graph that shows how we and the U.S. compare to the ten most affected countries in the World. So, this orange line is actually the U.S. compared to these other countries. We know that cases are going up across the U.S., across the world really, and so I think we need to try to understand what we can do to do better and not to fall into that trap, as well.

I'm really happy tonight that we have with us Dr. Michael Sweat from MUSC, and before I properly introduce him, I really want to publicly thank Dr. Sweat for the support that he and his team have provided to me, as well as the City, since the very beginning of the pandemic. His team was invaluable in helping us develop the metrics that guide our City-phased re-opening plan. He has been beyond generous in sharing both his time and his knowledge with us. He is a ten-year Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Medical University of South Carolina and Director of the MUSC Center for Global Health. Prior to joining MUSC in 2007, he was an Associate Professor and Director of the Social and Behavioral Interventions Program in the Department of International Health in the Bloomberg School of Public Health at the Johns Hopkins University and is an Adjunct Professor there now. He is and has been the P.I. or Principal Investigator on many global health projects focused on HIV behavioral interventions, testing, and care. I am going to stop sharing my screen. I believe he has a few slides that he is going to share with us tonight."

Dr. Michael Sweat said, "Great. Thank you, Tracy. Just to say, I've enjoyed working with you immensely. I appreciate all of your support, as well. We're all in this together, so I can't tell you how much I've enjoyed working with you. Mayor Tecklenburg and members of the Council, thank you so much for having me come today and share with you a few evolving issues that are, I think important, as we move forward into the winter. I just want to give you a little background. We set up the COVID-19 Epidemiology Intelligence Project really right when the epidemic kicked off, and our goal has been to track closely the trends and events and science that's going on around COVID to try to help inform decision making and track what's happening with the epidemic. As we're moving into the winter, I've been chatting with Tracy some and just some of the risks that we're facing, and I want to highlight those with you tonight. We're seven months into this epidemic, and it's been an evolving issue in terms of science and trying to understand what's happening, and really, every week we're getting more information. So, I'm going to highlight a few things that we've been honing in on.

The first point I want to make is COVID-19 outbreaks. We see this over and over that they can become widespread quickly, and that's true even when case numbers are very low. It's kind of striking. Our typical thinking about epidemics is we drive the cases down, and we sort of move forward and get back to normal. With this epidemic, given the contagiousness of COVID-19, you can drive those numbers down, and they can rapidly accelerate, and we see that in multiple places. The other observations we see now is that second surges are proving to be worse than first surges, and it's something we need to keep our eye on because we just went through a significant surge over the summer. Finally, I want to add that our ability to detect these outbreaks is lag, it's delayed, so these things can blow up before we have a chance to really detect them. Just to make that point, this is from the Charleston area that we've been tracking, and as you know, we had the little initial surge, a little blip really, when the epidemic first kicked off. We drove those numbers down to extremely low levels, and then late in May, the epidemic exploded rapidly. So, this can happen very, very quickly. Our ability to detect this is limited because our first indicator really has been primarily diagnosed cases that we get reported, but people don't go and get tested instantly. There is typically a delay of seven to ten days before those data become available, which means you could have these explosions before we really detect them. So, it's just an important point to note, and I think, you can see that here. This is from Europe, the number of cases per day per 100,000 people over time. For example, if you just take Spain, this first blip I mean, its rapid explosion occurred, and they very effectively drove those numbers down. The point I want to make here is they're now into a second surge, which has exceeded the first surge. The same is true in France. It's more than three times the number of cases per day now being detected, the UK, and this is true in country after country that we're seeing in Europe. I'm going to come back to some issues related to the potential impact of the winter weather.

The second point I want to make is that I just think it's remarkable how behavioral prevention has proven to be so highly effective. It's really remarkable what can happen when people distance, wear masks, wash their hands, and avoid indoor settings. It's remarkably effective. I'd add to that, that policy-based restrictions they do, I think, change behaviors, but it's both direct and indirect. Just to make that point, this is a metric that we look at, which is called the R-Naught, and it really tells you the number of people that each person infected is going on to infect. I think this is for Charleston County actually, and in the beginning of this epidemic, we had an explosive number of people getting infected from other people up in the range of eight and nine from each person who was infected. That dramatically declined when the word got out and people became more aware, and we learned a little bit about distancing and such, and lockdowns occurred. Those lockdowns were incredibly effective. When that value goes below one, the epidemic will start to diminish, and if it goes below one for long enough, it will go away. So, we hovered down below one, and then right here just around Memorial Day, those lockdowns were

lifted, and immediately we went above one substantially and stayed there for a period of time, which led to that massive outbreak that we saw in the summer.

Right around the middle part of July, efforts were made to amplify the use of masks, and to the credit of the Council those policies that were put in place, I believe, drove that number back down and has stayed down around one or below, and until recently we're starting to see some blips. This first blip occurred right around Labor Day, and the second one occurred right around the time that students came back for university. We don't know for sure, but those are suspect events that occurred. I just want to say that when I say that these policies are both direct and indirect, certainly the policies themselves had some impact because people felt compelled to follow them, but I think when they're lifted in particular, it signals to people that things are better, and I believe that is what happened around this time. There were a lot of beliefs out there that the epidemic was under control, everything was fine, and people went out and interacted. Rapidly we saw massive outbreaks. So, just to encourage you to consider that when you're considering whether to put on or take off restrictions. I'm not a believer that we should live under perfect restrictions, but I think the way it's done when it's tied to metrics, which I know you're doing very carefully, is an important strategy to take.

The third point here, I think, there is strong emerging evidence that infections among young adults is initiating outbreaks, and as time passes in an outbreak, older people become infected from those younger people. So, it's a critical target group we need to hone in on. I just want to point a few things out. This was the first month of the epidemic that we experienced here in Charleston County, and this shows the distribution of the new infections that were occurring by the different age groups here. This is the most recent month, and this has really shifted from a more equal distribution across all age groups to much younger. The group that has the highest infection rate right now, is actually people 11 to 20, and also the age range 21 to 30. If you really drill down on this, it's really young adults. It's really people between 17 and 21, 22 that are accounting for the vast majority of the new infections that are occurring. You can see the decline in the median age that has occurred over time. There has been a new study that just came out by the CDC just a few days ago, a really excellent study they conducted, where they tracked they went into over 700 hotspots in the Country and looked closely retrospectively at the infection rates among different age groups, and they found two key things. One is, epidemics are typically initiated the slopes go up first while about a month before they're detected as a hotspot among people 18 to 24 years old, and then within about two or three weeks, you begin to see increases occurring in people in older age groups. So, again, very strong evidence that what's driving outbreaks are infections among young people eventually transmitting on to the older population.

The next point I want to make is new information, which Tracy mentioned this about aerosol transmission being recognized as a risk. This really raises questions about our recommendations for the six-foot distancing indoors, and just quoting the CDC here, I won't go through the whole slide, but they recently recognized the fact that people are being infected through aerosols. Aerosols are very small particles that are expelled when people breathe, sing, or talk, and they can accumulate, and float in the air for hours in close spaces, particularly where there is poor ventilation in particular when people are shouting or singing or exercises, bars, you get a lot of loud talking. There have been multiple outbreaks among choral groups who practiced indoors. One was just reported several days ago. So, again, this has a strong impact on recommendations around distancing and also ventilation, and what could be done in places like restaurants, where you could easily just open windows. Even if it's cooler outside, it could make a significant difference. Another study came out this summer where they looked at and went back and did case analyses of over 300 people that were infected across 11 different facilities, and they looked at a host of factors that people have engaged in, in the previous two weeks. The only

two that showed significance were visiting a restaurant or visiting a bar or a coffee shop. The point here is this line. If these bars cross that line, it means it's not significant. These, as you can see in this bar right here, are significant showing, that those factors really are associated predominantly among people who have been getting infected. Another point to make there is emerging data. It's not perfect, but it's suggesting that cooler weather may be associated with outbreaks, and conversely, hotter weather may be associated with outbreaks in places with heavy air conditioner use. I have a couple of graphs to point that out. This is the current map of the U.S., similar to what Tracy showed you. The current places with really explosive epidemics high rates of infection are North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wisconsin, Utah, Nebraska, and this whole area in the northern part on the border with Canada. It's getting cooler, and people are coming inside. There is a really massive epidemic happening in the Fox River Valley around Green Bay. So, what we saw was the first outbreak in New York during a cooler season. When things warmed up, it moved to the south, and then when things were cooling down, we see outbreaks in these areas. That shows a signal that perhaps cooler weather or hotter weather when people use air conditioning, is associated with outbreaks. This is just another analysis breaking out the different states. These are the average temperatures across the bottom, and when it's cooler these locations are the ones that have the highest rates of transmission, and this was for recently. If you look back over the summer, this reverses where you see the higher rates with the higher temperatures, and then finally here looking at Europe one more time, just to note that they had an incredibly high rate of transmission. As soon as it warmed up, it went down, and you might expect warm weather to be associated with higher rates. However, in Europe, they don't use air conditioning like we do, so this is leading many people now to wonder whether cooler weather coming is going to create problems for us.

I just want to summarize a few key points. I think there are multiple risks that are potentially converging as we move forward into the fall, and winter, and one is the holidays coming. There is going to be incredible cultural pressure for people to gather in groups and indoors because it's a wintertime situation. The other one is transmission from youth. Schools are now opening up more and more, and there is a lot of uncertainty about the K-12 population. Most of the data suggests that the youngest of kids don't get infected equally to other people, but they seem to transmit as much although, those data are still nascent, but as you get older in high school and approach college age, the transmission rates seem to shoot up. We know that universities have had a poor track record on containment and high transmission probability, as I pointed out. Then, the fatigue, I mean we're facing fatigue. People have been restricted in activities for seven months now. I think we know from strong evidence from behavioral science that after three months, people have a difficult time maintaining that. This is what we call the paradox of prevention where when things are better, or people perceive that the problem is more under control, they begin to take more risks at the time they need to engage in the prevention the most. It often is when people are the least willing to do it, and then these issues with aerosol transmission, I think, are important because if we have more indoor gatherings in the colder weather, that suggests that aerosols could lead to significant outbreaks.

Finally, this winter shifting into more indoors, there is a lot of evidence as I pointed out about the potential temperature effects on risk-taking. I'd add to that that the whole northern hemisphere is about to go into a cool-season, which is novel for this epidemic, and we could potentially see harmonized outbreaks across the country and in the entire northern hemisphere, which could put stress on our ability to have adequate resources in terms of testing and PPE, the commodities, the staff, the beds, and then flu season is coming, as well, and that could add to it. So, we do see a sort of confluence of potential risks going forward, and I don't mean to be too negative, but I think we need to be vigilant as we proceed and tend to these things. So, I just want to end on that and also give some thanks to my project team. These have been incredible

people, including several medical students who have been donating their time to help weed through all of these data that we collect regularly. So, I thank you for your time, and I'm happy to answer any questions."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We thank you, Dr. Sweat, for your amazing collaboration with us from the very start on this, as Tracy mentioned. Councilmembers, do you all have any questions or comments for Dr. Sweat?"

No one asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, I think you've done such a complete job, you answered all of the questions as we went. Once again, doctor, thanks for being with us and all of the help."

Dr. Sweat said, "My pleasure. Happy to help."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "God bless you."

Dr. Sweat said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, we've got a couple of emergency ordinances to update. If I could call on Susan Herdina to give us a summary of those, numbers three and four."

Susan Herdina said, "Good afternoon, everybody. Good evening. We have two emergency ordinances to consider tonight. They're actually amendments to the previous emergency ordinances that you've all approved. The first one, Item I-3, is basically incorporating some recent changes that were issued by the Governor in his Executive Order on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, and there he had lifted the occupancy restrictions on restaurants and bars. So, what our amended emergency ordinance does it's page 5, section 6, is that we are similarly deleting the occupancy restrictions. However, the Governor's Order did incorporate a series of restrictions and conditions that were placed upon restaurants and bars for their continued operations during this emergency time, and we have verbatim incorporated those into our ordinance, and you will see there are a number of items there. I think there is actually a total of 20 different ones, and again, these are all items that were included in the Governor's Executive Order having to do with masks and requiring employees to be tested and sanitation and other good practices. That is the only change to our Ordinance 2020-100. That's Item I-3.

Item I-4 is an emergency ordinance, which is extending the period of time where we're going to continue our temporary restrictions and regulations regarding expanding outdoor dining, and so that emergency ordinance, which allows for greater outdoor dining areas in the City and a temporary suspension of the zoning ordinances and other regulations that apply to outdoor dining will be extended for another 60 days. However, there is also a provision in there that requires staff to take a look at our current zoning regulations and other ordinances with an eye towards making the temporary regulations that are contained in our emergency ordinance to move towards making those permanent to help the restaurant industry. So, that is the second emergency ordinance that we're asking for approval tonight. That's Item I-4."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Can I entertain a motion for I-3 and I-4?"

Councilmember Seekings said, "So moved."

Councilmember Brady said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Is there any discussion?"

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Yes. Can we take them separately, please?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We can. Let's take I-3 first."

Councilwoman Delcioppo said, "Move for approval."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Seekings followed by Councilwoman Jackson.

Councilmember Seekings said, "Thank you. Just a brief question for Ms. Herdina. Is there a point at which, under the emergency ordinance that we are due to get a report back from the Planning staff about taking out the temporary portion of the zoning ordinance for the outdoor dining and making it more permanent? I mean at some point we need to bisect those and get that on our agenda going forward, so we're not doing all of this in one night."

Ms. Herdina said, "Well, the way the ordinance is drafted right now, and if we need to amend it, we can do that, but we are basically directing, or you're directing staff to come back prior to expiration of this emergency ordinance and make those recommendations to Council."

Councilmember Seekings said, "So, it will be some time short of 60 days from now?"

Ms. Herdina said, "Correct."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Okay. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilwoman Jackson followed by Councilmember Griffin.

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and I really am just sort of attaching my question to either one of these ordinances. I know that Councilmember Sakran was very vigilant, I believe in asking about the re-opening of the full Market on Marion Square. So, I just want to follow up with that. It's been a few weeks since the Market opened to the produce vendors only, and I know that the other vendors are still very keen on getting out to be able to sell their own crafts as soon as possible. So, I'm hoping that maybe you can give us an update, and I'm sorry to add it on to this conversation, but there's really no other good place in the agenda. Thanks."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, as I mentioned, we were doing that kind of step-by-step. This Saturday, we will be re-opening the esplanade along the King Street side with a number of the other vendors, not farmers, but other vendors, and I think we're going to rotate for just a couple of weeks, give everybody an opportunity, but not have everybody at once, and we're planning a full Holiday Market also leading up to the holiday season. So, it's happening."

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Thank you. I would appreciate an update as we go along. A couple of weeks is not the holidays, so let's speed it up, please."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I said this Saturday we're beginning, Councilmember."

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Right. That's great. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "October 17<sup>th</sup>."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Griffin.

Councilmember Griffin said, "As I stated previously, I will be voting 'nay' for both of these, not because I don't support removing the restrictions, but I'm just not supportive of any more emergency orders. So, I just want to make that point clear. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you. Appreciate that. Are there any other questions on I-3?"

No one else asked to speak.

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

**2020-134** EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING EMERGENCY ORDINANCE 2020 -100 BY DELETING LANGUAGE IN SECTION 6 REQUIRING OCCUPANCY LIMITS FOR RESTAURANTS AND BARS AND INCORPORATING RESTRICTIONS AND CONDITIONS OF GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2020-63 ON RESTAURANT AND BAR OPERATIONS.

The vote was not unanimous. Councilmembers Gregorie and Griffin voted nay.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you so much. Now for I-4. Can I entertain a motion?"

Councilmember Shahid said, "Move for approval."

Councilwoman Jackson said, "I'll second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Is there any discussion on I-4?"

No one asked to speak.

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

**2020-135** EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING EMERGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 2020-60 BY EXTENDING EFFECTIVE DATE AND STAFF TO PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AMENDMENTS TO CITY ORDINANCES EXPANDING OUTDOOR DINING AREAS AND SIDEWALK DINING ON PERMANENT BASIS.

The vote was not unanimous. Councilmember Griffin voted nay.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you. The aye's have it. So, next we had promised Council we would come back with a report on in-person meetings of Council and Ways and Means Committee. It could apply to other Committees, as well, I guess. So, Tracy McKee and our Safety

staff have been looking at that along with IT, which is important because we would be proposing to operate somewhere else rather than Council Chambers because you can't get many people in Council Chambers with the distancing. So, Tracy, you want to take it away?"

Ms. McKee said, "Yes, sir. Thank you, and good evening again, everyone. So, I want to really thank Rick and Wes for all of the work that they did in gathering information. This was a serious team effort to put this in front of you all tonight, and even though I'm going to be speaking, they are available to answer questions.

There are kind of three areas that we focus on for this proposal. Technology, right, because that is a challenge, but health and safety, as well as citizen engagement making sure that we thought about all of those three elements in putting this together. Around health and safety, I think the first point here is that this is really about risk reduction and not elimination, right? So, elimination is going to be we continue to meet via Zoom, or there is a vaccine in place. Probably the most important things when we talk about health and safety and risk reduction, kind of like our phased re-opening plan in the City, we're talking about masks, spacing, and time. Jan Park I should mention also reviewed this and worked with us really closely to talk through what this might look like. Everyone would be indoors, and as we just were talking about, this virus does transmit through the air, so there is that risk. Masks would be required at all times and because of the increased risk of transmission with time indoors. We have to reduce the risk in other places, so we're going to do that in areas such as distance. So, the distance between everyone would be greater than six feet, if you will. We would have a check-in station for the public that wanted to attend. This would include temperature checks, as well as a COVID questionnaire. That would be most likely performed by our wellness and safety folks. We have signage to help everyone move safely around and navigate good traffic flow, so that we don't have people bunching up, if you will. We would need additional staff to assist with that traffic control, traffic flow and occupancy awareness, and managing a staging area if that would be needed.

The locations and capacity, so we looked at a number of places that we could do this, and where we ended up really was the best option was using the Gaillard. We would use Ballrooms 1 and 2. Ballroom 1 would be for Council and staff that could be up to 21 occupants. Ballroom 2 would be used for the public, and that could be up to 50 occupants. So, obviously, it would just be one big room, but we did that kind of just for measuring, sequestering, and blocking off spaces. So, costs. There is no rental fee for us to use it. However, there would be some Gaillard Center staff that would need to be there, as well as some cleaning that would need to be handled for \$575. That's for each meeting, and then the City would also be responsible for security and doing temperature checks.

Technology, so, Wes was really, really busy trying to determine what were the real technology needs, what made the most sense, and what could we do. I know he worked with our vendor to really get this number down, so I think he did a really great job. The technology costs would be \$2,725 per meeting. That would include 15 microphones so every Councilmember would have their own microphone, one for the Mayor, one for the Clerk, and then we would have one for the public. This also includes all of the audio system, feeds that are necessary, and the videographer that would record and live stream to YouTube just like we do. However, this proposal does not allow for virtual participation. The technology was simply too complicated and too expensive to really make this work, and Wes is available if there are questions or concerns about that. It would also include two large displays, a laptop, and connectivity so we could have presentations done, as well.

Citizen Engagement: Citizens would still submit their comments online for Citizens Participation or Public Hearings just like they do now, so that would continue. They would have to be in person to sign up to speak, so they would have to show up and sign up there, and it would be attendance, and speaking would obviously just be first come, first serve. Like I said before, there would be a check-in station along with the temperature checks and COVID questionnaire. We would have extra masks, but we also gave some consideration for triage areas in case we have more than 50 people that would want to attend. So, we need to have them staged appropriately if they would like to speak during City Council. Some of the other considerations that we talked about, the City would need to have a position on individuals that would like to attend, but have an exemption for mask wearing. So, if someone shows up, wants to speak, wants to attend, and they have an exemption, we really can't tell them they can't, but we have to consider what that might look like. So, ADA considerations, honestly that would really just be like it used to be. They would need to register with Janet Schumacher in advance, and we would do everything we could to accommodate them. Obviously, we would encourage the public to show up early just to make sure that we could get them through all of the protocols that we have in place, just to make sure that public participation happens as early in the meeting as possible.

The minimum cost for each meeting would be around \$3,500, and plus, we figure with just the number of staff that will need to manage kind of traffic flow, the wellness checks and whatnot, there would probably be some staff overtime as well. Another consideration is that we've started to track the number of engagements that we've had through all of our online meetings, and we thought that you all might find this interesting. So, Jennifer told us that in 2019 there were 319 comments in person, and then the chart below shows our engagements with City Council since March. So, it's been 12 meetings, and almost 700 comments have been submitted through the portal, 143 people have signed up to speak, and we have engaged with 683 unique citizens through the portal and through the Zoom meetings. I think that's all I have, and of course, happy to try to answer any questions that you all might have. Rick and Wes, I believe, are on as well to help answer any questions."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, "Yes, sir. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. So, Tracy, the \$2,725 for the use of microphones, is that a rental?"

Ms. McKee said, "I don't believe it's a rental. I believe it's with a company similar to the same company that does our videography. So, I think they would come in and do all of the audio/video. They would handle all of that for us if you will."

Councilmember Shahid said, "I just want to make sure I understand. So, it's \$2,725 per meeting for the individual? Do I understand that correctly?"

Ms. McKee said, "Yes."

Wes Ratterree said, "Yes, sir. This is Wes. That covers all of the equipment to provide the audio and allows us to tie in the videographer for the streaming and the recording and, ultimately, Comcast, as well. So, that's everything from this local vendor who has been a partner with us for a lot of other City meetings. They've got all of the gear and equipment together. They bring this package in, set it all up, test it, turn it over to the IT staff, and then we present the meeting."

Councilmember Shahid said, "My question with that was along the lines, hopefully, we get back to regular meetings in Council Chambers sometime soon. When we've had remote meetings like we've had in the past at different churches and other locations, we've been using this. It's been very cumbersome, a pass-around microphone, and I'm just wondering if it would be more cost effective if we just had remote microphones available for every Councilmember, even when we go out on the road."

Mr. Ratterree said, "Yes, sir. We've been looking at that. We have in the past. That's a comprehensive package you have to put together with all of the equipment. You have to have an amplifier that feeds back to the speaker systems. You've got to have all of the heavy duty casing to package that up, to haul it. It's a notable investment, but we have been looking at that to cover more of our remote meetings and meetings that may come up. The Mayor and I even discussed this, that it was kind of a tipping point if we're going to do a lot of these meetings. At what point can we just invest in the equipment ourselves to carry this forward? So, depending on whether we just do a few meetings or go to a larger number of remote meetings may ultimately impact that decision, but we are considering that. Yes, sir."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Okay. Thank you, sir."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Griffin followed by Councilwoman Delcioppo.

Councilmember Griffin said, "So, why can't we meet at City Hall?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, we can, but I think because of safety. Rick, did you measure out how many folks we would allow in City Hall?"

Rick Markiewicz said, "Yes, sir, I did. With the current restrictions right now, we can only get 14 people in Council Chambers."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We could meet there, but we wouldn't be able to allow in-person public comment, which I thought was a good part of the reason for us considering to meet in person."

Councilmember Griffin said, "Why can we only allow 14?"

Mr. Markiewicz said, "Because of social distancing and the six-foot requirements."

Councilmember Griffin said, "Well, other municipalities are all meeting in their Chambers. I don't know. Maybe they're not following the rules, but they're all meeting in their Chambers. I mean, I can't imagine that we would put up a slideshow to try to show that it's going to be too expensive to do this. We have constantly met off-site in years past at least four times a year, and we haven't met off-site once this year, and we've been over Zoom for the last seven or eight months. So, I would assume we've probably saved some costs in regards to instead of meeting in the Council Chambers and the costs associated with that. I'd like to see some of those numbers, too, because to me, that little slideshow almost seemed like a deterrent to meet in person, and I don't really appreciate that."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilwoman Delcioppo.

Councilwoman Delcioppo said, "Again, I am just bringing forth an idea for discussion. I've no attachment to its outcome. Given we're in the middle of October, I think we have five meetings left this year. Do we want to make a decision that come the first of the year, we're going to meet in person unless God forbid something out of the ordinary happens? Do we want to go ahead and make that commitment, and then that gives us an understanding of what we're going to have to do come the first of the year and where's that going to be? I just would like us to get, I know it's hard to get a definitive plan, but to somehow make a plan for ourselves and have a timeframe, or do we want to go ahead and start earlier with these guidelines in place? Again, I'm not attached to the outcome any way, just some thoughts."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Right. Well, that's a good thought. I mean, I'm just thinking out loud myself, but we have saved some money not having other City Hall meetings. So, maybe we try in November to have one of these meetings at the Gaillard and do the rental, use the firm, see how we like it. If we're going to continue on, as Wes mentioned, there are not too many meetings at that expense where it wouldn't make sense to go ahead and buy a new sound system, a portable sound system, and all of the microphones and all, and then we would have it for future remote meetings or when we go on the road even after COVID is over with. Just a suggestion, we could try it, see how it works, and come back from there."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shealy.

Councilmember Shealy said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and thank you, Rick and Wes and Tracy. I appreciate all of your work on this. Thank you very much. But I just want to clarify, we have a screen and we have a sound system in the City Hall Chambers. Could we not move that to the Gaillard, especially without other things going on right now? Is that not possible?"

Mr. Ratterree said, "No, sir. That really wouldn't be feasible. It's all integrated into a rack system in that closet that you can't see. All of the cabling involved, the wireless receivers, it's a lot of equipment, and it's specifically designed to fit in a static scenario in the Council Chamber. So, it's not something we would want to try to rip out and relocate."

Councilmember Shealy said, "Okay. One more question. I go to a lot of fall high school sporting events right now, particularly volleyball and, they've been very fortunate. I know that other places around the country haven't been as fortunate, but we play in Dorchester, Beaufort, Berkley, and Charleston County, of course, and everyone wears a mask, everyone comes in, and they use a simple app. There are no tickets, nobody touches anything, but they use a simple app when they come in to show that you purchased your tickets on that high school's app on your phone, and that's the only way you can get in is if you've got a phone, and you've got an app. Then you can come in because you can show your ticket and you actually punch everything saying, 'okay, your ticket's been punched.' That type of system seems like it would be maybe more efficient than having any other kind of if you want to sign up, you come to speak, you come to a City app, and you punch in that you want to speak and maybe go ahead and put your name and address in there for the Clerk. But it's something that all of these high schools are doing right now, and I just think that would be a simple solution. I don't think it's very expensive for those high schools, but it would eliminate somebody from having to write down who is speaking and all of that and keep track of it. Just do it on an app, and it's automated basically. So, just a suggestion."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Tracy McKee followed by Councilmember Gregorie.

Ms. McKee said, "Yes, we did talk about how we could use technology as far as citizens signing up to speak, and we went through a lot of different iterations, if you will. I think we landed on people needing to show up in person because that's how it was before, and so we didn't want to make it overly burdensome for those that may not have a smart phone or something like that to be able to come and participate at City Council. So, that was our thinking, but that doesn't mean we can't change it. We're certainly open to any suggestions that you all would have."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Gregorie followed by Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Yes, all I wanted to say was I just can't imagine sitting in a marathon eight to nine hour meeting of Council with a mask on, for eight or nine hours non-stop. That in and of itself for me would really hinder me from putting myself in that kind of situation. Secondly, as an elder, while I may not have any pre-conditions, I've been extremely careful in terms of my interactions outside of my home. So, again, that gives me some hesitation about moving away from our Zoom meetings to in-person meetings, but just the thought of sitting with a mask on for six, seven, eight hours will be an unbelievably grueling experience, I think, for all of us. I just think we need to take that into account as we make our decision."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Listen, I definitely agree we've got to get back to meeting in person. Two things, we do need to move forward and buy, I think, the equipment, and I'll tell you why. Even when we get a vaccine, everybody is not going to take it. So, safe measures is, everybody doesn't take the flu vaccine now. So, I think, COVID, and we're going to be living with COVID another year, maybe even two, but we certainly can't be doing business like this for another year or two. So, I think, and this equipment, even after COVID, we would be able to use that equipment because we still go on the road and need proper microphones and the like. So, I think the answer is two-fold. You get the equipment, and I think the second thing is, Mr. Mayor, I know it's been a tradition to have a good bit of staff at every Council meeting, but maybe during this COVID piece, if we reduce staff, that would allow more people from the public to be properly spaced in City Council Chambers, and Councilmember Gregorie, I hear you on the marathon meetings. I think we all feel the same, including the Mayor, but I think somehow maybe Zoom has given us more comfort, too. I don't know if it's to talk longer or have longer presentations or whatever, but we certainly need to keep that in mind, and we all kind of have responsibility for that. So, I'm wondering if some people, staff for example, maybe we can have the technology where they can call in with their question, and we can be available by phone. So, it's like some staff are available by phone right now. When we have an iPad in front of us spaced out in City Hall, I think we ought to take another look at doing it in City Hall, Mr. Mayor, and reduce the staff. There are a number of staff that have come to meetings in person. Often times, frankly, it's good to have them there, but a lot of times they're not necessarily needed to be there, which again would allow more than 14 people to come in, and even if they're outside the Hall even doing it outside in the hallway, we can space eight feet apart and get maybe a half a dozen or so or more. I think we need to look at City Hall in another way. I think we can do better than just getting 14 people in, in particular, if we have staff on an iPad at the ready. Certainly, Legal, and certain people would need to be in the room, but we may not need to have 15, 20 staff people in City Hall to be able to conduct this meeting, too many other bodies. Again, the Congress has 535 people for the most part, and then we have to subtract out the ones who are positive, but County Council meets and other City Councils meet across the State. We can

figure this one out. So, I think we need to get back to meeting in person. I think we should be in person and move on in our budget, in particular, as opposed to online. So, that's my feeling on that, but I'll kind of be quiet and listen to the rest of the Councilmembers on that. Thank you, Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, Councilmember. How do you all feel about allowing Councilmembers who have any kind of health concerns to be able to continue to participate in the meeting telephonically?"

Councilmember Waring said, "Over the iPad."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Or with the iPad."

Councilmember Waring said, "I would support that, certainly."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I see a general shaking of heads, and I must respectfully say Rick Markiewicz, our Director of Safety, he's done a remarkable job at all of our facilities in spacing things out, making sure everybody is safe, and you heard Dr. Sweat tonight. He talked about enclosed spaces and all like that. I love our City Council Chambers, but it's just not laid out very well to where we can spread out, and so I would, again, suggest that just if you all want to give it a try, let us try it at the Gaillard once, see how it goes. If we're comfortable, we can invest in some equipment, and as conditions change, we can move back into the smaller space. But if the goal is to be able to allow, and I agree we can limit staff to those who we know have some role on the agenda that night and then ask other people to be available for a phone call if needed, that's a great idea. But still just us is 13 people, and immediate staff you're going to have five or eight people. We want to reserve room for the public to be able to attend. That's part of the point of all of this. So, if that sounds okay with you all, I'd like to suggest we try meeting in November at the Gaillard."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid followed by Councilwoman Jackson.

Councilmember Shahid said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and a couple of thoughts I just want to share with Council. I had to appear in Federal Court last week up in Columbia, and I wish I had invested in plexiglass companies, but it was a plexiglass city. I mean, it really was in the courtroom. There were plexiglass dividers everywhere, and they're getting ready to start a jury trial up there in a couple of weeks, and every juror's seat was in a cage of plexiglass. There was plexiglass between my client and me. We couldn't hear each other talk because of the thickness of the plexiglass, and so we had to walk around, which defeated the idea of having plexiglass in the first place. It was difficult to hear the Court personnel, hear the Judge, and hear witnesses. It was an excruciating problem because everyone was wearing a mask that's required in the courtroom and plexiglass. Then we heard from Dr. Sweat that as you're talking, the masks in and of themselves are not sufficient in close quarters, and six feet may not be sufficient. So, I just want to caution everybody as we go through this process that there are other considerations that we need to be taking into account as we layout these plans and layout the room that we're going to be using. I want to get back into City Council Chambers, and you see my background because I miss being in City Council Chambers. There are a lot of historical reasons for doing that, and it's part of what we need to be doing because we have access to our citizens, and they can communicate with us. But if we're going to be doing this, if we're going to be even at the Gaillard, we're going to have to take into consideration installing plexiglass between us because six feet may not be sufficient. We just heard that, and we're going to have to make sure that not only are

our sound systems available, but you've got it incorporated in this just one microphone for public use, and that's going to be another problem with that. That's going to be a transmittal device if we don't sanitize that microphone after every use. I also want to go back to the early days when we canceled our meetings in person and, I think Councilmember Griffin brought this up, when we were using the phones that it was chaos, and it really was. Being on the phone is not sufficient. Either we come up with a plan that we're all in Council Chambers together, or we're not. We're asking for trouble. We're asking for trouble. We're going to lose out on a significant amount of communication among ourselves. I mean, give Councilmember Kevin Shealy a lot of the credit. He was the one who sort of got us directed on Zoom away from the telephones that we were using. We were interrupting one another. We couldn't hear one another, people were calling in and out. It was a carnival at first until we were able to figure this out to use this technology that we're using now. So, I would urge if we're going to do this, we've got to do this in the way that protects us, all of us. There are a number of us who are 65 years old or above. I'll let everybody speak for themselves as to their age. I'm concerned about Councilmember Seekings. He's still in treatment, and in any case, he is susceptible. So, we've got to be either all in or not all in on this, and I just don't think that we can handle this in a way that is peaceful. So, if we're going to do it, let's consider the plexiglass to be included with all of this and make sure that all Councilmembers are available to attend this thing. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilwoman Jackson.

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Thank you, Mayor. I just had a couple of specifics to ask if you were going to be moving us to the Gaillard in the next month or so. Have we thought about Committee meetings? We talked about continuing Committee meetings on Zoom, but if we are supposed to be on Ways and Means at 4:30 p.m. and then in Council Chambers at the Gaillard at 5:00 p.m., I think that would be a difficulty. I think I heard Ms. McKee say sort of in the early part of her presentation that there was no way to have the Gaillard have virtual access. So, I don't know how we would have Councilmembers who are choosing not to come to a location be able to be on Zoom or something that would be more integral than just a phone call in. I would like to go back to Councilmember Delcioppo's reasonable suggestion. I know that we are lagging behind our compatriots in other jurisdictions, and frankly, I haven't ventured out. I've thought about going to the County for a couple of opportunities to speak, but it just isn't appealing, to be honest, and I don't know how they're doing it in terms of getting people in there that have a chance to listen to the proceedings.

A lot of what I enjoyed when I was a citizen before I ever thought about joining the forces of City Council, I would come and listen to a lot of the Committee meetings because that's where you hear things, or I would listen to the whole Council meeting as opposed to just coming in as a speaker, and then having to leave or shuffle around. I know that we're putting pressure on ourselves, and I do think that's the right way of thinking about this. I do think that the homework that's been done is not for nothing, but I would recommend that maybe we do let things play out. We just heard a 30-minute presentation about how things are spiking in the colder areas of our country and in Europe, and we're talking about November when the temperatures do go down significantly here. I would like to go through the next couple of months and see if, God forbid, we have any surges that we manage. That's my thinking."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. So, the intent was to include both Ways and Means and City Council together, and I think at this point with the technology that we have, if a Councilmember chose not to participate in person, it would have to just be over the telephone. But, anyway, is there consensus? Chip, do you want to weigh in on something? Chip McQueeney."

Chip McQueeney said, "Yes, Mr. Mayor, and I just wanted to respectfully ask City Council as a whole if there is some way, and I promise not to weigh in, but if there is some way to be able to accept staff comments, I know some staff people who are in different situations than me. I'm fortunate that I'm not in any particular group that's of a category that's easily exposed to COVID, but I also really don't want to go to City Hall with all of you. I love you all, but I really don't want to do that. I would really appreciate it, and I'm sure other members of staff who would have to be at meetings would appreciate it because it does affect their health. If there would be some way potentially, even anonymously, you will know if it's me because I write long letters, but even anonymously for City staff to comment before we do something like that. I'm going to be the one that sticks my neck out, but that's what I do. Thank you all. I appreciate it."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you, sir. Alright. Could I get a consensus of hands? You all want to try it in November or push it back to January? Who would like to try an in-person meeting at the Gaillard in November?"

Several Councilmembers raised their hands.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "It looks about even. Okay, that helps. Alright. I'm going to ask staff to give us some comments and report back to you at our next meeting."

Councilmember Waring said, "Mr. Mayor, why don't we just put a motion on the floor and vote it up or down?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, I'm okay with that. I mean, it looked like 6 to 6 to me, but I didn't take an accurate head count. You all want an accurate head count? Who is in favor of having an in-person meeting at the Gaillard in November just to try?"

Several Councilmembers raised their hands.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I see Councilmembers Griffin, Appel, Brady, Sakran, Waring, and Shealy. Is there anybody else?"

No one else raised their hand.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, you all want me to be the tiebreaker?"

Councilmember Seekings said, "Well, you are anyway. I mean, this is a parliamentary issue. I think you set the meetings, Mayor, and you've got the right under the Emergency Ordinance we've put before you anyway."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I understand. I was just hoping to have a better consensus."

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Mr. Mayor, I would like to hear from the staff. I do think that's an excellent suggestion that Mr. McQueeney made of us. So, you would have time to come back to us on the 27<sup>th</sup>, correct?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "That's correct."

Councilwoman Jackson said, "To tell us what your tiebreaker decision is. We'll have two more weeks of COVID results. I don't feel compelled to vote right this minute. I might change my mind."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Madam Clerk, did you have a comment?"

The Clerk said, "I was just going to suggest that we do have one more meeting, what Councilwoman Jackson was saying. We do have one more meeting before November. So, there's still another meeting to discuss it if Council would like to."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay. I'm going to do that. I'm going to ask staff if they will chime in and give us any of their comments and recommendations and then come back to you either with another vote or cast my tiebreaking vote by the next meeting."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Sakran.

Councilmember Sakran said, "Thank you, Mayor. Just a quick suggestion, perhaps. Can we reach out to local municipalities, other businesses and kind of get an update on best practices to ensure that, obviously, if we do this, we do it well? I mean, they're doing it. So, it would be nice to get some data to have that behind our decision, and I just want to for the record say that I'm for an in-person, but if any Councilmember feels uncomfortable, I fully support them staying at home or a staff member staying at home."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Right. Understood. Thank you. So, we'll check with what the others are doing. I have pretty good confidence in our team here that we've presented best practices to you, and that's why I may seem even extreme to you, but safety was a big consideration in their recommendations to us. I can assure you. Alright. Moving on, then. Council Communications, a discussion regarding an administrative decision made by the Mayor in regards to the change/increase in property taxes. There was a decrease in the millage rate, and Councilmember Griffin, I will call on you. I did ask Amy Wharton to prepare a little presentation to share with Council, and I'm glad you raised the issue because I think there has been a bit of confusion in the media in presenting what happens with any reassessment for that matter."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Griffin.

Councilmember Griffin said, "Yes, sir. I just thought that it would be valuable to have a public discussion of what actually happened because I read the newspaper articles and that sort of thing, and I think some clarification would do everybody a bit of good. So, if we could have that, that would be really great."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Absolutely. So, without further ado, I'll call on Amy Wharton to come forward, and I must admit it's a little complicated, but Amy, take it away."

Amy Wharton said, "So, State law requires us to set millage rates and rolled back in reassessment years to avoid a windfall to the municipality, which is what we did. So, a millage calculation, and I'm sorry Councilmember Griffin, we'll get to where in terms of how the decisions are made every year, and we'll go back to 2011 and 2015 assessment years, as well. It's not as straightforward as everybody thinks. There are three main factors. You've got an assessed value, which is performed by the County, a tax credit factor which is based on an estimate of the Local Option Sales Tax revenue in a given year, and we've talked about a Local Option Sales

Tax a lot. That's the formula both total lost credited divided by total appraised value. We give back 100 percent, adding a layer of complexity when we actually decide on a millage rate, and the tax credit factor and an estimated decrease in lost revenue in 2020 reduced the tax credit factor that we assess for 2020 taxes versus what we had budgeted for. Millage rate, the City has the most control, but it's still restricted by the State. As you all know, we have a millage rate that we have to comply with. So, in our 2020 millage calculation, we had four separate scenarios in our millage decision. It consisted of four separate tax credit factors.

Our biggest issue was that our Local Option Sales Tax revenues are down this year from what we budgeted, which affects our tax credit factor. So, we did four different scenarios with different tax credit factors to assess where it would put us in millage and in revenue. So, within those tax credit factor options, we also had net millage decreases for the four separate millage calculation options that we have. So, we had 16 different scenarios that we looked at when we were trying to determine what the 2020 millage rate would be and the reassessment. So, we also had to consider our anticipated reductions in revenue in 2021 as well, and also you need to think about going forward, reducing our expenditures that we'll have. We'll have two new fire stations coming online within the next two to three years. So, I'll go through the scenarios. Stop me if you need to. I'm trying to go fast because I know it's late. Our first scenario was based on a tax credit factor equal to the amount of Local Option Sales Tax revenue that we expect to collect this year. So, that takes into consideration the reduction in revenue that we're expecting, our losses. So, we had budgeted a tax credit factor of .00087. Doing this would actually reduce the tax credit factor to .00069 just based on the revenue that we expect to receive. If you go higher than that, then it puts us at risk of paying back more than we actually collect. So, this was the first scenario that we looked at. If you see right here 2019, the 79.6 millage rate, that's for 2019 millage, and then are the four options that you have when you do a reassessment. You have rollback only, you have rollback plus CPI, you have rollback plus population, and then you also have rollback plus CPA and population. Those were the millage rates that we are given by the County to do the reassessment. So, if you see, using the tax credit factor of .00069, it's not as much of a millage reduction obviously as we had initially anticipated when we budgeted our 2020 revenues. So, net millage is here and then going down, the net millage decrease, which will be the rollback for each of those scenarios would be those millage rates. Do you see what I'm talking about? I just want to make sure I'm clear."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, this is one scenario. We did not choose this scenario, but by way of explanation, it's just the process that Amy went through with each scenario."

Ms. Wharton said, "So, the two columns that are highlighted in green were actually the best options for the City. The problem is it didn't provide much of a rollback to our citizens, but in looking forward to the millage rate and then with the tax credit factor making sure that we're protecting ourselves from paying back more than we actually collect, this is the best scenario for the City. Then, the revenue because I was going to talk about staying revenue neutral, I just wanted to show you what would happen with revenues in each of those scenarios, as well. So, we budgeted \$18.8 million in 2020. Using the millage reduction at rollback plus CPI of 74.3 mills, it could have provided a \$7.4 million in tax revenue over our 2020 budgeted amount. You have to remember, too, it's not just based on rollback and reassessment and all of that. There is growth in there, the new property added for tax rolls, assessable transfers of interest, you had homes that were sold, so then the 15 percent cap wouldn't have been applicable to them, and then some people have substantial improvements, so the 15 percent cap wouldn't apply to them either. So, there are a lot of factors that go into this, as well.

The second scenario was because when we're looking at our estimated revenues and our expected loss and the Local Option Sales Tax, we only have six months of revenue right now to make that projection. So, we thought maybe we're being a little too conservative, so we upped the amount that perhaps we might collect for the Local Option Sales Tax as trying to get more of a tax credit factor for our citizens and to look at a better rollback, not millage, just a decrease for them as well. So, that being our tax credit factor .00073, which is still down from the .00087 that we budgeted, but using this tax credit factor, we are taking a risk that we could give back a little over a million dollars more in Local Option Sales Tax revenue than we receive, but it does give a little bit more of a rollback in millage to our citizens than Scenario 1. So, for us, this is our second most favorable option for the City and revenue. The additional revenue we could receive is about \$6 million for both rollback plus CPI and rollback for CPI and population. I forgot to tell you that, again, both the highlighted in pink, those were our two where we thought the City would be more fiscally stable in keeping the millage up a little bit higher than rolling it all the way back to the 72.25. Then, if you take into consideration the \$1 million that we could possibly overpay, so the net additional revenue we could receive would be the \$4.9 million or \$5.3 million.

The third scenario was based on keeping the same Local Option Sales Tax revenue that we budgeted, which makes the tax credit factor .00075. This would mean that we could potentially give back \$1.675 million more in Local Option Sales Tax than we collect. It does, as you can see, give more of a rollback in millage to our citizens, but we felt the risk of having to pay back that much LOST, it was our less favorable option for the City. Then, this is the revenue projections, and I just kept it at rollback plus CPI and rollback plus CPI and population because those were the two that were most advantageous to keep the City fiscally stable. So, because of the initial \$5.4 million to \$5.8 million in tax revenue, you then have to take into consideration the additional LOST that we would end up having to give back from what we collect. So, the additional tax revenue would be either \$3.7 million or \$4.1 million."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "There will be a test on this immediately after our meeting."

Ms. Wharton said, "I do have a written test that I'll e-mail to everyone later. Scenario 4 was keeping our tax credit factor as we budgeted at .00087. It was much too risky and unfavorable for us. We would end up having to pay \$4.825 million more in LOST back than we received. Based on using that tax credit factor, as you can see, we would end up having to lose almost \$2 million if we went with that scenario. Keep going? Are there any questions?"

Councilmember Griffin said, "I have a question, Amy. How many scenarios are there?"

Ms. Wharton said, "That's it. I'm done. So, within each of these, there are four of these four embedded. That's the 16 I was talking about. So, in looking at all of these scenarios, Scenario 2 at rollback plus CPI and Population offered the best balance of millage rollback and fiscal stability for the City. It provides a little higher rollback than the first scenario. It considers the need to alleviate impacts of revenue losses in 2021, and although at a slight risk to the City for that potentially \$1 million we might have to pay back, it provides a little higher local option sales tax credit, which helped the net millage decrease or the rollback. Make sense?"

Councilmember Griffin said, "So, when the average citizen sees a headline in the paper that says 'City of Charleston raises property taxes by 3 percent' in actuality, all we did was adjust our millage rate, so that we didn't overpay?"

Ms. Wharton said, "We rolled the actual operating millage back, but we have to adjust the sales tax credit factor is what we did, but I'll keep going, and then maybe hopefully that will be a little bit more clear."

Councilmember Griffin said, "Okay. Sorry."

Ms. Wharton said, "That's okay. So, really this is just a visual. Right here is our fiscal year 2019 millage, and we could roll back to any of these options here. These are all of our new legally allowable rollback ranges, the 72.3, 72.5, 74.0, 74.3. So, in 2011, we calculated millage using rollback plus population, but there was no percentage of CPI available to use that year because it was 0. So, the population was 1.9 percent, the total allowable percentage increase of millage was 1.9 percent, and that's what we used. The operating millage decreased from 77.1 mills to 76.8 mills as a reduction of only .3 mills. The total millage, including drainage, was 78.8, with 79.1 being the prior year millage, still .3 mills deduction from year to year. So, I just wanted to note that in a recession, the roll back of millage was not significant. Right now, we're rolling back to the equivalent of 1.85 mills, and just looking at operating millage, it's a decrease of 5.3 mills or 6.12 percent reduction.

In 2015, we calculated using rollback plus population and then CPI plus population. So, it's 1.46 percent and 1.88 percent population. This all kind of goes into the calculation of our millage rate. The total allowable increase of millage rate was 3.34 percent. We only used 2.9 percent in 2015, but that year we had also budgeted a 1.5 mill addition in taxes for public safety infrastructure. So, I wasn't part of it, but I believe that that was some of the reason why we didn't use up the 3.34 percent that we could have used because we had already raised millage 1.5 mills. Operating millage decreased from 80.3 to 78.1, and that was an operating mills reduction of 2.2. Total millage, including drainage and public safety, was 81.6. Prior year total millage was 82.3. So, the total reduction in millage was .7 mills from Fiscal year 2014 to 2015. This is where they talk about the administrative decision that you saw in the paper. So, no special meetings of Council were required or called when the millage rates were set in 2011 or 2015 during those reassessment years. We complied with State law. We do not go above the County's millage calculation for rollback plus CPI and population, and we just did the same exact thing that we've done in all of the prior reassessment years. We've never brought that to Council.

So, in our calculation, one of the other things that were suggested that any rollback option other than straight roll back results in a tax increase. In using the 72.25 straight roll back millage would keep the City revenue neutral, meaning no increase in tax revenues, and on average, the City would just get the same amount of tax revenue is what it's saying, and if you look here, using that millage if it's right, we should see a small decrease in our tax revenue. It's pretty much neutral, but what nobody is considering is that we give 100 percent of Local Option Sales Tax back, so you would have to take that into consideration. So, in addition to using the straight rollback calculation, the City stays revenue neutral, but it does not mean that a person won't experience an increase in their taxes. So, I have another slide that calculates the impact of the millage rates just using the straight rollback just so you can see what it does to a person's property taxes, and I used the .00073 Local Option Sales Tax that will be on everybody's 2020 tax bills. Then, Berkeley County residents are experiencing a tax decrease actually this year because they were reassessed last year, and they did not get the benefit of the rollback, so they're getting that this year if that makes sense. So, this is just straight rollback, no CPI and population anything like that. In 2019, at a 79.6 millage rate, that would be what their taxes were. If they had no reassessment increase at all, they would actually have a little bit of a decrease in their tax bill, but if their reassessment was the full 15 percent cap, then they would have an increase in their taxes. So, I just wanted to make that clear. This has to do with the value of their properties increasing,

their investment is increasing in their houses, and that is what is causing that tax increase. Makes sense? Then, this is Berkeley County. They're getting a little bit of a break this year on their taxes."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "That should make Councilwoman Delcioppo happy."

Councilwoman Delcioppo said, "Absolutely."

Ms. Wharton said, "So, like I said before, calculating millage isn't as straightforward as you think. There's a lot that we have to take into consideration. We thought long and hard about it. We did those 16 different scenarios to try to do the best that we could for the citizens and the City to make sure that we're financially stable and then maximizing rollback and preventing the need for future tax increases at the same time. So, summarizing the 2020 millage rollback, operating mills in 2019 is 79.6, the operating millage rate is 74.3. This is actually the lowest operating millage in the past ten years, at least. We didn't go past ten years, so I'm not really sure, but I know it's at least less the past ten years. Operating millage reduction of 5.3 mills, 6.12 percent reduction, and a net millage reduction after tax credit factor of 1.8 mills."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Well, thank you, Amy, for putting all of that together. It is, as I said in the beginning, a little complicated. Are there any questions for Amy on any of that?"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, "More of a comment, Mayor, and, Amy, thank you because we went through this exercise, and I think at our last AdHoc Budget meeting. It is complex, and you had to sit through this stuff several times to sort of absorb all of this. But one of the things I think the public just needs to be aware of, and we've had these discussions about the option sales tax that we give back to our citizens 100 percent of the option sales tax benefit, and not a lot of the other municipalities around here do that, so I think the way we want to communicate to the community is that we tried to come up with ways to keep the citizens' tax bill down as low as possible balancing what you just said, Amy. That it is our responsibility to keep our solvency, keep our bond rating up. That's all very critical that we are being responsible stewards in the process of doing that, balancing those two compelling interests from our citizens and our stewardship responsibilities. So, thank you for putting all of that together."

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

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilwoman Jackson.

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Thank you very much, Amy. Every time you go over something like this I try to retain it, just so you know. So, I'm simple when it comes to numbers. I love doing my taxes, and I love thinking about numbers and the concepts and making the decisions and when I got the obvious question from other jurisdictions and Councilmembers and I heard from a couple of people who said, 'Wow, we would love to be able to just make an administrative decision', I think that is really one of the primary questions that I heard from people. Why didn't it have to come to Council to go through all of this before we set the millage rate and decided on the 100 percent give back of the LOST? I think really for me, simplistically, is we have a strong Mayor in the City of Charleston. Mt. Pleasant doesn't, Town of James Island doesn't, and Folly Beach doesn't. So, that is the tradition and the precedent. If another Councilmember took a vote back in Mayor Riley's era, I don't know, but for me that was a very logical answer. The other thing is the property tax is based on assessments that are done universally every five

years, and if your property is so fortunate to have increased in value, and you haven't done a thing to it, and you're a primary owner, basically, you have a very limited cap of increase, but you don't get an increase because our property values have gone up exponentially in the last five years. The majority of the money that we're going to see as revenue increases the \$7 million and is coming from properties that have turned over, so they are paying more based on their current value when they were sold and re-purchased and also the new construction. I don't know where the reporter is who had the headline that made everybody stand up and ask all of these questions I don't know how she picked up on a 3 percent increase, but you have done over the top Amy tonight to set that record straight, and hopefully if anybody has got questions they can write to us. We're going to be talking about this as we go on through the budget, but frankly, this is an amazing outcome that we have not chosen to really increase taxes to any significant extent in a cost cutting budget year when we really need the money in order to keep the City supplied and supported to the extent that taxpayers rely on us to do that. Thank you very much."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you. Is there anyone else?"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, "Yes, Mr. Mayor, thank you. I think part of this, and believe me, I know I'm going to get arrows in the back when I say this, it was a very unfair article that was put in the newspaper. I don't necessarily think it was you, Mr. Mayor, or it certainly wasn't Amy, as I'm sure a good explanation was given, but the article is written as though it was a dictator that came in there and increased the taxes, and that just wasn't the case. It was just an adjustment in the millage."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "A downward adjustment."

Councilmember Waring said, "A downward adjustment in the millage, and that was not acknowledged in the article. Because I've got to be frank when I first saw it, I thought the same thing. Wait a minute, we can't be increasing taxes on the whole citizenry unilaterally like that, and that wasn't the case. Obviously, I reached out to Amy, and obviously, when I found out it was just adjustment of the millage, it's really a non-issue. Anyway, I would hope that journalists were on this meeting and saw that academic explanation, and hopefully, we'll get a little bit more favorable article in the newspaper tomorrow or the next day. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright."

Councilmember Griffin said, "Thank you so much, Amy. I really, really appreciate it."

Councilmember Waring said, "She really did a good job."

Ms. Wharton said, "Thank you."

Councilmember Griffin said, "She always, always does a good job."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Absolutely. She keeps us straight. Thank you, Amy. So, next we did have a request also to discuss placement and enforcement of business and political signs in the City of Charleston."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I appreciate the opportunity, and I'll try to be as quick as I possibly can. Councilmember Waring brought this to my attention at one of our West Ashley Revitalization Commission meetings. There has been a proliferation of signs throughout the City, and a lot of them are business signs, and I just double checked the Municipal Code. A lot of these signs are illegal signs the way that they're designed. They're called these feather signs or banner signs. They're up and down Sam Rittenberg Boulevard, Old Towne Road, and St. Andrews Boulevard, and people complain about this to me frequently that it looks like it's a carnival over in West Ashley, in particular. In addition, we have a specific City ordinance that deals with political signs in right-of-ways that, oddly enough, I was cleaning out my attic this weekend, and I went through a stack of newspapers. I don't know why I was keeping them, but I found a newspaper article dated November 12, 1996 and in it, it had this article about the sign removals cost taxpayers back in 1996 \$5,400, reported by then Department of Traffic and Transportation Director Howard Chapman. Somewhere along the way we have lost the enforcement of these signs, and I don't know if it falls directly within T&T or Livability or Public Works, but there are signs everywhere. I just want them to have a uniform enforcement of removing these signs and getting them off of the right-of-way, particularly political signs. It's that time of season. I know that people do this. We're all candidates for political office. That's why we're here, and I'm sure I'll be one of the first ones to fess up to that I've probably been guilty of putting down signs where they shouldn't be, but we've got to have uniform enforcement of what we're doing with these signs, and particularly West Ashley looks like it's some kind of just circus going on over there. So, that's my vent. I don't know if anybody wants to chime in on that. I appreciate it, but I would like to see the City maintain some kind of uniform enforcement of taking these signs down, particularly the ones that are not legal in any circumstance being the ones that are in the right-of-way. They pose a hazard to the community, and they're not supposed to be there. So, thank you for hearing me out, Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you. Would anyone else like to chime in?"

Councilmember Waring said, "I have to, Mr. Mayor."

There was laughter.

Councilmember Waring said, "I got called out on that one. The Chairman is right. The West Ashley Chairman is right. It's part of basically cleaning up West Ashley. Putting the signs in the right-of-way, a lot of times they end up in our ditches and end up clogging, frankly, some of the drainages. So, we do a good job when we run. In other words, when you run, Mr. Mayor, or I run, and I put my sign in the right-of-way, our people come and pull them up, but the other elections we kind of looked the other way, and we've got to do better than that. If it's in the right-of-way, we've got to clean it up. I saw one of the areas where your predecessor Aubry Alexander fought right there and myself fought to get some landscaping put at St. Andrews Boulevard, Old Towne Road, and Ashley River Road. We've got nice plants coming up there. As a matter of fact, they're all in bloom right now, and now we've got signs stuck all over the landscaping. So, we've got to do better than that. So, you know the nickname that we want to get away from, or the ugly nickname 'West Trashly', this contributes to that. We don't want that. So, you don't see this on Coleman Boulevard, you don't see this on Johnnie Dodds Boulevard, so we don't want to see this in West Ashley, don't want to see it in James Island or Johns Island either. So, thank you, Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "You're welcome. I do believe particularly around political election time that it's everywhere. It's not just West Ashley. Business signs are a different matter, and I note them myself. Sometimes we're not as vigilant when people put up temporary signs for

their business or having a 'Going Out of Business' sale or something like that. Technically, those signs are illegal, as well, and I called Dan and Keith about one company a few months ago. They literally had about 20 signs, maybe 40, and they put them all in a row in the public right-of-way and, of course, it was illegal. Then, they would come in the next night, pick them up, and put them all on another street. So, I think some vigilance on both is appropriate. I would say that both Democrats and Republicans, it's a bipartisan consensus of the candidates that they can put signs wherever they want to. We do send them a letter at the beginning of the election season, and I see Keith Benjamin is online. His folks go out and pull them up. So does Livability, but now until November 3<sup>rd</sup>, even if we got every one of them up tomorrow, they would be out the next night. So, it is quite an effort right here at the home stretch of an election, and I've had more than one candidate call me recently complaining that we were picking up their signs, so we continue to do a lot of education. Keith or Dan, do you all want to add anything?"

Keith Benjamin said, "I'll just add something real quick. We do send out a letter. We sent out a letter to all candidates, both sides, on I believe it was September 11<sup>th</sup>. A letter went out to all candidates with the reminder of the ordinance and a copy of the ordinance and also what the stipulations are. Please believe that we get technicalities on the difference between right-of-way, easement, right-of-way but maintained by the private owner, and otherwise, so people find their ways to say what they need to do. I do need to defend our Traffic Operations crews. They're primary obligation is maintenance, and so we're actually in West Ashley trying to fulfill a number of the work orders that we've been asked to do. So, we're trying to do that and also pick up the signs, but we will make sure we do our due diligence to address the political signs, as well."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Dan Riccio.

Dan Riccio said, "Yes, sir, and we, obviously, are in cooperation with Keith's department. We have notified political headquarters, as well, trying to educate and trying to pick these signs up in cooperation with Traffic and Transportation as we see fit, but you are 100 percent correct. We will pull them up, and they will be replaced overnight. So, it's an ongoing battle, but I promise that when this is all said and done and the election is over, they will be cleaned and cleared, and hopefully, looking better in West Ashley."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Councilmember Appel, did I pass over you? Did you have your hand up a minute ago?"

Councilmember Appel said, "I was just going to say I will be so relieved when this election season is over. I volunteer to go pick up signs in my district."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Amen."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Sakran.

Councilmember Sakran said, "Thank you, Mayor. Keith and Dan, you've got a bunch of my signs. Where can I pick my signs up from my campaign?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I think they're gone now."

Councilmember Sakran said, "Is there a way to just house those all in one place like some sort of big garage where the candidate can come pick them up?"

Mr. Riccio said, "Well, I tell you what. I would invite all of you on a ride-along with me first off, and you can help me pick them up, and we'll get them right back to you."

Councilmember Sakran said, "I'll do it."

Mr. Benjamin said, "To be fair, we do keep a number of them for when we do get the calls and otherwise. We know, especially those large ones, are expensive. I used to be one of those political. So, we definitely understand that, but as was said earlier, we've got to enforce the ordinance, too."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Let's try to move along."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilwoman Jackson.

Councilwoman Jackson said, "I just want to say I think we should all be glad that I watched on the news the other night there was a reporter somewhere out in another state, and she was driving by neighborhoods where there were signs everywhere, and then there was a house that was literally wrapped like an American Flag with a huge wall of their favorite candidate painted on it. So, at least we don't have that in our community."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I've seen a lot of the signs on a few private properties."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Shahid said, "I'll just wrap this up, Mayor, and I do want to thank Keith and Dan and folks from Public Works. They all variably stepped into this a barrage of e-mails about it, and they respond, but the other part of this, in addition to just political signs, are these business signs that were illegally put up. So, even after the political season is over, we just still need to be diligent on these other non-political signs that are floating around. So, thank you Dan and Keith for what you all do in being very responsive to all of this."

Mr. Benjamin said, "Please send us those areas of focus. Please send them to us. Like I said, our crews are actually in West Ashley for our maintenance month. So, if there's things we need to address, we can get right on top of them. Thank you."

Several Councilmembers said, "Thanks."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Pick them up. Alright. Council Committee reports. License Committee, Councilmember Gregorie."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Yes, Mr. Mayor and Council. The License Committee met on September 24, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. We had one item on our agenda, and that was to review the Business License Ordinance, and we voted unanimously to adopt it as submitted by staff."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Great. Can I have a motion to approve the report?"

Councilmember Shealy said, "Move for approval."

Councilmember Brady said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Is there any discussion?"

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Shealy, seconded by Councilmember Brady, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the License Committee Report as presented:

---INSERT LICENSE COMMITTEE REPORT---

a. Old Business

b. New Business:

An ordinance to adopt and amend the Business License Ordinance for the City of Charleston, South Carolina for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2021

First reading was given to the following bill:

*An ordinance to adopt and amend the Business License Ordinance for the City of Charleston, South Carolina for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2021.*

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I will note to everyone that the State Legislature did pass a new ordinance this year allowing a kind of universal business license application process. It won't go into effect I don't think until another year, but we will probably have to make some amendments to our local ordinance to be in compliance with the new State law, but it does allow us to continue to set our own rate, so we maintain that ability. It will be easier for businesses particularly those that do business in multiple jurisdictions. Alright. Committee on Public Safety, Councilmember Shahid."

Councilmember Shahid said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. The Committee on Public Safety met on Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. It was about a two-plus hour meeting. We received this preliminary report on the After Action Report prepared by the Charleston Police Department. We heard from Heather Mulloy, Assistant Corporation Counsel. She went through a very painstaking chronology and comments and responses and recommendations on how to improve the City's response to the events of May 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. The report was handed out to the public shortly before the meeting. We will have a follow-up meeting on October 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at which point we will receive more input from Councilmembers who will have an opportunity to digest this more thoroughly and also at that point to receive public input and comment from the public as to the report. I have to commend Heather, the Chief, and his two Captains for the extraordinary work they put into this. Many, many man hours were put into this to prepare this report, and it is comprehensive. I think the total pages are 62 pages with diagrams, maps, charts, and things of that nature. So, we're looking forward to the follow-up meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October at 5:30 p.m."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Does anybody have any questions or comments?"

No one asked to speak.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, we'll just accept that report as information, nothing to vote on at this time. Thank you, again, Heather, Chief, and everybody that's been involved in this really detailed After Action Report, but importantly setting a course forward for improvements in

all that you all do and we do. So, thank you, again, for that effort. We look forward to the public comment period at the next Public Safety meeting, and then after that, we'll be able to bring the final report along with additional information that's being added at the request of Committee members the other day and your requests over the next couple of weeks. We'll bring a final report back to Council for your acceptance. Alright. Next is our Committee on Community Development. Councilmember Mitchell."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Yes, Community Development met on October 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m., and we had quite a few items there under Old Business. We had discussion and recommendation to City Council, and that was voted on and approved, Number two the item under New Business 3.b.(i) with TD Bank, that was also approved, and 3.b.(ii), we had a resolution that was certifying a building of an abandoned building tax credit. That was deferred, and number 3.b.(iii), we had a review/amendment for the Cooper River Bridge TIF allocation, and that was deferred. Chip McQueeney is going to be bringing that back to the Community Development Committee. Number 3.b.(iv), the discussion with the minimum parking requirements, that was also for information only. We had a lot of discussion on that particular one also. So, I think that was approved also to go to Council, I believe."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Councilmember Appel brought that issue to the Committee. The Planning Department will work on a recommendation that was made that they bring it back to the Committee at the next meeting. So, the one item that requires City Council to vote is the cluster developments that was really brought to us by Councilwoman Jackson, and we'll give first reading if someone would make a motion for that approval."

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

Councilmember Brady said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Is there any discussion on that?"

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilwoman Jackson, seconded by Councilmember Brady, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the Committee on Committee on Community Development as presented:

a. Old Business

- (i) Discussion and recommendation to City Council on whether and to what extent the City's ordinances governing cluster developments should be modified or amended. A memorandum and draft ordinance are attached solely for the purpose of facilitating the discussion.

b. New Business

- (i) TD Bank Housing for Everyone Grant Opportunity
- (ii) Resolution to Certify a Building for an Abandoned Building Tax Credit (Legal Department to send under separate cover) (*DEFERRED*)
- (iii) Review/Amendment of the Cooper River Bridge TIF allocations (*DEFERRED*)

(iv) Discussion: Review of Minimum Parking Requirements for Commercial Corridors

First reading was given to the following ordinance:

*An ordinance to amend Chapter 54 of the Code of the City of Charleston (Zoning Ordinance) by changing Part 16 (Cluster Development) of Article 2 (Land Use Regulations) to add a new Sec. 54-299.16, providing that cluster developments will no longer be permitted for new developments.*

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "That will be first reading, and we'll bring it back to you. Does anybody want to make comments? Are we good to go?"

No one asked to speak.

Ms. Geona Shaw Johnson said, "Mayor."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Mayor, also on the first one, Mr. Mayor. The discussion on the recommendation to City Council whether to extend the City ordinance governing our cluster development. That's the one we were just on, but we also have another one that was approved also. It was the TD Bank."

Ms. Shaw Johnson said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you."

Ms. Shaw Johnson said, "Yes, we need your approval for that."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "We need your approval on that one."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Approval for our TD Bank Housing for Everyone Grant Opportunity application."

Councilwoman Jackson said, "I move for approval."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Second."

On a motion of Councilwoman Jackson, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell, City Council voted unanimously to give first reading to Item 3.b.(i):

TD Bank Housing for Everyone Grant Opportunity

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Did I catch everything?"

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Yes, that's it."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Next is our Committee on Recreation. Back to Councilmember Gregorie again."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Mr. Mayor and Council, the Recreation Committee met on Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. There were items under new business, and the first was the

Municipal Golf Course proposed rates. The Committee and I may need a little help from my Committee members, we did make a recommendation to raise the rates for non-residents of the City, and I think it's a user rate if I'm not mistaken."

Councilwoman Delcioppo said, "The daily green fee."

Councilmember Griffin said, "\$5.00."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "\$5.00?"

Councilmember Griffin said, "\$5.00."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Okay. Thank you, and to raise other rates proportionately, and that was voted on unanimously by the Committee. We also had an ordinance to give a stipend to our Poet Laureate, and that stipend amount would be \$5,000, but that would go into effect in 2021 because I think in 2020, we may have the funds to be able to address that issue for the laureate. We also had an update on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan by Tom O'Rourke who was extremely excited about the kind of progress that they have been making in getting the Master Plan together. It appears as though they are on schedule, and if I'm not mistaken, preliminarily they should be completed sometime this month. That did not require a vote, but b.(i) and (ii) will need Council's approval, and I move accordingly."

Councilmember Shealy said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We have the second. Is there any discussion?"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilwoman Jackson.

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Mr. Mayor. Thank you. I appreciate I was able to observe the Recreation Committee meeting yesterday, and I know that you raised the Tri-county rates while you were meeting. So, when you say \$5.00 tonight, doesn't that mean \$5.00 above the \$5.00 raise that the Golf Committee had already proposed?"

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Yes."

Councilwoman Jackson said, "So, essentially it's a \$10 increase?"

Councilmember Mitchell said, "No."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "No."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "She's correct. It was \$5.00 above what had been recommended to us."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Oh, yes."

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Which is a \$5.00 increase. So, I don't know. Is this going to be the carved in stone number that goes to the AdHoc Committee for the budget or to the Finance Office for the budget revenue stream and then it will set the rates for the golf course to begin advertising what we're doing right now? Is that what I understand?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Correct. I think Marshall was going to proportionately adjust that middle tier based upon the \$5.00 additional increase. Basically, folks will have three tiers for pricing. One for Senior citizens which will be the lowest rate, an incredible deal particularly for this renovated course. Then, a middle tier for citizens of the Tri-county area who are not citizens of Charleston. There will be kind of a mid-range, but still less expensive other than one course than any other public course in the Tri-county region, and then a higher rate for out of the Tri-county region visitors I guess you would say."

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Right. That's what I understand. I guess I would put in a plea to create four tiers and give the Charleston County residents a different rate than the Tri-county residents. When you think about the checkerboard communities that a lot of us serve among, I mean I have James Island, an unincorporated county. Similarly, Councilmember Brady has an unincorporated county just a hop, skip, and a jump down on Johns Island. I really feel like, and my husband plays in a golf group, so it's very personal to us, that people living in Riverland Terrace and I know you made an ad announcement yesterday, Mayor, about anyone who wants to annex in would be welcome, and they could get the City rate, which is all true if they have the ability to annex in. But, some county people right now don't live contiguous to a city property, and the Town of James Island residents who are county residents, you know I live on a block where the majority of my neighbors are Town of James Island. They've already done an annexation. I just feel like if we're going to be continuing to court and find ways to cooperate with our Charleston County colleagues and citizens, I just feel like that would send a really good message that we're giving a Charleston County rate and a Tri-county rate and the other county rate and then anyone else. So, I would just throw that out there as a consideration. It wasn't appropriate for me to interject that yesterday, but the more I think about it, if this is the final decision about rates that would be my appeal to you all."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, it would go in the works for our budget for next year, and I can say that Councilmembers have the right to change it at any time. I would say once you get beyond three tiers, I would question how complicated it gets just to price somebody out. I'll repeat again that that middle tier for non-City of Charleston residents for the Tri-county area, which is our metro area, I mean if you live in Cainhoy, and you're not in the City limits, you kind of feel like you're part of the City, right Marie, but you're in Berkley County. So, we're one metro region and, again, the rate that our metro region citizen would pay is a better deal than any other public golf course other than one, and that difference was only \$1. So, it's a great deal for Charleston County residents, and it's a great deal for the metro area."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Griffin.

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

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "I'm sorry."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Seekings followed by Councilmember Griffin.

Councilmember Seekings said, "My question was answered. Thank you very much."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay."

Councilmember Griffin said, "Mr. Mayor, I play a lot of golf, too, and I'm over at Shadowmoss. If you look on the Shadowmoss website, you have two tiers really, Tri-county and

then outside of that. The third tier is obviously the member who pays the membership fee monthly, and then it's a very reduced rate. We are a municipal golf course, so we're not private. Our membership rate is really like a City of Charleston resident. You're getting a member rate of living in the City knowing that your tax dollars are paying for this course. So, it makes sense to have a three-tiered system like that because if it was a private course, it would be the same way. So, I think this makes the most logical sense."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Alright. Is there any further discussion?"

No one else asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Gregorie, seconded by Councilmember Shealy, City Council voted unanimously to approve the Recreation Committee Report as presented:

a. Old Business

b. New Business

(i) Municipal Golf Course Proposed Rates

(ii) Poet Laureate Ordinance Amendment

(iii) Update on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan – Tom O'Rourke

First reading was given to the following bill:

*An ordinance to amend Chapter 2, Sections 398 and 399, to expand the responsibilities of the Poet Laureate, to clarify the term of service to include multiple terms, to include public funding as a funding source, and to provide an annual stipend.*

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you."

Councilmember Waring said, "Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes, sir."

Councilmember Waring said, "I have a question I want to discuss with the Recreation Committee before we leave the Recreation Committee report."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes, sir."

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you. I've gotten a call from several people who live up and down the Greenway who are interested in donating a bench, for example, or benches along the way, planting a tree in memoriam to people, and I'm being told that it's almost like an Act of Congress to get that done. So, I'm wondering if there is a way of giving that issue to Mr. Chairman here on the Recreation Committee to develop a policy where if people want to donate a bench, or a neighborhood wants to donate a bench, basically, we'll have a standard already set that we can send out to that person, company, or neighborhood. I think the Master Plan allows for that, but apparently, I don't think it's been unfolding that way. So, maybe in the next two weeks, Mr. Chairman, you can report back on that. I know you have a couple of other Councilmen, who the Greenway runs through their district as well, and it's been around since certainly

Councilmember Green, and we just want to help people improve the Greenway, which actually helps the City, as well. I spoke to Danny Kassis, along with Dominion. They're doing some work right now along the Greenway, and when they finish doing that work, they're going to, obviously, clean it up and probably restore it back better than it was before. This is another wonderful opportunity maybe where Dominion would contribute to the beautification of that Greenway. So, the process by which, for example, if I wanted to donate a bench, what type of bench would be allowed, and I guess the way it has to be installed and all, we need to find that out so it can be abbreviated. Can you hear me?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Yes, sir. I can."

Councilmember Waring said, "I'm sorry. I saw Councilmember Gregorie waving his hand. I didn't know if he could hear me or not. So, anyway, I threw that out for discussion hopefully so we can get something back in two weeks on that if possible, but it's something that shouldn't take six months or longer for somebody to give something to improve the Greenway."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Absolutely."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Councilmember Waring, I will start a conversation with our Parks and Recreation Department because I do know that there is a bench program in Hampton Park, and what we could do is sort of start finding out what those guidelines are, the how's, the what's, the where's, and see if we can adapt it accordingly for the Greenway. We will try to put that on the agenda within the next couple of weeks."

Councilmember Waring said, "Great. And something like, for example, if somebody wants to, and I know this has been done because I actually attended one, a tree that was planted in memoriam to a loved one, if they want to put a bench by that tree, for example. So, not just a bench, but maybe a tree as well, with the landscaping, as well. Thank you."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Okay. We'll start that. Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Thank you so much. Next, Committee on Public Works, Councilmember Waring."

Councilmember Waring said, "Yes, the Committee met yesterday at 4:00 p.m. We had an update on King Street/Huger drainage, which is pretty close to get to the point of being bid out. We have an agreement with CWS. Basically, they're going to reimburse us for any improvements that fall in their framework that we pay for. They're going to come back and reimburse us 100 percent. It was a really nice grant that was accepted on behalf of the Church Creek Drainage Basin in the amount of \$1,345,000, which accounts for great work on the part of our staff and everybody to get that grant. They had to have an in-kind match and donation of an additional \$16,541, which was also approved, and an update on Signal Point, and an ordinance for Flood Hazard Prevention and Control Requirements was also passed unanimously. We had an extensive discussion on the Central Park Drainage System, and hopefully we got consensus on the funding to pay for the improvements to come. I'm going to hold in abeyance Central Park for a second, but I'm going to ask for approval of everything else I mentioned that was voted upon. What you see listed with the exception of Central Park, and of course, Signal Point. So, I move for approval on items that passed unanimously."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We've got a second. Is there any discussion?"

No one asked to speak.

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

- (i) King/Huger Drainage Improvement – Approve a Memorandum of Agreement with Charleston Water System agrees to reimburse at 100% the costs of all construction items associated with the relocation of lateral and longitudinal water and sanitary sewer conflicts and the replacement of existing water main infrastructure within project area.
- (ii) Church Creek Drainage Improvements - Approval to accept the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant for the Church Creek Habitat Restoration and Flood Protection Project. The grant implements nature based solutions and green infrastructure to protect critical infrastructure in and around the Church Creek Basin, promote community resilience and enhance ecosystem services and hydrological function. The grant provides \$1,345,000.00 of Federal Funds and requires a local match of \$1,355,825.00. Matching funds are budgeted in the Drainage Fund and available in In-Kind Local Donations (\$16,541.00).
- (iv) Signal Point/Grimball Drainage Improvements – Project Update
- (v) An ordinance amending Chapter 27 of the Code of the City of Charleston, by amending the Flood Hazard Prevention and Control Requirements in Article II, Division 3, Section 27-103, to add a new definition for "violation."

First reading was given to the following bill:

*An ordinance amending Chapter 27 of the Code of the City of Charleston, by amending the Flood Hazard Prevention and Control Requirements in Article II, Division 3, Section 27-103, to add a new definition for "violation."*

Councilmember Waring said, "I'll come back to Central Park Drainage. I don't know whether, Mr. Mayor, you want to have some input or Councilmember Gregorie, who certainly has been following up on this one right here and kind of got us going in the right direction. Mr. Fountain, if you will but, Councilmember Gregorie, do you have any comments on the Central Park Drainage System?"

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Yes, I do because I really want to give a shout-out to Matt because the presentation that you guys saw yesterday was presented to the neighborhoods probably about a week earlier, and they still want to see something happen. But, of course, as we went through the presentation by Matt, we're still quite a ways out between design, construction etcetera, etcetera. But I do think that from what I gleaned from our meeting yesterday and with the Mayor's input, your input, and other members' input, is that we are going to make this drainage project a priority, and we're going to see whether or not there is some way that we can speed up the permitting process if possible. I was very pleased when I heard the Mayor say at the meeting that we think we have identified the resources to be able to do the project, so funding is not the issue. The issue is the process that we have to go through, but I do hope that Matt and his staff and working with the various agencies can attempt to speed up the process, so

that we can bring relief as soon as possible to the area. At one point, I thought that we could piecemeal. It does not appear as though we can do that, that it has to be done sequentially, and I do think that the neighborhood when they were privy to the presentation also understands we can't short circuit the process, but that still does not ease the anxiety of trying to make sure that we get something done over there as soon as possible. So, I just wanted to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing that presentation to happen because it does send, I think, a message to the people of James Island that we are serious about trying to get a fix on one of their drainage issues. So, I appreciate it. Thank you."

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you. Mr. Fountain, can you touch just briefly on that approval process that we're going to try to get expedited, and then after that, Mr. Mayor, can you touch on how you spoke about the funding and the momentum behind that after Mr. Fountain, and that will be the gist of my report?"

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Councilmember Appel had his hand up."

Councilmember Waring said, "I'm sorry. I didn't see it. Councilmember Appel."

Councilmember Appel said, "Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As one of the three James Island Councilmembers, this is a very important issue for my constituents, and I think that the folks over in this area of James Island deserve a tremendous amount of credit. They have been leaders, not just on James Island, but the City as a whole in bringing visibility and a sense of urgency to stormwater infrastructure improvements in their area, and I think that they deserve a lot of credit for that. None of this happening today, this great effort that's being led by Councilmember Gregorie and Councilwoman Jackson, with the help of Councilmember Waring, and everybody, the Mayor and the staff and everybody, it's a team effort, this wouldn't be happening without you all. If I may suggest or a make a gentle recommendation, it seems as though a lot of the energy politically out there is directed over specific developments, specific projects that we don't like to see, and I think, that's a whole different conversation. If we can find a way to harness the energy, the passion, the commitment of these residents towards helping form our outdated, overly bureaucratic, time consuming State and Federal permitting requirements for cleaning out things as simple as a ditch.

Guys, I was at the Committee meeting yesterday. I heard the same thing that I've heard for projects all over my district and all over the City, 12 to 18 months for permits to clean out a ditch. We're not trying to fill in a hundred acres to build apartments or something. This is a municipal government trying to improve and enhance its stormwater system. We're going to use a year-and-a-half if some of these creative permitting expediting measures aren't successful. That's absolutely unacceptable, and we need to shift the political fire, so to speak, into getting reform in that much needed area because the City of Charleston stands ready and committed to taking care of these infrastructure needs. We're going to do it. We're going to do it with the County, we're going to do it with ourselves, but we need help in reforming the system, frankly, so that more and more these projects can get underway. They can get designed, and they can get built quicker, and the permitting issue is a big one. It's not sexy, but it's important, and we need to be focusing on that and, of course, finding all of the different ways to get more money pumping into these projects because we've got issues all over the City. So, sorry for that little commentary there, but I think this is important, and I think that this entire Central Park Drainage area is very indicative of the challenges that we're facing Citywide, and let's harness and keep this activated community moving forward because we're going to need them not just on James Island, but people all over the City to push for these improvements."

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you, Councilmember Appel. As a matter of fact, you did such a good job that I'm going to ask Mr. Fountain to stand down. I mean, you really explained that wonderfully. Mr. Mayor, you want to touch on this, the funding piece and the momentum behind it? Then, that will be the extent of my report."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Okay. I also see Councilwoman Jackson's hand."

Councilmember Waring said, "I can't see everybody over here. Councilwoman Jackson, ladies first, go ahead."

Councilwoman Jackson said, "Thank you, sir. Yes, I just want to follow up on Councilmember Appel. This is an urgent matter that we get this kind of general permit from the State agency as well as approved in concept by the Army Corp because it is detrimental to serve the drainage problems that we have. It has nothing to do with new construction, honestly. I mean, improvements to Central Park Basin will be new construction, but what happens in the actual marsh is going to be just an upfit of existing infrastructure. So, we're not adding anything new that hasn't already been there, but I do also think that we should acknowledge that this is one of the very best opportunities to have to be cooperative with other jurisdictions. When we first started about this general permit possibility with Senator Senn because there was a DHEC staff person who was very eager to make this work, it was because Georgetown and the Pee Dee had just acknowledged that because of their marsh and the ability to maintain and go into it, they were able to go through the storm surge of Hurricane Irma that was originally projected to wipe out the City of Georgetown. So, they were as eager as the rest of us further south to get this general permit that would allow them to do things like that. So, it really is a collective. I know the Mayor has great relationships up and down the coast, and I think this is the time for us all to bring all of our citizens and all of our influence together."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Mr. Chairman and Mr. Mayor."

Councilmember Waring said, "Councilmember Gregorie."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Yes, I mean just so that everybody knows, especially the new Councilmembers, we have been working on this since 2014. This is nothing new, along with the neighborhoods and the neighborhood associations, and I agree if somehow we can take this energy and move it to the next level, it would be great. But, right now, the people on the islands want to see some results. We've been working since 2014 on this issue, and it took us this long just to get the study completed. So, we have some issues as a City that we need to take care of, as well as in terms of how long it takes for us to do a study from 2014 to now. That's a long time just to get a study completed. So, it's not just the permitting. We have some issues internally I think that we need to address, as well, to make sure that we get things done as quickly as we can. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."

Councilmember Waring said, "Alright. Now, Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Well, yes, I will be the first to acknowledge that the report that we finally now have completed from AECOM in partnership with the County of Charleston took longer than it should have, but we are now at the place where we've got a plan where we've got four projects, four areas if you will. We've decided to take two and give two to the County working in conjunction, but we've got to do the lower end of the basin first. The City is responsible for that. I've let Matt and AECOM know in no uncertain terms that we will fund the engineering the next step in the process. We're saving money from the refinancing of our bond that we recently

approved, which will mean about \$400,000 a year in savings for our stormwater fund. That's more than enough to take the next step, and we are committed as a Council, I am as Mayor, to see these projects through as expeditiously as we can now that we have this study done and the County, I believe, is stepping up to the plate on their side of it, as well. In addition, our annual CDC recommendation for either roadway or a drainage project included one of the projects in this basin. So on the City's dime really, even though it comes through the County, we have the right to one project. We picked up another \$400,000 or so to go to the basin. So, we're underway. It will take some time to follow that process, but there is nothing stopping us now. If somebody wants to see the full presentation, it's recorded at that meeting from yesterday, and Mr. Fountain has it and can make it available. If you want to see it, really, I'd hate to ask him to come forward and just do two minutes. You've got to see the whole thing if you're interested, anybody on the meeting call tonight. So, I don't know if that answers your question, but it's clear from the Committee, from this Council, we have a path forward. We are going to get this done. We're all committed to it."

Councilmember Waring said, "Okay. Thank you, Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "So, and I think that was all that needed approval. So, I'm going to go on to the Committee on Traffic and Transportation. Councilmember Seekings."

Councilmember Seekings said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. The Committee on Traffic and Transportation did meet sometime in 2020. I think it was today. What we learned principally is that Mr. Benjamin and his team are working really hard in tough conditions and are doing a great job. There were three things that were reported out that we need to vote on. One is we have recommended unanimously to enter into a maintenance agreement for Glenn McConnell Parkway, which is principally for the multi-use path, same with the Folly Road Corridor. There is a maintenance agreement that we need to enter into so we can make sure that the bike lanes stay safe and painted a different color. Finally, there was a resolution that we undertook and adopted between a private developer and the City to allow for a no noise zone on the train tracks that are behind the development just near the entrance to the Ravenel Bridge. It's a conglomeration of governmental entities that have to do all of this work, and all we're doing is handing this off to the private developer to make sure that that's a quiet zone. So, with that, unless Mr. Benjamin has anything to add, I would ask your approval for Items 6.a., b., and c. and again commend Mr. Benjamin and his team for their hard work. Thank you."

Councilmember Brady said, "So moved."

Councilmember Shealy said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Is there any discussion?"

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Brady, seconded by Councilmember Shealy, City Council voted unanimously to approve Items 6.a., b., and c. of the Committee on Traffic and Transportation Report:

- a. Glenn McConnell Parkway Maintenance Agreement
- b. Folly Road Maintenance Agreement

- c. Resolution for Approval: To establish the Johnson Street quiet zone at the highway rail grade crossing known as Johnson Street (USDOT Crossing ID 841159R) and to authorize the Mayor to execute a Memorandum of Agreement (“MOA”) and other necessary documents between the City of Charleston and all necessary parties to govern the funding, design, permitting, construction, installation, repair, and maintenance of necessary improvements to establish the Johnson street quiet zone upon approval of the final form of the MOA and other necessary documents by Corporation Counsel and the Director of the City’s Department of Traffic and Transportation.

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Is there anything further, Councilmember Seekings? That’s good?”

Councilmember Seekings said, “No, sir. That concludes my report. See you back again next time.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Thank you. Committee on Ways and Means, Councilmember Gregorie.”

Councilmember Gregorie said, “Move for approval, as amended.”

Councilmember Mitchell said, “Second.”

Mayor Tecklenburg said, “Alright. So, number 14 was amended on the Ways and Means Committee. Is there any discussion?”

No one asked to speak.

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

- (Bids and Purchases
- (Budget Finance and Revenue Collections: Year 2020 Amendment to General Fund and Enterprise Funds Expenditure Budget [Ordinance]
- (Budget Finance and Revenue Collections: Year 2020 Amendment to General Fund and Enterprise Funds Revenue Budget [Ordinance]
- (Fire Department: Approval to accept the HMEP grant in the amount of \$10,500 for the Charleston FD Haz-Mat Team to attend specialized training. A 20% in-kind match is required for this grant. Salaries of personnel attending classes will be used as the match.
- (Fire Department: Approval to accept the DHEC grant amendment in the amount of \$603,362.50 for the Lowcountry Healthcare Coalition to support the Charleston Fire Dept. to purchase Drive Through RX/Vaccination Shelter Trailers. A 20% in-kind match is requested. The grant is being increased by \$378,092.
- (Mayor’s Office for Children, Youth, and Families: Approval to apply to the Cities Financial Empowerment Fund to initiate a Bank On Initiative in Charleston in the amount of \$5,000 to provide financial resources and banking resources to un/underbanked individuals. There is no match or fiscal impact associated with this grant.

- (Police Department: Approval to accept the 2020 Justice Assistance Grant for \$27,875 to fund overtime costs for the CIU and training related to police-mental health collaboration. There is no match required for this grant.
- (Police Department: Approve a MOU between CPD and FBI regarding CPD's participation on the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force and Cost Reimbursement Agreement wherein subject to availability of required funding FBI will reimburse CPD for overtime payments made to officers assigned to and working on JTTF matters.
- (Stormwater Management: Approval to accept the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Grant for the Church Creek Habitat Restoration and Flood Protection Project. The grant implements nature-based solutions and green infrastructure to protect critical infrastructure in and around the Church Creek Basin, promote community resilience around the base and in surrounding communities, and enhance ecosystem services and hydrological function. The project will complete 33 acres of floodplain restoration, 2.5 miles of instream restoration, 28.5 acres of land restoration, and 29.5 acres of wetland restoration. Federal Funds - \$1,345,000; Local Match - \$1,354,825. Matching funds of \$1,354,825 are budgeted in the Drainage Fund (\$1,338,284) and In-Kind Local Donations (\$16,541).
- (Stormwater Management: Approval of Huger-King Street Drainage Improvements Memorandum of Agreement with Charleston Water Systems (CWS) by which CWS agrees to reimburse at 100% the costs of all construction items associated with the relocation of lateral and longitudinal water and sanitary sewer conflicts and the replacement of existing water main infrastructure with in project area. CWS will also be responsible for all engineering and design service costs associated with the preparation of plans and specification of the utility work.
- (Parks-Capital Projects: Approval of a contract with Demolition Environmental Company, LLC in the amount of \$131,025.88 for the disassembly of the base of the Calhoun Statue at Marion Square. The funding source for this project is 2019 General Fund Reserves.
- (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 \$3,146,883. Funding sources for this project are: 2015 General Fund Reserves (\$250,000) 2018 General Fund Reserves (\$400,000), Cooper River Bridge TIF (\$2,340,000), and Charleston Parks Conservancy Contribution (\$156,883). ***(The Committee on Ways and Means amended this item to approve a \$160,000 contract with Bennett Preservation Engineering, PC, and approved the formation of a task force to make recommendations regarding the St. Julian Devine Community Center Smokestacks.)***
- (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 \$3,146,883. Funding sources for this project are: 2015 General Fund Reserves (\$250,000), 2018 General Fund Reserves (\$400,000), Cooper River Bridge TIF (\$2,340,000), and Charleston Parks Conservancy Contribution (\$156,883). ***(DEFERRED)***
- (Approval of the Consent and Third Amendment to Lease Agreement between the City and Ecovest-East Shed Development, LLC, which amends certain terms of the Master

Lease Agreement executed by the City and Ecovest-East Shed Development, LLC, on October 9, 2020, and provides for approval by the City of a new subtenant for Ecovest-East Shed Development, LLC, as required under the terms of the Master Lease Agreement. [Ordinance]

(Approval of a Lease of a single City parking space on Cone Street for continued use to house a trash dumpster for nearby businesses. The property is owned by the City of Charleston. (Cone Street; Part of TMS# 458-09-02-068)

(Discussion regarding archeological ordinance *(Requested by Councilmember Peter Shahid)*)

(Discussion regarding donut holes *(Requested by Councilmember Peter Shahid)*)

(Consider the following annexations:

- 1824 Sandcroft Dr (TMS# 353-14-00-220) 0.23 acre, West Ashley (District 7). The property is owned by Jack and Samantha Reipke.

- Property on Wappoo Road (TMS# 350-14-00-086) 0.38 acre, West Ashley (District 5). The property is owned by Joshua Brandner and Dan Tollens.

(Update from Ernest Andrade, Executive Director, Charleston Digital Corridor

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

*An ordinance to reduce appropriations of the City of Charleston for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2020.*

*An ordinance to recognize the revenue losses incurred and the usage of additional funds to meet the appropriations authorized by Ordinance 2020-\_\_\_ for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2020.*

*An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute on behalf of the City the necessary documents to enter into that certain Third Amendment to Lease Agreement between the City, as Landlord, and Ecovest – East Shed, LLC, as tenant, pertaining to the property commonly known as the East Shed, located at 23 Ann Street, in the City of Charleston, State of South Carolina. Said Third Amendment to Lease Agreement being attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference herein.*

*An ordinance to provide for the annexation of property known as 1824 Sandcroft Dr (0.23 acre) (TMS# 353-14-00-220), 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 Jack and Samantha Reipke.*

*An ordinance to provide for the annexation of property known as property on Wappoo Road (0.38 acre) (TMS# 350-14-00-086), 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 5. The property is owned by Joshua Brandner and Dan Tollens.*

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Now we have bills up for second reading."

Councilmember Griffin said, "I make a motion to take numbers one through seven together."

Councilmember Shealy said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We've got a second. Do we have discussion on any of those items?"

No one asked to speak.

On a motion of Councilmember Griffin, seven (7) bills (Items L-1 through L-7) received second reading. They passed second reading on motion by Councilmember Shealy and third reading on motion of Councilmember Griffin. On further motion of Councilmember Gregorie, the rules were suspended, and the bills were immediately ratified as:

- 2020-136** 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.
- 2020-137** 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.
- 2020-138** 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.
- 2020-139** 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. BOLTON.
- 2020-140** 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.
- 2020-141** 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.

**2020-142** 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, "We have one bill up for first reading. This is a Height District regarding Laurel Island."

Councilmember Griffin said, "Move for approval."

Councilmember Shealy said, "Second."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We've got a motion and a second. Is there any discussion?"

No one asked to speak.

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

*An ordinance to amend Chapter 54 of the Code of the City of Charleston (Zoning Ordinance) 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 and Peninsula) (Charleston County TMS Nos. 459-02-00-013, 461-13-03-024, 464-00-00-002, 464-00-00-006, 464-00-00-023, 464-00-00-038) be deleted from the Old City Height District Zoning Maps.*

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "The next Regular Meeting will be on Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. Is there anything for the good of the order?"

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Mitchell followed by Councilmember Shahid.

Councilmember Mitchell said, "Yes, Mr. Mayor. All I want to say is I want to ask Mr. Benjamin after the meeting if he would give me a call. I want to get something, Mr. Mayor. I think you and I drove around on Jackson Street and Lee Street a couple of months ago. We saw that cars were parked on this grassy area, you all put signs up, and they have stopped parking on the grassy areas. I drove around last night, the night before, well, this whole week. I counted on the streets, Lee Street from Meeting Street to Hanover Street, Nassau Street from Jackson Street, there were 175 cars parked on the streets. So, the people that live in the area can no longer park there because I don't know where these cars are coming from. A building was built there, and they have a parking garage. I don't know if they have people staying with them or what, but there

are so many cars in that area at night. If you go around there right now and drive through, you will count at least 170 cars on the streets. We looked at Lee Street for buildings that were going to be built in the second phase and third phase of the housing and an adult community center by South Carolina State University. But the way it stands now, there is not going to be any parking space there at all on Lee Street, Jackson Street, Hanover Street, and Nassau Street. None of those streets have any parking. People park all over the place. That's every night."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "We'll get you all together. We may have to look at some kind of modified residential parking district or something."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "We're going to have to do something. I don't want to have the people hurt by doing this, but I don't know where all of these cars are coming from. I'm saying that the building there was rented for students, but I believe they are having other people staying there, too, I guess. They're bringing out all of these cars. There were 170 cars there for the two nights that I counted. I drove down each one of those streets. All of the in-between streets and the people who live there now, they're having problems parking. They are parking in the Martin Park lot and walk back to their building. So, it's a problem. We've got a big problem there now."

Mr. Benjamin said, "You know we talk all of the time, so I'll give you a shout. You know that's also unregulated area, so we've got to figure that out."

Councilmember Mitchell said, "I don't know where they're coming from."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Shahid followed by Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Shahid said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Just a plug to remind everybody tomorrow is the West Ashley Revitalization Commission meeting at 5:30 p.m., and we're going to receive a report from the County Transportation Authority as to the improvements for the Old Towne District. I will encourage you, if you're interested, to see what is in the plan for this comprehensive re-do of several intersections along Sam Rittenberg, Orange Grove Road, Old Towne Road to log in and participate in tomorrow's Revitalization Commission meeting."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Terrific."

Mayor Tecklenburg recognized Councilmember Waring.

Councilmember Waring said, "Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I wanted to give some attention to West Ashley Revitalization. There was a grassy Burger King that was reported a couple of times there. The grass has been cut. So, thank Mr. Riccio and thank Eric Bowman for getting all of that done. The relevance of the Committee is picking up, and the most important reason I wanted to be recognized tonight is that I think our Clerk of Council did a great job tonight."

There was applause.

The Clerk said, "Thank you. I had a good teacher."

Councilmember Waring said, "The transition has been seamless. I'm just so proud of her, and I mean when she shouted 'stop,' those people stopped. You did a good job with all of us today. So, thank you so much, Jennifer Cook, for doing what you did tonight."

Councilmember Gregorie said, "Congratulations, Jennifer."

The Clerk said, "Thank you."

Mayor Tecklenburg said, "Ditto, Madam Clerk. Thank you so much. Alright. With no further business this evening, we stand adjourned."

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Jennifer B. Cook  
Interim Clerk of Council