

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL WILL BE HELD ON Monday, September 19, 2016, AT 6:00 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 Rice

SECOND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM – September 19, 2016

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

On motion by Ms. Szakos, seconded by Mr. Bellamy, Council voted, (Ayes: Ms. Galvin, Ms. Szakos, Mr. Bellamy, Mr. Fenwick, Mr. Signer; Noes: None), to meet in closed session for:

(1) Consultation with legal counsel for legal advice regarding the defense of a Zoning Administrator interpretation of the permissible building height in a mixed use development in certain zoning districts, that may be appealed by a property owner to the Board of Zoning Appeals, as authorized by Virginia Code sec. 2.2-3711 (A) (7); and,

(2) Discussion of the acquisition of real property in the Downtown area for public parking, and the acquisition of real properties on Douglas Avenue and 5th Street, S.E. for public park purposes, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the City's bargaining position, as authorized by Virginia Code sec. 2.2-3711 (A) (3).

At 7:00 p.m. the Council returned to open session, and Ms. Szakos moved that the Special Meeting of City Council be in recess until immediately following the conclusion of Council's Regular Meeting, at which time the Council will reconvene in the previously called Closed Session. Mr. Fenwick seconded the Motion. (Ayes: Bellamy, Fenwick, Galvin, Signer, Szakos; Noes: None.)

COUNCIL CHAMBERS - September 19, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

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

AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Signer welcomed the Leaders for Democracy program attendees to the Council meeting.

Mr. Signer read a proclamation in honor of the Niyo Cultural Center of Rwanda. Mr. Jim Respass and Mr. Pacifique Niyonsenga, the founder of Niyo Cultural Center, were present to accept.

Ms. Galvin announced that Ms. Szakos was announced as the winner of the Virginia Banks Harrington Humanitarian Award at last Friday's NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet and thanked her for her work on justice in the City.

Ms. Galvin announced the next Our Town meeting on Thursday, September 29 at Venable Elementary. She also announced the Carver Indoor Flea Market on Saturday, September 24 from 8:00am - 1:00pm.

Ms. Szakos announced October 17 is the deadline to register to vote or update your voting address. She also announced the National League of Cities Institute for Youth, Education and Families will hold a session on City Roles in Reducing the Overuse of Jails for Young Adults, October 19-21 in Chicago. Charlottesville's attendees will include Chief Thomas, Neal Goodloe, Ms. Szakos and Mr. Bellamy.

Mr. Bellamy announced the City Services Fair on Friday, October 7 from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the City Hall Plaza. Also, the official kick-off for the Charlottesville Alliance for Black Male Achievement "My Brother's Keeper" initiative will take place tomorrow at the Jefferson School for ages 17-29. For more information, e-mail bmacville@gmail.com.

Mr. Fenwick announced the "Day Without Water" art contest will run through October 14. For more information, please visit www.charlottesville.org/artcontest. Also, the Blue Ribbon Commission on Race, Memorials and Public Spaces will be hosting its second community forum on Thursday, September 22 at 6:00 p.m. at Buford Middle School.

Ms. Galvin said the voter registration office is open 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., and in-person absentee voting begins this Friday. Absentee ballots will be sent out this week to those who applied for them.

CITY MANAGER RESPONSE TO MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

Mr. Jones said there is nothing new to report on Crescent Halls. Regarding deposit assistance for renters, the Virginia Homelessness Solutions program grant and an Emergency Assistance Fund are available. Please contact The Haven for access to these funds.

MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

Mr. Joe Starsia, 118 Blincoe Ln., said he is a resident and member of the local chapter of SURJ, "Showing up for Racial Justice", and thinks a true accounting of our history is important for Charlottesville. He said he fears people of color will once again be displaced by redevelopment around the Downtown Mall. He is trying to educate his friends about the history of urban displacement in Charlottesville.

Mr. Downing Smith, 810 Locust Ave., said he has been working for decades to lower the speed limit on Locust Avenue. He found out the City's Traffic Engineer wants to raise the speed limit to 355 mph on Locust Avenue, and he said this is ludicrous. He said he believes widening Free Bridge is a bad idea, and what we really need is an eastern connector.

Ms. Virginia Amos, 628 Bloxton Ave., said she walked through Lee Park on her way to school for many years. She said she appreciates Mr. McIntire's contributions to the City, including his donation of the library. She said the statue is perfectly symmetrical and should remain in Lee Park exactly the way it is. She said she would donate for other statues in other parks around the City.

Ms. Jelane Schmidt, 2314 Fontaine Ave., said she identifies as African American and queer. She has noticed an increased participation in the Charlottesville's Pride Festival by young people. She said she does not feel comfortable in Lee Park because of the statue. The City's police responded to a phone call complaining about the Lee Statue being draped with a rainbow boa. Other groups have temporarily decorated the Lee Statue during festivals but were not reported.

Ms. Galvin asked Mr. Jones to address the confusion about the speed limit recommendation on Locust Avenue. Mr. Jones reported that the traffic engineer has not made a recommendation to increase the speed limit on Locust Avenue. Studies were posted on the NDS website, but there is not a recommendation to increase the limit.

Ms. Szakos asked Mr. Jones to pass along the concerns about the report about Lee Park.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Bellamy asked for a brief synopsis of item g regarding the grant agreement for Piedmont Housing / Orangedale Neighborhood. Ms. Szakos agreed and gave a brief overview of Piedmont Housing's grant for down payment assistance loans and home repair within the Friendship Court area. They have not been able to find enough people to utilize the funds, so they have asked that the terms of the agreement be amended to allow people throughout the City to be considered for the grants. Please check with the Piedmont Housing Alliance if you think you may qualify for assistance. Mr. Bellamy encouraged residents to take advantage of this program. Mr. Jones said interested residents can call the Piedmont Housing Alliance Office at 817-2436, or email info@piedmonthousing.org.

Ms. Szakos said this consent agenda represents millions of dollars in state and private grants.

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

a. Minutes for September 6

b. APPROPRIATION: Local Contributions for Crisis Intervention Training - \$71,200 (2nd reading)

Local Contributions for Crisis Intervention Training

c. APPROPRIATION: Grant Funding for West Main Street National Register Nomination - \$24,000 (2nd reading)

Grant Funding for West Main Street National Register Nomination

d. APPROPRIATION: Virginia Homelessness Solutions Grant - \$477,151; Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS - \$186,940 (2nd reading)

Virginia Homelessness Solutions Grant - \$477,151; Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS - \$186,940

e. APPROPRIATION: Fiscal Year 2017 Fire Programs Aid to Locality Funding - \$141,082 (carried)

Fiscal Year 2017 Fire Programs Aid to Locality Funding

f. APPROPRIATION: \$10,000 Returned from Charlottesville Affordable Housing Fund Award to Albemarle Housing Improvement Program and Habitat for Humanity (carried)

\$10,000 Returned from Charlottesville Affordable Housing Fund Award to Albemarle Housing Improvement Program and Habitat for Humanity

g. RESOLUTION: Grant Agreement - Piedmont Housing / Orangedale Neighborhood

Grant Agreement - Piedmont Housing / Orangedale Neighborhood

h. ORDINANCE: Telecommunications Ordinance Amendments (2nd reading)

Telecommunications Ordinance Amendments

i. ORDINANCE: Conditional Release of Road Widening, Drainage, and Public Access Easements to Accommodate Retail Development at 1200 Emmet St. (2nd reading)

Conditional Release of Road Widening, Drainage, and Public Access Easements to Accommodate Retail Development at 1200 Emmet St.

j. APPROPRIATION: Additional Funding for Social Services Programs - \$94,133.85 (carried)

Additional Funding for Social Services Programs

PUBLIC HEARING / REPORT: DEER MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Deer Management Strategies

Mr. Jones introduced the item to Council and gave an overview of the history of Council actions on deer management since 2012.

Mr. Murphy presented to Council. He reviewed key decision points and options for Council and answered clarifying questions.

Ms. Szakos asked if staff has examined the concern the deer may be increasing erosion around creeks. Mr. Murphy said this is not an issue staff has discussed with any localities. He said site-specific strategies may be an option, rather than population management, to address such an issue. Staff will check with our environmental division to follow up on ecology-related questions.

Ms. Galvin asked if the four localities cited in the materials undertook a deer inventory and asked about the cost. Mr. Murphy said two did an inventory, but the focus was on tracking traffic accidents and deer collisions.

Mr. Signer said there are 45 localities who have implemented an urban archery program, and some have implemented an urban archery and culling combination. He asked if there are distances per state requirements. Mr. Murphy said there are some state-level requirements regarding distances from roadways. Each locality makes a decision on how to write their ordinance, and there are obstacles to the various options.

Dr. Bonds reviewed Lyme disease and the effect of deer population reduction on Lyme disease.

On motion, the public hearing was opened.

Ms. Dena Imlay, 2014 Meadowbrook Rd., President of the Rugby/Meadowbrook Association, said they conducted a neighborhood poll. The results showed that 97.7% of respondents were in favor of culling, and 2.1% felt it was not a problem. 76.6% were in favor of bow hunters, and the remainder of supporters favored catch and remove or birth control, but were not necessarily against bow hunting. This problem will not go away by ignoring it.

Ms. Nancy Summers, 1201 Blue Ridge Rd., said she is concerned that herds of deer live on her property, and they do a great deal of damage. Now deer are no longer afraid of humans. They have no natural enemies. This problem will only increase. These are wild animals and do not

belong in a City environment. We must consider alternatives so we can live safely as people in neighborhoods.

Mr. Tom Gelleger, 1920 Barracks Rd., said the deer problem is getting worse, especially for vehicular traffic near his home. This is a public safety problem.

Ms. Meredith Mercer, 2000 Hessian Rd., said the deer have become more of a problem, and she has trouble with several deer on her property. Her back yard has a 10 foot fence, and a deer recently jumped it. She asked Council for their serious attention to this matter.

Ms. Laura Jones, 106 Holly Ct., apologized for speaking out of turn at the last meeting on deer management. She complimented the staff report included in tonight's agenda. She said we do not have a count on our deer, and we are relying on anecdotal evidence. We should not consider killing animals without a starting point. She asked that we not kill the deer. She asked Council to consider that she and her neighbors have strong opinions about the matter, but they are able to get along. It will no longer be possible to get along if her neighbors allow bow hunting in their yard.

Mr. Fred Borch, 1647 Oxford Rd., said he agrees with the speakers who say a City is for human beings, and we cannot have an overrun of wild animals. The deer are a real problem, and they devastate yards. It is a health and safety issue; is it only a matter of time before someone is involved with a fatal automobile accident involving a deer. The deer population has gotten worse. He said Lyme disease is deadly, and it is connected to deer.

Mr. Haitdlee said he made the mistake of registering under Deer Management because it is his first time here. He said he and his colleagues are here to share the democratic experience, and they are working on civic action plans in Charlottesville that will remain after they leave.

Ms. Colette Hall, 101 Robertson Ln., said she has been a registered nurse for 47 years and has too often seen Lyme disease misdiagnosed or undiagnosed. By the time they are correctly diagnosed and treated, they will have life-long symptoms, perhaps even death. She attributes this to overpopulation of deer in the City. She lives near the Downtown Mall and had seven deer in her front yard; her neighbor had 13 deer in her backyard. She said she would welcome a professional hunter into her yard to eradicate this problem. Residents are not able to grow fresh produce because of the deer problem.

Mr. Downing Smith, 810 Locust Ave., said a compound hunting bow is a lethal weapon, and having people around town shooting them is scary. If we can only implement this on five acres in the City, it is not worth doing.

Having no further speakers, the public hearing was closed.

Mr. Fenwick said from what he hears from the neighborhoods, people support a culling program. He proposed a pilot program covering areas larger than the five acres mentioned. He recommended employing one to two professional bow hunters and evaluate after a year. He does not support having the police take care of this. This is a safety issue.

Ms. Galvin said based on staff's research, and because of our density, land use and lot sizes, we can do non-lethal intervention or a controlled kill. She does not see how open archery within the City can work. We do need to manage the deer population accurately and safely. She said a controlled kill with a professional hunter and a deer inventory is the way to go for our City's size. We need intensive outreach to get more community input. She said we need a cost estimate on a deer inventory.

Mr. Bellamy agreed with Ms. Galvin that we need to do more community engagement, and we should make a considered decision.

Ms. Szakos said she agrees with Ms. Galvin, except she does not believe we need a deer count. We have a proxy count with the traffic accidents reports, and we can use this as a baseline. She said hearing from more people is fine, but she has heard from many over the past six years and most say there is a problem, and something must be done. We should have wildlife in the City, but this is out of balance. She does not support implementing a hunting season in the City. She is open to considering overtime for police, or looking at a program such as Hunters for the Hungry. She is concerned about gunfire and wants to examine silencers so neighbors are not alarmed. Spaying is an interesting option, but she is appalled by the price. However, she is open to it if a grant is available.

Mr. Signer said he has heard about this issue constantly. He likes the idea of using hunters who are stewards of their environment and has more personal discomfort with the methodical execution of deer. He wants more research from the cities that have urban archery programs with similar densities. There is no demonstrated public concern about urban archery. We should make decisions based on facts, not feelings. He asked for specific state restrictions on limits for the types of terrain where this would be prohibited. He said he is sensitive to cost, and we should move sooner rather than later.

Ms. Szakos said she wants to ensure there is a solid plan from staff for notifying the neighborhoods in the event of a planned cull.

Mr. Jones asked for Council consensus on whether additional public input is needed; there was not consensus for additional public engagement. Mr. Jones asked for Council consensus on whether the City should establish an urban archery ordinance; there was not Council consensus on this. Mr. Jones asked for Council consensus on whether to allow the Police Department or a private organization to hunt deer on public land within the City. Ms. Szakos said she would support this under very restricted conditions. Mr. Fenwick said he does not support the use of police and recommended using Hunters for the Hungry. Mr. Signer said we should look into whether the City can pose additional requirements for licensed hunters in the City. Ms. Galvin said we should hire contractors, but we would still need that ordinance for engaging on private property. Mr. Bellamy and Mr. Signer confirmed that they support allowing the Police Department or a private organization to hunt deer on public land.

Mr. Jones asked for Council consensus on whether to further investigate sterilization as an option for consideration. Council said they support this option only if grant money is available to cover the costs.

Mr. Jones asked for Council consensus on whether Council wants to hire a wildlife expert to develop an estimate of the deer population in the city. Council agreed that they would like an estimate of the cost before making this decision.

Mr. Signer asked if there is support for a City-run organization of registered participants as an option. Ms. Galvin said a range of cost options for a controlled cull should be explored. Council generally agreed.

Mr. Fenwick said he wants to protect two albino deer in Fry's Spring. Ms. Szakos said she believes there are now three.

Council took a recess at 9:09 p.m. and returned at 9:21 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING / RESOLUTION: VIRGINIA DISCOVERY MUSEUM LEASE

Virginia Discovery Museum Lease

Mr. Lance Stewart presented to Council.

On motion, the public hearing was opened. Having no speakers, the public hearing was closed.

On motion by Ms. Szakos, seconded by Ms. Galvin, the motion passed. (Ayes: Ms. Galvin, Ms. Szakos, Mr. Bellamy, Mr. Fenwick, Mr. Signer; Noes: None.)

Ms. Szakos said you can go to the library and get a day membership for free. Mr. Signer said this is a great resource to the community.

PUBLIC HEARING / RESOLUTION: SETTING PRIORITIES FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) AND HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 16/17

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership

Ms. Tierra Howard presented to Council and reviewed outcomes from the Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER).

Mr. Bellamy asked that we continue to allocated CDBG funds to the Economic Development department; those monies are well-used. Mr. Fenwick agreed.

Ms. Galvin asked Council to entertain having both Ridge Street neighborhood and Belmont within the Strategic Investment Area be next year's priority. Ms. Howard said HUD has income-

eligible areas. The funds would have to be in designated areas where census tracts show eligibility.

Mr. Signer asked how Belmont was chosen; Ms. Howard says it was next up in the queue.

On motion, the public hearing was opened.

Mr. Brandon Collins, 418 Fairway Ave., said federal funding for housing is hampered by military spending. He said Westhaven is part of the 10th and Page neighborhood, and CDBG funds have not reached this housing area. The numbers for economic development and other programming could be much lower; addressing affordable housing needs is a higher priority.

Having no further speakers, the public hearing was closed.

Ms. Howard said CRHA was a priority neighborhood years ago. Also, there is a Westhaven resident on the 10th and Page task force.

Ms. Szakos moved the recommendations of staff; Mr. Bellamy seconded the motion.

Ms. Galvin asked to change the priority neighborhood to Belmont/Ridge Street for the following year.

Mr. Signer asked if Council is OK with repeating the priority areas.

Ms. Szakos requested adding "addressing lack of jobs that pay a sufficient wage."

Ms. Galvin said we should add infrastructure improvements and resident job creation within our priority neighborhoods.

Ms. Howard said these concerns are already embedded in the existing priorities.

Ms. Szakos asked if there is a need for more funding for housing down payment assistance and rehabilitation. Ms. Howard there is. The resolution passed as revised:

RESOLUTION COUNCIL PRIORITIES FOR CDBG and HOME FUNDS FY 17-18

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville is a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)-designated Entitlement Community for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) programs and as such expects to receive fund allocation on July 1, 2017; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the City of Charlottesville's Citizen Participation Plan for HUD funding, the CDBG Task Force composed of citizen and community representatives will need to review potential projects and make recommendations for funding in Spring 2017;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia that the priorities and spending allowances for FY 2017-2018 shall be as follows:

- Council's priorities for the CDBG and HOME program for FY 17-18 shall be workforce development, microenterprise assistance, access to quality childcare, homeowner rehabilitation and down payment assistance. Workforce development will have an emphasis on jobs that pay a sufficient wage as well as encourage targeting workforce development efforts to Piedmont Housing Alliance and Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority residents within the SIA.
- For FY 17-18, \$45,000 CDBG entitlement shall be set aside for Economic Development
- For FY 17-18, the Priority Neighborhood shall be 10th & Page and the allocation shall be \$200,000 of the total CDBG entitlement. If the CDBG entitlement received is less than the estimate amount of \$200,000, this amount will be decreased accordingly. The next Priority Neighborhood shall be Belmont and Ridge Street with funds being targeted in income eligible service areas.
- The CDBG Admin and Planning budget shall be set at 20% of the total CDBG entitlement.
- The Social Programs budget shall be set at 15% of the total CDBG entitlement.

(Ayes: Ms. Galvin, Ms. Szakos, Mr. Bellamy, Mr. Fenwick, Mr. Signer; Noes: None.)

PUBLIC HEARING / RESOLUTION: MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC PROCEDURES

Matters by the Public Procedures

Mr. Jones reviewed the item for Council.

On motion, the public hearing was opened.

Ms. Sue Lewis, 1615 Amherst St., speaking on behalf of the Human Rights Commission, said she did not realize until this evening that this was on the agenda for a public hearing. She read a statement from the Human Rights Commission. They said they have noticed a decrease in participation with the implementation of the new Matters by the Public procedures and are concerned about the effects of the new procedures on protected classes. The mayor should not be able to cut live video of the meetings.

Ms. Nancy Carpenter, Henry Ave., said she supports Ms. Lewis's comments. She believes there has been a decline in participation as a result of this new process. She asked how many people signed up in the six months prior to the new process. She said the mayor should be sure to call for more speakers before closing the hearings.

Mr. Walt Heineke, 1521 Amherst St., asked Council to undo limiting the time Councilors speak and limiting response to the public. He said Council does not follow their own rules. These regulations suppress democracy and transparency. The new procedures limit the ability of the public to communicate with Council and impacts minority and low-income populations even more.

Ms. Rebecca Quinn, 104 4th St., said the new procedures have resulted in fewer speakers. She said she supports open data.

Mr. Brandon Collins, 418 Fairway Ave., said he is opposed to the change in procedures and agrees with much of what has already been said. He said we should increase the limit to 15 people. He said we should go back to allowing Council response.

Mr. Peter Kleeman, 407 Hedge St., said he agrees with much of what has been said. Councilors should respond to the speakers at the Council meetings. Delayed response is not the same as immediate response.

Having no further speakers, the public hearing was closed.

Ms. Szakos moved that the resolution be adopted with revisions, including omitting the third "whereas" clause. She said letter (a) includes the mayor asking if anyone else would like to speak if there are not 12 signed up.

Mr. Bellamy seconded the motion with an amendment to change the number of advanced sign-ups from 12 to 9 in order to guarantee that there are three slots available at each meeting. Ms. Szakos accepted the amendment.

Mr. Signer said the total figures for speakers for the prior six months came to 110; there are a total of 125 who have spoken in the six months that the procedures have been implemented. He said Lucas Ames of Smart Cville did an analysis of the speakers per meeting, and it up this year so far per meeting. The gender of speakers is more balanced, and a diversified number of speakers have participated since the new procedure was implemented. The new process addresses issues with the prior procedures, such as filling the sheet entirely with one topic. He said he will try to continue encouraging speakers to sign up when the list is not full.

Ms. Galvin said the new protocol of not having Councilors respond directly to what they hear at the podium is a good practice. Council does address the issues we hear that night when it pertains to an agenda item. This new process is very efficient and enables the media to get information out in a timely manner and adjourn meetings in time for people to come and go via public transportation.

Mr. Bellamy said we have responded to individuals on several occasions when warranted. Based on the data, we are having more participation, and it is also more diverse.

Mr. Fenwick said he believes this is an infringement on freedom of speech, justified as being for the sake of efficiency. He said he wants to amend the Council procedures. Mr. Signer said that is not the topic of discussion this evening. Ms. Szakos suggested Mr. Fenwick discuss this with his fellow Councilors if he wants to bring it forward for a future agenda.

The resolution passed as revised. (Ayes: Ms. Galvin, Ms. Szakos, Mr. Bellamy, Mr. Signer; Noes: Mr. Fenwick.)

RESOLUTION: AMENDMENT TO VIRGINIA RESOURCES AUTHORITY (VRA) FINANCING AGREEMENT

Amendment to Virginia Resources Authority (VRA) Financing Agreement

Ms. Hammill presented to Council.

On motion by Ms. Galvin, seconded by Mr. Fenwick, the resolution passed unanimously on a roll call vote. (Ayes: Ms. Galvin, Ms. Szakos, Mr. Bellamy, Mr. Fenwick, Mr. Signer; Noes: None.)

RESOLUTION: OPEN DATA POLICY PROPOSAL

Open Data Policy Proposal

Ms. Beauregard presented to Council and answered clarifying questions.

Ms. Szakos said she appreciates staff making data proactively available and in usable form. She said she would like to ask for a report within six months in order to keep this a priority.

Ms. Galvin agreed that a timely update is important, including the areas where this can be applied first.

Mr. Signer said this is a spectacular way for Charlottesville to move forward on the municipal front. Several residents and staff have come together to work on this. He asked for a general time. Ms. Beauregard said a preliminary policy can be ready by the end of the calendar year, but if that changes staff can let Council know. Mr. Jones said this preliminary policy would serve as a discussion starter for Council.

Ms. Galvin said we need policy analysis and not just do data for the sake of data. Mr. Signer said that in fact, open data is data for the sake of data. Mr. Jones said we can look at the policy side of this at the same time.

Ms. Szakos moved the resolution with a six-month report and a three-month policy proposal; Mr. Fenwick seconded the motion. The resolution passed. (Ayes: Ms. Galvin, Ms. Szakos, Mr. Bellamy, Mr. Fenwick, Mr. Signer; Noes: None.)

RESOLUTION
In support of Open Data

WHEREAS, open government is based upon the principles of transparency, efficiency, and collaboration; and

WHEREAS, the evolving technology landscape now offers additional opportunities to promote open government, such as mobile applications to provide City services and social media to engage the public; and

WHEREAS, Open Data, proactively disclosing City data, is the foundation of open government, is consistent with citizens' right to public information, and promotes engagement with the potential benefit of civic development to improve service delivery through expanded and innovative uses; and

WHEREAS, Open Data promotes open government by engendering collaboration and opportunities for citizen-developed functionality with the added potential to decrease costs and increase robustness of City services;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Charlottesville City Council is committed to open government and the principles of transparency, efficiency, and collaboration and hereby directs the City Manager to develop and implement an Open Data policy with a comprehensive set of initiatives, guidelines and standards, including machine-readable data, to promote transparency, efficiency and collaboration. An initial policy recommendation will be presented in three months, and an update will be provided in six months.

REPORT: BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON RACE, MEMORIALS AND PUBLIC SPACES: INTERIM REPORT

Blue Ribbon Commission on Race, Memorials and Public Spaces: Interim Report

Mr. Dan Gathers, Chair of the Commission, and Dr. John Mason, Vice Chair, gave an interim report of the Blue Ribbon Commission.

Mr. Bellamy said he is looking for cost estimates. He asked how the commissioners have dealt with press inquiries and whether their experience has been what they expected. He asked if there is a generational divide.

Mr. Gathers said staff has been incredibly helpful, and they are working on pulling together cost estimates. He is not sure how to bridge the generational divide. Mr. Bellamy asked about social media; Mr. Gathers said this opens the discussion up to trolling. Members may always be reached by using the e-mail address brcmemorials@charlottesville.org. Dr. Mason said there are ways we can use social media to exchange information. However, this is not a good place to debate or argue. The commission will take up this matter at their next meeting.

Ms. Szakos complimented the commissioners for running efficient meetings and making people feel welcomed and heard.

Ms. Galvin thanked the commissioners for their hard work. She asked if the commission would find value in a structured engagement with Council, such as a work session, before delivering their final report.

Mr. Gathers said he feels this is up to Council, and the commissioners are open to direction.

Mr. Signer thanked the commission and staff for working on what has been a crucial and important issue for the public. He asked if there is consensus among Council to hold a work session with the commission before their final report. There was general consensus, with Mr. Fenwick expressing reservations. Mr. Signer said he will discuss this option with Mr. Jones.

REPORT: TJPDC LEGISLATIVE DISCUSSION

Mr. David Blount presented to Council on the legislative program for the localities in the Thomas Jefferson Planning District region and the City's legislative priorities. He answered clarifying questions for Council and gave guidance for how Councilors can provide input for the upcoming legislative program.

Ms. Galvin said regarding the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has subjected the City to meeting total maximum daily load (TMDL) requirements. There is new technology available to us for planting street trees, called silva cells, but this technology is not an approved best practice within DEQ and therefore cannot be used in the state of Virginia to meet TMDL requirements. She asked that this be added to the legislative agenda.

Ms. Galvin said the Virginia State Commerce Commission has instituted a pilot granting Dominion Power the power to charge residents for the cost of undergrounding utilities, and this is a big issue for our City.

Mr. Blount said we can work with bodies on some of these issues without necessarily having them as part of our legislative program.

MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

Mr. Peter Kleeman, 407 Hedge St., said he is confused about item 4 on the agenda regarding the public hearing resolution. He said Mr. Fenwick's proposal regarding Councilor's response to Matters by the Public should have been considered. Council should revisit this decision.

Ms. Rebecca Quinn, 104 4th St., said part of open government is ensuring citizens' ability to listen to public meetings and to know who is speaking. Some of the public bodies are not good at using the microphones, particularly the BAR, which makes it difficult for those listening from home and for staff who have to prepare minutes. Four City staff members presented to Council this evening without introducing themselves and stating their position. She asked that this be

enforced when staff is presenting. Please encourage speakers to use the microphone if they stray.

The regular Council meeting was adjourned into closed session at 9:50 p.m.

On motion by Ms. Szakos, seconded by Mr. Bellamy, Council certified by the following vote (Ayes: Ms. Galvin, Ms. Szakos, Mr. Bellamy, Mr. Fenwick, Mr. Signer; 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.

Closed Session adjourned.