

## COUNCIL CHAMBERS - March 5, 2014

### CALL TO ORDER

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

### AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Huja announced the National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation. Go to [www.mywaterpledge.com](http://www.mywaterpledge.com) starting April 1 to register your pledge to conserve water for our community.

Mr. Huja read a proclamation in honor of the 20th Anniversary of the Virginia Festival of the Book, which takes place March 19-23, 2014. Ms. Nancy Damon was present to accept the proclamation and thanked Council for their support. Go to [www.vabook.org](http://www.vabook.org) for a complete schedule.

Ms. Galvin announced the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event on Friday, March 14 and Saturday, March 15 at the Ivy Material Utilization Center. Go to <http://rswa.avenue.org> for more information on items that will be accepted.

Ms. Galvin announced the City received the GFOA distinguished budget award. Ms. Leslie Beauregard, Budget Director, accepted the award and thanked Ryan Davidson and staff for their support.

Ms. Szakos read a proclamation in recognition of National Nutrition Month, which takes place during the month of March. This week is also National Breakfast Week, and Councilors will attend a breakfast at Burnley Moran on Friday morning to celebrate Breakfast Week.

Ms. Smith announced an award from the Department of Environmental Quality's Virginia Environmental Excellence Program, which recognized Charlottesville as a Sustainability Partner for the second year in a row. Mr. Jones accepted the award on behalf of the City's environmental staff.

Ms. Smith announced the DMV2Go van will be on the Downtown Mall on Friday, March 14. This is a full service DMV mobile station and will be open from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Fenwick announced that March 17-23 is Fix-a-Leak Week, and the Fix-a-Leak 5K will take place on March 22. Go to [www.fixaleak5k.com](http://www.fixaleak5k.com) to register for the race. Go to [www.charlottesville.org/WaterConservation](http://www.charlottesville.org/WaterConservation) for more information on Water Conservation. Also, you can go to [www.cvillecitizen.com](http://www.cvillecitizen.com) for more information on how to use the water conservation packets distributed by the City.

Mr. Fenwick announced that the Charlottesville Cardinals, the City's wheelchair basketball team, went 5-0 this weekend in Philadelphia and claimed the championship trophy. A national tournament will be held April 4-6, and the Cardinals have been ranked 15th in the country.

Mr. Fenwick said there is a show called Handi-chat, which airs every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. on public access TV. He thanked Jason Hatfield and Cal Tate for their work on this new show.

## **MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC**

Ms. Amita Sudhir, 707 Northwood Ave., said she was the first responder on the scene of the accident that took a child's life on Nelson Ave. She said if traffic patterns were different, or the car was travelling at a slower speed, the child may have survived. She said Council should vote to fund better pedestrian facilities in the North Downtown area to save lives.

Mr. Matthew Trowbridge, 702 Northwood Ave., is a pediatrician, and most of his academic research is focused on traffic safety. The intersection of 2nd Street NE, Nelson and Northwood drives many of the traffic issues near the area. The traffic circle has created a dangerous, urgent safety condition, and there is a culture of speeding through the neighborhood. He asked Council to include traffic safety for their neighborhood in the current budget.

Mr. Jim Rounsevell, 1113 Monticello Rd., said he was a member of the design team for the Belmont Bridge. He said cost estimates were skewed to sway Council on the bridge-only option. He said [www.cvillegateway.com](http://www.cvillegateway.com) has more information on the underpass option.

Mr. Fran Lawrence, 1729 Chesapeake St., President of the Lewis & Clark Exploratory Center, updated Council on their new building and upcoming activities.

Ms. Rebecca Quinn, 104 4th Street, said she took a closer look at the Landmark agreement, and she thinks Mr. Dewberry's expectations are too high for the City. She said the Rivanna Board is pressuring the City to wrap up the cost share agreement, even though there is no legal requirement to have an agreement before settling a bond resolution. She asked if Council is renegotiating the four-party agreement, which seems to have served us well.

Mr. Louis Shultz, 1809 E. Market St., said he has come to Council eleven times claiming staff members have violated City code and civil rights statutes regarding Steephill Street. He asked Council to investigate.

Ms. Lena Seville, 808 Altavista Ave., said she went to the West Main outreach meeting and encouraged residents to participate in the planning process. She said the project is not simply the University area, and it covers a central part of our downtown corridor.

Mr. Mark Kavita, 400 Altamont St., said he attended the Belmont Bridge meeting and would like to see the underpass concept examined as well. He said the traffic situation in North Downtown is urgent, especially where the traffic circles are painted on the street. The completion of the McIntire Interchange will increase cut-through traffic, and speed is an issue.

Ms. Nancy Carpenter, Albemarle County resident, said the issues with waivers for the Crossings have been resolved, bringing three additional homeless residents into housing. She said the Buford video featuring the song "Happy" was a great video, and she thanked the students and staff involved.

## **COUNCIL RESPONSE**

Ms. Szakos said the North Downtown neighborhood does not have more cut-through traffic, but it does have faster cut through traffic, and she hopes the CIP process has immediate remedies available until more permanent solutions can be implemented. She said she was not excited about the bridge underpass idea. She encouraged residents to respect the three minute time limit to allow for fair participation by all. She told Mr. Shultz that public officials may be accused of anything, but staff is not subject to the same. She said she does not know why he continues to come, because a public hearing will not be held on his issue. She thanked Ms. Seville for encouraging participation in the West Main project. She said she also loved the Buford school video.

Ms. Smith said the crash on Nelson Ave. was such a tragedy. She said this intersection has been under scrutiny for a while, and we need to give it attention. She thanked Ms. Seville for bringing the West Main project up and directed listeners to [www.gowestmain.com](http://www.gowestmain.com) for more information. She thanked Ms. Carpenter for putting a face on the Crossings. She said Ms. Quinn is correct that the scope of the cost-share negotiations has changed, and Council will discuss what can safely be said without compromising negotiations.

Ms. Galvin said she feels terrible about what happened on Nelson Street. Staff has told her there are active strategies in play that will be put into practice, and we need to communicate our commitment to resolving the safety issues in the neighborhood as soon as possible. We should examine near and long-term solutions. She asked for more details about the resolution and funding for solutions. She said the Belmont Bridge project needed a well-designed bridge to compare to the underpass option, as opposed to the FHA design the community rejected, in order to examine comparable designs and engineering strategies. She said she believes both concepts will be on the table at the April meeting. She said she will visit the new Lewis & Clark center. She thanked Ms. Carpenter for her words.

Mr. Fenwick thanked the North Downtown residents for speaking about traffic safety in their neighborhood. He said he is disappointed something has not been done more quickly. He encouraged Mr. Rounsevell to stick with his efforts. The cost-share agreements should not be made without citizen input. He thanked Ms. Seville for highlighting the West Main project. He thanked Ms. Carpenter for her comments about the homeless community. He encouraged community members to attend meetings and share their opinions about the budget.

Ms. Szakos reported on the Cities United conference she and Mr. Jones attended in New Orleans. They discussed ways to reduce violence and increase academic and professional achievement in young Black males. She discussed ongoing programs and said the City must build on gains and not lose ground. She asked Council to keep this important initiative in mind

during budget discussions. A community-based public/private plan is being developed to ensure we can make a difference in this area.

Mr. Huja said he supports this plan.

Mr. Jones said there are some short-term solutions that are currently being implemented to address the traffic issues in North Downtown, and longer term solutions are also being developed.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

On motion by Ms. Smith, seconded by Ms. Szakos, the consent agenda passed unanimously (Ayes: Ms. Smith, Ms. Szakos, Ms. Galvin, Mr. Fenwick, Mr. Huja; Noes: None).

Ms. Smith asked Ms. Cynthia Adams to share information about LEAP. Ms. Adams thanked Council for awarding the grant. There is funding in 2014 that will support services to low-income families. Residents can reach LEAP at 266-4777. Ms. Smith said it is important to help our low-income families conserve energy because they are particularly impacted by utility bills.

**a. Minutes for February 18**

**b. RESOLUTION: LEAP Climate Protection Program Partnership Proposal - \$100,130**

LEAP Proposal

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia that the sum of \$100,130 is hereby paid to LEAP from currently appropriated funds in the Gas Fund, Environmental Sustainability Cost Center as follows:

\$100,130      Fund: 631      Cost Center: 2711001000      G/L Account: 599999

**c. RESOLUTION: Wayfinding Maintenance Transfer - \$10,000**

Wayfinding Maintenance Transfer

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia that the following is hereby transferred in the following manner:

**Transfer From**

\$ 10,000      Fund: 426      Funded Program: SS-010      G/L Account: 561425

**Transfer To**

\$ 10,000      Fund: 425      WBS: P-00130      G/L Account: 498010

\$ 10,000      Fund: 425      WBS: P-00130      G/L Account: 599999

**REPORT: SCHOOL BOARD ADOPTED FY 2015 BUDGET****School Board Adopted FY 2015 Budget**

Mr. Juandiego Wade presented the School Board Adopted FY 2015 Budget to City Council. He reviewed programmatic highlights for 2014-2015 and invited Mr. Ed Gillespie to speak. Mr. Gillespie reviewed salary and benefit changes, the Virginia Retirement System proposed employer rate, and the cost of implementing a coaching model. He overviewed major contractual relationships and other operating costs. He reviewed revenue changes by funding source, including city, state, federal, tuition and other sources. He reviewed expenditures by state reporting categories.

Ms. Smith asked what the overall budget difference was compared to 2009. Mr. Gillespie said it has increased about \$3 million. Ms. Smith confirmed that decreased state funding has been a big driver.

Ms. Galvin asked if tuition rates have gone down. Mr. Gillespie said the decrease in tuition intake was due to a change in how the Piedmont Regional Program calculates cost among participating divisions, not a tuition decrease.

Ms. Galvin asked if the coaching model was done as a cost-saving device. Dr. Atkins said the coaching model allows instructional coaching at each school. The model actually costs more overall, but there were savings by eliminating positions in order to move forward with the coaching model.

Ms. Smith asked about the increase in staff size when the benchmark shows they are already heavy on staff compared to peer schools. Mr. Gillespie said Charlottesville emphasizes the importance of small class sizes and with that comes an increase in staff.

Mr. Fenwick asked for clarification on the coaching model. Dr. Atkins said it is a teacher-type position where teachers with area expertise are positioned at schools to provide one-on-one support. School staff answered Mr. Fenwick's questions about the pre-school programs.

Ms. Smith said the schools have requested more than what the City has budgeted, and she asked how this discrepancy would be handled. Mr. Huja clarified that schools have asked for \$1.7 million, and \$1.5 is currently budgeted. Ms. Szakos said this is very close, compared to the discrepancy in the County.

**REPORT: CITY MANAGER'S PROPOSED FY 2015 BUDGET****City Manager's Proposed FY 2015 Budget**

Mr. Jones presented the proposed budget for FY 2015. He reviewed the operating and capital improvement budget, highlighting support for schools and preserving quality of life for Charlottesville residents. Details of the budget may be found at [www.charlottesville.org/budget](http://www.charlottesville.org/budget).

He reviewed revenues and projections, user fees and revenue enhancements. He reviewed, general fund expenditures, including school funding, compensation and benefits. He reviewed new funding for Council priorities, including an urban design position and funding for the Workforce Development Satellite Center, which will be located in the library. He reviewed the Capital Improvement Program, which includes \$16.5 million in projects for FY 2015. He reviewed challenges and positive signs for the future.

Ms. Smith said she is concerned that we are saving money in a few places by delaying expenditures that will come up in the future, and we should be careful about how we spend that saved money. She is also concerned that the schools request for salary increase is greater than what we have requested for our own staff.

Ms. Szakos said she shares Ms. Smith's concern about delayed expenditures. We need to look at new sources of revenue.

## **REPORT: UVA HOUSING STUDY**

### UVA Housing Study

Ms. Gay Perez presented to Council on the UVA student housing study and findings. She reviewed the current student housing climate and student housing strategic planning. She reviewed the results of the Brailsford & Dunlavey study, a national housing consultant employed to study whether there is unmet demand for on-Grounds housing.

Mr. Fenwick said he is color-blind and cannot read the red and green charts. He asked them to be conscious of this when they post their report online. He asked for a ballpark figure of what students would spend to live on-Grounds. Ms. Perez said the average is under \$700 per bedroom, inclusive of utilities. He asked how recent developments fit into the report. Ms. Perez said they were not a factor because the report examined existing housing only. Mr. Fenwick asked if the City asked the University if they wanted them to build dormitories. Ms. Perez said they were not asked any such question. He asked if projected growth is included in the report. Ms. Perez said they have been able to maintain inventory for first year growth; there is not a requirement to live on-Grounds after the first year.

Ms. Smith asked if UVA was contemplating increasing housing during the study. Ms. Perez said they were examining that possibility if it became necessary. The University will wait to see what housing trend the students will create in the next few years, especially with the new developments in the City.

Ms. Galvin asked if Council could be kept abreast of the housing situation at UVA, especially when they need to make decisions about student housing. Ms. Perez said they can continue direct communication with Council, as well as with the Planning Commission and the media.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Fenwick said he would like an accounting of the McIntire Park interchange project after the budget process has concluded.

Ms. Galvin requested an update on the progress of East McIntire Park. The public needs to be kept informed about the various stages in the design process. She asked for an update on the process, particularly how all the moving parts are being coordinated. Mr. Jones said the design was just awarded, and staff will discuss next steps for the public process. Ms. Galvin asked that the project website be checked to ensure it is kept updated.

Ms. Szakos asked the City to support Medicare legislation to our legislators. She asked residents to contact their legislators in support of the Medicare legislation.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Pursuant to section 2.2-3712 of the Virginia Code, on motion by Ms. Galvin, seconded by Ms. Szakos, Council voted, (Ayes: Mr. Huja, Ms. Galvin, Ms. Szakos, Mr. Fenwick, Ms. Smith; Noes: None), to meet in closed session for discussion and consideration of prospective candidates for (1) Discussion of the annual performance evaluations for the City Manager and the Clerk of City Council, as authorized by Va. Code sec. 2.2-3711 (A) (1); and, (2) Consultation with legal counsel for legal advice regarding the negotiation of the terms and conditions of a cost sharing agreement with the Albemarle County Service Authority for the costs of capital wastewater projects, as authorized by Va. Code sec. 2.2-3711 (A) (7).

On motion by Mr. Fenwick, seconded by Ms. Szakos, Council certified by the following vote (Ayes: Mr. Huja, Ms. Galvin, Mr. Fenwick, Ms. Smith, Ms. Szakos; Noes: None), 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.

Meeting adjourned.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Yaiqe Rice". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Clerk of Council