

MINUTES

ORDINANCE AND RULES COMMITTEE MEETING

6:00 P. M., SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

THE MEETING WAS HELD IN PERSON IN THE AV ROOM #308 IN CITY HALL.

Chad Robinson, Chairperson, called the meeting of the Charleston City Council Committee on Ordinance and Rules to order at 6:00 p.m., SEPTEMBER 19, 2022.

Committee Members Present:

Chad Robinson, Chair
Bobby Reishman, Vice Chair
Ben Adams (arrived 6:04)
Becky Ceperley
Adam Knauff
Emmett Pepper (arrived 6:07)

Absent:

Keeley Steele

Councilmembers also Present:

Bruce King

1. Approval of Previous Minutes –

Councilmember Reishman motioned to approve the previous minutes from 6-6-2022. Councilmember Ceperley seconded the motion. With those being present having voted unanimously in the affirmative*, the Chair declared the minutes as approved.

Councilmember Relished motioned to approve the previous minutes from 7-18-2022. Councilmember Ceperley seconded the motion. With those being present having voted unanimously in the affirmative*, the Chair declared the minutes as approved.

*Adams and Pepper had not yet arrived.

2. Resolution No. 724-22 – Declaring the City Council for the City of Charleston's support for the Kanawha County Schools' 2022 Excess Levy.

Councilmember Ceperley added that Council has approved a resolution supporting the school levy since around 1937. The levy will be on the ballot in November's election. Schools will lose 25% of their budgets if the levy fails.

Councilmember Ceperley motioned to approve Resolution No. 724-22. Councilmember Reishman seconded. With those being present having voted unanimously in the affirmative*, the Chair declared Resolution No. 724-22 as approved.

*Pepper had not yet arrived.

3. Bill No. 7964 Committee Substitute -

City Attorney, Kevin Baker, added that the submitted Committee Substitute version of the bill will create the Victims Assistance Commission. The majority of the changes in the Committee Substitute now match the West Virginia Victims Assistance program. There will be a 7-member Commission appointed by the Mayor. One member will be the Chief of Police, 2 members will be Councilmembers, 4 members will be residents (at least one of those will be social/mental health worker and one a spiritual leader). All of the appointed residents will have 3-year terms. The duties of the members will be to help coordinate the efforts of the City/Community groups with National Night Out, Gun Violence Awareness Day, etc. They will also identify opportunities to collaborate on educational programs with other organizations, to identify opportunity to support victims of violence, to identify resources that can be used to help fund their efforts, to review and recommend approval of applications for funds related to violence prevention and victim compensation and to work with the City to identify policy and procedure changes. The bill also requires that the Commission submit an annual report to Council.

Councilmember Ceperley asked if the Commission would be giving money to families/individuals of violence. Baker replied that the State program focuses on providing a lot of financial support. The proposed Commission would likely serve as a supplement to those programs.

Councilmember Knauff asked if victims of domestic violence would fall under the Commission's scope. Baker replied that the bill doesn't specify types of violence, so nothing would prohibit that.

Councilmember Adams asked if there had been any discussion with the Police Chief about their involvement. Councilmember Robinson replied that he did not think so. Councilmember Adams asked if they would request funding from the City to provide supplemental funds to victims. Baker replied that the bill was drafted somewhat open so that the Commission could draft their own bylaws. Baker added that one of their goals

would be to identify resources for funding, like from grants, etc.

Councilmember Ceperley confirmed that the Commission would be a branch of the City, like the Municipal Beautification Commission.

Baker suggested that the bill could be amended to required that any by-laws set forth by the Commission should be approved by Council.

Councilmember Reisman motioned to amend the Committee Substitute to require that Council approve the Commission's by-laws. Councilmember Knauff seconded the motion. With those being present having voted unanimously in the affirmative, the Chair declared the amendment as approved.

Councilmember Reisman motioned to approve Bill No. 7964 Committee Substitute as Amended. Councilmember Pepper seconded the motion. With those being present having voted unanimously in the affirmative, the Chair declared Bill No. 7964 Committee Substitute as Amended as approved.

4. Other

Councilmember Knauff asked when the Committee could be expected to take up his sponsored "Halloween bill" that was introduced at the last Council meeting. Councilmember Robinson that he would be looking at that soon.

Councilmember Reishman motioned to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned.