

CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL
Budget Work Session
February 3, 2021
Virtual/electronic meeting via Zoom

3:30 PM WORK SESSION

The Charlottesville City Council met in an electronic meeting on Wednesday, February 3, 2021, in accordance with a local ordinance #O-20-154a adopted December 10, 2020, to ensure continuity of government and prevent the spread of disease. The purpose of the meeting was a work session to discuss the Fiscal Year 2022 City Budget.

Mayor Walker called the meeting to order at 3:37 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Nikuyah Walker, Vice Mayor Sena Magill, Councilors Heather Hill, Michael Payne and Lloyd Snook.

Mayor Walker turned the meeting over to Acting City Manager John Blair, who acknowledged staff working on the budget and welcomed newly appointed City Manager Chip Boyles.

Ryan Davidson, Senior Budget and Management Analyst, reviewed information on development of the FY 2022 Operating Budget, including revenue and expenditure estimates.

Krisy Hammill, Senior Budget and Management Analyst, reviewed the FY 2022 – 2026 Capital Improvement Program. To accomplish Council’s goals and priorities, the DRAFT CIP was presented with the following recommendations:

- **Schools Reconfiguration** included with a \$50 Million placeholder.
- **West Main Streetscape** removed entirely and previously committed funds (about \$18 Million) available to be reallocated to the school project if needed.
- **Real estate property taxes** proposed to be increased by two cents annually beginning in FY23 for a total of 10 cents over five years. Council and the School Board would need to build community support for these investments.
- **The School funding formula would need recalibration to recognize the new debt service requirements.** A once in a generation project to reconfigure the schools would require a new approach to the school transfer calculation starting in FY23.
- While the CIP, operational budgets, and tax rates are all reviewed and adjusted annually, once the school project commences, future Councils would be obligated to complete the work.

The presentation included upcoming meeting dates:

- February 9 Planning Commission Capital Improvement Plan Public Hearing
- March 1 Proposed City and School Operating and Capital Budget Formally Presented to Council
- Mar 4 Budget Work Session #1 (Revenue & Expenditures)
- Mar 11 Budget Work Session #2 (Outside Agencies)
- March 15 First Budget and Tax Rate Public Hearings
- Mar 17 Community Budget Forum
- Mar 25 Budget Work Session #3 (CIP)
- April 5 Second Budget Public Hearing/Budget Approval First Reading/Tax Levy Approval First Reading
- Apr 8 Budget Work Session #4 (Wrap-up)
- April 13 Budget and Tax Levy Approval Second Reading

Council engaged in discussion and expressed a desire to have joint meetings with Charlottesville City School Board and the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors to discuss details of proposed capital improvement projects, as well as hearing more information from staff and the Planning Commission. Council agreed to place an item on the February 16 meeting agenda to further discuss Capital Improvement Plan priorities.

Mayor Walker opened the floor for public comment. The following person spoke:

- Peter Krebs

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council