

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina convened for a Business Meeting on Monday, January 4, 2021 at 5:05 p.m. in Room 267 of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center with Mayor Vi Lyles presiding. Councilmembers present were Dimple Ajmera, Tariq Bokhari, Larken Egleston, Julie Eiselt, Malcolm Graham, Renee Johnson, James Mitchell, Matt Newton, Victoria Watlington and Braxton Winston II.

**ABSENT UNTIL NOTED:** Councilmember Driggs.

**Mayor Lyles** said welcome to the January 4, 2021 Council meeting. Isn't it great to be able to say 2021 Council Meeting? Tonight's meeting is being held as a virtual meeting in accordance with the electronic meeting statutes and meeting all the requirements for notice, access, and minutes that are necessary. I hope that all of you are able to view us on the Government Channel or the City's Facebook page or the City's YouTube page.

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### **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Councilmember Ajmera gave the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Councilmember Winston.

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### **ACTION REVIEW**

#### **ITEM NO. 1: MAYOR AND COUNCIL CONSENT ITEM QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

There were no consent agenda item questions.

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#### **ITEM NO. 2: ACTION REVIEW AGENDA OVERVIEW**

**Marcus Jones, City Manager** said much like last year, the week before the Annual Strategy Meeting, we had a robust discussion about safety. I think that based on that, we were able to work through a plan that is being implemented as we speak, which is called Safe Charlotte. Tonight, we wanted to dedicate a substantial amount of time to Affordable Housing. The Annual Strategy Meeting is next week, Monday and Tuesday, we felt that it would be good to level set, if you will, to talk a bit about the programs that have occurred over the course of the last several years, as well as what has been happening with the Housing Task Force, the Great Neighborhoods Committee, and some of the efforts that we have moving forward.

So, we have Pam Wideman, who has put together a robust discussion for us tonight. As well as back in December, the Mayor had me go address the Budget and Effectiveness

Committee with a proposal as it related to the Annual Strategy Meeting. I received great feedback from that committee and tonight, after the Affordable Housing Update, I will provide you again with an outline for that meeting, as well as there is an opportunity on the agenda for the various Committee Chairs to talk about future committee topics which I would turn that back over to the mayor.

**Mayor Lyles** said Mr. Jones, do you have any opening remarks before we begin the Affordable Housing update?

Mr. Jones said well, yes, thank you, Mayor. I would just say that there's this there has been a lot of good work put together, not only by the staff but by the Mayor and the Council and the community. If you go back just a few years, the Housing Trust Fund was basically \$15 million over a two-year cycle. Over the last two bond cycles, there's been a total of \$100 million. So, that's \$50 million for the 2018 bond and \$50 million for the 2020 bond. What Pam is going to be discussed tonight is that we just don't put it in a box as it relates to the Housing Trust Fund. There are many things that are happening across the entire spectrum. So, having said that, I'll turn it over to the amazing Pam Wideman to bring us through the Affordable Housing update.

**Councilmember Driggs arrived at 5:10 p.m.**

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### **ITEM NO. 3: AFFORDABLE HOUSING UPDATE**

**Mayor Lyles** said thank you for being here and thank you for this update.

**Pam Wideman, Director of Housing and Neighborhood Services** said thank you, Madam Mayor and to the City Council. Let me just start by saying Happy New Year. It is great to see you all in person and virtually so thank you for the opportunity to provide you the update. Mr. Jones, thank you for that introduction. You've made my job easier already, so thank you for doing that. I serve as the Director of your Housing and Neighborhood Services Department, and again tonight, I'm going to do an update for you on the Affordable Housing.

So, I want to do that by looking at our toolbox, giving you a little bit of an update, and then you'll get more of this at your retreat on the CARES ACT (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) as it relates to housing, talk about how we're integrating housing into our Corridors of Opportunity work. We also want to just look at what you all have done with the \$50 million, what lies ahead in 2021. I did want to spend just a few moments talking about gentrification.

So, as far as our Housing Trust Fund, as you all know, we have to have another \$50 million that was approved by the voters in November, we use that by partnering with LISC (Local Initiatives Support Corporation). We do that by releasing requests for proposals to

get proposals. Then one of the other things that you all asked us to do is as we continue to do this work, we want to get better and better at it. So, you all asked us to review the housing framework that was passed, I believe it was in 2018, leading up to the first \$50 million. So, we've done that as well.

So, as far as the Housing Trust Fund, I think it's important to just level set and let you know what we achieve with 2018 and just provide a visual depiction of where that work is occurring. So, with 2018, \$50 million, you all have financed almost 3,000 units of affordable housing throughout the City. This includes 194 shelter beds and I'm going to spend a little bit of time on that later in the presentation. So, you financed almost \$3,000 and you've spent doing that a little over \$48 million of your \$50 million. I think it's important to point out that that includes the set aside for the Brookhill that you all discussed in October. So, this summer in during COVID we established the Housing Task Force, and one of the things that they did within that work, we looked at our housing framework. We wanted to make sure to see how it was working and see how it can continue to work and where we needed to fine-tune it as we're approaching the next \$50 million. So, what I will point out here are a couple of things. This was done by our partners, not just the staff, but partners throughout the community who were who are in the housing space. One of the things they said is that it was working well and because it's so new, let's fine-tune it a little bit. But, let's continue to use this tool that's working well and that includes national best practices. So, through that work, what was recommended that we add, and we agree, and you all have talked about it a number of times, is not just focusing on rental housing. We know we get the biggest bang for our buck there, if you will, in terms of how many units were able to get. But we also want to incorporate affordable for-sale housing into that work and then we want it to continue like I said, with our new construction and with that with our NOAH (Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing) naturally occurring affordable housing. So, having that discussion, the recommendation is that we set aside 60% of the funds in this upcoming round. I'll talk about what that means in just a minute. Set aside 60% of the funds to continue our new rental construction, including supportive housing, 10% of the funds to be used for sale new construction, and then 30% to continue to be used for naturally occurring.

We also discussed that while these are the percentages that we're recommending for this upcoming round, because the use of the bond dollars for, for-sale housing would be new, we want the flexibility if we see that this is catching on and people are doing it, we want the opportunity to adjust those percentages either up or down as we go to another RFP (Request For Proposal). So, I just want to point that out. As you all know, we do RFP twice per year that allows us to capture the 9% tax credits that are issued once per year by the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency, as well as the 4% credits that LISC is really helpful in. Then the next round would be explicitly for 4% opportunities. We talked a lot about how NOAH'S, the naturally occurring needs to be flexible, so we'd have a rolling RFP and we've done that, and we believe that we need to continue to do that. The thing that I will point out here is that at the advice of the Housing Task Force, we delayed the 2020 round because we were right in the midst of COVID, we knew we had a lot of things to work through, so we delayed that.

Some of the other things that came out of the recommendation review in the framework are that we confirmed that we still need to do at least 20% of the units for households earning 30% AMI. We want to keep doing that. We've done a lot of talking to you all-around your dais and in the community about how do we continue to leverage opportunities for affordable housing in areas of high opportunity. So, one of the things that we want to try in this new RFP is we want to be able to adjust the subsidy cap per unit in higher opportunity areas to achieve affordable housing. I won't spend a lot of time here, but we talked about the affordable for sale, what we will incorporate into our RFP if you guys approve of all of this, is that 20% of the homes need to be focused on those households earning 60% AMI. The investment per unit will be based on the average AMI the serve and so that's consistent with how the state does multifamily development. We continue to understand that land acquisition for Community Land Trust is really important as a part of our framework and we've been working well with the West Side Land Trust and we want to continue that work. Then the homes that are financed will have a minimum of a 15-year deed restriction. We talked a lot about that. With your rental, you get 30 years but through our affordable homeownership, we want to create wealth and we believe that that deed restriction should be less than 30.

In terms of additional benefits incentives to pair with our Housing Trust Fund, it was recommended that we explore tax increment grants for affordable housing. We've talked a lot and we hear from the development community often about what incentives they would like to see in addition to the trust fund. So, what we'd really like to do this year is to really resolve between our partners in the City Attorney's Office and our partners with Charlotte Water and Planning and the County really is what can we do with anything to address the cost related to water and sewer capacity and connection fees? We know that those are some of the most expensive fees when you're looking at development, whether that be multifamily or single-family so we really want to understand that this year and come to some resolve so we can put that communication out to the development community. Then we want to continue to use your adopted guidelines for how we evaluate the disposition of city-owned land for affordable housing and then we want to be a model to the County. And, I will say that the County has come a long way. They're using their land as well but we want to talk about that a little bit here.

So, we've used City-owned land before and you all have done that in several of your developments, we have a 20 to 30 year affordability period. Obviously, we prefer the longer term, the 30 years, the development must serve households earning 80% and below in order to use it. Then we work with developers through an RFP process and so those are kind of our broad guidelines. I want to spend some time on the process because the process is really important for how we're using this land. So, when we get donated land and this is really, really important, we have to evaluate that land to ensure that is suitable for the development of affordable housing. What I mean when I say evaluate that land, we have to do an environmental review on that land to make sure, you know, there's that would be advisory to the condition of the people who would be living there. We make sure that there's no brownfields or if there are brownfields, that we understand the plan for mitigating those brownfields. We also have to ensure that the title is clear, we want to

make sure that we're not being given something where there's a ton of heirs and we'll never going to own it and can do the development that we want to do. Then we also need to do an appraisal to make sure we understand the value of the land so when we're partnering with the development community, we can take that into consideration as well. And, after we do all that we then work with an experienced developer to make sure that they're going to build what we want built on that. Again, we make sure that it's for households earning 80% and below the area median income and that we place the proper deed restriction on the land or enter into a lease agreement on the land.

Naturally occurring affordable housing, I'm not going to spend a lot of time here. I believe that this has been working well with the Council. We know that this is a national best practice. So I think we've done four of these so far preserving. And this is another tool and I'm going to talk a little bit more about that at the end of the presentation about how we address gentrification. And again, I've already pointed out that we need to continue to be flexible. That will allow our partners to close on these rather quickly because we know we have out of town investors who will come by these and then redevelop them so that their market-rate housing and then that leads to displacement as well.

So Mr. Jones, when he talked about earlier, we have other tools. We talk a lot about the Housing Trust Fund, but I also want to make sure that we understand all of our housing tools in the toolbox and how they're working together. So, homeownership, we know that that is still one of the best ways to create wealth. We do homeownership through our down payment assistance program and we also do homeownership through our Community Heroes Program that I'll talk about. But in 2020, which I think is phenomenal for where we were, we did 265 units. We created 265 affordable housing homeowners through our House Charlotte Program. We use a large amount of our federal funds to do this. We do use a very small portion of our PAYGO (Pay-As-You-Go) funds to do this for households earning over 80% but up to 110% of the area median income.

Also, thanks to a partnership with the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, we're partnering with them to have what's called our Community Heroes Program. This program, again, creates homeownership. It is for households earning between 80% and 120% of the area median income. It's a really, really great program, it provides up to \$30,000 of down payment assistance as forgivable over a 10 year period. You can see the occupations that are eligible for this. And this is established by the Federal Home Loan Bank. So, this is not established by the City of Charlotte, but these criteria are established by the Federal Home Loan Bank. So, we've really appreciated this partnership. It has been great for our community. And it's another way, coupled with your Housing Trust Fund for your rental, your House Charlotte, down payment assistance, and this program, we create different housing types and we create diverse communities by using each of these tools. I think it was two budget cycles ago, you all establish a new program. This was another way we help achieve affordable homeownership. It was an acquisition, rehab, and resale. I think we put \$2 million in the budget. You all approved that for this purpose and that is just what it says. We acquire homes, we rehab them, and then we sell them to create homeownership. To date, we've acquired working with our

partner's Habitat for Humanity and Red Cedar to acquire 13 homes. We've started rehabilitation on one of those homes and we expect to have the rehabilitation on all the remaining 12 done by the end of February. So, that's another opportunity for us to create more homeownership so thank you for adding that tool to the toolbox approximately two years ago.

This is a program that we've had in our toolbox for a while, it's the Safe Home Rehabilitation Program. This is another way we preserve and so we can help people. What I would also like to point out is not just about the preservation of housing, but this is another way that we help people age in place. And so, a lot of the work that we do is grab bars in a bathroom or deferred maintenance that just people wouldn't otherwise be able to afford without this program. So, this is really a great opportunity. I think, going forward what we want to continue to explore is how do we leverage this tool in a workforce development capacity? And what I mean by that is how do we build up the contractor pool in our City perhaps working with our partners like the Urban League? I don't know but I've been thinking about how do we continue to expand this so that we have more contractors in our community who can do this work, ultimately allowing us to do more homes if we have the money.

So, I like to think about these programs in buckets. The Safe Home Program anywhere in the City helps people age in place, kind of the one-offs. Several years ago, what we started to recognize is that we need to do the one-offs, but we also need to do holistic neighborhood revitalization. So, the (TLC by CLT) Targeted Rehabilitation Program is a pilot program established to assist in revitalizing non-thriving communities, it helps us to preserve, it helps us to do revitalization, but it helps us to do it in a concentrated way in a particular neighborhood. So, we started this work in the historic Camp Green community and the Lincoln Heights Neighborhoods. We have finished up there and we've already pivoted to Revolution Park and Washington Heights. What I would point out also is that these communities are within our Corridors of Opportunity as well. So, there are a ton of communities that could use this work and so we want to finish up here and then move to some other communities. There's another community in Mr. Eggleston's District that's going to come to my mind later on that there's been lots of inquiries. So, as soon as we free up the work here, we want to be able to move to other areas.

Mayor Lyles said Mr. Eggleston, did you want to tell us what the name is?

**Councilmember Eggleston** said I believe she's talking about Howie Acres.

Ms. Wideman said there you go! Thank you. So, we recognize and Mr. Eggleston that is not lost on me. So, here is CARE ACT and I'm not going to spend a lot of time here because Shawn Heath is going to give you a more robust update at your Annual Strategy Session, but suffices to say that when COVID first started, we really didn't know exactly who would be hardest hit or where the needs would be. But it was true that the rental community really was hardest hit and so we've spent a large amount of money on just rental assistance. So, you can kind of see the breakdown here. What I would also remind

us is that we started when we got our initial allocation of CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) dollars and then a couple of weeks later we got our Treasury Act Dollars. When we got that Treasury Act Dollars, we understood according to the regulations, that they needed to be spent by December 31st and so we quickly pivoted to start using those dollars. So, we spent all of the housing dollars by December 31, so we are really happy with that. We're anticipating the new money and how that will flow down. We already know, based on what the federal government has released, that the money has to be spent for rent. We believe that our program with just a few small tweaks, the rental program is really robust, is really good to go so, we can just continue with that program. We've already talked with our partner, the Housing Partnership, who's done a tremendous job of administering that for us so that we're ready to go on that when we finally get those funds in our coffers. The other thing I would say is we didn't just do rental and mortgage assistance, you also did a lot in the homeless area, right. You did supportive housing and you helped with shelter expansion. So, I don't want that to be lost on the community. Over and over, you continue to partner with the county to address the homeless population that we have going on.

Corridors of Opportunity, you've heard Tracy give you a number of presentations on the Corridors of Opportunity, so I won't spend a lot of time here. What I will say is that the City has historically invested in our corridors, but what this approach is, it's new, it's transformative and what I really enjoy about it is regularly every other week or sometimes weekly, we're sitting around, I'm able to sit around with Taiwo from a Planning perspective, Tracey Dodson, from an Economic Development perspective, and Liz Babson from a Transportation perspective, and then Cherie Grant in the form of Project Management and really look at it from a data-driven approach and talk about what investments we need to make and understand what our private sector partners are doing here. So, and by doing that, we're able to incorporate, from my perspective, our housing efforts into that work. This is a great approach and so we look forward to continuing that. We've had two very successful kickoffs. Some work is going on, on the Beatties Ford Road Corridor and the West Boulevard Corridor, so we look forward to continuing to move toward the Sugarcreek Road/I-85 Corridor and then the Central Avenue/Albemarle Road Corridor, I believe, and the others. So, that's how we're approaching that work.

These are just visual depictions and so I'm not going to spend a lot of time here, but what I want you to see from each of our Corridors of Opportunity, and this is just from a housing perspective, I think it's important to show what's going on actually in the corridor, but I also think it's important to show the proximity of the corridor and what's going on around. So, what you see on each of the next maps you have there is what's going on from a Housing Trust Fund perspective, a House Charlotte perspective from Community Heroes perspective, a rehab perspective, and then our acquisition rehab perspective. So this is Beatties Ford Road. In the Central Avenue/Albemarle Road Corridor, you can see what's going on in the corridor and adjacent to the corridor. Freedom Drive/Wilkinson Boulevard, you can see what's going on there, Sugarcreek Road/I-85, Graham Street/North Tryon Street, and then the West Boulevard. So that's kind of a look at what's going on now and kind of what's been accomplished. So, thank you for your leadership as we look back and

I'll go ahead and thank you in advance for continued leadership as we look at what's to come in 2021.

So, as far as our Housing Trust Fund, you can see there, we had 817 units currently under construction. So, those are units that have been approved from the 2018 bond and also the 2016 bond. So, 817 units currently under construction. We have 194 shelter beds included in that and that's the Men's Shelter. That's a combination of beds at the Statesville Avenue Shelter as they're building that new building and then we're able to incorporate a few more into what's going on at North Tryon Street. That new building, I was able to speak with Ms. [inaudible] and Kelly before coming to this meeting, should be completed by the end of February. So, that's the new building. One more thing I want to say is also in addition to the 817 that's currently under construction, you have almost 1500 units that have been approved that are pending closings. So, they're somewhere in that process. Our stimulus funding, it's hard to know exactly what we're going to get in the City, but we anticipate about \$26.5 million coming. Again, it has to be used for rental assistance and so we'll keep you posted as we get that and as we deploy that program.

Back two Corridor of Opportunity and creating homeownership opportunities and addressing gentrification, what you will see at a future, either a late January or early February agenda, you will have an opportunity to approve funding to finish out Vantage Point again along the Beatties Ford Road Corridor to create 12 townhouse affordable for-sale units and then 28 for sale home adjacent to the funding that you all approved earlier from Economic Development perspective there. So, again, we're building out that work on the Beatties Ford Road Corridor.

You'll have your regular Housing Trust Fund. We're going to release the RFP in partnership with LISC. We're going to do that in early February and you can expect to see that RFP. I'll be back in front of you in April and all of that is consistent. It lines up with the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency dates for those that are using tax credits and for those that aren't, we still want to stay on that same cycle so we can come to you at one time for those.

NOAH rental subsidy, this is fairly new. You all ask me, I believe it was late October or so, you approved a pilot for Lake Mist. You asked us to evaluate that and to work on a citywide program and so we want to just let you know that that is not lost on us and that work is underway. What I'll remind you all is this is another way to, again, avoid displacement, address gentrification, and provide more units for people who are earning 30% and below the area median income, who might not have another source, a voucher to do that.

I've already talked about TLC and CLT. For CLT, I won't spend a lot of time here. We're moving. We're continuing with the program. This is another way that people age in place and we protect and preserve units throughout our community. Then the last slide, and I've alluded to this throughout the presentation, I would say that all of our housing programs work in a way that helps address gentrification. There's no silver bullet to



addressing gentrification and housing alone won't do it. But we do use our how housing programs in conjunction with our workforce development activities to help address gentrification throughout our community. Is there more we can do? Yes, but I don't want it to be lost on us that every housing tool that we put together and that you approve funding for in some way or another helps to address gentrification. The last thing I would say is also our Housing program in our housing tools, we've been very intentional about listening and understanding with our partners from Planning about how they fit into the Comprehensive Plan. I know the Comprehensive Plan has an overall goal of housing access for all and so we've been really thoughtful and we will continue to be thoughtful as we develop programs, thinking about what we're trying to do from a comprehensive perspective. So, with that, I thank you for your time. I will stop and address any questions that you all might have.

Mayor Lyles said thank you, Ms. Wideman. I don't know how to say that since we made that decision to take that leap that many people thought we couldn't from \$15 million to \$50 million every two years, this work is astoundingly well done, very strategic, and addresses the quality of life, the diversity and inclusion we want in this community, and your team has done a fabulous job. I also want to recognize the members of the Task Force led by Malcolm Graham, and all of them, we have got tremendous private sector partnerships, tremendous non-profit partnerships and I just want to express my personal gratitude to the efforts of the City and every person in it that's making these things happen. There are some questions and I think the first person is Mr. Graham. So, Mr. Graham, thank you.

**Councilmember Graham** said I too want to thank Ms. Wideman and her staff and the City Administration for the accomplishments of last year. We did a lot of good work last year, as you saw on the slides and one of the things about a New Year is that we get to do it all over again. So, I'm really excited about the opportunity to lead the Committee and to address a number of issues, I believe that will take center stage for our community this year coming through the Committee. Ms. Wideman, could you tell the community, in reference to where we stand, though, reference to moratoriums in terms of apartments and evictions, what's the playing field for that now?

Ms. Wideman said yes, sir. Thank you, Mr. Graham, for that question. Also, Mayor, thank you for your leadership and Mr. Graham, thank you for leadership around the Committee and Mr. Manager as well and my team. I could not do this without the team. So, as far as moratoriums, we have an extension through the end of January on eviction moratoriums for people who are impacted due to COVID. I choose those words very wisely for people who are impacted due to COVID. That's not to say that you can't be evicted for other reasons or violating your lease for other reasons than having been impacted for COVID.

Mr. Graham said okay, can you give the Committee, the Council an update on terms of a preview of some of the applications you're expecting to receive, if you know for the

Housing Trust Fund. Do we have any SRO Housing in there? Is there any type of NOAH's coming our way again? Can you give us a preview if you know of any?

Ms. Wideman said Mr. Graham, the short answer to that is I know of one. I think it's in Councilmember Watlington's District, but I would be in a better position to give you a sneak preview of what is coming after we have received those applications. A lot of developers are thinking through things, but again, we don't really know until we get those applications.

Mr. Graham said okay. In reference to you spoke earlier in your presentation regarding City-owned land, will there be a strategy this year to move that forward in a very visible way [inaudible] get something done this year and if so, can SRO (Single Room Occupancy) Housing be a part of the scenario? So what was the process for moving that forward?

Ms. Wideman said right, so I will remind you, Mr. Graham, is that and I always want you all to take credit, you have done a number of developments on your City-owned land. We would use the same kind of guidelines and process guidelines that you've approved and the process unless you all tell me something different that I just went through, my guess would be that, and I look to the manager, and we can talk about this a little more offline, I'm not sure that we would include any of the City-owned lands in the January round. He's nodding at me so that's a good sign, but that we will really be looking to understand what City-owned properties we're going to include in our summer round, where we would do four percent's.

Mr. Graham said I think that's something I would really love to see us move on this year, really focus on how we utilize our own access really to kind of get more housing on the ground sooner, especially housing that you will hear me say this over and over again this year as our [inaudible] house. I think there's a great need for that in our community for a wide variety of reasons. I would love to engage you and the management team in reference to that. My last question is, any updates on Brookhill since we put the \$3 million out there?

Ms. Wideman said no, sir.

**Councilmember Johnson** said thank you, Pam, for this wonderful work. This is the reason that I ran trying to find someone who earns \$771 a month and had a felony record finding housing. It was impossible for me, so this is so rewarding. We've got a lot of work to do, but this is huge, so thank you for this work. I do have some questions. Can you explain the moratorium that Councilmember Graham just asked about? You said there wouldn't be eviction, but we want the public to understand that evictions can still be filed. I think, again, we need to sound the alarm on that because there can be an eviction on their record. Is that the case?

Ms. Wideman said sure. Very simply, Ms. Johnson, is that people cannot be evicted for a lack of rental payment due to a reduction in their income related to COVID. However, they can be evicted, or an eviction can be filed for other reasons that a person might violate their lease. So, what I want people to understand is, it's not a blanket moratorium. It was the moratorium was extended from December 31st through the end of January. I think it's always important that we remind the public that our Community Relations Committee has a mediation program if both the tenant and the landlord are willing to do that, they can contact CRC (Community Relations Committee) to go through an eviction, mediation as another mechanism to perhaps avoid eviction.

Ms. Johnson said okay, just to clarify the eviction moratorium, even if someone's late on their rent because of COVID circumstances, when you say moratorium, you mean the actual set out, correct? There can still be a filing by the landlord of the eviction, thus it will be on their record? Can you clarify that?

Mayor Lyles said I think maybe before we jump into being in charge of the eviction orders of the Governor, maybe we ought to get someone that has the actual legal experience and so maybe between Ms. Wideman and Mr. Baker, we could get you a response exactly what that means.

Ms. Johnson said okay, thank you. That's fine, if it's an extension of what was in place before then evictions can still be filed. We just really want that out there. The moratorium was for the legal term is, actually them being set out of the house.

Secondly, when you mentioned the TIG (Tax Increment Grants) and the discounted permitting fees for developers, there was an opportunity for the tax increment grant and discounted permit fees for developers to develop affordable housing?

Ms. Wideman said so, through the work of the Task Force and from community discussions, those are things that I want to be very, very clear on this, is we want to explore those things. The possibility to do a TIG for affordable housing, the possibility, and I highlight the possibility of what can we do with Water fees, capacity fees, and permitting. I don't want to run afoul of what we can do from a legal perspective, but what we want to do is those discussions have been had in this community for a number of years. So, by working with our legal colleagues and our colleagues in Water and Planning and Permitting, we really, really want to understand that so that we can appropriately communicate to you all and to the development community as we move forward rather than just continuing to have the conversations

Ms. Johnson said okay. We were discussing tax increment grants earlier today and the ED (Economic Development) Committee. One of the barriers with the tax increment grants is that it's due to the requirements, it's more appropriate for very large developers, but I received a message today from a church that has some acreage and wants to have some discussion about affordable housing that I would refer you to. But they wouldn't qualify for the TIG, so while you're exploring the possibilities, can we also look at

opportunities for smaller developers and landlords that might want to get into the affordable housing arena, such as the matching grants or just to expand the opportunities for developers?

Ms. Wideman said yes, ma'am. We can look at that and I'll remind you that we've had some success with churches and the faith community, but yes, ma'am, we can look at that just as you've outlined.

Ms. Johnson said okay, and then you talked about the TLC CLT Program and the State Home Rehabilitation Program. Those are great programs that can also help homeowners in fighting gentrification. I know I talked to the City Manager and there are other neighborhoods, there are neighborhoods like Hidden Valley and those types of neighborhoods. So, how do we expand those programs for specific neighborhoods like Hidden Valley, where we know developers are knocking at the door daily but these types of programs would help them to maintain their home, so are we looking at expanding those programs soon for citywide residents?

**Marcus Jones, City Manager** said Councilmember Johnson; I think I'm going to tag in with Pam on this one and I do appreciate the conversation that we had last month. I think the best way to address this is to say yes, but I think there's another way of doing it and I'll just make sure I get this to each Councilmember. When we started off with the Corridors of Opportunity there are about 50 programs that we have in our toolbox. Those 50 plus programs have served us well as we address Safe Charlotte. It served us well as we started to address the Corridors of Opportunity. We believe there are 16 separate programs that if we continue this collaborative approach and I would say this to the Council, one of the concerns a couple of years ago was how the city departments worked in silos as opposed to cross-collaboration. I think Pam has been a great example of how this cross-collaboration works. With that said, we believe that we can take a three-pronged approach to have an anti-displacement pilot that would be in place hopefully by the first half of this year. One, I want to thank Rebecca Hafner and Pam Whiteman and Sarah Hazel for all they're doing around just data and the first step is this dashboard, which we can show the different neighborhoods if you will, that have pressures of displacement. We believe that we can have that dashboard up relatively soon. Then from that point, we would start to begin to examine those top 10 neighborhoods and see to what extent can we package some of these 16 plus programs together in such a way that it would help us, especially in the corridors. With anti-displacement, but not just for what we know now, but as you start to discuss Charlotte Moves and all of these other opportunities that may come up, how do we get out in front of this years and years and years in advance so that we can identify potentially those future neighborhoods that could have increased possibility of displacement? So, I started off with yes, and we believe that in the first half of the year we will be able to pilot something.

Ms. Johnson said okay, great. Thank you. My next question is regarding the programs for special populations, specifically CMPD, and I believe there's down payment assistance

and I know we've talked about this, but is there a possibility for tax credits or some type of incentive for Officers to live in the City of Charlotte?

Mr. Jones said Councilmember Johnson, one of the things that we have in the Safe Charlotte framework is to identify some opportunities to entice if you will, some of our individuals in public safety to live in the City and maybe even to be more targeted in some of these Corridors of Opportunity. So, we're working with the Budget, we're working with, again, Pam Wideman and her team, as well as Rebecca Hafner in terms of data analytics to see what program we can put together as a part of, I think one of the six different areas that are part of the Safe Charlotte report.

Ms. Johnson said and then we talked about homelessness. Pam, could you give us an update on the programs that the City is involved in, in assisting those individuals in Tent City? I've been told that there are lots of warm beds that are available for many of the occupants of Tent City. Can you give us an update on the programs or the focus that we've been working on the Tent City?

Pam Wideman said yes. So, what I would say, Mr. Johnson, to address that is a couple of things and I'll try to be really succinct on this, is that you all since I've been here, you've partner with the County through your Emergency Solutions Grant Funds and your Housing Trust Fund to address homelessness. So, that's across the City. I'll point to a couple of examples, the expansion of the Women's Shelter, expansion of the Men's Shelter, Moore Place, two phases of Moore Place, which is to Mr. Graham's point, an S.R.O., with your CARES Funding, you did \$2 million to A Roof Above to help them acquire a hotel. So, let's put that in one category, particularly related to Tent City and you hit the nail on the head. I had a conversation in mid-December with Mr. Troutman, one of the Assistant City Managers from the County, and I had a conversation with Liz [inaudible] Men's Shelter before I came over today. There is currently today and this is really important. There's currently today a bed between the Men's Shelter, all North Tryon Street and the shelter, the existing place on Statesville Avenue, and the Salvation Army Women's Shelter has and is making available space for any woman that might be out there. So, there is currently today a space available for everybody who is in Tent City today. With the completion of the new building, that's only going to be even more helpful. So, I don't know if that's what you were looking for, but today there's a space available for everybody out in Tent City.

Ms. Johnson said that's what I heard also and I wanted you to say that if that were correct because we constantly ask what are we doing about Tent City? But let the record show that there's a warm bed for everyone at Tent City. The issue now, I guess, is to work from a holistic approach and figure out why those individuals aren't going to those warm beds if it's a matter of awareness or other case management needs perhaps they have pets or whatever the reason, but I just wanted to clarify that the City has addressed it and there's a solution that we're working towards. So thank you. That's all the questions I have.

**Councilmember Eiselt** said Pam, first of all, thank you for this presentation, it was really helpful, especially as we talk about how we're going to pivot and sort of try to meet the

needs of the community that are really so complex when you talk about renting versus owning, gentrification and how to keep people in their homes. I think that's a really important part of the conversation because the situation with Tent City is so visible and so painful to see. But what's invisible are the people that are on the verge of homelessness and so I really applaud the work that you all have done and the work that staff has done with our CARES ACT money to keep people housed, to keep people in their homes. It's just a little help with rent.

[Due to technical difficulties, there was no audio for this portion of the meeting.]

**Councilmember Winston** said I just want to kind of go along with the Tent City questioning. My question initially wasn't about that, but so my understanding to answer a question that just happened was if we have enough shelter beds and resources between motels and hotels that the County has purchased to move everybody in the Tent City that is forming on the outskirts of uptown if they wanted to, if the people that live in these tents wanted to, they could be in a bed right now. Is that what we're saying Basically?

Ms. Wideman said yes, sir. That is correct.

Mayor Lyles said Mr. Winston can I just add to that? About two weeks ago, or maybe less than that, there was a presentation by Anthony Troutman to the County Commission Board, and he went through a very long process of doing a census outreach and so it's not just as simple as well, we offered them a bed. There was actually a process that the County followed to interact with every person, talk to them about what their choices were and there was an opportunity, as Ms. Wideman said, that there are places for them. But that is sometimes more difficult than just saying, here's a place for you, but I believe that the County has a strategy that they're actually working because a lot of these folks require additional services that are provided around public health issues that people really have. So, I sent an email with a link to Mr. Troutman's presentation if you have a chance to go back and take a look at it, it might be helpful to explain not just that there is a bed, but there has been an effort to have a process to make it work as well.

Mr. Winston said absolutely and I will try to go back through that whole thing. So, I just want to understand kind of the dynamics that we're dealing with. But I'm under the assumption, I guess, that we have a lot of people that are actually in the shelters right now as well and that are in these hotel rooms and motel rooms because there's a great need. Is that correct?

Ms. Wideman said that is correct as well Mr. Winston. I think that what's important to note is that the shelters, all though there are a lot of people there, they've been very keen on making sure that they're recognizing the opportunity, social distance as well.

Mr. Winston said so if we still have a Tent City but would be able to accommodate people in Tent City in a shelter, but the shelters that we do currently have are still being used, are they at or near capacity by people that need that type of shelter right now?

Mr. Wideman said I think that's a fluke that I would say that they're I'm confident in saying they're near capacity. I won't say that they're at capacity, but I'm fairly certain that they are near capacity, the shelters, and don't forget the additional work that you've done to help with that capacity during this COVID time particularly.

Mr. Winston said we are of the belief and I guess us as the City and the partners, that while we could, I guess, technically accommodate the folks at Tent City and the folks that are in shelters now, we need more shelter room to accommodate the full need in our community right now. Is that is that correct?

Ms. Wideman, I would say shelter broad, Mr. Winston. So again, remember, you assisted the Men's Shelter to acquire a hotel, so that's going to provide you some more space. You've also assisted the Men's Shelter with a new building on Statesville Avenue. So, that's coming online. You provided some assistance to the Women's Shelter. So, you can continue to do things to make sure that people are in shelters, whether that be the traditional congregate shelter or other types of shelter.

Mr. Winston said thank you for that update. My original question really, for those that are watching out there, Ms. Wideman and I go back and forth after these meetings about ways that we can kind of continue to ramp stuff up and look at the things that we've done but always looking forward to knowing that what we've done is not sufficient thus far. So a lot of what we're doing here relies on the public-private partnership and, where we can stimulate the market to respond in a greater fashion moving forward. But I think we also know we need to ramp this up, right. A lot of these things that we're doing are dealing with existing housing, building infill stuff, but even as you ended it, talking about gentrification, even our Housing Trust Fund multifamily, kind of new investment can dramatically change the way neighborhoods are set up, as something that we dealt with a couple of years ago when we were dealing with Housing Trust Fund deals around Hidden Valley. There was no doubt that the flavor of Hidden Valley was is changing because of the needs, but there is no denying the need for affordable housing being put up there.

As I've been kind of going with you through this work, one of the things that we talked about is that Charlotte is losing its greenspace, that that type of real intense development can't necessarily occur. But there are pockets of green space, particularly in institutions like schools and houses of worship and we know the difficulty in dealing with schools and we're working on that and we know that we do have partners, the larger houses of worship that are doing great things. Churches like Covenant and others around town, but as Ms. Johnson spoke about earlier, as I've been driving around town, I'm looking at some of these older smaller to medium-sized houses of worship that have a lot of acreages, whether it be parking or green space, but might be in neighborhoods where the development hasn't quite reached yet. These are sometimes older populations whose congregations have dispersed, but there's no real kind of entryway for them to kind of partner with other developers like the City or in the private market. Have we done any assessment on the amount of acreage is out there and have we thought about formalizing

any type of a program that can really kind of utilize this green space that exists in all different pockets of town that we really need to kind of fight this on a long term basis?

Ms. Wideman said yes. So, Mr. Winston, thank you for that, and thank you for always pushing my thinking. What I would say the answer is, we have not done a formal assessment of small to medium-sized churches. I think one of the goals that we can set is, and I think you're fully aware of this, there's a lot of complexities about how churches operate and there's a lot of complexities about church land. Some of that depends on the denomination and a couple of things. But what we can do is we can educate these types of churches or organizations about what the possibilities are. We can show them examples, as you mentioned to what some of the larger churches have done, their different things. And so we can at least help inform or be or begin their thinking about what the possibilities are for how they might use their land, ultimately helping with the affordable housing space.

Mr. Winston said thank you.

**Councilmember Ajmera** said Pam, great job on a very comprehensive presentation. This just goes to show that we do a lot more than just \$50 million dollars in affordable housing and certainly appreciate your leadership on this. Some of my questions were already addressed by Councilmember Johnson. There was a question she had specifically asked about assisting smaller scale developers with matching grants or other tools. I would also like us to explore that option. Another question I have, if you could just go to the slide where there is an allocation where there is a 30% or lower 60% or the new housing and 10% for, for-sale housing. Could you go to that slide, please?

Ms. Wideman said yes. The one thing that I forgot to point out to you all. I think you all know this, so we showed you kind of our numbers and what we've done with all of our various programs, what we didn't show is also what's been achieved through rezoning. So, that's really important, too, because that's voluntary through the rezoning process, you're putting no money in that. I believe off the top of my head as of November, I think there were a little over 940 units that will be coming online through the rezoning process. Again, that's voluntary and so I want you all to be able to acknowledge and take credit for that as well.

Ms. Ajmera said to that point that you just made, is that included in the numbers that you had presented in this presentation or that's just additional?

Ms. Wideman said that is additional.

Ms. Ajmera said okay, that's great. You've made some great progress here. What I wanted to understand, I know that we had an allocation target, I'm interested in understanding what was the request for NOAH's and what percentage of our requests have come from NOAH's? What percentage of our requests have come from affordable for sale housing, and what percentage of requests have come in for affordable rent for



housing? Based on that number, I'm trying to understand if we need to make any changes in our allocation targets.

Ms. Wideman said right. So, that's a great question, Councilmember Ajmera and that was actually the thinking that went into this slide, in just how we arrived at this breakdown. So, for example, you really don't know when NOAHs are coming. You have kind of be ready to address them when they come. But just kind of based on the \$50 million, let me just say the for sale is new. So, that's not historical, and that's why you see the lower percentage, because we've heard about it and we've talked about it in the community, but we don't actually have an example. So, we looked at 100% of the \$50 million, we said because the for sale is new, let's start at 10% and this was not just staff thinking, this was with the development community and the Task Force, the NOAHs, 30%, I think when we did this in kind of the August, September timeframe, we had done three and we've done one more since then. So, that's how we got to 30% of the dollars and then 60% of the dollars for new construction rental. Again, this is where we would start because the for sale is new and we'd like the opportunity to have the flexibility to adjust this to be consistent with what we see going on in the market and as we understand better, what the need will be for the for sale.

Ms. Ajmera said I understand. I like that we are being flexible here to address the needs that as we see coming. Lately, I feel like we have approved a lot of NOAHs because of the work that's being done by Mark Etheridge and his group. I know that's where we can address affordable housing right away. I know their funds are continuing to grow and I don't know what that means in terms of the requests that we will be seeing for NOAHs, but I do want us to keep in mind the requests that are coming in, especially for NOAHs just because they address the whole of the housing crisis right away, rather than waiting two or three or four years for the new constructions to be complete. So that's all I have. Thank you so much, Ms. Wideman.

Ms. Wideman said thank you, Ms. Ajmera and we're on the same page with you.

**Councilmember Driggs** said I also have a question about NOHAs. I think they're a very effective device for especially for fighting gentrification because you're taking properties that probably would be torn down and replaced by higher-priced units. The difficulty, of course, is that they don't qualify for State and Federal tax incentives and therefore it takes creativity. I think it's going to be a stretch for us to try to invest 30% of the resources that we have in NOAH deals. I hope, will continue to work with [inaudible]. I think we need to continue to be creative in finding structures that allow more of those transactions to be done because it's not my sense that there's a really big pipeline, unless Ms. Wideman, I'm wrong about that.

Ms. Wideman said no, Mr. Driggs, you're absolutely right. And again, these are percentages and I know we talked a lot about this before when had percentages in a plan. So, I don't want you all to walk away saying we have to do 30% in NOAHs, because you're absolutely right. I mean, we don't know when those come. But this was just informing our

thinking about how we could estimate or propose percentages for how we would work within this \$50 million.

Mr. Driggs said right. I think my point is just that let's keep working and be creative in finding ways to make these deals happen, to make them appealing to investors, partner with people who want to do them, and if we have to make adjustments in the model, we've had that one proposal that we that we're now looking at to use the tax rebate to a trust fund essentially for finding affordable housing. I think it's going to take ideas like that to get the investment up to the NOAH investment up to the levels that we want.

The other thing, it's just a quick question, and that is in the past we've talked about the shortage of units and we've talked about 30,000 or whatever. Do we have some process for monitoring our actual progress here in addressing these things? Are we keeping track of whether or not we're making headway, how successful we're being on gentrification, and meeting the demand for affordable units?

Ms. Wideman said so being successful around gentrification, Mr. Driggs, if you're looking for a scale and I'm making this up, it's not what you asked one to five, are we are three or we are four or we're one. I don't have that type of assessment tool. But what I would say is, Rebecca Hefner and I, we talk often. Let me go back to her and think about how we can maybe somehow measure how we're doing around gentrification if we can. I don't want to make a promise that I can't keep in terms of, you know, the deficit in the number of units we need, that's somewhat fluid. I showed you our performance, kind of how are we doing toward that? That's kind of a moving target and when I say a moving target, you know, it changes from year to year. So, again, let me go back to Rebecca and say, the number was this six months ago. Is there a way that we can figure out with kind of what I've reported here in our numbers how best to report to you how we're chipping away at that?

Mr. Driggs said I just want to emphasize, I think we're doing a lot and I think we've been effective so, this would not be intended to identify a lack of success. I think what it does is it would give us a better understanding of what we're up against and how good a job we are able to do to keep pace with the changing situation. But if you've got any thoughts around that, I'd be interested to hear them sometime. Thank you.

Ms. Eiselt said I had some internet trouble. I'll try to make it quick. I just wanted to ask Pam, first of all, thank you for your work. It's complicated work. It's hard work. You guys have done a great job, especially I don't know if I got cut off ahead of time before I said this, but I just think it's so important to remind people that a lot of the work that we're doing is to try to keep people from being homeless and sometimes that's a little bit more invisible because we're being successful if you don't see more and more people becoming homeless. Thank you for all of that work. I had a question on that land trust. Did we participate in the West Side Land Trust in the last go-round? I seem to remember we did with one house, but could you remind me of what we did?

Ms. Wideman said yes ma'am. You've participated with the Land Trust in a couple of ways. We've participated with them through providing some funding for them to acquire some property. So, that's in the Lakewood community. We're currently participating with them on the acquisition of some property along the Beatties Ford Road Corridor. So the short answer is yes, we continue to participate with them. Now, we're also participating with them through the Corridors of Opportunity work. There's some specific dollars set aside in the Corridors of Opportunity bucket, if you will, for the West Side Land Trust. So, we are participating with them.

Ms. Eiselt said okay, I think to Mr. Driggs point of becoming more innovative and creative, I think I would love to see us have a more built-up model around Land Trust because at the end of the day, that's really controlling the cost of the dirt is the only way to control the cost of housing. Construction costs aside and it gives neighborhoods and the residents in those areas some control and some say in terms of who's living there. So, I really hope that we can get more involved and do more with land trusts going forward. Then the second question, you made a comment about deed restrictions that you said you're going to try to keep it within 15% to 30% so that you don't want to limit the ability to create wealth. I think I might have misunderstood that, but what were you trying to say?

Ms. Wideman said yes, ma'am. So, the point I was making was when you do your rental, right, we have a 30-year deed restriction on the property. When you're using your Housing Trust Fund and you're doing rather than a 30 year, you're doing a 15-year deed restriction. The reason we decrease it is because we want at some point if a family or household decides to sell that property to move up, that we want them to be able to do that free of these longer-term deed restrictions. So, we're trying to balance kind of what's in it for the City and how do we help that household create wealth?

Ms. Eiselt said got it. I wasn't thinking in terms of single houses. I was thinking about the multifamily. So thank you for clarifying that.

Ms. Wideman said sure.

Ms. Eiselt hat's all. Thank you.

Mayor Lyles said this has been a great discussion. Again, I appreciate you. I'm going to ask one question [inaudible]

Councilmember Watlington said sure. I just had two things. Firstly, I'm so happy to hear Councilmember Eiselt lifting up the Land Trust. Pam, I know you know that that is near and dear to my heart. So I'm so happy for the work that you guys are doing ongoing with them.

I do have a question as I'm talking to residents along our Corridors of Opportunity not only on West Boulevard but also on Beatties Ford Road. There are some questions about how we are marrying our affordable housing initiatives with our commercial investment to

ensure mixed-income neighborhoods. Can you speak a little bit about how those are working in tandem, because, of course, we are supporting affordable housing, but we also know that for stable neighborhoods and for successful schools and comfortable areas that people can live in and grow through, we want to make sure we're not concentrating poverty. Can you talk a little bit about how we're looking at that integration?

Ms. Wideman said yes, ma'am. Thank you for that. Particularly thinking about the two corridors that you mentioned, West Boulevard and Beatties Ford Road. The first thing that I will say is, unlike years ago when public housing was being built and you had all 30% AMI households in one building, those days are gone. We know that that is not good socially and we know that it is impossible during this day and time to finance a building like that. So, your Housing Trust Fund developments, they have a mix of incomes, right, from 80% and below in any Housing Trust Fund development. If I look at the West Boulevard Corridor and if I start all the way out at Renaissance, so Renaissance has a senior building, Renaissance has affordable, it has a market rate. Now the market has to catch up with the market rate. You also have if you pivot over a little bit, you all approved the Morris Field Development. That is for sale, homeownership. If you travel on up the corridor, you're doing great work there, Ms. Watlington at the shopping center there where you're bringing economic development opportunities in there. Then if you come all the way up to West Boulevard, you're seeing the there's a townhome community that's being built, it's market rate. I think they start like \$400,000 and you have the Ryan Home development that's kind of adjacent. So, that's kind of we're recognizing that and we're trying to kind of pepper, if you will, our efforts at affordable housing, still our House Charlotte program along the corridor there.

So, we're trying to recognize kind of what we can do from a City perspective, from an economic development perspective, and also from an infrastructure perspective as well. I don't want to leave that out and an affordable housing perspective. If I pivot over to the Beatties Ford Road Corridor, we know what's kind of happening from kind of, say, West Trade leading into Beatties Ford Road there. You can see what's going on around Johnson C. Smith University. We're doing House Charlotte along there. If I travel on down the corridor years ago, we worked with Friendship Baptist Church to do some of the transitional housing there and now we're coming back after having under Tracy's leadership approved the two economic development opportunities there recently, kind of at the corner of Beatties Ford Road and LaSalle Street. We're going to come back with the Vantage Point and the Phoenix rising for sale. You have a Nia Point, that affordable community. Then if you travel up the corridor, you have the work that the Park Church is doing there with their master planning and then the senior development that you are participating in. Those are some examples of how we're trying to be more intentional. Again, addressing gentrification, one of the ways to do that is to get the affordable housing on the ground, to help create homeownership, and then to layer in those economic development activities. Does that answer your question?

Ms. Watlington said you absolutely do. Thank you for that.

Mayor said Ms. Wideman, would you on slide 12 when you have the projects that were currently under construction from 2016 and 2018 of those 1400 units pending closing, could you give us an update about those at some point along in a report as a follow-up? I get a lot of questions like, well, we approve this project on this project and where is it I and I know that COVID has happened. The pandemic has delayed a lot and that's acceptable. I mean, we don't expect it to be anything except understanding the delays that it was required, but it would be good to have a list of those properties and when they expect to be able to get underway, I think that the community wants to know more about that.

Ms. Wideman said yes, ma'am. I'd be happy to.

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#### **ITEM NO. 4: COUNCIL INPUT ON ANNUAL STRATEGY MEETING AND FUTURE COMMITTEE TOPICS**

**Mayor Lyles** said it is almost 6:30 and that is when we advertise our Public Hearings and This next item on our agenda was to talk about some of the upcoming Committee topics and have the Committee Chairs address sine if the questions around the ideas what challenges or issues of resolution are required and some of the Committee actions that are coming to the full Council. I think since we do have our Public Hearings, we can delay that until the Retreat, or we can try to complete it at the end of the meeting. My suggestion would be that we get a sense of where we are and come back to it and if it is later then we will move to the Retreat. If there is a time that we feel we can do those reports at the end of the meeting, then we can take a look at that. Is that acceptable with the group?

I wanted to bring an update before we begin our Business Meeting to remember that we've had a change with the virtual meetings on how we have to conduct our business so I've asked the City Attorney to review the procedures for our roll call voting and I will talk a little bit about how the roll call voting will go tonight so everybody is prepared for it.

**Patrick Baker, City Attorney** said just for the benefit of Council, as we have been conducting these meetings we are trying to make sure that we are accurate as we can be in terms of the record keeping that needs to occur and sometimes it gets a little confusing in this room in terms of who is saying what and how things are being done. So, I am proposing these changes that hopefully won't be too gorgonian, but I think will allow the meeting to flow a little bit smoother and to make sure that we are dotting all the I's and crossing all the T's of the statutory requirements that we have under virtual meetings.

What I am suggesting to you tonight is as you all have done so far tonight, if at all possible, please leave your camera on for the duration of the meeting. If you need to step away briefly from your computer, that is fine, but if you intend to leave the meeting for any reason, and by leave the meeting, actually leave the actual Business of the meeting, please let the group know in order for the Clerk to be able to record you as having left the

meeting. We are going to assume that you are at the meeting, even if you are not directly on camera unless you tell us otherwise. We are going to need to have all the votes done by individual roll call of the entire City Council, again it is sometimes difficult to hear you was saying what and I think the cleanest way to do these votes is to go by entire individual roll call of everyone on the City Council that is at the meeting. If you do not response when your name is called, you will be recorded as a yes vote for that item with the exception of a zoning matter. If it is a zoning matter and you don't respond you will be recorded as a no vote recorded, so it won't be a yes or a no, it will simply be no vote was recorded. If for some reason, as in the case of the Councilmember Ms. Eiselt, you lose your simultaneous connection with us, for the purposes of a layer, you are actually no longer physically present at the meeting and cannot vote. If any votes occur while you are disconnected you will be recorded as absent for that particular vote and I know that you all have connections or text messages with Denada anytime you get disconnected so we just want to make sure that if someone is disconnected that we are aware of that as we go through the voting process. We will continue to monitor what is working and what is not working for the meetings, but hopefully these changes will make things a little bit smoother for us, particularly as we are trying to actually capture what is happening at these meetings.

Mayor Lyles said so basically you have to be on camera to make sure you are involved in the discussion as well as the vote. The last time we were doing this we were kind of quickly getting there, but I wanted to just say that today the roll call vote will start with the Mayor Pro Tem, the At-Large Councilmembers in alphabetical order and then the District Councilmembers in alphabetical order. At our next meeting we will just kind of rotate that so that it won't be the first person all the time on every vote.

#### **ITEM NO. 5: CLOSED SESSION**

No closed session occurred.

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#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion was made by Councilmember Egleston, seconded by Councilmember Driggs, and carried unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda Items 28 through 45, with the exceptions of Item No. 29 and 42 which was deferred by staff; Item Nos. 32 and 34, which was pulled for a separate vote.

The following items were approved:

#### **Item No. 28: Construct Eaglewood Storm Drainage Improvement Project**

(A) Approve a contract in the amount of \$2,232,212.40 to the lowest responsive bidder United Construction Company, Inc. for the Eaglewood Storm Drainage Improvement Project.

mmm

**Summary of Bids**

United Construction Company, Inc.	\$ 2,232,212.40
United of Carolinas, Inc.	\$ 2,593,978.20
Sealand Contractors Corp.	\$ 2,754,612.30
Onsite Development LLC	\$ 2,766,222.80
Dellinger, Inc.	\$ 3,104,039.40

**Item No. 30: Construction Change Order #1 for the McKee Road and Providence Road Intersection Improvements Project**

Approve change order #1 in the amount of \$752,672.33 to Blythe Development Co. for the McKee Road and Providence Road Intersection Improvements project.

**Item No. 31: Construction Change Order #1 for the North Tryon Street Business Corridor Project**

(A) Approve change order #1 in the amount of \$694,319.01 to Sealand Contractors Corp. for the North Tryon Street Business Corridor project.

**Item No. 33: General Vehicle Collision Repair Services**

(A) Approve contracts with the following companies for general vehicle collision repair services for an initial term of three years: Donald Gardner's Paint & Body, Inc. (SBE), J & T Body Shop, Inc., Mecklenburg Fleet Holdings, Inc. (SBE), and P & G Chevrolet. (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contracts for up to two, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contracts consistent with the purpose for which the contracts were approved.

**Item No. 35: Resolution of Intent to Abandon an Alleyway off Royal Court Parallel to East Morehead Street**

(A) Adopt a Resolution of Intent to abandon an Alleyway off Royal Court Parallel to East Morehead Street, and (B) Set a Public Hearing for February 8, 2021.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 51, at Page(s) 167.

**Item No. 36: Meeting Minutes**

Approve the titles, motions, and votes reflected in the Clerk's record as the minutes of: November 9, 2020 Business Meeting, and November 16, 2020 Zoning Meeting.

**IN REM REMEDY**

**Item No. 37: In Rem Remedy 2446 Afton Lane**

Adopt Ordinance No. 9961-X authorizing the use of In Rem Remedy to demolish and remove the structure at 2446 Afton Lane (Neighborhood Profile Area 387).

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 63, at Page(s) 482.

**Item No. 38: In Rem Remedy 1721 Beatties Ford Road**

Adopt an Ordinance No. 9962-X authorizing the use of In Rem Remedy to demolish and remove the structure at 1721 Beatties Ford Road (Neighborhood Profile Area 85).

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 63, at Page(s) 483.

**Item No. 39: In Rem Remedy 538 Williamson Street**

Adopt an Ordinance No. 9963-X authorizing the use of In Rem Remedy to demolish and remove the structure at 538 Williamson Street (Neighborhood Profile Area 385).

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 63, at Page(s) 484.

**Item No. 40: In Rem Remedy 118 Woodman Avenue**

Adopt an Ordinance No. 9964-X authorizing the use of In Rem Remedy to demolish and remove the structure at 118 Woodman Avenue (Neighborhood Profile Area 141).

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 63, at Page(s) 485.

**PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS**

**Item No. 41: Property Transactions - Pineville Matthews Road and Alexander Road Sidewalk, Parcel #14**

Acquisition of 196 square feet (0.004 acres) Storm Drainage Easement, 5,981 square feet (0.137 acres) Sidewalk Utility Easement, 6,498 square feet (0.149 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 7825 Alexander Road from Alexander Manor LLC for \$35,675 for Pineville Matthews Road and Alexander Road Sidewalk, Parcel #14.

**Item No. 43: Property Transactions - Tryon Street - 36th Street Streetscape, Parcel #3**

Acquisition of 17 square feet (0.0003 acres) Utility Easement, 736 square feet (0.017 acres) Sidewalk Utility Easement, 219 square feet (0.005 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 315 East 36th Street from Herrin Brothers Coal and Ice Company for \$20,569 for Tryon Street - 36th Street Streetscape, Parcel #3.

**Item No. 44: Property Transactions - Tryon Street - 36th Street Streetscape, Parcel #6**

Acquisition of 57 square feet(0.001 acres) Utility Easement, 526 square feet(0.012 acres) Sidewalk Utility Easement, 977 square feet(0.022 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 200 East 36th Street from Commercial Development Holding LLC for \$13,032 for Tryon Street - 36th Street Streetscape, Parcel #6.

**Item No. 45: Property Transactions - Tryon Street - 36th Street Streetscape, Parcel #10**

Resolution of Condemnation of 770 square feet (0.017 acre) Fee Simple, 50 square feet (0.001 acres) Utility Easement, 2,381 square feet (0.055 acres) Sidewalk Utility



Easement, 1,339 square feet (0.031 acres) Temporary Construction Easement at 110 East 36th Street and 3222 North Tryon Street from Carolina National Investment LLC for \$105,650 for Tryon Street - 36th Street Streetscape, Parcel #10.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 51, at Page (s) 168.

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### **ITEM NO. 32: FLEET TOWING SERVICES**

Motion was made by Councilmember Eiselt seconded by Councilmember Ajmera and carried unanimously to (A) Approve a unit price contract with Hunter Auto and Wrecker Services, Inc. for fleet towing services for an initial term of three years, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to two, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

**Councilmember Winston** said I understand that this is a contract that is necessary for the services of an organization that has so many vehicles, but this is my yearly reminder that our towing laws and ordinances are inequitable. This is something that I hope the City Council will find a way to address at some point in time this year. Thank you.

**Councilmember Ajmera** said from what I understand, if staff can clarify this, this agenda item is to provide towing services for our City vehicles. So, let's say if it breaks down or if it needs a service. Is that correct Mr. Manager, could you please clarify that?

**Marie Harris, Strategy and Budget** said yes, ma'am. Councilmember Ajmera, this is for internal services, so in transferring them to our City fleet shops.

Ms. Ajmera said okay, that's been my understanding as well. Thank you so much.

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**ITEM NO. 34: CATS MOBILE TICKETING APPLICATION**

Motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, and seconded by Councilmember Graham (A) Authorize the City Manager to negotiate contracts with Dallas Area Rapid Transit and Unwire for the provision, implementation, and maintenance of a CATS Mobile Ticketing Application for an initial term of three years; (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contracts for up to two, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contracts consistent with the purpose for which the contracts were approved; and (C) Authorize the City Manager to purchase such additional software licenses, services, hardware, maintenance, and support as required to maintain the system for as long as the City uses the system.

**Councilmember Eiselt** said I wanted to get a clarification as to what this app is for. Apparently, it's for the mobile payment system and why we're not going to have one system that you can pay for all of our CAT (Charlotte Area Transit System) transit and have real-time information about when your former transportation bus or light rail is going to come and when we'll have the final implementation of all of this?

**Marie Harris, Strategy and Budget** said John Lewis, CATS Director is available in CH14.

**John Lewis, Executive Director of the Charlotte Area Transit System** said your question about why have we chosen the path of going with two separate apps rather than one all-encompassing app, as we were exploring the potential for moving towards both real-time information for our customers and the ability to pay utilized mobile technology to pay for fares, we found out that the complication of joining the two would have made this venture and the technology a lot longer than we had anticipated. Mobile payment is, I won't say much easier, but is a more off the shelf kind of technology rather than real-time tracking of our vehicles. We wanted to separate these two so that we could get the mobile payment off and running as quickly as we possibly can and we went another direction for our real-time. The mobile payment contract has been signed. That is often under development. There have been a couple of delays due to COVID and the development of that software, but we believe that will happen in the next couple of months. For this contract, this is a much broader for mobile ticketing and we're following the application that was implemented in Dallas. We think this covers the gamut of all of the needs that we have here in Charlotte.

Ms. Eiselt said of the other cities that are using this technology, no one has the ability to look at their phone and say, my bus is coming and pay for a ticket right on the spot on the same application?

Mr. Lewis said I don't know. I won't want to go as far as saying no one else has that. There are a large number of transit agencies that have the ability to do both as we are doing. I'm not sure if I know of any that are combined into one particular app rather than multiple. There are some that will have multiple apps under the umbrella of a wider agency

app and so I will have to look into that to see if one specific company is providing multiple opportunities for transit.

Ms. Eiselt said okay, yeah, I appreciate that information. It just still feels kind of clumsy to have to go between apps and then. I've seen people try to buy their ticket, the train's coming so they just get on and we don't know if people have tickets and every time they get on a train. This is just really important to me if we're going to move forward with a really sophisticated transit system, we need sophisticated bait to meet basic applications that people can use to ride our transportation system. I thought we had this. I don't know why we're redoing it now, but at one point pre-pandemic, I was buying CATs tickets online. Is this the same vendor?

Mr. Lewis said you are correct. We embarked upon a pilot program to test the utilization of mobile payment. It was very successful, but that pilot came to an end while we were developing the procurement for a long term partner. So, this pilot of four with the local company Passport that had implemented our pilot payment system ends later this spring and this will give us the time to transition to this broader application that you have before you tonight.

Ms. Eiselt said when will this be up and running?

We're hoping this will be up and running by that April/May timeframe, just around the time that the mobile payment pilot will end.

**Councilmember Bokhari** said Mr. Lewis, I don't doubt what you've said is exactly accurate. I mean, it can be extremely painful to rip the Band-Aids off of complicated, kind of multifaceted, multilayered systems, but I would just put forth the comment that every step you take forward, every investment you make, every little thing you add, just makes it harder and harder and harder to eventually get to a spot where you have to basically blow everything up and start from scratch again. So, I know for a fact that creating unified systems and things like that and a topic like this is more difficult now than a choice that you've probably made like this one. But I mean, banks across this nation have been doing that for multiple decades and it's backed a lot of them into a very difficult place where they think about mobile one way and they think about branch another way. It's the same thing for mobile ticketing and mobile awareness of what's going on in our transit system and kiosk-based on ticket deployment. I just think this is incredibly shortsighted of us to be going down a path like this. I haven't been as deeply engaged until this point of what's happened since the pilot, we teed up with our own company in our backyard passport, which is a no brainer for us to try to figure out how to partner with, given they're on the cutting edge of technology and they're operating and running towns like Chicago, yet not Charlotte. I'm a little disappointed by this fact. I have no doubt that it's going to be harder to do something like that, but all we're doing is kicking the can down the road from a digital experience perspective and making ultimately this harder on us when we do wrap around actually solving it.

Mayor Lyles said was there a question in that as well, Mr. Bokhari?

Mr. Bokhari said I mean, I don't think so. There's no question that's going to make me comfortable at this juncture right now.

**Councilmember Watlington** said I think my question slash concern, I don't know how come a concern at this point. My questions are really kind of along the lines of my colleagues in regards to the system architecture because I'm sure that, well really let me not say I'm sure. John, is the intent that the user interface is seamless to the potential transit rider, or is the idea that there will be this having to go back and forth between apps?

Mr. Lewis said the intention is that a transit user rider or someone curious about looking for the opportunity ride will be able to come to the CATs website and be able to access it. When we are talking access both services without having to search and look for and pull up or download multiple sites. The intention that at some point we will have them all integrated under our website, but we are actually engaging with two separate companies in these endeavors.

Ms. Watlington said okay and then I'll just echo Councilmember Bokhari in the idea of how. I just want to make sure that we're looking at this from a modular standpoint in the event that we do want to make adjustments to things that it doesn't require us to do an overhaul each time. I know we're probably not going to see that in the detail at this Council meeting, but that will be my hope in terms of how we approach these kinds of major technology [inaudible]

**Councilmember Ajmera** said Mr. Lewis, to follow up on Councilmember Eiselt's question earlier, could we possibly defer this until you are able to address the question that was raised by Councilmember Eiselt? Are there any other vendors out there who can provide a comprehensive solution for both needs?

Mr. Lewis said let me make sure I understand your question. Is it possible or would we be interested in delaying this action until we could find out whether or not there are companies that could do both? I would remind you that Council did act on the real-time contract. We are under contract with a vendor for the real-time app so I am not a technology expert, I think it would be somewhat complicated to unravel that action and then we would have to go out and do a separate procurement and reminding that our current mobile payment app will expire, I believe, at the end of April.

Ms. Ajmera said to follow up on that, Mr. Lewis. The real-time vendor, are they not able to develop this second app, or do they just not have capacity?

Mr. Lewis said I will have to look into that. They responded to our request for real-time information. I don't know offhand right now whether or not they have the expanded capacity to also do mobile ticketing, but I will find that.

Ms. Ajmera said I'll be interested in knowing if the vendor that they've already engaged with and have a contract with, if they can do this, that solves the problem.

**Councilmember Johnson** said I was just going to say, I've listened to four or five of our colleagues have concerns about voting on this tonight. I think because we don't have a lot of information, I think that we should defer this. So, can I make the substitute motion to defer this vote until Mr. Lewis has some time to get us some additional information about technology that would meet the needs of the riders to combine the system?

A substitute motion was made by Councilmember Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Ajmera, to defer this matter until Mr. Lewis has time to get additional information about technology that would meet the needs of the riders to combine the system.

Mr. Lewis said we will certainly try to get the information that Councilmembers are asking for and we'll go ahead and defer this if that is the Council's interest at this time.

Ms. Eiselt said I'd also like info on why we went with Passport for the pilot, but we were going with Dallas for the actual implementation.

Ms. Watlington said my question is really for the City Manager and it probably won't be answered today, but just to take back. When we're hearing these kinds of things, I'm curious as to at what level we're reviewing the best value option analysis. I'd like to know if we can incorporate when we are facing these kinds of decisions and there is a recommendation brought forth, if we can set up a process or at least include the information in the packets or an overview of the best value option analysis so that we can see what the engineers or whoever the SNE's are on these particular decisions, what criteria they are basing the recommendation on because I think that will answer many of these questions for us.

**Marcus Jones, City Manager** said we'll make sure that is a part of this.

Mayor Lyles said the Manager has agreed to include the additional information, the CATs Director has said deferral will work for those questioned by the Council. Any further comment?

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

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**PUBLIC HEARING**

**ITEM NO. 7: PUBLIC HEARING ON A RESOLUTION TO CLOSE AN ALLEYWAY BETWEEN EAST 22ND STREET AND EAST 23RD STREET**

**Mayor Lyles** declared the hearing open.

There being no speakers either for or against, a motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, seconded by Councilmember Egleston, and carried unanimously to close the public hearing on the matter of closing an alleyway between East 22<sup>nd</sup> Street and East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street.

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**ITEM NO. 8: PUBLIC HEARING ON A RESOLUTION TO CLOSE AN ALLEYWAY BETWEEN LOLA AVENUE AND BARRY STREET**

**Mayor Lyles** declared the hearing open.

There being no speakers either for or against, a motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, seconded by Councilmember Egleston, and carried unanimously to close the public hearing on the matter of closing an alleyway between Lola Avenue and Barry Street.

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**ITEM NO. 9: PUBLIC HEARING ON A RESOLUTION TO CLOSE THE WESTERN RIGHT-OF-WAY BETWEEN BULLARD STREET AND UNOPENED JOY STREET**

**Mayor Lyles** declared the hearing open.

There being no speakers either for or against, a motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, seconded by Councilmember Egleston, and carried unanimously to close the public hearing on the matter of closing the Western Right-of-Way between Bullard Street and Unopened Joy Street.

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**ITEM NO. 10: PUBLIC HEARING ON A RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MACIE STREET**

**Mayor Lyles** declared the hearing open.

There being no speakers either for or against, a motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, seconded by Councilmember Egleston, and carried unanimously to close the public hearing on the matter of closing Macie Street.

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**POLICY**

**ITEM NO. 11: CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

There was no City Manager Report.

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**ITEM NO. 12: PUBLIC FEEDBACK ON THE CHARLOTTE MOVES RECOMMENDATIONS TO CITY COUNCIL**

**Tarik Kiley, 3145 Heathstead Place** said I'm the Charlotte Regional Transportation and Coalition Coordinator. CRTC is facilitated and convened by Sustain Charlotte. The CRTC was founded this year to advocate for an equitable, safe, sustainable transportation system that improves accessibility and mobility for all Charlotte area residents. We welcome the Charlotte Moves Task Force recent efforts to better define the community's mobility needs and goals. We support a sustainable, equitable approach to mobility through allocating sufficient funding for bus operations, support a fast frequent bus network that gets people where they need to go as conveniently or more so than driving. We support minimizing the regressive impacts of any new taxation and support local residents that align with the need to express [inaudible] Low-Income Communities and Black and Brown communities. You recognize that a sales tax referendum will be necessary for 2021. We recognize the importance of local funding as part of the total funding strategy. The Transformational Mobility Network is a substantial financial investment, but bold action is needed as Charlotte continues to grow to become a world-class City. Thank you.

**Sam Spencer, 4816 Crestmont Drive** said as the Chair of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Planning Commission, am proud to say that we voted unanimously with one abstention to endorse the recommendations of the Charlotte Moves Task Force. Our Vice Chair, Keba Samuel served on the Task Force and drafted a letter you received from us endorsing this comprehensive mobility vision for the City of Charlotte. I'm happy to let her speak for the Commission tonight. While I'm sure there are many members of the Planning Commission who agree with what I have to say, I like to [inaudible] my remarks

as a private citizen. It's safe to say that our City is growing. If you look at the 169 rezoning applications filed with the City in 2018, the Charlotte City Council approved rezonings that according to CDOT (Charlotte Department of Transportation) estimates put out over 157,000 car trips to Charlotte streets every day. Over a decade, that works out to adding over a million car trips every day to our City, and at a bare minimum, that's adding hundreds of thousands of tons of carbon dioxide to Charlotte's atmosphere every year. At the higher end, it's over a million additional tons of CO2 every year. That's unsustainable. It's not only unsustainable, but it's also the sort of science-denying irrational behavior you'd expect from a mask-less bachelor party in South End. It's one of the reasons to me, the most important reason that we desperately need a transformational mobility framework for the City of Charlotte in our entire region. A lifetime of land use and transportation decisions that the City has made without a Comprehensive Plan and without a Transformational Mobility Plan has made the Queen City less resilient to climate change and less adapt for a changing world.

So, the Charlotte Moves framework addresses this problem in part by giving Charlotteans more mobility options. It's an essential commitment for the success of the Charlotte Future 2040 Plan as well. It is an investment that truly cannot wait. I also want to add that our lack of commitment to environmental justice over the years relates directly to our community conversation on social and economic mobility. One of the reasons people who are born in poverty stay in poverty is because of the disproportionate effects of environmental failures on everything from land value to public health. Now, many of you know, I was a vocal opponent last year, sales tax proposal. Sales taxes are regressive and if it were feasible, I would prefer other revenue options. I definitely hope that we will be able to pursue and secure state and federal funding for Charlotte Moves as well. However, the Charlotte Moves proposal not only addresses the existential threat of climate change, but a Transformational Mobility Network will also provide clear benefits to every citizen. One cent makes a lot of sense in this case. Folks, we [inaudible] been told to trust science. The scientific consensus on manmade climate change is much more conclusive than it is on many aspects of COVID-19. But for decades our community has increased their carbon footprint.

**Keba Samuel, 5418 Freestone Drive** said I am Keba Samuel on behalf of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Planning Commission, where I serve as Vice Chair of the Commission and Chair of the Zoning Committee. I am speaking in favor of the Charlotte Moves Task Force Recommendation Council. At the Planning Commission's December work session, Taiwo Jaiyeoba, our City's Planning Director, presented us with details of the Task Force final recommendation. At that meeting, I spoke on my experience serving as a Charlotte Moves Task Force member, and I asked the Commission for their support of the recommendation of the task force. The Planning Commission voted in favor of presenting a letter of support Council as a point of emphasis and for public benefit. I will read a few excerpts from the letter and I quote, "The Transformational Mobility Network recommendation to Council reflects the dialogue, discussion in consensus, and thought and intention of the Charlotte Moves Task Force. The recommendation addresses our communities' desperate need for mobility investments and prioritizes safe and equitable



mobility options, roadway traffic congestion reduction, and travel affordability. Each of the concepts of the Transformational Mobility Network strategically and intentionally complements the goals of the future 2040 Comprehensive Plan and establishes provisions for complete communities. Much like the Comp Plan, the Transformation of Mobility Network aspires to improve access to critical needs and services, connect our citizens to employment opportunities and essential amenities, and includes consideration to the impacts on the environment, public health, and quality of life. Additionally, the Transformational Mobility Network intends to reduce fragmentation of Greenway's, bike lanes, sidewalks, and public transit routes. There is strong evidence that this Strategic Mobility Plan and the Comprehensive Plan are so closely related and aligned that they become interdependent. Each advances the vision of the other. Our community expectations of the 2040 Comp. Plan becomes much easier to realize with an adopted strategic mobility plan as its partner. For these reasons, the Charlotte Mecklenburg Planning Commission supports the work of the Charlotte Moves Task Force and supports the Council adopting its findings." I will add here that members of the Task Force tuned in to Mayor Gantts December 14 presentation of the recommendation to Council and we listened to initial reactions, comments, concerns, and feedback from Mayor Lyles and Council. As a Task Force member and as a regular Charlottean I'll take this opportunity to humbly remind you that we trust and expect that you'll make the best decision on behalf of the people on each element of the recommendation, including the funding piece. I would so greatly appreciate if the funding piece of the recommendation not paralyzed or stagnate Council discussion or overshadowed the necessity of this Strategic Mobility Plan.

**Kendrick Cunningham, 2345 Ashley Road** said Many working-class Charlotte residents do not have access to reliable public transportation. As a result, workers and families have to rely on cars which can be a big financial burden and prevent them from having access to jobs. It's also for the [inaudible] significantly increased amount of greenhouse gases that are being emitted from Charlotte. That is why the Charlotte Regional Transportation Coalition was founded. The City Council must allocate sufficient funding to help improve our transit system vehicles arriving on time and frequently at stops. [inaudible] transit and regional planning policy are essential for ensuring access to affordable housing, avoiding gentrification, improving quality of life by reducing the distance between living and leisure areas, and mitigating private change. To make sure that we have a vibrant working class that has the opportunity to participate in our local economy, it is to make sure that they have access to public transportation that is consistent, frequent, and accessible. If this does not happen, we will continue to see an increase in homelessness. We will continue to see an increase in displacement, and we will fail at our [inaudible] to be a world-class City that can guide America into a new era of life. Thank you.

**Janet LaBar, 330 S. Tryon Street** said I'm the President and CEO of the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance. I appreciate the opportunity to speak before you this evening. The Charlotte Regional Business Alliance supports the Council adopting the findings of the Charlotte Moves Task Force report, The Charlotte region has seen incredible

population growth and even in a recession, we will see net population growth of 26,000 people this year. Additionally, companies are choosing to grow, expand and relocate to the City of Charlotte and our 15 county region. In 2020, the Alliance assisted a dozen companies that will bring more than 4600 jobs and \$1.2 billion of investment announced in the Charlotte region. We expect and we'll work diligently with our economic development partners at the City and across the counties to ensure Charlotte and the region will remain an investment location of choice. We will need to work collectively to continue investing in the City and region's infrastructure to ensure we stay competitive for growth and investment. The Charlotte Moves Task Force is recommending a Transformational Mobility Network that has the potential to strengthen our region's profile as a world-class market for future business and position us as a leader in equitable economic growth. The Alliance supports the Task Force's recommendations and stands ready to support the City in the adoption and implementation of these findings.

**Geraldine Gardner, 9815 David Taylor Drive Suite 1000** said I am the Executive Director of the Centralina Regional Council. I appreciate the opportunity to speak tonight in support of the Charlotte Moves Task Force Report. Very first off, I'd like to thank Mayor Lyles for appointing me to the Task Force. As a newcomer to Charlotte, it was really an honor to work alongside such smart and dedicated individuals. Mayor Lyles gave our group a very specific charge to imagine a Transformational Mobility Network for the City and give suggestions for how to pay for it. I believe we accomplished our goal. I fully support the report's vision and values, safety, equity, and sustainability. Its recommendations are aligned with the Comprehensive Plan vision and rooted in rich data analysis of both stakeholder input.

Overall, it's a strong blueprint and offers bold ideas for funding proposals that certainly require further analysis and careful coordination with the county and surrounding towns. But what is clear to me from our work is that a Transformational Mobility Network can neither start nor stop at the City of Charlotte borders. Nor can we afford to look at the City's needs and isolation of what our larger region needs to be safe, equitable, sustainable, and economically competitive. My organization, the Centralina and Regional Council is co-leading with the MTC (Metropolitan Transit Commission) Connect Beyond the Regional Mobility Initiative that will create a bold and coordinated vision for regional transit across 12 counties in two-state. Charlotte Moves and connects the on share much of the same DNA and we've been proactive and closely coordinating our efforts thus far. In fact, it is in our interest to see Charlotte Moves carryforwards implementation because we cannot have a strong multi-modal regional system without a connected urban core. I see important opportunities to strengthen the ties between our initiatives as they both evolve in the coming year. Therefore, I ask the Mayor and Council to consider the following in approaching the next steps for Charlotte Moves.

First, align future government and local and state legislator engagement with Caspian so that we can speak with one voice about the benefits of a total mobility network for both the City and the region. Second, appoint Charlotte Moves Task Force members to join the Regional Governance and Partnership Subcommittee of our Connect Beyond

Advisory Committee to ensure coordination and finally explore mechanisms to ensure across community collaboration and planning mobility investments that are funded by any future sales tax increases in order to ensure a network-based approach. Centralina stands ready to collaborate with partners across the region, as we have for over 50 years. We consider ourselves an ally and a partner with the City and working together for a better mobility future for all our region's residents, businesses and visitors.

**Ronald Ross, 3108 Dawnshire Avenue** said a resident president of Northwood Estates community located off of Beatties Ford Road. There is a lack of transportation modes with connectivity to the Beatties Ford Road Corridor in northwest Charlotte. Our community has been boxed into the systemic laws in addition to toll roads, freeways, I-77, I-85, and Highway 16, and industrial facilities contributing to the environmental injustices within our community. I encourage securing funding resources to extend and complete the Gold Line Phase 3 to afford access to adequate travel capacities for all modes of transportation. This will contribute and enhance new development, growth, accessibility, and vibrancy to our community. Major connectivity between the West and East sides of Charlotte is greatly lacking. On a personal note, I would like to see the inclusion of increased and enhanced green infrastructure such as vegetation, green walls, permeable pavement throughout existing and proposed new projects leading to a reduction of pollution and to an environmentally friendly community, City and County. Why not address the needs of the least mobile, accessible communities first in this process? Let's continue and expand what has been started on Beatties Ford Road. I would like to lend my endorsement of Charlotte Moves Task Force recommendations for the City Council and staff to explore transit mobility options and all available financing resources, public and private. This process should be inclusive of input and collaboration with the City of Charlotte, County of Mecklenburg, and Charlotte Mecklenburg residents.

**Joshua Richardson, 1244 Plumstead Road** said I do want to start out by saying that many of the interests that have been talked about, for the Charlotte Moves Task Force, are things that need to take place, but the problem is one thing about [inaudible] and one thing about economic activity, most things are viewed in hindsight, not foresight. It is necessary to remember that right now we are in the COVID period, [inaudible] will exist. That's true. We have to make investments. We have to make plans but presenting anything that says the increase in what the citizens have to pay, frankly, seems like a non-starting policy for where we need to go. While I agree and do support many of the projects, I myself have been in a community where public backlash has canceled transportation and environmental projects in my own neighborhood. So, it's hard to say that different factors and different feelings in various communities about how to handle things, where things will well be placed is not something that we can bank on [inaudible]. With that being said, although the policy does state that it would assume groceries and medication [inaudible], it also talks about putting an increase in property tax that fundamentally [inaudible] tax base after COVID. Residents are being evicted daily and [inaudible] that after [inaudible] in for both rental payments and how that will affect our landlord base within the City. Right now, it's not the time to start [inaudible]. That is also

why I cannot say that I can personally support a policy that would have any tax on the ballot or base a project on tax funding until we get a better view of the [inaudible].

**The following persons submitted written comments regarding this item pursuant to S.L. 2020-3, SB 704. To review comments in their entirety, contact the City Clerk's Office.**

**Richard Wiggins, [teamwiggimusic@gmail.com](mailto:teamwiggimusic@gmail.com)**

**Sam Spencer, [pencer@choosesam.com](mailto:pencer@choosesam.com)**

**Vernetta Mitchell, [vmitchell17@gmail.com](mailto:vmitchell17@gmail.com)**

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**ITEM NO. 13: PUBLIC FEEDBACK ON THE CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON GOVERNANCE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CITY COUNCIL**

**Jane Whitley, 3144 East Ford Road** said I'm chair of the Mecklenburg County Democratic Party and first, I would like to thank the Council for this opportunity to speak. I'd also like to thank the Citizens Advisory Committee for their diligence and their work on the report that will be received. I agree with most of their findings, especially the need to increase compensation for our Mayor and City Council representatives and I know the long hours that you put in to serve the citizens of Charlotte. It's past time that we make sure that you're paid fairly for the work that's done and I know it's a full-time job at least. That said, I stand opposed to the Committee's recommendation to change the Charlotte Municipal elections from partisan to nonpartisan. Making this change will lead to lower voter turnout or prevent members of our political parties from choosing their candidates to represent them in the general election and it will cause the Democratic Party to move from encouraging broad participation in a primary process to a small room endorsement process with party insiders. I'll also add that the manner of election of Charlotte Municipal elected officials does not seem to have been included in the three objectives that the Committee was originally charged with as indicated on the cover sheet of the findings. This has been included as under the issue of Mayor and Council terms of office, including length of terms as well as a method of implementation. However, this is a method of election. Also, this issue received a very slim six to five majority vote on the Committee. Let me also state that it's unclear from the Committee's findings what type of election is recommended to replace our current partisan elections. There are four kinds of municipal elections allowed in NC. One is partisan elections. We also have a nonpartisan primary and election method, which is practiced in Mathew's. We have nonpartisan plurality's where the person with the most votes wins and the general there's no primary nonpartisan election and runoff method which is very similar to the Georgia election that you'll see tomorrow. If you don't get 50%, there's a runoff. So, it's not clear what is being recommended here and we would need more information on exactly what's being proposed. So, removing party labels from the ballot would probably force the County

Democratic Party Executive Committee to endorse candidates in the primary in order to remain competitive and run competitive races. This is done in other NC counties and frankly, it causes problems. I have talked to other county chairs who do this, and it seems to me it's much healthier for voters to have the opportunity to select the candidates to represent them through a primary election with everybody involved.

**Janice Robinson, 15304 McClure Bridge Road** said as a member of the Charlotte City Council's current Citizen Advisory Committee on Governance, I wanted to speak tonight. During our meetings, the City Council staff is very helpful in providing tons of background material on each of the recommendations we were to consider. I thank them again for their help and their patience. This material often required a good deal of time to read and digest in order to be prepared for our Committee discussions. Since I spent a lot of time on that material prior to and during our discussions, I wanted to share with this group my rationale for voting no to recommend City Council move to non-partisan races. One such item the staff provided was the UNC School of Governance report. That report provided important context for our discussion. That was very helpful to me in making my decision. The following are stated in the report. Number one, and I quote, "Voters may not always be highly involved and informed and rely on party labels as an indication of a candidate's policy preferences." Many of our citizens have to spend most of their time working two or three jobs to put food on the table or to keep a roof over their heads. They don't have the luxury, like some of us, to be immersed in the minutia of policy conversations and debate. Number two, "non-partisan elections may have lower turnout than a partisan election." We cannot afford to have this happen, especially at a time when there is a need to increase voter participation, especially in the midst of the voter suppression taking place by the Republican Party since the gutting of the 1965 Voting Rights Act by the Supreme Court and its 2013 decision to strike down Section 4. Number three, "Nonpartisan elections tend to favor Republicans." They do in these ways, corporate entities such as the Chamber of Commerce and others tend to support Republicans, no doubt providing financial support as well. Republican candidates are wealthier and often fund their own races. We need more everyday people to be a part of all aspects of our government, including City Council and thirdly, with lower turnout, voters who do turn out are more likely to be Republican.

In summation as a democrat and a grassroots organizer for the last four years have worked to educate, empower and increase voter turnout, I could not see how moving to non-partisan races would ensure more citizens participation in the franchise. Therefore, I voted no and I encourage the City Council to reject this recommendation by our committee

**Mayor Lyles** said thank you, Ms. Robinson, and thank you for agreeing to serve on the Commission. I think you guys did an outstanding job with the amount of material, as you said, and it really gave us concise recommendations that the Council may consider.

**Constance Green-Johnson, 10881 Casetta Drive** said I agree wholeheartedly with the Chair of the Mecklenburg County party and also with the member, Janice Robinson. I just

wanted to add my rationale which is very, very short, and that is that voters are the ones that should be electing candidates. The only way we can do that is to have a partisan election simply because most voters aren't all that knowledgeable about the candidates, and so they will have to rely on some other mechanism that would not be very good for them to even make a valid judgment.

The next reason would be nonpartisanship tends to produce elected officials more representative than of the upper socio-economic strata, then the general public. So, I wholeheartedly ask that you consider that we need voters to make a decision about candidates and we need also to include other folk to run. If we have a non-partisan, people can't afford to raise money. Certain folk can't raise that kind of money to run. We need a cross representation of all voters in Mecklenburg County.

So, again thank you very much for allowing me to make a comment. I wholeheartedly agree with the Committee. I think it was a great effort, what they did. I read it. I read it several times and I think they did a yeomen's job in delivering their responsibility. So, tonight I ask that you consider not voting for a non-partisan model as opposed to a partisan.

**Antoinette Mingo, 13411 Ada Court** said the first thing is I would like to say I agree with the Committee on the four-year terms. Currently, one-year incumbent spend campaigning and I suppose work has been done while you're campaigning, but it's just ridiculous in my opinion to have two-year terms. It's just not efficient. So, I do agree with that. I do not support non-partisan elections. There is nothing under the sun that does not involve politics and political views. Political parties are distinguished by ideology. Even most unaffiliated voters and candidates, for the most part, align themselves with one major party or the other. If a candidate wants to run for office and does not want citizens to know his or her ideology views, then he or she should run as an unaffiliated candidate. I want to know the general viewpoints of the people for whom I vote. People generally vote based on their party affiliation because they know what the party stands for. Not knowing the party of candidates will no doubt keep many people home during local elections. I just wonder why this matter of nonpartisanship, elections were raised anyway.

But lastly, I am totally against creating a new District only because no information has been provided that supports a new District or that shows that any current District is underserved by the City.

Mayor Lyles said to Ms. Peacock thank you for the work that you've done for our Citizens Advisory Committee on Governance is the co-chair and taking the leadership role in this work.

**Amy Peacock, 427 Hermitage Court** said we had a fantastic group of Democrats, Republicans, and unaffiliated who came together to work on your charge to come up with these recommendations. I just want to thank everybody who participated and of course, Cyndee Patterson, who had to step off. I'll make this quick for the time. Just so you know,

our Committee looked at four data surveys of Charlotte's 20 peer cities, a survey of US top 10 Council/Manager, a form of government, surveys of North Carolina cities, data from the Institute of Government on all cities in North Carolina looking at it Districts with populations over 50,000. We looked at data from Mecklenburg County Board of Elections and City of Charlotte historical records, and our vote on the partisan issue was pretty tight because we live in such partisan times. But what was most interesting to us was that nonpartisan elections are preferred for 90% of our peer cities and 93.3% of NC jurisdictions over 50,000. So, that is quite an outlier when we're talking about elections. The reason why we brought it up is because part of the charge was to look at terms of office and related full or part-time positions and all this kind of works together as far as looking at our peer cities and what they're doing and cities around North Carolina. So, that's how we came to that decision. Then as far as looking at the District size, there are certain outliers and we wanted to as a Committee really focused on having more balance. At the end of the day, we wanted the citizens of Charlotte to be better served or I'd say the City Council to have a better opportunity to serve the citizens of Charlotte in a way that works best for them and the citizens as we grow. So, it's been a real honor to serve on this Committee and I believe everybody feels the same. I hope you will take our recommendations seriously and reach out if you have any questions.

Mayor Lyles said I think that we'll talk about the next steps on all of these activities at our Strategy Session on January 11, 2021, but all of these reports are very important to our future and will be given great consideration by the Council.

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**ITEM NO. 14: PUBLIC FEEDBACK ON THE LEGACY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS TO CITY COUNCIL**

**Eileen Paul, 4131 Conway Avenue** said thank the Legacy Commission, for a thorough and robust report. Thank you, Counsel, for bringing the lynching exhibit to Charlotte. I plan to attend. I have two recommendations. Number one, regarding our founding fathers and Abraham Lincoln, respectfully, I am asking you to create a special category for all of them, perhaps others. Here's why. We all have the potential for good and evil. It is our choice. If we commit evil, there is a way out. We can repent, change our minds and go in the opposite direction for the good of all. That's what forgiveness and redemption look like by the grace of God. That's my Charlotte. In North Carolina, there are efforts to help the incarcerated become contributing members of society in the future, despite succumbing to evil in the past. I would like to see a similar approach apply to our ancestors when evaluating them. Our founding fathers were trapped in a culture that perpetuated a true evil, slavery. In spite of that, they chose to face the evil in themselves and sign the documents in 1776, starting with all men are created equal despite the horrendous price they and their families had to pay. Later, Abraham Lincoln, our 16th President, faced his own demons regarding slavery and went on to free all slaves through the Emancipation Proclamation. This became law and led to the 13th Amendment soon after his assassination. Let us hold these men up as examples of how to move out of evil

into goodness, a lesson we need to learn today. Are there any other people on the Commission's list who follow the same pattern? Number two, our written history needs to reflect light and darkness so we can learn from both. I don't know if the Mellon Foundation can fulfill this requirement.

**Joey Parker, 9801 Beaver Hollow Court** said I'm against the Legacy Commission recommendations. I don't think class [inaudible] politics is not an answer to what we need in the black community. In the past, we know that slavery was evil and but two wrongs do not make a right. So let's get rid of the identity politics and class [inaudible].

**Councilmember Egleston** said mine is really more of an overarching question on all three things that we just covered, and you sort of touched on this, that we will get some of this. But I just want to be clear about what I'm looking for and hope that that's aligned with what we're planning to receive in our annual Strategy Session next Monday and Tuesday. But, on all three of these issues I've received a lot of questions and people seeking clarity on the process, where we go from here now that we have these recommendations, and I guess maybe all three cases, there are pieces of this that we control as the City Council or the City Government, pieces of this we don't have full control over. So, whether it's tonight, whether it's next Monday and Tuesday, I would like and I know many citizens that I've spoken to would like more clarity on which pieces the City Council can do on its own by itself, which pieces we need to have buy-in from either our county colleagues, our state government colleagues or others that might be involved and what the timeline is for those discussions and decisions. Because as of right now, talking about having an eight-City Council District or changing the process by which we have these elections, I'm not even sure that we know with much clarity whether those things would be applied for the election that's now only about 10 months away. So, I hope we can get that clarity quickly because I think to date there is not a lot of it on any of these three topics and how we move forward.

Mayor Lyles said if we recall these when we have the reports, we said that we would seek public comment before we begin the process and the Manager is going to review the process that's planned and starting for these three items. You're right, they're not at all consistent to do in one way. Some things we have to decide that we want to do or anything that we want to do and then that may depend on how you view your decision-making criteria. But, let's start with the process that we have in play to date.

**Marcus Jones, City Manager** said if we go back to December, the concept was that we would have all three of these Task Force to have public input tonight. Each Committee that has been assigned one of these Task Force reports will meet this week. So, Budget and Effectiveness is meeting as it relates to Governance. We have Great Neighborhoods that are meeting as it relates to Legacy and we have Transportation, Planning, and Environment as it relates to Charlotte Moves. The members of the Committees will have, I believe, these types of discussions this week so that when the Committee comes to the Annual Strategy meeting on the afternoon of Monday, a more robust conversation will happen amongst the entire Council, given the opportunity for the public input tonight. So,



that is the short term plan as it relates to the public feedback and moving forward with the Council.

Mayor Lyles said I think that one of the points is that as we were having the committee report out, we really would begin that discussion this evening. But we had a very robust and excellent discussion about affordable housing. I would expect that same kind of discussion around these three topics at the Retreat, that same kind of understanding of what we're doing, where we're trying to go. You're right, there are lots of ways to do it, but I think until we, the Council as a whole discusses it, we probably don't know the answer to the details as much as we need to get some semblance of what we're trying to get to overall as a group.

**Councilmember Newton** said I wanted to thank each of the Task Force for their hard work and the recommendations. I want to also thank all of the speakers who took the time to sign up and speak tonight. I really appreciate the comments. As we focus on speaking about the Charlotte Moves recommendations, as we focus on the Strategic Mobility Plan, I hope that we don't lose sight of what's beyond the last mile. I know that we've heard this concept of the last mile, I think in some of the peripheral outer Districts of the City, it extends beyond that and there are needs in some of the areas beyond that last mile. I know in my District that would extend beyond W.T. Harris Boulevard into areas of the Plaza Road Extension, Harrisburg Road, and Robinson Church Road. Places that they don't have just lack public infrastructure but lack public transportation altogether. I think that we need to address that. I really look forward to the conversations we'll have with the Council in the Strategy Session in our Retreat to talk about that further. Also just wanted to touch on some of the comments pertaining to the recommendations for non-partisan elections. It did hit home with me, many of the speakers discussing the possible oppression of voter choice and turnout. I would want to make sure that we as a Council don't take actions or move to act in any way, shape, or form, be supportive of those two things because I think that that's very important, that we uphold that in a fair and just process of elections. So thank you.

**Councilmember Driggs** said I just wanted to point out that tomorrow afternoon at 2:30, Budget and Effectiveness will be considering these issues. We've had one conversation already. Tomorrow the staff is going to provide us kind of an overview of the recommendations in the context of some of the constraints that we might face. The path to approval. We'll also be thinking about timelines. So, I encourage people who are interested to just listen in to tomorrow afternoon's committee meeting. The goal is for the Committee to bring back to the full Council these recommendations with some data and discussions around the issues, such as the ones that have been alluded to, timelines, constraints, and possible reasons why some of the recommendations might have implications that weren't fully thought out by the citizen's group. So, I hope we'll take a big step forward tomorrow and we'll be talking about this more at the Retreat. By all mean it's at 2:30 if you're interested. Thank you.

Mayor Lyles said all of those meetings are on the City's Facebook page, the YouTube page, and the Government Channel for the public to view as well.

**The following persons submitted written comments regarding this item pursuant to S.L. 2020-3, SB 704. To review comments in their entirety, contact the City Clerk's Office.**

**Eileen Paul, [eileen.paul15@yahoo.com](mailto:eileen.paul15@yahoo.com)**

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### **ITEM NO. 15: SUSTAINABLE FACILITIES POLICY**

**Marcus Jones, City Manager** said when you met last in December Sarah Hazel provided you with a documentation and she got feedback and I believe that Council has adequately addressed the questions.

Motion was made by Councilmember Egleston, seconded by Councilmember Driggs, to approve revised Sustainable Facilities Policy.

**Councilmember Ajmera** said I want to thank Ms. Hazel for her work on the policy update for our facilities. I know under her leadership, we also approved the Sustainable Fleet Policy, I certainly appreciate her work there. Also, with this we will be one step closer to meeting our 2030 Carbon Free goal for our city operations. So, I'm really excited about the progress we have made so far. There were several feedback emails that I had received from various stakeholders that serve on our various sustainable groups. Some of that feedback was provided to Sarah and she had responded to all of those concerns and questions. I certainly appreciate that. So, with that, I'm ready to move forward.

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

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**BUSINESS**

**ITEM NO. 16: CATS FISCAL YEAR 2021 CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN BUDGET AMENDMENT**

Motion was made by Councilmember Egleston, seconded by Councilmember Driggs, to (A) Accept a grant in the amount of \$3,723,712 from the Federal Transit Administration for electric buses and chargers, (B) Accept a grant in the amount of \$1,280,000 from the North Carolina Departments of Transportation and Environmental Quality for hybrid or electric buses, and (C) Adopt Budget Ordinance No. 9956-X appropriating \$9,047,424 in grant funds and fund balance in the CATS Debt Service Reserve Fund to the CATS Capital Investment Plan Fund.

**Councilmember Ajmera** said looks like 2021 is going down as a green year. Making a lot of investments in our green infrastructure, especially with our electric buses and infrastructure, along with policy changes. So, another exciting milestone for our sustainable goals.

**Mayor Lyles** said I want to second this idea about the electric buses, I think that we are in a place where, as we look at what we're trying to do to build a bus system that's reliable and one that looks at the customer first, that electric buses are essential to doing this because we know that we only can do this as we have clean air and those buses provide it. But more importantly, I'm really glad to see that we're placing orders now and getting ready to do something because if we're behind in this and other cities begin to modernize their fleet with the buses, that line could be very long. So, taking this step is a big one for us so that we begin to move forward on something, as Ms. Ajmera said, something that's going to be really positive in 2021, but it's going to serve us then over the next 8 to 10 years.

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

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 63, at Page(s) 462.

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**ITEM NO. 17: PROPERTY TRANSFERS AND RELEASE OF DEED RESTRICTION FROM MECKLENBURG COUNTY**

Motion was made by Councilmember Egleston, seconded by Councilmember Driggs, and carried unanimously to (A) Authorize the transfer of \$1,618,080 to Mecklenburg County through the Government Real Estate Transfer Ledger for the Powerhouse Building at 1507 Camden Road (tax parcel identification number 123-041-10), (B) Approve release of the deed restriction on the Dowd House property at Greenland Avenue and Monument Street (tax parcel identification number 067-061-06) requiring that the property be used for park and recreational purposes, and (C) Authorize the sale of 0.10 acres of City-owned property at 300 North Tryon Street (tax parcel identification number 080-023-06) to Mecklenburg County through the Government Real Estate Transfer Ledger for \$870,000.

**Mayor Lyles** said I wonder, Mr. Jones; if everybody on the Council knows what the Real Estate Leger is. Does everyone understand the transaction?

**Councilmember Winston** said I would love an explanation for the folks that are paying attention that might not know what is happening, might have an interest.

**Marcus Jones, City Manager** said I believe Brent Cagle is about to enter the room to provide a little bit of where we are. Years ago, the County and the City began this ledger as properties were transferred back and forth. I will tell you that I believe with these three actions, the ledger, as we know it, will be as close to zero as it's ever been. So, Brent, if you could talk about these actions.

**Brent Cagle, Aviation Director** said yes, sir. Mr. Jones is correct. A little bit of background; the City-County property ledger from time to time, there are occasions where the City owns properties that the County needs for various reasons and vice versa. There are times when the County owns properties that the City needs or would like to have for various reasons and in the past, it has been the practice to rather than exchange cash for those properties, we run what's called the City-County Property Ledger or Real Estate Ledger. It's exactly what it sounds like. It's a ledger showing the value of the different properties and it usually runs plus or minus, depending on when you look at the ledger in the County's favor or in this City's favor. This has been an ongoing practice for many years. Now, the ledger with these three transactions will, as Mr. Jones said, effectively balance to zero. It's about \$230, somewhere in that range, \$230 to \$250 balanced. The intention would be going forward, the City and County may agree in the future to conduct property swaps or transactions via the ledger. However, the norm will be that these property transactions will be on a cash basis and where it is advantageous to both parties to engage in a swap or a ledger transaction that will be clearly delineated and spelled out via an agreement between the two parties.

Mr. Winston said thank you very much.

Mayor Lyles said I think it's a great improvement; the ledger accounting and whether it had activity really did impact what was going on and what was brought forward. So, the idea of actually doing a transaction by transaction basis with cash is a much better one in terms of keeping it accurate and also making sure that it's not something that was five years ago of this value versus the current value today. It keeps it actually on, I think, a better accounting footing.

**Councilmember Driggs** said I just want to say I'm very happy to see the end of this arrangement because the balance has in fact been one-sided for quite some time. This came about at a time when I think the City was wanting to render assistance, frankly, to the County. At that time, it was appropriate, but I'm happy to hear that we've settled the accounts and hopefully won't be conducting these transactions again.

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

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**ITEM NO. 18: AMEND THE 2021 CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE**

Motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, seconded by Councilmember Eiselt, and carried unanimously to approve an amendment to the 2021 City Council and Budget Meeting Schedule.

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**ITEM NO. 20: LEASE OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY AT THE CHARLOTTE TRANSIT CENTER TO MUN SUNG AND JOYCE SUNG**

Motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, seconded by Councilmember Eiselt, and carried unanimously to (A) Adopt a resolution approving a five-year lease agreement with one five-year extension option between the City of Charlotte and Mun Sung and Joyce Sung, operating as Plaza Sundries, for a retail space located at 310 E. Trade Street (tax parcel number 125-011-14), and (B) Authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute all documents necessary to complete the transaction with Mun Sung and Joyce Sung, operating as Plaza Sundries, at the Charlotte Transit Center.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 51, at Page(s) 161.

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**ITEM NO. 21: LEASE OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY AT THE CHARLOTTE TRANSIT CENTER TO XANADU FOOD SERVICES, INC.**

Motion was made by Councilmember Eiselt, seconded by Councilmember Ajmera, and carried unanimously to (A) Adopt a resolution approving a five-year lease agreement with one five-year extension option between the City of Charlotte and Xanadu Food Services, Inc., operating as China Shuttle, for a retail space located at 310 E. Trade Street (tax parcel number 125-011-14), and (B) Authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute all documents necessary to complete the transaction with Xanadu Food Services, Inc., operating as China Shuttle, at the Charlotte Transit Center.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 51, at Page(s) 162.

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**ITEM NO. 22: RESOLUTION TO CLOSE JOE WHITENER ROAD**

Motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, seconded by Councilmember Eiselt, and carried unanimously to adopt a resolution and close Joe Whitener Road.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 51, at Page(s) 163-166.

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**ITEM NO. 23: DECISION ON THE ASHFORD HOUSE HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION**

Motion was made by Councilmember Egleston, seconded by Councilmember Driggs, and carried unanimously to Adopt Ordinance No. 9957-X with an effective date of January 4, 2021, designating the property known as the "Ashford House" (Parcel Identification Numbers 063-061-02 and 063-061-03) as a historic landmark.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 63, at Page(s) 463-467.

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**ITEM NO. 24: DECISION ON THE DOWD HOUSE HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION**

Motion was made by Councilmember Egleston, seconded by Councilmember Driggs, and carried unanimously to Adopt Ordinance No. 9958-X with an effective date of January 4, 2021, amending the existing historic landmark designation ordinance for the property known as the “Dowd House” (Parcel Identification Numbers 067-061-05 and 067-061-06).

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 63, at Page(s) 468-471.

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**ITEM NO. 25: DECISION ON THE F.M. SIMMONS HOUSE HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION**

Motion was made by Councilmember Egleston, seconded by Councilmember Driggs, and carried unanimously to Adopt Ordinance No. 9959-X with an effective date of January 4, 2021, designating the property known as the “F.M. Simmons House” (Parcel Identification Number 155-023-01) as a historic landmark.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 63, at Page(s) 472-476.

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**ITEM NO. 26: DECISION ON THE FORMER CHARLOTTE FIRE STATION NUMBER 10 HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION**

Motion was made by Councilmember Egleston, seconded by Councilmember Driggs, and carried unanimously to Adopt Ordinance No. 9960-X with an effective date of January 4, 2021, designating the property known as the “Former Charlotte Fire Station Number 10” (Parcel Identification Number 06-706-102) as a historic landmark.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 63, at Page(s) 477-481.

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## APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

**Mayor Lyles** explained the rules and procedures of the appointment process.

### ITEM NO. 27: APPOINTMENTS TO THE HOUSING APPEALS BOARD

The following nominees were considered for one appointment for a Housing Industry Representative for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2021 and ending December 31, 2023:

Kamilah Peebles, nominated by Councilmembers Bokhari, Driggs, Egleston, Eiselt and Graham  
Cemental Grayson Rountree, nominated by Councilmembers Ajmera, Johnson,

Motion was made by Councilmember Egleston, seconded by Councilmember Eiselt, to appoint Kamilah Peebles to serve as specified.

The motion was denied.

Kamilah Peebles, nominated by Councilmember Driggs, Egleston, Eiselt, and Graham.  
Cemental Grayson Rountree, nominated by Councilmembers Ajmera and Johnson.

Results of the first ballot were recorded as follows:

Kamilah Peebles, 5 votes – Councilmembers Bokhari, Driggs, Egleston, Eiselt, and Graham.  
Cemental Grayson Rountree, 6 votes – Councilmembers Ajmera, Johnson, Mitchell, Newton, Watlington, and Winston.

Cemental Grayson Rountree was appointed.

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### ITEM NO. 4: COUNCIL INPUT ON ANNUAL STRATEGY MEETING AND FUTURE COMMITTEE TOPICS

**Mayor Lyles** said we are going to go back to our section that we were talking about earlier during the Action Review. This is where we wanted to have a conversation and basically go by each Committee, but the question would be; each Committee is going to have the opportunity to give a full report at the Annual Strategy Session. I think what we were trying to do today is make sure that the Committee hear from Councilmembers that may not be able to attend one of those Committee meetings. Your questions that you feel are essential to be answered on any one of these given topics and the topics that are referred. While safe Communities does not have a referral specifically at the Retreat, I believe that



that is going to cover the work that we are doing and an update on Cure Violence as well as the hospital program and we are going to hear something about our homicides. All of us know that homicides are what makes all of the headlines, the shootings and people dying makes the headlines, but what we have been thinking and working for so much is how are we going to do this work to prevent those homicides, to deal with the conflict that people are having. We've done a lot of work in Community Policing, Community Activist, Community Investment and this is really sad that we still have so much work to do that we have people making choices in the way that harms people with guns or knives. So, we all know that we are going to be working hard on this. I don't know if we can start with our Safe Communities, but I think we will have time at the Retreat to review a lot of this. I think the question that we are asking is what is the essential questions for the Safe Communities Committee to address as we talk about the initiatives around Safe Charlotte, especially the initiatives that we've made around homicides. I'm going to turn it over and let Mr. Egleston address the key questions that he has ask if he has missed anything that you helped him put that together.

**Councilmember Egleston** said I think it's important we reiterate to folks, obviously, what was maybe the front-page news of the work that we did on the Safe Communities Committee in 2020 was largely around the Reimagining of the Police effort. But that did not mean that we took our eye off the ball as it relates to the violent crime that our City, like every other large city in the country of late, is facing and how that manifests itself throughout our community. So, that work has continued and will continue to be the focus of the work we do on the Safe Communities committee, but the Mayor mentioned a couple of the things that we're going to be starting and continuing in 2021, like the Violence Interrupter Program, hospital-based Violence Intervention Program, working with the County now that we've declared violence, a public health crisis and working with them on a data-based approach to addressing it and curing it. The Cure Violence Program, which is a national model, we'll be working with local grassroots organizations on here to implement the Jumpstart Micrographs Program that continues to help the grassroots organizations that are doing this work in our communities, the Corridors of Opportunity investments, the Safe Charlotte plan, all of that is seeds that we have planted over the last few years.

Though many of those are things that are long-range plans will yield long-range returns, I think they're also yielding some immediate impacts. I know that the one thing that tends to catch people's eye at the end of a calendar year is the number of homicides in our community. It was high and it is unacceptable. It's hard to compare it year over year with things that happened 20, 30 years ago because our cities got twice as many people now as it did then. Nonetheless, it's something that we all need to be concerned about. It really stems from the larger, more complete picture of violent crime in our community and that's what we've got to address. Some of the things about whether or not someone loses their life in one of these interactions are simply random, but the violence is not random. It can be shown through data to be in certain corridors, be with certain folks who have these interpersonal conflicts that continue to flare up and escalate themselves into a violent interaction. I'm looking forward to continuing on and putting even more emphasis on this

work as we go into 2021. But I know there's things, some of which kind of tangentially tie into this work that other Councilmembers have expressed interest in us bringing up. We're continuing to discuss so open to other things for us to be working on either directly addressing the violent crime issue, which I think will be the core focus of our committee, or things on the periphery that Councilmembers see the need for us to put some attention on.

**Mayor Lyles** said so, what are those items from the Council that you think have to be discussed by the Safe Communities Committee?

Mr. Egleston said I'll let Councilmembers speak for themselves, but I know just in the last couple of days, Ms. Watlington and I have talked about something that I know that she has worked on already. I know Councilmember Graham has been involved as well as it relates to code enforcement and repeat offender type problem businesses that are allowing some of the crime in our communities to happen right at their doorstep or even in their business and not doing much to be a part of the solution. Whether or not they're part of the problem, they're not trying to be part of the solution and figuring out how the City can have more strength in addressing those and heading that off. So, I know that's one in particular, but if other folks have things that are on their mind, would be open to that conversation now or next Monday and Tuesday.

**Councilmember Watlington** said two things come to mind. Councilmember Egleston already mentioned one, I'll actually defer to the City Manager because I know that we have been working on it, but in terms of how that policy question has been posed to the staff, I would defer to him for that specific question. I will tell you that it's centered around exactly what Councilmember Egleston said, the role of the businesses, particularly the corner stores with alcohol permits for alcohol consumption and their role in the community, and how we can better enable and also better regulate in partnership with the state and local law enforcement agencies and even with our zoning regulations, how we can ensure that we are creating robust support systems and standards and also local policies to make sure that our businesses are equipped to help us prevent crime. Then secondly, we know that we have seen and continue to see concerns from neighbors regarding drag racing in our streets and then as obviously as a component of the violent crime, then violence in our community. So, I will just give the City Manager a moment, if you'd like to elaborate a little bit more on what I've said if need be. If not that's fine too.

**Councilmember Graham** said I think the Chairman did a great job summarizing where the Committee is. I'm certainly right there along with them. Councilmember Watlington reiterated something I'm very interested in, which is the nuisance abatement for the non-residential property code enforcement. That's something I think we ought to really kind of take a look at this year. Very interested in kind of moving forward with Cure Violence. Obviously, one murder is too many, but we had a record-breaking last year. Then lastly, and I know we talked about this last year, but the collaboration with the County around mental health and substance abuse, those are areas that are really impacting corridors

and community. Obviously not in our school chest there. I just want again to highlight the importance of that collaboration and really put a spotlight on it this year.

**Councilmember Eiselt** said I also just want to tag on that notion of the nuisance abatement for residential. Mr. Bokhara and I were recently out in a neighborhood in his District and met with some of the residents there. They talked about a house that has been really problematic in their neighborhood and has increased the incidence of crime and violence around them. It reminds me, going back to when Chief Monroe came to Charlotte and Chief Monroe with the District Attorney, Andrew Murray at the time really focused on the 20% of the people that committed 80% of the crime, as they would say. When we look at, for instance, this particular offender who has been arrested many times for low-level offenses, the Police Department is frustrated with that because they're low-level offenses and they're not going to go to court when you have a District Attorney's Office who has a two-year homicide backlog. So, it's a problem that we looked at 10 years ago and come back to it. But if you can take care of this issue where this one house, maybe the guys only get getting arrested for marijuana offenses, but outside the house, it's attracting a lot of trouble. It's attracting a lot of crime and it's attracting shooting. So, I'd love to see us work with our Police Department and Great Neighborhoods Committee to go back to strategies like that as well.

**Councilmember Winston** said I would encourage us, and know we're going to have a lot on our plate this year, for us to understand what this body is really set up to do best, and that's to think about the high level and really the overarching themes. As it relates to community safety or safe communities and violence, we really need to be thinking about the source of violence in our whole community, and how we can affect that. We talked about, as it was said a couple of Councilmembers definitely want to look at nuisance abatement. I just want to remind us that we've had this conversation about that and we should continue to have and see how we can use the tools that we have better. But let's just acknowledge that that is a real kind of zoomed-in specific. These are specific examples and specific places. We really started to look at how do we affect gun violence and we looked at violence interruption in the streets and in the hospitals. But I think it's going to be tough for us to continue to have community support. We need to lay out all of the kind of source of violence areas that we are going to look to attack and how we're going to engage our community. The place that I think that we should really focus on this year and I hope we will give it serious consideration, is how do we have an impact and take a public health response to an intimate partner in domestic violence. We know that year over year that is the source of so many homicides and so many instances of acute violence and long-term violence. We know that during the pandemic, resources around an intimate partner, domestic and child abuse have been severely strained. We know that we already have big ideas and things in the work with our partners at the County and other partners throughout the region. For instance, we to talk many times about the family justice centers and the use of that as a tool in combating that. We've also talked that in itself, even if we figured out how to get it right, would not be the solution to finding a different policy approach to intimate partner violence. I think we owe it to our community to come up with that solution. I hope that we will look to find a way to take a real all hands-

on deck approach as this is something that doesn't just affect specific blocks or specific businesses but affects every neighborhood in every District and in every zip code of the City.

**Councilmember Johnson** said one of the areas that I'd also like to take a look at this year from a safety perspective, is Police Officer hiring? We know that there's a challenge in recruiting. So, I'd like to take a look at when we're losing these applicants. I was able to get a report from Chief Jennings that kind of tracks the trends on the passing rate and the completion rate. In the first report that I looked at, 1% of the black females that applied are hired compared to 10% of white females. The African-American male rate is like 2%. We've got to identify why we're losing these applicants. If there are tax incentives that we can take a look at to recruit officers to live in the City. I know there's some other incentives, but we really have to be intentional about increasing the Police force to be more representative of our community so we can take a look at these reports, find out from a testing perspective, are there biases in the testing? We know that that happens so we can take a look at that kind of data. I just think we need to be intentional about our Police force and just stop accepting that we're understaffed and our Police force and really focus on that from a safety perspective.

## **WORKFORCE AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

Mayor Lyles said I was just hearing good things about your meeting today. Mr. Mitchell; do you want to give the Council kind of an overview, what is the critical issue there that Council really needs to address at the Annual Strategy Session?

**Councilmember Mitchell** said our great staff did an excellent job today at the meeting. There are two things I would like for Council to give us some direction and input at the Strategy Session. One is a whole new workforce development plan that we're working on, and the second one is our job strategy. I have to give staff a lot of credit for thinking out of the box, and we really want to own how we address a match and open opportunities with our citizens and create a whole new job of strategies. Mayor, those two items I would like to get Council input at our Strategy Session next week.

Mayor Lyles said is there anything that the Council would like to make sure that the staff or the Committee bring forward, is there anything else to add?

**Councilmember Driggs** said I have clarified with the City Manager, I think the biggest issue that we talked about was plans for the Workshop, which the Committee has agreed with the Manager on and we'll see how that unfolds. The budget conversation will begin then. We haven't actually started processing the budget. Probably the biggest item we're working on that will come up is, in fact, the recommendations from the Citizens Task Force on Governance. The City Attorney has pointed out to me that this meeting that we're having is, in fact on Wednesday and not our usual time on Tuesday. If anybody is still listening, I hope they'll take on board the clarification. We will be meeting at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday. The goal, as I suggested before, is to help the Council kind of progress

in terms of processing exactly the questions that were brought up early. I think that's the biggest item that will come up at the Retreat from our Committee.

Mayor Lyles said Mr. Mitchell; I want to go back to you and make sure that Councilmembers get to weigh in on your request around Workforce Development, what is necessary and the job strategy and then we will go on to Governance and Budget processes.

Mr. Mitchell said the Committee just reminded me. We had a great conversation about our Tax Increment Grant Policy today and we wanted to make sure to hear from other Committee Chairs to make sure that as we look at the policy, we are very sensitive to impact. We can make an economic decision that might impact transportation and neighborhood. So, we would love for the Committee Chairs to weigh in on that TIG policy as well.

Mayor Lyles said we heard from Mr. Driggs and he said the Governance structure, I think all of us have had a chance to think about it and hearing the public comments today. We can make sure that we get something to Mr. Driggs by Wednesday if there are any burning question right now for that.

**Councilmember Winston** said I was able to join the Committee this afternoon and I agree, and I encourage what Mr. Mitchell said about other Committee members kind of looking into the tax increment grant policy. I would encourage us, and this is something I said in Committee this afternoon, language matters a lot. I think we need to be looking at the overall guidance that we're giving the staff around economic incentives or total our full package of suites of economic incentives. I think the way that we can kind of do that is if we take a look at our priorities year to year because our priorities as a Council and where we want to invest and the goals that we have change. But the incentives that we use don't always change along with our priorities. We see time and time again how when that doesn't get addressed, or things don't go as smooth as they can. So, I hope that we can look at the whole suite of how we can give clear guidance to the staff [inaudible] year and potentially have the ability to kind of touch base on those things with things like I don't know, a pandemic, come in and throw out all our priorities. So, I encourage us to really kind of drill into that.

**Mayor Lyles** said I think I sent out to Counsel a study that had been done by some of the folks in academia and they said we were upside down. It was like they were talking about tax incentives, the way that we do it, that that was kind of not as effective as the investment in the workforce. So, I think we're on the right track. What they were saying is if you invest in your talent, then the businesses will come. I'll pull that up again and try to get it out to the committee as well.

## **TRANSPORTATION, PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Councilmember Eiselt** said as we got an update earlier on the SEAP (Strategic Energy Action Plan), Sarah Hazel has done some great work on making sure that we're aligning our goals in all areas of the City to our goals of the SEAP. So, as that continues to move along, I'm sure we're going to hear a lot more about that, especially when we start really seeing some progress with getting electric buses, etc. Beyond that, I don't think I need to tell anybody what's been going on with Transportation and Planning. We've got three things that are really going to be critical this next year, in 2021. The UDO, which is our Unified Development Ordinance, is set to be approved for an adoption process in the late fall of this year. That is, of course, to consolidate all of our development regulations into a single document. Then with that, the Comprehensive Vision Plan is the policy guidance, for the goals and strategies of the UDO. That is set up to also be adopted this year in 2021. As if that's not enough, we've got Charlotte Moves. So, I don't need to reiterate all the work that we have to do with Charlotte Moves. But it's fair to say that most Councilmembers still have a lot of questions about that, that we hope will get answered during the Council Retreat with regards to how the money is going to be spent, in what order, along what timeline the debt payment, what it means to residents in terms of how much does it cost, but what are also the benefits and what's the monetary value of that. So, we really hope we'll have a robust in the weeds conversation with regards to what the sales tax increase can actually mean for the Charlotte Moves, for our mobility plan during the Retreat. I think that is probably enough.

Mayor Lyles said I really encourage us to really think through what are our questions so that we can have a discussion without sharing the information that you find that's important, that's not workable, or whatever. We've just got to get a level setting for everybody to be able to get there.

**Councilmember Winston** said I think that many of you individually, and if I haven't, and I will, I think that the work that Transportation and Planning Environment Committee does this year is going to be some of the most important work that's going to resonate over the next couple of decades or several decades here in Charlotte. As Ms. Eiselt said, we're going to have to get in the weeds of a lot of discussions and the effectiveness of our ability to do that is going to play an outsized role in the community conversation. I hope, going into the Retreat next week and coming out of it, that we've formed a plan and look back to the way we dealt with our Safe Communities plan. I think we did really well there. We created arenas for all 12 of us, to be able to get into the weeds in an effective way and continue to move the process forward. So, I hope we kind of layout a plan for us in the community at some point in time of how we're going to break up this elephant of conversation that we're going to have into the separate parts and really kind of air traffic control through the kind of 360-degree policy, questioning, and consideration that is going to be needed to see it be done successfully.

Mayor Lyles said I don't know if there's anything Mr. Graham would like to add to Great Communities after having the Affordable Housing Framework and a lot of those things

that we talked about earlier. But I think that that was kind of our model for really getting an understanding of how things work. So, Mr. Graham, is there anything that you need to ask the Council specifically as you continue to work in Great Neighborhoods?

**Councilmember Graham** said no, thank you, ma'am. I think Ms. Wideman did a great job outlining our goals and objectives and the challenges that we have along the way. There are a couple of policy items that are currently in the Committee for deliberation. I don't think we need to talk about that specifically at the Retreat. So, I think we're good to go. I would just encourage everyone to take you up on your suggestion Madam Mayor, to review the video from the Mecklenburg County relating to the presentation that the Assistant County Manager gave on the Tent City just as an FYI.

Mayor Lyles said But I also think one of the things that you said is that if we can come out of the Retreat with a shared understanding of the issues and we can get a list of the policies that we have to vote on to move any of these areas forward. I think that would be truly a success. But I also want to remind ourselves that we do every year try to determine what those strategic efforts are that will guide the way that we operate and fund this community. So, the budget steps are really important, but if we don't know where we're going, it doesn't help the staff to really shape what's important to be in a plan that people can depend on and rely upon that we will be willing to finance. I'm really looking forward to that discussion on our top areas of work and knowing that we have the ability to explain to the public what those are and how we're going to move forward. With that, Mr. Jones; do you have anything for us as we end the Committee Report discussions?

**Marcus Jones, City Manager** said no, I would just I guess a very, very high level of reinforcing the conversation that I have with the Budget and Effectiveness Committee. We're at the beginning of the Annual Strategy Meeting, and there's a conversation very much like this to make sure that the Council is aligned with what are the priorities for the year, as well as a reflection of how the Council, the Committees, and the staff made progress towards the 2020 goals. Then in the afternoon, there will be the Committee Report Outs. What they focus on, the specific Task Force recommendations from the public hearing tonight. Then as we go into day two, it'll be very similar to what we've done in the past to make sure that the key projects are discussed. Also on day one, we'll have a robust conversation about where we are financial, the CARES funds, and what's our capacity moving forward, not just in terms of our CIP (Community Investment Plan). As Mr. Driggs has said over the years, it's time for us to begin to populate that, unlike in the other two, let's say, bond cycles where they were attached to a tax increase. This is not the case for this next bond cycle. I think there's a great opportunity for Council to roll up their sleeves and have discussions about not just the priorities from last year and the priorities going forward, but how we can fund many of the projects that are out there Mayor.

Mayor Lyles said I think with that, the only other thing I would say is that it's really hard to have a virtual meeting and make sure everybody is engaged. So, I hope that people will block out this time because we are still limited to 10 people and we've got two, four, six in this room so at four if you want to join, you are welcome to. But recognizing that COVID

has been particularly difficult in Mecklenburg County with even though we're a lot better off than our surrounding areas recognizing that. So, if we can really put our heads into the game, I think that will make a big difference.

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### ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Newton, seconded by Councilmember Watlington, and carried unanimously to Adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.



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Stephanie Bello, Deputy City Clerk

Length of Meeting: 3 Hours, 35 Minutes  
Minutes Completed: February 9, 2021