

MINUTES

ORDINANCE AND RULES COMMITTEE MEETING

6:00 P. M., DECEMBER 5, 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., DECEMBER 5, 2022.

Committee Members Present:

Chad Robinson, Chair
Bobby Reishman, Vice Chair
Becky Ceperley
Emmett Pepper

Absent:

Ben Adams
Adam Knauff
Keeley Steele

Councilmembers also Present:

Bobby Brown
Joseph Jenkins

1. Resolution No. 746-22 – Authorizing the adoption of the Charleston Fire Civil Service Rules, which were amended and approved by the Charleston Fire Civil Service Commission.

City Attorney, Kevin Baker, stated that the resolution is a substantial update to the rules from 2020. A major change is that promotional exam results will now be good for 3 years from the date the test was taken, as opposed to 3 years from the date of certification. This will result in slightly more frequent promotion exams. Fire Chief Jones added that there is also a change to seniority calculation and cut off.

Councilmember Reishman motioned to approve the resolution. Councilmember Ceperley seconded the motion. With those members being present having voted unanimously in the affirmative, the Chair declared Resolution No. 746-22 as approved.

2. Bill No. 7878 Committee Substitute – A BILL to amend the Municipal Code relating to updating the quadrennial organization statute to be consistent with the City Charter.

Councilmember Robinson asked Baker to explain the proposed Committee Substitute.

Baker stated that this section of Code has been in place since at least 1999, and explains the transition process from one City Council body to another. When the City adopted a change that would align the City elections with the County's, there were no changes made to this section of Code. The bill will update the swearing in of newly elected officers to the first Monday in January (as opposed to June) unless that day is a holiday. The Special Meeting for swearing in the newly elected officials will be at noon instead of 10:00 am.

Councilmember Ceperley confirmed that there would be 2 meetings, at noon and 7:00 pm for the first Monday in January.

From the audience, Councilmember Jenkins confirmed with Baker that the "old" Council would meet for the last time at the last meeting in December unless a Special Meeting is called. Councilmember Jenkins asked why there would be 2 meetings. Baker said he thought the intention was to create a clear time for a new Administration to take over. Councilmember Jenkins commented that he would prefer the swearing in to be in the evening to more easily allow families to attend. Baker added that they could also do a ceremony at the evening meeting as well.

Councilmember Robinson confirmed with Baker that an elected official holds that office until their replacement has been sworn in.

Mayor Goodwin added that it was bizarre when the current Administration took over, and added that they need clear lines as to when the "old" leaves and the "new" comes

in. She added that the Mayor needs to be able to officially work immediately on the day.

From the audience, Councilmember Brown asked what it was like when the Mayor first came in. Mayor Goodwin replied that it did not feel seamless, even though Mayor Jones was very helpful. Councilmember Brown asked if the Mayor could be sworn in at noon, and Councilmembers at the evening meeting. Baker replied that was a possibility.

Councilmember Pepper asked if the “old” Council would be adjourning *sine die*. Baker replied that Council has done so in the past, but it is unclear what the purpose of that was, possibly because the new Council gavelled in directly after that. He would anticipate a motion to adjourn until the next meeting to be likely.

Councilmember Reishman motioned to adopt the bill. Councilmember Ceperley seconded the motion. With those members being present having voted unanimously in the affirmative, the Chair declared Bill No. 7878 Committee Substitute as approved.

3. Bill No. 7980 – A BILL to amend the Municipal Code relating to the makeup of the Board of Directors of the Land Reuse Agency.

Baker stated that the bill would make one minor change to the Board of Directors by removing the City Attorney as a voting member of the Board, and makes them an *ex officio* member. It also adds one member of the general public.

Councilmember Ceperley asked why the Board was being changed. Baker replied that the City Attorney should be used to provide legal advice as opposed to a voting member.

Councilmember Robinson asked if the Mayor or their designee attending the meetings. Baker replied that it is a mixture. Matt Sutton, Chief of Staff, is usually the designee. Councilmember Robinson asked why the City Manager (another City official) was also on the Committee. Baker replied that was how it was set up and approved by Council.

Councilmember Reishman motioned to adopt the bill. Councilmember Ceperley seconded the motion. With those members being present having voted unanimously in the affirmative, the Chair declared Bill No. 7980 as approved.

Councilmember Reishman motioned to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned.