

MINUTES

THE COMMON COUNCIL

May 04 2015

6:30 P.M.

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF CHARLESTOWN WAS HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 04, 2015 AT 6:30 P.M. AT CITY HALL WITH MAYOR G. ROBERT HALL PRESIDING.

Council members present were Scott McKechnie, Kathy Cash, Ruth Ann Rawlings, Jeff Aaron and Dan James. Also present were Clerk Treasurer Donna Coomer and City Attorney Mike Gillenwater.

Pledge

Emma Richey

Invocation

L.C. McCawley (Charlestown Church of God)

Minutes

Councilman McKechnie made a motion to approve the Minutes from April 06, 2015, seconded by Councilwoman Rawlings. Approved 5-0.

Claims

Councilman James made a motion to approve the Claims, seconded by Councilman McKechnie. Approved 5-0.

Payroll Allowance Docket

Councilman McKechnie made a motion to approve the Payroll Allowance Docket from March 29, through May 02, 2015, seconded by Councilwoman Cash. Approved 5-0.

Public Comment

Mr. Josh Craven
203 Guilford

Mr. Craven is asking for more time to present something that has been before the Council before. Mayor Hall said that is up to the Council.

Councilman James and Councilwoman Rawlings said they had no problem with Mr. Cravens taking more time. Mr. Cravens said there is an ongoing debate on the number of homes in Pleasant Ridge Subdivision. Mr. Cravens said as of today there are 76 homes in the neighborhood association and 24 are owned by one landlord, which is 22% of the 350 homes that Mayor Hall says is in the subdivision. Mr. Cravens said that number is inaccurate. Some homes are owned by banks and some are owned by the city and those homes do not have a say as to whether or not they are torn down. They don't care, they just want their money. Mr. Cravens said they have massive support throughout the city. It may not be the majority of the city, but is massive. Mr. Cravens said they have over 50% of the people support what they are doing. He said for anyone to say we are a social group is not only disrespectful, but it is insane. We are a 501C neighborhood association and we are committed to our neighborhood. They hold regular meetings, events and help with repairs of homes. He believes their figures are more accurate than the Mayor's. They would strongly like that when they are referred to in the newspaper. It read they have over 950 signatures on a petition and not the 20 to 30 people the Mayor is talking about.

Mr. Cravens said we are formally asking in writing for any specific paperwork that declares Pleasant Ridge a blighted area or any Ordinance. Not the paperwork that says Glendale or any other area. Mr. Cravens said they temporarily fixed the guardrail on Marcy Street. He said Mr. Gillenwater had told him at one of the meetings he could be subject to a lawsuit if he touched the guardrail. They put up a pole and put a ratchet strap around it to hold it up. He wants to know who owns the guardrail before May 10th or they will fix it permanently and take the consequences.

Mr. Jason Petrone commented on something he read in the News and Tribune. They printed an article that said Mayor has concerns about Pleasant Ridge steering committee not represented enough. Scope of steering committee has given him pause to accept an invitation to the Board. He guesses the Mayor could not participate in the 1960 civil rights movement because the Pacific Islanders and Native Americans were under represented. In 1776 or 1787 the Mayor would have to say to Mr. John Adams or Benjamin Franklin, "I would love to join you in Philadelphia but I can't because your Congress is under represented." Mr. Petrone said that is absurd and he just wanted to say that.

Pleasant Ridge Steering Committee

Councilwoman Rawlings asked Mayor Hall if he has made a decision on appointing someone to the committee. Mayor Hall said he was not appointing anyone until he has looked at it. Councilwoman Rawlings said they were going move forward and will have their first meeting at 1135 Water Street on Monday, May 11, at 7 p.m.

Councilman Aaron

Councilman Aaron said there is a problem with dogs on Rosewood and Herbert. He does not know who the owners are. Mayor Hall asked him if he has called them in to the office. Councilman Aaron said he personally has not, but his neighbors have. He did speak to Lee Slaughter who spends a lot of time on Herbert Drive about them.

He asked if on Locust Drive did they shoot any grade because the water is still standing from the flash rain they got. Mayor Hall said he will have to find out.

Councilman McKechnie

Councilman McKechnie said at the corner of Poplar and Sycamore Streets, where the pipe was put under the street for drainage. After the last big rain we had, it formed a large hole that could be dangerous to kids and needs to be looked at.

Councilman James

Councilman James asked if we are finished with the paving. Mayor Hall replied, "We are not." Councilman James asked what percent is done. Mayor Hall said he was not sure but it may be about 85%.

Parks Board

Councilman McKechnie asked what the status on the Parks Advisory Committee is. Mayor Hall said since the last meeting he has been very busy. He did ask a couple of people about serving but declined stating they did not see the necessity of it. However he will continue to look.

Adjournment

Councilwoman Cash made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman McKechnie. Approved 5-0.




MAYOR, G. ROBERT HALL



DATE

ATTEST:



CLERK TREASURER, DONNA S. COOMER



DATE