NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL WILL BE HELD ON Thursday, March 29, 2012, AT 7:00 p.m. IN THE Basement Conference Room AT City Hall.

THE PROPOSED AGENDA IS AS FOLLOWS:

Budget Work Session

BY ORDER OF THE MAYOR BY Paige Barfield

SECOND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM - March 29, 2012

Council met for a special meeting with the following members present: Ms. Szakos, Mr. Huja, Ms. Galvin, Ms. Smith, Mr. Norris.

Ms. Beauregard reviewed budget adjustments for FY 2013 revenue estimates and expenditures, and capital budget revenues. She invited Ms. Gretchen Ellis to describe the history of the Agency Budget Review Team (ABRT) process. Councilors discussed how priorities are established and how often they may change.

Ms. Beauregard reviewed budget items for community events and festivals. Ms. Galvin asked for clarification on how the applicants are informed of the ABRT process.

Ms. Beauregard reviewed budget items for education and the arts. Mr. Huja, Ms. Smith, and Ms. Szakos voiced support for restoring full funding to the Literacy Volunteers. Ms. Galvin said there should be a monitoring process when funding is restored. Mr. Davidson said staff could implement quarterly reporting for agencies with restored funding.

Mr. Huja asked for clarification on funding for the Paramount. Ms. Beauregard said they were receiving funding for their real estate tax, but they are now a tax-exempt organization. Ms. Galvin and Mr. Huja gave general support for granting the Paramount Theater Arts Education Program their request. Mr. Huja said he supported $37,000. Council decided to hold off on making a decision until a final budget tally.

Council asked why the Municipal Band was not reduced by half, as the ABRT process recommended. Ms. Beauregard said there are occasions where the ABRT recommendation is not followed for a variety of reasons. Ms. Smith said it would be helpful for discrepancies to be clearly noted when they do occur. Ms. Galvin said she is concerned so much money is going towards the Municipal Band when it does not necessarily tie into Council priorities. Council decided not to make a decision at this work session.

Ms. Beauregard reviewed children, youth and family programs. She explained the funding request from JABA, who has requested additional funding to replace reduced United Way funding in the amount of $12,000. They have also requested additional funding for

Mountainside in the amount of $7, 653. Staff is amidst negotiating an MOU with JABA. Council agreed this needs further study.

Mr. Huja asked about the Music Resource Center, who has requested restoration of funding. Mr. Murphy explained that their decision reflected staff's inability to determine important questions about how effective the agency is. Ms. Szakos said she was not compelled to second guess the process with this agency. Mr. Norris recommended we set the money aside and make it contingent upon acquiring the metrics we have requested of them. Mr. Huja asked for a City/County comparison of organizational funding for next year's slide presentation. Ms. Szakos said they should request the money from the county. Ms. Galvin said we desperately need a place for kids to go. This one has gone through the ABRT hoops, and she does not Council to gut a youth program because of technicalities. She asked if Council could restore some portion of the funding.

Ms. Beauregard explained the reduction in Virginia Extension Services.

The county is no longer funding The Charlottesville/Albemarle Commission on Children and Families (CCF) as of FY14. The county also took their staff position away. CCF has requested $34,559 to level fund them. There is a question as to whether the structure of the commission should be changed, now that the county is no longer paying into it. Ms. Galvin said now that the county is not funding it, the structure will be different and budget needs will be different. Ms. Szakos said we should fund it for this year, and then figure out what to do going forward with county funding pulled. Ms. Szakos said this may be a transition year where we move this in-house. Mr. Norris said we should find City office space by July 1 and give them an additional $10,500. There was general support among Council for this plan.

Ms. Smith said the Public Housing Association of Residents (PHAR) seems not to have had the expertise to address the ABRT rules. Ms. Beauregard said the internship program request is $35,000 for FY13. Mr. Norris recommended that PHAR pursue an additional allocation from the Housing Fund. Ms. Szakos said it worried her that PHAR did not pursue technical assistance. A PHAR representative said the level of help available was not clear, and they would utilize those services in the future. Council agreed to wait until later to make a decision. Ms. Szakos supported $25,000 contingent on what results are during the course of the year. Mr. Huja also supported $25,000. Ms. Smith said the ABRT process should be sensitive enough to recognize when something has fallen through the cracks.

Ms. Beauregard reviewed housing and transportation budget items. The Piedmont Housing Alliance has requested restoration of full funding. Their programs received fair to weak ratings. Mr. Norris said they usually do hard work. Ms. Smith said she will defer to the ABRT process. Mr. Norris said he would also defer to the ABRT process. Ms. Galvin said would like to restore funding, but we cannot afford to do so for everyone. Council agreed to leave funding at the recommended level.

Ms. Beauregard reviewed public safety and justice budget items. The Legal Aid Society is actually receiving a 5% increase. Numbers appear skewed because of one-time funding from FY11-12.

Ms. Beauregard reviewed organizational memberships. Ms. Szakos said the Small Business Development Center should be monitored since its recent move to the county.

Ms. Beauregard reviewed outstanding budget issues, including the Bank On funding request in the amount of $70,000 for a program coordinator, the Promise Neighborhood Grant Match in the amount of $15,000, and the OAR Coming Home program in the amount of $85,000. Ms. Galvin said she views the Bank On program as a piece of a comprehensive approach that requires more thought. She asked if we can utilize existing staff. Ms. Szakos asked if we have staff hours available in the Economic Development department that can be used to support the initiative. Mr. Jones said there are some concerns, including how much time the position requires to support the program. Ms. Smith agreed that this should be examined comprehensively. Mr. Norris said the first year will require a lot of work, but after that time, it should not have to be staffed as a full time position. We should consider the request as start-up funds, not a permanent commitment. Mr. Huja was supportive of some funding for the position, and encouraging Bank On to seek a grant for the remaining amount. Ms. Szakos said she favored giving them some amount to work with for the year. We should also ask the county for funding. There was general support among Council for $35,000 towards funding for the position.

Ms. Szakos clarified that the Promise Neighborhood Grant Match was in fact Department of Justice. The $15,000 gets the program a second year. $17,500 is already covered. Ms. Szakos said this is a commitment we have already made.

Mr. Murphy gave a history of the OAR Coming Home program. Ms. Szakos asked how many people the request would fund. Mr. Murphy said about 15. Council supported $85,000 and asked to build this into the budget for the future.

Staff will present the list of PHAR requests, FeMale Perspective, HYPE, and First Tee at their next work session.

Public Comment

Ms. Holly Edwards thanked Ms. Beauregard for her work. Agencies that have historical knowledge of the process have the best chance of being funded. She is pleased there is more diversity on ABRT and believes having United Way on the ABRT is a conflict of interest. Our City maintains poverty instead of moving people out of poverty. It is important to look at other localities, and we should consider the Hampton model.

Ms. Cathy vonStorch, Education Coordinator at the Paramount Theatre, shared figures for attendance and participation in their programs over the last year. She said she is appreciative of Council reconsidering funding for the Paramount Arts projects. Programming is exceptionally educational and is linked to Virginia SOLs.

Ms. Ellen Osbourne, Literacy Volunteers, said this is an important year and hopes they have Council's support.

Ms. Michelle Bates, FeMale Perspective, said they are not a new organization. They have been working with other organizations and serve as an alternative, not a competitor, to existing programs. Council asked Ms. Bates to send information.

A community consultant working with the FeMale Perspective said it is time to provide funding for new organizations.

A board member for Literacy Volunteers said they meet a basic need of helping residents to speak English.

The meeting was adjourned.

Clerk