



JOURNAL of the PROCEEDINGS of the CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA

Regular Meeting – Wednesday, January 3, 2024

at 7:00 P.M.

Council Chambers – City Hall – Charleston, West Virginia

OFFICIAL RECORD

Amy Shuler Goodwin
Mayor

Miles C. Cary II
City Clerk

CALL TO ORDER*

The Council met at 7:00 P.M., for the first meeting in the month of January on the 3rd day, in the year 2024, and was called to order by the Honorable Mayor, Amy Shuler Goodwin. The invocation was delivered by Councilmember Pepper, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Moore. City Clerk, Miles C. Cary II, called the roll of members and it was found that there were present at the time:

**ANNIE
CEPERLEY**

FERRELL

HOOVER

KERNS

MOORE

PHARR

SALANGO

STEELHAMMER

BURKA

COOK

KING

OVERSTREET

ROBINSON

TAYLOR

BURTON

FAEGRE

HAAS

JONES

MINARDI

PEPPER

SOLOMON

MAYOR GOODWIN

With twenty-three members being present, the Mayor declared a quorum present.

All absences were excused by the City Clerk per Resolution No. 582-21.

Pending the reading of the Journal of the previous meeting, the reading thereof was dispensed with and the same duly approved.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS

1. Robert Reed – Spoke about the West Side.
2. Bill Myers – Asked for an alternative to Resolution No. 920-24.
3. Lani Wean – Spoke in favor of Resolution No. 920-24.
4. Morgan Fowler - Spoke in favor of Resolution No. 920-24.
5. Rachel Dash - Spoke in favor of Resolution No. 920-24.
6. Lo'ay Awasad - Spoke in favor of Resolution No. 920-24.
7. Pastor Darick Biondi - Spoke in favor of Resolution No. 920-24.
8. Shahed Al-asadi - Spoke in favor of Resolution No. 920-24.

CLAIMS

1. A claim of Timothy David Lillard, Charleston, WV;
alleges damage to vehicle.
2. A claim of Amanda Bowman, Charleston, WV;
alleges damage to vehicle.

PROCLAMATIONS

None

COMMUNICATIONS

None

MISCELLANEOUS RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 920-24 - WHEREAS, the City of Charleston, WV is a welcoming city where we value diversity, equality, and the dignity of all its residents, regardless of their race, ethnicity, nationality, or religion;

WHEREAS, the City of Charleston is home to a broad and diverse community including Jewish and Muslim neighbors who have family members and friends within Israel and Palestine, for whom they care about dearly;

WHEREAS, the City of Charleston condemns all forms of hate, racism, antisemitism, islamophobia, and violence, striving to foster an environment that promotes understanding and warmth;

WHEREAS, the recent conflict in Israel and Palestine has led to the record loss of innocent lives, causing immense suffering and displacement in the region;

WHEREAS, Charleston decries the horrific, terrorist attacks by Hamas on October 7, 2023 against innocent Israeli civilians which resulted in at least 1,200 Israelis being slain; including children; with women who were brutally raped and tortured before being murdered, as well as about 240 individuals taken hostage;

WHEREAS, Charleston also decries the loss of all innocent Palestinian civilians killed in the subsequent conflict, which have claimed the lives of at least 22,000 Palestinians including at least 8,000 children and wounded tens of thousands more;

WHEREAS, collective punishment, even when the stated goal is to destroy Hamas, is prohibited under international law, and the City of Charleston opposes actions that result in civilian casualties and humanitarian crises;

WHEREAS, the City of Charleston recognizes the historical context of the conflict and acknowledges the need to address root causes for a lasting peace and justice;

WHEREAS, U.S. cities have the capacity to shape state and federal policies by raising their voices in concert;

Now, therefore, be it Resolved by the Council of the City of Charleston, West Virginia:

Joins the chorus of over a dozen cities across the U.S. in calling for an immediate and sustained humanitarian ceasefire, allowing the safe passage of life-saving humanitarian aid to Gaza, and the restoration of essential services such as electricity, water, food, and medical supplies;

2. Calls for the safe and immediate return of all hostages held by Hamas, and all Palestinians extrajudicially detained by Israel;

3. Urges the United States government to leverage its diplomatic influence to work towards a sustainable peace in the region, advocating for a just and lasting resolution that respects the rights and dignity of all individuals;
4. Affirms its commitment to fostering a city that values diversity, equality, and understanding among its residents, while affirming its commitment to combat anti-semitism, anti-Palestinian and anti-Arab racism, Islamophobia, racism, and bigotry in all its forms;
5. Commits to sending a copy of this resolution to relevant state and federal officials, including the West Virginia Congressional delegation, urging them to support diplomatic efforts for peace in Israel and Palestine.

Councilmember Solomon added that Charleston is home to many people with loved ones in the regions of conflict. Cities play a vital role in shaping diplomacy, and over a dozen US cities have passed ceasefire resolutions. He added that no amount of complexity can allow for the deaths of so many children. Councilmember Solomon added that the letter sent by the Administration and signed by some Councilmembers, although a good first step, does not call for a ceasefire. The wish is for a sustained, humanitarian ceasefire. The resolution asks them to believe in a future in which the bombs stop falling and the terror ends on both sides. The only way that future can begin is with a ceasefire.

Councilmember Solomon moved to approve the resolution. Councilmember Steelhammer seconded the motion.

Councilmember Ceperley added that the conflict has led to immeasurable loss of innocent lives. On December 22nd, the Mayor and twenty members of Council wrote and signed a letter to the West Virginia Congressional delegation requesting that they do everything within their means to bring about a sustainable peace in the region that respects the rights and dignity of all individuals.

Councilmember Ceperley motioned to table Resolution No. 920-24. Councilmember Cook seconded the motion.

A roll call was taken:

YEAS: Annie, Burka, Burton, Ceperley, Cook, Faegre, Haas, Hoover, Jones, Kerns, King, Minardi, Moore, Overstreet, Pepper, Pharr, Robinson, Salango, Taylor, Mayor Goodwin

NAYS: Ferrell, Solomon, Steelhammer

ABSENT: Gianola, Jenkins, Rubio, Snodgrass

With members present recorded thereon as voting in the majority as affirmative, the Mayor declared Resolution No. 920-24 as tabled.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Councilmember Burton, Vice Chair of the Council Committee on Finance, submitted the following reports:

1. Your committee on Finance has had under consideration the following resolution, and reports the same to Council with the recommendation that Resolution No. 919-24 be adopted.

Resolution No. 919-24 - Authorizing the Mayor or City Manager to enter into a settlement agreement with Fidelity and Deposit Company of Maryland, as surety of Waterline Systems, Inc., for the full proceeds of a bid bond, totaling \$27,463.00, resulting from the failure of Waterline System Inc. to fulfill its bid for the procurement of a fire boat.

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

The Mayor or City Manager is authorized to enter into a settlement agreement with Fidelity and Deposit Company of Maryland, as surety of Waterline Systems, Inc., for the full proceeds of a bid bond, totaling \$27,463.00, resulting from the failure of Waterline System Inc. to fulfill its bid for the procurement of a fire boat.

Councilmember Burton added that Council had previously approved the purchase of a fire boat in November 2022, and was notified in August 2023 that the company was not able to provide the boat. Council then approved the purchase with another company for an amount higher than the first purchase. Through the bid bond, the City has been able to recoup the maximum amount allowed of the difference between the two sales.

Councilmember Burton moved to approve the resolution. Councilmember Ceperley seconded the motion. With members present recorded thereon as voting unanimously in the affirmative, the Mayor declared Resolution No. 919-24 adopted.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

1. Report of the City of Charleston Payroll Variance Analysis; November 2023.
2. Report of the City of Charleston Payroll Variance Analysis; December 2023.

NEW BILLS

Introduced by Councilmember Mary Beth Hoover

January 3, 2024:

Bill No. 8024 – A Bill amending the Zoning Ordinance by zoning a previously un-zoned parcel to a R-4 district, commonly referred to as the City Landfill.

Refer to Municipal Planning Commission and Planning, Streets and Traffic Committee, Please

MISCELLANEOUS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

REMARKS BY MEMBERS

None

ADJOURNMENT

City Clerk, Miles C. Cary II, called the closing roll call:

YEAS: Annie, Burka, Burton, Ceperley, Cook, Faegre, Ferrell, Haas, Hoover, Jones, Kerns, King, Minardi, Moore, Overstreet, Pepper, Pharr, Robinson, Salango, Solomon, Steelhammer, Taylor, Mayor Goodwin

NAYS:

ABSENT: Gianola, Jenkins, Rubio, Snodgrass

At 7:56 p.m., by a motion from Councilmember Ceperley, Council adjourned until Tuesday, January 16, 2023, 7:00 p.m., in Council Chambers at City Hall.

Amy Shuler Goodwin, Honorable Mayor

Miles C. Cary II, City Clerk