

CITY OF CHARLOTTE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
111 E. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte, MI 48813 (517) 543-2750
Regular Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.
March 9, 2026

CALL TO ORDER:

By Mayor Fullerton on Monday, March 9, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Fullerton, Council Members Christensen, Neumann, Chin, Brummette, Scott and Rodriguez were present. A quorum was met.

City staff in attendance; Interim City Manager Pastue, City Clerk Smith, DPW Director Stephanie Whitney, Assistant Fire Chief Dan Daly, and Police Chief Brentar.

INVOCATION:

Victor Williams from New Hope Community Church led the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Led by Mayor Fullerton.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. Mayor Fullerton noted corrections needed under roll call on the first page, indicating that Mayor Pro Tem Rodriguez and Council Member Brummette were not present at that time. The correction would also be noted when Mayor Pro Tem Rodriguez arrived at the meeting.

Motion by Council Member Scott to approve the minutes as corrected. Seconded by Council Member Chin. Motion Carried.

ABSENCE OF COUNCIL MEMBERS:

No council member absences were reported.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

State Representative Angela Witwer reported reading to students at Upper Elementary and presenting awards to My Place Diner and teacher Kristen Toadvine. She also updated Council on two bill packages affecting Charlotte—one supporting horse racing at fairgrounds and another addressing drain commissioner accountability through bidding requirements, timelines, and petition procedures. The horse racing package is expected to pass.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Council Member Christensen seconded by Council Member Scott, to approve the agenda. Motion Carried

COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. City Manager report

City Manager Pastue provided updates on several ongoing matters. Chief Brentar answered questions about the Flock camera policy, noting it was adopted before installation. The cameras only track stolen vehicles or plates, missing people (including Amber and Silver alerts), and individuals with warrants. Data is deleted after 30 days, and access requires a complaint number and justification.

Council Member Rodriguez raised privacy concerns and referenced misuse in other areas. Chief Brentar outlined safeguards, including audits, supervisory oversight, and requirements that officers visually verify information before taking action.

The manager also reported on TIF monitoring, noting Finance Director Christina Horton reconciled all Spartan Brownfield accounts back to 2017. Plans are underway to update water and sewer rates using Municipal Analytics, incorporating current capital costs and forecasting future rates.

b. Staff Report

The manager provided a written report noting that applications have closed and the program is moving to the next phase. Council Member Chin noted that Charlotte has been recognized for excellent administration of the program, resulting in a \$100,000 increase for next year.

c. Council member committee reports

Council Member Christensen reported on the Planning Commission meeting, noting excitement about development interest in Charlotte. He mentioned changes to the fireworks approval process and new member elections.

Council Member Chin reported participating in filming a commercial with University of Michigan sustainability students to support the Eatran renewal millage for November.

Council Member Brummette provided updates on the Parks Board, including progress on the Oak Park project with old

equipment removal and new pavilion installation. He also reported Parks Board approval of a letter supporting partnership with the trail extension project toward Nashville and Vermontville.

CONSENT AGENDA:

The Consent Agenda included:

- a. approval of Claims and Expenditures totaling \$499,572.08
- b. ~~approval of Mayoral Appointments~~ (moved to business agenda 11g)
- c. 2026 Arbor Day Proclamation

Motion by Council Member Chin, seconded by Council Member Scott; motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS AGENDA:

- a. Consideration to Authorize the Charlotte Junior Orioles to build a new press box

Representatives from the Charlotte Junior Orioles presented their request to build a new press box to replace the removed structure. The organization serves tackle football grades 3-8 and flag football programs. They confirmed they would pay all costs, obtaining three local bids, carry liability insurance, and will use licensed contractors. The structure will be ADA accessible and similar in size to the previous press box.

Council Member Chin inquired about liability insurance, which was confirmed. Mayor Fullerton noted the cost would be approximately \$50,000.

Motion moved by Council Member Scott, seconded by Council Member Brummette. Motion Carried unanimously.

b. Consider approval of Pivot Group to Facilitate City Manager Search

Council discussed hiring Pivot Group to conduct the city manager's search. City Manager Pasquale confirmed that the consultant would meet with department heads to gather input on desired characteristics for the position at no additional charge. Council Member Rodriguez emphasized the importance of transparency and keeping all council members informed throughout the process, unlike previous searches. The manager confirmed that proper Open Meetings Act protocols would be followed for any subcommittee meetings.

Motion by Council Member Chin, seconded by Council Member Scott. Motion carried unanimously

c. Consider Approval of Amendment to POLC Collective Bargaining Agreement

City Manager Pastue explained this amendment addresses vacation time accrual interpretation issues. The current finance director found no explicit language in the collective bargaining agreement regarding accrual methodology, though it had been past practice. The amendment incorporates language stating that employees are posted vacation time on their employment anniversary date based on the preceding year worked, with pro-ration for partial years of service.

Motion moved by Council Member Scott, seconded by Council Member Christensen. Motion Carried unanimously.

d. Consideration to Authorize AMI Implementation – Required Meter Replacements

DPW Director Whitney reported that 2,200 of the city's 4,100 water meters are from 2000 or earlier and must be replaced for the AMI system to function properly. These older mechanical meters likely produce inaccurate readings, leading to lost revenue. While they can accept transmitters, they cannot provide the accurate data needed for AMI.

Mayor Fullerton expressed concern that this need was not clearly communicated when AMI was originally approved, noting the additional \$1 million cost. The project includes \$745,000 for replacement meters and \$275,000 for third-party installation, with completion expected by December 2026.

Council confirmed that primary meter replacements will be city-funded, while additional meters (such as irrigation) remain the homeowner's responsibility. City staff completed only 63 replacements in 2.5 months, making a contractor necessary to meet the timeline.

Council Member Chin requested that future sole-source purchases include proper justification as required by city policy.

Motion by Council Member Scott, seconded by Christensen. A roll call vote was taken. All members voted in favor. Motion carried.

e. Consideration to Authorize EDA Disaster Recovery Grant Application

Motion: Moved by Council Member Chin, seconded by Council Member Christensen. Motion carried unanimously.

- f. Consideration to Authorize the Application for MDARD and Rural Development Fair Capital Improvement Grant

Mayor Fullerton noted this grant requires no city match and supports the Agricultural Society's responsibility to maintain fairground buildings and structures under their lease agreement with the city. Council Member Rodriguez confirmed there was no match required for the grant.

Motion: Moved by Council Member Chin, seconded by Council Member Scott. Motion carried unanimously.

- g. Consideration to Approve Mayoral Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Council Member Chin questioned the process for board and commission appointments. Mayor Fullerton explained that applicants fill out applications detailing their experience and qualifications, which are reviewed by the clerk and then the mayor. The appointments include Tony Caporali to DDA, Renee Lester to Planning Commission, Cooper Frost to Planning Commission, and John Laupp's appointment to Brownfield Authority.

Motion: Moved by Council Member Brummette, seconded by Council Member Scott. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

John Laupp commented on flock cameras as public record under Michigan law and asked about notification to property owners regarding the 2,200 water meter replacements.

Janine Scott requested information on flock camera performance and expressed concerns regarding data security and potential misuse.

Jodee, participating online, asked questions regarding water meter installation locations, procedures for properties with existing yard meters, and homeowner responsibility for leaks.

County Commissioner Nicole Christensen provided updates on county initiatives, including animal control shelter funding, a missing middle housing fund, and the Bank Intercounty Drain project.

STAFF COMMENTS:

DPW Director clarified that the AMI meter installation process will include scheduling appointments with residents, with contractors handling the entire program professionally. For existing pit meters, they will remain in their current locations rather than being moved inside homes.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Scott mentioned attending Cap Con and the active relationship with various organizations, including upcoming meetings

Council Member Chin reported on upcoming ADA website requirements, tenant meetings at Edmond Senior Citizen

Apartments, participation in Senator Anthony's town hall, and recent housing policy discussions. He also recognized DPW staff for their work during recent cold weather and requested information on how public comment complaints are tracked and addressed.

Council Member Rodriguez cited survey data related to public concerns about automatic license plate reader cameras. Council Member Brummette encouraged public education on city issues and reported working with DPW staff on tree care and safety training. Council Member Neumann thanked attendees and inquired about the timeline for selecting a new city manager, which may take 2–3 months.

Council Member Christensen thanked attendees, recognized DPW's project communication, promoted the Agricultural Society fundraiser, congratulated James McCray on becoming Planning Commission Chair, and noted upcoming Cap Con attendance. Mayor Fullerton reported that two council members requested approximately \$7,000 in funding for next year's activities.

ADJOURN:

Motion: Moved to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting Adjourned at 8:31 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Alicia A. Smith
City Clerk