

MINUTES

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

5:00 P. M., APRIL 14, 2022

Keeley Steele, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Charleston City Council Committee on Public Safety to order at 5:00 p.m., APRIL 14, 2022. THE MEETING WAS HELD OVER ZOOM AND WAS MADE AVAILABLE AS A LIVE STREAM TO THE PUBLIC VIA ZOOM PER THE AGENDA.

Committee Members Present: all over Zoom

Keeley Steele, Chair
Chuck Overstreet, Vice Chair
Ben Adams
Brady Campbell
Caitlin Cook
Joseph Jenkins

Committee Members Absent:

Larry Moore

Other Councilmembers Present:

1. Approval of Previous Minutes –
Councilmember Adams moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on 5-28-2021. Councilmember Overstreet seconded the motion. There was no objection, and the minutes were approved.

2. Resolution No. 660-22 – That City Council does hereby endorse the proposed special levy to be voted on May 10, 2022, and urges all eligible voters to vote for the levy to provide for the continued operation and expansion of the emergency ambulance system, the continued operation and improvement of the mass transportation system, and supplemental funding for public law enforcement and public fire protection agencies within Kanawha County.

City Manager, Jonathan Storage added that the resolution was requested by the KRT and Kanawha Emergency Ambulance Authority since both entities benefit from the levy. The levy has been in existence for a long time, known as the Public Safety Levy, which is administered by Kanawha County. The City does indirectly benefit from this levy. This levy will be on the May, Primary ballot to extend the levy through 2028. The levy is required for the continuity of emergency services funding. The levy would establish an Emergency Services fund to establish a public and fire protection agency to help with equipment purchases, etc, as well funding some EMS services. A substantial portion of KRT's budget relied on the levy.

Sean Hill, representing KRT, added that he appreciated Council's continued support of KRT and the levy.

Councilmember Cook asked how long the levy had been on the ballot. Storage replied that the levy has been on the levy and approved for about 50 years. He added that the proposed levy would not be increasing rates.

Councilmember Jenkins motioned to approve Resolution No. 660-22. Councilmember Cook seconded the motion. With the members present voting unanimously in the affirmative, the resolution was approved.

Councilmember Cook motioned to adjourn. Meeting adjourned.

Resolution No. 660-22 -

WHEREAS, an excess levy election has been set for Tuesday, May 10, 2022, to provide the voters of Kanawha County the opportunity to approve an excess tax levy for the years beginning July 1, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027 and 2028, to support the operations of the Kanawha County Emergency Ambulance Authority (KCEEA), which has established and maintains an emergency ambulance system for Kanawha County; the Kanawha Valley Regional Transportation Authority (KVRTA), the owner and operator of the public bus transportation system serving Kanawha County and its citizens; and the establishment of an Emergency Services Fund, to assist and support public law enforcement and public fire protection agencies within Kanawha County; and

WHEREAS, the proposed excess levy is needed for the continued operation of the Ambulance and Transportation Authority, and to assist local police and fire departments to meet the public safety concerns of the citizens and will be used to provide funds for the acquisition of equipment, capital improvements and to cover in part current general maintenance and operational expenses as well as match funds from the government of the United States and others; and

WHEREAS, the proposed levy rate was not increased to ensure that the Kanawha County taxpayers would not face any increase in the taxes allocated for these services.

Be it Resolved by the Council of the City of Charleston, West Virginia:

That City Council does hereby endorse the proposed special levy to be voted on May 10, 2022, and urges all eligible voters to vote for the levy to provide for the continued operation and expansion of the emergency ambulance system, the continued operation and improvement of the mass transportation system, and supplemental funding for public law enforcement and public fire protection agencies within Kanawha County.

