

# MINUTES

## ORDINANCE AND RULES COMMITTEE MEETING

**5:45 P. M., FEBRUARY 21, 2023**

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 5:45 p.m., FEBRUARY 21, 2023.

### **Committee Members Present:**

Chad Robinson, Chair  
Patrick Salango, Vice Chair  
Frank Annie  
Becky Ceperley  
Sam Minardi  
Emmett Pepper  
Joseph Jenkins

Absent:

### Councilmembers also Present:

Beth Kerns  
Joe Solomon  
Chelsea Steelhammer  
Jennifer Pharr  
Caitlin Cook  
Mary Beth Hoover  
Shannon Snodgrass  
Bruce King

#### 1. Approval of Previous Minutes –

Councilmember Ceperley motioned to approve the previous minutes from 10-3-2022. With those being present having voted unanimously in the affirmative, the Chair declared the minutes as approved.

Councilmember Ceperley motioned to approve the previous minutes from 12-5-2022. With those being present having voted unanimously in the affirmative, the Chair declared the minutes as approved.

2. Bill No. 7983 Committee Substitute – A BILL to amend the Municipal Code by adding a new Article establishing a Health Equity Action Plan; creating a Health Equity Board; setting forth the makeup of the Board; and detailing the requirements of the Health Action Plan. (A Committee Substitute has been proposed).

City Attorney, Kevin Baker, stated that the bill creates a community health action plan, creates a board of 11 members to oversee, states the purpose of the Board and requires that they report to Council at the end of the year.

Councilmember Robinson added that the Committee Substitute changes the name of the Board, removed the language “Board created for Council.”

Councilmember Minardi asked how the members would be appointed. From the audience, Councilmember Cook replied that the listed organizations are health care providers that serve the City and approved by the Charleston-Kanawha Health Care Department.

Councilmember Ceperley asked if there was concern with sustainability in the types of services the organizations provide. Councilmember Cook replied that it is an American Heart Association initiative that will be nation-wide, and these organizations are expected to be sustainable. Anything proposed by the Board will come before Council for approval.

Councilmember Minardi asked if there were examples of these inequalities. Councilmember Cook replied that the pandemic shed light on a lot of areas that can be improved, such as gaining the trust of certain groups by working with these organizations. She added that an example is hypertension. From the audience, Councilmember Pharr added that Heath Right and WV Outreach had been in the community during the pandemic, so they will have different, valuable data than that which is collected by a hospital.

Councilmember Pepper stated that the third section, describing the Action Plan, discusses deliverables, implementation and recommendations to Council. He asked if the Board/organizations would be implementing these plans without possibly any City government involvement. He also asked what the Annual Review would look like. Councilmember Cook replied that progress was the goal, and the annual review would be to determine if the Action Plan is working. She assumed it would be a written report presented to Council.

Councilmember Robinson commented that the implementation schedule seemed fast.

Councilmember Minardi confirmed that there would not necessarily be Council approval before the Board implemented a plan.

A representative of the American Heart Association, Julie Thomm, was invited to speak

to the Committee. She added that the purpose of the bill is to ensure that individuals have the opportunity to reach their full health potential, and to ensure no one is disadvantaged from achieving this. Charleston would be the first City in the State and one of the first in the Nation to pass such a bill.

Councilmember Pepper asked how Charleston compared to the other cities. Thomm replied that there is a lack of health data at the City level.

From the audience, Councilmember Snodgrass asked why the City Code was being changed. She asked if the City planned to fund the Board. Councilmember Robinson replied that the Committee Substitute removes direct Council involvement.

Councilmember Snodgrass added that the bill should state that Council has the ability to approve any recommendation made by the Board. Councilmember Ceperley added that the Board could present their recommendations to Council and bills and resolutions could be written from that which would go to Council. Councilmember Snodgrass added that the Mayor appoints three members of the Board, and Council is really removed from the process. Councilmember Pepper added that the bill does not delegate any authority of Council to the Board. Per line 67, Council can act upon their recommendations. Councilmember Robinson agreed that the bill does not specify that the members to be appointed by the Mayor will be approved by Council, as is the usual procedure. Councilmember Cook added that the point of the bill, as far as the City is concerned, is to call attention to disparities in the community. The Board is not taking away any existing Council authority. Councilmember Robinson added that nothing in the bill mentions funding or funding requests.

From the audience, Councilmember Kerns added that she would like to see a woman's health representative on the Board. From the audience, Councilmember Pharr added that Family Care is one such organization, and has been open for decades.

Councilmember Minardi suggested that this might be better as a resolution instead of a bill that changes code.

From the audience, Councilmember Steelhammer asked if community involvement was part of the plan at any stage. Thomm replied that the intent is to reach out to the community through various methods.

Councilmember Pepper motioned to amend the Bill to include Council approval of the Mayor's appointments as previously mentioned. With those members being present having voted unanimously in the affirmative, the Chair declared the amendment as approved.

Councilmember Ceperley motioned to approve Bill No. 7983 Committee Substitute as Amended. Councilmember Pepper seconded the motion. With those members being present having voted unanimously in the affirmative, the Chair declared Bill No. 7983 Committee Substitute as Amended as approved.

Councilmember Ceperley motioned to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned.