

MINUTES

FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

5:00 P. M., DECEMBER 6, 2021

THE MEETING OF THE FACILITIES COMMITTEE WAS HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN CITY HALL, AND WAS ALSO MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AS A LIVE STREAM VIA CIVICCLERK (PER THE AGENDA).

Jennifer Pharr, Chair, called the meeting of the Charleston City Council Committee on Facilities to order at 5:00p.m., DECEMBER 6, 2021.

Committee Members Present:

Jennifer Pharr, Chair

Naomi Bays

Bobby Brown

Pat Jones

Sam Minardi (arrived at 5:08, after approval of minutes)

Shannon Snodgrass

Committee Members Absent:

Jeanine Faegre

Other Councilmembers Present:

1. Approval of Previous Minutes – Councilmember Jones moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on 8-16-2021. There was no objection, and the minutes were approved.

2. Resolution No. 563-21 - Authorizing the Mayor or City Manager to order the demolition of the former fire station located at 502 26th Street, and to contract with the City's on-call demolitions contractor, West Virginia Demolition, Inc., to perform the demolition work.

City Manager, Jonathan Storage, added that the structure is a former fire station that was built in 1954. Until recently, it was being used as a recreational facility by the Fire Department until he became aware of some maintenance needs and structural issues. Upon review, it was determined that the floor was at risk of collapsing. The facility was closed, and heavy exercise equipment removed. ZMM conducted a full assessment of the building, and discovered other major problems. The Administration is recommending that the building be demolished as the cost to renovate it would be too expensive, especially given that the building is in a flood zone. They are currently looking for a suitable alternative for the Fire Department.

A representative of ZMM added, that extensive improvements to the basement would be needed in order to fix the first level. He added that the building is 10-feet into the flood plain, adding that there is major water damage. The cost to fully renovate the building would likely be \$200/sq foot, which is an excessive amount to salvage the building. He added that any future buildings on that site would have to be significantly raised to just above the current main level.

Councilmember Snodgrass asked what the City would do with the property. Storage replied that they might possibly use it as a storage facility.

Councilmember Brown added that the property would be difficult to sell since it was in a flood zone.

Councilmember Bays motioned to approve Resolution No. 563-21. Councilmember Snodgrass seconded. With the members being present having voted in the unanimously as affirmative, the Chair declared Resolution No. 563-21 as approved.

3. Discuss project for purchasing a new voting and telecommunications system for Council Chambers –

City Manager, Jonathan Storage, added that the voting and telecom systems used in Council Chambers are outdated in such a way that they cannot be replaced or serviced. The Administration recommends that a new voting system with display boards be used where votes can be tallied in real time. City Attorney, Kevin Baker, facilitated a meeting with IS staff and the Clerk's Office and the State Clerk and their IT team.

Nikki Smith, from the Clerk's Office, added they were given a tour of the technology used by the Senate and House, as well as a Committee room. The technology used is a voting box on desk with Yea, Nay and request to speak buttons, along with a microphone. The Clerk and the Presiding Officer have monitors that show all this activity, so it does not require that Members raise their hands or vote out loud. The monitors facing the public will show the individual votes and the results.

Director of IS, Adam Cottrell, added that if there were going to be panels for showing votes, they might also need to upgrade the camera set up for visibility for the stream.

Storage added that the Administration wanted to see if this was something that the Committee was interested in exploring further. The Committee expressed interest in this, as well as other upgrade in Council Chambers.

Councilmember Bays added that they should definitely look into upgrading the camera being used.

Councilmember Bays motioned to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned.