

**THE COMMON COUNCIL**

**June 5, 2023**

**6:30 P.M.**

**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF CHARLESTOWN WAS HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 5, 2023, AT 6:30 PM WITH MAYOR TREVA HODGES PRESIDING.**

Council members present were Mark (Bo) Bertram, Ruthie Jackson, JT Cox, BJ Steele, and Brian Hester. Also present were Mayor Hodges, Clerk Treasurer Donna Coomer, City Attorney Perry McCall, and Council Attorney Mike Gillenwater.

**Pledge**

All

**Invocation**

Councilwoman Ruthie Jackson

**Agenda**

Councilman Hester made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Councilman Cox. Approved 5-0.

**Minutes, Claims and PR Voucher**

Councilman Hester made a motion to approve the Minutes of 05/01/2023, the Claims, and the PR voucher from 4/24/2022 to 05/28/2023, seconded by Councilman Steele. Approved 5-0.

Councilwoman Jackson asked about a \$5000.00 check made out to The Center for Women and Families. Mayor Hodges explained that it was paid out of the Community Liaison Grant Fund since they were the presenting sponsor for that organization. Councilwoman Jackson asked if the same fund could donate to the Safe Haven Baby Box. Mayor Hodges explained that we cannot donate to the baby box from this same fund since Safe Haven Baby Box is not directly related to the Community Liaison position.

**Public Comments**

Chuck Deaton from 284 Birch Drive spoke on behalf of the Little League. They have an agreement with Jonathan Jennings and Pleasant Ridge Schools to obtain playground equipment, which now has been retracted because of an issue with the City's insurance. Mayor Hodges explained that she spoke with the City's insurance broker and the City would not be covered since they couldn't guarantee the durability or integrity of the equipment after excavation and re-installation. The city has miscellaneous playground equipment that the Little League may be able

to use. A full inventory of the equipment will be done in August, and they will move forward from there.

**Legislative Youth Advisor**

Ethan Biggs has graduated and will no longer be the legislative youth advisor. We will be having a Press Release coming up to announce his replacement.

**Mayor's Comments**

Mayor Hodges brought the council up to date on the Sewer Board and sent out a memo regarding the potential use of BANs instead of bonds.

**Council Comments**

Councilwomen Jackson spoke about a recent public request made by Council Attorney Mike Gillenwater regarding the pre-bid meeting list for the wastewater treatment plant. The document was not provided, as City Hall did not have it. Council Attorney Mike Gillenwater mentioned that all public documents need to be kept at City Hall and he will make sure the Clerk Treasurer's Office receives the document.

Brian Hester mentioned that Subway is moving and will be having a soft opening on the 7<sup>th</sup> and a grand opening on the 14<sup>th</sup>. They have been very helpful to the baseball program by providing food, and they would appreciate any support. Also, Wednesday-Saturday there will be baseball tournaments at the high school.

Councilwoman Jackson opened the floor for discussion about establishing new sewer tap fees.

Council Attorney Mike Gillenwater addressed the council regarding the need to increase capacity fees and sewer tap fees due to the cost of the new wastewater treatment plant.

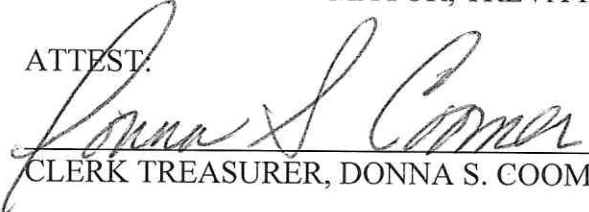
JT Cox mentioned they are at a 98% graduation rate this year. Graduation is Wednesday night at 7 PM.

**Adjournment**

Councilman Cox made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Steele. Approved 5-0.

  
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MAYOR, TREVA HODGES

7-10-2023  
DATE

ATTEST:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CLERK TREASURER, DONNA S. COOMER

7-10-2023  
DATE