



# CITY OF CHARLESTON WEST VIRGINIA

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Council Member – Ward 20

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Ordinance and Rules Committee, Chair  
Parks and Recreation Committee  
Finance Committee  
Parking Facilities Committee

A meeting of the Council Committee on Ordinance & Rules will be held on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 5:45 PM. **To be held in person**  
**AV ROOM #308, CITY HALL**

## Agenda

### APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

1. 12-1-2025

### RESOLUTIONS:

1. Resolution No. 26-020 - Amending the Rules of Council in order to change the process for the appointment of standing committee members and to enact a process for the selection of chair and vice chair positions within the standing committees.

### BILLS:

1. Bill No. 8067 - An Bill amending the Charter relating to elections and term of office of elective officers and revising the election cycle for the City of Charleston elections.

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**\*Meetings may be recorded and broadcast via internet <https://charlestonwv.civicclerk.com>**

# MINUTES

## ORDINANCE AND RULES COMMITTEE MEETING

6:30 P. M., DECEMBER 1, 2025

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 6:30 p.m., December 1, 2025.

### **Committee Members Present:**

Chad Robinson, Chair  
Frank Annie  
Becky Ceperley  
Harper Gardner  
Joseph Jenkins  
Emmett Pepper

### **Absent:**

Patrick Salango, Vice Chair

### **Other Councilmembers Present:**

Caitlin Cook  
Chelsea Steelhammer

#### 1. Approval of Previous Minutes –

Councilmember Annie motioned to approve the previous minutes from 5-19-2025. Councilmember Ceperley seconded the motion. With those being present having voted unanimously in the affirmative, the Chair declared the minutes as approved as amended.

2. Bill No. 8061 - A BILL to amend the Municipal Code relating to prohibiting the use of fireworks in any City park or on City-owned property without approval.

As the bill's primary sponsor, Councilmember Cook addressed the Committee from the audience. Councilmember Cook stated that they have consistently heard from constituents about fireworks in public parks. The matter is a safety concern as well as a protection of the investments the City has made into the various turfed fields.

Councilmember Jenkins added that he is also a sponsor since a citizen in his Ward also discussed the issue with him. Fireworks have always been a concern in Danner Meadow as it is closely surrounded by homes.

Councilmember Cook added that the availability of fireworks are easier to acquire and the fireworks themselves are bigger than was previously available.

Councilmember Pepper spoke in support of the bill. He confirmed with the Committee the dates and times it is legal to set off fireworks.

Councilmember Ceperley motioned to approve Bill No. 8061. Councilmember Annie seconded the motion. With those being present having voted unanimously in the affirmative, Chair Robinson declared Bill No. 8061 as approved.

The Committee briefly discussed the possibility of looking into depilated structures, Council Rules and attendance requirements in the future.

Councilmember Jenkins motioned to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned.

**Resolution No. 26-020**

**Introduced in Council:**

**February 2, 2026**

**Introduced by:**

**Joseph Solomon, Shannon Snodgrass  
And Beth Kerns**

**Adopted by Council:**

**Referred to:**

**Ordinance and Rules**

1 **Resolution No. 26-020** - Amending and reenacting Rule 2 of the Rules of Council in  
2 order to change the process for the appointment of standing committee members and to  
3 enact a process for the selection of chair and vice chair positions within the standing  
4 committees.

5  
6 **Now, therefore, be it Resolved by the Council of the City of Charleston, West**  
7 **Virginia:**

8  
9 That Rule 2 of the Rules of Council be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

10  
11 **Rule No. 2. - Committees.**

12  
13 (a)The city council shall have the following standing committees:

14  
15 Committee on Finance.

16  
17 Committee on Ordinance and Rules.

18  
19 Committee on Planning, Streets, and Traffic.

20  
21 Committee on Public Safety.

22  
23 Committee on Parks and Recreation.

24  
25 Committee on Environment and Recycling.

26  
27 Committee on Urban Renewal and Economic Development.

28  
29 Committee on Facilities.

30  
31 Committee on Parking Facilities.

32  
33 (b) All standing committees shall consist of not less than three nor more than nine  
34 members unless the city council by resolution specifically provides otherwise. All  
35 standing committees shall be appointed by the ~~mayer~~ Council President. The members

1 of the Committee on Parking Facilities shall be the same as those appointed and  
2 serving as the members of the Committee on Finance.

3  
4 (c) In addition to the foregoing standing committees, the city council may authorize such  
5 select committees as may be provided by resolution.

6  
7 (d) Members of each committee shall vote on their own Chair and Vice Chair, selection  
8 of which is decided by a majority vote. Provided that, from the date of such selection for  
9 Chair and Vice Chair, every standing committee shall be required to conduct an election  
10 for Chair and Vice Chair every two years conforming with the voting process referenced  
11 herein.

**Bill No. 8067**

**Introduced in Council:**

**Adopted by Council:**

**February 2, 2026**

**Introduced by:**

**Referred to:**

**Joseph Solomon, Shannon Snodgrass  
And Beth Kerns**

**Ordinance and Rules  
and Finance Committees**

1 **Bill No. 8067** - "An Ordinance amending the Charter of the City of Charleston Section 3  
2 – Election and term of office of elective officers; salary of mayor; appointments by mayor;  
3 term of appointive officers; duties of mayor and city solicitor; salary of solicitor; fees,  
4 revising the election cycle for the City of Charleston elections.  
5

6 **WHEREAS**, the Charter establishes the dates for City of Charleston municipal  
7 elections; and  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, the Charter establishes the term of office for elective officers; and  
10

11 **WHEREAS**, the City of Charleston values democracy, civic engagement, and the  
12 fair representation of its citizens in local government; and

13 **WHEREAS**, term limits for elected officials promote transparency, foster new  
14 leadership opportunities, and prevent the consolidation of power over extended periods;  
15 and  
16

17 **WHEREAS**, it is essential to ensure regular turnover in elected offices to  
18 encourage fresh perspectives and ideas for addressing the evolving needs of our  
19 community; and  
20

21 **WHEREAS**, more seasoned voices on City Council are critical for conveying  
22 institutional knowledge and sharing processes for steady city governance. Overlapping  
23 terms can help preserve institutional knowledge; and  
24

25 **WHEREAS**, the 2026 city elections mark an appropriate starting point to  
26 implement term limits for members of Charleston WV's City Council.  
27

28 **WHEREAS**, the Council of the City of Charleston, West Virginia, has determined  
29 that it is necessary, convenient and expedient for the aforesaid reasons to amend Section  
30 35 of the Charter of the City of Charleston, West Virginia, to enact term limits and change  
31 the election cycle of the City of Charleston; and  
32

33 **WHEREAS**, after proper public notice, a public hearing was held in Council  
34 Chambers on \_\_\_\_\_, at 7:00 pm, wherein the citizens were given  
35 opportunity to file any written objections to the Charter amendments proposed herein;

36 and

37

38 **WHEREAS**, written objections, if any, were withdrawn within the 10 days following  
39 the \_\_\_\_\_, hearing;

40

41 **Now, therefore, be it Ordained by the Council of the City of Charleston, West**  
42 **Virginia:**

43

44 That the City of Charleston, West Virginia, beginning in 2030, the City shall transition to  
45 staggered City Council elections so that half of Council is elected every two years. To  
46 accomplish this transition, the terms of odd-numbered ward seats and three randomly  
47 selected at-large seats elected in 2030 shall be for a one time two-year term, with those  
48 seats next standing for election in 2032 but then every four years thereafter (2036, 2040,  
49 and so on). The remaining even-numbered ward seats and the three remaining at-large  
50 seats shall continue on the regular four-year cycle, standing for election in 2034 and every  
51 four years thereafter (2038, 2042, and so on).

52

53 **Be it further Ordained:** that Section 35 of the Charter of the City of Charleston, West  
54 Virginia, shall be amended to read as follows:

55

56 **Sec. 35. - Election and term of office of elective officers; appointments by mayor;**  
57 **appointment of city clerk; appointments by manager; duties of mayor and city**  
58 **solicitor; fees; term limits.**

59

60 The mayor, members of council, municipal judge and treasurer elected ~~on-in May~~  
61 ~~16November 3, 2015~~2026, shall serve a term beginning on the ~~third-first~~ Monday in  
62 ~~June~~January, ~~2015~~27, and ending in January ~~2019-2031~~ when the term of their  
63 successors begins. Their successors shall be elected on the first Tuesday in November,  
64 ~~2018~~2030, in conjunction with the state and county election administered by the clerk of  
65 the county court of Kanawha County, West Virginia, and shall begin their term on the first  
66 Monday of January ~~2019~~2031, unless said Monday is a state holiday, in which case their  
67 term shall begin on the first Tuesday of January. Provided that, effective with the 2026  
68 election, a three-term consecutive term limit shall be imposed on all Charleston, West  
69 Virginia members of city council.

70

71 Thereafter, beginning in 2030, the City shall transition to staggered City Council elections  
72 so that half of the members of council are elected every two years. To accomplish this  
73 transition, the terms of odd-numbered ward seats and three randomly selected at-large  
74 seats elected in 2030 shall be for a one-time two-year term, with those seats next standing  
75 for election in 2032 but then every four years thereafter (2036, 2040, and so on). The  
76 remaining even-numbered ward seats and the three remaining at-large seats shall  
77 continue on the regular four-year cycle, standing for election in 2034 and every four years  
78 thereafter (2038, 2042, and so on).

79

80 Implementation Timeline: The term limit policy shall apply starting in 2026. The term that  
81 runs from 2026-2030 will be considered the first term for counting three consecutive

82 terms.

83

84 ~~¶~~The mayor, ~~members of council,~~ municipal judge and treasurer shall be elected at  
85 intervals of four years in conjunction with the state and county election administered by  
86 the clerk of the county court of Kanawha County, West Virginia, and their term shall begin  
87 on the first Monday of January after their election, unless said Monday is a state holiday,  
88 in which case their term shall begin on the first Tuesday of January.

89

90 Public Notice: The city clerk shall provide public notice of this term limit policy through  
91 official city communications, the city website, and its media officers to ensure widespread  
92 awareness among residents and potential candidates.

93

94 Compliance and Enforcement: The city clerk shall monitor and ensure compliance with  
95 this term limit policy, including verifying candidate eligibility during election cycles.

96

97 The mayor shall appoint the city solicitor, an assistant city solicitor, the chief of police,  
98 humane officer or officers, building inspector, collector, city auditor, engineer, health  
99 commissioner, lockup keeper, municipal court clerk, and the chief of the fire department,  
100 and these appointments shall not require any confirmation by the council but shall be  
101 made at the discretion of the mayor, who shall, with like discretion, have the full and  
102 complete power of removal thereof. The mayor shall appoint the manager, by and with  
103 the advice and consent of the council. The council shall, either at a regular or special  
104 meeting called for that purpose, pass upon such nomination and either confirm or reject  
105 the same, and if such nomination is rejected, then the mayor shall submit to the council  
106 a further nomination of some other person or persons until the nomination is confirmed  
107 by council, for said office of manager, but it shall be the duty of the council to pass upon  
108 all nominations without unreasonable delay; and in any event within two weeks after the  
109 submission of the same, and the failure of members of the council to pass thereon within  
110 such time shall be cause for the removal from office of such members of the council as  
111 shall have refused to act thereon.

112

113 The council shall appoint a city clerk. The manager shall appoint or employ such persons  
114 as the ordinances of the city may require or the council may authorize by proper  
115 resolution.

116

117 It shall be the duty of the mayor to attend all meetings of the council and preside over that  
118 body.

119

120 It shall be the duty of the mayor to see that all of the laws and ordinances of the city are  
121 enforced and he shall have a general oversight over the peace, health and good order of  
122 the city.

123

124 The duties of the city solicitor or assistant city solicitor shall be to attend the sessions of  
125 council (and) to prosecute all suits on behalf of the city and defend all suits against the  
126 city, to advise the council and all of the departments of the city and in general to look after  
127 the interests of the city when it shall need legal services.

128 All fees of every kind collected by any officer or employee, including the municipal judge  
129 when acting as a justice, shall be paid to the city treasurer.  
130  
131 This Ordinance will become effective upon passage