

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL WILL BE HELD ON Monday, March 5, 2012, AT 6:30 p.m. IN THE Second Floor Conference Room.

THE PROPOSED AGENDA IS AS FOLLOWS:

Closed session as provided by Section 2.2-3712 of the Virginia Code

BY ORDER OF THE MAYOR

BY Paige Barfield

SECOND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM – March 5, 2012

Council met in special session on this date with the following members present: Ms. Galvin, Mr. Huja, Mr. Norris, Ms. Szakos.

On motion by Ms. Galvin, seconded by Mr. Norris, Council voted, (Ayes: Ms. Galvin, Mr. Huja, Mr. Norris, Ms. Szakos; Noes: None; Absent: Ms. Smith), to meet in closed session for discussion and consideration of appointments to City boards and commissions, as authorized by Virginia Code sec. 2.2-3711 (A) (1).

On motion by Ms. Galvin, seconded by Mr. Norris, Council certified by the following vote (Ayes: Ms. Galvin, Mr. Huja, Mr. Norris, Ms. Szakos; Noes: None; Absent: Ms. Smith), that to the best of each Council Member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and identified in the motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed or considered in the closed session.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS – March 5, 2012

Council met in regular session on this date with the following members present: Ms. Galvin, Mr. Huja, Mr. Norris, and Ms. Szakos. Ms. Smith was absent.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Huja presented the Distinguished Budget award to Ms. Beauregard for FY 2012.

Mr. Huja presented a proclamation for Festival of the Book to Ms. Nancy Damon. Ms. Damon thanked Council for their support and asked citizens to go to their website, www.vabook.org, for more information about the festival.

Mr. Jones recognized Chief Charles Warner for receiving the 2011 Governor's Fire Service Award for Excellence in Fire Service Management. Chief Warner thanked Council for their recognition and members of City staff for their teamwork.

Mr. Norris announced the City will co-sponsor the Charlottesville Honor Ride event on April 5th. For more information and to enroll in this year's ride, go to cvillehonorride.blogspot.com, or email cvillehonorride@gmail.com, or call (434) 242-4165.

Ms. Szakos announced Council's budget work session next Monday, March 12th and the Sprout Film Festival March 9th. She also announced upcoming *Celebrate!250* events. Go to www.celebrate250.com for more information

MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

Ms. Colette Hall, 101 Robertson Ln., said balancing the City budget is the most important duty Council has. She asked Council to hold the schools to task and make tough cuts so they can stay within their budget.

Ms. Erin Rose, 1790 Bundoran Dr. in North Garden, presented a petition for a referendum for the right of the public to have a say in the sale of water rights. She said Council should not approve the contract until they know the price tag.

Ms. Nancy Carpenter, 727 Denali Way, said she supports the UVA Living Wage campaign. She also said she supported the students and Northwestern High School to protest the cuts in education funding and teacher positions. She thanked City Council for their vision with The Crossings facility and asked if we can do more.

Mr. Brandon Collins, 536 Meade Ave., also thanked Council for their support of The Crossings project. He asked Council to think about projects that cover supportive housing for entire families. He said he supported the UVA Living Wage campaign, and he thanked Ms. Szakos and Mr. Norris for their support of the campaign. He asked Council to increase the base wage to \$13 and hour and tie it to the cost of living.

Mr. Galen Staengl, 129 Goodman St., encouraged Council to continue the discussion about the Belmont Bridge and urban design of the associated areas. He said Council should ask for more information about chloramines in the drinking water and the hazards associated with byproducts.

Mr. Jim Rounsevell, 1113 Monticello Rd., said he is a registered architect in Virginia and has been very involved in the bridge project. He supports Council's call for further research; the public does not support the current bridge design. The bridge should be more than just a replacement; there must be design. Council should take ownership of the process and fund it.

Ms. Heather Higgins, 703 Graves St., of *Bike Charlottesville*, thanked Council for their ongoing efforts to create a world-class bike-friendly city. She requested Council steer the bridge process to prioritize bike and pedestrian friendliness. For more information, go to completestreets.org and nacdo.org and use the available information to create a solution.

Mr. Brevy Cannon, 710 Ridge St., said there was great participation in the Belmont Bridge design competition, and Council should capture good ideas and harness creativity to get us to the right design. He suggested a design committee to include local design professionals, UVA faculty, and representatives from Belmont and adjacent neighborhoods. He will forward Council a list of people who would be willing to serve on such a committee.

Mr. Robert Smith said the process of calling for design after the project got started was backwards. Council should use the new installment as an opportunity to make a connection between downtown and Belmont.

COUNCIL RESPONSES TO MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

Ms. Szakos thanked Ms. Hall for coming. The school efficiency audit suggested closing one school. The schools have been working hard to do that, but it is expensive and we do not yet have the money. Almost every other implementation in that report has been done. The deficit is not because of mismanagement; the state has withdrawn its funding every year. We have increased our percentage of support to ensure the schools are funded at an excellent level.

Ms. Galvin thanked Ms. Szakos for her comments about the public schools. She said she served on the School Board when the management efficiency study was conducted, and the board did try to implement the school closing suggestion, but could not do so in the face of tough economic times. She thanked Ms. Carpenter and Mr. Collins for their support of housing, which Council will discuss comprehensively later in the agenda. She agreed that urban design is an important component to the neighborhood south of the downtown mall.

Mr. Norris thanked Ms. Hall for reminding Council of their duty to be fiscally responsible. He thanked the 300 plus people who signed the petition regarding the Ragged Mountain Natural Area. He said looking at housing in a comprehensive fashion is important, and he also supports the Living Wage movement. He agreed with Mr. Collins that we need more transitional housing for families. He said he was blindsided by the issue of the chloramines and said it might be helpful for Mr. Frederick to come to a Council meeting and explain more about the project. He thanked everyone who spoke on the Belmont bridge and related issues.

Mr. Huja thanked citizens for their comments about the Belmont bridge. He said it is an important gateway to our community and needs to be designed well. Doing away

with the bridge is impractical. He corrected a citizen who claimed Nestle was involved, saying the grant was never awarded.

On motion by Mr. Norris, seconded by Ms. Galvin, the following appointments were made to the Human Rights taskforce: Michelle Bates, Jesse Ellis, Susan Erno, Harvey Finkel, Andrea Hakes, Simona J. Holloway-Warren, Tim Hulburt, Dorenda Johnson, Lena Jones, Richard Jones, Edward Strickler. (Ayes: Ms. Galvin, Mr. Huja, Mr. Norris, Ms. Szakos; Noes: None; Absent: Ms. Smith),

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion by Ms. Szakos, seconded by Ms. Galvin, the following consent agenda items were approved: (Ayes: Ms. Galvin, Mr. Huja, Mr. Norris, Ms. Szakos; Noes: None; Absent: Ms. Smith),

- a. Minutes of February 21 and February 24
- b. APPROPRIATION: Albemarle County Reimbursement for Preston/Morris Building Envelope Restoration - \$1,426.28 (carried)
- c. APPROPRIATION: Albemarle County Reimbursement for CATEC Monument Sign - \$2,301.50 (carried)
- d. APPROPRIATION: Albemarle County Reimbursement for Gordon Avenue Library Elevator/Restroom - \$25,232.84 (carried)
- e. APPROPRIATION: Albemarle County Reimbursement for CATEC Bus Loop - \$6,541.22 (carried)
- f. APPROPRIATION: Albemarle County Reimbursement for Central Library McIntire Room - \$487.50) carried (carried)
- g. APPROPRIATION: Albemarle County Reimbursement - Gordon Avenue Library-Building Envelope (Masonry) - \$1,368.78 (carried)
- h. RESOLUTION: Arlington & Millmont Apartments SUP for Increased Density and Height
- i. ORDINANCE: Retirement Commission (carried)
- j. ORDINANCE: Conveyance of Right of Way at Church Street (2nd reading)

REPORT: SCHOOL BOARD'S PROPOSED FY 2013 BUDGET

Mr. Gillespie and Ms. Atkins presented to Council on the School Board's proposed budget for FY 2013, which was approved by the School Board on March 1st. Ms. Atkins highlighted the school division's accomplishments last year and reviewed the strategic plan for 2011-2017.

Mr. Gillespie reviewed School Division General Fund Financial Statistics since 2009, including enrollment increases, state budget reductions, and cuts to services. He

reviewed the total negative impact from the Governor's Proposed Budget for 2012-13, budget meetings to date, and the 2012-13 total budget.

Mr. Norris thanked Mr. Gillespie and Ms. Atkins for their presentation and thanked staff and the School Board for their work in devising a budget during a difficult year. He asked them how they plan not to request one-time money next year. Ms. Atkins said they cannot promise that, but they have given the board three levels of cuts to examine as the FY14 school year approaches. The board is looking to market the school division and make it a more attractive place for students to come. Mr. Gillespie said anything Council can do to make it clear to the state that these cuts are not acceptable would be helpful. Ms. Szakos said even though the state is not supporting education, she will let our schools become negatively impacted. She asked citizens to support political candidates who support schools. Ms. Galvin said we should work together with the county, and we are willing to get back to the negotiating table locally. Ms. Atkins said Mr. Michie sent an email inviting the Board of Supervisors, City Council, and the Albemarle School Board to talk about reuniting a spirit of collaboration in which we can share services for efficiency. He is awaiting their response. Mr. Huja said he is appreciative of our good school system and hopes a cooperative committee can be appointed soon.

REPORT: CITY MANAGER'S PROPOSED FY 2013 BUDGET

Mr. Jones presented to Council on the proposed FY 2012-13 Operating and Capital budget. He thanked staff and the CIP Staff Ranking Committee for their work. He reviewed three themes for the year: strong support for City schools, quality services for the citizens of Charlottesville, and maintaining the tax rate at .95. He reviewed the 2011 citizen budget survey, budget highlights, including changes in the general fund budget over the last ten years, the FY 2013 General fund revenues, and revenue projections. Areas of concern include state budget impacts on 2013 general fund expenditures, state funding of education. The City is funding \$3.4 million in new money to the schools. Mr. Jones reviewed compensation and benefits and living wage issues, which will be discussed at the work session next Monday night. The FY 2012 CIP was about maintaining what we have in place, rather than adding new projects. Looking ahead, state funding of our schools will be a major capital need. Staff is positive about declining unemployment, and sales, meals and lodging taxes trending upwards. We have maintained our AAA bond rating. All budget information can be found online at the City website: www.charlottesville.org/budget.

Ms. Szakos encouraged the public to attend the work sessions. Mr. Norris thanked Mr. Jones, Ms. Beauregard, and staff for putting together a solid proposal. Ms. Galvin thanked staff for making an intense and complicated operation clear. Mr. Huja said staff has done an excellent job in putting together the budget and challenged citizens to take part in the budget process.

REPORT: ANNUAL HOUSING REPORT

Mr. Tolbert presented to Council. He gave an overview of their 2025 goal, which is to increase the ratio of supported affordable units to 15% of total housing units by 2025. He updated Council on progress since the initial 2025 report, including hiring a housing development specialist and collaboration between CRHA and NDS. He reviewed affordable housing investments, including 60 new units at the SRO at 4th and Preston, donation of City property at The Woods on the south side of Elliott Avenue, the Nunley townhouses, Timberlake Place, and Sunrise Park. He discussed leveraged funds, reviewed other initiatives, future directions and efforts, and reviewed conclusions, including a shift towards funding for building housing, instead of social programs.

Mr. Norris asked about vouchers for Blue Ridge Commons. Mr. Tolbert said ultimately those may well be taken out into the community, which will increase our number of supportive housing units. Mr. Norris asked about status of the report commissioned through JABA. Mr. Tolbert said staff will send an update to Council next week.

Ms. Galvin said it is great to see the annual report and recommended pinning down the definition of “affordable housing”. She asked that the CAAR project regarding workforce housing be reexamined. Ms. Szakos said other communities have done general contracting for affordable housing work, and it would be helpful to examine why this works. Ms. Galvin asked if the area on Cleveland was already a low income area and requested that staff examine other areas that are of a higher income level in order to avoid concentrating poverty. Mr. Tolbert said this is a goal, but it is a struggle because land availability is predominantly on the south side of town. Mr. Huja said he is pleased that we are proceeding to build houses and hopes this will move forward more quickly. The report would benefit from a map.

Mr. Norris said staff tried to define affordable housing in the 2025 report. Ms. Szakos said the City is actually more affordable than surrounding areas when you consider the cost of fuel. Ms. Galvin said she was excited to see a much more comprehensive approach.

REPORT/RESOLUTION: URBAN DESIGN/ECONOMIC PLAN FOR AREAS SOUTH OF RAILROAD TRACKS

Mr. Tolbert presented to Council on finding a way to examine the area of town near the Belmont Bridge to examine possible urban design and examine redevelopment issues. Staff proposed assembling an RFP for urban design, economic development analysis and planning, and the urban form. We need to move forward with development of the Levy site and Crescent Halls, but more work with the community is needed on what those projects will look like. Staff proposes using \$150,000 from CRHA sites to complete work upfront and immediately. This plan is heavily dependent on the

involvement of the community, residents of public housing, and the surrounding community. This money is not specifically for the bridge.

Ms. Szakos said by taking money for this study from redevelopment funds, she is concerned about including the Martha Jefferson area, which seems to imply that some of the redevelopment housing will be put in that area. Mr. Tolbert said the line is drawn to recognize that a lot of jobs will be generated from that site, so it is an area that needs to be included as a connection. Ms. Szakos said she wants to ensure we do not take money from public housing and section A housing to divert it to a general planning process. Ms. Galvin said if we include the Martha Jefferson area, she is concerned we are stretching our monies too thin. We could be looking at two study areas, and we should not combine them. Council suggested using a dotted line around the Martha Jefferson area.

Mr. Norris said he agreed with Ms. Galvin that this land area is much bigger than he anticipated and asked if we are spreading money too thinly. Ms. Galvin said this was the area that was included in the Choice Neighborhood Grant, and this defines a walkable neighborhood. Mr. Tolbert said one reason staff drew the line so far south was to include First Street. Mr. Norris said he hopes we are learning from the lessons of the design competition, which is that the bridge encompasses the surrounding areas.

On motion by Ms. Galvin, seconded by Ms. Szakos, the resolution passed, with the amended map. (Ayes: Ms. Galvin, Mr. Huja, Mr. Norris, Ms. Szakos; Noes: None; Absent: Ms. Smith)

REPORT/RESOLUTION: PLACEMAKING, LIVABILITY, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (PLACE) DESIGN TASK FORCE

Mr. Tolbert presented to Council. The City had an Urban Design Committee, which dissolved in 2003. PLACE Design Task Force is intended to serve in a similar capacity and would advise the Planning Commission and City Council. Mr. Tolbert outlined the proposed composition of the task force. This group would have been helpful in the Belmont Bridge process.

Ms. Galvin said a group like this would have also been helpful with the Woolen Mills pump station. This does not take the place of a neighborhood-based steering committee and is not intended to extend or add another layer of discretionary review, but to help provide input and guidance. Mr. Huja said this would improve the quality of design in our community. Mr. Norris said this may ultimately help streamline some projects, creating standards everyone is clear on. Ms. Szakos said we are lucky to have two people with expertise in City planning on Council.

On motion by Ms. Szakos, seconded by Mr. Norris, the resolution passed. (Ayes: Ms. Galvin, Mr. Huja, Mr. Norris, Ms. Szakos; Noes: None; Absent: Ms. Smith)

REPORT/RESOLUTION: BUSINESS ACTIVITY POLICY FOR PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES

Mr. Daly presented to Council on an updated policy regarding business activities in Parks and Recreation facilities, which would provide groups and individuals the ability to conduct business activities at City facilities within certain guidelines. The fee was adjusted to 6% to be consistent with vendor fees at the City market. A twenty-day timeline for application review was established.

Mr. Huja asked if twenty days was necessary for a review process. Mr. Daly said proposed activities could conflict with existing activities, and some negotiations may need to take place. Twenty days would be the maximum amount of time to return a decision.

Ms. Szakos clarified that activity on parkland was covered by this policy. Ms. Davies said that providing service on parkland, regardless of where you advertise, is covered by the policy.

On motion by Ms. Szakos, seconded by Ms. Galvin, the resolution passed. (Ayes: Ms. Galvin, Mr. Huja, Mr. Norris, Ms. Szakos; Noes: None; Absent: Ms. Smith)

OTHER BUSINESS: BELMONT BRIDGE PROCESS UPDATE

Mr. Norris asked for an update of where the Belmont Bridge process stands. Mr. Tolbert said staff will take information from the competition and instill what could be used for the design process. Mr. Tolbert's design team, the bike/pedestrian coordinator, the MMM Engineering Firm, and the Chair of the UVA School of Architecture will meet and discuss how to include those ideas. The engineering firm will engage a local architect to work with their design team. The design will incorporate the most appropriate elements that are produced from collaboration. PLACE will be the public sounding body initially. Mr. Norris requested that community members be involved.

MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

Ms. Nancy Carpenter, 727 Denali Way, said she is going to the Albemarle County meeting on the comprehensive plan and was pleased with tonight's updates.

Mr. Jim Rounsevell, 1113 Monticello Rd., said the bridge process should remain open and transparent.