

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina convened for an Action Review Session on Monday, May 14, 2018 at 4:06 p.m. in Room 267 of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center with Mayor Vi Lyles presiding. Councilmembers present were Tariq Bokhari, Ed Driggs, Larken Egleston, Julie Eiselt, LaWana Mayfield, Matt Newton, and Braxton Winston II.

ABSENT: Councilmember James Mitchell

ABSENT UNTIL NOTED: Councilmembers Dimple Ajmera, Justin Harlow, and Greg Phipps.

* * * * *

ACTION REVIEW

ITEM NO. 1: MAYOR AND COUNCIL CONSENT QUESTIONS

Danny Pleasant, Assistant City Manager said I would like to draw your attention to Consent Item No. 17; it has a slight change in it. It deals with the annual allocation of Federal Housing and Community Development Grants that come to the City. Staff revised the item on Friday; there is a revised version at your place, and there is also electronic version that has been revised before you as well. The changes are good news; we were notified by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development or HUD that they have allocated a little more than a million dollars across four grant categories for us, so that is revised and in your Consent Agenda for Item No. 17.

Councilmember Ajmera arrived at 4:07 p.m.

Mayor Lyles said in the second bullet under Explanation it says in FY 2019 the City anticipates receiving a total of- Is that the number that changed?

Mr. Pleasant said that is the number that changed and that is spread across four categories.

Mayor Lyles said what is the total number and we can get the categorical numbers?

Mr. Pleasant said it is about \$12,200,000 maybe a little more than that.

Mayor Lyles said our Block Grant money is going up more than we had when they sent out the agenda. We can talk about how that will be allocated across the four programmatic areas at our Budget meeting. Have they already been designated by the program areas, because that would mean things like the aids housing would go up a little bit. It spreads across emergency solutions and all of that goes up a little bit. When will we have those numbers?

Pam Wideman, Director of Housing and Neighborhood Services said we do have the specific numbers for you in each category, and I can provide those to you tonight downstairs when you approve your Annual Action Plan before you do that if you would like.

Mayor Lyles said can you put it at everybody's place, so we know what the number is and the overall increase is approximately?

Ms. Wideman said is should be in your RCA if you have a revised request for Council Action at your seat.

Mr. Pleasant said there is also a printed version at your place.

Councilmember Driggs said I have a question about Item No. 27, the Lease of City Owned Property on Seigle Avenue for \$500,000. Is that out of the current year's budget?

Marcus Jones, City Manager said yes.

Mr. Driggs said was it something that was identified and expressly approved when we adopted that budget, or what fund is it coming from?

Mr. Jones said when the current budget was approved there was \$500,000 set aside for innovation of Smart Cities.

Mr. Driggs said right so does this represent that investment?

Mr. Jones said yes sir.

Mr. Driggs said I think it looks okay; I just seeing this for the first time, and that strikes me as being not the way that is supposed to work in a Consent Item. I would like to pull it out for a separate vote please.

Councilmember Ajmera said Item No. 13 I asked this question about what are the implications about this change and any changes as a result of revenue projections?

Mr. Pleasant said Item No. 13 is one of your Public Hearings; it is an item that is anticipated in your Inner Local Agreement with the County. Anytime you are changing your water and sewer rate methodology you will have a public hearing with the Water Advisory Committee and they will be in the room today as well. I think Kim Eagle is here to speak to any revenue implications that might have.

Kim Eagle, Assistant City Manager said by way of clarification, Mr. Pleasant is correct, but this particular public hearing is required due to a change in State Legislation that dictates how we calculate capacity fees. There is no revenue implication.

* * * * *

ITEM NO. 2: AGENDA OVERVIEW

Marcus Jones, City Manager said tonight we have three presentations and our desire is to finish well within the hour. Pam Wideman will do the set up for Scaleybark South Village Development Agreement Amendment; Ron Kimble will have the Partnership for Memorial Stadium Renovation, and Assistant City Manager, Debra Campbell will have he set up for the Hospitality and Tourism Update.

* * * * *

ITEM NO.3: SCALEYBARK SOUTH VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT AMENDMENT

Pam Wideman, Director of Housing and Neighborhood Services said I want to set a little bit of context for you here, and my colleague Brad Braham is going to join me to walk through this agreement. You all will recall that on March 26, 2018 you granted an extension to the existing Scaleybark LLC Agreement. There were two outstanding items that we needed to work through; it was the Park and Ride facility, and it was the affordable housing. At this time, I'm going to invite Brad Braham up to walk through the Park and Ride facility and then I'm going to come back and update you on the affordable housing piece.

Brad Braham, City Attorney's Office said thank you for giving us the opportunity to update you on this. Many of you are likely familiar with the Scaleybark South Village Development Agreement; you voted for an extension at a recent meeting and as many of you are aware know that this has been a long road to get to this point. Much like other long roads there have been several twists and turns and quite a few potholes along the way. The good news I believe is that we are here to report that there is a light at the end of that very long tunnel, and we have some positive news which I think will lead us to the final stages of this agreement and the eventual development of this particular site.

Councilmember Phipps arrived at 4:17 p.m.

I going to be speaking generally about the development and the agreement, giving you a little background about how we got to this point, tell you where things stand today and also give you a rundown of what the recommendations that staff will have for you at the meeting on the 30th. Pam is going to join me again in just a minute to outline some of the details, with regards to the second element of this particular development that is a primary concern for the City and the Council, and that is the affordable housing aspect. The initial element that I'm going to focus on is the transit related element, which is the permanent parking facility. Let me tell you a little bit about how we got to this point for those of you who have less of a background. In 2006, the City owned two adjacent parcels of property along South Boulevard. You can see those two parcels there, and immediately adjacent to them there is a small red square or rectangle; that represents the Scaleybark Light Rail Station, to give you a context of where this is. The parcel further to the north is a piece of property that was purchased jointly with Smart Growth funds as well as dollars from the Housing Trust Fund; the parcel highlighted to the south of that is the parcel that was purchased with money from CATS as part of the original South Corridor Light Rail Project. It was the intention of the City to combine these two parcels back in 2006 and 2007 so that a master developer could come in and essentially develop the entire site as a whole, spurring economic development and providing two essential City elements along with the master development. Those are the two elements that Ms. Wideman spoke about briefly, the first of which is a permanent Park and Ride facility serving that transit station and the second was for approximately 80 affordable or workforce housing units to be incorporated directly into this development along that light rail corridor.

In addition to that there were several other improvements that the developer was required to implement. These included some streetscape improvements, linear park space and also a temporary Park and Ride facility that would be constructed immediately while the remainder of the development was under construction. When the City originally contemplated this development, multiple bids were submitted to the City and then in 2007 Scaleybark Partners LLC was selected by the City Council at the time and a sale of both properties at the same time was approved to that developer for this development. In conjunction with that, an agreement was executed by the City which included some of these elements that I just mentioned. The developer was obligated to create the temporary and then the permanent Park and Ride facility, the affordable housing units to be built and constructed incorporated into the community and some of those additional improvements. Along with those items, some additional items as you can see were required as part of the economic development portion of the community and those included several items such as residential, office space, hotel, some additional parking, as well as park space. In addition to the money that was paid to the City by the developer for the two parcels of property, as I said the developer was required to create and incorporate into the development several City specific assets: the housing units, both the temporary and permanent Park and Ride facility, some linear park space as well as several street and signage improvements. As of today, several of these elements have been completed. Amongst them, you can see and will see some specific slides about this in just a moment. The development concept has been advanced; the linear park space has been completed as well as the temporary Park and Ride facility, which has been in place and active for some time. Streetscape improvements along South Boulevard and additionally the developer partnered with the City to help establish and complete a stormwater detention facility which will serve the entirety of the eventual development. All of those items have been completed; it essentially leaves us with two primary elements that we are concerned about, and they are the two that you can see in bold at the bottom of this slide, the permanent Park and Ride facility. Again, there is a temporary facility in place now but this was in place so that the riders at the Scaleybark Station would have access to that until the eventual development became realized. Once that is done the development agreement requires that a permanent Park and Ride facility be constructed with more parking than we currently have as well as 80 units of affordable or workforce housing.

It has taken us a very long time to get to this point. For those who were listening at the beginning of my presentation you heard that this was all initiated back in 2007. There is a reason that this has taken so long and in fact there are several reasons that it has taken this long. The primary amongst those reasons are these. Number one, during this period we went through one of the worst economic downturns that this City or the nation has seen

in quite some time. That essentially rendered the economic viability of the development as a whole untenable and because many of these elements are required not to stand alone but be incorporated into a master larger flowing development, it put everything on hold. In addition to that, with regard to the affordable housing units the developer, per the original agreement, was required to submit applications for tax credits in order to construct the housing units. That was done and it was done on three separate occasions in three separate years. Unfortunately, all of those attempts were unsuccessful, so the developer has been utilizing the obligations imposed upon it to try to obtain the necessary tax credits to move this thing forward. As you will see and as you have already been told many of the elements required have been completed; we are simply left with these two and now that we are out of that recession we believe that we have an entirely new field to play upon. In fact it is our position, and I think most people would agree with us that the economic conditions now are absolutely right, not just in this area, but citywide for a master development. In addition we are at a point where affordable housing, especially affordable housing along a transit route, immediately adjacent to a light rail station and especially in an area like South End has never been more needed by the City, and we are running out of options to put things like this. All the more reason we believe the time could not be more right for this exact kind of development and to move this agreement out of a longstanding stall to final completion.

As you can see on this particular slide this is a visual representation of where we were when this started and where we are today. You can see in 2007 the northern most parcel - there as well as the CATS parcel to the south, both had several preexisting obsolete structures on them all of which have been removed at this point. The linear park, which I'm going to show you more specifically, has been developed. The temporary Park and Ride on the southern parcel has been built for some time and is currently being utilized by CATS, as well as on the very most northern section of the northern parcel, you can actually see that some residential development is already underway. In other words, it is not only right for development, it is already started on this parcel, obviously in a much different position than we were when this started.

As you can see more specifically here, you can tell exactly where the CATS temporary Park and Ride was; this contains 274 spaces. The obligation for the developer in the permanent lot will have 315 spaces available for CATS or transit related riders. You can see the linear park there along South Boulevard as well as some of the additional streetscape improvements, signage and marketing materials all been completed by the developer. These were the smaller elements that had to be included as part of the development; the large one obviously still outstanding.

The original deadline from 2007 has passed; in fact, it has been extended by multiple City Councils on several occasions and most recently this particular Council extended the deadline to complete a revised agreement with the developer an additional 60-days. I can tell you that it was our intention when we asked for that, and it is our intention today that that is the final extension that we will ever offer to the developer to complete the agreement that we are trying to put in place now. The question must be asked why we need a new agreement if we already have one. It is because multiple reasons; number one the initial agreement that we put in place with this developer obviously our deadlines have long expired, and they have expired for the reasons that I discussed earlier. The economic downturns, the fact that unfortunately tax credits that were sought by the developer were not able to be acquired, and now we have a situation where the deadlines have passed not once or twice, but multiple times. Why do we believe now that we can take this forward with this additional final term? During the period that the Council has offered us City staff and the developer have been working diligently negotiating the terms of what will be the structure of a final agreement that will lay out not only the terms and the framework to develop these final two items but also to provide a specific and enforceable timeline with deadlines that will allow us a very, very specific continuum on which we can gauge the success of the developer and determine exactly when we can expect these items to be completed. More importantly and more specifically the agreements that we had in 2007 were not strong in the City's interest. These agreements were spread out among multiple different documents; there was a lack of clarity; they were unclear as to many of the terms. It is our intention to try to revise all those agreements into a single, much more

clear, much more precise document that defines with clarity the obligations of both the developer and the City with regard to delivering the final items, and in fact the new agreement tries to do something where we believe the old agreement failed, and that was to provide legally enforceable remedies empowering the City to realize this vision in a way that we can hold the developer to task. In fact, a better way to say it is we desperately needed an agreement with teeth. We didn't have it before; we believe we can have it now. Our new agreement will specifically offer several remedies to the City that will allow us, if for any reason, the developer is unable or unwilling to construct and complete the final obligations that the City's interest and investment will finally be fully protected.

What will this update actually cover? With regards to the CATS property, the updated agreement is going to cover some specific things. As I mentioned the temporary facility has already been completed, bus bays have been built and in utilization now, but the outstanding items are going to be covered with regard to the CATS specific elements that a final permanent parking facility of some type, either in a new existing lot or an expanded lot or as part of a parking deck structure. It will contain a dedicated 315 parking spaces for transit riders for the Scaleybark Station. In addition, the City will maintain full control over the location of those spaces within a parking structure as well as the ability to secure those spaces. The bus bays will either be maintained or reconstructed in conjunction location wise with the new facility and finally if for any reason construction of a master site removes the existing structure the developer will be obligated to construct a second temporary facility in the interim so that parking for the Scaleybark Station will not be interrupted in the interim.

Following that March 26, 2018 extension, as I said, City staff and developer went through several options about how to achieve these final items. We discussed three separate possibilities about how to move forward. The options that were provided to us with regard to the CATS parking elements essentially were very similar in several regards. First, all three provided for the obligation upon the developer to include some structure with 315 dedicated and protected parking spaces for our transit riders. The location of exactly where that structure would be and the type of facility varied from option to option but the CATS structure was included in all of the proposals.

Through the negotiation process we believe that we have arrived at a proposal, which is not only acceptable and beneficial to the developer; we believe it is vastly more advantageous to the City than what we have currently had in the past, as well as the community at large. In fact, I can say that for the first time in several years we have reason to be very excited about this development and the likelihood that this development will finally be realized with the elements that were agreed to so long ago. As part of that final agreement, we will come before you as part of an RCA on the 30th and ask for your action to approve a final agreement with the terms to be negotiated by the City Manager's Office but with some very specific terms, and I want to outline the CATS portion of those to you now. First of all as part of that agreement the developer will be required to either extend the existing structure, develop a new structure either in a lot or a permanent deck to accommodate the 315 dedicated and protected transit spaces for the Scaleybark Station. That is to be completed within two-years of any necessary sewer capacity being established to the site. So, what does that mean exactly? If we build a parking lot you don't need sewer capacity; if however this is part of an integrated parking structure or deck sewer capacity becomes necessary for certain structures of that type. We believe based upon communications with the City's Utility Department that that is not only imminent is it very shortly in the works and it is our consensus at this point that within the period probably mid 2019 sewer capacity should be realized. That gives you some sense of the timeframe we believe these elements, not to be started, but to be completed within that period. In addition I've already mentioned that the City would maintain control over the spaces to a deep degree both in regard to location as well as the management and security of those spaces. As I mentioned a minute ago for the first time, the City will implement several specific legal remedies into the contract which currently do not exist. Some of these that I have specifically pointed out here are the remedies of specific performance, in other words allowing us to seek a judicial obligation upon the developer to finalize what they have promised to do, to construct the spaces. Secondarily, there will be monetary penalties for any losses that the City suffers in regard to the final performance or

lack thereof of the construction of the parking facility, and finally we will include for the first time a reversionary provision allowing the City to get back the property that it needs if for any reason we believe that these spaces won't be constructed or cannot be constructed for any other reason. These are the penalties that have not existed up to this point; these are the penalties that we have included and that the developer has consented to in terms and we believe if we are allowed to go ahead and finalize this agreement, these are the elements which will allow this thing to come to final conclusion if we have any more problems along the way, including some of the issues we suffered up to this point such as additional economic downturns or unforeseen obstacles. Pam Wideman is going to come back and talk about the affordable housing elements of this and at that close of that presentation I'm certainly going to open it up to any questions that you have regarding the CATS elements, the background of the agreement or any of the legal remedies that we are trying to incorporate into a final agreement.

Councilmember Bokhari said let me make sure I understood this; 11-years ago we sold 16-acres and gave multimillions of dollars in housing subsidy to a developer who went after the most competitive 9% money, didn't get it and we had no deal in place for them to go after a tract, other less competitive money. The great recession which occurred about 10-years ago now has put us back in a great spot to renegotiate all of the terms we originally negotiated when we actually had leverage and now with 10 or 11-years of property values sky rocketing, given the fact the light rail and growth and everything else and the growth that has happened there in another month we are going to see new terms and deals for something that was just poorly done and followed through 11-years ago. Am I following that following right?

Mr. Branham said I believe to state it concisely the deal that we had originally was not the best deal. It had a very good vision; it had opportunities to become a very good product. Unforeseen circumstances and some that perhaps could have been foreseen derailed many of the elements of this. It is our goal at this point to try to fix or tweak what needed to be fixed or tweaked so that we end up realizing the vision that was originally put forth as part of this project. It is our hope to plug those very holes that you bring up. We believe firmly that we can do that in negotiations or discussions with a very eager developer have been extremely fruitful, and we can say now firmly that I can see the path forward and not just the path forward but the finish line. We are hopeful that the fixes that need to be implemented here are serious but minor. The vision remains good and the City, as you mentioned, although the values have sky rocketed we still have in place the ability to realize even with these higher value properties, the same vision under the same essential terms that we originally put forth to this developer, but we do need to plug some of these holes. That is the very reason we are working to do this.

Mr. Bokhari said on this deal I would just appreciate a side by side view of what was originally negotiated and what the new negotiated terms are given property value fluctuations, given haziness of the original deal, what those changes are point by point and then for the Manager I would ask that we look around and make sure how many other deals might be out there that haven't hit our radar that were poorly negotiated a decade ago that we are waiting for the news to break or to see in the Observer to actually be on our radar so we can get ahead of the curve. If we did one like this, I've got to imagine we did many like this.

Councilmember Driggs said I have been following this for about a year, and I will tell you I appreciate the idea that we now want a tight contractual structure in order not to allow this to happen. I think there is an undercurrent here of a suggestion that the developer was somehow responsible for a lot of this, and I have to object to that. I just want to push back alright from the way you are talking and all of this it is like they are not going to do that to us again, and we all have responsibility for this. We didn't get the tax credits. The City clung to an idea of trying to realize the sort of affordability that you can get from a 9% credit when we didn't have the 9% credit. There were a lot of parties involved in this, and over the past year the time it has taken to get to this point is largely on us, so I really just want to say I like the idea of the tight contract; I hope we can get away from the suggestion that the history of this thing points in one direction. My question is these remedies you are

talking about apply and for that matter the whole contract actually applied to the parking deck, right? I think we are going to hear another story about the housing.

Mr. Branham said that is absolutely correct and let me say a very good point has been made. The results that got us to where we are today were very much a result of an agreement which was somewhat unclear, an agreement that was both negotiated and drafted by the City. The obstacles that arose that derailed much of this vision were truly outside of the control of the developer of the City. Essentially, they weren't contemplated but a developer in this particular case who absolutely fulfilled their obligations to construct some of the elements that were required as we showed, as well as seeking to fulfill the larger obligations primarily the affordable housing by seeking those tax credits, and it is important as Mr. Driggs has said, to not forget that. You have a developer who has attempted to live up to the spirit and obligations under a contract which again was not entirely clear as to all of the items that were put upon that developer or the City, but remains committed to fulfilling the vision and the obligations now and has been nothing but a cooperative partner in the ongoing negotiations.

Mr. Driggs said I appreciate the clarification; thank you.

Councilmember Eiselt said I would like to know the flip side of the scenario if we can't close this deal. On the housing project status it says public financing likely required. Was public financing going to be required and how much was it going to be originally, how much now are we looking at?

Mr. Branham said I think the best way for me to respond to that is to actually turn it over to Ms. Wideman who can talk more specifically about that aspect of it.

Ms. Eiselt said that is fine and then my question is going to be what if it doesn't work; do we have the right to take back that land; what is the flip side?

Mr. Branham said from a legal standpoint the City is in a much weaker position with that regard today than we will be in if we can finalize the agreement that we are putting forth to you on the 30th. The general terms are not changing that much, but the ability to do those kinds of things if the worst case scenario were to occur for any reason strengthen quite a bit.

Ms. Wideman said let's go to the housing piece. Let me just spend a few minutes running through what the original agreement was. The original agreement the developer was to construct 80 units of affordable housing. At that time when the agreement was drafted, twenty-four of those units were going to serve households earning 30% AMI, and the remaining 56 were going to serve households earning 60% AMI. As Mr. Branham has stated that was contingent upon approval of a 9% low income housing tax credit, which we all know is very competitive. The developer partner which was CMHP (Charlotte Mecklenburg Housing Partnership) at the time; they applied in 2010, 2011 and 2014, and all three attempts they were unsuccessful at getting the 9% tax credit. The agreement as drafted stated that if they were not successful they were to pay a \$2 million penalty with a 4% per annum interest rate.

Councilmember Phipps said in view of the fact that the developer or petitioner tried three times to get the tax credit funding application, a successful one, did we ever at any point during that time go back and do a post mortem to see what was the problem with the application? Did we do anything to see why they were getting turned down and try to subsequently make improvements at the next application? Sometimes don't they get to the point of saying this is why we rejected this you need to tighten this up? Was that ever attempted in these three cases that they got turned down?

Ms. Wideman said I don't want to speak on behalf of CMHP, but what I will tell you is that we knew the qualified allocation plan, which is the application that developers have to complete in order to get a 9% tax credit. That changes annually for the most part; we know that there was some language in there about the proximity that they needed to be toward a grocery store. We know that was not the case during some of these applications,

but the Harris Teeter, as you will remember, is developed there now. That was one of the big reasons why they did not receive 9% tax credits on at least two of the tries. Some of it was about not being clear about where the parking facility would be.

Since your March 26, 2018 extension, staff, as Mr. Driggs has pointed out, this is a triparty agreement so staff with Cherokee and Peter Pappas, which is Scaleybark LLC, we have discussed three scenarios. I won't read these to you; I will just talk about them briefly. Basically, it is to provide a standalone 80-unit workforce housing development, with the unit mix to be determined. In that scenario, the thinking was that Pappas Properties would do it; that is not their business and that is not the original intent of the agreement. The second one is to deed a parcel of land to the City to work with a partner to develop and then the third one was to pay the monetary penalty. We have collectively agreed to pursue number two, so let's talk about number two. We have worked through some details of how that would play out. We would make sure that the land they are going to deed us, the 2.3 acres, number one is enough to build a minimum of 80-units and that it appraised at least \$2.4 million. That is where we are not in terms of the original money invested and what the interest rate would be. If the appraisal value is less than the \$2.4 million we tried to plan for that as well. The company would agree to pay the difference, or if it is more than 10% less we would agree to have a second appraisal, so we would collectively agree to have a second appraisal. This would be a standard City appraisal where the City would agree and Cherokee and Pappas would agree to who the appraiser contractor is, then we would equally share the costs of that second appraisal if we need to go there.

The land must be unencumbered; that is really important. We don't want to receive a piece of property that has liens or other encumbrances on there. That will insure that it can be developed; the units will be restricted to households earning 80% and below. We believe that is a great option along the transit line. The developer has insured as a reasonable cooperation to facilitate the installation to get to the detention pond that is necessary. Any easements required for construction we would agree to allow the developer to have access to do the construction. The architectural renderings; this is really important; those would meet the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency requirements and any local requirements. They would not need any additional approvals from Scaleybark LLC and then the City would agree that we have no interest in Block C.

With that said the next steps we plan to be back in front of you on May 30, 2018 to ask you all to take action on the amended agreement with Scaleybark Partners, LLC and then authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute any of those agreements.

Councilmember Ajmera said could you go back to Page 6, original agreement, the third bullet point; has this penalty been paid?

Ms. Wideman said the penalty has not been paid at this point. It is our belief that the affordable housing along the transit line is more important than paying the penalty. We actually want to see the units, which is why we are in front of you today.

Ms. Ajmera said is that why the \$2.4 million, the appraised value is less?

Ms. Wideman said if it is less than \$2.4 million.

Ms. Ajmera said when we did this original agreement did we ask the developer to specifically pursue 9% or was that just developer's decision to pursue only 9%, so that was the normal course of business that they were going to pursue like other developers who were developing this type of housing and this time, I think what you are getting at, is that they would pursue the non-competitive tool to do this.

Ms. Ajmera said so possibly 4%.

Ms. Wideman said yes ma'am.

Ms. Ajmera said looking at the recommendation so the original agreement where we had 24 units serving at 30% AMI and 56 at 60% AMI and now the recommendation is 80% AMI or below. I struggle with that.

Ms. Wideman said the purpose tonight is not to negotiate the unit mix; we understand where we are in this community and the conversations around 30% units, so we have that concern too. We know that things have changed in terms of the costs in 2007 versus where we are now in 2018, so we recognize the need to serve 30% households and we will make every attempt possible to do that, but we will do it within this environment where costs are very different.

Ms. Ajmera said I appreciate that we will try our best to get a good unit mix. In terms of this agreement that we have that potentially will come in front of us on May 20, 2018 at that time would we have the mix breakdown of how it would look; what would be 80%, what would be 60% and what would be 30% before we vote on May 30, 2018?

Ms. Wideman said what you would be doing on May 30, 2018 is finalizing a new agreement. We will make effort to have the exact unit mix by May 30, 2018; we will make every effort possible to have the exact unit mix. What I would leave with you also even if it is not 30%, and we don't know yet, remember if these units use the 4% tax credit tool they will take a voucher whether that is in Away Home family or a housing voucher, so just keep that in mind as well.

Mr. Phipps said you made mention of the fact that the original agreement was weak, and I know as a Council we wouldn't want to have our attorneys developing agreements that are weak, but are you saying that the attorneys were in agreement when that agreement was originally constructed that they thought it was weak or if the passage of time and the recession and what happened gave rise to the fact that given the environment it was weak? When it was originally crafted are you saying that it was weak? If it predates your time then I would be interested in whoever was here during that time if it was the general consensus that they thought that the initial agreement was weak.

Mr. Branham said let me answer that by saying it did predate my tenure with the City. I can't speak as to the understanding or the belief of the attorneys or anyone else in terms of City staff who may have reviewed that at the time. What I can tell you is the second part of your question I think is impactful to my answer, which is that several of these factors simply weren't contemplated. We do our very best job as attorneys to be skeptical by nature, to assume the worse things may always happen, but we can't always figure the actual events that do occur into these agreements. I think the perfect example is the recession that we had, which was extremely limiting to the development capacity of this property. It is very, very difficult for people to foresee that sort of thing and when I say it is weak it is very weak in hindsight with many of the things that have occurred which perhaps could not have been reasonably foreseen at the time.

Debra Campbell, Assistant City Manager said if I could just add, I think you heard Mr. Branham speak earlier about the challenge we had with the older agreement is we didn't have enough specificity in terms of roles and remedies. That is what we are adding to the agreement this round, where there is specific things that were not included in the last agreement. I guess the terminology of weak may not necessarily be the appropriate terminology; I think it needed some additional things added again for clarity in terms of if this doesn't happen then these are the remedies. This is what we will do as a group. I hope that clarifies it a little bit in terms of did the attorneys intentionally create a weak document, absolutely not and nor did the staff, but we wanted to make sure there was enough clarity going forward.

Councilmember Winston said the number two proposal that we are both kind of going with it says that it is going to include 70 dedicated parking spaces; would this be 70 dedicated parking spaces in that future lot, the parking deck that is being built, or is this going to be separate?

Ms. Wideman said separate. What we are trying to do is, these are my words, we are trying to allow the affordable housing to be developed as quickly as it can by itself. There could be a situation where there could be a negotiation to allow some parking in that facility, but what we want to do is create a situation where the affordable developer can go

on and deliver this and make the commitments that they would need to the finance agency and to our Planning Department around parking the development.

Mr. Winston said my follow-up to that is just knowing how difficult it is in this environment and in this area to build diverse price point housing and knowing how expensive parking is being that we are right across the street from a train station and trying to rethink TOD with a huge public parking deck going on literally adjacent to this property I just question the wisdom of potentially spending more money on more parking. It is just a drain on resources and money to do that.

Ms. Wideman said if they use a state tool, the state requires some level of parking so we will meet those parking requirements.

Mr. Winston said we couldn't do that through public parking?

Ms. Wideman said it is complex Mr. Winston; we could but we want to provide you with a situation where these units can be built no matter whether it is a deck or spaces.

Ms. Eiselt said I guess I still go back to my original question. I'm not really sure what we are getting except that now we are going to pay for the affordable housing and the developer is not and under the old scenario the developer was plus 315 parking spots and now; it was a sweet deal, 16-acres that is a lot of land, so I would like to know if we let this thing fall apart what is the rest of the land left over? How much of it could we get back? I really see an analysis financially of what –

Mayor Lyles said I think Mr. Bokhari asked for that earlier side by side.

Ms. Eiselt said what do we have to put into this to the point of- We can't really answer the mix right now, but we could answer it was all 80% what would it cost us so it was 24 at 30% what would that cost us. We have to know what this is costing us versus whatever the penalties are to let this thing fall apart.

Ms. Wideman said we will bring you back that is analysis, and I know time is of the essence for you all; you have a few more items, but I just want to be clear and say that the original agreement under the original agreement you were always going to come back and put some Trust Fund dollars in it so the developer was never going to build this himself.

Ms. Eiselt said okay; that is just not in here, so I think I'm just a little bit unsure of what it is we are looking at.

Mr. Driggs said I just wanted to clarify 11-years the guy bought some land and paid for it with strings attached, right. One of the conditions was that these applications would be submitted and they were and another condition was that if they were unsuccessful, the developer had the right to pay \$2 million plus interest and was thereby relieved of any obligation for affordable housing. The affordable housing was always going to happen in partnership with the Housing Partnership or another affordable housing developer so we are no worse off. Our only choice right now is whether we take the cash or whether we take the land in effect. We are not releasing the developer from any liability the developer has, we are taking land in lieu of their \$2.4 million obligation and we are making sure that it is equivalent in value to that. I would like to see the next slide please. Is the developer liable for the 80% AMI levels or below or is that simply our intention?

Ms. Wideman said that is our intention to have units that serve households earning 80% and below.

Mr. Driggs said that is not part of the terms with the deal with the developer; they provide the land and they are not liable for the affordability of what happens there after that, we are.

Ms. Wideman said that is correct.

Mr. Driggs said working with the Housing Partnership so what we are saying here is that they have to provide unencumbered and a couple of these points are actually obligations there and others are really just our intention but not necessarily contractual. It would be helpful if you could break those out more clearly when we go to finalize it and approve it.

Councilmember Egleston said I will support what Mr. Winston is saying, which is if we could legally meet the parking requirements through additional spots that are dedicated and preserved for residents that would seemingly be cheaper per space than trying to build an entirely independent set of parking. My question is really the slide that said the \$2 million penalty, 4% annual interest I presume in that original contract what was the date set where they were supposed to have secured the LIHRCs credits?

Ms. Wideman said they were to have three tries and it was December 31, 2017 I believe was the date that they were to have secured. That was their third try.

Mr. Egleston said so we gave them 10-years in the original deal to secure those tax credits.

Ms. Wideman said correct because we knew that they were competitive and we knew that they would need at least three tries.

Mr. Egleston said okay, I was assuming that the date was earlier than that and was trying to do the interest math but thank you.

Mayor Lyles said Mr. Manager; what I hear is that we need to get this agreement out so that people can see the comparison and what is legally required and what is being negotiated and note those things.

Mr. Jones said I just want to make sure that everybody is clear, and it is that slide with those three points. As Mr. Driggs has mentioned earlier the developer has fulfilled his requirements so this was something that was proposed three ways to get to the finish line if you will. The first one included the current developer which my understanding is because he has fulfilled the requirement right now he is not interested in developing units.

Councilmember Harlow arrived at 5:05 p.m.

Ms. Wideman said correct.

Mr. Jones said that leaves us two options; one option is option two that the City takes a partial land, and we find a developer to develop the units whatever the units are, whether it is 80 or 100 units. This is something the City would have engaged with a developer and it is more than likely Housing Trust Fund dollars would have to be used for this to occur or to take the penalty, the \$2.4 million which we can do side by sides for you which right now it does not appear that option three is an option that would just result in the City giving \$2.4 million and that is the kind of side by side that we would like to give you prior to you voting on anything on the 30th.

Mr. Bokhari said so, 11-years ago the plan was to get; was it 2.31 acres at the time or has that changed over time?

Ms. Wideman said it was always to do 80-units, so that equates to about 2.3 acres, and it was to always do with the non-profit CMHP.

Mr. Bokhari said forgetting about past and the history of the timing, which I would like to hear more about that off line, my assumption is the value of that land 11-years ago is a far cry from the value of it today, so that is really what the negotiation is about right. I would assume all things being equal, we would get that amount of land; I don't know if you have recently updated these to have the value appraisal at \$2.4 million or if that was the amount at the time, but I would like to hear more about that off line to make sure.

Mayor Lyles said the \$2.4 is kind of like the amount he would owe which if you give him two choices and it is like one is \$3 million and one is \$2.4 million to get out with the monetary payment a developer would likely go with the lesser amount.

Mr. Bokhari said is that appraisal on today's terms?

Ms. Wideman said we are getting the appraisal.

Mayor Lyles said I think this is a very difficult experience, and it is really hard to look and most of us don't remember the recession and how people were moving out of subdivisions and all of the empty houses that they vacated and projects not done. We are fortunate enough to recover,, and we are in a situation where that recovery can sometimes give you rosier view than what was negotiated years ago. So it is unfortunate and fortunate. We will get the side by side comparison; just remember it has been 11-years times were different, and no matter what I think the real key question here is do we want to try to have some affordable housing along one of our transit lines and are we going to make that happen? I think parking is an issue and all of those things and how you do that, but I think first you have to kind of decide are you just going to take some money and do something or are you going to take an opportunity to actually put some affordable housing even with an agreement like this that has to be worked out.

Ms. Ajmera said even with the last option we have paying the monetary value; we as a Council could decide to put that money aside for affordable housing, is that correct.

Mr. Jones said yes.

Ms. Ajmera said just wanted to make sure that is an option that we still have.

Mayor Lyles said let me go back and say it is not as clear and neat as that. I would say that is not going to be an option that you could just end up with \$2.4 million going into housing. This might be one of those things that we want to have another briefing on for the Council so that we can make sure that everybody is using the same language.

* * * * *

ITEM NO. 4: CITY/COUNTY PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL FOR MEMORIAL STADIUM RENOVATION

Due to time constraints, this item was moved in the agenda to be presented during the City Manager's Report; however, time prevented the presentation during this meeting. The proposal was presented to Council at the June 4, 2018 Strategy Session.

* * * * *

ITEM NO. 5: HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM UPDATE

Tom Murray, Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority said I am going to talk a little bit about the role of the Hospitality and Tourism investments in growing jobs and economic impact in our community then I will turn it over to Mr. Kimble who is going to explain about the hospitality and tourism tax revenues their expenditures and their restricted uses and then I will discuss current and potential future hospitality and tourism investments. The visitor economy is a huge economy in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. We welcome 26 million annual visitors; they spend \$6.5 billion in the region including \$5 billion just in Mecklenburg County. There are more than 124,000 people in the hospitality and leisure industry that work in the visitor economy, and they are spending supports 63,000 additional jobs. We say this often, and I've heard many of you say it as well so one in nine people in our community work in the hospitality industry.

Why do we have tourism taxes? Tourism taxes support the jobs and the economy as we just pointed out. It also avoids using general fund revenue to support tourism related activities we've also had historically strong support from the tourism industry, the private

sector industry and being taxed as long as those taxes are used to advance the tourism industry and the hospitality economy. We also know some of the work we do has incredible strong return on investment and has great positive effect on our community. In fact, recently we did a study I've shared with some of you that for every dollar we spend and pay media somebody who sees our ad who wasn't going to come to Charlotte before now comes to Charlotte, spends \$115 in our market place generating \$6 in the same taxes that it would spend \$1 in marketing. It is an incredible return on investment, and we know that it works well.

Ron Kimble, City Manager's Office said it is my pleasure to come and talk to you briefly about how these funds arise, the different categories in which they must be spent and let us you know that these are statutorily restricted revenues that must be used for hospitality and tourism purposes. They are predominantly our four what we call buckets of revenue that accrue from hospitality and tourism taxes. We categorize them as the tourism one fund, tourism two, the Convention Center Fund and the NASCAR Hall of Fame Complex Fund, and again you can see what makes up each of the revenue flows that are in each one of these categories. It is important to know that we have to keep them in those categories and spend them for the purposes that are in the legislation that have been approved the State Legislature authorizing the County to levy these taxes. The County levies these taxes and then the County passes them on to us, very important flow from State to County to local to us.

Some of the projects that have been funded over the years by past City Councils making decisions about investments: Ovens and Bojangles, Bank of America Stadium, the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center, the Bachler Art Museum, the NASCAR Hall of Fame, the Gantt Center, The Mint, the BB&T Ballpark, the Spectrum Center, the Knight Theater, the Convention Center, all of these are past decisions the Councilmembers have made in concert with the Legislation that restricts these funds for the purposes that have been described.

Here is another chart and although this is in front of you in the PowerPoint presentation that we have given to you; again looking at the year in which the taxes were passed and the specific projects that we've allocated these funds to over the years. You have spent wisely, you have spent and invested strategically, you've invested where you get the greatest return on the input of the revenues for the assets built, and I would say that past City Councils have been extremely successful in creating return on investment, not only of hospitality future revenue flows, but when you invest in these assets there are also sales tax dollars that visitors spend, and those accrue back to the General Fund and to the County's General Fund, which allow you to fund the other basic services of Police and Fire and Sanitation and roads, and some of those sales taxes accrue back to County and back to the six towns that also get a cut of the sales tax in our region.

What are some of the projects that are on the future five-year schedule that are having reserves and allocation of these future revenue dollars and the current affordability that is built into the debt model? Again you can see in the Tourism I fund, these are allocated to coliseums, arts and cultural facilities and to visitor spending for marketing to bring leisure tourism into our communities. We have on the drawing board in the next five fiscal years allocations for Discovery Place, because as you know they are going through a master plan process right now. They will be back in front of you either at the end of this calendar year or the beginning of next calendar year. The Spectrum Center is an agreement and a partnership with the Hornets and the CRVA and the City. They get five-year bites at the apple to look at what they would like to propose as improvements to the Arena; we want to see improvements to the Arena too because it hosts not only The Hornets, but involves about 205 events per year that are hosted in the Spectrum Center. The Blumenthal Performing Arts Center; its 25 year anniversary is this year. They have not had substantial improvements and upgrades to their facilities in those 25-years. They also want to expand the facility on the front of the facility and bring it out to the sidewalk. There are allocations in the Tourism I fund and in the Tourism II fund, which also can be used for arts and cultural facilities to bring forward improvements to The Blumenthal. Many of these are public/private partnerships. The Blumenthal will be asking for a reservation of funds, but they also intent to raise private monies to pay for part of these improvements, so they

become very important public/private partnerships. As you know the Levine Center for the Arts was built seven years ago; opened in 2010 and 2011. As those facilities age they are going to need a little more annual maintenance and capital spend on those. We've allocated those dollars in this model.

The Convention Center, the one where the most revenue dollars passed through the Convention Center fund, you know that you have approved Phase I of the Convention Center and it will come back to you for the final vote in the fall of this year for the \$110 million improvement along Stonewall Street that will build more meeting rooms and then connect to the Westin Hotel across the top of Stonewall Street. We also have had conversations with you, with the community that have been in media regarding the need for a 1,000 room hotel, a Convention Center Hotel in this community that would raise all tides and raise all boats in the hospitality industry and bring new bigger conventions to Charlotte. Our competition in Nashville, in Indianapolis, in Louisville, in Fort Worth, in Austin are building and partnering on these 1,000 room hotels, and we've got to make sure that we stay competitive in the market place. There will be an action coming to you sometime this summer regarding the opportunity to partner on an upgrade to the Convention Center that will also involve the possibility of a new 1,000 room hotel adjacent to the Convention Center. There is a UNC-Charlotte Conference Center that is in the works; it is on your zoning agenda for the public hearing coming up in June. This would be a Conference Center at J. W. Clay on the light rail stop on the front door of the University, and it would be about a \$90 million facility that needs some GAP financing to help it get over the finish line, but it will connect technologically the Convention Center uptown, the Campus Building uptown and the University Campus at this Conference Center where you can host video conferencing and the ability to have all three facilities participating in conferences and conventions of academic conferences that we haven't yet been able to recruit and have come to Charlotte region.

Councilmember Mayfield said Mr. Kimble, just for clarification because I'm trying to understand, and I know we've talked about it for a while, the 1,000 room hotel, but I'm trying to understand why would that be an opportunity for Charlotte to participate in when we have hotels built every day and they are built through the private sector? So, why just because of its location and proximity to the Convention Center why we would identify hospitality and tourism dollars to build a hotel when we have hotels being built all over this City that benefit the Airport and so many others?

Mr. Kimble said the key feature of a 1,000 room hotel is to be able for the Charlotte Regional Visitor's Authority to get substantial room blocks, 700 and 800 room blocks that they can allocate to upcoming conventions that they can lure to this market. You are not going to be able to have a hotel be able to meet its bottom line rate of return on its bottom line if they know that three-years out they've got to make sure that room blocks of rooms to attract the biggest and best conventions to Charlotte and compete with the rest of the market place communities. They are also partnering in those other communities with substantial dollars layered in with assets like meeting rooms, flex space in those hotels; it becomes the marriage of the Convention Center and that hotel to get the things that are part of the landscape and what convention centers need to grow, so it become convention center growth and a hotel growth integrated into one tower facility that will allow us to move forward with better conventions in this community.

Ms. Mayfield said the follow up to my question it will be helpful to me to see a side by side of other communities, not just communities that have invested in larger hotels, but communities where because of the location the market saw the benefit in building that larger hotel. It will be helpful to see where private business has come in and built larger 800-room plus hotels without using government dollars as well as communities where government dollars have been utilized.

Mr. Kimble said we have that research and will be glad to share it with you and communities are sized in tier two convention center market places they have to step up this way in order to make those 1,000 room hotels occur in their communities and we have that research and will share it with you.

Ms. Mayfield said as long as we have the research for both sides.

Mr. Kimble said we do.

Councilmember Winston said I have a bit of anecdotal I guess evidence here. I do work in this industry, and I can tell you I started working in Charlotte in 2004 and some of the conventions that we used to get we don't get anymore, because we haven't been able to grow. We are working from behind when it comes to our Convention Center space and we experience the type of way a hotel and Convention Center can work just this past spring or winter when we went up to NLC. These are things that are required and not just things that you would like to have if you want to continue to be a destination City you need to have a hotel convention center. I know our Convention Center technically is not that old but right after it went on line I know Denver opened one that was twice as big, so we are competing against all of those cities. This is going to be a big investment but I can tell you that Convention Center is going to be a no brainer.

Mr. Kimble said thank you and to this Council's credit the investment of \$110 million on the Stonewall side of the Convention Center is hugely important and the next big important one is a Convention Center hotel of nearly 1,000 rooms.

Councilmember Driggs said I just wanted to say, the rational you are talking about is we make a facility investment in the hotel that leverages increased utilization of our other facilities in tourism. I'm interested to see how that kind of cash flows and also to know the terms of the partnership with the private sector owners so that they are not profiting unduly from the public money that is in that venture.

Mr. Kimble said we will be glad to share with you the internal rates of return numbers that we are targeting and how we do the analysis to make sure that they need that gap in order to be successful.

Mr. Kimble continued his presentation with Amateur Sports partnerships and said we've heard about some of these but I will tell you baseball, softball, tennis, indoor amateur sports are still on the front burner. There are still groups coming to us periodically with proposals; we are vetting those proposals, and you may see more of these in the next year or two coming and hitting your dais. Do I need to say too much more about Bank of America Stadium upgrades? The current agreement runs through June 30, 2023; it was a 10-year agreement. The first five-years had all the improvements in them, but the agreement runs out June 30, 2023. We've got to make sure that we are looking at how a partnership of the future with a new owner would take shape and take form over the next year or two to determine what the landscape looks like post June 30, 2023.

Then with NASCAR that is the Hall of Fame, the 1,060 space parking deck and the Crown Ball Room are all part of the NASCAR Hall of Fame Complex that are dedicate 2% hotel/motel occupancy tax for the NASCAR Hall of Fame Complex.

Mr. Driggs said on the Stadium some people are suggesting that this deal is already in the works and that amounts are already being discussed, so I would just like to take the opportunity to clarify that we don't know the terms yet. We don't even know the buyer yet so we are prepared for an ask of some kind but we don't know what it is. Is that a fair statement?

Mr. Kimble said that is an exactly right statement. It is economic engine; the Hospitality and Tourism taxes are used to attract visitors, and there are important future investments that will come to you, because you are the ultimate determiner of the priorities for the use of these funds.

* * * * *

ITEM NO. 6: ANSWERS TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL CONSENT ITEM QUESTIONS

There were no outstanding Consent item questions.

* * * * *

ITEM NO. 7: CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session.

* * * * *

OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Lyles discussed the sequence for the subsequent Business meeting.

* * * * *

COUNCIL BUDGET PROCESS

Mayor Lyles passed out a memo titled Budget Public Hearing Procedures. The Mayor and City Council members discussed the schedule and procedures they will use to consider and make adjustments to the Manager’s Proposed FY2019 Budget. The Council had full discussion of the process at the conclusion of the Business meeting.

* * * * *

The meeting was recessed at 5:36 p.m. to move to the Meeting Chambers 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, May 14, 2018 at 5:42 p.m. in the Meeting Chamber of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center with Mayor Vi Lyles presiding. Councilmembers present were Dimple Ajmera, Tariq Bokhari, Ed Driggs, Larken Egleston, Julie Eiselt, Justin Harlow, LaWana Mayfield, Matt Newton, Greg Phipps, and Braxton Winston, II.

ABSENT: Councilmember James Mitchell.

* * * * *

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

The Invocation was given by Councilmember Winston followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

* * * * *

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

ITEM NO. 9: SALVATION ARMY WEEK PROCLAMATION

Councilmember Egleston read the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, The Salvation Army of Greater Charlotte joins out city’s leadership in envisioning a community where every person has the opportunity, hope and dignity he or she deserves; and

WHEREAS, The Salvation Army has been active in this community since 1904, providing emergency shelter for women and children, and housing programs to help families gete back on their feet; Boys & Girls Clubs programs to help youth who need us more reach their full potential as productive citizens; disaster services assistance in the wake of tradegy, and more; and

WHEREAS, National Salvation Army Week, which is in recognition of how the Salvation Army is on the front lines, day in and day out, to help those who need us most, was first recognized by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1954, when he said, “Among Americans, The Salvation Army has long been a symbol of wholehearted dedication to the cause of

human brotherhood. In time of war, the men and women of this organization have brought to those serving their country far from home, friendliness and warm concern. In the quieter days of peace their work has been a constant reminder to us all that each of us is neighbor and kin to all Americans. Giving freely of themselves, the men and women of The Salvation Army have won the respect of us all."

WHEREAS, The Salvation Army believes that our city's future depends on what we all do in the present, and that "being there" today is the only way we can change tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, The Salvation Army encourage all individuals in our community to get involved and make a difference and help speak hope into the lives of people who need us most:

NOW, THEREFORE, I Vi Alexander Lyles, Mayor of Charlotte, to hereby proclaim May 14-18, 2018 as

"SALVATION ARMY WEEK"

in Charlotte and commend its observance to all citizens.

* * * * *

ITEM NO. 10: MECKLENBURG DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WEEK

Councilmember Bokhari said as we approach our 250th anniversary of our Great City, it is a great opportunity for us to look at our past the good and the bad and understand how it is has created our present and how it will inform our future, so I have the great honor of reading a proclamation as part of that pack. May 20, 2018 has been an important milestone in this City's history from civil rights perspective, as well as our own Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence so I will read:

WHEREAS, on May 19, 1775, Charlotte Town's founder, Colonel Thomas Polk, called for a convention of the Mecklenburg County militia leaders to be held in Charlotte; and

WHEREAS, those 26 men, upon hearing of the Battles of Lexington and Concord, unanimously adopted resolutions to declare themselves "*a free and independent people*" in a document that came to be known as the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence ("MecDec"), and

WHEREAS, at on May 20, 1775, Colonel Polk read the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence from the County Courthouse to the assembled citizens; and

WHEREAS, on May 31, 1775, members of the Mecklenburg Committee of Safety adopted 20 additional resolutions, which came to be known as the Mecklenburg Resolves; and

WHEREAS, a local tavern owner named Captain James Jack was called upon to deliver the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence and the Mecklenburg Resolves to North Carolina's delegates at the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, Captain Jack delivered the MecDec, telling the delegates that "Gentlemen, you may debate here about reconciliation and memorialize your king, but bear in mind, Mecklenburg owes no allegiance to, and is separated from the crown of Great Britain forever!"; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina has chosen to recognize the significance of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence by placing the date of its signing, May 20, 1775, upon our State Flag and Great Seal; and

WHEREAS, this May 20, 2018 is the 243rd anniversary of the MecDec;

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, Vi Alexandee Lyles, Mayor of Charlotte, and Ella B. Scarborough, Chair of the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim, May 14-20, 2018 as

“MECKLENBURG DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WEEK”

in Charlotte/Mecklenburg County and commend its observance to all citizens.

Mr. Bokhari said we have the wonderful former District 7 Rep, Warren Cooksey, Board Member since 2003 to accept this proclamation.

* * * * *

ITEM NO.11: ASIAN-AMERICAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

Councilmember Ajmera said as the first Asian-American elected in Mecklenburg County it is quite an honor to read this proclamation and recognize May as Asian-American/Pacific Islander Heritage Month. I see many Asian-Americans here in the room, who has paved the way for me and younger generations, and I’m grateful for your contribution, sacrifices and services to this community. After I read this proclamation, I would like to invite Dr. Chun and Dr. Galloway to accept this proclamation on behalf of the Asian-American Community. For those who do not know Dr. Chun, he is an entrepreneur and philanthropist, and has been serving our City since 1977 by establishing the first Asian church, Asian publication, and the Asian library, which holds over 130,000 books in four languages. The Library is open for community use without any charge. Dr. Chun also started Carolina Asian-American Chamber of Commerce to promote entrepreneurship among Asian Americans. For those who do not know Dr. Galloway she runs the community free clinic to serve the most vulnerable members of our community. The work of Dr. Chun and Dr. Galloway both exemplify John F. Kennedy famous words: “Ask not what your country can do for you but ask what you can do for your country”. Ms. Ajmera read the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, in 1977, Representatives Frank Horton (NY) and Norman Y. Mineta (CA) introduced a House Resolution to proclaim the first ten days of May as Asian-American Pacific American Heritage Week; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, President George H. W. Bush signed a bill passed by the United States Congress to extend the week-long celebration to a month and in 1992, the official designation of May as Asian-American/Pacific American Heritage Month became law; and

WHEREAS, Raleigh and Charlotte are home to the largest communities of Asian Pacific Americans in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, throughout history, Asian Pacific Americans have overcome diversity with strength and persistence to become leaders and trailblazers of industry and society in our nation; and

WHEREAS, the efforts and contributions of Asian Pacific Americans can be seen in every aspect of society, including education, history, politics, healthcare, economics and science, playing a pivotal role in America’s history; and

WHEREAS, Charlotte is proud to commemorate May as Asian-American/Pacific Islander Heritage Month and to recognize the contributions of Asian Pacific Americans to diversity, leadership and empowerment throughout our nation’s history:

NOW THEREFORE, I, Vi Alexander Lyles, Mayor of Charlotte, do hereby proclaim May 2018 as

“ASIAN-AMERICAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH”

in Charlotte and comment its observance to all citizens.

Mayor Lyles said we are always grateful for the opportunity to celebrate our community and the citizens that really make a difference, so thank you to everyone for what you do.

* * * * *

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Councilmember Egleston, seconded by Councilmember Driggs, and carried unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with the exception of Item No. 27, which was pulled for a separate vote, Item No. 47, which was pulled for speakers and Item No. 56, which was pulled by staff because it was settled.

The following items were approved:

Item No. 19: Police Wireless Camera Contract Amendment

(A) Approve contract amendment #5 for \$125,758 to the Hitachi Data Systems contract to provide equipment and installation services for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department wireless camera system, (B) Authorize the City manager to approve price adjustments and amend the contract consistent with the City's business needs and the purpose for which the contract was awarded, (C) Authorize the City Manager to purchase maintenance and support for as long as the City uses the system, and (D) Authorize the City Manager to purchase additional products, services, and hardware as needed from time to time to optimize the City's use of the system.

Item No. 20: Private Developer Funds Appropriation

(A) Approve a developer Agreement with RFC, LLC for traffic signal installation and improvements, and (B) Adopt Budget Ordinance No. 9324-X appropriating \$19,000 in private developer funds for traffic signal installations and improvements.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 61, at Page(s) 364.

Item No. 21: I-85 North Bridge Municipal Agreement

(A) Adopt a resolution to execute a municipal agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NC-DOT) accepting federal funding for the I-85 North Bridge Project in the amount of \$9,150,000, and (B) Adopt Budget Ordinance No. 9325-X appropriating \$9,150,000 in NC-DOT funds.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 48, at Page(s) 723-724.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 61, at Page 365.

Item No. 22: Belk Greenway Connector Phase I Municipal Agreement

(A) Adopt a resolution to execute a municipal agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NC-DOT) accepting a Surface Transportation Block Grant for pedestrian and bicycle improvements for the Belk Greenway Connector Phase I, in the amount of \$1,716,000, and (B) Adopt Budget Ordinance No. 9326-X appropriating \$1,716,000 to the General Community Investment Plan.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 48, at Page(s) 725-725V.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 61, at Page 366.

Item No. 23: Geotechnical, Construction Materials Testing, and Special Inspection Services

Approve unit price contracts with the following firms for geotechnical, construction materials testing, and special inspection services for a three-year term: AMEC Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure, Inc., ESP Associates, Inc., Kleinfelder, Inc., S&ME, Inc. and Terracon Consultants, Inc.

Item No. 24: Flooring and Related Equipment, Products, Supplies, Installation and Services

(A) Approve the purchase of flooring with related equipment, products, supplies, installation, and services from a cooperative purchase contract as authorized by G.S. 143-129(e)(3), (B) Approve a unit price contract with Office Environments, Inc. for the purchase of flooring with related equipment, products, supplies, installation, and services for a term through February 16, 2020 under National Joint Powers Alliance February 16, 2016 contracts 121715-IFA, 121715-MAC, 121715-MCD, 121715-SII and 121715TFU, and (C) Authorize the City Manager to extend the contract for one additional one-year term 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. 25: Security Guard Services for City-Owned Facilities

(A) Approve a unit price contract with Sunstates Security, LLC for security guard services for an initial term of three years, 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 City's business needs and the purpose for which the contracts were approved.

Item No. 26: Video Security and Door Access Equipment and Services

(A) Approve the purchase of video security and door access equipment and services from a cooperative purchasing contract as authorized by G.S. 143-129(e)(3), (B) Approve a unit price contract with A3 Communications, Inc. for the purchase of video security and door access equipment and services for a term of two years under National Association of State Purchasing Officials ValuePoint Master Agreement #3407, effective August 15, 2017, and (C) Authorize the City Manager to extend the contract for an additional three-year term 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. 28: McAlpine Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Centrifuge Maintenance

(A) Approve a unit price contract with Alfa Laval, Inc. for maintenance services for centrifuges located at the McAlpine Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant for an initial term of three years and (B) Authorize the City manager to renew the contract for two additional two-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 29: McAlpine Creek Wastewater Treatment Plan reliability and Process improvements Project Phase 2

Approve a contract in the amount of \$17,830,674 with Garney Companies, Inc. for Phase 2 design-build services for the McAlpine Creek Wastewater Treatment Plan Reliability and Process improvements Project.

Item No. 30: Replacement Pumps, Pump Parts, and Process Equipment

(A) Approve the purchase of Replacement Pumps, Pump Parts, and Process Equipment, as authorized by the sole source exemption of G. S. 143-129(e)(6), (B) Approve contracts with the following companies for the purchase of Replacement Pumps, Pump Parts and Process Equipment for the term of five years: Alfa Laval, Inc. , Atlas Copco Compressors, LLC, Carolina Pumpworks, LLC, Carotek, Inc., Endress & Hauser, Inc., Charles R. Underwood, Inc., Clear Water Sales, Inc., Daparak, Inc., Gardner Denver Nash, LLC, EW2 Environmental, Inc., Heyward Charlotte, Inc., JWC Environmental, LLC, Patterson Pump Company, Howden North America, Inc., dba Howden Roots, LLC, Interstate Utility Sales, Inc., Mechanical Equipment Company, Pete Duty & Associates, Inc., Premier Water LLC, EWT Holdings III Corp., dba Evoqua Water Technologies, LLC, Tencarva Machinery Company, LLC, Val Matic Valve & MFG, Xylem Water Solutions USA, Inc., and (C) Authorize the City Manager to amend the contracts consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 31: Architectural Services for Field Operations Zone 4 Facility Replacement

Approve a contract for up to \$1,263,500 with C Design, Inc. for architectural design and construction administration services for the Field Operations Zone 4 Facility Replacement Project.

Item No. 32: Charlotte Water Pavement Repair, Parking Lot Repair, and Resurfacing

(A) Award a contract in the amount of \$3,320,011.25 to the lowest responsive bidder OnSite Development, LLC for pavement repairs, parking lot repair and resurfacing, and (B) Authorize the City manager to approve up to three renewals in the amount stated above plus or minus possible price adjustments based on the Engineering New Record Construction Cost Index, and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Summary of Bids

OnSite Development, LLC*	\$3,320,011.25
--------------------------	----------------

* On March 16, 2018, the City issued an Invitation to Bid (ITB) for Pavement Repair, Parking Lot Repair, and Resurfacing; one bid was received from an interested service provider. On April 19, 2018, the ITB was re-issued; one bid was received from an interested service provider. OnSite Development, LLC was selected as the lowest responsive, responsible bidder.

Item No. 33: Purchase of Modular Office Space for Charlotte Water

(A) Approve the purchase of modular office units from a cooperative purchasing contract as authorized by G.S. 143-129(e)(3), (B) Approve a unit price contract with Aries Building Systems, LLC for the purchase of modular office units for a term of six months under Houston-Galveston Area Council of Governments Contract No. MB11-16 dated November 1, 2016, and (C) 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. 34: Blue Line Extension – Amendment to CSX Transportation Inc. Reimbursement Agreement

Approve contract amendment #4 of the Reimbursement Agreement with CSX Transportation, Inc. in the amount of \$173,717 for services related to the Blue Line Extension Project.

Item No. 35: Airport Elevation Operation, Maintenance and Equipment Contract

(A) Approve the purchase of Elevator Operations, Maintenance and Equipment from a cooperative purchasing contract as authorized by G.S. 143-129(e)(3), (B) Approve a unit price contract with Schindler Elevator Corporation for the purchase of Elevator Operations, Maintenance and Equipment for a term of one year and six months under National Joint Powers Alliance, November 2, 2016, 100516-SCH, and (C) 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. 36: Airport Asphalt Purchase and Pavement Testing Services

(A) Award a unit price contract to the lowest responsive bidder Blythe Brothers Asphalt, Company, LLC, to provide asphalt and pavement services for a term of three years, (B) approve a contract with On-Spec Engineering, PC for engineering materials testing services for an initial term of three years, and (C) Authorize the City manager to renew the contracts for up to two additional, one-year options with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contracts were approved.

Summary of Bids

Blythe Brothers Asphalt Company, LLC	\$1,202,775.00
Engineer's Estimate	\$1,000,000.00

Item No. 37: Airport General Aviation District Office Building Demolition and Abatement Services

Award a contract in the amount of \$284,500 to the lowest responsive bidder, Jones Grading & Fending, Inc. for demolition and hazardous materials abatement services at the General Aviation District Office Building.

Summary of Bids

Double D Construction Services *	\$191,915.00
Jones Grading	\$284,500.00
KMD Construction	\$309,063.00
D. H. Griffin	\$317,498.00

* Double D Construction Services was a non-responsive bidder.

Item No. 38: Airport Perimeter Fence Engineering Services

Approve a contract in the amount of \$324,500 with WSP USA Inc. for professional design services to provide engineering services for the Airport’s perimeter fence.

Item No. 39: Airport Concourse B and C Trench Drain Design Services

Approve a contract in the amount of \$253,500 with Delta Airport Consultants, Inc. for professional design services for Concourse B and C trench drains replacement.

Item No. 40: Airport Fuel farm Expansion Phase III Design Services

Approve a contract with Argus Consulting, Inc. in the amount of \$789,308 for professional design services associated with Airport Fuel farm Expansion project.

Item No. 41: Airport Joint Operations Center Design services Contract Amendment

Approve contract amendment #1 for \$329,038 to RS&H Architects-Engineers-Planners, Inc. for additional design services for the Airport Joint Operations Center.

Item No. 42: American Airlines Cargo and Warehouse Lease Extensions

(A) Approve a five-year lease extension with American Airlines for cargo facilities located at 4814 Express Drive, (B) Approve a five-year lease extension with American Airlines for cargo facilities located at 4840 Express Drive, (C) Approve a five-year lease extension with American Airlines for cargo facilities located at 4812 Express Drive, (D) Approve a five-year lease extension with American Airlines for warehouse facilities located at 4734 West Boulevard, and (D) Approve a five-year lease extension with American Airlines for Warehouse Facilities located at 5800 Tunnel Road.

Item No. 43: Cooperative Purchasing Contract for Caterpillar Generators

(A) Approve the purchase of Caterpillar Generators from a cooperating purchasing contract as authorized by G. S. 143-129(e)(3), (B) Approve a unit price contract with Carolina Tractor and Equipment Company for the purchase of Caterpillar Generators for a term of three years under the National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA) contract #120617-CAT dated January 29, 2018, and (C) 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. 44: Refund of Property Taxes

Adopt a resolution authorizing the refund of property taxes assessed through clerical or assessment error in the amount of \$28,199.10.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 48, at Page(s) 741-742.

Item No. 45: Meeting Minutes

Approve the titles, motions, and votes reflected in the Clerk’s record as the minutes of: March 26, 2018 Business Meeting, April 2, 2018 Strategy Session, April 9, 2018 Business Meeting and April 11, 2018 Budget Workshop.

PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

Item No. 46: In Rem Remedy: 915 Cantwell Street

Adopt Ordinance No. 9331-X authorizing the use of In Rem Remedy to demolish and remove the structure at 915 Cantwell Street (Neighborhood Profile Area 385.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 61, at Page(s) 391-395.

Item No. 48: In Rem Remedy: 2526 Elmin Street

Adopt Ordinance No. 9328-X authorizing the use of In Rem Remedy to demolish and remove the structure at 2526 Elmin Street (Neighborhood Profile Area 120).

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 61, at Page(s) 376-380.

Item No. 49: In Rem Remedy: 3146 Ross Avenue

Adopt Ordinance No. 9329-X authorizing the use of In Rem Remedy to demolish and remove the structure at 3146 Ross Avenue (Neighborhood Profile Area 159).

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 61, at Page(s) 381-385.

Item No. 50: In Rem Remedy: 3125 San Drenan Road Accessory Structure

Adopt Ordinance No. 9330-X authorizing the use of In Rem Remedy to demolish the structure at 31225 Sam Drenan Road Accessory Structure (Neighborhood Profile Area 370).

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 61, at Page(s) 386-390.

Item No. 51: Property Transactions – Design Maintenance Sky Drive 3921, Parcel #1

Adopt resolution of condemnation of 136 square feet (.003 acre) in Storm Drainage Easement, plus 1,538 square feet (.035 acre) in Temporary Construction Easement at 3917 Sky Drive from Yorktown Funding, Inc. for an amount to be determined for Design Maintenance Sky Drive 3921, Parcel #1.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 48, at Page(s) 743.

Item No. 52: Property Transactions – Doby Creek Sanitary Sewer

Acquisition of 25,910.8 square feet (.595 acre) in Sanitary Sewer Easement at 1000 Louise Rose Place from KMBA, LLC for \$45,225 for Doby Creek Sanitary Sewer Improvements, Parcels 2, 3 and 4.

Item No. 53: Property Transactions – Goose Creek Pump Station, Parcel #17

Acquisition of 8,266 square feet (.19 acre) in Sanitary Sewer Easement, plus 12,851 square feet (.295 acre) in Temporary Construction Easement at 16217 Thompson Road from Richard H. Speight, Jr. and Diane P. Speight for \$11,270 for Goose Creek Pump Station, Parcel #17.

Item No. 54: Property Transactions – Hinsdale – Tinkerbell Drainage Improvements, Parcel #92

Acquisition of 957.66 square (.022 acre) in Storm Drainage Easement, plus 495.3 square feet (.011 acre) in Sanitary Sewer Easement, plus 1,856.33 square feet (.043 acre) in Temporary Construction Easement, plus 119.41 square feet (.003 acre) in Sanitary Sewer Easement and Storm Drainage Easement, plus 2,182.67 square feet (.05 acre) in Existing Drainage Accepted as Storm Drainage Easement at 5918 Bellechasse Street from Peter A. Brunnick and Vicki H. Brunnick for \$27,075 for Hinsdale-Tinkerbell Drainage Improvements, Parcel #92.

Item No. 55: Property Transactions – Lincoln Heights Drainage improvements, Parcel #18

Adopt Resolution of Condemnation of 1,039.57 square feet (.024 acre) in Storm Drainage Easement, plus 569.36 square feet (.013 acre) in Temporary Construction Easement at 2123 Holly Street from Pedro Salomon Bamaca Velasquez for an amount to be determined for Lincoln Heights Drainage Improvements, Parcel #18.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 48, at Page(s) 744.

Item No. 57: Property Transactions – Wanamassa Drainage Improvements, Parcel #13

Approve Resolution of Condemnation of 526.14 square feet (.012 acre) in Storm Drainage Easement, plus 1,709.43 square feet (.039 acre) in Temporary Construction Easement at 4309 Saquache Drive from Wayne L. Bryant, Jr. and Chimere Labra Bryant for an amount to be determined for Wanamassa Drainage Improvements, Parcel #13.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 48, at Page(s) 745.

* * * * *

ITEM NO. 47: IN REM REMEDY: 2605 BOOKER AVENUE

Lord Nacap, 2605 Booker Avenue said I am the son of the late Reverend Dr. Calvin Hood and Anna M. Hood, and it is ironic that I'm speaking today about an In Rem Remedy such as my property at 2605 Booker Avenue; however, as other issues, I see this is a big meeting and a lot of folks here are talking about access to housing, and the City is seeking to tear my house down. It is an affordable unit, but in three minutes you cannot know all the facts of the case, and this is not the end for my property. There is an appeals process, so maybe in the appeals process you will become more aware of what is going on, but I can't see how the City of Charlotte is seeking to tear down a house, and we need affordable housing. As a general contractor, one of the issues they said was why did it take you so long to fix your house and I have brought along my friend to explain a little bit of why it took me so long. Basically, I want to say that I received a letter in December from Code Enforcement asking me to repair, alter, and improve my property. I got a permit in January, and all of a sudden in May, I've been working with Code Inspector Alex Gregory, and all of a sudden Code Enforcement Assistant Mr. Krise says we are going to put your house on the list. I don't see how my house when I've spent over \$15,000 since January and I do have the receipts to verify this. These are current Lowe's receipts that I've been spending, and I've been trying to fix my house so I can get out of poverty for my children. In three minutes, I can't give you all the facts but maybe in the appeals process, but this In Rem Remedy Code Enforcement process is flawed, and hopefully we will be able to examine. My property wasn't valued; they use a formula of 65% of the value of your house but that was then. Now, my house is valued at \$200,000. Gentrification is on Beatties Ford Road, Booker Avenue, so now that my house is valued at \$200,000, and 65% would be eighty some thousand dollars. The repairs are nowhere near that, so I'm saying that is an old formula; we need to update that, take a look at that, because some of your grandparents, cousins, uncles are going to be faced with this thing.

Joe Johnston, 35192 Brown Glenn Road said I am new to Charlotte, and I met Lord coaching; he is one of the world's greatest basketball coaches I came across. He is kind, he is nice, and he is a hard worker and outside of him working everyday towards his home he supports kids in the neighborhood. He volunteers 700 to 800 hours coaching and just being a good person altogether. Where I'm from, you always look out for people so he asked me to come speak in his behalf today about his character. He is a wonderful person, a hard work, and he does put in a lot of time helping out the community, West Charlotte High School, Olympic High School, and Team United so he is very helpful in a lot of things he does here in the community. I am here just to speak on Lord as a person; he is a hard worker and I've never seen a one man, superman show in my life and that is him. I hope that I helped him out as much as I can. He is dressed to impress today and I like that. I'm a chef here in Charlotte, and he likes to eat a lot, and he takes my food I'm here to support you. Whatever decision you guys come up with, I hope it is in your best interest and best heart for him; he is trying to make sure he preserves his home; he is a home grown boy here in Charlotte. I'm new to the area and it is a growing City. I love it here and he loves it here. His property is on Booker Avenue, and that is off of Beatties Ford Road. I don't know too much about Charlotte, but he speaks highly of it, and he is over there every day working hard towards his goals, and I hope he gets it accomplished with you guys help.

Councilmember Egleston said for staff, the date of inspection on this property was February 17, 2017; should I assume that is the date of the four pictures that we are looking at as far of the condition of the home or are those more recent?

Ben Krise, Code Enforcement said those are more recent photos.

Mr. Egleston said do you have a date on those?

Mr. Krise said those are less than 60-days ago. I was personally at the site last week; I met Mr. Nacap on site and visited it myself. We are willing to work with Mr. Nacap, have worked with him since February 2017, and I actually offered Mr. Nacap what we have entered into previously an item called a Consent Agreement. A Consent Agreement is an item where Mr. Nacap proposed a timeline to me in which he could finish all the repairs himself. He requested and submitted 90-days; I thought that was more than reasonable, and I accepted that and in accepting that and extending the time, part of a Consent Agreement is also the inclusion of a bond; it is the posting of a bond in the amount of the costs that the demolition will cost the City of Charlotte to execute and in this instance it is \$6,105. I asked Mr. Nacap to post that bond, and we would clearly enter the Consent Agreement, grant him 90-days, and he will be able to bring his property into compliance. Especially after working with him for 16 plus months, this creates the leverage for the City and in this instance Mr. Nacap has contested the posting of the bond and the posting of the bond only. We are again willing to work with him on time. The sole thing we are asking is the posting of the bond.

Mr. Egleston said having been there last week would you say that these pictures give an accurate depiction of the current state of the house?

Mr. Krise said yes sir, absolutely.

Councilmember Winston said I guess this is directed at my colleagues. I understand that there much be some utility to have some In Rem demolition type actions as we try to manage the City, but there is a point here about the value of the house that we are considering. I'm assuming that was the value during the last valuation period for taxes versus what is actually valued at now at a time when we are dealing with exorbitant land value increases where people are continuously being displaced and where we are a year out from the next valuation where it might say that a property like this is worth way more where that proportion is going to seriously throw this out of whack and would even put this property into the type of consideration that we are considering today. I would question the wisdom of us kind of continuing, especially in this next calendar year, of using this In Rem Remedy of demolishing homes. It just doesn't seem fair, and it sounds like a way that we cannot be complicit in some of the types of displacement that is happening Citywide so just something for our consideration.

Mayor Lyles said is the house occupied right now?

Mr. Krise said the house is not occupied. There were permits that were acquired in January, and there has not been one permit inspection done on any work since January. At this point, it is unsafe with the condition it is in. It was open and vacant the day that I was there.

Councilmember Mayfield said I agree with comments that were made by Mr. Winston; all I want to share with my Council colleagues are real time examples. If you drive through historic Camp Greene today, there have been a number of homes that have been demolished over the last seven to 10-years and vacant lots have been left there. More often than not, they become overgrown because the way our current system is set up the homeowner, if you are an absentee or a bad homeowner or a bad neighbor, isn't who is penalized. It goes on to the cost of the deed, but what is happening now because of the proximity to uptown we have a new development that has \$300,000 and \$400,000 homes. You now have these vacant lots from where we have sought to clean up a neighborhood through condemnation and through the removal of these homes and those lots are now being purchased and \$300,000 and \$400,000 homes are what is being built on them,

literally physically next door to homes that were valued at \$50,000 to \$60,000, so the balance of that is those \$50,000 and \$60,000 homes are now seeing an increase to where their values are about \$85,000 to \$90,000, so they are just now getting to the point where depending on the credit history of that homeowner they may have an opportunity to go get a loan in order to do any repairs. Otherwise, if you are doing the repairs on your own but your home was devalued to \$35,000 to \$40,000 and you had to live with that since the 2011 evaluation, you are just now seeing an increase in what could be your property value and that has only been within the last year and a half. We are having conflicting conversation; yes, looking at the pictures this home needs some major repairs to it, but I also wonder how aggressively are we supporting the idea of the partnership with Goodwill Construction and/or Realtor's Care Day and/or Rebuild Together really? Because Rebuild Together that partnership that was just created last year through our targeted rehab program. They will come in and do the type of major repairs that flooring and things that are going on in here and have a small interest loan program.

I'm concerned that as we are trying to address a need that we are also not taking responsibility to how we have contributed to this need in communities through our condemnation process and now as new development is happening, do we have an opportunity to slow the situation down a little to at least give a real opportunity? That is a different conversation if you are not doing the repairs. I also know the reality that the majority of our community is not making minimum wage, which is \$71,000 and some change a year, so I cannot get the repairs done in a six-month period so I'm looking at this and I just want us to take a moment to step back and really think about it, because what I'm talking about is real time right now, vacant lots without homes was devalued to next to nothing, and now a \$400,000 home is being built on it which means the person who owned the home don't even live in the City. That person lives out of state. If we have someone who is trying, if you are really trying I think that is a very different conversation than someone who is just sitting. We can put ramifications in place to insure that if you get this repaired that it is going to be owner occupied and you have to own this home for X number of years. We do it with our current targeted rehab program where we say if our partners come in and invest these dollars you are going to have to maintain this home for X number of years in order for that grant to be paid off. We have a way to change this conversation if we are serious about being this World Class City that we keep talking about.

Councilmember Ajmera said was this your primary residence before?

Mr. Nacep said yes, it was my primary residence, but I had to move over to Olympic High School District, but in January when I got the permit, I cut my lease over there so this is my primary residence for me and my son. I'm a hardship sponsor of another kid; he lives with me, and he will be coming back to Booker Avenue, and now we don't have anywhere to go, because I gave up my lease and then I got all the equipment, the heating unit but there has been some contractor delays because Charlotte is booming. I want to be in that house by July; all I need is 60-days. The bond is what is not statutory requiring me to put an additional \$6,100 up when I have the money to fix it up, but I don't have the bond.

Ms. Ajmera said have we connected him to some of the resources that we've been working with other agencies?

Mr. Krise said yes, I have spoken to by colleagues. Code Enforcement is part of Housing and Neighborhood Services and therefore I work very closely with Miles Vaughn and my partners and Pam Wideman as the Director, we work within the organization. In this instance, we are all about granting him the additional time; it is creating the leverage based on the 16, 17 months. I want to make sure that everybody around the dais understands that we have worked with him; we will continue to work with him. We have granted an exorbitant amount of time in our process, and we will continue to do that. As Code Enforcement, our goal is for folks to be successful and save the blighted structures. We bring less than 1% of the cases that we touch in front of Council in order to pursue a demolition. In this instance, the structure is open and vacant when I visited last week. It is unsafe for the community; all we are asking for is a leverage and the posting of the bond.

Ms. Ajmera said just to clarify this bond to continue to give you an opportunity to negotiate with the homeowner. Is that correct?

Mr. Krise said the bond will be part of the execution of what we call consent agreement, and a consent agreement is the timeline that Mr. Nacep and I agreed upon. He proposed it, I accepted his timeline without any modification. He requested 90 days that he will bring the structure into complete compliance, and I asked for a posting of the bond. That is solely the issue that is outstanding.

Councilmember Harlow said we are not in the business of demolishing homes, and I want that to be very clear. Mr. Nacep, I appreciate you coming down here to give us another side to this, and Mr. Krise thank you for being here as well. I am very familiar with this area; I live right up the street, and you said it and gentrification is everywhere in this City. Growth and development doesn't escape any corner, and it is vibrant and alive on Beatties Ford Road and the historic Washington Heights Community that this house sits in. Do you understand why the City is asking for the bond?

Mr. Nacep said yes sir, it was just the timeframe. I had to have it immediately, and at least I needed some time to get the bond.

Mr. Harlow said I just wanted that to be clear and a follow up question to that is you are saying that you actually were the one who indicated to Code Enforcement that you want 60 to 90 days and that will be enough for you.

Mr. Nacep said yes sir, that is all I was asking. They agreed to the consent order; it was just that it wouldn't have been any good unless I had the bond.

Mr. Harlow said I know you had the code violation from December; are you aware of any other code violations before that December date?

Mr. Nacep said no, I had all the violations and in that consent order I've completed 65% of the violations already. The house has a new door on it, and I put new windows in the house, so it is not open to the public; matter of fact, my neighbors watch that house very intently. All I'm saying is before I got this letter in December, here is my order that I went down and applied for a demolition permit, but when they said you could fix up in December, obviously in the condition of the house they didn't expect me to fix it up overnight. Since that time, I have incurred over \$15,000; the irrigation system because the City has not put enough; the water runs off down this big hill-

Mr. Harlow said I'm allowing you to have some time; I know three minutes is not enough but we are getting a better picture here, and I appreciate that. You have worked towards this home; you can't come up with a bond immediately, and I understand that. You've received other violations and it is my opinion that we have an opportunity here, as some of my colleagues have mentioned to slow some process. I'm curious if from staff's standpoint; you said you want to work with him as well, but we are looking for some form of leverage here. Essentially, you don't want to have to come back to us again. Is that correct?

Mr. Krise said I would like to have the ordinance in hand and that leverage created. The citizen asked for 90-days to complete it, and it is pushing out 16 months.

Mr. Harlow said you just need more time?

Mr. Nacep said yes sir.

Mr. Harlow said you need 90 days.

Mr. Nacep said yes sir.

Mr. Harlow said do you understand what happens after 90 days?

Mr. Nacep said I'm a little confused on the process of him obtaining an ordinance now and then holding that over my head, but if the consent order is in effect I understand the legality of the consent order.

Mr. Harlow said you understand, yes or no, that after 90-days if we grant this extension for you and no progress has been made your house will be demolished?

Mr. Nacep said oh yes sir, I understand beyond a shadow of a doubt.

Mr. Harlow said I want you to understand that.

Mr. Nacep said yes sir.

Mr. Harlow said thank you for those facts and thank you staff for giving us the timeline around Code Enforcement. I would ask that this Council consider a 90-day extension for this resident.

Motion was made by Councilmember Harlow and seconded by Councilmember Mayfield, to grant a 90 day extension without bond requirement and adopt Ordinance No. 9327-X authorizing the use of In Rem Remedy to demolish and remove the structure at 2605 Booker Avenue (Neighborhood Profile Area 85) if the repairs are not completed in the 90 days.

Mayor Lyles said we have 90 days for the form of that is that we adopt it and the staff makes a decision after 90 days they would make the final decision.

Bob Hagemann, City Attorney said let me just make sure the Council is clear; I think Mayor you characterized it a little bit different than the motion. I heard the Mayor describe this as an intent to adopt the ordinance with instructions to staff to not act on it for 90 days. What I just described would not require staff to come back to this Council; it would be an authorization to demolish but with instructions that staff not act for at least 90 days.

Mr. Winston said what happens if we don't pass an ordinance period?

Mr. Hagemann said staff cannot move forward with demolition without your permission.

Mr. Harlow said would repeat that one more time?

Mr. Hagemann said as I understand Mr. Winston's question; what happens if no ordinance is adopted tonight, then staff does not have the authority tomorrow or in 90-days to demolish unless they come back to you and get the Council to adopt an ordinance.

Mr. Winston said I would move to not pass an ordinance tonight period. I know that we are looking at the pictures, and you see a lot of cosmetic stuff but I see a mantle here with picture frames; I see old coke bottles that have the names on it; I see other stuff that shows that people live here. I see up front that these pictures were just rolled up on and taken at random; I see a manicured lawn. I see the landscaping taken care of. I know how difficult it is to get anything done in a home. I just became a homeowner this past year and you saw my yard.

A substitute motion was made by Councilmember Winston to take no action on the demolition ordinance.

Without a second, the substitute motion was not considered.

Mayor Lyles said what would staff do; what would happen if we took no action?

Mr. Krise said if you give me direction no action for 90 days I would just put it in a pending status for 90 days.

Mayor Lyles said what happens if we say no to this altogether, no demolition ordinance?

Mr. Krise said then I would close the case with the direction that Council instructed me to close this case and make notes in the file that a sub-standard structure case was closed out based on direction from City Council.

Councilmember Driggs said I just want to point out that staff is trying as leniently as possible to enforce our rules. If we say no at a time like this, we are basically cutting this guy off at the knees. He is doing everything he can; he has worked patiently. He will continue to do, so but we wrote these rules. If we want to change our policies we have to adopt new policies. We can't just hit this guy with a change of mood; what happens with the next one comes and the next one comes? We have no point of reference, so I'm in favor of passing this, and if we need to have a conversation about our policies about this that we do it at a different occasion.

Mr. Egleston said I just want to restate and be corrected if this is incorrect, that the owner was first notified on February 28, 2017, but the homeowner here came and asked for 90-days, which he is telling us is sufficient to complete the work here and that he asked that the 90-days be without the bond, which is exactly what Mr. Harlow is proposed. He has 90-days to get it fixed, which the owner has said is enough, and not having to post that bond. Mr. Harlow's motion is exactly what the homeowner has asked for.

Councilmember Newton said I have a question for clarification on the original motion, which was Mr. Harlow's; so if 90 days were to pass, what is the standard to assure that the demolition would not occur? Would it be complete remedy of all repairs or would it be substantial work towards remedy kind of repairing?

Mr. Krise said he is making a commitment to have repairs made; however, there is an element of discretion and common sense that if a substantial amount of work has been made, and it has been brought out of a demolition criteria and it is no longer meets the threshold of 65% staff is going to continue to work with somebody. We do not want to necessarily publicize that and just have everybody get every case out of demolition and they remain substandard, but there is an element of – if he is 90% done and is waiting on final for an insulation inspection then we are going to continue to work with him even if is the 91st day.

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

YEAS: Councilmember Ajmera, Bokhari, Driggs, Egleston, Eiselt, Harlow, Mayfield, Newton, and Phipps

NAYS: Councilmember Winston

Mayor Lyles said Mr. Nacep would you please speak with Mr. Krise and he will work with you through this process to make sure that you have every opportunity to be successful because we want you to be able to live on Booker Avenue.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 61, at Page(s) 371-375.

* * * * *

ITEM NO. 27: LEASE OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY ON SEIGLE AVENUE AND GRANT TO ENVISION CHARLOTTE

Councilmember Driggs said I would like to suggest that this be referred to the Environment Committee, because I don't believe Council has considered this investment. We had a conversation at our Retreat, and we talked in general about this, but now we have a proposal that shows \$500,000 on terms that we haven't discussed. It also talks about Peppercorn Lease at \$1.00 per year. We don't know what value that represents, and I think this ties into an item in next year's budget that has also not been discussed by Council, so I would just like us to have the opportunity to see this and be briefed on it more

fully before it gets tucked into a Consent Agenda, therefore I would suggest that it be referred to Committee.

Councilmember Ajmera said as Chair of the Environment Committee I would like to just talk briefly about what this project is. This is a circular economy project, a model that we are trying to create that is going to set our City apart from other cities and really create our City as a sustainable place to live. This is a very simple ask; we have discussed circular economy concept, a concept where we recycle everything rather dumping everything in landfills. We have discussed this even at the Retreat, so I hope that you will consider supporting this lease that is in front of us. It creates opportunities, it creates jobs, and it also creates a sustainable place for us to live. I think it is very important. It may not have been the process to Mr. Driggs' point where we normally follow, but this is not something that we as a Committee need to discuss. It is a very simple ask.

Mr. Driggs said I would just like to know if that opinion is expressed on behalf of all the members of your committee or is it a personal opinion.

Ms. Ajmera said I have talked to my Committee members.

Mr. Driggs said was it an agenda item in your Committee, and was it duly approved by the Committee and referred to Council for action? Because this is something that ought to be considered by us, particularly in conjunction with the continuing investment which we also haven't seen yet. Putting it in Consent is just the way we made these decisions.

Ms. Ajmera said may I respond to that Mayor?

Mayor Lyles said I think that we have a disagreement that we understand.

Councilmember Bokhari said I would concur with Mr. Driggs on this one; we've had some great conversations about the circular economy and when [inaudible] was there and then all of a sudden this just kind of popped up in this specific detailed form. When we are in an environment where we are making very tough decisions about officer pay and about affordable housing, half a million dollars is a big deal and it deserves diligence, so I will support Mr. Driggs' recommendation for it to go back to Committee so we can explore it properly as a group and then bring it back to the whole Council.

Councilmember Phipps said I thought in our budget proposal we have something to the effect of supporting circular economy, and I'm wondering by virtue of putting it in the Consent item, if for some reason that this doesn't make it in the budget process are we more or less having a back door way of this getting approved without it going through the budget process. I would say that to me it needs to something that is considered and brought back.

Councilmember Eiselt said my understanding is that it was in last year's budget under innovation and sustainability, is that right Mr. Manager? the current budget that we are in right now?

Marcus Jones, City Manager said what we had in the current budget is a half million dollars for what we call Smart City Initiatives, and at one point there was going to be an international meeting in June dealing with for cities by cities so the Smart Initiative has been put off until next year, and if it is the will of this Council to defer this that is fine with me.

Ms. Eiselt said what are the implications of deferring this?

Mr. Jones said what we have in the proposed budget that is in front of you is funding to repair a building that we own. We own the barn so this would have been an opportunity to have some demonstrations projects in a facility that we own when we were going to have an International Conference. Again, in terms of this particular initiative, if it is the will of the Council to have this in a Committee or to have it put into consideration with the other proposal in the 2019 budget, I'm fine with that.

Councilmember Egleston said this is not taking away from anything else particularly in this upcoming budget, because to Ms. Eiselt's point this is in the past budget, but this is something some of us and I have two reasons to be particularly interested in it and have dug a little deeper on it; it is physically in my District and as Vice Chair of the Environment Committee this obviously falls into our purview, so I don't expect that everyone else would have sought out the opportunity to dig into this deeper when [inaudible] who is going to be spearheading this project, but I have and am very supportive of it and would hope that we would move forward with a supportive vote of this project tonight.

Councilmember Winston said I want to echo the words of my colleague Mr. Egleston. I think this is a good choice, and I think we have other things to deal with in the Environment Committee moving forward as we kind of continue on the path of a more green City, a more circular economy. This was in last year's budget, the current budget so we can drag our feet all we want but I don't think we have the time to do that. I think we have much bigger things to do, and we should take this step and move on with the next steps.

Councilmember Harlow said to me when we first joined this Council, we were asked how do we get things done, and we said well we move things to Committee; we can talk to the Manager. We can get things added to the agenda. One way or another this got to the agenda. We talk a lot about wanting to be a Winning City of Tomorrow, innovation and entrepreneurial expiration and clean city and all of these things. This helps do that. We talked about this at our retreat, and we say this all the time when we quote our Ten Traits for Winning Cities, but if we get so bogged down in process then we are no different that all the bureaucrats before us. I don't want the point to be lost on age and things, but the reality is this, if we want to support innovation and if we want to support new but smart ideas; we talk so about, do we have the will? Let's have the will here and do it.

Motion was made by Councilmember Egleston and seconded by Councilmember Ajmera, to (A) Adopt a resolution approving a five-year lease agreement between the City of Charlotte and Envision Charlotte, a nonprofit organization, for the use of a property located at 932 Seigle Avenue (tax parcel ID 081-115-01), and (B) Approve a grant agreement for the City's contribution of \$500,000 to Envision Charlotte to fund design and capital improvements at the property and implementation of circular economy projects.

Councilmember Newton said very briefly I will build upon the comments of Mr. Harlow, Mr. Egleston, Mr. Winston, and Ms. Ajmera and also drill down the point that this is something that would give us, not just a nationally competitive advantage, we are talking about an internationally competitive advantage. The only other city exploring this technology in the United States is Phoenix, so I would support us moving forward, getting this done and having a vote tonight.

Councilmember Mayfield said Mr. Manager, I hope what you hear is some concern in the process. There was understanding for some members that when we have a conversation then before it is presented to Council for a vote more than one or two people are aware of it, or as far as my colleague Mr. Phipps and for me, looking at the budget it looks as if a budget was presented to us with information in there based off of individual conversations, not a collective conversation. I do have concerns with us identifying a funding line item for this. I do not have concerns with the lease; we have done dollar leases across the City to create and encourage entrepreneurship and opportunity in community. I do have a concern with us identifying a \$500,000 line item and the fact that we also have in the budget a request that is just your recommendation but how that recommendation came to us when we are talking about \$100,000 here, \$300,000 there and \$500,000 there. It might not seem like a lot but it is when it starts adding up. I just think it would have been helpful to have more conversation around identifying a line item, identifying exactly what this line item is to cover. Is this \$500,000 for staff, is it for the building, is it for promotion and marketing, is this in partnership with hospitality and tourism since we are trying to be a leader and only Phoenix is the only other location that is doing this? It would be helpful to have more answers than just identifying and coming to us tonight and saying yes we want to do a \$1.00 lease and \$500,000. I have a concern with us appearing to not take into

consideration all these hundreds of thousands of dollars adding up very quickly without full Council being aware or the fact that it seems that we are creating an environment where one or two Councilmembers can come and say this our pet project; this is what we want to move forward and then it is presented for full Council to vote on it, because then you trigger conversations like this, and I don't think it is a conversation of newly elected members versus the Councilmembers who may have been here one to four terms however that number is. I think it is a conversation of process and a process that some people were familiar with and a new process is being created without everyone being a part of the conversation.

Ms. Eiselt said I agree with Ms. Mayfield about the process and that is fair. This particular item again, it is in the existing budget; we've talked about the circular economy. This is to renovate a building so that we can work on the circular economy. What is going to come out of this effort and this initiative with the circular economy are jobs. It has the potential to create a whole new area of jobs for people with high barriers for employment or other types of jobs and other levels of jobs that we need in this City, so I support this.

Ms. Mayfield said please let me respond to that because we have economic development opportunities that are presented to us all the time, and we are also told by the City Attorney that we cannot mandate a local hire. To say that this will create jobs without us specifically being able to target who has access because we've brought a lot of headquarters and a lot of companies; I have a lot of companies within District 3; I have probably, if the not the largest, the second largest employment center throughout the area, and I also have the highest unemployment rate of minorities. The jobs are coming but the people who need access to the majority of the jobs are not the ones who are being connected to them. Unless we are saying that we have it in writing and we have it clearly committed that here is our target audience and this is what we are doing in partnership with Central Piedmont or Goodwill or whoever it is to make sure the training happens, it is very difficult to say that this is going to create jobs because they all create jobs. The question is who has access to them? Because the majority of the people don't even live within the City limits that get access to these jobs. They live outside of the City and drive in.

Ms. Eiselt said I'm talking about the renovation of this building.

Ms. Mayfield said I'm not talking about the renovation. I don't want us to consider that the only jobs that we are saying that those who are chronically under employed or employed can do is backbreaking work. If we are going to talk about the opportunity to get in using Black Tech Charlotte or whatever group it is, if we are saying that we have the language in place to insure that people have opportunity that is a very different conversation, other than that it just sounds good for a sound bite.

Mr. Bokhari said I don't think you have to be against this being a good idea to being against the fact that we are having this dialogue around the dais right now and a half million dollars is a lot of money. We are about to have a conversation on officer pay increases; we are about to have a conversation with our City on raising taxes. We have an affordable housing challenge that we need to address that the group Away Home, if they had a half million dollars they would put 50 homeless or near homeless people in their 18-month program, and they would have 77% results of them being able to afford market rate housing. That is a lot of money; you don't have to be against the circular economy concept to vote against this right now. We can move fast and nimble but being smart and innovative isn't dumping a huge ton of money out with little conversation and making bad deals like we just walked through one that we made 11 years ago in our Dinner Meeting. It is about tying the right strings to these things and making sure that we've crafted a good deal, and we are going to get the return from the taxpayer dollars.

Mayor Lyles said the money is to renovate a City property that needs renovation.

Mr. Bokhari said and give it away for \$1.00.

Mayor Lyles said no, we own it. We are not giving it away; it is a lease.

Mr. Bokhari said we are basically giving it away.

Mayor Lyles said I just wanted to say it is a situation where it is in the existing budget, and we can take it and move it of course to the new budget if that is a majority vote of the Council. The other thing about it is that the money is for the renovation of a City owned building, so it is an asset going towards and asset repair.

Mr. Driggs said I would just like to point out for our new members that we are talking about principles of good governance here, and you cannot brush aside as some inconvenient bureaucracy some of the principles that are at stake. One of them, as I think most of you touted so vigorously when we all convened, was openness. This decision is being made on the basis of individual conversations that took place off line in corridors and behind closed doors. You all got some knowledge about this; I didn't, and we haven't sat here together and now we are doing it completely at the wrong time. We are having the conversation that we should have had on another occasion to make a decision about a commitment or resources. I would just like to see us preserve the notion that our decisions are being made as a result of deliberations that everybody can see.

Mr. Winston said I've just to say this; I highly disagree with that. This showed up on our Consent Agenda just like dozens of Consent Agenda items show up twice a month. We ask our questions, and we have our discussions sometimes we have too many discussions, and we say that we get cut off and we get doubted for what we believe in, because we are asking so many questions. This is not unlike anything that we've ever done before; perhaps that have been one or two people talking about it, but they haven't talked to me about it. This is not any different than how we've been running meetings for at least the five-months that I've been here.

Mayor Lyles said this is what I've heard from the group; one, it came out on the Consent Agenda perhaps at a time that we had our budget come out. We've had a lot of meetings; there is a lot of stuff going on in our world right now, and for that we are juggling a number of things. The second thing I want to make sure is that this was discussed in last year's budget as a concept. It was at the Retreat when Envision came in; I remember this, because she had the shoes that you were redoing out of the rubber and it was about the circular economy at our Retreat, and we said that we wanted to adopt this in principle. In some respects, the staff has gone ahead and worked with Envision Charlotte to get a realistic estimate of how do you have a space that they can use to start talking about how we recycle instead of putting things in landfills. That said sometimes what the facts are doesn't matter if people don't perceive them the right way so I get that part as well. Mr. Manager you have heard this conversation and even if this fails or is approved tonight we've got some work to do on this specific topic as you proceed in any direction. I think the Manager is smart enough to have heard. I know that we are under a lot of stress right now; I just acknowledge that; we've got a lot of people waiting to speak to us and we are going to listen politely and we are going to do that in a way that is respectful. I want you to know that every one of the men and women around this dais cares deeply about it; we are just at a time that we are having a lot of things going on and I think that is more indicative of where we are.

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

YEAS: Councilmembers Ajmera, Egleston, Eiselt, Harlow, Newton, and Winston.

NAYS: Councilmembers Bokhari, Driggs, Mayfield, and Phipps.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 48, at Page(s) 726-740.

* * * * *

PUBLIC HEARING

ITEM NO. 13: PUBLIC HEARING ON CHARLOTTE WATER REVENUE MANUAL REVISIONS

Charlotte Water Advisory Committee members present were: Leslie Jones, Chairperson, Frank McMahan, Vice-Chairperson, Barbara Bleiweis, Dorian Carter, and William Royal.

Absent: Barry Webb

Mayor Lyles declared the hearing open.

There being no speakers either for against a motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, seconded by Councilmember Mayfield, and carried unanimously to close the public hearing.

* * * * *

ITEM NO. 14: PUBLIC HEARING FOR ERNST & YOUNG US LLP BUSINESS INVESTMENT GRANT

Mayor Lyles declared the hearing open.

Motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, seconded by Councilmember Mayfield, and carried unanimously to close the public hearing and approve the City's share of a Business Investment Grant to Ernst & Young US LLP for a total of estimated amount of \$154,409 over five-years.

* * * * *

ITEM NO. 15: PUBLIC HEARIG FOR XYLEM, INC BUSINESS INVESTMENT GRANT

This item was pulled by staff.

* * * * *

ITEM NO. 12: PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2019 OPERATING BUDGET AND FISCAL YEAR 2019-2023 COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PLAN

Bicycle Committee's Program and Project Recommendations

Adam Raskoskie, 2200 Shamrock Drive said I am Chair of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Bicycle Advisory Committee, also known as the BAC. I'm here tonight to share our recommendations regarding funding for bicycle transportation as well as thank the Mayor, the City Councilmembers, City Manager, and City staff, who have supported and heard the bicycle community during the long budget process. Charlotte is experiencing a time of exciting growth, but many of our residents are being left behind. As Charlotteans face these challenges the BAC wishes to emphasize the complete transportation system offering alternatives for safely getting around is critical for connecting people, including those who cannot or do not drive to their City and its opportunities; therefore, the BAC unanimously recommends that Council provide full funding for the bike program in this budget as described in the 2017 Charlotte Bikes Plan and is included in the City Manager's proposed budget. We believe this funding is critical for three primary reasons. The first is to improve the safety and practicality of bicycling for transportation in Charlotte. Dedicated funding will help close gaps between existing bike facilities as well as provide educational resources and funding for many other safety and usability improvements. The second is to fully leverage investments the City is making in the critical areas of housing and transit. The median Charlotte household spends 22% of its budget on transportation. Bicycling is a reliable option and can significantly reduce this costs for residents coping with rising housing prices and make trips to and from transit stops easier. The final reason is that bicycle friendly streets and the presence of bike rides calms traffic and increases driver's

awareness making streets safer for all users. Investing in bicycling reinforces Charlotte's commitment to reducing traffic deaths and injuries as expressed in Vision Zero. A complete transportation system that includes bicycling is the connective tissue that holds the City together for the reasons we've shared tonight as well as many others that our time does not permit us to describe. These benefits have been realized in cities around the world, and it can happen here in Charlotte if the City commits to fulfilling our Bicycle Plan.

Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department Budget

Jennifer Cook, 1311 Brooksland Place, Waxhaw said I am the wife of Officer Travis Cook, and I'm here on behalf of the families of Charlotte Police Officers. I see my husband less than 20-hours each week. I've known him for nine-years, and I've never spent New Year's Eve with him. I don't get to watch fire works with him on the Fourth of July, and he doesn't get to go Trick or Treating with other families on Halloween. When there is a major event such as the DNC or a riot, we the spouses must take time from our jobs in order to take care of our families while these officers are called in to work 12-hour shifts with no days off. This is the life we chose; we sacrifice our families so that they can protect yours. What does the safety of your family or the members of the City who voted you into this position mean to you? Providing proper safety for the City is having highly trained and skilled officers. Without veteran officers, there will be no one here to mentor new ones. Unless the requests of the officers behind me are taken seriously, you will continue to lose seasoned highly talented officers at an alarming rate. Families are deciding that they would rather their spouses be employed with a department where they are surrounded by veteran officers and a City that supports them. These officers work as a team; they teach each other. They protect each other and they will follow each other. Lastly, I would like to remind you of a few requests these officers have made a 15% raise, reduce 13 steps to seven, retiree health insurance. The proposal made by the City Manager has a lot of fine print; you should read a little more closely. In the proposal, those in steps two through six wouldn't get an increase at all beyond what is already in place. For others who have been there longer, it wouldn't be more than 2.5% above what is in the normal cost of living and merit increases. The proposed merit step decreasing from 13 to 12 actually causes lateral new hires to start out making more than officers who have been on staff with CMPD for over a decade. It is a good thing you are looking into affordable housing, because most of your officers can't even afford to live in the City they protect.

Employee Health Benefits

Larry Mackey, 8725 Water Rock Road said I want to say thank you for the Councilmembers allowing us to speak. We want to speak about hardship. You did a lot of hard work for us in the past, and it was good and we appreciate that but with this insurance that we have today is hardship if you have to use it. My Clinic, the best things you ever did, and we appreciate that, but if anything is beyond My Clinic we can't afford it. When a man has to have knee surgery and he has to go into his 401-K to get \$5,000 to have that knee surgery, that is unheard of. When a man had a procedure done and he is in the E Plan with his wife, and he has a procedure done he pays \$4,000 where at the end of the year after he pays his premium also that is \$12,000, and if he has to do anything for his wife that can be up to \$16,000. Who can give \$16,000 up like that? We have another gentlemen, his wife needed a test, \$1,700. He has been putting \$2,000 per year in this flex account, and in February he paid \$1,700 for one test. The \$2,000 used to last all year, and he had to find ways to get rid of it. Well now he is short, and it is coming out of his pocket for his dental and his vision. We need affordable health care. It is very important because we're working for you. We come to work with things on our minds, because we can't do for our families.

Pay and Benefits for Firefighters and Police

Gregory Sharpe, 9400 Nations Ford Road said I spoke to you on April 23, 2018 about retiree health insurance, an issue that we continue to gather data so we can work closely and collaboratively with City staff to bring you a physically responsive plan that supports our future retirees. Hopefully that also brings about some changes in health care for those that are still working, like Mr. Mackey. I made a grave mistake that evening; I believed pay

plan adjustments would follow the same unwritten City HR policy used for the past 20-years, and the fire pay plan would adjust with the police pay plan to keep a 5% gap between the two. When I was on the Fire Pay Plan Committee, I asked why are we 5% behind the police? The answer the police have a more dangerous job. I was a police officer for 13-years, six with CMPD and have been a firefighter for the City for 21 years. I can tell you unequivocally, that is not true. We both face threat to our lives in our efforts to protect the lives and property of those living, working, and playing in Charlotte. Many times your firefighters and police officers are standing side by side facing the threats to our great City. Our firefighters have been under fire several times over the years without ballistic protection and at times getting a police officer to safety or providing medical aid to one of our brothers or sisters in law enforcement who has been injured while doing their duty. I was in command of one of those instances along South Tryon Street, and one of my colleagues will give you a firsthand account of having to abandon his truck for cover and assisting one of our law enforcement officers who had been shot. The Manager's stated recommendation was in line with two-year pay plan adjustment for the Fire Department; the goal of this plan was to bring us closer, if not to, parity. The current recommendation places us 22% behind in annual salary for an entry-level position with a four-year degree. Break this down hourly and we are 39% behind the police. The Manager and Council have identified a problem recruiting and hiring a highly skilled and diverse workforce within CFD. One simple question, if you are a minority candidate just graduating from college with a four-year degree or any candidate for that matter, looking for a job in public safety or any other choice of earning \$51,000 per year or earning \$40,260 per year, which one would you choose?

Michael Feneis, 2121 Margeret Wallace Road said I am a Charlotte Firefighter. You should remember my name from countless e-mails, letters, and personal conversations regarding retiree health care. I'm here tonight again to talk to you about this. The City Manager has proposed a retiree health investment account for anyone hired after July 1, 2009. This is not the end all be all of the ongoing problem of postemployment benefits, but this is a step in the right direction. I ask you City Council to approve this along with the [inaudible] employee contribution. This will give the employee more control of their future and the costs associated with retiree healthcare. We can make it better, but it is a good start. I also come here tonight to talk to you about the public safety pay plan. There is no doubt that my brothers and sisters in Blue or the CMPD deserve the 6.5%, the proposed budget states, in fact they deserve more. The CMPD has a different title and job classification, but with the CFD we are both public safety; therefore, City Council I urge you to also give my brothers and sisters of the CFD an increase. Both CMPD and CFD have dangerous jobs. Each day when we report to work, there is no guarantee we will go home. Along with these stresses, CFD also has an increased rate of cancer, cardiac issue, and overall a shorter life span. We never expected to get rich from these jobs; we were called to them. Helping the great citizens of this great City is very fulfilling, but having to work one, two, or even three side jobs to provide for your family is not. We are not asking to be the highest paid fire department in the country; we are asking for fair pay and benefits. I ask you City Council, do the right thing and increase the Fire Department's pay. I thank you for your time in this matter; if you have any questions you have my contact information.

Jonathan Griswold, 9226 Bryant Farms Road said I have been with the Fire Department for three years. When I was assigned to Engine 37, we responded to a call of a person suffering from a gunshot wound. As we arrived the police was right behind us; as we pulled in and got off the firetruck the police and ourselves came under fire. We had to seek cover behind a firetruck and some bushes. While under cover, we hear an officer call out I've been hit where is medic. Myself and another fireman leave our protection from our truck and bushes and go to this police officer's aid in the middle of an open parking lot. We bring him back to an ambulance and continue to care as gunshots continue to ring out. We have no way of protecting ourselves as we do not have bullet resistant vest nor firearm, but yet we are told our jobs are less dangerous than the police. This recommendation makes me feel as though you place a greater value on a police officer's life than my own. I must also remind you of the civil unrest that we had in Charlotte where CFD personnel, including myself, were standing right behind, if not right next to, police officers. Firefighters were driving CATS' buses, because the CATS personnel refused to

drive the police into the front lines without protection. I was under the assumption that when the police pay plan is adjusted the fire pay plan gets adjusted the same. After seeing the proposed budget, I find that is incorrect and I find that to be a slap in the face. We face similar risks in our lives many times we face them together so bring us into unification and make the raises the same. Where a police officer has a chance to choose not to go into a burning building, I didn't get that chance when the gunshots rang out, so I ask the Council and the Manager to revisit the proposed budget and not further the separation of police and fire plan.

Tom Brewer, 1817 South Boulevard said I am representing the nearly 750 members of the Charlotte Firefighters Association. A lot has been said in this budget about the dangers and the issues facing CMPD. Do they deserve a raise, absolutely; every City employee deserves a raise. Do they deserve a \$2,500 bonus for living in the City limits, absolutely; every City employee should be given that benefit. I also want to talk about retiree healthcare. Retiree healthcare and more importantly affordable retiree healthcare; while it is not in the budget, this issue will affect every City employee and their families. This is the number one thing that we hear from our members. It was said during the budget presentation, and it has been said by many Councilmembers that the national trend is moving away from retiree healthcare. World Class Cities don't follow trends, they create trends. We should be the City that brings it back for its workforce. This issue is especially important to our members for a couple of reasons. In the interest of time we will just focus on cancer. The cancer rate for firefighters is three to four times that of the general public. From 2014 to 2017, 41 Charlotte Firefighters were diagnosed with cancer. Three of our brothers and sisters unfortunately Barbara Beam, Jeff McGill, and [inaudible] Tensely lost their battle. We know that number is higher, but we have no way to track the retirees that have cancer. Whether we spend the career as a firefighter a police officer, working for the Water Department, Sanitation, we work in the office for the City you name it, retiree healthcare is the right thing to do for all City employees. We would like to thank the citizens of Charlotte and City Council for the opportunity to serve this great City.

Charlotte BIKES and Charlotte WALKS Plan

Kate Cavazza 2115 Hawkins Street said I am the Bicycle Program Manager at Sustain Charlotte. Tonight, I am here to express the same Charlotte support for the Transportation funding in the proposed 2019 budget. Specifically, we support the proposed full funding for three initiatives to begin implementing the City's Bicycle Plan for sidewalk and pedestrian safety to continue in implementing the City's Pedestrian Plan and Program and to fund C-DOT's new Vision Zero Program, which will work to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries. By funding the Bicycle Pedestrian and Vision Zero Plans, which were adopted by Council last year, we will move Charlotte one step closer to become a World Class City to walking and biking. More funding to complete sidewalks and bike networks will reverse declines in transit ridership since 80% of riders walk or bike to and from their transit stops. It is not a secret that we have a long way to go to compete with our peer cities biking and pedestrian infrastructure. Our partners of the National Cycling Advocacy Organization that people [inaudible] recently gave Charlotte a score of 2.2 out of five in their cities new rating system for bike ability. We have a lot of catching up to do, and 2017 was the most tragic for pedestrians in Charlotte's history; 27 pedestrians were hit and killed by cars on our City streets just in a single year. As you move towards the adoption of the 2019 budget, we urge you to fully support the Manager's recommendation for funding the Bicycle, Pedestrian and Vision Zero Programs this year, next year and every year to come so community members all around the City can have equal access to safe, affordable and healthy transportation choices no matter where they live.

Charlotte BIKE Bicycle Plan

Jeff Viscount, 3337 Thaxton Place said I am here to encourage you to include funding for the Charlotte BIKES Bicycle Plan in the upcoming budget. We promote our City as bicycle friendly in many ways. In fact, the 2019 budget proposal cover is a picture of sunshine, bubbles, and bikes, but in reality we are a long way from that picturesque cover shot. Just a few short weeks ago on the Bootie Loop, an area that many consider the safest place in Charlotte to ride a bicycle Stacy Schanric was killed. Stacy was a wife and

mother of three beautiful children; she was very active in many local charities, a local business owner and a friend to many. On the morning of April 21, 2018 riding on the Bootie Loop, Stacy was struck and killed by a driver that failed to yield the right-of-way. Her senseless death is a reminder of how much work we still have to do, how important this Bicycle Plan is and how important funding is to put the Plan into action. The League of American Bicyclists rate Charlotte as a bronze level when they identify bicycle friendly cities. The League sites a lack of bicycle facilities, connectivity funding enforcement and a very high fatality rate as the barriers we must overcome to be recognized as a silver or gold community. In a recent study for people for bikes, Charlotte was given only 2.2 stars out of five. The study looked at ridership, safety, connectivity, equity, and the speed at which our City is making improvements. In two key areas safety and connectivity we scored 50% worse than the highest scores in those categories. When it comes to being a bicycle friendly City we are behind, but we can catch up and we may even get ahead but only if we take advantage of this opportunity to fund the Comprehensive Bike Plan. I encourage each of you to support the Bicycle Plan by voting in favor of the requested funding when that time comes. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to speak.

Budget and Bicycle Projects

Martin Zimmerman, 1616 Bonnie Lane said thanks Adam Raskoskie, Jeff Viscount and Kate Cavazza for speaking in support of the funding for the Bike Plan. Naturally, we wish to speak about the funding for the Bicycle Program. I'm actually supposed to be speaking on the Bicycle Program, but I think if we group the Bicycle Program and the Pedestrian budget and the Vision Zero budget and see them as a total package we've got the right conception, and I do especially want to thank the City Manager's staff, people like Danny Pleasant, people at C-DOT and the C-DOT staff Ann Galliger, Vivian Coleman, and others and members of the current BAC Committee for moving this agenda forward, and I think I left out the Pedestrian Coordinator for the City. We can't move forward without having City staff behind us. We are almost at the finish line now and when we get to the finish line for the vote by City Council I have full confidence you will support these programs at the current levels, which are significantly higher than the levels we've had in the past for all three of these programs. Thank you very much.

Affordable Housing

Sam Spencer, 4916 Crestmont Drive said while I am honored to serve on the Charlotte Mecklenburg Planning Commission I am speaking tonight as a private citizen. I would like to join the Planning Commission, Mayor Lyles and many others in endorsing the \$50 million affordable housing bond in the proposed City budget. It is an excellent first step. Done correctly we can leverage the City's investment to encourage the private sector, the non-profit community and the faith community to partner and make their own contributions to the Trust Fund. In politics we call that a triple match. I am a Charlotte homeowner and the estimated property tax increase for me is the cost of a takeout pizza. With what this bond can accomplish it is a bargain for taxpayers. The housing bond is an important part of a multi-faceted approach to address our affordable housing needs. Many groups, including the Planning Commission, have introduced useful policy ideas to reduce barriers, provide incentives and protect the existing and future affordable housing. The Planning Commission also provided a vision for this effort stating that every member of our community should be able to live, work, and grow in every zip code in the Queen City. If you are civic it is easy to say that that will never happen, but that is the community many of us want to live in. We have to work towards it. If we truly believe in an equity approach, we have to take action. An equitable government acknowledges and remedies its previous failures. We should never ignore the reality that previous generations and governments caused the current property opportunity crisis. We put up the barriers to opportunity; we have to get this right; however, if we get this right new doors will be unlocked for folks who have never had an opportunity to create wealth or home equity. We can make sure that for the first time every member of our community has the chance to build well and access opportunity. Many of the decisions we are going to have to make to build a more equitable community are going to be hard this one isn't. Let's practice equity by helping our community build equity; support this bond.

Charlotte City Workers Union

Kris Barrow, 3017 Sagebrush Bend, Monroe said I am here representing LYNX Light Rail. A little over a month ago I came and spoke to you petitioning for us to get a 15% raise also. We have been around for 10-years, and when they started this organization in order not to scare people with this massive number of the budget, there was a lot of cuts made, so we only came in at 85% of what our market rate is and in 10 years very little has changed since then. We are not even coming close to market rate. There are people who have worked there for 10-years that are not touching the market rate. There was zero reference in the City Manager's budget proposal about a light rail raise, and I would like for you to go ahead and reconsider and amend that. We may not have the dangerous job that the police and firemen do; however, public safety is at the forefront of our job every single day. Let me give you some numbers that just happen to us. Before the light rail extension opened, we were running about 80,000 people a week on the light rail. As of last week we are running 135,000 people on that train every week. That is forecast to be about seven million bodies on there in a year, so public safety is at the forefront of ours and right now with only paying 85% of the market rate, we are not able to recruit good help, we are not able to retain the help we have. In that two months since we've opened it up, we just went from 80,000 to 135,000 people. Do you know how many employees they hired in my shop, zero. We went from putting 16 trains on the line to now we put 36 out there every day. That means more operators, working three shifts; we've got more work to do, more maintenance to do because the line just doubled, the trains are coming in just as fast. We added 20 more than we normally had. We can't keep people happy, we can't keep help and until we start paying money – 10 years ago I understand it because we didn't really know what we were doing; we were just kicking tires. Well, guess what we are the market now. If you want to be the World Class City that you say you want to be put your money where your mouth is.

Affordable Housing

Reverend Dr. Robert Scott, 1401 Allen Street said I serve as the Senior Pastor of the St. Paul Baptist Church, a 118-year old African American congregation in the Belmont Community with 5,219 Disciples from the Charlotte Mecklenburg and South Carolina area. Our membership covers at least a 60-mile radius. In the past, the Belmont Neighborhood has been a place of high crime, but now we are going through gentrification and there are new housing developments that are springing up all over the place. Houses that were valued at \$85,000 to \$100,000 less than 10-years ago are now going for \$250,000 to \$300,000. My predecessor the Rev. Dr. Greg Moss, along with our Community Development Board, made the decision to stay in our neighborhood and do ministry. Within the construct of Black Life, the church has played a vital role in community development, so through our CDC my predecessor had the vision to be a transformer of community. The church bought vacant lots, and we are now undertaking an \$18 million development with 112 unit of senior citizens housing and affordable housing around the church utilizing our current parking space to erect those facilities. The church property is in the center of this development, which has been a wonderful opportunity for us to do significant strategic planning and ministry. We've broken ground, our development is 50% complete and hopefully we will be finished with it by the end of this year. This would not have been a work in reality without the City of Charlotte coming along side of us and providing some funds to bring this to fruition. This type of investment in our neighborhood transformed it from the dilapidation and blight into spaces of hope and peace. We hope that through your budgeting process there will be more opportunities for the City to collaborate with other for profits and non-profits to help eradicate the affordable housing shortage and give our citizens viable living accommodations. We encourage you as our leaders to do whatever you can to secure additional funds in your budgeting process and make this a working reality.

Michael Marsicano, 220 North Tryon Street said thank you for this opportunity to express my great enthusiasm for the proposal under consideration to place \$50 million in housing bonds before our citizens in November. For two years, a highly diverse task force of citizens organized town hall meetings and discussions on economic opportunity and upward mobility throughout our City. Last year in this very Chamber, the task force

presented its leading on opportunity recommendations to the community. While it will take years to fulfill and implement the report, grass root citizen groups and major institutions are embracing the recommendations and implementation strategies are coming to life. This City Council has the opportunity to bring to life one of our major recommendations under the umbrella strategy of family and child stability, namely \$50 million in housing bonds. Thank you for taking that recommendation seriously. I encourage you to give our citizens the opportunity to make this decision to help their neighbors. It is my pledge to help bring the private and philanthropic sectors together to be as bold in their financial support. Finally, I would ask you to consider the lens of your decision as one of equity. I'm a homeowner, and I trust many of you are homeowners as well. We homeowners who have mortgages and deduct our interest payments from our taxes actually live in government subsidized housing. In fact, our homeowner government subsidized housing make up the largest financial housing support system in America. On the other hand, total affordable housing subsidies across America pale in comparison. Let's acknowledge the truth in this and extend our financial privilege to others by placing \$50 million in housing bonds before the voters. Thank you for your consideration.

Affordable Housing Bond Recommendation

Rickey Hall, 3133 Reid Avenue said I am current member of the Westside Community Land Trust and a former member of the Housing Trust Fund Board. I'm here to voice my support for the proposed \$50 million Housing Trust Fund allocation or bond for the fall. Charlotte Mecklenburg is experiencing exponential growth, and at the same time it is experiencing a significant housing boom particularly in the areas that were once affordable surrounding the Center City and yet a lack of access of affordable housing is a crisis that is worsening as a result of increased land value, increased speculatively and predatory home buying practices and increased negative changes in terms of federal housing tax supports and assistance and tax laws that will further exacerbate our affordable housing supply. With a growing need of 22,000 units of affordable housing, \$50 million will allow us to build mixed income communities that allow all residents equal opportunities. I will say this that even a \$50 million referendum will not solve all of our affordable housing needs. While we are placing significant efforts on new housing development we must at the same time be proactive by allocating more resources towards land banking and housing preservation. Going forward, with the Westside Community Land Trust in partnership with the City of Charlotte and other affordable housing partners seeks to expand and preserve housing affordability in perpetuity by way of the community Land Trust model. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak.

Charlotte Chamber's Role

Bob Morgan, 330 South Tryon Street said I am a resident of the City of Charlotte and President of the Chamber of Commerce. Here tonight on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, I'm pleased to have led the City of Charlotte's Capital Investment Program Bond campaigns in 2016 and 2014. These bonds have provided hundreds of millions of dollars for transportation, neighborhoods, and housing. We look forward to leading the campaign for voter approval of this year's third installment in our ten-year capital investment program. We specifically endorse and encourage your support for housing bond of \$50 million, as recommended by the Leading on Opportunity Task Force. When passed, this City will have made more than \$587 million in critical infrastructure needs in our community. This is important business. Thank you for your consideration.

FY2019 Budget

Righteous Keitt, 12109 Prails Mill said I am a Junior at Phillip O'Berry and now the President Elect of Charlotte Mecklenburg Youth Council. CMYC is a unified Youth Advisory Council for the City of Charlotte Mecklenburg County and CMS. Each year through CMYC our diverse youth work together to learn about and help solve City issues, advise officials and represent youth voice in decision making. We are a growing network of young leaders who are working to make Charlotte a Winning City of Tomorrow. We are the City's Youth City Council. This year, we met with several City Councilmembers, the City Manager, City staff and worked with the CMPD to improve police youth relations,

represented the City at events here in Charlotte, Raleigh and in D.C. I can't list everything we have accomplished this year; if you have any questions about the Youth Council please drop by at any time. We are proud of the Youth Council we have built for the City, and I hope you are too. One thing we have learned is that budget documents can be a bit difficult to read, and while we can't find our funding in the Manager's recommended budget, we have been assured that it is there so thank you. We ask you to please continue to fund Charlotte Mecklenburg Youth Council partnership with Generation Nation, and I look forward to working with you guys in the future.

Affordable Housing

James Ford, 3424 Ashley View Drive said I Co-Chair the Leading on Opportunity Council, but I'm here today to speak as a private citizen. I vividly remember in 2010 deciding to move my family from my native Illinois down south. I took my spring break to fly down to Charlotte on assignment from my wife to spend that week finding us an apartment. My instructions were explicit "make sure it is affordable." By that she meant something that a social worker and a school teacher with two young children at the time could afford, preferably two to three bedrooms in a safe neighborhood and keep it under \$900 per month. I found a beautiful complex in University City that had 1,300 square feet with three bedrooms, two bathrooms, dining room area and a washer and dryer and the rent was \$850. It allowed us to transition into the Queen City and eventually become homeowners ourselves. Now, I sometimes drive past my old apartment and things have noticeably changed. It is under new management; they've changed the name, built a fence around it, and I'm told they put some counter tops in and some new cabinets and now the rents for that same unit is \$1,300. In under eight years the rent increased by over 60%. I say this because for many in the City this has happening for far too long, families are being priced out of the City that they dearly love, placed in motels, piling on top of themselves in home rentals and moving to neighboring counties. We sit on the ruins of the Old Brooklyn Neighborhood to stand as a testament. The \$50 million housing bond is a significant down payment, but ultimately it depends on our morals. Budgets are moral documents, and as the phase goes you show me your budget, I'll show you your priorities. So, we have to ask the question who are we? What is in our heart? Are we a Queen City, a futile system where Monarchs and Lords rule over servants and peasants condemned to a life of poverty and servitude or are we the Queen City, a community with an embarrassment of riches where opportunity abounds and demographics don't equal destiny; a place where everyone is a part of the royal family? My sincere hope is that this Queen has heart.

Melissa Gaston, 2313 Edison Street said I would like to acknowledge my support of the Housing Bond. As an active community leader and co-founder of the North End Community Coalition, I can give a firsthand account of living communities with mixed affordable housing. Contrary to the misconceptions about individuals who live in affordable housing, they are just like you and I. I grew up in a city, Columbia, Maryland that was designed to be inclusive, not only in race but in social economic levels. When I move to Charlotte in 2001, I moved to SouthPark because it was very similar to Columbia, Maryland; however, it was missing something. I chose to build a home in the Park at Oaklawn, an affordable mixed-income community. My neighbors were individuals moving from Section 8 housing, buying their first homes, a banker, a school teacher, a CAN, and a single father with two kids. The rental apartments and senior complex provided rents based on a sliding scale. My neighbors were people of all different social economic levels and races; however, we all had one thing in common, the desire to live in an affordable, save, diverse, and inclusive community. In 2014, I married my husband Daryl, and we moved into his home in Druid Hills. We have neighbors who have previously experienced homelessness, a retired educator, a fast food worker, a City worker, and a family living in one of our rental homes using a housing choice voucher. Yes, we truly believe in affordable housing; we provide affordable housing in the same neighborhood in which we live. Affordable housing does not mean that I have three deadbolt locks or a shotgun by the front door. Living in an affordable housing community means that I have a diverse group of friends and neighbors who have created an inclusive and varied community. It means that I see people for people and not for how much money they make or how much they pay to live in their home. It means that I see my neighbors as visible, vital, and

valuable. Please approve this budget to support affordable housing for all areas of Charlotte.

FY2019 Budget

Patricia Banega-Segura, 236 Sylvania Avenue said I am a senior at West Charlotte High School and Co-President of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Youth Council. CMYC is a unified Youth Advisory Council for the City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County and CMS. Three years ago, I joined Charlotte Mecklenburg Youth Council, and I'm now on a life long journey of civic engagement. This program is nothing short of amazing. The CMYC is youth driven, diverse, and active. This year we met with and advised City, County and School officials, CMPD, and many others. As young leaders, we represent Charlotte in youth voice in local, state and national programs. Through your Charlotte Mecklenburg Youth Council, City, County and CMS Officials have access to youth leaders and youth perspectives on pressing issues while learning how to be civic problem solvers for our schools, neighborhoods, and communities. A diverse and forward thinking large city needs a 21st century youth council like Charlotte Mecklenburg Youth Council. We have a great Youth Council, and although the school year may be coming to an end this life long journey of civic engagement there is no teary eyed good-byes. Please insure the City continues this investment in the Charlotte Mecklenburg Youth Council, the Generation Nation partnership is a national model. Please do this for the City's next generation of leaders.

Rob Harrington, 227 West Trade Street said I Board Chair of the Arts and Science Council. The Arts and Science Council was designated the City of Charlotte's Office of Cultural Resources in 1975 as a partnership including the private sector, the City and Mecklenburg County. The City's 40-year partnership with the Arts and Science Council is critical to the stability and growth of our cultural community, which serves Charlotte residents and visitors. We appreciate your role in this important public/private partnership. Through our operating support grants the Arts and Science Council invests in operations of both emerging and of major cultural institutions. In fiscal year 2017, the Arts and Science Council funded programs, were delivered at 800 locations on a combined over 19,000 days enabling more than 3.1 million participant experiences. We are on track to exceed those numbers as of the end of June of this year. Just as a City Council has focused on recommendations of the Opportunity Task Force so has the Arts and Science Council. In fiscal year 2018, additional funding supported from the City supported the Arts and Science Council cultural vision projects including the Arts Empowerment project, which has brought together youth and law enforcement officers who shared visual arts experiences to improve community police relationships. The C. N. Jenkins Memorial Presbyterian Church's global, peace international festival, a cultural heritage celebration that brought together performers and artists from 11 different countries earlier this month and inspired the fire's one week summer experience for youth developing their self-confidence, esteem and skills in voice, drama, stepping, music and visual arts. The proposed fiscal year 2019 budget reflects the \$250,000 decrease in funding for the Arts and Science Council from last year. While we are extremely grateful for the City's long running support of the Arts and Science Council, without which the Arts and Science Council couldn't be what it is and do for the citizens of Charlotte what it does, a reduction in City funding will result in a decrease in services to the broader community. Please consider restoring the funding to the Arts and Science Council at fiscal 2017 level, for the fiscal year 2018. We thank you in advance for your commitment to Charlotte's cultural community in helping us to build community through culture, and you will hear from at least two recipients of our Arts and Science Council's grants.

Affordable Housing

Linda Mendez, 2525 Statesville Avenue said I am accompanied by my very patient children [inaudible]. We are residents of the Alexander Apartments at Bright Walk, formerly historic Double Oaks. These apartments home are affordable by way of tax credits and the Charlotte Mecklenburg Housing Partnership. As a former special forces military spouse, I was drawn to Charlotte by the City's potential for our family, a fresh new start, a new beginning after my divorce. After leaving our marital home in 2014, a four

bedroom near the Fort Bragg Military Base; we were blindsided and initially could only afford a nice little one bedroom apartment in Charlotte. For months we looked for affordable apartments in safe desirable areas but the costs would have made it impossible for me to balance work life, spend quality time with my children or be actively involved in their school. The Alexander, the Stevenson and the McNeill Apartments in Bright Walk have been a saving grace for many working families. Living affordable allows for peace of mind. We have great neighbors who are veterans, school teachers, healthcare workers, and I work at my children's school invest collegian. We are fortunate to live in the new Bright Walk Community, but we don't desire to live in affordable apartments forever and are transitioning to affordable home ownership. However; navigating the fee of predatory lenders, cash buyers, investors, and LLC's buying up all the affordable housing is dodging and killing my family's American Dream and our opportunity to build a little wealth for my children. I realize that I don't have the connection needed to navigate affordable home ownership in Charlotte. We have to live with the fact that we are unable to own a home in our own community, where I serve as a community resident leader and where my rent nearly lines up with surrounding mortgages. Although the homes are marketed as affordable and are sold as affordable at affordable price points, they don't stay affordable, and we don't have the connections to buy at ground level before the prices skyrocket.

Housing Trust Fund Bond

Julie Porter, 4601 Charlotte Park Drive said the Housing Partnership is in support of the recommended budget with the \$50 million Housing Trust Fund bond. I'm going to tell you a quick story, which I think illustrates why it is important. A few weeks prior to Christmas 2017, just this past Christmas, the Housing Partnership was asked if we could help find emergency housing for an extremely low income senior who was losing her \$750 a month apartment, which was being redeveloped along the Central Avenue Corridor. Her rent was rising; she was already paying more than 50% of her median income for rent, but she could not afford the new rent. She was also disabled, legally blind. She needed a new place to move immediately that still access to transportation and services, because of the emergency nature of the situation, because we knew this senior was at risk of homelessness and she had never been homeless before we felt it imperative to help. By sheer luck we had a unit geared toward a person of 30% of area median income available. We were thrilled when she moved in, but we talk calls like this all the time, every single day, and we usually are not able to accommodate the person due to the long waiting list. It was only the emergency nature of the situation that allowed us to help. I use this as an example because it illustrates our need as a community to begin acquiring existing naturally occurring affordable housing so units are not lost to the market. It also shows the need for more housing production geared to people who are less than 60% of AMI with a meaningful setback for those who are less than 30% of AMI. I know with an increased Housing Trust Fund bond at the \$50 million level will be able to produce more.

Mary Kelly, 3011 Brandon Manor Lane said I represent affordable housing advocates at Myers Park United Methodist Church and South Tryon Community United Methodist Church. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to address the City Council regarding the increase of the Housing Trust Fund. I'm here to voice our support for the proposal for \$50 million for the Housing Trust Fund as a referendum in the fall bond campaign. Charlotte is experiencing rapid growth of 60 new residents a day, and we will only continue to grow. Lack of access to all types of housing is a crisis in our community and we need solutions and funding to start addressing the crisis. It is not going away. Increase land values, the lack of varying and creative solutions have resulted in significant barriers to create an adequate housing supply. We have a need of over 30,000 units of affordable housing for residents making 80% of AMI and below. Fifty million dollars will allow us to build mixed income communities across Charlotte that will allow our residents from various professions including grocery store clerks to police officers to teachers so that they may have a home of their own. Each of us wants equality affordable housing for ourselves and our families. Too many of our children today are Charlotte children are not living in stable housing and are not afforded the same opportunity as others to be ready to learn each day. When some of us go home this evening we will go to a home with lights, food, and a safe place to sleep; others will not. We appeal to you to approve the proposed referendum of \$50 million. Affordable housing is a community responsibility.

Affordable Housing

Amy Hawn Nelson, 601 East 5th Street said I am a community engage researcher and service co-chair of the Housing Advisory Board Research and Evaluation Committee. I am actually here on behalf of the Children's Alliance; we are an organization of the collaborative effort of around 40 agencies who serve our county's most vulnerable families. We support this budget item, and I would also add that while this \$50 million is important and necessary it will also be insufficient for the crisis that we face. We have one in 30 children in Charlotte Mecklenburg who are experiencing housing instability. That is 5,000 children in our district every day that don't have their basic human need met, that need of shelter. We know that when families are asked to balance competing priorities of transportation, utilities, medical expense, cloths, shelter, food, sparkly pencils, a necessity in elementary school; something has to give, right? A lot of things give when we have families that are spending over 50% of their income on housing, and that is a lot of families. That is a family of my disabled sister; that is a family of my father's nursing assistance. That is a family of the assistants that teach my children. It is a lot of families, and 80% of them are experiencing extreme costs burdens. I will say thank you for this, and I urge us to continue.

Justin Perry, 2009 Stratford Avenue said I come as the co-chair of the One Next Steering Committee to support the City Manager's proposed budget of \$50 million for the Housing Trust Fund. As someone who grew up in Charlotte, I have watched my imperfect hometown grow from a City that once acted on an uncomfortable crossroads to a City that often kicks the can down the road on touch situations. A City that once had an identity as a place that came together to make school desegregation work to a City whose identity is often looked as though it is for sale to the highest bidder. From a flawed City, with tremendous growth potential, to a City who is attempting to live off of well-crafted statements and the equity built from past leaders. Today, I'm not simply here to call all of you out; I'm here to call all of you in. The sacrifices of Dorothy Counts, James Ferguson, Stan Brookshire, Julius Chambers, and many others who built us a Trust Fund. While we have done some good things, we have spent much of the past two decades spending that Trust Fund like a 20-year old who only lives once. One of the missed opportunities that this community had during the school desegregation era that grew from a budding southern town into booming financial center was not addressing the chance to build diverse price point neighborhoods throughout the community and to create sustainable paths to housing for all of our citizens. I work in the mental health field, and what I say to us is it is time for us to grow up together. Mom and dad's trust fund is about to run dry. It is time for the City to decide who we are, who want to be, and who we value. When I work with my clients I often tell them that my mouth says what I want my values to be but my actions say what my values actually are. Similarly, when we state that we have a housing and economic mobility crisis, our Task Force Report tells us what our values should be but dollars, cents, and voting patterns tells what our values are. All of you were elected and re-elected because the community saw us at a crisis that decided we need to let go of the status quo. It is time to protect the most loyal citizens and build a new Trust Fund for the next generation of Charlotteans.

Michael Rizer, 301 South College Street said I head up Community Relations for Wells Fargo across the country, and in that capacity I am able to see how other cities are responding to the affordable housing crisis, and I will tell you that Housing Trust Funds, although typically with a dedicated revenue source, is one critical piece to that puzzle. I've been privileged to be part of the many efforts over the year in Charlotte around affordable housing, including a committee back in the 90's Chaired by Velva Woolen and Mayor McCrory, and more recently I was on the Housing Advisory Board, and I'm really proud of all of the work of all of those groups. I think they created a foundation for where we are today, but I think we've got to take much bolder steps and I think your proposed \$50 million for the Housing Trust Fund is a very good step. I appreciate the courage that many of you sitting up there have demonstrated to get us to this point. In addition, lenders, developers, the School Board, the County and others all need to step us as well. This is a big problem; it is for us all of us that live in Charlotte, and we've all got to step up. If we build mixed-income properties as is contemplated it will work for all of us. Finally, I implore you to stay

focused on the problem. All of the data points to the fact that the biggest problem is people less than 50% of area median income, folks who make less than \$30,000 per year. If we build mixed income properties we can include them as well as folks who are in the 40, 50, and 60% and won't have any real impact on any given neighborhood. We are at a very exciting time; let's all build on this momentum together.

Charles Bowman, 100 North Tryon Street said I am the Market President for Bank of America here in Charlotte. I'm here to add my voice to the support of the proposal in the City Council budget to address or to begin to address the lack of sufficient affordable housing in our community. The Bank of America, we believe that responsible growth includes how we support our communities by deploying capital, helping to create jobs, developing communities, fostering economic mobility, supporting our teammates, and address society's biggest challenges. Here locally, we support affordable housing through our community development initiatives, and we applaud City Council and the City Manager's proposal or bold plan to begin to address the affordable housing gap in Charlotte. We do also acknowledge that this will take both public and private support to address this problem, and as Mike said this is not a problem unique to Charlotte but across the country. We urge you to approve this proposal for \$50 million for the Housing Trust Fund as part of the referendum in the fall bond campaign. I appreciate your attention.

FY2019 Budget

Shaunte Evans, 400 East Boulevard said on behalf of the Charlotte Housing Authority CEO Fulton Meacham and our Board of Commissioners, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to speak. I am Executive Vice President of Administrative Operations, and I am here today to express the Housing Authority's support for the proposed \$50 million for the Housing Trust Fund as a referendum in the fall bond campaign. Since 1993, the Charlotte Housing Authority has received approximately \$59 million from the Housing Trust Fund. These dollars leveraged with other funding have enabled us to develop and preserve 4,700 apartment homes. Housing Trust Fund dollars combined with other funding sources and strong partnerships enables CHA to develop a housing continuum that accommodates families with diverse income. Children who deserve a place to call home like the 10,000 children that we currently serve. Many of our families are working families that are getting priced out of this beautiful City. Charlotte is expanding and cultivating new opportunities for so many but not for them. These dollars will help us serve Charlotteans who were born and raised here, educated here, relocated here but cannot afford to live here. This is their City too; they deserve the right to participate in the City's growth. Let me remind you of you is getting priced out of this City: bus drivers, police officers, teachers, healthcare workers, seniors on fixed income, and disabled veterans. What about the mother who escaped domestic violence with her three kids and then found out she had cancer? We were there for her and we need these funds to provide housing opportunities for others like her. As we at the Housing Authority review our waiting list of over 18,000 people, we know that Charlotte is not short of demand for housing that is affordable but short on supply. This is our time to act, this is where we commit real action with real meaning that changes lives.

Torie Leslie, 216 Sylvania Avenue said I am the Chief Academic Officer for Digibridge, and I'm very grateful to be here as a recipient of the Cultural Vision Grant made possible through the Arts and Science Council, and I'm very happy to share some of that success from the funds that we have raised. When we talk about vision which is anticipating that which will or be to come that is what the partnership is setting forth to do for our kindergarteners through eight graders in the Charlotte area. It is our hope that we bridge the digital divide, which is very evident within our City and we do that through our #Steamsaturdaysprograms. Funds like that from the Arts and Science Council and the Cultural Vision Grants help us to create a vision for our students that we serve. Our impact is great through this partnership, and I want to highlight Briarwood Elementary School that has filled 350 seats with our future steaminist.

As we talk about the vision for the City, we need to make sure that all of our children are able to realize that vision when their time comes when we grow them to those strong engineers, technicians, mathematicians, we want them to look at Charlotte as a place

where they can stay and grow. Thanks to the Arts and Science Council, that funding has helped us to build a wonderful program, and we hope to fill 500 seats, not just at this location but at others. I want to thank you for this consideration; I want to thank you for your funding for the Arts and Science Council and me and the scholars that I serve every day thank you too.

Housing Trust Fund

Bree Newsome, 2510 Dalebrook Drive said I am here to urge City Council to allocate \$50 million for the Housing Trust Fund, which is desperately needed if the City is in any way serious about providing solutions to the housing crisis in Charlotte and insuring the City remains accessible to people of all income levels. I'm a local organizer in regular communication with residents who are under threat of being displaced from their homes and who want to remain in their neighborhoods. It is very difficult for people who have to work many hours to afford their rents, for the elderly, and for those with disabilities living on fixed income to show up for the Council's various budget and zoning meetings, but I assure you that they care and are paying attention, and I am here to be a voice for them this evening. For decades, the City of Charlotte has been complicit in racial, and economic segregation that has forced poor residents, a disproportionate number of whom are black and Latino to live in areas of concentrated poverty where they experience a reduced quality of life regarding everything from their designated public school to their ability to access nutritious food and public transportation. Make no mistake that the crisis of affordable housing in Charlotte is a civil rights issue directly connected to the City's history of engaging in discriminatory practices. I would like to remind the Council of the event of September 2016, when the City made headlines around the nation following the police killing of Keith Lamont Scott. These events represented a boiling over of racial and economic tensions that exist in the City due to the City's continued failure to adequately address and make preparations for the ongoing of racism and segregation in Charlotte. A child living in Charlotte should be able to thrive here regardless of their zip code. The City claims to be addressing issues of poverty and economic mobility, but that is not possible if the City is allowing its poor residents to be pushed outside the City limits where they cannot benefit from the economic growth that is occurring in the City including improvements to transportation. I agree with City leaders who recognize that Charlotte has an opportunity emerge as a model for cities around the nation who are also seeking solutions to issues of racism and poverty 50 years after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. Allocating \$50 million to the Housing Trust Fund is an essential step in this effort, and I urge the Council to act in favor of civil rights justice and equity.

Collaborating with the County

Amantha Barbee, 6233 Edmore Boulevard said thank you for allowing us to have this time with you tonight. I am here in support of the \$50 million Trust Fund proposal. I am a resident of Charlotte; I have always been a resident of Charlotte. I am a proud graduate of West Charlotte, and I live in West Charlotte, and I work in West Charlotte, all by choice. My mother still lives in the house in which I was raised; she retired after 30-years of giving service as a teacher at Charlotte Mecklenburg School System. My father retired as an educator as well after 36 years of service. If my mother were to sell that house she lives in right now, she would sell it for a heck of a lot more than they paid for it, but I promise you she would have nowhere to go on her salary, because she still lives off of a teacher's salary. That is unheard of in a City like this. It says in many of our texts, one way or the other, our religious text, and in my own tradition it says what you have done to the least of these you have done to me. Now, my question becomes are we able to do that in good faith and in good conscious? If you are able to vote against this I and many others will deeply question exactly where your moral compass points. We cannot continue to ignore our minimum wage employees, our teachers, our policemen, and the people, which truly keep our City going. Many of you ran for office on this very issue. If you vote against this tonight, I truly hope that your car is not your bed; I truly hope that when you go home your lights will come on. I truly hope that your children will be able to go to school with no shame, because many cannot because of the situation we have put them in, because they cannot afford a place to live.

City Budget

Anne Lambert, 401 Hawthorne Lane said I am here tonight as an advocate for Charlotte's Professional Theatre Artist and in support of the City of Charlotte's financial support for the Arts and Science Council. I am a theatre actor, director, and producer. Under the banner Charlotte off Broadway, I am an artistic collaborator's produced project and entertain Charlotte audiences with provocative innovative contemporary work that explores popular cultures, marriage, adult friendships, careers successes and failures and arts. Our current production is Barbeque Apocalypse, now playing through May 25, 2018 at the Warehouse Performing Arts Center in Cornelius, North Carolina. If you weren't already aware that there is a 55-seat black box theatre venue in Cornelius around the corner from the Tender's Chicken Restaurant, I think you need to get out more and see more professional theatre being produced locally in your community. Charlotte's off Broadway believes Charlotte needs and deserves more homegrown professional theatre. Since the demise of the Charlotte Repertory Theatre in 2005 and Carolina Actress Studio Theatre in 2014, Charlotte's community of homegrown professional theatre for adult audiences continues to flounder. Charlotte is one of the largest American cities without a professional [inaudible] equity theatre company. Resource starved independent theatres, many female led, are rehearsing in borrowed spaces and self-funding their intermittent productions, paying artists subsistence stiffens and watching the most talented actress, directors and designers depart for other cities. Charlotte deserves more homegrown professional theatre. I encourage the City of Charlotte to support this goal by directing increased funds to professional theatre through designated contributions to the ASC and to other charitable organizations. Please work with these institutions to encourage them to give more funds to theatre and to theatre artists and to work with us to find creative ways to provide those funds directly to Charlotte artists, particularly artists like me producing professionally. We also need your help to access more affordable venue space. This is the number one challenge facing independent theatre producers in Charlotte, hence the Cornelius venue for my current show. I can't afford to produce in Charlotte. I welcome a conversation with you on how local producers, actors, and theatre artists can work with people like me.

Charlotte's Bicycle, Pedestrian and Vision Zero Programs

Diane Cook, 12737 Windyedge Road, Huntersville said I am here on behalf of the American Heart Association, and you are the cure that lobbies for heart and stroke. We all want and deserve to live in safe, healthy communities; walking and biking projects make communities and neighborhoods more livable by insuring all people can get safely to where they need to go, work, school, the library, grocery stores, or parks, and they also help people feel more connected to their neighbors which improves quality of life. We can help make it safer for people to share the road with cars and trucks, sidewalks that connect to parks, public transportation and schools, roads that include designated and protected bike lanes and streets that accommodate all people can help us safely be active and improve our quality of life. Studies show that people in walkable neighborhoods generally get about 35 to 45 more minutes of moderate, intensive physical activity a week and are less likely to be overweight or obese than those in no walkability neighborhoods. Investing in a more active Charlotte will help us all be healthier. Please support the City Manager's proposal to fully fund Charlotte's Bicycle, Pedestrian and Vision Zero Programs.

Arts and Science Council Funding

Pete Heuberger, 227 West Trade Street said I am representing the North End Partners or NEP in support of the funding that the Arts and Science Council receives from the City of Charlotte. In 2017, CMPD Metro Division asked officers to come up with possible community projects. Officer Charlisor Rivor thought a new mural could bring a much needed sense of color and light to the underpass at 16th and North Tryon Streets. Unfortunately, this is the spot where officers encounter prostitution and drug use. Officer Rivor approached NEP and that meeting led to artists Sam Guzzie and Lane Morris from the artistic group [inaudible] volunteers for NEP and guest of the nearby Men's Shelter of Charlotte joining with CMPD officers to paint a mural along the north side of the underpass this last August. NEP found that the mural beautified the corridor and brought people from

many different walks of life together to work on the project. We didn't have the funds to paint both sides of the underpass; NEP was awarded a \$5,000 ASC Cultural Vision Grant to finish the mural. ASC helps non-profit organizations and creative individuals pursue initiatives that build community or demonstrate relevant cultural expression. The grant will be matched by additional donations from NEP businesses and residents who want to see this project completed. Contributed funds will pay for paint and supplies enabling the artists and residents from the Men's Shelter to be paid a modest stipend. The NEP Team began work on the mural this past Saturday and will be painting the underpass over the next six weeks. We need volunteers to paint on Saturdays through May and June. The Men's Shelter has set up a sign-up genius for volunteers to select a day that they want to work, and we also invite donations of cash to help match the ASC grant. Finally, we want to thank the City of Charlotte for supporting the ASC Programs. Charlotte values the work of our local artists and that means creating more opportunities for artists to receive compensation for their work.

FY2019 Budget

Ed Baesel, 6846 Morrison Boulevard said I am a third generation Charlottean, and I was part of the things that happened here in the 1970's when we became a national model, and I think it is time for us to achieve that again. I am a member of the Charlotte Regional Realtor Association Board of Directors and also I sit on the non-profit, the charitable on the Housing Opportunity Foundation, so I'm here today on behalf of 10,000 realtors who live in Charlotte, work in Charlotte and sell houses in Charlotte and ask you to support the \$50 million in the affordable housing bonds. As realtors, we are a lot of times on the forefront obviously we are all over the board, but we recognized the importance that stable housing plays in promoting upward economic mobility, as well as rent challenge that many of our neighbors face in and around the Charlotte area. The historic investments that the Manager has recommended in his budget won't completely solve our problems. but it is a huge step towards providing the funds necessary for the City to start investing in new and rehabilitated houses for our neighbors who are in most need of assistance. Our association is looking forward to putting our energy and resources into this year's bond campaign. and we are optimistic voters who will support an important investment in affordable housing. We thank you for your commitment to this; you've already shown that is a critical issue. and we ask you to approve the budget with the bond amount recommended by the Manager unless you want to increase it.

Charlotte City Workers Union

Bernard Williams, 11463 Kingfisher Drive said this is the first time down to City Council, so I'm trying to show my boys how it is. I'm a Charlotte City worker, and I just want to say that over the years that I've seen this City start growing; I've already seen it more than what you all have. Where it used to be woods and stuff, now there are houses everywhere, and I would like to say we need help. We need funding. The insurance is going up, and it is hard to live. For my situation, I've got heart failure; I've got to decide if I'm going to put food on the table or get my medicine, so I just want to say that it is hard out here. We work out here seven days a week and all times of the night. We need the support, and we need the help. We are just like the Police and Fire, we are very important. Without us, everything would shut down; the firefighters couldn't go to the fire houses and put out fires. We are very important; what if you had to go home, cut on the faucet and no water coming out? You can't go and flush the toilet; what are you going to do? I'm going to steal the thing from the [inaudible] book, but who are you going to call? I'm just wanted to let you know that we are very important, and I think we are the heartbeat of this City. We keep this City grounded; we keep this City on flow.

Affordable Housing

Darrell Williams, 512 Grandin Road said after my other brother Williams I don't think I need to say anything. Thank you for your commitment to this community, and thank you for this opportunity to share some brief remarks regarding affordable housing. I am a longtime Charlotte resident, an architect, and a founding partner of Neighboring Concepts and a former member of the Board of County Commissioners. I've been living in Charlotte

now for over 35-years, and my love for this City is as strong as it has ever been. Three of my sons were raised here, all graduating from CMS schools and are now raising their kids here. In my personal and profession life, I have been and continue to be committed to doing all that I can to make Charlotte a great place for all of us. I believe that ever resident, no matter what their income, has the right to enjoy quality, well-built housing. I also believe that our neighbors in Charlotte who happens to be low-income wage earners deserve to enjoy housing stability. Housing stability and housing security impacts economic mobility, and those in our community who are low wage earners deserve the opportunity to increase their mobility without compromising their housing situation. For this to happen, Charlotte needs many things; we need good paying jobs, good living wages; we need world class infrastructure, safe neighborhoods and transit options. We need quality education for all our children, and we need more diversity in our schools and neighborhoods and we need more affordable housing. In my personal and professional life, I've been led by desire to influence positive change, change within social and physical challenged communities like the communities where I grew up in Louisiana and those that exists all over the country, and Charlotte is no exception. Incidentally I just arrived off the plane back from Louisiana visiting my mother and other family members for Mother's Day. When I see the low wage earners here in Charlotte, generally good hard working people, I see my family. Thank you for what you do, and I urge you to support the affordable housing bonds.

City Funding to the Arts & Science Council

Victoria Lemley, 227 West Trade Street said I am representing LAWA Latin Americans working for Achievement; I am also a Charlotte native and a second generation Latin American Emigrant. LAWA is a small non-profit serving the Latino community in Charlotte since 1992. We work to advance the educational access and opportunities for Latinos in the Charlotte community. One of LAWA's major programs Padres y Padrinos or Parents and God-Parents focuses on elementary youth. A component of PYP addresses holistic health. This program is called Dancing for Diversity, which celebrates Latino culture through music and dance. Both Latino and non-Latino youth participate in professional dance instruction learning basic choreography and the history of Latin genres. After 15-weeks of instructions, our partner in elementary schools hosts recitals to celebrate youth and culture. LAWA collects and analyzes data to make an intentional impact on students' behavior, self-esteem, cultural awareness and integration. Given the current political climate the support is now more crucial than ever. The Arts and Science Council awarded LAWA with a cultural vision grant in 2018 making this necessary work possible. On behalf of LAWA, I encourage you to support the Arts and Science Council. Additionally, the dancing for diversity recital is this Thursday at Albemarle Road Elementary at 4:30 p.m., and everyone is invited to attend.

Wealth Gap

Victor Howard, 215 Eastway Drive said this is actually my first time coming to this thing, so bear with me. I'm speaking from the heart. Basically, I just wanted to bring out some information that I've gotten a change to get to; about three weeks ago a wealth report came out about native black descendants to slaves wealth gap between whites. Right now, there is a network of native black descendants to slaves without a family car is 1,700 hours compared to whites is 125,000 hours. I just wanted to put it out there that I hear tonight about the affordable homes which will be great for the City, but along with those affordable homes that are being built hopefully we can have some native black workers being a part of that and not be just one group. Another thing I would like everybody to read is called the Color of Law. It basically demonstrates exactly what happened if nobody knows what happened. That is all I have to say, but I just want to bring everybody awareness about that.

FY2019 Proposed Budget

Charles Carter, 1105 Otts Street said thank you for hearing my voice tonight. I work at the Sanitation Department; I heard the Fire; I heard the Police talk about their jobs. I love to sit across the table and share checks with them, because I'm not here asking for money.

I'm here asking for respect. It is time for you all to guard up, and put your dukes up and start fighting for us, because we tough every home every day in this City. I've been in Charlotte since 2000, and I have never called the police. I called the Fire Department one time, because my son that suffers from diabetes had an episode and they came. They were on time, and they were prompt, but I'm there every week, and I pick up probably everybody around that podium or whatever you call it, trash every week. You want to talk about hazards at work; go up to the landfill. I invite you. Put some hard hats on and go everything and see what we go through every day. We are under the same umbrella that every City worker is, but we don't get respected as such and it is time for this Council, distinguished men and women to stand up for us for a change. We didn't ask for 15%, but we deserve more than that if you ask what I think because you are talking about \$15 affordable healthcare and affordable homes. My colleagues can't even afford to stay here for real for real. These people that are coming up here are doctors and lawyers and CEOs; we're the garbage people that pick up everybody's trash, and you all don't respect us, and it is time that you all do so.

Housing Trust Fund

Kaleia Martin, 1739 Misty Vale Road said I come here tonight to encourage you all to fully fund the \$50 million that has been requested by the community in order to alleviate our current housing crisis. I grew up in Charlotte and graduated from the one and only Harry P. Harding University High School. I left the area after I graduated to further my education, and last year I was excited to return to the City that had given me so much and pour back into it. Within three months, I realized that I couldn't afford to live in the City without multiple roommates, a long commute, and allocating much more than 30% of my income towards housing. I'm a millennial who grew up being taught that if I went to school, worded hard and got a job I could obtain the American dream. Now forgive me if I misunderstood the message, but I don't think that the dream entailed me getting a Master's Degree a full-time job and still having to live at home, because rent is too expensive. I absolutely love my job, and I'm fortunate to wake up every morning and be so excited about the work that I will do today. I'm a social worker who works with high school students to teach the importance of advocacy and civic engagement; I shop and eat locally. This is my home, and I'm a human being. I deserve to live in housing that is safe and affordable. I share my story to illustrate the fact that Charlotte has a major decision to make; we can either be yet another City that pushes out its public service providers, native and working class citizens or we can set the national standard on how to create a beautiful and affordable City for all of its residents. I will beyond proud if I could say that Charlotte has decided to break the national trend of displacing residents in order to increase the profits for a handful of people and instead prioritize communities in more equitable outcomes for all. I ask you all tonight, do you want to be remembered as the group who dared to set a new national trend for affordable housing or the group that squandered the last chance for Charlotte to be on the inclusive side for all of its citizens?

FY2019 Proposed Budget

Thomas Young, 43212 Commonwealth Avenue said I would like to thank you all for what you do for us and some of my co-workers didn't come down tonight, because they are tired. We are out there on these standing routes every morning; we have standing routes every morning. We need more manpower and lady power. We need more trucks for these routes, garage the same way. They have standing routes every day too; they need more trucks on these routes. You are killing these guys out here every day doing this stuff, then you've got people sitting out landscaping stuff behind you on the route then you've got to turn around, and you get a ticket and they come to your office Mayor and City Manager they come to your office; we have to go back out there and get it. I don't think it is fair. We've also got [inaudible] on them trucks that is saying we've been doing our jobs. Another thing I want to say to you and what they need to do is audit this illegal yard waste that we are picking up out here. I don't think it is right that we have to pick up all these limbs and big piles of stuff they put out here illegal piles of stuff they put out here. I don't think it is right. I'm not saying that I don't want to do my job, but I go out and do whatever they tell me to do; I do it every day. Once I put my uniform on and wear the crown, I'm

proud; I'm proud of where I work at and the guys and co-workers you know what they are proud to do their job too, but we need more manpower.

Mayor Lyles said Mr. Manager we do get issues around the workforce having to go back and pick up things, and we've talked about that before. I think we need to follow up on that, because I think we've heard it and the guys and ladies say it.

Mr. Young said they need to limit the time for us to be out there during the day; it is hot. We are trying to get this stuff up and go home like everybody else, so we can be with our families.

Mayor Lyles said let's make sure our hot weather policies are in place this summer.

Motion was made by Councilmember Egleston, seconded by Councilmember Driggs, and carried unanimously to close the public hearing.

Mayor Lyles said thank you for all of you that stayed and listened and contributed. We really appreciate it. We know that while we sit here at this dais it is really about you and we appreciate you coming and helping us make these decisions.

* * * * *

POLICY

ITEM NO. 16: CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mayor Lyles said the Manager has suggested that we do Memorial Stadium at our next available time.

The proposal was presented to Council at the June 4, 2018 Strategy Session.

Marcus Jones, City Manager said John Lewis is going to make a brief presentation. But before Mr. Lewis begins, I just have one thing I would like to share with Council. I had a message from the County Manager last week that Pineville would like for CMPD to continue to police their unincorporated area. I had a conversation with the Town Manager, Ryan Spitzer this afternoon, and he agrees. There are things to be looked at; Kim Eagle is my lead on that, but I confirmed today that Pineville would like to remain having CMPD police their unincorporated area.

Mayor Lyles said so, you will have a team working on that, and we will have some agreement that comes back to us before July 1, because they will have to have it in their budget.

John Lewis, CATS CEO said I'm here this evening to provide you with a very brief update on the status of the Charlotte Gateway Station project. CATS has been before you on several occasions to get your consent on multiple agreements required to move this project forward, agreements between CATS and the Federal Railroad Administration, North Carolina Department of Transportation and Norfolk-Southern Railroad. As you now, this project has been divided into two phases: Phase I includes five new bridges at West Fourth Street, Trade Street, Fifth Street, Sixth Street, and the PNN Greenway. The project also includes two 2,000 foot long station tracks, passenger boarding platform, and canopy foundations and signals governing track operations. The first phase of the project is fully funded; it has been advertised by NC-DOT and bid opening will occur tomorrow, May 15, 2018. We expect construction to begin sometime in July, and that first phase to be completed sometime during summer or fall of 2022 depending upon the schedule for the winner of tomorrow's bid opening. Concurrently, staff has been working diligently on Phase II of the project, which will include solicitation and selection of a private development partner, who would deliver the actual train station and associated transit oriented development. I will be back before you at your May 30, 2018 meeting hopefully to provide more detail on the Phase II activities including our private development industry

forum, which is currently scheduled for June 26, 2018. I just wanted to give you that brief update since tomorrow's bid opening will occur and there will be a public announcement of Phase I portion of the project.

Mayor Lyles said that is actually good news; I know it is going to be a huge infrastructure project in a major section of our downtown, and a lot is going to be going on. It is going to take four years, but you know progress is going to be progress and progress sometimes take time so congratulation on it.

Councilmember Winston said I have a question about that timeline; why would it take four years to build one phase of a train station? Can that not be accelerated?

Mr. Lewis said because we are building adjacent to an operating freight rail corridor; it takes a lot more time than if we were building in our own separated right-of-way.

* * * * *

ITEM NO. 17: FISCAL YEAR 2019 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Mayfield, seconded by Councilmember Driggs, and carried unanimously to approve adoption of the Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Action Plan for Housing and Community Development.

* * * * *

COUNCIL BUDGET PROCESS

Mayor Lyles said that completes our Business Agenda for tonight and before we go to Mayor and Council Topics, I think I brought up the meeting schedule and recommendation. I think Councilmember Bokhari suggested where I said each Councilmember would have the opportunity to speak individually on any item in the budget, I think he said it might be good to call that an opening statement that everyone have the ability to making an opening statement, but if you can pull that up the procedure would be that the Council will meet on May 16, 2018 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Council can submit questions and requests for additional information to the City Manager for this meeting. We would like to have it by Tuesday at 2:00 p.m., and of course we all know that if you call the Manager and you have something after 2:00 p.m., he is going to try to make it happen. Council would then ask for a recommendation and again I think we have a suggestion by Mr. Bokhari that we try to get if there is a mass around any particular idea that we need a presentation or more explanation on that we try to have at least four to five people that need that otherwise we would schedule it a one on one with the Manager to do that or someone on the staff. Having each Councilmember to have an opening statement individually on the budget, anything in the budget, and staff during that presentation would make a note of things that you are suggesting. It could be about the revenue side, the expenditure, anything that you bring up, fees just so there are examples. At the end of the meeting after everyone has had a dialogue and I suggest we start probably about 5:00 p.m. to get this done, we would vote on those things we would like to see carried forward to the next meeting for the staff to reply, which is Wednesday May 30, 2018 from noon to 5:00 p.m. and we would just continue the discussion. The Manager will review and bring back information that we've asked for. Council continues the discussion and the process on anything that comes up and then if they are ready to take any direction we do, and if not we just continue to do preliminary votes and would move to Monday, June 4, 2018 from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. Again the Manager reviews the data and brings it back, but at that point we would talk about taking those preliminary votes so the staff could prepare the budget on June 11, 2018 for Council's adoption.

We also talked about our process of five votes to get the staff to move forward to refine any suggestions, and we would try to get that information to you instead of it all coming at one time, roll it out so that people could get it, and I would like to suggest, do we want to get that by e-mail so it can move more quickly? Ordinarily, we would wait until Thursday

when the packet comes, but if they are rolling it out you could do something on a more quickly; it could be out by e-mail as it comes up and complete it. It would take six votes to include any amendment to the ordinance that would be presented for adoption.

Councilmember Eiselt just a question, you said that we would start for the adds and deletes at 5:00 p.m.

Mayor Lyles said anyone had an amendment that they would suggest for the staff to do the flushing out of what it would be, how it would be implemented, it would take five.

Councilmember Bokhari said just one further tweak or recommendation. With the opening statements, I think one of the reasons that would be really good is that we don't have to get everything we want to say completely out, but it will make us all really focus in on what are the three, four, six specific things that we are kind of presenting in a very quick way. My suggestion might be that rather than going around and letting each person kind of do opening statements we almost take it one at a time where I get to lay out three or four things. These are my things in five minutes is what I want and then we don't move on to the next person until we've had the dialogue and we've seen either five people raise their hand on Tariq's item number one and say yeah I would be interested in exploring that and it gets handed to the Manager, or there is no one in support and it is crickets and all of a sudden that one is off the table. That way we don't have to remember at the end what everyone said; we can one at a time kind of go through and have that dialogue, and I think we will end up knocking some items off of other people's list in our dialogue.

Councilmember Driggs said I recognize the value of that; I would just point out to you that experience has shown that you will get about half way through this group, and the discussion that is ignited by the opening statements of a few of us will take up the entire time. I really think we need to protect the certain amount of time and make sure everybody gets a chance to say something. People can take notes and then we can also get the benefit of everybody. I understand your point, but I just think procedurally it would be better.

Mr. Bokhari said I defer to that point which is very good.

Mayor Lyles said I think one of the things the staff has been really good at this to say if you want to add donuts for breakfast every morning that they could check it; six people said that. That kind of gives you a visual approve, and we could do it visually instead of having a response, and you could certainly say well I think it is a brilliant idea whatever Ms. Ajmera said, and that would be enough in your statement. I wasn't trying to over structure it; what I was really trying to do was structure it enough that everybody had a chance to participate. I think that is really important; I know this is a significant statement for all of us, and I know that there is not necessarily agreement on some of the ways we've gotten here, but we are here, and we have a responsibility to do this in a way that I think respects each other and respects the people that took the time to come at 5:30 p.m. to 8:35 p.m. to give us feedback on it, and I'm sure there are a lot more that you are getting by e-mail. I really believe that we represent the community's position in this area, so it is good to do that.

Mr. Driggs said I just wanted to clarify; I've made clear that I think where we are right now we need to have a bigger conversation than we typically do at this point. I'm in agreement with your proposal, so I think we should do this the way you say and it is just a more general observation there should have been a time when we could talk about the amount of our commitment to affordable housing or the police solution before we got this far down the road, when really it is kind of hard if we come back to the Manager and say you know what, you really need to find 10% for those officers. That is going to be a big ask, and I don't think you could easily accommodate that, because you've done a lot to get where we are right now. That was the point of my comment, but I'm okay with the procedure you suggest.

Councilmember Egleston said I'm also fine with the procedure as you've laid out. What I would ask everybody in respect of everybody's time, I had the opportunity this morning,

and I know he is willing to do this with anybody, to sit down with the Manager and ask him my clarifying questions so that one of our budget meetings does not turn into everyone asking questions so they individually understand something that maybe they didn't understand a head of time. I think these meetings need to be about our priorities, our opinions on the budget. Probably, five of the eight questions I asked him this morning were ones that would have been a waste of your time if they are things you already understood, and they were clarified for me so I hope those meetings don't turn into tutorials.

Mayor Lyles said please think about that, and I think he has got a ton of people that you could just walk into the office and Phil and Sabrina and the Managers well just walk in. Kim has been doing this forever, so I think if there is just a question if you don't have time to actually submit it and you are in the building just stop and ask, and they will compile it. That is a great point.

Councilmember Phipps said I do think in retrospect and just reflecting on the three workshops that we did have and it is probably going to be part of the post mortem analysis of how this whole budget process worked. I guess some were disappointed that within those three Budget Workshops, it seems like at times it is hard to focus on what our true in game is in terms of what we need to get done. I think we still have a tendency to have a lot of discussion, and that is why I thought maybe a fourth Workshop would have been good to schedule. Last year, we had four, so I would hope that we would go into Wednesday's meeting with a more focused objective on what we want to do and try to get as many clarifying questions answered as possible before hand. We did have a Retreat, and I don't know how many hours that Retreat was that day; we had the Retreat, and when you talk about the amount of affordable housing funds we had Committee meetings. Where was the projected idea of what we wanted to see as an amount? At some point, we could just meet until the cows come home; what are you going to do? It is frustrating so I hope we can concentrate; we've got the Manager's proposal; what do we think they should be and move forward.

Mayor Lyles said that reminds me; there are two things I think we ought to really look at and remind ourselves of in this conversation. One is that the Manager has a responsibility to make his recommendation; that is a professional responsibility and accountability he has, as well as his defined role in our system of government that we have. While he may not get it right, but he has a responsibility that if he thinks it is the right professional approach; that is what you want in a Manager. I was going to say to you well that may be difficult, and it may be hard but that is my responsibility and then it is ours to say, so we do have that ability to make those changes, and if we feel strongly about something we have that responsibility to tackle it. The other thing that I have been a little bit concerned about is; and I've heard this that it didn't go to Committee. Well you know, the Committee referrals are supposed to be made based upon the Council saying this is the topic. This is the issue, and it should go to Committee in this respect. We are not a congressional body like the Federal Government is; we don't start out with Committee. The Committee system by informal and unwritten has been, because it is supposed to come to this group, and there is supposed to be a specific effort by a smaller group to work on this. I think that we've tried really hard to say bring us a strategy for this; bring us a plan for something that we didn't have a plan for, but I would really encourage us to remember those first Mondays are for us to talk and we should be talking about that more. That is the time to actually try to get more of that done, and if it gets to a place where it bogs down here then you could say why is it bogging down or why aren't we able to move it and what are the questions that we need to answer. I would say and I've said this to several people we've had five months and we've already had two policy items on this agenda and we have at least seven or eight referrals in Committee. Policy things come out of Committee when asked to be there, so we either are not asking enough or not defining enough and trying to figure out how it works better. I know that you get the reports every month and I haven't had a chance to read the latest one, but I would encourage us to be really much more up front and not just assume that it has to go Committee because it has to go to Committee when we decide that it is not viable for us to handle it as a Council.

Councilmember Mayfield said clarifying question for you based on what we are saying our next steps are. Are we saying that individuals are going to submit whatever questions they have and then what is going to be the response from the Manager's Office and then you are going to be prepared on Wednesday to present the response to all the questions based on people individually asking questions?

Marcus Jones, City Manager based on what this Council has said in the past what we are trying to do is get all the information and then share all the answers with the entire Council.

Councilmember Winston said a couple things I've heard tonight in this discussion right here, something Mr. Driggs said, something Mr. Phipps said and something several of us have alluded to and sometime I spoke about literally at the first meeting. We have to change the way we do things; we can't continue to try to fix this Council in the way we go about asking questions and getting information and dealing with information with the status quo the way we are doing things. We keep beating around the bush about how do we get shared information, and it is the same conversation that we had in the first couple weeks. We have to really look at the way we have structured ourselves; how our meetings are scheduled. Who we have so we can have folks that are talking about different topics of conversation at the same time when we are not there and then represent us? We can continue to have this conversation and add another meeting and e-mail questions, but when it comes down to it we are trying to fix today's needs of government into something that might have worked many years ago, and it is time to change that up.

Councilmember Ajmera said I would like to echo Mr. Winston's point; we need to look at how can we do things more effectively. Committee is only one avenue of getting things done. If we keep pushing everything to Committee, we are not going to be efficient. I'll give you a prime example; I think today we made a decision on circular economy, and if you had to go through that item to Committee then it would have taken – we have clean energy there; we have water. We have so many other items lined up. We cannot push everything through a committee; otherwise it is just going to delay what we owe to our residents. I think we've got to look at more creative ways to do things more effectively, and I appreciate our City Manager's leadership on some of these issues where we can get things done more efficiently.

Mr. Egleston said I won't belabor the point much, because Ms. Ajmera made most of it for me, but I was going to differentiate between things that are in Committee like Stormwater which is hundreds of millions of dollars and the UDO, which is a three to five year process and to me that is the kind of work that should be in Committee. If we are referring a half million dollar projects to Committee; if we seem bogged down how, half million dollar projects in Committee is going to make pale in comparison.

Mayor Lyles said I think I heard that we are okay with the way we are going to conduct business.

Mr. Driggs said I just want to point out response to a number of things that were said about, hey it is \$500,000; we don't have time for this. If you want to give the Manager individual authority for \$500,000, you go ahead and give it to him, okay, but as long as we all to sit here and raise our hand or not, we each need to be briefed on the things that come up, and you find out that many of the things that we have to think about are actually not quite as simple as they look. They deserve a discussion; they deserve an opportunity for everybody to point out things that the others might not have heard, so I don't want us to get sloppy here. I worked at Goldman Sacs in New York, and I promise you that was not an environment where a whole lot of people sat around for weeks making up their minds about things, but there was a certain level of sufficiency of analysis before the trigger was pulled. You can do that fast, or you can do that slow, but when it gets to the point where an individual has an idea and it gets taken to the staff, and it is brought back to the rest of this group for a vote, that is getting sloppy. This outfit has to work like a team; we need to work together. You don't want to be the one that is sitting in this meeting and hears about something that is up for a vote that you didn't even know about. This time you weren't; there was obviously a general awareness and consensus on this issue. I'm not opposed

to the issue, and it was never my intention as you pointed out to say no this thing, but you just don't want to come in here and sit in a public meeting and see a thing come up for vote, and you have no idea what it was. I don't know how to vote on that. I hope we can strike the balance between impatient and young and deliberate and old or whatever you want to call it, but I don't want to see us compromise our quality of transparency and deliberation in the process.

Mr. Phipps said I'm glad Mr. Driggs brought it up, because I seem to think that at one time we had discussed in prior Committee, I think in Governance and Accountability Committee about raising the authority level by which he could approve things, and other municipalities in North Carolina, I guess Raleigh is one that we compare ourselves to, they've given the Manager authority of \$500,000. It looks like if that is the threshold that the Manager could work with then I would say that we should let us vote on, because some of these items we vote on are way under that. I wonder why are we saying grace over this \$150,000 contract when we are paying the Manager hundreds of thousands? I think we should raise that level, because now I think it is \$100,000. We are a growing City we need to do something about it, and grant him the authority that he deserves. and maybe we can move from some of these.

Mayor Lyles said I thought at the Retreat that we said we would come back with \$300,000, but I don't remember what it is. I think someone did say \$500,000.

Mr. Bokhari said I've already said I agree with Mr. Driggs on what he said; I also agree with what I heard from Mr. Winston and Ms. Ajmera. I think there is a bridge here. which is \$500,000 no matter what; I don't think anyone should balk at that. It is a large sum of money. and also we should have discussions about these things. It is not just about checking the box. and we had the discussion, we might come up with better ideas on how to deploy it. so maybe the bridge between these two kind of points here is if we can't figure out how to change and innovate and create a Committee structure that can be nimble enough to handle \$500,000, \$200,000, \$300,000 or \$400,000 items creatively. maybe that is where we circle back to some of these other things we've been talking about for a couple months now. the use of slack and the ability to kind have the conversation and dialogue on demand. I would ask the question to be if the Committee structure is not nimble enough to be able to handle things, not 30/60/90 but 7/14/21 days. If we can't do that and make that work that way, then where do we think out of the box like Mr. Winston said, because Mr. Driggs' point is very valid. We need to have that discussion. I didn't know anything about this and while we might have said it is in Consent, and we discussed it at the Retreat, things were discussed at a very high hazy level where we are all yeah, circular economy is great and there might have been a half million dollars in the budget for something, but those two being combined in the Consent Agenda, that was like a kind of new business kind of agenda item to me. So, how we can figure out how we can maybe tweak both of those sides I think we would all be better served.

Motion was made by Councilmember Winston, to put together an ad hoc committee that looks at our structure of government and how we go about our business.

Without a second, the motion was not considered.

Mr. Driggs said we don't need an ad hoc committee; we had a Governance and Accountability Committee before, and it hasn't been reappointed.

Motion was made by Councilmember Winston to reinstate the Governance and Accountability Committee.

Mayor Lyles said what would be the question that you would ask them to do? When you say look at the form of government what would you have them do?

Mr. Winston said to put together all these issues that we have identified time and time again over these past five and a-half months of doing business, and come up with

solutions or actions that would make our processes better in how we go about governing the City.

Councilmember Eiselt said I would agree with that; I feel like we have these conversations in silos. We've talked about a lot of us have different opinions on the Committee process. I don't feel like it is robust enough, but we have to have a place that we have that conversation and I would like to see that Committee come back, whether it is ad hoc or it is permanent. We just have to have a place that we can have these discussions. I do agree that our Council structure is outdated; I don't think we can keep up with all the work the City has to do, and we want to be a sophisticated City, and we can't keep up with it under this structure.

Mr. Driggs said I will second the motion.

Mayor Lyles said it has been a long day and a long night, and I don't know how everybody feels; would you rather have this conversation next week when everybody is up for it or do you want to do it right now?

Ms. Mayfield said I was Vice Chair of the Committee we are talking about regarding the Governance and Accountability. One of the things as far as having a conversation as far as the dollar amount that the Manager will have access to, there was a lot of conversation about it. Part of our challenge is we keep saying five months; it hasn't been five months, so we had no Committee meetings in the month of January. So, we've only really been having Committee meetings for four months, because we are in May right now. So, with along with trying to get to know each other around this dais some Committees only meet once a month; some Committees may have two meetings. We were given a new structure of how Committee topics are going to be addressed and what rises to the top. When we were first given a booklet, there were a number of questions from people who had been around the dais previously that said there were things that we were working on that did not make its way to the top that we are still trying to figure out and have conversations on, so part of the challenge is the fact that for me the presentation that was submitted did not feel like it came from a collective and the challenge that I am seeing is our City Manager has 11 individual Councilmembers plus a Mayor so there is in essence 12 bosses. Out of those 12, it is the City Manager's responsibility to not only work with your Assistant City Managers for them to work with us to make sure that your Council is on the same page. If I go, which I have done over the years of being in this role, when I go to Debra Campbell when she was Planning Director or once she became Assistant City Manager or directly to Pam Wideman when our former Mayor first appointed me to a Committee, they let me know, okay this sounds great Councilmember Mayfield, but we need to talk and make sure that everybody is on the same page, because at the end of the day it takes six votes. We are saying okay six new people have come on; this is nothing new. It is a two-year cycle.

There is always going to be anywhere from one to 11 new Councilmembers sitting around this dais. If we are talking about upgrading the process and trying to streamline it, that is cute; that is great. We can move forward with it, but it cannot be a process where I individually go and plead my case for my pet projects to the Manager and then we have to discussion of City time and commitment around it, or it is presented in the form of a Consent, and you don't have multiple people that are versed on it, because we are all responsible to go back to our constituents and if someone ask us a question, we should at least have the basic understanding of what it is that we are talking about. For some people around the table, we are saying you know what, I did not know that was in there until once it was presented. It is a place where we have to figure out how to have a conversation so that more than one, two or three people have an idea of what we are talking about, and I need to know that as our City Manager moves forward, that one, we are working directly with our Assistance City Manager because a lot of utilize them more than the Manager's Office and knowing that there is a collaboration and a conversation that is happening so that we are on the same page and that individually we are being referred back. If I'm coming and presenting something about Community Safety, I would expect you to tell me okay, have you talked to Councilmember Eiselt since she is the Chair of the Committee. Now yes, on previous Councils we may have learned that through our training that that is how it goes, but that is not how this conversation seems to be going

since we've had a transition. That is what I think will be helpful, because we are having too many individual conversations and then when we come around the dais we are doing something that historically has never been done, because normally we have these deeper conversations either in Committee, or we at least know someone else asked the question and we reach out to each other opposed to having it around the dais.

Ms. Eiselt said I'm not sure what you are asking right now.

Ms. Mayfield said I'm not asking anything; I made a statement to the City Manager about the fact of what would be helpful if I, as an individual, come and present something, I'm hoping that between you working with your Assistance City Managers you know to redirect me to my colleague. If I'm coming to you about something in Public Safety, I shouldn't be the one pushing forward an issue or concern around Public Safety, when I don't even sit on the Committee. I should at least be working with the Chair of the Committee or at least talking to some of my colleagues to find out if this is something you are working on so that we are all on the same page. We got an overview at our Retreat that said circular economy; that was the first time we heard about it. Some people thought it was a great idea; I was like you are bringing people out of the country. I don't see how that ties into what we have going on. I still had questions. Those questions didn't come back up; we get a presentation saying we are going to move forward with it. I still want to recognize that as everyone else has a chance to share whatever it is, or we sent out an e-mail or try to have side meetings about something outside the fact if we can't have clear communication amongst ourselves then we are going to continue to run into this obstacle over and over again. It is not about trying to undermine anyone; it is about us at least being on the same page even if we don't agree.

Mr. Bokhari said when we first were sworn in and you went around and asked Government Accountability was actually one of the ones I was most interested in for this very reason, because we could think about deploying technology, new ways and stuff like that. I would just make the comment; I won't make a counter motion or anything like that. I will just make the comment, I'm violent agreement with everything everyone who has supported in favor or bringing this Committee back; I'm there 100%, and I think we can do so much. I've also seen our Mayor over the last couple months and never once have I seen her with seeing a majority of people behind one thing, not take it away and take it to heart. I don't know that we need to vote on that right now; I think she has heard it. If we could give her a week to go back and talk with staff and the Manager and speck this thing out and say alright let's get the scope, very specific if it is ad hoc or if it is ongoing what are the things that are going to be flowing in here so we can be measurable and then if we are not satisfied after that in a week, or so let's vote on it then, but my sentiment would give her the opportunity; that is her role. Give her the opportunity; she has heard us loud and clear; have her bring something back to us.

Mr. Driggs said is that a substitute motion?

Mr. Bokhari said I would be willing to make a substitute motion.

Mr. Driggs said we have a motion and a second.

Mayor Lyles said you do not have a motion yet, because our Council Rules of Procedure say if anyone person objects you cannot just put something on the agenda that is not on the agenda so let's follow our rules. We all have that and we've know it for a while. All I'm asking is let's have the conversation so we can at least understand what we are doing. We are not going from a motion to this and I'm going to say one other thing after Mr. Newton is done.

Councilmember Newton said how does this work Mr. City Attorney? Is it not within the purview and discretion of the Mayor to create committees, appoint within the committee or can we as a City Council make that decision if even on an ad hoc basis?

Bob Hagemann, City Attorney said if I could let me clarify what the Mayor just said and then I will answer your question. In terms of taking up a matter that is not on the agenda

and this is a matter that is not on the agenda. Your rules say you can bring it up for discussion, but you can't take action unless it is unanimous to add it to the agenda. The other way a Councilmember can have a matter added to the agenda is to bring it up and it will be put on a future agenda, unless somebody objects and that include the Manager, in which it takes six votes to put it on the next agenda. Technically you can't vote on the motion without first adding it to the agenda and that has to be unanimous. Now, Mr. Newton, to your question and I've had this conversation with several of you in some cases over the years. There is nothing in State Law that speaks to Council Committees at all. There is nothing in your City Charter that speaks to Council Committees at all. The practice and history of how Committees have been used by Mayors and City Councils in Charlotte is just that; it is practice and the tradition has been that the Mayor with consensus I believe and consent of the Council has generally arranged for Committees and made appointments for Committees, but that is practice and tradition; that is not law. Ultimately, to answer the question I believe that the Council because they are Committees of the Council, the Council could exercise that authority, but by practice it has been largely left to the Mayor.

Councilmember Winston said I would like to ask for unanimous consent to add the reinstatement of the GAC Committee tonight's agenda.

Mayor Lyles said before we do that, I would like to say if you recall when we created the Committees and we were trying to get people - most of our Committees have five people; there are 11 people, and there are now currently six Committees. When I said that we would not have a GAC Committee, if you will look at the charge to the Budget Committee, which generally worked really hard during the budget I said they have the responsibility also for audit and effectiveness and efficiency. To me, that fits within their purview. Now, that may be something that because we've been doing budget that the Committee hasn't really looked at seriously, but the charge was not to not have the discussion, but it was to try to get it so that everyone of has - how many people are on more than three committees right now? So, what we were trying to do is make it so with 11 people to serve and having now six committees that we would have the opportunity for people to participate. I heard this, but you know the Mayor says you can only have one Committee meeting; I said that we should have at least one Committee meeting. There was never any rule that said you couldn't meet every other day, but there is somehow some idea that it was kind of like defined as something. I would like to say that if you feel like that you need to have seven committees for 11 people to serve, if we are going to have five, but the charge to the Budget Committee included those responsibilities. Now, perhaps it has not been something that has been on the top of the list because budget has been and Stormwater, and those things but the audit as well as issues of efficiency and effectiveness were to put in there. Mr. Winston just asked if there is unanimous consent to vote on this tonight. Does everyone agree that we should take this up tonight?

Mr. Egleston said I kind of see Mr. Bokhari's point, and I'm willing to give you a week to weight it.

Mayor Lyles said I would actually like to ask the Budget Committee to have some time to give to me to say if the charge is too much or not enough instead of creating another five-member committee, but that is something that I would first seek out some information about.

Mr. Driggs said I have to say I have been on the Budget Committee for four and a half years, and I never remember having a governance responsibility.

Mayor Lyles said that is because it didn't have it for four years; it was only after we had the new committee structure.

Mr. Driggs said I just don't ever remember being told that one of your responsibilities is governance.

Mayor Lyles said you may not have been told, but the charge to that was have the audits come before, because the GAC had audits and efficiency and effectiveness and they did

not meet as often as other committees, so I said let's have five committees or six now, but it is up to the Council. I don't think there is unanimous support for the vote tonight.

Mr. Phipps said one of the things that I was considering after this budget process was over, because usually people do a sigh of relief that the budget is over, and we don't have any more Budget Committee meetings until like the fall. I was thinking that maybe we should meet on a more recurring regular basis and then we could entertain this expanded coverage that you envision for the Budget Committee to include some of these things. I would be in favor of that kind of approach.

Mayor Lyles said I would like to talk to the Budget Committee about it. I think we do not have unanimous support for having a vote tonight.

* * * * *

BUSINESS

ITEM NO. 18: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL TOPICS

Councilmember Ajmera said speaking of Committee meetings, I would like to provide you all an update on Clean Energy resolution. The Environment Committee continues to lead the discussion on Clean Energy resolution. I know we all have received several e-mails on that, and we are continuing to work on Strategic Action Plan to meet our Clean Energy Goal. About two week ago, the Committee reviewed the draft for the Clean Energy Resolution; since then, we have heard from many faith leaders, environment advocates and business community about the direction we are taking. We are working with staff to address their questions, and we will have another Stakeholders meeting before the Environment Committee votes on the resolution. I will send out an e-mail with the Stakeholders information, and if you are interested in attending the Stakeholders meeting, which is made up of over 40 individuals that comes from various communities from environment to faith to business communities, and I will keep you all posted on that.

The second item I would like to recognize some outstanding women who is with the City of Charlotte who are nominated as 50 most influential women. For 2018, we have three City employees; one is Dr. Kim Eagle, she has a PHD, also we have our Communications Director, Sandy D'Elosua and then we have Housing Development Program Manager Zelleka Biermann. I would like to congratulate them for this award. Our past honorees have been our Mayor, our Mayor Pro Tem, many folks from CMPD, and our Assistant City Manager, Debra Campbell. Congratulations to all the outstanding women that we have with the City of Charlotte. We are glad that you work for the City of Charlotte.

Councilmember Mayfield said two things I want to make sure the community is aware of, on Wednesday evening starting at 6:00 p.m. will be Reel Out Charlotte. The Queen City's LGBTQ Film Festival; it is the 10th annual celebration. We heard from a number of people earlier regarding Arts and Science Council; art is one of the many factors that companies and headquarters look to how vibrant is your arts community when they are looking to relocate or making investment. I want to make sure that the community is aware that starts on Wednesday and will be actually happening in Camp North End and you can go to reelout.org for more information and for ticket prices. I also would like to thank Donna Morell in our Charlotte Mecklenburg Community Relations Committee as well as the entire team in the Community Relations Committee; on Thursday evening we will be celebrating our 39th annual community police awards, the Community Relations Police Awards. This is the time to submit information, if you have an outstanding officer that has gone above and beyond and made an impact and a positive difference in your community you can contact Ms. Donna Morell. The awards ceremony is happening again this Thursday evening starting at 7:00 p.m., but this is just an opportunity where we get to highlight our CMPD Officers and thank them for the work that that continue to do in our community. I definitely wanted to take a moment to thank Ms. Morell and her entire team because she has been leading this effort and leading the effort of the fund raising so the officers can be

gifted with a little financial thank you. Ms. Morell thank you for everything you do for our community.

Councilmember Phipps said I would to highlight for the group we had an opportunity this past Friday to host a delegation from our Sister City Baoding, China and another Chinese City of Schengen. We had a delegation, and we treated them to lunch and afterwards we came to Old City Hall and had desert. Councilmember Winston and I attended that representing Charlotte. It was a great opportunity, because last year I went to China and both of those cities, and they were reciprocating and on behalf of the Mayor they presented some gifts from Baoding. Hopefully she will receive those soon and be able to put them in her office or we have a displace case on second floor with the Baoding case that they might be included in those. It was a great time and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to host them. They are interested in Charlotte, and they have two other cities they were visiting after they left Charlotte; They were going to San Francisco and then to Seattle, but I made it known they need not go to those cities since they had already been to Charlotte that we would be more than welcome to entertain business opportunities and grow our relationship. It was a good time, and I just wanted to share that with the group that we do have some international Sister Cities that are interested in re-engagement with Charlotte. I know we've got Kumasi that was just re-engaged as a Sister City with us, so I think we are going to have more of those opportunities on a go forward basis to share relationships.

Councilmember Bokhari said I have two very exciting updates that you are not going to want to miss. Tomorrow, Tuesday 5:30 p.m., I will be hosting a District 6 Town Hall at the Morrison Library; the theme is a focus on Customer Service. I really want to drill into unheard voices, concerns, big ideas that people have also little concerns or little ideas. Really, the inspiration came for me in this Town Hall, our staff does a wonderful job, but occasionally I get phone calls of someone who hasn't been able to make their way through the talking process of staff to get something done and they call me, and I call staff and staff says okay sure we will get it done. How do we figure out a customer service model, like a private sector company where if we can get it done with one call from me, we can get it done within the existing process that exists? We've got a great beginning update; we are going to discuss the budget, and we are going to do a bit of a straw poll from the District to have a finger on the pulse and see where people's heads are. Then we've got our Police Chief who is going to come and discuss Public Safety, our new Fire Chief is going to come, introduced to the group and discuss a bit of his priorities. We've got our new Planning Director, who is going to come talk about the UDO process; we've going to talk a bit about SouthPark CNIP and then development in the area and then finally our Director of the Airport is going to come talk about the Airport's growth as well as respond to some community feedback we got on Airport noise. We have a really packed agenda. That is the second most important update I have tonight; the first most important update is that today is my daughter Charlie Mae's third birthday. I ducked out earlier and livestreamed with her when she blew out the candles on the cake, so Charlie Mae Happy Third Birthday; I'll be home soon, and I'll wake you up.

Councilmember Newton said I want to take a moment and thank all of the wonderful citizens who showed up tonight to speak during the public forum and have your voice heard on some salient and very important issues that we are going to have a lot to talk about and think about over the next couple of weeks pertaining to our budget. I also wanted to take a quick moment and thank the other City Managers, as well as the City Manager's Office and the City staff members who worked so hard to put together this proposed budget. At some point, we needed a starting point, and I just wanted to let you know how appreciative I am of your hard work as we move forward I wanted to thank you in advance.

Councilmember Egleston said I want to congratulate all the people who on Tuesday were successful in the Primary, and thank you to those who weren't; we appreciate your offering your service and hope you will continue to find ways to do that. Second, if you would like to come to an even more fun Town Hall, the District 1 Town Hall will be held this Saturday from noon to 2:00 p.m. at the new Midwood International Cultural Center on

Central Avenue. I don't know what Mr. Bokhari is serving but we are having food from Queen City Q, so I'm guessing mine is better.

Mr. Bokhari said we are not serving any food.

Mr. Egleston said it is going to be about historic preservation so we have an incredible line of speakers from the Historic Preservation realm, the development realm, local historians so please come out so you can learn how we can better preserve landmarks, historic neighborhoods and the things that makes Charlotte special. Lastly, I want to thank Bethany Darnally and Katlin Sellers who along with several other organizations, including the City of Charlotte was involved today put on the Charlotte Student Entrepreneurial Summit at CPCC. It was instilling the ideas of entrepreneurship into some of our young people from local high schools. It was well attended and very energetic and enthusiastic group and I appreciate their inviting me to be involved.

Councilmember Newton said I had the great pleasure last week, and I'm glad to see Mr. Egleston, Ms. Eiselt and the Mayor in District 2 at Camp North End at the North End Smart District, as we opened up and cut the ribbon for the Nest. The Nest is located at the Hoover Co-working space at Camp North End; it is a tech learning lab that provides access to high speed internet, technology education, digital literacy training and a true example of how the public side and us at the City in our sustainability efforts and technology efforts coupled with the community efforts of the North End Community Coalition and also some private partners: Google and Red Ventures to kind of get that going. There were some other partners, Black Tech Charlotte, Tech Charlotte Youth Programming, Queens University, and the Digital Charlotte Group, all kind of coming together to start providing some tech education for our youth here in the City, some career development pathways in the City, so it is now open at Camp North End. The road to higher programs specifically through Red Ventures is now open for high school grads looking to jump start their great careers. You can apply to the Road to Higher Program, which is going to help with professional development and leadership training in tech industries. Roadtohigher.org/enrollment, so check that out. It was a great opportunity to be and to really just embrace Camp North End over the weekend with all of the events that they had. I saw Councilmembers Winston and Driggs this weekend through a lot of events that they had. One last thing, part of our Sunset/Beatties Ford Road CNIP, the Lakeview Road roundabout and also the cushion drive in Old Statesville infrastructure improvements will have a public meeting on Thursday, the 17th from 6:00 to 7:30. It is more of a drop-in meeting to discuss some of the alternatives around what we've heard over the past seven to eight months in some public engagements and charrettes through our CNIP process; some staff will be there to answer new questions, provide new feedback and some different design phase renderings. That is going to take place at David Cox Road Elementary, 4215 David Cox Road. These are your bond dollars at work, so we want to make sure we get great attendance to see these projects through.

Councilmember Driggs said yesterday was Mother's Day; I do hope everybody showed due appreciation to the Moms. I certainly did, so I want to shout out to the mother of my two children.

Councilmember Winston said I have two things; I have no doubt that there will be a \$50 million housing bond on the referendum in November. I have no doubt that the people of Charlotte will pass this. What that means is we have to figure out what we are going to do with it. We around this dais, I think as soon as this budget is passed, we have to come up with a master plan of what we are going to do with this money. We need to know and everybody out here needs to know that some of that of money is already spent, so there is not going to be \$50 million when it gets passed, and we have to get real serious doing this work. That is the next step, figuring out what we are going to do with this over the next two years while this money is in the account. I hope that we can get past kind of the processes and really get into something that makes sense on how we are going to come up with solutions for this City. That work will continue, and I will just also call out as I conclude my comments, that this weekend was a hot week-end. It was probably the first weekend that we were over the 90's and it was a very violent weekend as well. I don't know if there is any official correlation, but where I come from and you know summer is coming and you

know some bad things happen. This weekend was no different, so I know this was this time last year when we might have had more discussions about the homicide rate or even if it was a couple months ago, but we've got to keep our eyes on the prize, and know that our communities are hurting, our neighborhoods are hurting; this is why we are having these discussions and trying to get this money into projects like affordable housing and neighborhood building and getting jobs, because our neighborhoods are in pain. This is Mother's Day, and there were more mothers this weekend burying their kids. It is really on us again to get our business right, so we can do the real work for the real reason that we are here, and it is to make this City all that it can be so that people can live here, people can work here and people can eat and play here.

Councilmember Eiselt said I have two comments; first Councilmember Ajmera was very kind to point out some of the 50 most influential women; she didn't mention that she is amongst that list as well, so congratulations to Ms. Ajmera for that honor. Secondly, I want to announce my Town Hall meeting on May 31, 2018, and the topic is around Community Safety; Where Have we Been, and Where Are we Going? Chief Putney will be joining me for that from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. We are honing in on the location right now trying to firm that up, so either connect with me or through the various City channels and we will get that location firmed up.

Mayor Lyles said I want to congratulate Councilmember Ajmera and the other staff members that we have on that list. It is a nice ceremony on Friday and good luck with that. There are two things that I wanted to follow-up; we had an opportunity to meet on the Crisis Communication, which I wanted to say was an initiative that came out of our Retreat. It was something that was on the top of the list for us to get done, and I think it was done well, and it reminded me of the work that we have been doing, including a hot summer crisis that we may need to be prepared for, one of the very first things we talked about was these networks that we have and we've established and how they are working. I know that we are going to come back with a report; I hope those of you who didn't have a chance to attend will be able to participate and give some feedback or hear from the consultant of Brent about it. I think that we do need to be prepared for the protocols that we wanted to have in place even before the plan is done if there is an incident this summer. It was like a network and a protocol about social media and who to call, and I think that is an important thing for us to pay attention to. I also wanted to recognize another achievement, Stephanie Kelly is going to be leaving to become the International City Clerk President, and we want to say congratulations to you Stephanie and the best; you've worked really hard. We know that it hasn't always been easy, and this might be the time that you just remember to celebrate this one, because you deserve it and know that we all stand with you. The final thing I wanted to inform you is that I've been invited to go to Washington to speak in the House of Representatives on our budget plan and what it includes for housing and our Community Development Block Grant Program. I will be going to DC on Thursday and back on Friday in time to go and see the 50 influential women ceremony if everything work well we will do that.

* * * * *

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 p.m.



Emily A. Kunze, Deputy City Clerk, NCCMC

Length of Meeting: 4 Hours, 27 Minutes
Minutes Completed: June 4, 2018