

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina convened for a Dinner Briefing on Monday, June 26, 2017 at 5:16 p.m. in Room 267 of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center with Mayor Jennifer Roberts presiding. Councilmembers present were Dimple Ajmera, Al Austin, Ed Driggs, Julie Eiselt, Claire Fallon, Patsy Kinsey, Vi Lyles, LaWana Mayfield, Greg Phipps and Kenny Smith.

Absent Until Noted: Councilmembers LaWana Mayfield and James Mitchell.

* * * * *

ITEM NO. 1: AGENDA OVERVIEW

No Agenda overview was provided.

* * * * *

ITEM NO. 2: MAYOR AND COUNCIL CONSENT ITEM QUESTIONS

Councilmember Smith said I want to pull Item No. 53 for a separate vote.

Councilmembers Mayfield and Mitchell arrived at 5:18 p.m.

Councilmember Mayfield said I send Ms. Campbell quite a few of them last night that she was giving me the updates on, but I want to pull Item Nos. 25, 40, and 58 for separate vote.

Councilmember Kinsey said I don't need to pull Item No. 40, but I would like information at another time about the fountains in front of this building and how much it would cost to have that fountain work. I think it is a shame; it is a piece of public art that was built with the building was built, and it has never worked, and I think it is worth looking into to see if we can't make it work.

* * * * *

ITEM NO. 3: COMMUNITY SAFETY BRIEFING

Councilmember Eiselt said I want to say that subsequent to the protest in September, the Community Safety Committee and the Community Relations Committee and staff have done a lot of work to try to talk to people in the community and listen to different organizations in an effort to make changes to policies and the way we do things to build trust and accountability in the community for the people that we serve and protect, while at the same time making sure that law enforcement have the tools that they need to keep people safe. I appreciate all the work that staff has done and Willie Ratchford and the Community Relations Committee have done, and I really appreciate the effort that the community has made for those who have wanted to be a part of the process and make recommendations. A lot of the community members are here tonight, and we appreciate your feedback and your hard work. With that, I will turn it over to Assistant City Manager Ann Wall to talk about the Extraordinary Event Ordinance and the changes that we have made for the Citizens Review Board. I want to mention that they are not conclusive; it is codifying some important changes to the Citizens Review Board, but it is not limited to those changes. It is an ongoing dialogue, and we don't want to close the door on opportunities to make further changes as we see what is going on nationwide in law enforcement with Citizens Review Boards and that sort of thing.

Ann Wall, Assistant City Manager said I'm going to talk about three items tonight; one is the Extraordinary Event Ordinance. The second is to talk about the Citizens Review Board, and I want to take about two minutes and talk a little bit about Parade Permits. I will start off with a presentation about the Extraordinary Events Ordinance.

Extraordinary Event Ordinance

This is really what I'm going to cover tonight; I'm going to mention the arbitrary profiling, I'm going to provide a little bit of context about the history of the Extraordinary Event

Ordinance and talk about what is in the Extraordinary Event Ordinance, it uses, what are the thoughts or considerations as we talked about the evolving thinking around public safety and about the need for Extraordinary Event and talk a little bit about proposed repeal. I do want to recognize City Attorney, Bob Hagemann, Police Chief Kerr Putney, and CRC Director Willie Ratchford who were very instrumental in this review.

It is important as we talk about extraordinary events that we do remind the Council that this Council took a really important step back two years ago this month when the Council passed a resolution that prohibited arbitrary profiling, and you will see the list of profiling that was prohibited in that ordinance, and that is important because that is how it is that CMPD and Police Officers do their work in the community. The purpose of the Extraordinary Event Ordinance, as the Council will recall back in 2012, the City was looking at hosting the Democratic National Convention (DNC), and there were lots of concern about how it is that events and activities that would occur during the DNC and what that would look like in the community and most specifically the community and certainly public safety were concerned about anarchists and anarchists will do as part of that convention to disrupt and cause concern in the community. So, the City passed the Extraordinary Events Ordinance in January of 2012, and what that ordinance applied to, and you will see the definition on the screen, were large scale events of national or international significance that were expected to attract a significant number of people. The ordinance allowed for the City Manager to declare that event an extraordinary event and to fix boundaries and time periods and also to provide a different process and deadlines for permits associated with that event.

You will see additional components of that ordinance; what the ordinance talked about was that you couldn't move a float or a vehicle; you couldn't throw objects without a permit and the ordinance included a list of the items that were deemed to be dangerous or potentially dangerous. The ordinance did include a section called defense of prosecution which provided for that if somebody happened to have these items there might be a legitimate reason to have these items and you will see that the item was possessed for a legitimate use, that the item was not used or attempted to be used as a weapon, so that defense of prosecution was an important component of that ordinance.

Some of the factors that were considered as the City Manager would look at declaring the extraordinary event would be the number of people that would attend the event; the access to the event site, was it easy to get in and out, and finally, one of the most important characteristic was what is information or intelligence related to any security threat related to that event or any large scale event. We do know that a number of times that the ordinance was used grew over time so back in 2012 the Extraordinary Event Ordinance was used six times when the Manager declared six extraordinary events. It was used last at the end of 2016, when 14 events were declared extraordinary events. Over the last six months or so and certainly since February the City Manager indicated the Council a desire, asked staff to go back and evaluate the Extraordinary Event Ordinance to determine if this is the best and most appropriate tool for protecting the public safety. Really, what we were trying to do was to look at it and understand is this the best way to insure public safety in our community and these are some of the items we looked at. We look at a full repeal of the Extraordinary Event Ordinance; we looked at amending the Picketing and Public Assembly Ordinance to prohibit the possession of a few items. We talked about maintaining that provision in the ordinance about defense of prosecution, and we understood that when access is controlled, access is limited to an event that we may screen attendees for certain items.

After lots of discussion, lots of internal debate with the internal staff team and lots of review what have come to recommend is that we believe that the most important thing is to protect the public safety, and the best way to protect the public safety is with a well-defined, well-articulated, well-thought-out public safety plan. That interaction between the event organizer and CMPD about what the security would be around the event is the best method to insure public safety. We come to you tonight with a recommendation that we repeal the Extraordinary Event Ordinance and that we enable CMPD to work closely with event organizers to develop a public safety plan for these large events, and that public

safety plan would consider current threats and intelligence and would also reflect the size and scope of the event.

I will turn it over to Chief Kerr Putney for a short period of time, but I will say that the City Attorney, the Police Chief, and I held a meeting at CPCC on June 6, 2017 to present this idea from the community, and I think the understanding was well received of the idea of appealing the Extraordinary Event Ordinance with a focus on the Public Safety Plan. Chief Putney is here to talk about what that public safety plan might include.

Councilmember Phipps said just looking at the historical usage of Extraordinary Event Ordinance, given the definition that you just went over, I guess it is safe to come to the conclusion that we satisfied ourselves that each usage fits the definition we had that the event was of national or international significance.

Ms. Wall said what I can tell you Mr. Phipps is that the review of those definitions was done at the time the Extraordinary Event was declared dating back to 2012. When we looked at our review we did not go back and reassess every single one of those events that had been declared extraordinary event.

Mr. Phipps said is it safe to say that the criterion then was the large scale size of the event took precedent?

Chief Kerr Putney, Police said basically, everything became an extraordinary event, every large event uptown became an extraordinary event; therefore, nothing was extraordinary. What we are doing now, as Ms. Wall alluded to, is we are meeting with the organizers and looking at events specific. We are looking at intel that might give us some indication that a specific event could be threatened, and we are looking at heavy vehicle mitigation, access points and things that we should be focused on in 2017, not to the prism of 2012. We are not worried about anarchists; we are worried about people doing terrorist threats to people in large spaces. It is a totally different time, and the ordinance doesn't give us very much authority beyond what we already have.

Councilmember Ajmera said would all the events have to go through public safety plans so if there is a process where certain events would be considered large and they have to go through public safety plans or would all of them have to go through that?

Chief Putney said anytime we are talking about blocking the streets, it is the same process, and we are involved.

Ms. Ajmera said so public safety plans wouldn't give you enough measurers to insure that they are continuing to protect all of our residents from terrorist threats with the public safety plan.

Chief Putney said yes ma'am; that is where it is anyway and an ordinance or designation doesn't give us much more latitude. Let's be honest; if everything is extraordinary and nothing is. What we want to do is really focus on the event and be that specific and look to make sure we can insure safety and Speed Street was a good indication of exactly how we are going to do that.

Mayor Roberts said this item is on our Business Agenda later this evening for a vote.

Citizens Review Board

Ms. Wall said what I would like to do in this second presentation is to really talk to you about the Citizens' Review Board and some refinements that we would like to recommend for the City Council to consider. You will see a list of those improvements, so I will go on to the first slide.

Back in February, I came to the Council and talked to you about a couple of items, and one of those was the Citizens' Review Board, and I shared with you a list of five improvements that we felt, as staff, that needed to be made to the Citizens' Review Road, and you will

see that list in front of you. We wanted to review the appointment process and requirements to insure a diverse Board. We wanted to talk about training that is provided to Board Members. We wanted to talk about making sure that we provided easy to understand information to the community about the Citizens' Review Board process and translate that information into other languages. We wanted to provide resources so that we could assist community members with filing complaints and participating in the hearings, and we wanted to publish information about the Citizens' Review Board on our website. I come to you today to talk to you about the progress we've made but also to recommend some changes to the Citizens' Review Board Ordinance so that you can enact these measures. What we did do over this period of time is we did look to some of our colleagues in other communities that have Citizens' Review Board so that we can understand trends and best practices associated with them. You will see some logos from other cities across the country that have active Citizens' Review Boards, and we sought out information from these communities; communities such as Tampa, and Oklahoma City.

Just as background, we did some additional research related to Citizens' Review Board; we sent a survey out. The Community Relations Committee sent it out to partner groups that work closely with the Citizens' Review Board; this was actually a recommendation and an ask of the Community Safety Committee that we would reach out to some of our partner groups, and we did that. We asked them for their input about characteristics and the qualities of Board Members, elements of diversity that were important and also ways that we could get information out about Citizens' Review Boards so that we could recruit diverse members. Additionally, City Clerk, Stephanie Kelly and I met with the existing Citizens' Review Board to talk to that Board about their thoughts about changes to the Review Board, and finally we did go back to the list of demands from groups that had presented information to us following the civil unrest in the fall and compared that list of demands to the work that we were doing with Citizens' Review Board to insure that they were aligned.

This is the criteria for what it is to be a member of the Citizens' Review Board; you need to be representative of the community. You need to live and be registered to vote in Mecklenburg County, and you need to have completed CMPD's Citizens Academy. Additionally, there is a prohibition of individuals who have been convicted of felonies or certain A-1 misdemeanors. You will see this note at the bottom that is asterisk and that is that Citizens' Review Board Members are intended to serve three-year terms, and there is three year terms at the time the Board was created or intended to be staggered. I will come back to that point towards the end of my presentation to talk to you about the fact that our Board Members are not currently staggered. Just one more bit of background that is not on the slide to remind the Councilmembers the Citizens Review Board is an 11 member Board; five members are appointed by the City Council. three members are appointed by the Mayor, and three members are appointed by the City Manager.

After we've done this review we've reached out, we've done research. We've compared our Board to other groups we come to you with a group of changes, and some of these changes are enumerated in the ordinance that was included in your Agenda packet. The first thing that we are suggesting is that the City add some language to strengthen the notion about diversity to show that there is great intent on the Council to create a diverse Board that represents the community. The second item that we are including is a recommendation that we prohibit from serving current and former employees of the City; that would include current and former CMPD employees as well as family members of current and former CMPD employees. We believe that that does the best job of protecting and insuring the objectivity of the Citizens Review Board.

We are also recommending and you will see this in the ordinance that we divert from the Council's normal process of appointing members solely based on a paper application. We are suggesting that the Council create a panel interview process for people to be appointed to the Citizens Review Board. We believe that is an opportunity to truly understand the candidates for the Board to understand qualities and characteristic that you would want on Boards such as objectivity, involved in the community and accountability. We propose that this panel be appointed and include members of both the CRC, the City Manager's Office, as well as an existing Citizen Review Board member and that we would

provide the assessment of the candidate back to the appropriate appointing authority once the interview had been conducted.

As we go forward, what we also know is that we have to do more to really get information out about Board appointments to really insure that we are attracting and recruiting people who can be appointed and create a very diverse Board. We have identified a number of items related to recruitment of Board Members, and you will see them on this slide. So, we want to work with this group of community members that were so gracious to participate in our survey. We want to share with them Board openings, and we want to reach out to groups about Board openings. We want to go to the CMPD Citizen Academy and recruit directly from that Citizens Academy, and I will also say that CMPD is doing great work right now just recruiting a diverse group of people to simply go to that Citizens Academy. We want to begin to recruit from many of the City activities that are going on now, such as the Neighborhood Board Exchange, the Leadership Exchange and the Civic Leadership Academy. In fact, I'm happy to say the Clerk's Office will be attending the Neighborhood Board Retreat, I think it is on July 15th, to do some actual recruitment at that event and also the City Clerk's Office is spending some additional time at the Civic Leadership Academy to talk to participants of that Academy about this opportunity as well as all of the other Boards and Commissions that the City has.

Finally, we want to use social media; we recognize that there are groups of people who really get information from the City about the City through social media, so we want to make sure that we are reaching our using social media for broader audience and particularly the younger generation of leaders.

If you recall, I talked about training, and we do believe and we heard from the Citizens Review Board when we met with them the need for additional training. We know as we looked at best practices in other communities how important training was, and so we've included in the ordinance a requirement that Board Members sit through at least eight hours of training and may include a four-hour police ride along. We will explore a variety of training that we will provide to the Citizens Review Board; some of that training may be provided by the City, but we will also look toward outside external partners to provide that training as well.

Councilmember Mayfield said while we are on this one what we have in here in the second bullet is that staff will explore the opportunity for some portion of the training basically to add implicit bias. Why do we need to explore, opposed it being added just as in bullet one?

Ms. Wall said I will say this Ms. Mayfield, you will see the language and the ordinance says that we will provide eight hours of training. What we did want to do was to provide the maximum amount of flexibility related to that training because one year there may be a new tool or technique related to policing that we would need to spend those extra hours with the Board Members. For example, I would say that eight years ago we probably never envisioned that Police Officers would wear body worn cameras and that would have been an opportunity to provide some training. So, we do require eight hours of training; we just have not spelled out specifically what those eight hours would include.

Ms. Mayfield said I think there is a challenge because as you mentioned it is eight hours; we have a four ride along. If we are going to make a change that is going to be an impactful change prior, to even getting in the car to ride along with the officers, the implicit bias training should be the first training that is attended so that foundation is laid and then start our additional pieces. The ride along is great, but if you don't have an understanding of what historically has been happening and why we are here and why we are trying to make these changes, if that is not clearly noted at the very beginning that that is the expectation, not a maybe you can do it, you can sign up for it but that is the expectation if you are going to be a future Board Member. If we are not going to add that language in on the front end then that is going to cause a challenge and it is sending a mixed message, and I'm really directing this to the City Manager.

Marcus Jones, City Manager said Ms. Mayfield, we agree. What Ann was saying, if I get this correctly, as time changed there may be different training that would be more representative of the type fully implicit bias training is something that would be very much needed now. There is an annual report that the Manager provides back to the Council that would include that in it, so I don't think I am misspeaking Chief or Ann was saying that that would be a part of the training that makes sense to start this off.

Ms. Mayfield said I agree with that change of language needs to show that the expectation is there, because there is a different conversation in you volunteering or signing up to do something and knowing from the beginning if you are even considering applying that the expectation is for you to add this. Regardless of the other changes, things are going to change, that is a piece that is not going to change, because I seriously doubt if we are going to tackle race related issues in the next 20-years so that is something we should be able to add in at the expectation for anyone that applies without there being a whole lot of push back on it.

Councilmember Lyles said I hear what Ms. Mayfield is coming at, because I really do believe at this moment in time if all of us could take dismantling racism or implicit bias training, we would be better off as we are doing this. I would like to actually propose that we have in this action a motion that does say that the City Manager communicates to this Board Chair, Director of Community Relations; those folks that review the people and one of the steps in there it says the three people that are in the interview process, I would like to move that we actually direct and ask them to insure that the annual training incorporates not only policing and public safety, which is what I believe the four hour ride along really accomplishes, but would also include the community's perspective and perceptions on how law enforcement works, so it is a balance that you are getting components of it. I think it would be fair to say that in both the interview, as well as to ask for a report on it annually. I think one of the problems we have with the Citizens' Review Board is we spend a lot of time working on what it was going to be, and we hadn't paid enough attention to it on a regular basis. We get an annual report, and I think that annual report ought to include a section on what the training curriculum was for that prior year and what they are going to do in the upcoming year. We need to be timely with it; we need to address some of the issues. Who knows what they are, but I know that they are going to change, but I think right now it would be appropriate for them to develop a curriculum and report on annual basis, but I also think it would be important for in the interview process that we talk about the components of your training will including policing and public safety and a community perspective and perception on how policing is done. That gives you both, but I think both at the interview time and annually we ought to look at this so that we don't get so far behind on what is important to be accomplished.

Mayor Roberts said let me remind folks that we are actually voting on this during the business portion of the meeting and that amendments etc. should be discussed.

Ms. Lyles said I want to lay it out so that you guys will have some time to think about it because I will be making that a part of the motion for what I would suggest for approval.

Mayor Roberts said absolutely and what I would also suggest is if people do want to amend it, because I think we should also add four hours that we should have the ride along be in addition to eight hours of training, so if we have proposed amendments or changes that they submit it to the Clerk so we can have it. Is there going to be time to do that before we vote on this? At least get people who are doing amendments to give it to you so we all know what is being said.

Emily Kunze, Deputy City Clerk said we can try to put it together and get copies to them.

Mayor Roberts said that would be great. Does everybody think that would be a good idea to get a copy if we are going to amend it?

Ms. Eiselt said can I make a comment before we start writing amendments? One of the discussions and we had a lot of discussions on this in the Community Safety Committee, and one of our concerns is actually limiting our pool of candidates, because it is a lot to go

through the Citizens Academy. I know the Chief has been working on a way to maybe have a shorter program and maybe it was some transparency workshops that individuals could finish the Academy in a shorter period of time so that they qualify to be on this Board while still having the right type of instructions. We talked about having eight hours plus four, and frankly 12 hours is just a lot after you've been through the Citizens Academy. We just have to keep a balance with regards to how much we are asking citizens to do, and lastly I just want to say that we can write whatever we want, but if we don't stick to it and we don't hold people accountable to doing it, it doesn't matter what is written down. We had in our original ordinance that the Board was supposed to be diverse and the fact that it doesn't look like our community right now, and we had it there that the terms should be staggered, and we've learned that everybody rolls off the same month next year. What we write is one thing but what we put into action is another, and I'd like to focus on really doing some trial and error with the training and see what the best formula is before we get too stuck on what the actual ordinance says.

Councilmember Fallon said when a vacancy occurs, I'd like to add a person who takes the appointment by us after someone else has dropped out, be properly vetted and by that I mean meet the same criteria that the first full appointment would have had. The other thing is, the members of the Board shall be subject for removal from office by two-thirds vote of the City Council. That should be if conditions of appointment are not met.

Ms. Wall said if I could just make a note and I think this goes back to Ms. Mayfield; the Clerk reminded me that we have been working very diligently to insure that existing Citizens Review Board does have implicit bias training, and so we are working to get that scheduled in August and September. Some of them have had some of that training, but we do believe it is a refresher for everybody on that Board.

Mayor Roberts said is that a 4 hour training?

Ms. Wall said two hours.

Ms. Mayfield said following up and really this is for the Clerk. Madam Clerk, when is the time for them to roll off?

Stephanie Kelly, City Clerk said next year in 2018.

Ms. Mayfield said okay so we are trying to get everything in place now. I think ultimately my colleagues hear the concerns. Ms. Eiselt I hear what you are saying, but I also think there is a challenge where if we don't tell you on the front end what the expectations are and be very clear then the accountability falls on us, but at least by having the language in and Ms. Lyles I definitely agree the two go together when we are talking about implicit bias and dismantling racism, because the impact that we are seeing is that disconnect and having that understanding, so the reason I made the suggestion of making sure the language clearly spells out the expectation, that way when you are applying I'm not saying I necessarily want to add additional hours. I'm saying work within the eight hours and address that this needs to happen, but if there is support to doing additional then you know what your commitment is on the front end. If you apply to the Board then you know this is what the expectation is going to be, but if we leave it up to individuals to decide on their own then outside the fact that we are not trying to coordinate it, how many of them on their own have already gone through and taken the classes? There are some things we can't give a whole lot of flexibility on; if you want to be a part of this particular Board then there are some clear expectations of what you need to do. That is the reason I wanted to have the conversation about adding the language just so there is full transparency for whoever looks at it, whether they are new to the City or they are a lifelong resident.

Mayor Roberts said I need clarification on the Citizens Academy; how many hours is that?

Ms. Wall said the Police Citizens Academy is between 10 and 12 sessions; it begins in September and meets several times a month through December. People who are interested can work through the fall to complete their attendance, as well as into the spring.

Mayor Roberts said is that required that everybody on the CRB before they begin.

Ms. Wall said yes ma'am; before they begin they have to complete the Police Citizens Police Academy.

Mr. Phipps said I'm a graduate of the Citizens Academy, and within the Academy I think there was a requirement for three ride along; I don't know if it is the same not, but are we saying that part of the three ride along that you get to do while you are taking the Citizens Academy that we want them to do another one each year?

Ms. Wall said yes sir Mr. Phipps, this says may and what we learned from best practices from other communities is the need to help people to understand the environment in which a Police Officer works, and so someone could go ahead as part of their training annually, so these are people who are already on the Board could go ahead and substitute four hours of a ride along for some additional training that would be offered. This is in addition and this is an annual requirement; this eight hours of training is an annual requirement which we would provide to all Citizens Review Board Members.

Mr. Phipps said this implicit bias training, I went through that, and that was a two-day course, so what are we saying about that?

Mayor Roberts said there are different lengths of different days. I've had the two-day course as well, and I've heard they are different. There is four hours that is one day; there is a two-day, and here is a one-week.

Ms. Lyles said I was going to say in response, I think there are a number of ways to do that; I've seen it done in four-hour to two-hour segments. I think what we are trying to do, at least from my perspective, what I'm trying to do, excuse me for that global we; what I'm trying to do is just make sure that when the community looks at this Board, that they have an understanding that they have not just learned all of the police procedures but they've learned how the people in the community see policing and see the history of policing, and we've all gone through that. It is just a matter of giving that connection between the department and the community which we are doing in so many ways. The 100 meetings that the Chief has had in high schools and middle schools, but this group has a responsibility for review and actually reporting out and impacting those lives. I think we can both insure that the person that has the complaint and the Police Officer be treated fairly, and I think that the community understanding by someone on the Board will accomplish that in a better way. I don't know how long it would take, but I think we could figure it out in the eight hours.

Ms. Ajmera said one of the points we are trying to tackle is increased diversity on the Board, which we currently do not have as much diversity. While we are trying to amend this is there a step or maybe later that we are trying to implement a process to insure that we are trying to increase diversity on that Board?

Ms. Wall said I have a few more slides, and we can get to that point.

Ms. Ajmera said just to follow-up; I would like to see how many applicants are we seeing, some sort of data and for how many positions and what kind of diversity we are seeing. If training is clearly an issue with the number of hours that is required with trying to get as diverse Board as possible, I would like to understand that.

Ms. Wall the Council will remember I gave you five specific improvements; data was one of them. We've been more explicit with data; we have data related to the Citizens Review Board both on the City Clerk's, CRB page, as well as CMPD's Internal Affairs Unit has a very lengthy report that talks about outcomes of misconduct allegations, and they annually included this on their Internal Affairs web page. Other improvements that we've made and have told the Council that we would do is we have more information about how to file a complaint on the City Clerk's and the CRB website; we have translated the brochure, you should have that in front of you. It is in English, and we have also translated into Spanish,

Vietnamese, and Arabic. Those are the three languages that are spoken most frequently in households in the CMS School System. Additionally what we said to the Council is we would find some additional resources to help people who might want to file with the Citizens Review Board, so the Community Relations Committee had hired staff and the staff are to work externally in the community and they are also to serve as staff people residents with filing complaints if they would like to do that.

The last item to talk to the Board about relates to staggered terms. As you will recall, I had told you initially that the when the Board was formed there were 11 members and the intent went back to 1998 and the terms would be staggered. They are not. Through a series of events, the terms are not staggered and what I can say is that in August of 2018, a year from now, 11 of the 11 members all of the members are up for appointment, and 10 of those are eligible for reappointment. One is not because that person has served two terms. We believe it is very important to go back to what was originally indicated with the Board in 1998 and that is to stagger the terms. What we would bring to you is concerted effort to recruit to really insured that we have a diverse applicant pool to create a very diverse Board and use the time between now and when the appointments come up to really recruit members, to get people to go through the Citizens Police Academy and to be interested in being on the Board and then when those appointments come up we would then have the appointing authority, the Mayor, the City Manager and the Council, approve those Board members in one two and three year terms randomly chosen. That would then put the Board back on staggered terms. What it would require is that we start now recruiting people who would be interested to go through the Citizens Police Academy so that they are interested and eligible to participate on the Citizens Review Board when you all consider the appointments.

Ms. Fallon said are those 10 people that want to be reappointed going to have to meet the new conditions?

Ms. Wall said yes ma'am they would.

Councilmember Driggs said that process is going to have the result that some people serve less or more than the six years that is normally contemplated. Have we worked out how that would work?

Ms. Wall said we would do it randomly Mr. Driggs; so we would pull names out of a hat, and we would identify Board terms from that and yes sir that is right some would serve four-year terms, some would serve five years and some would have a full term of six.

Mr. Driggs said right so if I get the one-year appointment then I'm not eligible at the end of that. If I have been on for three years; I get a reappointment for one year; I am not eligible. Ms. Wall said that would be correct. That person could elect to participate on another Board or Commission, if they truly wanted to serve the community.

Mr. Driggs said right, just clarifying.

Ms. Wall said the last slide is sort of a true up; we told you that we would do these five elements to improve the Citizens Review Board. We've identified work and progress on all five of those elements and before you tonight are revisions to the ordinance that would implement these items. The last item, I did want to true this back up to Traits of Winning Cities and this really reflects the open book, so we still continue to work on making Charlotte that Winning City.

Councilmember Kinsey said I think it is very important that we have a diverse Board; however I do have a question about the panel who will be assessing the candidates. I think that is a good idea. I want to make sure that they are assessing them and not recommending them to Council or to the Mayor or to the Manager unless that is the intent. If we are going to have staff appoint then that is different from having elected officials appoint, so I think we have to make sure that the panel is assessing and giving us the best information that we can have to make the best decision rather than recommending.

Ms. Wall said yes ma'am and Councilmember Kinsey; we were very explicit and very purposeful on the use of the word assess. We did not want the panel to recommend; we simply wanted the panel, to interview, to understand who the candidates are other than that application that the Councilmembers receive and to provide some assessment to the appointing authority but certainly not to recommend.

Ms. Kinsey said that will be helpful.

Mr. Driggs said that assessment means that they could reach the conclusion that the candidate does not meet the goals that we have established for the Board i.e. objectivity and those various criteria. Are they going to reach any kind of a verdict about the sufficiency of the candidate by those criteria?

Ms. Wall said that is some information that we are going to continue to work out Mr. Driggs; I think the intent again is simply to provide a reflection of that applicant to the City Council and to the Mayor and to the City Manager for those individuals to make appointments, but to not provide a verdict, a recommendation or a yes or no.

Mr. Driggs said I'm interested to see what that looks like.

Parade Permits

Ms. Wall said if I could just mention one quick thing and that is Parade Permits. We've had lots of recent discussions about parade permits over the last couple of months. As the Council will recall, the ordinance currently provides that somebody who wants to have a parade needs to provide an application at least 30-days prior to the event and that application would be information that is shared with City Departments and it is provided to departments so we understand the size, the scope, the timing of the event and also so we can assess the impact of that event on City services. At times, we have accommodated applications that have not met that timeframe for our purposes. What we know now is that we are currently reviewing those requirements so that we understand if that is the appropriate amount of notice for an event and whether or not the 30-days is right. We are trying to understand the scope and the number of reviewing departments, and do they have sufficient time and information to decide if a parade or an event can go on and whether or not some flexibility in permitting is appropriate. I just tell you that to say that this is under review; we are looking at it. We have City staff working on it and if there are changes or perspective changes to the ordinance we will bring that forward to you as well.

Mayor Roberts said I know we are rushing a little bit because we have a 6:30 p.m. Public Forum, and we've got 45 minutes of items to get through in half an hour, but if there are additional questions about any of those things we will have time during our regular meeting when we vote on these to ask those questions. If you have a few more questions please hold on to those and we can ask those down in front of the cameras.

* * * * *

ITEM NO. 4: HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM UPDATE

Ron Kimble, City Manager's Office said good evening Mayor and Council; it is good to be back in front of you, and I can tell you my Mondays have been a little bit different since January 31, 2017. I truly am proud to be here tonight and have the opportunity to talk to you a little bit more about hospitality and tourism and give you an overview of these particular restricted revenues and sources of investment for our community. Tonight, we would like to review with you, in quick fashion, the role of hospitality and tourism investments in growing jobs and the economic impact they have on our community and talk a little bit more about the explanation behind hospitality and tourism taxes, the restricted use of them, how we've used them in the past and then also to discuss current and potential future hospitality and tourism investments and then at the conclusion we are going to ask for your support to refer a couple of items that are coming forward to the Economic Development Committee tonight if you are so inclined.

We want to start with the background; how important are they; what do they do; what does hospitality do for this region. Over 26 million visitors annually and visitors spend \$6.5 billion in the region and \$5 billion in Mecklenburg County alone. It is big business; it is great for our economy. It is a clean industry for our economy and for our region. Lots of jobs, there are 124,000 jobs in the hospitality and leisure sector and direct visitor spending supporting 63,000 of those jobs in our region. One statistic that really shows the power and the importance of hospitality and tourism, one in nine people in Charlotte work in the hospitality and leisure sector, so it really is important to the vibrancy of our region and our economy.

Why do we have Hospitality and Tourism taxes? You know that over the years, the first one was in 1985, so this dates back 30 plus years in our community. They support jobs and the economy as we've just talked about. You avoid using general government and general fund revenues to support the tourism related activities, because these funds are specifically used for this purpose. They are restricted for this purpose; they must be used in the categories of expenses that are defined in the legislation. They are adopted at the state level from an authorization passed on for the County to levy these taxes and then the monies are paid over to the City for us to spend them and invest them in wise ways so that they grow the base in our community. There is strong support from the hospitality and tourism industry. These taxes are tied to supporting and advancing the City's tourism economy; it is a partnership that has grown immensely in the last 30-years in this region and in this state and throughout the world for that matter, because tourism has become dominating for the world's economy, cities across the world. Clearly, we are in strong competition with other cities and regions in our own United States. There is a strong return on investment of these funds and resources. There is a recent study in Charlotte's Got A Lot marketing campaign that shows the importance of these; what they leverage. One dollar spent in advertising results in \$115 in spending with Charlotte area businesses and produces \$6 in tax collections for every dollar spent. Again, it leads also the Winning City of Tomorrow that you've talked about in your Retreat through your budget process, and hospitality and tourism is a strong underpinning in the economy for Charlotte, Mecklenburg County and this region.

Let's talk a little bit more specific, still on a high level, still on a generic basis, but specifically about the restrictions on these uses of funds. They are grouped into 4 funding categories; we call them 4 funding buckets. You've got a Tourism I Fund which is made up of 3% hotel/motel occupancy taxes and 1.5% rental car tax and the restrictive uses for these monies are for marketing and visitor promotion, cultural and sports facilities; anything that grows visitors spending in a community. That one was adopted way back in 1985; it was the first 3% of hotel/motel. When the Levine Center for the Arts Campus came about there was a Tourism II Fund that was created, and it is made up of 4% of the extra added rental car tax that was put in place in 2007 with the legislation through the State of North Carolina. It is a 4% rental car tax that is used for cultural facilities from a capital spending and from a maintenance perspective and keeping these revenues restricted for arts and cultural capital and maintenance purposes. You might recall that this 5% was what was passed by the Legislature. In your deliberations back in 2007 you carved off 1%, one-fifth of these to go towards roads and transportation and the other 4%, the remaining 80% was allocated to cultural facilities and maintenance to support the Levine Center for the Arts. The tax has been so robust that it has been able to carry other additional expenditures and investments from this fund for the arts and cultural community.

The third bucket is the largest; it is the one that contains the 3% occupancy tax, the second 3% and the 1% food and beverage tax. This throws off about \$55 million per year in annual revenue flows in these two revenue sources, and it must be used and restricted for use for convention marketing and promotion, for upgrades and upkeep of the Charlotte Convention Center, for amateur sports and for Bank of America Stadium. Many of you will recall that when 2013 came around and there was a request for a partnership with the Carolina Panthers, we asked for additional sources of funding at the State level to be used directly and specifically for Bank of America Stadium. We were unsuccessful in that attempt to partner at that level, the higher level would have given us a 15-year tether with the Carolina Panthers. We did a smaller amount of the investment in the Stadium, and that got us a six-year hard tether and a four-soft tether thereafter. We were able to keep

the Carolina Panthers through this recent number of cities in America that were courting teams, but at some point in time this revenue source had to be stretched in order to cover not only Convention Center but amateur sports and the Bank of America Stadium improvements. This fund originally was never intended to handle that; it was intended to be for Convention Center only purposes but when the uses were expanded we had to use those funds in these ways to support those kinds of assets.

The final bucket; the fourth bucket is the NASCAR Hall of Fame Complex Fund. It is called the Complex because the Complex has three components to it, the Hall of Fame, the parking deck and the Crown Ball Room, and they were passed with a 2% tax saying it could be used on any one of those three components in the combined NASCAR Hall of Fame bucket. We use that to refresh the exhibits to keep the Hall of Fame, to keep the Ball Room and to keep the parking deck in the greatest shape that we possibly can and it is performing very well right now at the NASCAR Hall of Fame with the 2% tax.

Councilmember Driggs said you mentioned the \$55 million could you tell us what the revenues are for any other buckets?

Mr. Kimble said I do have those; I think it is \$16 million per year in the Tourism II; it is around \$16 million in Tourism I, and there is another amount, and we will be glad to get those to you.

Tom Murray, Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority said \$14 million in Tourism II; \$16 million in Tourism I and \$14 million in NASCAR Hall of Fame, \$55 million in the Convention Center.

Mr. Kimble said the total is somewhere between \$93 million and \$94 million in the aggregation of all of the taxes that flow these four buckets, significant, significant amounts of dollars. Now, not all the dollars are allocated to capital; some of them are devoted to other purposes in marketing and in making sure that the Convention Center operates on a break even basis as a Convention Center. Most convention centers around the county are loss leaders, and they require a subsidy in order to keep them operating at a break even basis. All of that money is not for capital; it is for other purposes as well.

What are some of the things that you have used hospitality and tourism taxes to fund? It is rather impressive what past City Councils and governing boards have done in order to build these assets with restricted tourism funds for the benefit of our own residents in this region and also for visitors that come to our local Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. If you look at these, parts of Owen Auditorium; the Independence Coliseum, sometimes called the Bojangles Coliseum but sometimes not; we have Bank of America Stadium and the partnership there. We've got Discovery Place has been funded \$31.6 million with the Levine Center for the Arts; you've got the Blumenthal. You've got the Bechtler. You've got the NASCAR Hall of Fame; you have the Harvey Gantt Center. You have the Mint Museum, BB&T Ball Park, the Spectrum Center, the Knight Theatre, the Convention Center; all of these have been built predominantly and almost exclusively with tourism taxes over the last couple of decades. Without these taxes we would be turning to general funds sources of revenue to have to fund the assets of this magnitude.

Councilmember Ajmera said the numbers that you gave earlier were those capital numbers? I wanted to know the debt capacity for each one.

Mr. Murray said those were the annual revenue numbers.

Mr. Kimble said and then we have debt capacity numbers; we put those out in the budget process. We've got those on a separate sheet of paper, and we can give you the debt capacity numbers as well. I think it is \$69 million in Tourism I; it is \$123 million in the Convention Center, and it is around \$40 million in the NASCAR Hall of Fame, and it is \$12 million in Tourism II, if my memory is correct.

Again restricted uses, the dollar of debt capacity, where the funds originate, the uses and restrictions for these funds, and that is what we do probably about every quarter. We dive

down into these numbers. We find out how the revenues are flowing. We look at recalculations on the debt capacity, and we always try and make sure that the investments that we would recommend to you as a staff can fit within the resources available and through the debt capacity that is noted on the chart here.

What are some of the potential and future hospitality and tourism investments that would have some use of the debt capacities that were on the previous slide? The major items that draw from the Tourism I category – Discovery Place, great asset for this community, built in 1981, refurbished again in the 90's one time and refurbished again in 2010, and it will need a major upgrade in the future. You authorized a two-year Master Plan; that will be done December 31, 2018. They will be back in front of you with an ask for monies to upgrade and expand Discovery Place. The Spectrum Center – there is a contractual agreement between us and the Hornets on this facility. You have a current five-year agreement that ends in 2018 for the capital improvements. There is a negotiation that will happen in 2019, which will look at the next five-years of improvements to the Spectrum Center, then the NBA All-Star Game partnership also drew also funds from this Tourism I bucket, and we are thankful that we now can say that we have the NBA All-Star Game in February of 2019. There are two other projects that have risen up for you to consider, and again it is for you to consider. You are the final decider of all of these allocations of funds including the two that are under the dotted line; Major League Soccer and the Carolina Theater, and you've heard about both of these, and these will be the two that we will ask for a referral to the Economic Development Committee tonight if you are so inclined.

In the Tourism II bucket, the Blumenthal Theater will have its 25-year anniversary in 2018; they have come to us with a 50/50 partnership ask. They would like to refurbish the front of the Blumenthal Theater, and they are looking for monies to partner with them from the Tourism II bucket, and they will raise private monies to match the amount coming here.

The Convention Center – again is the largest bucket, Convention Center expansion and upgrades. Mr. Murray will be in front of you at your July 24, 2017 Dinner session to talk about the major needs of the Charlotte Convention Center. It is no secret that we have talked about \$100 million to \$110 million at two previous City Council meetings. He will be in front of you next month to describe that. There are Amateur Sports partnerships which are out there for us to consider for you to consider. We will be bringing one of those, an Amateur Sports partnership to you sometime soon. I won't say how long, because we are still in conversations, and we still have a process that we need to follow to make sure that we are doing this the proper way. There are Convention Center hotels that come to us repeatedly and say, what about a larger Convention Center hotel in this area? What about other conference hotels in and around Charlotte and Mecklenburg County? We continue to have conversations when they do come, but there are no commitments yet; you will be the ultimate ones who will determine that. The one that looms biggest, and I've not been shy about saying to you the biggest one in the future would be the Bank of America Stadium, a partnership that we have with the Carolina Panthers because that current agreement has a hard tether, an injunctive relief tether that ends on June 30, 2019, and the full tether extends only until June 30, 2023, and there will be a time when there will be a change in ownership. I think we are safe with the current ownership group, but who knows what happens when a new ownership group might come into play upon Mr. Richardson's death. At that point in time, there will be a conversation that will have to be had in order to make sure that we continue to have the Carolina Panthers as our partner. In the NASCAR Hall of Fame Complex, there will be facility and exhibit upgrades using the \$40 million in debt capacity that exists right there at that time.

In summary, hospitality/tourism/cultural sector is an important economic engine for Charlotte and the region. Taxes from the hospitality and tourism industry are a partnership, and they are used to attract visitors and really grow the economy here in Charlotte Mecklenburg, and we are going to have to stay up with our competition and we need to be part of that Winning City of Tomorrow, and in order to do so, we have to be strategic. We have to invest, and we have to be proactive. I will tell you that the Carolina Theater is a spectacular project. I think when you see what is in the making with the Carolina Theater, with the advent of a 275-room intercontinental hotel, which will throw off great property tax, sales tax, hotel/motel taxes and food and beverage taxes [inaudible] our community but

also known the jewel known as the preservation and restoration of the Carolina Theater with what is happening with that that has set dormant since 1978, to see the project that is taking shape and taking form there is a small gap that has to be talked about. That is why we would want it referred to the Economic Development Committee. The gap as it exists now is around \$4.5 million; we will want you to look at that more closely and make decisions on its merits but we believe we believe it is worthy of putting in front of you for you to have that conversation.

With Soccer, we've done the analysis of debt capacity keeping in mind Discovery Place; keeping in mind the Spectrum Center needs and the other parts in the Tourism I bucket, and we are fast arriving at a number that is not \$43.75 million that is achievable in this category. It is something closer to \$30 million that would be the cap on the amount that I think the City of Charlotte could invest from tourism funds to participate in soccer, if you choose to do that, because of that, we think a referral to the Economic Development Committee would be wise for you to analyze that, deliberate about it, ask questions and take the amount of time necessary to make sure we do this right.

Mayor Roberts said it sounds like we need a couple of referrals to the Economic Development Committee.

Ms. Kinsey said it is no secret how much I love the Carolina Theater and how hard I've worked to get it where it is. Thank Heavens for the Foundation of the Carolinas; they've done a great job. They have raised \$47 million for the Theater, but they do need that additional \$4.5 million and I would ask tonight that we refer this to the Economic Development Committee for strong, positive consideration.

Motion was made by Councilmember Kinsey, seconded by Councilmember Fallon, and carried unanimously, to refer the Carolina Theater project and a \$4.5 million funding gap to the Economic Development and Global Competitiveness Committee for review.

Ms. Ajmera said before we make another referral, Mr. Kimble; would you break down from \$69 million debt capacity in Tourism I, how much each one of those projects that is already in the pipeline are we estimating for Discovery Place, for Spectrum and for MBA All-Star and then after Carolina Theater how much balance we have left in debt capacity?

Mr. Kimble said I think that we have a made a reservation for each of those projects in those categories. I think it might be more appropriate not to do that in isolation but to do that at the Committee and dive into those numbers as to the why the number is what it is that we are reserving. I think to put a number out there for each of them right now might be a little premature.

Mayor Roberts said we also don't have time to answer all the questions that will come up with each of the amounts. I think in the interest of time it will probably be better to have that fully disclosed and discussed in the Committee meeting, and it is an open meeting. Anybody who wants to attend and hear what are the components of all of that is welcome to do that. What is the date for that?

Councilmember Mitchell said the Carolina Theater is slated for July 13, 2017 at 12:00 noon.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell and seconded by Councilmember Austin, to refer Major League Soccer to the Economic Development and Global Competitiveness Committee for review.

Mayor Roberts said do we know what the exact of that discussion is going to cover?

Mr. Mitchell said we think there will be multiple meetings, but I think the first meeting is truly introduction, because this will be the first time we have had the opportunity to really vet and get information, so I think the July 20, 2017 meeting will be an overview.

Councilmember Mayfield said and there will be no recommendations coming out of that; it will be just a review meeting.

Mr. Mitchell said don't expect any recommendations, and I think we are not tied to any other dates that have been floating out , so I'm hoping we can manage people's expectations. I can't see this item coming back before August 1, 2017.

Mr. Driggs said I haven't make any secret about my skepticism on this investment, but one of my concerns has been that we haven't had the opportunity to get all the information and to think about what is proposed, so I'm actually going to support the referral without any prodigious to the position that I might take later just in the name of due process.

Councilmember Lyles said in the name of due process I know that the Chair referred to one meeting being the introduction, but I wonder if we should actually think about if there is going to be the second and the next. One of the things that I think we ought to really be thinking about is in the referral, I wonder if the Committee should actually look at the tourism funds and the \$30 million. We've seen this presentation several times but no in depth discussion about it, and I think as Ms. Ajmera said, talk about the fund going through the financials. That would be really helpful to have that. Then I think the other point is; and I've talked with Mr. Kimble about this, I said we know that we have a proposal from major league soccer, but we don't know what winning cities are doing long-term and what is out on the table. What are the trends that are going to take a community attraction for tourism and development and to just actually ask that question and say we have something on the table but what are other places looking at to make sure that we are an attractive city that is going to grow our economy through hospitality industry? The final think is, I think a recommendation on a public comment process would be helpful because we have not talked about it in detail, but once we get financing done, once we get some idea about what the soccer and other events are we really do need to figure out how we are going to talk to our citizens about this. I don't know if it gets this far, but if we do that would be my suggestion that the committee proceed in that direction.

Councilmember Eiselt said I want to say because we are going to wait until July 20, 2017 now to have that discussion, and time is of the essence, and it is hard to fit all of these meetings in. I want to put out there right now that the dollar amount is not the only thing I'm going to focus on. I would really like to see what else this could involve so when we talk about Winning Cities of tomorrow we were just in Dallas where we had a presentation on FC Dallas and the owner who built the stadium made a big commitment to the community and built 17 rec fields, five in the inner city when he built the stadium and brought the team to Dallas. We keep talking about whether or not Charlotte is a soccer town or could be a soccer town, so if we are looking at the eco system of soccer in Charlotte then how is this investor going to make a commitment to our community so that soccer will thrive, not just for those who are going to the soccer game but for the youth who are interested in soccer in the community and in all parts of the community including the immigrant community? I want to lose any time by having a reaction to that after we've seen a revision in just the numbers.

Councilmember Phipps said what kind of timeline are we on to get all of this done to a decision on whether we move forward or not? The body of work seems to be getting complex. Are there certain time horizons that we are supposed to be meeting in terms of trying to make a decision on our part or do we have open ended decision making or what?

Mr. Mitchell said Mr. Phipps, I hope we would just follow our normal process and let Council really have the opportunity to vet and get input on some of the things that have been mentioned before. I hope we don't operate on any deadline that we have to have our decision made by, but it will go through our normal process, vetting it, having public input, coming to Council Dinner Briefing. Let's treat this like any other project that we try and make sure is right for our City.

Mr. Phipps said so there is no artificial date deadline that we are trying to meet. We are just trying to go forth to a deliberate vetting process.

Mayor Roberts said the only deadline that we've heard from one of our partners that they have a deadline, but I think what we are hearing is that we are going to be following our process and if our process doesn't fit in their deadline we may be able to work with them to see if that is something that they can change and if not we may just have to see what the consequence is.

Mr. Driggs said I just wanted to mention, we talked about this in the ED Committee today, and one thing that was absolutely clear is there will be no externally imposed deadlines. The whole point of the referral is for us to do properly what we haven't had the chance to do, did not have the chance to do before, so we will get there or we won't. That is all there is to it but it is not up to somebody else.

Councilmember Smith said Mr. Kimble, I think part of the ED at the meeting what I would like to know and Ms. Lyles touched on this a little bit like what are other cities doing. I want to have an idea of what the other packages around the country look like, so who are we competing against? For example, I've heard Nashville has financing but doesn't have a stadium site; I've heard different things about Cincinnati. If we can get a complete picture of who we are competing against and what gaps they may particular have in their package as well, because to date what we've heard is the County Commission has laid out a deadline based on their body. We've heard MLS may be more fluid, and I just want to have an understanding; I want to look at chart process on this and see everything laid out and figure out exactly who we are competing against, what holes they may have in their process and where everything stands so we can have a very complete understanding.

Mr. Kimble we will do the very best job we can; MLS receives all of these. If they are public then we can go to those cities and get the information, and we can try and call those cities and we will get as much data as we possibly can. We know the 12 cities that are in competition for MLS.

Mr. Smith said I would image like with our process for our ED Committee meetings and I would imagine there is some public record out there in some of these areas.

Mr. Kimble said we will search for that and we will accumulate that.

Ms. Fallon said I'm going to take a leaf from Councilmember Kinsey's book about always pushing us to the wall at the last minute for things, and I'm going to say the same thing. We get pushed to the wall all the time that there is a time limit and we got to do, and I'm glad we are going to do the process, because it is time for us to be told that we have to make decisions when we don't know half the stuff that is going on.

Ms. Ajmera said I would imagine when you do a presentation to the Committee there would be some economic impact data presented as well.

Mr. Kimble said we have economic impact data from the last deals that have been done in MLS. We have not yet undertaken an economic impact statement and study ourselves. That would be funding that we have to seek from either the perspective owner, how we would do that and how fast we could do that, but there is a common thread across all the communities throughout the country that have landed soccer franchises in the MSL world and there are pretty consistent data on the economic impact.

Mayor Roberts said I would suggest if there are final questions that come up between now and the Committee meeting in July; Randy Harrington will be taking those questions and passing them on to Ron Kimble and CRVA for any additional answers that might be needed at that first Committee meeting. If there is interest expressed at that meeting and people want more information I think there will probably a process for more public engagement, more transparency on what the decisions are at hand and what the City input would be.

Mr. Mitchell said correct.

The vote was taken on the motion and was recorded as unanimous.

* * * * *

ITEM NO. 5: BOJANGLES-OVENS LINK FACILITY

Mayor Roberts said I don't know if we have time to do the Bojangles-Ovens Link; can we do the Link later or do we need to do that right now?

Marcus Jones, City Manager said we can do that later.

* * * * *

PUBLIC FORUM

Net Neutrality Laws

Nic Colley, 12017 Bending Branch Road said a strong and fast internet infrastructure is another thing that can help make Charlotte a Winning City of Tomorrow. It can reduce the technology divide between communities, can serve as a spring board for start-ups and most importantly encourage the market to protect the foundation of the internet. I am a local resident, a data scientist for a local manufacturer and a tech strategist. I'm here tonight in hopes to start a dialogue with the Council for Charlotte to create its own internet fiber infrastructure alongside those of Google and AT&T. As you know, the infrastructure has been in place but it goes along a bit slowly. They hit the markets that have the most opportunity and leave out those that desperately need it. By Charlotte stepping in and building its own fiber infrastructure not only can it provide internet faster, it can start bringing top talent to start-ups that want to settle in this City. Not only that, it can also protect what is going on on the national level. As many of you all know Net Neutrality is a big topic that is going on. The idea that if you send something through the mail, a parcel, that the mail carrier can say no we are going to charge you more or deny you from sending it to your buddy over in this part of town, because it is sketchy. That is what the Net Neutrality debate that is going on right now, and by creating an infrastructure not only can Charlotte bring in and attract top talent, start breaking that divide of technology, it can also help lay a foundation to guarantee that all internet traffic is treated equally. This isn't just my words; this is also informed by the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a non-profit focused on protecting American citizen's rights with digital protections. Their suggestion is not only do they lay the foundation like Portland, Oregon; Santa Cruz, San Francisco, major tech hubs, growth all over but to lease out the pipes to the internet service providers so that you don't have to worry about the overhead but you also don't have to worry about the civil liberties at hand and let the internet service providers do it.

Charlotte BIKES Bicycle Plan

Billy Shue, 1509 West Sugar Creek Road said I was here about a year ago to speak on awareness for safety on the greenways and parks, and I comment you for the work that has been done there. I've seen police presence heightened more police in parking lots and on patrols throughout the greenways. That has been a great welcome citing so thank you, so much for taking action and initiative there. I'm here tonight to raise awareness for cyclist in the City of Charlotte, and I know in the last City Council meeting I can see that action is already being taken to try to make Charlotte a more cyclist friendly City, and one of the things I think will really help in that regard is adding more bike lanes within the City, but not just bike lanes, quality bike lanes that don't have pot holes because there are a good number of bike lanes in town where it is more dangerous to be in the bike lane than not to because of the way they are kept. I think one of the things that can help make the bike lanes more suitable for cyclist is taking a page out of some other cities like New York City for instance with their Hudson River park, having the designated bike lane that is parallel to where the pedestrians and cyclists can be on that is off the main road whether it is separated by a curb, bollards, etc. I think that is something that could definitely go a long way with improving the safety of cyclist on our roads and for any additional greenways that are built have a designated lane for cyclists as opposed to runners or walkers. The way that the greenways are now they are not wide enough for that. The last thing I think can

help is within driver's education making it more of a point and raise awareness for people taking a driver's education class is that they need to share the road with cyclists. I think raising education on that will raise awareness.

Public Forum and Potholes

Sue DuChanois, 5852 Coatbridge Lane said I was out of town for a few weeks and returned to a Charlotte Observer article announcing that no further Citizens' Forums would take place in Council Chambers and thus no longer reviewed by the public. As an engaged citizen, I was really disappointed by this. The article also stated that the Council had quietly decided to turn off the cameras in April. I looked for some public record of the decision, and I couldn't find one, which I hope was an oversight on my part. The article also reported that the intent of the forum was to address citizen's concerns with such things potholes. It seems strange to call something a forum with the only intent to address is minor issues. We are living in turbulent times in civic engagement; the citizens of Charlotte are looking to this Council for leadership on a variety of issues that are royally in our sense of unity in community. I sat in the Chamber for two of the three very contentious meetings outlined in the article. I was not comfortable. I can't imagine you were comfortable either; however, I don't see how this decision resolves any problems. First, cutting off the cameras does not cut off public transfusion. Everyone has a phone now; videos will be made. They will be posted on blogs, and they will be posted on Facebook pages. They may be presented and edited in such a manner that distorts and spins the message to the public, and there will be no official record of what actually transpired. Next, I don't believe that it is going to stop angry people from coming to confront Council. They will simply confront you in a smaller arena with less physical distance between their anger and you, and for that matter less distance from me too in the audience. Besides, it appears that at least one group got what they wanted using these tactics, so why would they stop. Finally, regardless of how inappropriate the delivery method and I too was unsettled by some of the language and the antics that these people performed. These are important issues; what is more important than potholes and the citizens of Charlotte should be able to see and hear and come to their own conclusions. In time of uncertainty and discord, we look to our leaders for truth and trust to mend the bridge. I don't see how turning off the cameras serves to further either telling of truth or the building of trust in this institution. Shutting the cameras off just makes people wonder what are you trying to hide. I'm going to age myself now, but this reminds me of being in elementary school when a couple of the kids in the back of the room were acting up so the teacher made us all put our heads down on our desk. Now, we got mad at the kids for sure, but we also got mad at the teacher because it felt like it was injustice to make all of us pay for the behavior of the few. There has to be a better way to manage the behavior of the few without punishing the whole. I hope you will reconsider your decision.

Large Awards to Disgruntled Employees

Lisa Rudisill, 7101 Londontowne Drive said frankly as a taxpayer it sickens me to see what sometimes seems to be a line of disgruntled employees and others with swords drawn seeking to rob our City of funds, as if they had come upon a magical gold pot in their life's journey. I am especially upset with disgruntled employees both current and former. Have you ever thought about these things to those folks? You could one of the millions of unfortunate even in North Carolina who have been downsized, found not to have enough certificates or degrees, found to be too old or not pretty enough or whatever else for more than a part time minimum wage job with no benefits. For those of you who are not single, have you considered life living alone depending on no-one else at minimum wage? Have you been homeless without electricity with no car for any extended period of time? If you are a disgruntled employee or former employee and said no to the above then count yourself in whatever position you may hold as blessed to have a job and a decent job. Thank God, and thank the citizens. If you work for the City or the County, you already for the most part have a fairly decent salary and a job. If you see large cash awards, I say line your pockets with gold baby; it is my really hard earned taxpayer dollars that feather your nest, and I say think about somebody else for a change. Try live without a good job; it is a hard road. Also to all judges, I want to all them idiots, but I won't say that. They value one person over the mass of hard working taxpayers and awarding million dollar plus

awards, including everybody who make a small salary. No one has lived without facing some discrimination; I say you are wrong. Today's judges do you feel hurt by your lack of promotion? Bless your luck if you have a job and a good one. Grow up and learn to care about your City just a little bit and not your own self. Second, all that hurt and all those strips of pain and well I say just shut, up and I know a lot of people won't like me for saying this but there was a case in Belmont where a man actually put a noose around his neck and tried to commit suicide and came very close because of discrimination suit within the department, and he was not even the one that was being accused. There are many people who are hurt by these things, but I say the taxpayers are hurt and I know we all need to be fairly treated, but I think we should think of our City more and not ourselves.

Workers Right at the Airport

Alexis Gonzalez, 328 Winona Street, Statesville said I would like to say that I am proud to be building Charlotte's future, but the work and conditions I have experienced are not to be proud of. About a month ago, my co-workers came to you asking for help; two weeks ago we were told from the City Manager's assistant that the Council decided that the issue was not an issue for the City, that the issue was personal between the workers and the company. I'm here to tell you that the issue is not personal. I went on strike on June 1, 2017 for workers conditions that should not exist in the 21st century, such as water on the job, no proper training, no safety equipment, and no insurance. I got a wire stuck in my finger while working for Border Rebar, because of the bad pain I went to the hospital I got a tetanus shot and later that week I got my check saying that I have to pay the bill. Does that sound like something personal? These issues are happening to all of my co-workers to this day, and once again we want you to sit down with us and help us come up with solutions and policies for contractors that violate basically labor laws and OSHA standards.

Alejandro Garcia, 102 Sam Sain Drive, Lawndale said I am here as a citizen of North Carolina, a construction worker, and a father a two-year old. I am here today to ask for your help to protect my co-workers from Border Rebar. One of my co-workers and I came out on strike from this company back in December of last year because of all the unfair things that were going on with this company, such as no water on the job, wage theft; they even charge us for the tool to work with. They push you until the job gets done with no reward for the workers, and on top of it all they don't offer any kind of health insurance. Because of all these reasons I just mentioned, Alexis and Christian, two other workers from Border Rebar are also on strike as well now. We are all here together to ask for your support and your help so we can make things better for all the workers for Border Rebar. We just had a press conference outside about the release of a study called Build a Better Self; they found a lot of issues I've been facing in Charlotte and workers are facing all across the south. Please take these folders and read the findings of the study and the recommendations to create a task force to develop a responsible contractor policy for Charlotte and a point system to encourage participation. We will follow-up to talk with you more.

Labor Violations in the Construction Industry in Charlotte

Iseal Mejia, 4938 Central Avenue said I am here to support some of these workers. They talked about a study that was recently released that you have in hand now, and at the Latin American Coalition where I work this report really has only served to basically back up what we see day to day. We see lots wage theft, lots of issues with work safety and most of all we just see that a lot of these companies continue to get away with these labor violations and sadly my job continues. It is a job I wish I could work my way out of by helping people defend themselves against wage theft. Wage theft has a few different ways that it happens, whether it is a worker misclassification as a contractor, which doesn't allow you to get certain benefits, doesn't guarantee you overtime pay as well as just flat out not being paid. This has rippling effects for the families that are involved; folks who aren't getting paid don't have access to the care they need the food they to support their children with, and so this is what we are here asking you today. Please review the report and definitely see that despite the growth and boom in Charlotte, we still have a lot of population that is not being served adequately.

Build a Better Charlotte

Scott Thrower, 6308 Dougherty Drive said I am here in support of the report that has been handed to you, Build a Better South. I wanted to give you a little alternative to what is in the report. I must myself came through a union apprenticeship program, which afforded me the education in the construction trade to provide a living for my family and myself. It has been 30-years now, and I have been able to do that here in Charlotte and I wanted to say that there are programs out there that can provide the education and training and safety that some of these construction workers are lacking in the field. I just wanted to speak on behalf of the report and hope you give it some consideration, and we look forward to hopefully working with you.

Labor Rights

Jade X. Jackson, 9416 Grove Side Lane #915 said I am the Executive Director of the Coalition of United Press of CharMeck. I am a former labor leader and I understand what these workers come to you in front of. We have what is called a wage gap, and we have conditions that these workers are working in. I saw a gentlemen's boot today; it had complete holes in it from working; the conditions that they are working under is not tolerable. Giving all these jobs to contractors outside of Charlotte instead of giving it to the working class, the residents of Charlotte, in order to have that economic development that we talk about we need to think about the folks here in Charlotte, the residents first and give them a good fair wage, good working conditions because that way we all win, not only the working class, the company and the City wins. We all need to work together for the betterment of these workers.

Mayor Roberts said Mr. Manager, this is not the first time we've heard about issues with Border Rebar, and I hope that we will follow-up.

The Dinner Briefing was recessed at 7:06 p.m. to move to the Meeting Chamber for the regularly scheduled Business Meeting.

* * * * *

BUSINESS MEETING

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina reconvened for a Business Meeting on Monday, June 26, 2017 at 7:19 p.m. in the Meeting Chamber of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center with Mayor Jennifer Roberts presiding. Councilmembers present were Dimple Ajmera, Al Austin, Ed Driggs, Julie Eiselt, Claire Fallon, Patsy Kinsey, Vi Lyles, LaWana Mayfield, James Mitchell, Greg Phipps and Kenny Smith.

* * * * *

Mayor Roberts said before we get started with our introductions, etc. I want to say a few welcomes and thank you. It is my pleasure to welcome this evening two interns who are assisting in my office this summer; Marisa Eury who is a student at Northwestern and Iverson Carter who just recently graduated from North Mecklenburg High School. We have many interns this summer working with the City; we have Miles Johnson, who is the Mayor's Youth Employment Intern in the Manager's Office and is a graduate of South Mecklenburg High School. We have a whole bunch of folks who are interning at Charlotte Douglas International Airport under the direction of Allison Siler, our Workforce Development Coordinator and Ashley Eylie from the Safe and Health Division. They are part of the Aviation Summer Internship and would like for them to stand; we have Jared Paul, Chris Payne, Ziad Habash, Corshanda Johnson, and Jonathan Ritch. The purpose of the Aviation summer internship program is to give rising juniors and seniors, enrolled in an accredited university, the opportunity to gain work experience and enhancement for professional and growth. This program began on May 30, 2017 with orientation and they will have subsequent meetings to see various division leaders in Aviation as well as City of Charlotte staff. They are also going to have workforce development tips, internship bi-weekly meetings and each intern is responsible for presenting on their workplace

accomplishments at the end of the summer program. Finally, there are interns from Managing Youth Employment Program working with the Aviation Department who are Raven Bell, Leslie Martinez, Val Trong, Mohammad Halawani, and Nickolas Vandeventor. Those five interns begin on Monday, June 19, 2017 and goes until August 11, 2017. They will also take part in workshops, meetings and a terminal tour to discuss workplace development tips for success after high school and during college, and they will also get to learn about all the orange cones in the Airport expansion. We appreciate all of our summer interns; we welcome you. There will be a test on this meeting afterwards. Thank you to all of our partners out in the community who are supporting summer youth interns to help us have strong youth employment in our City.

* * * * *

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Councilmember Fallon gave the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

* * * * *

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, seconded by Councilmember Ajmera, and carried unanimously, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with the exception of Item Nos. 25, 40, 53, and 58, which were pulled for comment or separate vote.

Mayor Roberts said before the Council votes on the Consent Agenda there are several items that some Councilmembers wanted to raise for public awareness.

Councilmember Smith said Item No. 39 is awarding of a contract to begin the process to award some City funding and grants through the SouthPark area for infrastructure. I wanted to take a moment to thank Hillary Larson and David Herron, who formed a neighborhood group called Span, which represents all four corners of the SouthPark area. I would like to thank Mr. Kimble if he is still here, who helped put this in motion with helping us push forward the ULI Study last year. I would like to thank Debra Campbell for her hard work; Mike Davis and Danny Pleasant of C-DOT. Mike is now with Engineering, but was with C-DOT at the time; Kent Main, Tracy Newsome, Dan Gallagher, and Ed McKinney. This is going to bring some much needed pedestrian infrastructure in and around SouthPark and truly was a collaborative effort between our City staff and some neighborhood leaders. I wanted to let those folks get a moment of recognition and thank them for all their hard work on this.

Councilmember Ajmera said I would like to highlight the improvements on Independence Boulevard for sidewalk and bike facilities. This is going to improve almost 5.64 miles of sidewalk and that is going to include 4.75 miles from Morningside Drive to Campbell Creek Greenway and also .89 miles from Woodland Drive to Monroe Road. I want to thank our staff for holding various community meetings and also the community for showing up at a lot of the community forums and speaking in terms of having more sidewalks and bike facilities. This is truly a collaborative effort. I want to thank all the residents and the staff for doing an amazing job to address the community needs when it comes to infrastructure.

Second I want to highlight Item No. 62, which is the tree canopy, and this is to purchase the parcel that is located on Research Drive, and this is a very good candidate for the tree canopy to preserve our trees and also work on our goal of meeting the tree canopy goal. This is a great effort to preserve our tree canopy and I also want to highlight Ms. Kinsey's efforts to continue to advocate for tree canopy that we take great pride in. Again, I want to thank our City staff and communities for collaborating on preserving our tree canopy.

The last two items are for our water infrastructure, which are Items No. 44 and 45, and I had actually visited our water facilities from the source all the way to our water treatment

facilities and a lot of folks do not realize how much infrastructure is needed to keep up with the growth that we are experiencing in our City. On any given day, we are serving almost one million people with our water infrastructure and these two projects that we are approving is going to help us continue to maintain our long-term infrastructure and also addresses the replacement plan that we have. Some of our plants are almost 100 years old, and they work because we continue to keep them maintained, and these projects are a part of that maintenance plan and the program. I want to highlight the great work that our Charlotte Water Department is doing and continues to address the growing needs that we have.

Councilmember Phipps said first I would like to thank Ms. Ajmera for highlighting the 27 acre parcel of tree canopy in my District; thank you very much.

Ms. Ajmera said actually, that is my work place.

Mr. Phipps said I have two items I would like to talk about; one dealing with the Cross Charlotte Trail planning process, both of them affect Hidden Valley, one of the most dynamic communities in Charlotte. There is 26 miles of Charlotte Trail under development and I'm pleased to report that about 2.5 of those miles are coming through Hidden Valley and through Wellingford Street to Orr Road and Briar Place Road. Two and a half miles of the Cross Charlotte Trail, almost \$400,000 out of \$816 million project for the Cross Charlotte Trail, and I just wanted to highlight that for the Hidden Valley Community. Lastly, Item No. 47; there are some good infrastructure improvements going on with the Upper Little Sugar Creek Sewer replacement project. Hidden Valley is one of our oldest communities and some of this infrastructure has reached its useful life so it is about \$1.3 million of good infrastructure improvements coming to Hidden Valley in the form of 3,600 feet of 18" sewer and 300 feet of 8" sewer; 23 new manholes to address the aging infrastructure. It is 55-years old, and it has reached its useful life and it is going to be replaced in Hidden Valley. I just wanted to make them aware of the good quality infrastructure improvements that is well deserved coming to that area.

Mr. Smith said I failed to mention the SouthPark Coalition which is a professional organization of neighborhood land owners in the SouthPark area for their hard work and Tracy Dodson from that organization is sitting up there; I'm looking right at her and failed to mention her. I just want to give them a shout out as well. It really was a group effort between land owners, neighbors and staff. I wanted to get that on the record.

The following items were approved:

Item No. 23: Workers' compensation Administration Services

(A) Approve a contract with Sedgwick Claims Management Services, Inc. for workers' compensation claims administration services for an initial term of three-years, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to two, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the City's Business needs and the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 24: High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Grant

(A) Authorize the City Manager to accept a grant in the amount of \$80,813 with the Office of National Drug Control Policy for a regional High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Piedmont Initiative for Mecklenburg County, Gaston County and Town of Matthews, (B) Authorize the City Manager to accept three, additional annual High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area grants for the City of Charlotte (FY2018, FY2019 and FY2020 in the total estimated amount of \$250,000, and (C) Adopt Budget Ordinance No. 9119-X appropriating \$80,813 into the FY2017 Public Safety Grant Fund from the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 60, at Page 723.

Item No. 26: Fire Rescue Service Apparatus

(A) Approve a unit price contract with Super Vacuum Manufacturing Company, Inc. for the purchase of fire rescue trucks for a term of one year under the Houston-Galveston Area

Council Buy contract FS12-15, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to extend the contract for additional one-year terms as long as the cooperative contract is in effect, at prices and terms that are the same or more favorable than those offered under the cooperative contract.

Item No. 27: Fire Station 16 Roof Replacement

Award a contract in the amount of \$228,788 to the lowest responsive bidder Tecta America Carolinas, LLC, for the Fire Station 16 Roof Replacement Project.

Summary of Bids

Tecta America Carolinas LLC	\$228,788.00
Rike Roofing Services, Inc.	\$255,500.00
Davco Roofing & Sheet Metal, Inc.	\$285,000.00
Teamcraft Roofing, Inc.	\$296,500.00

Item No. 28: Aberdeen, Carolina and Western Railway (ACWR) Track Realignment Funding

Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a Municipal Agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 for preparation of an environmental document for the ACWR Track Realignment.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 48, at Page 358.

Item No. 29: Pedestrian Bridge Easement

(A) Adopt a resolution granting an Air rights Passageway Easement for a Pedestrian Bridge across South Church Street between West Stonewall Street and West Hill Street, (B) Accept \$67,350 for an Air Rights Passageway Easement over South Church from GSLH Charlotte Realty Holdings, LLC, and (C) Adopt Budget Ordinance No. 9120-X appropriating \$67,350 from GSLH Charlotte Realty Holdings, LLC.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 48, at Page 359.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 60, at Page 724.

Item No. 30: LED Traffic Signal Bulbs

(A) Award a unit price contract to the lowest responsive bidder Leo Tek Electronics USA, LLC for the purchase of LED Signal Light Modules for a term of three years, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to two, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Summary of Bids

LeoTek Electronics	\$251,600.00
RAI Products	\$268,577.00
Excellence Opto	\$323,826.00
TraStar, Inc.	\$346,850.00

Item No. 31: Street Maintenance Deicing Salt

(A) Award a unit price contract to the lowest responsive bidder, Cargill Inc., for the purchase of Sodium Chloride Road Salt for one year, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to four, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Summary of Bids

Cargill, Inc.,	\$ 80.89/ton
Detroit Salt Company	\$ 80.90/ton
Compass Minerals	\$ 99.20/ton
Government MLO	\$118.00/ton
Morton Salt	No Bid

Item No. 32: Traffic Signal Loop Sealand

(A) Award a unit price contract to the lowest responsive bidder Rosenblatt & Associates, Inc. for the purchase of traffic Signal Loop Sealant for a term of three years, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to two additional one year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approve.

Summary of Bids

Rosenblatt & Associates	\$18.75/case
TraStar, Inc.	\$21.50/case

Item No. 33: Independence Boulevard Area Sidewalk and Bike Facilities-North

Approve a contract in the amount of \$509,775 with AECOM Technical Services of North Carolina, Inc. for planning services for Independence Boulevard Sidewalk and Bike Facilities – North.

Item No. 34: Mint Museum Uptown Energy Efficiency and Humidification Controls Upgrade

(A) Award a contract in the amount of \$746,724.05 to the lowest responsive bidder McKenney’s Inc. for the Mint Museum Uptown Humidification and Controls Upgrade project, (B) Authorize the City Manager to enter into a cost sharing agreement with Mint Museum for mechanical system upgrade at Mint Museum Uptown, and (C) Adopt Budget Ordinance No. 9121-X appropriating \$746,724.05 from the Cultural Facilities Operating fund for the purpose of replacing the humidification control system in the Mint Museum Uptown.

Summary of Bids

McKenney’s, Inc.*	\$767,922.10
Southern Comfort of Charlotte, Inc.	\$922,567.80

*Actual award amount negotiated with lowest responsible bidder per NC 143-129 (b) where bids exceed funds available.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 60, at Page 725.

Item No. 35: Cross Charlotte Trail Planning Services

(A) Approve a contract in the amount of \$200,000 with Land Design, Inc. for planning services for the Craighead Road to Wellingford Street segment of the Cross Charlotte Trail Project, and (B) Approve a contract in the amount of \$199,000 with Alta Planning and Design, Inc. for planning services for the Wellingford Street to Orr Road segment of the Cross Charlotte Trail Project.

Item No. 36: Lease of 2145 Suttle Avenue from Mecklenburg County

Authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute a lease agreement with Mecklenburg County for use of approximately 3,300 square feet of space in the Mecklenburg County facility at 2145 Suttle Avenue.

Item No. 37: Karenstone Drive Storm Drainage Improvements

Award a contract in the amount of \$544,202.63 to the lowest responsive bidder Hall Contracting Corporation for the Karenstone Drive Storm Drainage Improvements Project.

Summary of Bids

Hall Contracting Corporation	\$544,203.63
United of Carolinas, Inc.	\$563,946.00
Carolina Cajun Concrete, Inc.	\$609,697.20
RJJ Construction, LLC	\$637,987.31

Item No. 38: Oakdale, Miranda, and Sunset Road Intersection Project

Approve a contract in the amount of \$263,000 with American Structurepoint, Inc. for planning services for the Oakdale Road-Miranda Road-Sunset Road Intersection Project.

Item No. 39: SouthPark Comprehensive Neighborhood Improvement Project.

Approve a contract in the amount of \$440,000 with AECOM Technical Services of North Carolina, Inc. for planning services for the SouthPark Comprehensive Neighborhood Improvement Projects.

Item No. 41: City Data Center Generator Upgrade

Award a contract in the amount of \$298,500 to the lowest responsive bidder McFarland Building Group, LLC, dba McFarland Construction, for the Data Center Generator upgrade project.

Summary of Bids

McFarland Building Group, LLC	\$298,500.00
Corner Stone Construction Services, Inc.	No Bid
Southside Constructors, Inc.	No Bid
W. C. Construction Company, Inc.	No bid

Item No. 42: Charlotte Water Laboratory Supplies and Equipment Purchases

(A) Approve the purchase of laboratory equipment and supplies, as authorized by the sole source exemption of G. S. 143-129 (e)(6), and (B) Approve a contract with Horizon Technology, Inc. for the purchase of laboratory equipment and supplies for the term of three years.

Item No. 43: Resolution to Increase Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan for Combined Heat and Power Project

(A) Adopt a resolution authorizing the City to request an increase in the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program loan not to exceed \$1,300,000 for the Combined Heat and Power Project at the McAlpine Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, (B) Authorize the City Manager to take necessary actions to accept and complete the financing, including applying to the State of North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality and obtaining Local Government Commission approval, and (C) Adopt Budget Ordinance No. 9122-X appropriating \$1,300,000 from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 48, at Pages 360-361.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 60, at Page 726.

Item No. 44: Lee S. Dukes Water Treatment Plant Tank Rehabilitation

Award a contract in the amount of \$378,769 to the lowest responsive bidder, Superior Industrial Maintenance Company, for the Lee S. Dukes Water Treatment Plant Clarifiers and Thickener Rehabilitation Project.

Summary of Bids

Superior Industrial Maintenance Company, Inc.	\$378,769.00
The Harper Corporation	\$409,000.00
The Huffstetler Group	\$429,200.00

Item No. 45: Charlotte Water Cone Valve Rehabilitation

Approve a contract with VAG USA LLC for rehabilitation of cone valves for a term of one year to have rehabilitation work completed.

Item No. 46: Water Pipeline Easement Clearing

(A) Approve unit price contracts with the following companies for Easement Clearing and Mowing for an initial term of one year: L&M Construction of Blairs LLC; and North American Lawn & Landscaping, LLC, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contracts for up to two additional one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contracts consistent with the purpose for which the contracts were approved.

Item No. 47: Upper Little Sugar Creek Sewer Replacement, Phase 1

Award a contract in the amount of \$1,281,525 to the lowest responsive bidder State Utility Contractors, Inc. for the Upper Little Sugar Creek Sewer Replacement, Phase 1 project.

Summary of Bids

State Utility Contractors	\$1,281,525.00
Dellinger, Inc.	\$1,410,118.50
Fuller and Co., Construction	\$1,499,783.77
Sanders Utility Construction Company	\$2,010,172.75
B.R.S. Inc.	No Bid
D. H. Griffin Infrastructure	No Bid
Hall Contracting Corporation	No Bid
North American Pipeline Management	No Bid

Item No. 48: Vest Water Treatment Plant Power Generation System

Award a contract in the amount of \$2,399,990 to the lowest responsive bidder Carolina Tractor & Equipment Company for the purchase of a Power Generation System.

Summary of Bids

Carolina CAT	\$2,399,990.00
Cummings Atlantic	\$2,464,370.00

Item No. 49: Steele Creek Lift Station Replacement Project Change Order #3

(A) Approve Change Order #3 to the construction contract with English Construction Company, Inc. to add \$1,097,750 and 58 days, and (B) Approve Amendment #1 to the Brown and Caldwell contract to add \$514,871 for professional engineering services.

Item No. 50: Ayrley Gravity Sewer Replacement Phase 2

Award a contract in the amount of \$2,503,865 to the lowest responsive bidder Dellinger, Inc. for the Ayrley Gravity Sewer Replacement, Phase 2 project.

Summary of Bids

Dellinger, Inc.	\$2,503,865.00
Sanders Utility	\$2,945,631.00

Item No. 51: Blue Line Extension – Amendment to CSX Transportation, Inc. Reimbursement Agreement

Approve contract amendment #3 of the Reimbursement Agreement with CSX Transportation, Inc. in the amount of \$251,976 for services related to the Blue Line Extension project.

Item No. 52: Transit Vehicle Location System Maintenance Contract

Authorize the City Manager to enter into a five-year contract with Trapeze, Inc. for maintenance services for the software system that provides automatic vehicle location (AVL) functions for CATS buses.

Item No. 54: LYNX North and West Corridor Alternative Analysis and Center City Integration Study

Approve the professional services contract in an amount not to exceed \$3,200,000 with WSP USA, Inc., for the LYNX North and West Corridor Alternative Analysis and Center City Integration Study.

Item No. 55: Airport Comprehensive Sustainability Plan

Approve a contract in the amount of \$380,100 with Integral Group Consulting (BC) LLC for the development of a Comprehensive Sustainability Plan.

Item No. 56: Airport Concourse B Renovations

Award a contract in the amount of \$12,321,925.20 to the lowest responsive bidder Messer Construction Co. for the Concourse B Renovation project.

Summary of Bids

Messer Construction Company	\$12,321,925.20
KMD Construction	\$15,097,710.00

Item No. 57: Brush Mowing and Trash and Debris Removal Services

(A) Approve a unit price contract with Leisure Time Lawn Care, LP for Brush Mowing and Trash and Debris Removal for an initial term of three years, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to two additional, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the City's business needs and the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 59: Market Salary Data Services

(A) Approve contract amendment #2 with Pay Scale, Inc. to provide market salary data services, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to approve other amendments consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved, including price adjustments for as long as the City uses the Pay Scale, Inc. software system.

Item No. 60: Refund of Property Taxes

Adopt a resolution authorizing the refund of property taxes assessed through clerical or assessment error in the amount of \$206.76.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 48, at Page 362-363.

Item No. 61: Meeting Minutes

Approve the titles, motions, and votes reflected in the Clerk's record as the minutes of May 22, 2017, Business Meeting, May 24, 2017 Straw Votes, June 5, 2017 Workshop and June 12, 2017 Business Meeting.

PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

Item No. 62: Land Purchase for Tree Canopy Preservation Program

(A) Approve the purchase of an approximately 27-acre parcel (parcel identification number 047-351-02) located at 9022 Research Drive in University Research Park for the amount of \$1,200,000; and (B) Authorize the City Manager to negotiate and grant a conservation easement to Catawba Lands Conservancy.

Item No. 63: sale of City Surplus Properties adjacent to I-77 to the North Carolina Department of Transportation

Approve the sale of City surplus properties totaling 3.623 acres to the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NC-DOT) for \$130,925.

Item No. 64: Aviation Property Transaction

Acquisition of 17.028 acres at 7728 Steele Creek Road from Steele Creek Presbyterian Church, Inc. for \$1,580,000 for Airport Environment Impact Statement Mitigation Land.

Item No. 65: Property Transactions – Little Rock Road Sidewalk, Parcel #9

Resolution of condemnation of 939 square feet (.022 acre) in Fee Simple, plus 7,660 square feet (.176 acre) in Fee Simple Within existing Right-of-Way, 2,569 square feet (.059 acre) in Sidewalk and Utility Easement, plus 6,624 square feet (.152 acre) in Temporary Construction Easement, plus 66 square feet (.002) in Utility Easement at 2133 Little Rock Road from Nai Tina Touprong Hole for \$3,000 for Little Rock Road Sidewalk, Parcel #9.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 48, at Page 364.

Item No. 66: Property Transactions – Little Rock Road Sidewalk, Parcel #33

Resolution of condemnation of 79 square feet (.002 acre) in Sidewalk and Utility Easement, plus 481 square feet (.011 acre) in Temporary Construction Easement at 6740 Rocklake Drive from Deborah N. Johnson, Stephanie Bailey, Jonathan Allen, Deniece Ingram, Darryl Allen and Gefferi Allen for \$150 for Little Rock Road Sidewalk, Parcel #33.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 48, at Page 365.

* * * * *

ITEM NO. 25: NEW POLICE OFFICERS GRANT APPLICATION

Councilmember Mayfield said I guess I will be the first one to get off of the congratulatory train of staff, since I have actual questions that will hidden in comments, but I will say that we do have some great staff out there, but I do think when we are going through a number of items and approving that we need to pull some out to have a conversation. Item No. 25 is a New Police Officers Grant Application; if everyone remembers we just approved our budget which has an increase of staff. This grant is a Cops Grant that basically CMPD has requested for the Council to support them applying for the grant, but we need to make sure that everyone is in clear understanding that if this grant is awarded it is for an additional 15 officers, but there some stipulations in this grant and we have a representative here. Basically, I want to make sure that the community and Council and future Councils understands that for this upcoming 2018 budget, the City is going to be responsible financially for the ongoing benefits as well as the equipment, the training, the vehicles and the total additional costs, which will break down from year 2019 through FY2021, is estimated to be around \$3,696,027 with the federal share of that being only \$1,874,924. So, when we think about these grants though they are extremely beneficial to get more officers on the ground, we are also committing to an additional cost within our budget to maintain, train, and upkeep for these additional 15 officers. The way that is going to break down is that FY19 \$597,825; FY2020 \$382,740; FY2021 \$617,338 and in addition the City will fund capital costs which is the vehicles in the amount of \$223,200. The grant expires after three years, so beginning FY2022 ongoing annual total personnel and operating costs to the City are estimated to be \$1,188,757 per year, so I wanted to give an opportunity for our representative to just share the grant and ongoing costs.

Major Coerte Voorhees, Police the Cops Office has a program for giving federal money to local community. In this particular grant, it would fund 15 officers for CMPD as you have stated and basically the Federal Government will be giving us \$1,874,000 beginning January 1, 2018 if we were to get this grant. It will be awarded July 10, 2017 of this year, and we will know if we get it in January of next year and it takes us a little bit to hire them. We would hope to have them in place by September of 2018.

Ms. Mayfield said again this was more of information because of the amount that we are talking about, and a lot of times I think it is the impression that we cover all the costs, even though there are going to be some shared costs from the City because of the grant and this is only if we are awarded the grant. If we are not awarded the grant those additional 15 outside of the officers we have already identified will not be hired, but if the grant is awarded there is a federal amount that will be coming to the City but there will be costs to the City as well.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mayfield and seconded by Councilmember Austin to authorize Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department to submit a grant application to the U. S. Department of Justice for \$1,874,924 over three years to fund 15 new police officer positions.

Councilmember Eiselt said I think to Ms. Mayfield's point, this is up and above the 125 officers that we endeavored to fund over a two-year budget cycle. Those 125 officers go back to a request from 2008 under Chief Monroe. I would like to know from CMPD where we stand with the number of officers that nationally a metropolitan our size has per 100,000; how many officers we should have and how officers CMPD would like to have. Again, we are sort of playing catch-up with the 125 officers; now this is an additional 15. Where we should we be and what is the right number?

Major Voorhees said I don't know; I just know we are understaffed. I can get that; I don't have it with me now. Obviously, hiring officers is a challenge for us. We are short staffed; we have attrition we have people who get fired to be frank, and we try to keep up with that. We obviously are a growing community and we need more officers to adequately do our jobs. We certainly have special events that require extra manpower; we have an example of that in the PJ Championship coming, and we have a football game in the same week, and we have a concert at Spectrum. All those things drain our resources so we are

understaffed and this is an effort to have the Federal Government share in some of the cost of funding police officers.

Ms. Eiselt said I'm not questioning that; I would just like to know what the department thinks the number of officers we should have, and we are certainly understaffed when it comes to hiring officers that represent other demographics of our community.

Councilmember Phipps said I think last year's application was similar to this one, and it was successful; we did receive the grant, and we used that to hire 15 police officers. Are there any limitations on the requirements like successes applications? Each year you can apply for it with the hopes of getting it?

Major Voorhees said yes sir; it is a new process. The 15 from before will be hired in the next class, and this one will put us to next year 2018 when we would hope to hire them if we are successful in this one.

Mr. Phipps said in your experience, have we ever been successful in getting such a grant two-years in a row?

Major Voorhees said I'm not sure; I know we got them in 2009, and we were awarded 50 officers, and that expired June 30, 2014. That is the history I know.

Mr. Phipps said so we have a good track record.

Councilmember Fallon said do you know if this is a renewable grant?

Major Voorhees said it is not; this is a three year grant.

Ms. Fallon said but there will be other ones coming along?

Major Voorhees said yes.

Councilmember Driggs said first I want to say I appreciate Ms. Mayfield's comments about the incidental costs, which we do need to bear in mind but the bottom line for me is if we have \$1.8 million that we can get to help us with our community safety efforts then we take that. I will mention that the budget process is such that, and you did vote to approve it, I recognize that Mr. Mayfield. The budget process allows us some latitude in a situation like this to kind of work into the expense and receipts an event of this, so it is a high grade problem. The other thing I wanted to mention was we did fund in our budget all of the extra officers that we were told CMPD was capable of taking up. We timed that investment in two stages, because the rate of up take we were told were about 75 per year. I know it is hard now recruiting officers; we also did increase officer pay to the maximum of the public safety plan process, so we are with you guys all the way, and we will definitely make this work. I think we appreciate a contribution of \$1.8 million from the Federal Government.

Ms. Fallon said if I recall, I was Public Safety Committee Chair in 2009, and we were concerned about what would happen if three years could we work it into the budget and we did and I'm sure we will be able to do that again. The fact is we need boots on the street, which we don't have, and it is a protection for the public; we will find the money.

The vote was taken on the motion and was recorded as unanimous.

* * * * *

ITEM NO. 40: CITY-OWNED FOUNTAIN MAINTENANCE SERVICES

Councilmember Mayfield said I wanted just a little background; as the City of Charlotte has purchased water fountains around, they identify three locations that we are looking at a contract for \$303,006 for the maintenance of these three fountains. The question that I asked the staff is what is the current maintenance schedule cleaning and repair for these three fountains, but I also asked if Center City Partners, since they are in uptown, if we have any shared costs for the maintenance of these fountains.

Quinn Hall, Engineering and Property Management said the fountain contracts are ones that have been in place ever since the fountains have been built, approximately 20 plus years. There were constructed on City property, by the City, prior to the formulation of Charlotte Center Partners and there has been no discussion with Charlotte Center City Partners about any offsetting costs. Charlotte Center City Partners does provide a payment to the City, in the amount of \$28,500, for flowers and landscape maintenance on the Tryon Street Mall, but that is the only supplement that we get at time from Center City Partners.

Ms. Mayfield said Mr. Manager I'm going to refer my next comment to you. As we just heard, it is because we've always done it that way that is why we are continuing to do it this way. We are looking at a five-year contract for the maintenance of three fountains; it seems that through our public/private partnerships, there is a different conversation that can be had and since this information was provided to us last week for today to now vote on it is late to tell staff okay let's come back with some different options other than this particular model and to say that we have never thought about reaching out and asking one of our partners who is in the uptown area and has that area that they maintain and you have citizens who pay an additional tax to maintain the area for different things, why would we not reach out to the partners? I'm concerned that this is a five-year contract; five-years even though it goes by quickly is still a long time. Some where we need to capture in writing that we need to start rethinking contracts as they come before staff and before they come to Council, because again that idea of well we've done it for 20-years this way so we should continue doing it that way. I'm not going to necessarily move to deny this petition tonight, but I do want us to rethink moving forward how we are trying to not only keep our community maintained but financially is this really the best option the way that we are going with identifying almost \$100,000 for three fountains to be maintained, because that is basically what we are saying. Is there a community piece with all our groups, Keep Charlotte Beautiful, so many different organizations that we have, so many school organizations, so many programs that are done in the community to help beautify, is this really the most efficient way for us to utilize our resources.

Motion was made by Councilmember Kinsey, seconded by Councilmember Driggs, and carried unanimously to approve a five-year contract for \$303,006 for fountain maintenance services with Danny Frank Hood, Charlotte Specialty Services.

* * * * *

ITEM NO. 53: PHASE 2 OF CITY LYNX GOLD LINE ELECTRICAL TESTING SERVICES

Councilmember Smith said my lack of support of the Gold Line; there was an article in the paper this week about the lack of development yet on the line and other things, so I'm not going to support it and just wanted to pull it; not looking to re-litigate it.

Mayor Roberts said you did vote on the budget.

Mr. Smith said I did vote on the budget.

Motion was made by Councilmember Austin, seconded by Councilmember Mayfield to authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute an agreement with STV Engineers, Inc. for electrical testing for the City LYNX Gold Line Phase 2 Project in an amount up to \$300,000.

A vote was taken on the motion and recorded as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Ajmera, Austin, Eiselt, Kinsey, Lyles, Mayfield, Mitchell and Phipps

NAYS: Councilmembers Driggs, Fallon, and Smith.

Councilmember Driggs said we voted for the budget, because we felt there were things in the budget that were worth supporting.

Mayor Roberts said it was not a comment that was meant anything in harm.

* * * * *

ITEM NO. 58: FUNDERS' NETWORK PARTNERS FOR PLACES GRANT

Councilmember Mayfield said I probably had 15 items I sent to staff and out of the 15 we nailed down to these three, because we do need to have conversation around funding and our allocations. This particular Funders' Network partners for Places Grant; it says it is to benefit low income, so the question that I asked of staff is what is the budget of the neighborhoods that have applied so far and which neighborhoods have applied and been granted. The reason I ask this question is because I had a conversation this past week-end where it was mentioned to me that our current process when we look at having grants available for our communities that we are trying to shore up, Council does not receive those applications, but we have a group that goes over those applications for say Neighborhood Matching Grants. Some of these neighborhoods have \$1 million budget or have a \$200,000 budget that they have already identified, so we have a matrix system that is in place that is an award system. Somewhere in that system those communities that are the most in need, those communities that may have \$5,000 in the bank, if that much, are not necessarily the projects that are making its way to the top where we are really making the impact that we identify. Staff replied that partners for Place Award Grants awards grants to members of the Urban Sustainability Directors Network to incorporate an equity lens into their work and to partner with Place Based Foundation. The City of Charlotte sustainability office, part of the Urban Sustainability Directors Network was awarded the grant for their work in the North End Smart District. Individual neighborhoods cannot apply for this type of grant, but when we think of not only the North End Smart End Neighborhood District in other areas are we really staying true to what we said our charge and our focus is to help communities that are seeing gentrification that have seen gentrification and currently experiencing? Are we giving them the opportunities to receive funds like, and who are those groups that are awarded?

Staff gave me eight neighborhoods; Optimist Park, Graham Heights, Lockwood, Druid Hills, Greenville, Park at Oaklawn, Genesis Park, and Bright Walk. I will leave it up to the community to decide if some of those are ones that we need to have a conversation about. We need to think about our process and what we are doing, because some of these neighborhoods have gentrified, but when you have \$400,000 to \$500,000 homes in the neighborhood right across from \$30,000 and \$45,000 homes and the part of the community that is getting the funding and is going to be in charge of allocating that funding falls on the side where the \$30,000, \$45,000 homes are because we don't get to manage it. We don't see how it plays out on the ground necessarily at our level of Council there is a challenge because what I'm seeing in my community and a good part of my area is that is exactly what is happening. When I have people come up and ask the question I say that is a good question I ask it. Who knew that Monday night we would actually be voting on something that relates to the conversation so therefore staff I gave you time to get up there to share how this process works for us.

Sarah Hazel, City Manager's Office said what I wanted to clarify is that this award was given to our Sustainability Group within the City, so we have control over how we allocate the funds. The purpose of the grant being awarded to us is so we would use equity lens in doing sustainability work. One of the things that our Sustainability Group is focusing on is working the North End Smart District, so this was an opportunity to co-create some pilot projects with all of the neighborhoods that you listed to learn how we can better engage neighborhoods when we do our work. Just to clarify the neighborhoods don't have the budgetary control; that is going to be what staff is working on to allocate the budget when we receive the funds.

Ms. Mayfield said I read that it is your department that receives it and also just identify which neighborhoods have been identified through the North End Smart District so that people know. I just think it is not to pick on these neighborhoods; it is the fact that we need to have a broader conversation, and how does that conversation look when we have applications coming in? What is our current scoring system that is going to truly help make a positive impact opposed to us just scratching the surface and then patting ourselves on the back to say oh, look what great work we did? This is a great start, so congratulations on you all getting the award.

Ms. Hazel said one think I would just add to that is that the outcome that we hope to achieve is learning in a blueprint that we can apply throughout our work in the City, so that is a focus of the grant which is not just apply something to work in eight neighborhoods but to test some new methods that can be used in our ongoing work.

Councilmember Austin said not so much a question but just a clarification for my esteem Councilmember Mayfield that both Patsy, and I work together with the North End Coalition quite frequently and all of those communities work together as kind of a cohesive unit so they together come up with many different things that staff has been very supportive of and we work through those, and it is not so much being led by the entities who live in the high price homes. We have a whole coalition of people who share in that and they are very vocal whatever price level their homes or their incomes are. I think together we have been working pretty intensely to try and make that any resources that come to that area are spread throughout all of those neighborhoods and everybody has a voice at that table. I'm happy to receive these dollars, and I know that you are going to make sure that everybody gets an equal part of it.

Motion was made by Councilmember Austin, seconded by Councilmember Ajmera and carried unanimously, to (A) Authorize the City Manager to accept grants from the following organizations for the Partners in Places Project: The Funders' Network (75,000), The Knight Foundation (\$50,000) Ortho Carolina (\$25,000) and (B) Adopt Budget Ordinance No. 9123-X appropriating \$50,000 from the Knight Foundation for the Partners in Places Project. The remaining grants have already been appropriated.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 60, at Page 727.

* * * * *

RECOGNITION OF COUNCILMEMBER AL AUSTIN, DISTRICT 2

Mayor Roberts said tonight we are going to recognize Councilmember Al Austin for his amazing service to our Queen City. He is leaving City Council for a job as Outreach Director for historic and black colleges and universities with the NC Department of Transportation. We are excited for him in his new position and we hope that he does great things there but we are very sad to see him go. Al was elected in 2013 and is currently serving his second term in addition to his great work on behalf of his constituents he has worked with Johnson C. Smith University bringing in an amazing fund raising amounts for their continued mission of serving the community. He has worked with the YMCA, the Charlotte Housing Authority, Charlotte Douglas International Airport and clearly has done a lot of work in the community with North End Coalition, all his neighborhood leaders, all the folks in the Beatties Ford Road Corridor, and I have seen him out in his district, and he is tireless. He is a powerful representative and bore the needs of his community. He is in close touch with the leaders in his community and all his neighborhoods; he knows every street. He has been focused on improving public safety, creating jobs, advocating for non-discrimination, focusing on equity as well as equality, and he is also just a great guy.

Mayor Roberts presented Mr. Austin a photo of the Charlotte Skyline.

Councilmember Lyles said Al and I started our careers on Council at the same time, and he has just been the person that I could call upon and say these things and reflect, on them that perhaps you can't always share, but if you've ever seen Al at a recognition especially for women he uses this poem by Mia Angelo; it is a Phenomenal Woman. This

is a rewrite of a poem by Aquil, and I like to talk about Al Austin. “There was a new Councilmember in town that had the City on a roll; look out Council it is the phenomenal black, there to help you rise and take control. It is his broad shoulders that support a level head. Leaving, I think not for the phenomenal man is never gone. It’s the boom in his voice, the piercing glare in his eye, it’s the persistent motion of his success because phenomenal men are determined to rise. From the neighborhoods to the corporations, phenomenal men show their faces; from universities and all institutions phenomenal men come in all races, but it is the phenomenal black man that triumphs over all, rising from the word colored that was printed on a wall. As God, is my witness black men shall prevail making a mighty entrance in which everyone shall hail. There is a new Councilmember in a town that has society on a roll, stand up for the phenomenal black man for he is here to take control”. Al Austin, thank you for being a phenomenal man.

Councilmember Kinsey said I will say something, but it will be short and sweet because if I talk too much I will cry, because I miss Al so much. He and I have worked together, and just as he mentioned earlier we’ve been a team and his shoes are going to be hard to fill, and I look forward to working with someone else, but I certainly am going to miss Al. I got a little mad at him, because he said he wasn’t going to run again. Al, you may be getting old, but you are still darn sexy.

Councilmember Driggs said Al, I think it is safe to say that we’ve not always been on the same side of every issue, but I think it is therefore particularly important that I acknowledge my respect for the dignity and grace with which you have conducted yourself in this office. I really appreciate it. You spoke with a calm and strong voice during some very difficult times for our City, and I think we are all better off for that so I’ve enjoyed working with you; I’ve enjoyed being your neighbor on the dais, except one thing. Every time I go to the snack tray and try to find some Oreos, so Al as a going away present: Mr. Driggs gave Mr. Austin a pack of Oreo Cookies.

Councilmember Eiselt said Councilmember Kinsey had some of the remarks that I would have said, so I certainly second; but I wanted to say that Al you are epitome of still waters run deep; you are a gentlemen. You have integrity beyond compare and it has been such a pleasure to serve with you. The State is lucky to have you; it is our loss, and it is the City of Charlotte’s loss. We hope that one day you will come back here and bless us all with your calm demeanor and presence back in Charlotte. I don’t think anybody knows how much you put into this City, and we thank you for it; we will miss you.

Councilmember Mitchell said D-2, our relationship goes back to the days of Focus on Leadership in the early 1990s when a young man who had been the President of Young Democrats of Mecklenburg County decided to be the PR person for Focus on Leadership. At that time, I knew we had a rising star in the African American community. When you became the CED of McCrorey YMCA, the energy, the vision you had for McCrorey changed the whole Beatties Ford Road Corridor, so I say to you my brother, I’m proud of what you’ve done in District 2. It was hard to twist your arm to make sure you were going to run, but you have served us extremely well, and I’m so glad to be able have the opportunity to serve with you so keep doing what you are doing in Raleigh.

Councilmember Phipps said Al, I guess the first time I met you was on the campaign trail in 2013 during our suspected runs for City Council, and I’ve always thought we shared a special affinity because we both endured second primary runoffs at that time. We were successful by virtue of us being here now. I really do appreciate the opportunity to have worked with you; I know our District lines straddle some, so we’ve worked collaboratively on some issues and gone through some great times. I just want to raise a glass so to speak to your success, your future endeavors to go forth and be successful and you will always have a spot here in Charlotte and a spot in all of our hearts. Every time I go to that Beatties Ford Road Corridor, I can see the images of Al just walking those streets. I thank you for all that you have done in encouraging me and working with me in different projects, and I’m really going to miss you, and there is still time to change your mind. I wish you much success Al.

Councilmember Smith said Al, now that your Saturday mornings are free you can on over and eat breakfast with the Smith Family. Now that you are not holding office, come on over; the kids would enjoy the company. I first met you on the campaign trail as well, and I remember it vividly; it was at the Rebec Forum as a District Representative in a Republican Primary. Our paths didn't cross very often, but it was a forum that was City wide for all candidates, and Al comes in and they let all the candidates speak for 30 seconds, and Al has this booming voice and command of the room. I'm like I've never met this guy, but he is going to win. It was a pleasure to come on and serve with you, and the passion that you exhibit for not only your constituents, but the City of Charlotte is second to none. I've watched you work in the trenches and really go out and do a lot of good work for all of our Charlotte, and to the me the true measure of character every once in a while we have disagreements at the dais, and every once in a while people watching may think we get a little upset with each other, but in one instance where you, and I had a little bit of words, wasn't even that bad. We were walking out, and you walked up and just gave me a big hug and said we are cool, and I said of course we are cool. To me that is the character that you have exhibited and that everybody has touched on is calm, and it is going to be missed, but I wish you best in Raleigh. Know that from right here we have enjoyed serving and now we are going to have to figure out who is going to up the fashion game, because there will be a big gap in the fashion on Council with you leaving. Best of luck and I hope our paths continue to cross and do good work in Raleigh.

Councilmember Mayfield said Happy Days don't last forever. That adage is true. Now that you have resigned and we won't be working with you; good times don't always last. Someone did say wisely, now that you are leaving us for another opportunity but there is one more proverb that says friends are forever, and if that is true then our ties will be broken never. I love you.

Councilmember Fallon said Al, very, very good luck. I hope it is everything you hoped for, and you will love it and not have to be here Monday.

Councilmember Ajmera said Al, even though we haven't had an opportunity to work as long as some of the other ones have, I had a pleasure working with you, and we connected over lunch right before your workout at the Y, and you shared with me some great insight into what it takes to serve and what type of time commitment it requires., some genuine advice that you gave me and to continue serve at a higher level. I appreciate that. You've been a great mentor and you have given me great company right here on the dais, and I'm truly grateful to you for that and I will miss you.

Councilmember Austin said I said I better write a few things down, because I get emotional, and I'm a member of Kappa Alpha Psi so we don't cry, we cough so I will be coughing a little bit through this. I have truly enjoyed my tenure on Charlotte City Council; one of the most powerful Districts in the City of Charlotte, City Council District 2. As a servant leader, I will probably say this is probably some of the hardest work I've ever done in my life, but it is also the most rewarding that we will ever do. It has truly been an honor to serve with all of you. First, I just want to thank the people living in my District for giving me an opportunity to serve. I know many times we step out on faith with people, but I hope I've lived up to what I said, particularly in the last campaign of being responsive, resourceful and reliable. As I think back on myself, my God gift is to help; I'm wired that way, so I have to help people and that has been my whole life. It has been a great opportunity to serve. Also, I want to thank the thousands of employees who work for the City. I'm so happy that when I call you guys solve the problem, and I haven't had to circle back much throughout that process. Marcus, you've got a good team behind you; treat them well, and you will continue to shine.

I also want to highlight Mr. Bob Hagemann; Bob and I talk quite often. He has been a good sounding board off of complex issues, and I've enjoyed the thoughtful conversations so thank you Bob. I also want to recognize Stephanie here; she has been with me on the dais, and when I get a little upset and start digging my fingers into the desk she just taps me up, calm down. So, thank you Stephanie. Lastly, to the members of Council, as you all have said; we may not always agree, but you know we are very civil towards each other, and I've been so honored to serve with you as we try to transform Charlotte and I can't

think of a better time in my life that I will remember; maybe there will be something else into the future, and I'm sure God will but this has been a pivotal point in my life serving with all of you so thank you.

* * * * *

ITEM NO. 9: DISTRICT 2 PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Roberts said the next part of this process is that we have a Public Forum to hear from applicants; again not to replace him, because he is irreplaceable but to follow him in office for the time that is left in his term until November. The Public Forum will receive comments from qualified applicants interested in filling this vacancy; each candidate will be allotted three minutes to make their respective comments; again we are here to listen, we are not going to ask questions or respond. We are just going to listen and when you hear the buzzer please conclude your remarks and be respectful of other folks. We have 12 folks who have applied and who are going to speak this evening. The calendar will be Monday, July 24, 2017 Council will vote to appoint a qualified individual to fill the vacancy. Tuesday July 25, 2017 the person appointed will be sworn in by the Mayor. On Monday, August 28, 2017, there will be a formal swearing in ceremony and that will be held and the new Councilmember will join the full at the dais for the August 28, 2017 Business Meeting. The Council has fewer meetings in July and August; only one meeting in August, so that is why there is a bit of a time delay. When they are sworn in on July 25, 2017 they will be able to go to Committee meetings and begin to fulfill Council responsibilities.

Dondhi Burrell, 9711 Trinity Road said I am a resident of City Council District 2 for over 10-years. I come before you tonight as humble as I know how seeking your vote in my favor to complete the term of the Honorable Alvin (Al) Austin. I seek this position, not for fame or fortune, but for the opportunity to have a seat at the table of our local government. Such an opportunity would allow me to further serve the residents of District 2 and to be their voice. For the past 27-years, I have served the citizens of Charlotte through various activities with my Masonic affiliations, such as adopting families during the holidays, Crop Walk, raising monies for the American Cancer Society, voter registration, and such. I've advocated for and successfully operated the Double Oaks Masonic Outreach Center. In this capacity, I always made space available at no charge for the surrounding neighborhood association meetings. Additionally, I work with the neighborhood associations to allow movie night on the lawn and with the Charlotte Housing Partnership to host neighborhood health fairs and festivals. My mission at Double Oaks was always to do some good in the neighborhood. The Center housed organization, churches, daycares, summer camps, and a non-public school. I am most proud of three of these entities who have moved on to purchase property and continue where they were able to develop and grow at the Oaks. A lifelong Democrat, I have voted consistently in every election since 1980; I vote in every primary, every election every year as I don't believe there is such a thing as an off year election. I have volunteered on several election campaigns since 2000; this is when I first joined the Black Political Caucus. I am familiar with the issues and needs of District 2, such as: affordable housing, economic development, well-paying jobs, and unfortunately crime. I would like to be able to focus on these areas and although education is not a responsibility of the City Council I will use this position to encourage our citizens to volunteer in the Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools in our District. We could do this in conjunction with the Mayor's Mentoring Program. Although I have run for public office in the past, presently I am not speaking an elected office.

Amy Chiou, 360 South Graham Street said thank you for the opportunity to address you this evening. I am here to ask for your vote for the appointment to serve District 2 for the remainder of Councilmember Al Austin's terms. I moved to Charlotte in 2008 and have spent the past nine years serving the community in several different ways. I currently serve as the Executive Director of Queen City Forward; we are a non-profit organization that supports social entrepreneurs, those who believe that they can change the world in entrepreneurial ways, and we help them take their ideas and grow and develop them into reality so that they might make our lives and our community better.

I'm familiar with many of the issues that come before Council, and I will diligently learn about the rest. I've been an active volunteer in this community, and I've serve on several

non-profit boards including the Charlotte Community Health Clinic and the Women and Girls Research Alliance at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Last fall, I joined many others in protest in the continued neglect of pressing structural issues that have led to unspeakably tragic loss of life in our community. The problems facing our community are significant, but I also wholeheartedly believe that they are not insurmountable. As these challenges continue to persist, I'm here to offer an additional hand. I stand before you tonight, because I want to help and because I believe that fruitions are well within our reach and possible in my lifetime. Throughout my time in Charlotte I've also had the privilege to consistently participate in local political campaigns. It is on the campaign trail, that I've sat in people's kitchens and learned and heard their stories from all across the City, including District 2. I've heard about people's hopes and dreams as well as their struggles and frustrations, and as I listen to these powerful stories of other coming challenges and the beautiful ones of love and a promise of a better day I feel a renewed hope. It is the collection of these stories and others yet untold that I've always informed my political work and now inspire the decision to explore community service in a different way. I'm not naive about the brevity or the opportunity at hand, and I don't come with a grand platform but rather a sincere curiosity about how we might build trust and foster collaboration between citizens and their local government. I promise to serve my friends and neighbors of District 2 and the City of Charlotte by being present, engaged and responsive and to each of you I promise to be a good colleague and engage in respectful debate. I appreciate your time and consideration and would be honored to serve alongside each of you. Councilmember Austin you will be missed.

Carlenia Ivory, 4329 Hyde Park Drive said it is truly an honor to stand before you this evening. I arrived in Charlotte in 1969 to attend Johnson C. Smith University. I hone my skills as a Golden Bull, but I also at that time developed a deep love for our City Charlotte, North Carolina. It was at Johnson C. Smith that I developed the skill and I learned how wonderful it was to serve the citizens of the Northwest Charlotte Corridor. During my humble beginnings, I found the opportunity to improve the lives of many people around me. As you can see, if you've had the opportunity to read my bio, the resume that I forwarded to you, I have been involved and been a tireless participant in many grass root endeavors. I have been instrumental in raising funds for many charitable organizations and with over 25-years of activism, I've had the opportunity to build strong partnerships, relationships, share my wisdom and that has transcended far beyond the Northwest Charlotte Corridor. I am a servant leader. Although this is an interim position, I will not treat it as such. Every opportunity I have to interact with citizens regardless of the situation whether it is affordable housing, safety, code enforcement, transportation, increasing trust between the community and law enforcement, the Mayor's Youth Program, infrastructure, City funding for youth programs, whatever it is, I will handle in a very positive, courteous, responsible, accessible and thoughtful manner. I carry the quote by Maya Angelou; people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did but people will never forget how you made them feel. If selected, I will work to make the citizens of District 2 feel like that matter and all constituents of this City. I will make sure that their concerns are heard and that they know that they are valued members of our community. With this being said, I stand before you this evening, and I ask for your vote to serve out the interim term as the District 2 Representative. I thank you in advance for your support and Councilmember Al Austin; thank you for your service.

Steven Jones, 227 Sturbridge Drive said I got to meet Mr. Al Austin as I ran against him for his second term. He taught me a lot, and his shoes are going to be almost impossible to fill. My goal is to continue the things that he has done; I believe that his vision is great. Everything that I have met him in the meetings that we attended he has given me great advice and was also willing to talk to me even though I was on the ticket with him. That is very respectful; I have a lot of respect for Mr. Austin. I am here seeking obviously his seat for his vacancy as he moves up in his career. I know this appointment is but for a short, but I will give of all of my gifts, talents, and presence to this entity and this body and to the members of District 2. I will be a conduit for all of their proposals and ideals that would make this District a better place. I hope to bring new angles and ideas to the table to help solve and create solutions to the issues that sometimes tarnish my beautiful District. Some of those issues unfortunately are crime and the housing crisis that keeps rising. It is not true; unfortunately, I have learned that a rising tide lifts all boats. Some boats don't go

up. Mr. Austin told me once at a meeting of District 2 Development Conference that this job is not a part-time position; this is a fulltime job and then some. I was not aware of that until he made it very clear through all of the things that he has done in our District, and I will do everything that I can to fill his shoes and to move forward in his vision for this community, because I believe that we share a vision. I have been on the board of multiple non-profits; I've run and aboard currently in my community, but I know that none of those things are equivalent to what you guys do and the amount of time and effort that goes into this job, and I will work tirelessly and probably neglect other responsibilities that I don't feel meet the responsibilities of this board in order to make my District as beautiful as it can be. Thank you for your time. Thank you very much Mr. Austin; I appreciate you.

Brandie Meekins, 5104 Misty Oaks Drive said I guess I can start out by saying I will be able to fill those fashion shoes Mr. Austin. I submit my request to serve as your District 2 Representative and continue Mr. Austin's dedication, commitment, and legacy to the illustrious City of Charlotte, North Carolina. As a three-year longtime resident of Charlotte and District 2, third-year transformation director for the Harvest Center of Charlotte which is a non-profit agency who assist those who have moved to homelessness to sustainability or to assist those who would like to move from homelessness, poverty unemployment to sustainability. I'm also one who is a mother of a rising collegiate senior at JCSU. She is on tennis and academic scholarships, and she has been selected for the Beatties Ford Research Project, in which I am assisting her with as she researches the western corridor. She is doing that this summer so I am very proud of her. In 2010, I completed the City of Fayetteville, North Carolina Institute for Community Leadership, and I took a sincere dive into the politics of my birth city by being appointed by City Council to the City's Planning Commission in September 2013 as the only appointed female; however, my appointment was short lived as I relocated to Charlotte, North Carolina in April of 2014 to begin my mission and my appointment with the Harvest Center of Charlotte serving our citizens affected by homelessness, poverty and/or employment. In considering myself a lifelong learner, I'm willing to listen to commit to learning all that is necessary to fulfill this position as District 2 Councilmember and to enhance my personal and professional growth. I say that sincerely, because I know I've only been here three-years, and I'm coming behind some people who have been here a long time, but it is okay, because I want to hold onto what this City believes in; I want to hold onto what we can do moving forward. I don't a lot to compare it to from the past, so I can only look at where we are now and where we want to move. I recently submitted an application to the City of Charlotte Civic Leadership Academy, and I look forward to serving alongside those who are just selfless as I am. I'm capable working with my fellow Council on important issues such as economic mobility, inclusion and equity, diversity in schools, and I would be remiss if I didn't mention the needs related to these crime rates particularly violent crimes. I do have a background of Criminal Justice and Mental Health, so I do know what it takes and I know what it comes with to assist those who are suffering in those areas. In addition to the aforementioned issues listed, as a member of the Homeless Services Network I'm also well aware of our increased need for affordable housing at this time and more. My simplistic solutions to these issues is for our citizens and law makers to elect and appoint individuals who will serve selflessly and un-selflessly making decisions that are for the good of all.

Rashaan Peek, 9930 Lanaken Drive said we the unwilling led by the unqualified have been doing the unbelievable for so long with so little we now attempt the impossible with nothing. On June 21, 2016, hundreds of Charlotte residents gathered to honor the legacy of Nancy Crown. Nancy passed away suddenly but not before she and her sisters launched a grassroots effort and initiative to increase bipartisanship and compromise called bridging the political divide. In her honor and memory, I submitted my application to replace, if possible, District 2 Councilmember Al Austin. Here I stand today in purple; purple a symbolism that Charlotte can be the standards bridge the political divide. That we can be a national example of how to bridge the economic and racial divide that as a team we show the world that when red and blue policy makers come together we make a powerful purple. Many of you know me; I've been a resident of District 2 for over 12 years. We've sat in countless economic development and planning meetings with University City Partners and Charlotte Center City Partners. We've taken pictures of job creation, ribbon cuttings and grand openings, we've listened to residents in every District concerns about public safety and infrastructure. We volunteer together to empower girls and women to

advocate for themselves, to be leaders in our community and to activate their limitless potential. I seek this appointment knowing that five months isn't a long time, but it is enough time to shine the light on the brilliant and hard work in the District that I call home. It is enough time to bring the audacity of opportunity to the residents that have fallen into the shadows. It is enough time to encourage micro business owners to pursue their dreams, to become their best selves, to provide for their families and to learn what to use what is in their hands whether it is Ms. [inaudible] famous cakes at a pop-up market or Mr. Sam who can finally get this automotive technician certificate after being the neighborhood mechanic all of his adult life. Every resident should have the support and access to resources that he or she needs to be great. It is enough time to begin to connect the residents in the historic West End and the neighborhoods surrounding Camp North End with the necessities we all take for granted that makes the possibility of economic opportunity. Honestly, have you ever tried to fill out a job application on your cell phone? It is enough time to increase the tax base and the economic vitality of not just District 2 but Charlotte as a whole. I am Rashaan Peek, and I would be honored to be your District 2 Representative.

Glencie Rhedrick, 1100 Berry Tree Court said thank you Councilmember Austin for representing our District 2 and serving as our CEO for the Y, where I work with our youth at First Baptist Church West. My vision for Charlotte is a City with zero homelessness, great schools, affordable and sufficient housing and jobs with a livable wages that provides a tremendous and intentional awareness that every citizen in Charlotte is viable and valued. District 2 is an integral part of the whole of our City. I am committed to working with leadership to develop and enhance the core values which demonstrate and acknowledge the worth of every citizen. I am committed to working as a difference maker, as we seek a better presence of law enforcement in our community. I am committed to working with the police to achieve reform because reform is crucial. I am committed to discouraging the use of terms in conversations and in news reports that negatively define our citizens. Changing the language to reflect strength and positivity will reflect in a perceptual change in our great City. I will continue to contribute to the work of insuring that every citizen has the opportunity to move beyond the barriers that keeps some person at the bottom rung of society. My declaration to Charlotte is to be the citizen that will continue to be the voice for all, especially for the voiceless to work for their concerns, their needs and their desires in order that they may experience a quality Charlotte. I am seeking the appointment for District 2, in order to address the aforementioned issues, because Charlotte we can experience the richness of our City when we see ourselves more as a toss salad or a stir fry as opposed to being a melting pot. Thank you for your time, and I thank you for your consideration.

Joseph Smith, 513 North Graham Street said thank you for this opportunity to come before you and speak. I just wanted to say that I'm interested in serving the City Council District 2 Representative position. Obviously, as everyone has heard it is going to be a very tough seat to fill, and I don't know if I have a deep enough voice, but I will try. I've lived in District 2 for the past four years and worked in District 2 for the past five-years. I would like to be an active participant in shaping and establishing the general policies under which the City operates. Before relocating to Charlotte, I lived in Montgomery, Alabama while obtaining my Masters in Accountancy from Alabama State University. I moved to Charlotte to work in the financial services industry in 2012 and quickly adopted Charlotte as my new home. In my short tenure in the City, I have worked as an internal auditor at two of the largest financial institutions in the City, co-founded the start-up company to help new Charlotteans navigate the City. I've been elected by my peers as the Chapter President of the National Association of Black Accountants, served the community by giving back with the graduate chapter of my Fraternity Alpha Phi Fraternity, Inc. and selected as Charlotte Mecklenburg Black Chamber of Commerce 30 under 30 recipient for 2016. My work and education experiences have given me the opportunity to work in a complex financial industry. My experience with [inaudible] has granted me the opportunity to work with the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, as we tried to increase diversity and inclusion within the accounting field and attract diverse talent to the City. The experiences with my Fraternity has given me the opportunity to work with young African American men throughout the City as a mentor guiding them as they matriculate from high school into college, and my experience in the start-up world in Charlotte has given me insight to the

needs of this start-up community. My priority is aligned very clearly and closely to Mr. Austin's; public safety is one thing that has always been a push in the City and still needs a little bit of work, homelessness and working with affordable housing and also pushing for paying jobs that give a paying living wage for members in the District as well as affording child training for those that may need it as well. Another push was economic development, which I also agree with and it would be to incentivize small businesses to become a part of the District 2 community in areas like Freemore West, Biddleville, and Beatties Ford just as an example. In addition to supporting the economic development in that area, I believe that transportation is a major key and will support the efforts of the Gold Mine to bring people into that area and also increase the economic development. No person is an island, and I myself would not be able to do that all by myself. I would work with the fellow residents in the community to resolve the issues that they may have and also find them resources that they need. My leadership experiences living, working, and giving back in Charlotte will help me get ready for that position. Thank you.

Charles Vakala, 2108 Genesis Park Place said thank you for this opportunity to speak with you and I would also like to ask or request of you to get some face to time as your consider your appointment for this position. First, I want to start off stating my name Charles Vakala, Jr.; I'm a first generation American, native Charlottean. I've been here all my life except when Pops moved me to Concord for high school, then I went to Chapel Hill and came back to the City. What brought me back to the City is that I expect that Charlotte would be rising in a tide of growth on its path to this World Class Status that is trying to look for and will be soon achieving, the Charlotte USA type deal. You know a City has made it when it doesn't need its state any longer. It is a World Class City. As we move in that trajectory, there is a few things that has been concerning me as a District 2 resident. I've lived in my District the past three years; I live in Genesis Park, one of the neighborhoods that normally comes up in the conversation of affordability, crime, and other things like that, and I understand that former Councilmember David Howard did some work with the CMPD to do some changes in the community, and I've noticed those changes. I would like to recognize Sarah, who has done some work with the City, and some projects with grant funds. What I want to get to is the function of intersectionality that I think Charlotte is missing. I think it was Councilmember Kinsey that said people would never know what Mr. Austin has contributed, and I would like to recognize anything that he has done in service to the community. In holding public office, people should know and are to know so I do feel that I'm a little bit disintegrated despite the fact that I have been showing up and doing my due diligence with the County and City meetings, but I still feel like there is a veil that needs to be pierced. When I talk about that intersectionality, I'm talking about myself and the creative vision that I have to pay attention to meticulous details, a light ignorance that I will couple with resourcefulness to make sure I'm having the conversation and hearing the conversation clearly proposing changes experience but also being able to expand beyond my experience. I do want to note that the native Charlottean experience in the District 2 area is a little different. This issue of public safety for one, I always feel safe in my District. The issue has never crossed my mind that I'm unsafe; however I do see the crime rate and things like that, and we know as our CMPD normally says that it is something related to the relationships that people have. It is normally people that they know where they are experiencing this type of thing. I think that should speak to how we address the situation. On that same note in terms of the intersectionality, we could speak to the Police Officers in the community and the fact that we are looking to put more in the community. I still want to give you the invitation to speak with me personally.

Shante Williams, 640 North Church Street said I would like to represent Charlotte's Third Ward, because I am committed to insuring that everyone in that community is able to participate in the explosive economic progress that is happening throughout that District and throughout the City. As a millennial native of Charlotte, I've had the opportunity to watch the neighborhood change dramatically, and my family has been a part of that evolution. Our story begins in public housing, which is now transformed into luxury apartments. I vividly remember one of my parents' proudest moments when they were accepted into a grant program that allowed them to purchase their first home. Not only did that mean that we got a new home, but it meant that I no longer had to bused two and a half hours to a better school, but rather I could participate in a quality magnet school that was closer to my home. As a result, I was a student in the International Baccalaureate

Program, and I am proud graduate of the Charlotte Mecklenburg School System. Those progressive commitments to the community of the 1980s and 1990s helped my family and I trans in poverty, and I work every day to make sure that other children are able to do exactly the same thing. Since moving my business back to Charlotte, I've been able to listen and work in the community on behalf of District 2. I know the concerns of the lack of affordable housing, food insufficiency concerns, the concerns of rising crime and underemployment. For some populations these challenges have not changed in 50-years, and I advocate on behalf of those citizens who share these concerns. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry, a Doctorate Integrated bio Medical Science Focus and Neuro Oncology, Pharmacology, and Bio Medical Engineering, as well as an MBA in entrepreneurship and finance. I have been able as a business owner and entrepreneur to help create jobs; I've helped others to launch their businesses. I've been able to provide working capital to micro and small businesses to insure that they stay in business. My education experience has helped me fully participate in the tech economy, and as a result I have continued to be fully committed to steam education, expanding opportunities to all segments, growing access for capital and then increasing quality affordable housing. Charlotte's District 2 is at the leading edge of the rapid growth in the City, and I know I have the skills, education, and experience to be an effective Representative, and I welcome the opportunity to continue to serve my community and the residents in this interim capacity. Thank you.

Monty Witherspoon-Brown, 255 West Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard said I stand before this Council in the City where I was born and raised to offer my service to the residents of District 2. I will not spend my allotted time sharing personal anecdotes; I will however provide you with my abbreviated biography and contact information to be sent to your e-mail, and I hope you will take time to read it. I share in what I believe to be a collective vision for Charlotte, a growing City that attracts both individuals and families, a City with job growth and an excellent quality of life for its residents. In order for this vision to be fulfilled, we must continue to serve, strive toward safety economic opportunities as a catalyst of upward mobility, affordable housing that is not concentrated, a clean environment and a stellar transportation system that alleviates congestion, as well as a responsive and accountable government. I do not stand here with lofty goals or unrealistic promises; however, I am pragmatic in my approach that will insure success in the coming months. First, I will continue the tremendous work that is currently underway in District 2. Also, I will work cooperatively with this entire Council to insure that the remaining collective priorities are achieved. This is what the City needs; this is what the District needs. With the time remaining, I assure you that the result of this enterprise is inconsequential to my future service to the City. I hereby petition your well founded consideration of me to represent District 2.

Mayor Roberts said I appreciate the time from our 11 applicants that came this even and remind you that Council will make the appointment on Monday, July 24, 2017. That means you have some more time if you want to get in touch with Councilmembers and made your pitch. We appreciate your coming down tonight to let us hear from you and appreciate your willingness to serve and be engaged with the future of our City.

* * * * *

PUBLIC HEARINGS

ITEM NO. 10: PUBLIC HEARING ON A RESOLUTION TO CLOSE A PORTION OF BARNETTE PLACE

Mayor Roberts declared the hearing open.

There being no speakers either for or against, a motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell, seconded by Councilmember Austin, and carried unanimously to close the public hearing and adopt a resolution to close a portion of Barnette Place.
--

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 48, at Pages 349-351.

* * * * *

ITEM NO. 11: PUBLIC HEARING ON A RESOLUTION TO CLOSE A PORTION OF MYRTLE AVENUE

Mayor Roberts declared the hearing open.

There being no speakers either for or against a motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell, seconded by Councilmember Driggs and carried unanimously to close the public hearing and adopt the resolution to close a portion of Myrtle Avenue.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 48, at Pages 352-354.

* * * * *

ITEM NO. 12: PUBLIC HEARING ON A RESOLUTION TO CLOSE A PORTION OF SOUTH POPLAR STREET

Mayor Roberts declared the hearing open.

There being no speakers either for or against a motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell and carried unanimously, to close the public hearing and adopt the resolution to close a portion of south Poplar Street.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 48, at Pages 355-357.

* * * * *

POLICY

ITEM NO. 13: CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

Marcus Jones, City Manager said I have just one brief announcement; I know many of you know, but for those of you who don’t know, Ann Wall, our Assistant City Manager is heading to greener pastures as she becomes the City Manager of Greenville, North Carolina. I’ve enjoyed my time with Ann; she has been here since 2013, and she will start August 1, 2017, and what we will do is try to get all the information we can out of her before she leaves. If you see Ann at her desk through the night and through the next week she can actually process that, but thank you Ann for being a great part of the team we are going to miss you.

Ann Wall, Assistant City Manager said I will say it has been my personal and professional privilege to work for the City of Charlotte and certainly to work with this Council. I appreciate your thoughtful approach, your deliberative style, even though it is five minutes of 9:00 p.m. right now. I really appreciate it, and I really want to thank the City Manager and I truly want to thank all the employees that work for the City of Charlotte for the warm welcome and this wonderful opportunity to work for the City. Thank you all very much.

Mayor Roberts said we will have to go visit Greenville.

Councilmember Mitchell said we will be there for the North Carolina League Meeting; you will be hosting us.

Councilmember Smith said scope out the barbecue joints.

Councilmember Ajmera are you going to still have the City cell phone?

Ms. Wall said I actually think they will make me give back my Charlotte cell phone, but I will make sure there is some contact information.

* * * * *

ITEM NO. 14: EXTRAORDINARY EVENTS ORDINANCE

Mayor Roberts said we had a presentation on this in our Dinner Meeting, and I will let Councilmember Eiselt, Chair of the Community Safety Committee make any comments she would like and we will have discussion.

Councilmember Eiselt said just to say that we’ve had the opportunity as was mentioned in our Dinner Meeting to hear from the public on the Extraordinary Events Ordinance as to what it really means to the public; whereas, we put this in place for the Democratic Convention back in 2012 for large national and international events where large groups of people would be coming to the City. It has been used 41 different times in Charlotte and has been sort of determined that we really don’t need to be using it and that in fact the Police Department have the tools that they need to keep people safe without this ordinance. As Chief Putney says, when you designate everything as extraordinary event it no longer becomes very extraordinary. The primary focus was to make sure that our Police Department has what they need to keep people safe and Chief Putney is comfortable that he has those tools. The real focus these days is on terrorism and finding strategies that address some of the terrorist tactics that we’ve seen throughout the world and of course that is a challenge but one that isn’t really being solved with this ordinance.

Motion was made by Councilmember Eiselt, seconded by Councilmember Mayfield to adopt Ordinance No. 9117 repealing Article XIV of Chapter 15 of the City Code, entitled Extraordinary Events.

Mayor Roberts said I appreciate the City staff, CMPD, and the community; I think there was some really productive discussions of this ordinance, why it was put in place, what it meant and its obsolesce, and I think this was a good example of the collaboration and the responsiveness of our City Departments, our Police Chief and our community.

The vote was taken on the motion and was recorded as unanimous.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 60, at Page 720.

* * * * *

ITEM NO. 15: REVISIONS OF THE CITIZENS REVIEW BOARD

Mayor Roberts said we also heard some of this during our Dinner Meeting, but I think there were a few more questions. This is another one under the Community Safety Committee, and Councilmember Eiselt I’ll let you say a few words.

Councilmember Eiselt said I will say it very quickly that we again in order to increase accountability and trust amongst the community, we acknowledge that there are some improvements that we could make to the Citizens Review Board that gives people who feel that they’ve been wronged by the police the opportunity to file a complaint, but to also to have assistance from the City from our Community Relations team to go through that process with an understanding of how it could be done. We made a lot of revisions to the recommendations for revisions including making sure that we have a Board that duly reflects the diversity of our community, that it in fact has staggered terms so that every year there will be an appointment to the Citizens Review Board and that there will be a more fair process and help with people who need to go through the process of filing a complaint.

Motion was made by Councilmember Eiselt and seconded by Councilmember Mayfield to approve the Community Safety Committee's recommendation to revise the Citizens Review Board membership requirements by amending Section 16-56 of Chapter 16 of the City Code, by adopting Ordinance 9118.

Paris Hopkins, 1437 Norris Avenue said I will be speaking on the diversity. There will always be a lack of community trust in any Board that does not reflect the demographic of the community that it is supposed to serve us. Even though current federal and state laws will not allow the quota on diversity, our community deserves a CRB that has an adequate black, Latino, Asian, and Muslim representation. The starting point of the service of the Citizens Review Board is the completion of the Charlotte Citizen Academy. Safe Coalition NC is committed to helping recruit residents of diverse background, ethnicities, and identities to apply to the Charlotte Citizen Academy. Since we view it as pipeline for the future services on the Citizens Review Board, as well as the Civil Service Board, I myself plan to apply to the Citizen Academy but understand that changing the diversity of the Board is not only based on the completion of the Citizen Academy but also based on the slots on the Board becoming open. Since the CRB is at least a year away from being able to diversify its demographic make-up, we urge the Council to work with the City Manager and the City Attorney to come up with a plan to insure that the current Board can reach a decision that is not only fair but equal.

Meko Williams, 201 South Gardner Avenue said I will be speaking about the Board. Currently, the appointed process for the Citizens' Review Board is perceived by many community either to be appointed or by default or by appointment or colleagues process. Many times there is a shortage of applicants and the Council has to appoint a Board Member by default. Other situations there may be a few candidates for appointment' and Councilmembers go back and forth for those who are appointed with those situations are rarely seems if merely members other than the Councilmembers making the recommendations to have the knowledge or the application of the skills in which applicant process that makes them a good candidate to serve the Board. Safe Coalition of NC of the community did the safety commitment and asked the CRB to implement the interviews or process of all appointments. The interview commitment should be made up of representatives from the Human Relations Committee and other City Managers a long with Councilmembers and the HR should decide that outside community groups should have some say so in it more or less in the interview process and should be allowed. The goal is for the committee to be insured for the new Citizens' Review Board to have balance between the members that have the experience and [inaudible] of mental health, mediation, criminology, with the members that pose, cultural awareness skills, understanding empathy and the volume of understanding commitment of color which are solely missed and currently made up. The Citizens Review Board should not be made up with current, former employees nor their families which you all have already discussed that.

Corine Mack, 2317 Sonoma Valley Drive said I'm going to be speaking on the necessity of training. To serve on the Citizens Review Board requires not only a commitment of time, but it takes sacrifice. To serve, everyone needs to have training; Board members must complete the Citizens Academy, where over the course of three months they are trained in CMPD history, mission and organization, Police Officer selection and training, constitution of law, laws of arrest search and seizure, internal affairs and officer use of force as well as crime prevention and use of crime analysis. They also should be trained and will be trained in traffic enforcement, as well as the criminal investigations and gang intervention and community policing. Once an applicant is appointed to the Citizens Review Board, they are expected to complete eight additional hours of training which the Council is considering allowing them to use on a police ride along; at least two to four hours for a police ride along. Our concern is that no time is the Board remembering that the training also should include the trouble history of Charlotte and the relationship between police and communities of color. There is at this time no training of implicit bias, and I know that is a conversation you've already had and will be voting on, but that training should include not only implicit bias but dismantling racism in training. Here is the key, when we look at most of the issues we've had here in this City, most of them were race

rebased, some social economically based but if we don't begin to go deeper, have self-examinations through the implicit bias training, through the dismantling racism training, no matter what we have we will have a problem. More importantly tomorrow, when there is a conversation around the Keith Lamont Scott case has every person in that room been trained through implicit bias? Implicit bias goes beyond white and black, because black folks have biases against blacks as well, which is why it is so important we have that training. If we are going to be a viable City, and I know that one day we will be, it means that each of us must have a self-examination and that training causes you to begin to look at yourself in a very different way, therefore looking at others a very different way. I believe in love and love encompasses all nations, all races, all social economic positions, as well as sexual orientation. I believe we will get there, but we must be willing to first examine ourselves.

LaMeka Jackson, 201 South Gardner Avenue said I will be talking on the topic pertaining to advocating for victims. Many of the Charlotte residents are not experiencing properly interpreting terminology associated with completing forms of paper work. What may seem easily interpreted by the City may not be easily interpreted by the people, especially if they have experienced trauma at the hands of a police officer. When completing the Citizen Review Board paperwork, a single question decides whether the complaint meets the minimum standards to have the case heard by the Citizens Review Board. The question on the form says, why do you feel this decision was wrong? The question is really asking the complainant to explain by greater way of the evidence how did the Chief of Police clearly error the regard of the complaint and the case. Like most people, I would interpret the question on the form differently from the extended perfect by misinterpreting what leads to cases likely being turned down by the Citizens Review Board for not meeting the legal standard to have a case heard. What the Safe Coalition of North Carolina is asking the Council to provide an advocate to help the complainant complete the paperwork properly. The Charlotte Human Relationship Commission has shown interest in important service we believe is best suited to help residents complete the Citizens Review Board paperwork and navigate the process. Make sure you [inaudible] and not just hearing and listening.

Mayor Roberts said thank you to all our speakers. We have had some conversation on this topic in the Dinner Meeting, but we can have additional conversation. I know there are still some questions about training in particular. I do want to address Ms. Jackson's concern that there is in the changes to the procedures the Community Relations Committee has hired staff members to assist with filing complaints, and we are also working in four different languages to assist people in filing complaints, because we have heard that from the community and that is part of the improvements to the way that the CRB will be handled going forward.

Councilmember Mayfield said during the Dinner Meeting we were speaking to additional recommendations, and on Slide #9 we had in the presentation we talked about the different groups and how we are going to advertise through our Citizens Academy as well as recruit at neighborhood board retreats and leadership exchanges and Civil Leadership Academy; I'm going to ask for staff to have on our end in our language to make sure that we enlarge our recruitment pool, because everything right now is based on those who are already engaged at some level with City of Charlotte services and what way of the services, and I do have a concern and it was mentioned by one of the speakers regarding diversity. I know that the Public Safety Committee had a lot of conversation, and I read through some of the minutes, and I talked to Councilmember Austin regarding we do not have the legal ability to put in specific requirements. We can't say one seat goes to this minority or that minority, but we can make a conscious effort to make that the pool of candidates we are outreaching, we are going to the African American Chamber. We are going to the LGBT Chamber. We are reaching out to the community that has been most impacted, because they are the voices that we need to hear at the table. I really want to make sure, and if it is okay with our Chair, because I believe there is also going to be an amendment that will be coming from Councilmember Lyles that we can agree to have the language in place to be as diverse and do the outreach beyond City of Charlotte services to make sure that this Board, since we do have time, reflects the City in which we live.

Councilmember Phipps said I was wondering about the comment with regard to an advocate to assist in the preparation of a complaint. Are we saying that such an advocate would be an employee of the City? I'm trying to figure out how would that not be an inherent conflict of interest or an independent issue in so far as, the City would be helping someone to file a complaint against the City. If you could help me to understand the dynamics behind that I would appreciate it.

Ann Wall, Assistant City Manager said Mr. Phipps, the Community Relations Commission provides support to all residents of the City, so they have hired two staff people and their job is to work, do lots of engagement and be in the community. One of their additional responsibilities would be to assist people who would like to file to the Citizens Review Board, to help them understand the process, what their rights are, what they role can be and to go with them through that process. We are also trying to secure some additional resources in the community, but we are not in a position to fully explain that at this point.

Mr. Phipps said so, as I understand it then the assistance would be more directed to the process but not the actual helping to fill out or prepare the actual complaint.

Ms. Wall said I think it would be that Mr. Phipps; it would be about the process, explaining the process and the role and helping to complete the application. I don't think the staff person's role would necessarily be to represent the person at the hearings but really to help the person filing the complaint understand what is going to happen, what the meetings look like, what the next steps might be.

Councilmember Lyles said there are a couple comments I would like to make; I'm really appreciative of the time that the Committee took in doing this work, because I think that we need to be very serious about moving forward on our commitment to the community. Time continues to pass, and we need to begin to take action to get things done. I want to make a couple comments that I think might be pertinent particularly around the speakers. I think when you look at our curriculum in the Citizens Academy; I would hope that we are not teaching a point of view only from the Police Department. I would hope that we are doing, if we are training our officers correctly, the curriculum at the Academy should reflect that community perspective in every aspect of those courses, so I would just hope the Academy's curriculum is done in a way that you are talking to the community, representing what we need to do in really good ways of procedure for Police but also for community safety, which you have to remember, is community safety. We want that to be the case. I just want to say that we can integrate our curriculum. I also want to really respect the idea of where does the community get involved, and I appreciate Ms. Hopkins coming down and saying that she is going to put herself in a position to be nominated, because I believe that is where the outside really helps. It is when you actually offer to serve, and that vetting process is going to just be an important part but what is most important is that we step up and begin to do that. There is a National Citizens Review Board organization, and I'm going to tell this story; many of you know Tonya Jamison who had an incident in a small town in Tennessee, and I was invited to lunch and joined her when the Police Chief of Knoxville came down and presented his results of their Citizens Review of her case. I just thought to myself, when you see that kind of emphasis that it takes the time, and of course Tonya is a Journalist so he was coming down with a point of view that he needed to make, so I'm acknowledging that, but we had a great conversation. The outcome wasn't what she wanted it to be but by the time he presented the materials, the documentation in a way that you could read it and understand it, I think everybody walked away better prepared and better understanding of community, and that is what we need. Actually the former person in Knoxville lives in Concord now. She was their Committee Chair and did a lot of their work. I also want to say that we shouldn't forget the idea that we want this Board to be effective, and we have all voted to have subpoena power, and we aren't going to get it out of this Legislative Session, but let's not forget to continue to focus on those things that are going to build trust as we said. I believe subpoena power is part of it, so I'm going to support the motion. I do have a request to follow-up, but I don't believe is required for the motion, if I understand that Mr. Hagemann. I think that we should all be proud that we are moving and taking action on the commitment that we made to this community.

Councilmember Ajmera said I appreciate staff's efforts and the Committee's efforts to continue to build trust in our community. I think staff did a great job of integrating the application in multiple languages being Vietnamese, Spanish and Arabic. Do we also have interpreters for some of the communities where there is a language barrier to bridge that gap? I just want to make sure that we take that into account to address growing needs when it comes to more languages but also having an interpreter. Also, as we are looking at diversity and being more inclusive with our Board I want to make sure that in addition to ethnic groups we are also considering age gender and LGBTQ communities to Ms. Mayfield's point, so we are addressing diversity and being inclusive from various angles. I'm happy to help by reaching out to some of the communities, especially with District 5 being very diverse with a very strong immigrant and refugee communities.

Councilmember Smith said I think in the Committee there was a lot of sincere dialogue around creating the diversity that will reflect our community, and I think we had at numerous meetings we reinforced the ability, and it will fall on us; we are the ones that ultimately make the appointments. You can put things on paper, but ultimately we need to put together a board that is reflective of the community. I think the Committee heard that and what I'm hearing from Council is the same thing. I think we also as a Committee realize that the strength of this Board is important to our community that a strong Citizens Review Board will also be something that will help our community, help build trust, help build things that we desperately need and we learned last fall. Lastly, I want to touch on Ms. Lyles comment, and she is right, we did push part of our agenda to get subpoena power and it didn't work but we did burn up a lot of phone hours with Legislators in Raleigh to see if we can get it and we were not successful this time; they've got a lot of other things on their agenda, but I do think those are conversations that can and will continue. I was proud of the work our Committee did on this issue. We had very strong dialogue within the meetings on trying to make this a board that is again reflective of the community but also is a strong board of qualified people. It goes beyond just diversity; we want people on there that are capable of making complex decisions and working through complex cases so we look forward to I guess a year from now when we will have the opportunity to make the appointments as the board rolls off.

Mayor Roberts said I just wanted to add just for information for folks who are following this that the other thing that we discovered in our Dinner Meeting that the terms were not staggered, and so the entire 11-member Board is coming up next in 2018. Going forward, we have a process to stagger the terms, to continue continuity on that Bboard, and I think the other improvement that has been made is for transparency to publish data on officer complaints and disposition and those cases from 1997 to the present will not be available on the CRB home page. Data from the annual Internal Affairs Unit which includes all cases and outcomes of misconduct allegations is available in annual reports on Internal Affairs webpage. Again, I appreciate the Committee and its work and looking at the improvements needed and making recommendations that we are going to vote on in a minute that is going to make that process better and more transparent.

Councilmember Driggs said I just wanted to say I appreciate the work of the Committee and in particular the emphasis on the objectivity of board members and the process through which they will be selected with an eye towards insuring that they can actually consider the issues and reach a reasonable conclusion. I support the proposed amendment.

Mayor Roberts said we appreciate all the comments and the input from the community; absolutely, they have been heard, and it has been a good process.

The vote was taken on the motion and was recorded as unanimous.

Ms. Lyles said at our Dinner Meeting when we were having this discussion we had the discussion around how would we actually remember to keep this current, keep it flexible and keep it moving forward, because all of us know that the ordinance was in place for a long time, and it just kind of didn't get to the front of the line all the time. I would like to ask the City Manager that as we are going through this process, and we are going through the vetting process with the applicants and the interview process as well as the Chair of the

Citizens Review Board, the Director of Community Relations Committee and the Police Chief, that we insure that our annual training concludes components on policing and public safety and the community's perspective and perceptions on law enforcement. When people are being nominated and they are coming in for the interview that they know there is an expectation around understanding both of those components and the balance that we really need to have that happen and that when we do that when we have the annual report from the Citizens Review Board that we include a section on the training taken by each person or member during the year that the Board actually make recommendations for training that they think should be revised or included to remain current in law enforcement techniques and engagement with the community. I hope that will be acceptable for the staff to follow through. I think it is important, because it is going to keep us on the top of our minds and be able to give a real report to our community.

Ms. Mayfield said Mr. Manager, just a quick question. In the Dinner Meeting, we discussed adding the actual language for the training to include the implicit bias training as well as dismantling racism. We've already captured that, so we don't need to have that discussion here again.

Mayor Roberts said I know race management and Juvenile Justice has done a lot in getting that training out in the community, and we appreciate all that they have done. I just want to take a minute and recognize that we have a County Commissioner in the audience, Commission Vilma Leake. Thank you for coming here, joining our meetings, and staying until the end. We appreciate you.

The ordinance was recorded in Ordinance Book 60, Pages 721-722.

* * * * *

BUSINESS

ITEM NO. 16: APPOINTMENTS TO THE CHARLOTTE INTERNANTIONAL CABINET

The following applicants were considered for one appointment in the At-Large category beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2020:

Momina Faridi, nominated by Councilmembers Fallon, Lyles, and Phipps
Johnell Holman, nominated by Councilmembers Austin and Eiselt
David Lynn, nominated by Councilmembers Driggs and Smith

Results of the first ballot were recorded as follows:

Momina Farid, 2 votes – Councilmembers Fallon and Phipps
Johnell Holman, 7 votes – Councilmembers Ajmera, Austin, Eiselt, Lyles, Mayfield, Mitchell, and Smith.
David Lynn, 2 votes – Councilmembers Driggs and Kinsey.

Mr. Homes was appointed.

* * * * *

ITEM NO. 17: APPOINTMENTS TO THE CHARLOTTE REGIONAL VISITORS AUTHORITY

The following applicants were considered for one appointment in the At-Large category beginning immediately and ending June 30, 2018:

Peter Grills, nominated by Councilmembers Ajmera, Driggs, Fallon, Lyles and Phipps
Leo Percopo, nominated by Councilmembers Austin, Eiselt, Lyles, Mayfield and Phipps

Results of the first ballot were recorded as follows:

Peter Grills, 7 votes – Councilmembers Ajmera, Driggs, Fallon, Lyles, Mitchell, Phipps and Smith.

Leo Percopo, 4 votes – Councilmembers Austin, Eiselt, Kinsey and Mayfield.

Mr. Grills was appointed.

* * * * *

ITEM NO. 18: APPOINTMENTS TO THE CITIZENS' TRANSIT ADVISORY GROUP

The following applicants were considered for one appointment beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2020:

Rebecca Cherry, nominated by Councilmembers Driggs, Kinsey and Smith

Daniel MacRae, nominated by Councilmembers Ajmera and Phipps

Adam Pasiak, nominated by Councilmembers Fallon and Lyles

Billy Rossenberg, nominated by Councilmembers Austin and Eiselt

Results of the first ballot were recorded as follows:

Rebecca Cherry, 3 votes – Councilmembers Driggs, Kinsey, Lyles.

Daniel MacRae, 4 votes – Councilmembers Ajmera, Mayfield, Mitchell, and Phipps

Adam Pasiak, 2 votes - Councilmembers Fallon and Smith

Billy Roosenberg, 3 votes – Councilmembers Austin, Eiselt, and Lyles

A second ballot was taken between Rebecca Cherry and Billy Rossenberg and recorded as follows:

Rebecca Cherry, 8 votes – Councilmembers Driggs, Eiselt, Fallon, Kinsey, Lyles, Mayfield, Mitchell, and Smith

A third ballot was taken between Rebecca Cherry and Daniel MacRae and recorded as follows:

Rebecca Cherry, 5 votes – Councilmembers Austin, Driggs, Eiselt, Fallon, and Kinsey

Daniel MacRae, 6 votes – Councilmembers Ajmera, Lyles, Mayfield, Mitchell, Phipps, and Smith.

Mr. MacRae was appointed.

* * * * *

ITEM NO. 19: APPOINTMENT TO THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVISORY BOARD

The following applicants were considered for one appointment for a partial term beginning immediately and ending September 21, 2018:

Alexis Kondratyk, nominated by Councilmembers Austin and Mayfield

Antoinette Mingo, nominated by Councilmembers Ajmera, Eiselt, Fallon, Lyles, and Phipps

Results of the first ballot were recorded as follows:

Alexis Kondratyk, 10 votes – Councilmembers Ajmera, Austin, Driggs, Eiselt, Fallon, Kinsey, Lyles, Mayfield, Mitchell, and Phipps.

Mr. Kondratyk was appointed.

* * * * *

ITEM NO. 20: APPOINTMENTS TO KEEP CHARLOTTE BEAUTIFUL

The following applicants were considered for one appointment for a partial term beginning immediately and ending June 30, 2019 and one appointment for a partial term beginning immediately and ending June 30, 2018:

Brenda Adams, nominated by Councilmembers Eiselt, Fallon, Lyles and Phipps
William Babb, nominated by Councilmembers Fallon and Lyles
J. Michael Haithcock, nominated by Councilmembers Ajmera and Kinsey

Results of the first ballot were recorded as follows:

Brenda Adams, 7 votes - Councilmembers Ajmera, Austin, Eiselt, Fallon, Kinsey, Lyles, and Phipps
William Babb, 5 votes – Councilmembers Austin, Driggs, Eiselt, and Lyles
J. Michael Haithcock, 5 votes – Councilmembers Ajmera, Driggs, Kinsey, Mayfield, and Mitchell.

A second ballot was taken between William Babb and J. Michael Haithcock and recorded as follows:

William Babb, 6 votes – Councilmembers Austin, Driggs, Eiselt, Lyles, Phipps, and Smith

Ms. Adams and Mr. Babb were appointed.

* * * * *

ITEM NO. 21: APPOINTMENT TO THE PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

The following applicants were considered for one appointment beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2010:

Steve Copulsky, nominated by Councilmembers Fallon, Kinsey, and Lyles
Gaurav Gupte, nominated by Councilmembers Ajmera, Austin, Driggs, Eiselt, and Mayfield

Results of the first ballot were recorded as follows:

Steve Copulsky, 2 votes – Councilmembers Fallon and Kinsey
Gaurav Gupte, 8 votes – Councilmembers Ajmera, Austin, Driggs, Eiselt, Lyles, Mayfield, and Phipps.

Mr. Gupte was appointed.

* * * * *

ITEM NO. 22: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL TOPICS

Councilmember Ajmera said again, I would like to announce about the Town Hall Meeting which is Wednesday, June 28, 2017 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in Room CH-14 of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center. The topic is Tackling Economic Mobility Together, and we will have City Manager Marcus Jones and County Manager Dena Diorio will be there to cover three topics with Eastland Redevelopment, Opportunities for Minority Women Owned Business and Opportunities for our Youth. Also, we will have special guest James Mitchell and LaWana Mayfield in attendance, so I look forward to seeing you all there.

Councilmember Austin said as you know we've had quite a few instances of murders here in Charlotte, and I want to say to our citizens; we are never going to be able to hire enough police officers to be on every corner and every home and every bar and every situation, so really the onus is on us. I ask you to be the one in that situation to deescalate that situation so that we don't have another murder. This is us as people in this great City that we call Charlotte; we've got to pull back. We've got to come up with other ways of conflict resolution, and it is not grabbing a gun. It is not stabbing someone; it is

not running someone over with a car. It is us taking the time and calming down and dealing with each other. I ask you to be the one as my last message City Councilmember from District 2.

Councilmember Driggs said like I said before a calm strong voice, we are going to miss you Al. I would like to thank Councilmember Fallon for bringing a Town Hall to District 7 on Thursday and also Bill Parks and Rachel Wood for doing a great job of talking about the budget in a few minutes. That was impressive, and members of CMPD who came to talk about public safety issues. The meeting was really well attended; the room was packed and it shows that citizens of District 7 care about our City and are engaged. I hope you will come again soon, and we will do it together again next time.

Councilmember Fallon said we need more chairs.

Mr. Driggs said that is right; the room wasn't big enough.

Councilmember Kinsey said although she is not here I want to thank publicly Pam Wiseman; she flew out Thursday night to speak at the WIMG meeting on affordable housing, and she was big hit. I thought affordable housing was probably an issue with most of the municipalities and indeed it is, and she does a wonderful job every time she talks about affordable housing. We've got a real jewel there, and we need to keep her.

Mayor Roberts said WIMG stands for Women in Municipal Government, and Patsy Kinsey is the Chair.

Ms. Kinsey said that is how I could get her to Cleveland. She would be someone good to have at the MLC this fall. I'm keeping her on a short leash.

Councilmember Fallon said on Thursday night, I have a Town Hall at University City Library on W. T. Harris Boulevard and the Manager will be there to talk about what is happening in our City. The Budget Committee will again make people calmer when they find out they are getting something, because that is what everybody wants to know; what I am going to get for where I live? It will be from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday night; you are all welcome.

Councilmember Eiselt said I feel like our former colleague John Autry; I have my little pet peeve thing that I'm going to drive home. It is with regards to our cyclers in the City; I'm excited that we can work towards being more a pedestrian and bike friendly City, but I see way too often cyclers who don't take the traffic laws seriously and who think they don't apply to them. As we continue to add bike lanes and be more cycle friendly, I hope that cyclists can be pedestrian friendly and car friendly as well and obey the traffic laws.

Mayor Roberts said last week was really a packed week; I had a great visit from the Australian Ambassador, and Australia interested in Charlotte like everybody else. Also we had a great conference for NEX money, which is about Fen-Tech and all the start-ups and entrepreneurs that we are trying to grow right here in Charlotte we have great movement in that area and we are really working to brand Charlotte as a Fen-Tech hub. We now have a Carolinas Fen-Tech hub; they have broadened so it is regional, so we can continue to work with the regional universities to grow talent, to bring talent to help support start-up. It was a great conference well attended.

I also represented the City at the U. S. Conference of Mayors in Miami Beach and one of the most amazing things I participated in Fire Ops 101, and I don't know how many of the Councilmembers have done that but putting on a firefighters gear and going into a burning structure where the temperature gets almost a thousand degrees, basically you are in an oven, and it is amazing that the clothing protects you, but it is incredible how dehydrated you get. I have a whole new respect for firefighters for the amazing work they do every day, and I talked to a couple of the Miami Firefighters who were there showing us the equipment and showing us how to put it on, and they said they have all been in numerous fire situations and had to carry incredible equipment. I can't imagine; you can hardly see when you put on your mask, and you are breathing the oxygen and you are trying to maneuver around and you are crawling on your knees; I can't imagine trying to move

anybody out of the building with all that gear on. That was a memorable experience I will never forget. I'm sure now that I did it with Miami that Charlotte Fire is going to want me to do it here, so I'll have to challenge the Manager to do that with me. It is amazing, and I really appreciate our firefighters. That was a good experience, and I encourage other folks to do the same. Finally, I served on an NLC Taskforce, and we are going to be bringing this to the meeting in November on economic mobility. We had a full afternoon of discussion with Councilmembers and Mayors from around the country confronting the same issues that Charlotte is confronting. There were some great innovations and great suggestions, and we are going to hear from that Taskforce in November when we have the NLC meeting here in Charlotte.

Councilmember Lyles said I want to talk about a few things that happened this week as well. I had the opportunity not to put on the gear and go out, but I went to Camp Ignite, which was conducted for the 51 young women that are interested in becoming firefighters, and I learned how to use the jaws of life and how to break out a windshield, but what was so exciting was the number of young women there that was saying this is something that I see as a career. Then on Friday morning, we had a meeting with the recruiters for Fire and Police and the women of color came out to the Headquarters and we talked about what does it take to be on the force of either the firefighter or to be a police officer. It was well done and especially having the neighbors come from around the Statesville Road and LaSalle Street area.

I also wanted to say thank you to Rev. Ferguson and First Mayfield Memorial Baptist Church on Oaklawn Avenue. The Mayor and I attended a hatatude day, and it was a great afternoon to be with that community and to see Reverend and Mrs. Drummond together was a real treat. The other thing that I wanted to mention is that this Friday at the Belmont Center we are going to have a roundtable discussion on economic development that will talk about what construction projects the City has coming forward and what opportunities there are for small businesses and minority and women owned businesses to participate. We are also going to talk about the other places that you can intersect with the City for procurement and how to do business with the City, and it is going to be at the Belmont Center, light refreshments early and then we will go from about 8:00 until about 9:15. Please come out if you own a business or if you are thinking about a small business come out to the Belmont Center on Friday and meet the City staff.

I want to join Councilmember Austin in saying that last evening I went to the memorial service conducted by Mothers of Murdered Offspring in honor of David Lindsay's loss of life. He was a part of the No Grease community, which begin to celebrate their 20-years in Charlotte, a very successful business. I told Damen and Jamine that we forget sometimes how people can come into this community and they've had one strike or two strikes and there is a place for them to go and learn a career and there is a place for them to be accepted. Then when you have a situation where you have that loss, it is not just the loss of a life that is felt like throwing a stone in the middle of a lake and watching the ripple effect, his family, his friends, the people that love him, his customers, and it is interesting he had a small boy there; he had cut his hair for ten-years. What is that young man going to feel like when he goes to go a haircut and David is not there? I really want to echo the sentiment what are we going to do, what part are we going to play in trying to end the violence in our community? We've got to own it, and we've got to accept the fact that this is something that we have to step up and be honest about. It is a really, really sad time for that family which extends way beyond as I said his family; it extends to this dais because we are the City, and we need to really work hard to stop the violence.

Councilmember Mitchell said my last Town Hall Meeting will be held Thursday, June 29, 2017 from 5:00 to 8:00 P.M. in Room 267 and the title is Transforming Charlotte through Entrepreneurship. We are going to talk about the three Cs; how do you obtain customer? How do you build capacity, and how do you gain access to capital? It will be free, and we will have two breakout sessions. We encourage all entrepreneurs and small business owners to join us; hats off to Alvin Burney, Kim Oliver and staff for putting together a great program. The 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. will be networking one on one with Councilmembers to talk about how we can improve Charlotte from an entrepreneur small business side and then from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. We will have breakout sessions. We also have a

resource fair because, we realize that a lot of the information about entrepreneurship and small business is not getting out to the public, so we have a resource center made of all organizations that participate in making small businesses great in our community. I hope you can join us on Thursday.

Councilmember Phipps said I just wanted to thank everyone who came out this past Thursday for my Town Hall Meeting. It was well attended, and in case you don't know the theme of it Digital Inclusion not an Illusion. It was held at the Martin Luther King Middle School in Hidden Valley; we had a resource fair there, and one lucky person was fortunate enough to win through a drawing a whole computer outfit. The people just didn't want to leave the Town Hall. We were supposed to end at 8:00 but we were still fellowshiping and talking about issues well past 8:30. There is going to be a second Digital Inclusion not an Illusion Town Hall Meeting in the future to concentrate on the internet service providers, because as we get closer to the completion of the fiber optic installation then we want to provide the community what it is really going to look like in their specific communities when it is finished, especially in Hidden Valley where Google is wrapping up its installation activities there. I want to thank the team led by Kim Oliver that was very instrumental in bringing this group together and just organizing everything. It just exceeded my expectations, and I looking forward to the second rendition of it at a future time. Stay tuned as we move forward. I think Ms. Ajmera came and Assistant City Manager, Kim Eagle was there and of course we had State Senators, Congressional representation there; it was like the place to be. I think you for that and everybody is focused on Digital Inclusion and what it means as we get connected through the technology that is coming before Charlotte.

Councilmember Smith said I want to thank the people that came down to speak for Al's seat, and as we sort of apropos we head into the Fourth of July Week in which not only will be have cookouts and family time, but we will celebrate the freedoms that we enjoy in this country in the 241 year history of our country. I think it is really neat that on the meeting last before that we had 11 people come down here who want to actively participate in our system of government here locally. It was a pleasure to hear from all of you and wish each of you the best of luck. I hope everybody has a safe Fourth of July.

Councilmember Mayfield said to echo Ms. Lyles with Camp Ignite, I had the opportunity on Friday to actually attend the graduation and to stay a few minutes to talk to the young women of which some now recognize that there is a career in firefighting ahead of them. I also recognize that no, this is not the career for me, which is the whole purpose of the training; you think about fire training as a 26-week long training. They had this training in a week, which was a snapshot of multiple challenges but more than anything else what you saw was a level of friendship and relationship and empowerment. To be in that room of all, outside of the parents, of all young women to have our female firefighters that were there, we still have work to do, work is going to be done, but we must give credit where credit is due, and the program I'm thankful that it was one of our Chiefs who went off, saw this program and brought it back to Charlotte as a female leader and now Fayetteville is looking at how do they expand the program.

I also want to share that on Saturday afternoon there was the Stop the Killing Mass Unity Rally at New Macedonia of Faith Church and a lot of the people in the community; a lot of my colleagues on this Council know the work from the 90s of Reverend Barnette when we had over hundred plus killings in our community and we remember the little black, white, and red stickers that said Stop The Killing and Stop the Violence, so there is a charge again to reinvigorate, and we are probably going to be hearing from Reverend Barnette both the City and the County, because back in the 90s it was the City and the County that put funding together to go out and really do on the street grassroots connectivity and work, but there is also a call for us to put up signs at our local barber shops and to really reengage out community very differently and for African American men specifically to stand up and show up in your community. He has a goal of a thousand black men signing on a petition that basically is to commit to taking back their community and taking back the role of leaders and being able to address some of the concerns that we are seeing. There is not a one fits all; it is not an officer on every corner. It is a combination, so for the community to be leading the conversation we have to figure out government a way that we

can encourage and/or support. We are not going to always be able to fund every project; the reality is we don't have the funding for it, but there are some things that we will be able to do and we are going to need to do in partnership with our other local bodies, but I wanted to thank Reverend Barnette also thank Commissioner Ella Scarborough. She was the speaker of the day for the event to help kick it off. Thank you for continuing to show up and please keep your Council engaged because a lot of my colleagues did not know the event was happening. I learned late Thursday evening, so I emailed it, but as soon as you have something in the community, you are interested in doing email us as soon as you can so that we can at least attempt to get it on our calendars for this is the time of year where we are going to have a lot of conflicts, but at least give us the chance to show up. We can't be everywhere; we are not going to say we are going to be everywhere, but we will try to be in as many places as we can.

For all my colleagues that are getting ready to travel, save travels. Julie have an amazing time with your baby girl and meeting up with the family for all those in the community that may be traveling for the holiday, please take that vacation time because that will be one less neighborhood meeting for me. I appreciate my colleagues and want all of you to stay safe.

* * * * *

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell, seconded by Councilmember Mayfield, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.
--

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.



Stephanie C. Kelly, City Clerk, MMC, NCCMC

Length of Meeting: 4 Hours, 46 Minutes
Minutes Completed: July 7, 2017