

MINUTES

ORDINANCE AND RULES COMMITTEE MEETING

5:00 P. M., AUGUST 3, 2026

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 5:00 p.m., August 3, 2026.

Committee Members Present:

Chad Robinson, Chair

Patrick Salango, Vice Chair

Frank Annie

Becky Ceperley

Joseph Jenkins

Emmett Pepper (arrived 5:10, after approval of minutes)

Harper Gardner

Absent:

Other Councilmembers Present:

Mary Beth Hoover

Beth Kerns

Jennifer Pharr

1. Approval of Previous Minutes –

Councilmember Annie motioned to approve the previous minutes from 7-6-2026.

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. 8083– A BILL to amend the Municipal Code relating to the responsibility of animal owners to remove animal excrement left by their animal from public and other property, and the penalties and fines therefore.

Councilmember Annie stated that this has been an increasing problem in his Ward in particular. The proposed bill will increase the fines for the first time in twenty years. The first offense is increased from \$10-25 to \$50-100 max and more penalties for subsequent offenses.

City Attorney Joseph Baldwin added that there have been 21 offenses over the last ten years seen in court, 7 cases were from the same offender. The fines for a second offense will be \$100-150 and a mandatory minimum of \$250 for third offenses, which will also include the potential of 4 hours of community service. The exception for those with physical disabilities or impairments using service dogs is removed.

Councilmember Jenkins added that, given the small number of offenses, he saw it as more of an enforcement issue as opposed to something that needed to change the Code.

From the audience Councilmember Kerns added that it is very rare that she knows who the offending dogs belong to and was concerned as to how it would be enforceable. Baldwin added that Humane Officers have the authority to make a citation, but there needs to be a witness willing to testify or visual proof.

Councilmember Annie added that he asked the people in his Ward how they would like this issue to be handled and they answered higher fines.

Councilmember Jenkins added that it might be more effective to have an awareness campaign about the issue and current penalties.

From the audience, Councilmember Pharr confirmed that “other property” would be property that belongs to someone else, such as a neighbor’s yard.

Councilmember Pepper agreed that there is an enforcement issue, but increasing the fines is likely to also be an effective awareness campaign.

Baldwin added that many times, the issue is resolved by the Humane Officers talking with the owners.

Councilmember Gardner added that the bill is a way to protect the investments the City has made in public spaces.

Councilmember Gardner motioned to approve the bill. Councilmember Annie seconded the motion. With those being present having voted in the majority in the affirmative, with 1 Nay from Jenkins, the Chair declared Bill No. 8083 as approved.

Councilmember Robinson motioned to adjourn the meeting. There were no objections.
Meeting adjourned.