

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL WILL BE HELD ON Tuesday, July 5, 2011, 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 Barfield

SECOND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM – July 5, 2011

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

On motion by Dr. Brown, seconded by Ms. Edwards, Council voted (Ayes: Dr. Brown, Ms. Edwards, Mr. Huja, Mr. Norris, Ms. Szakos. Noes: None) to meet in closed session pursuant to section 2.2-3712 of the Virginia Code, for (1) consultation with legal counsel regarding the negotiation of the terms and conditions of a community water supply cost sharing agreement with the Albemarle County Service Authority, as authorized by Virginia Code sec. 2.2-3711 (A) (7); and, (2) the annual performance review of the Clerk of City Council, as authorized by Virginia Code sec. 2.2-3711 (A) (1)

On motion by Ms. Szakos, seconded by Mr. Huja, Council certified by the following vote, (Ayes: Dr. Brown, Ms. Edwards, Mr. Huja, Mr. Norris, 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.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS – July 5, 2011

Council met in regular session on this date with the following members present: Mr. Norris, Ms. Edwards, Dr. Brown, Mr. Huja, Ms. Szakos.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Norris recognized Mr. Leonard W. Sandridge, retiring Chief Operating Officer of the University of Virginia, who has had a tremendous impact on Charlottesville, and particularly the University. Mr. Norris presented Mr. Sandridge with a key to the city. Mr. Sandridge thanked the City for their recognition, and particularly thanked Chief Longo, Chief Warner and other outstanding members of City staff. Mr.

Jones presented Mr. Sandridge with his favorite comfort food. Dr. Brown thanked Mr. Sandridge for the tangible ways he has facilitated the relationship between the City and the University.

Mr. Norris read a proclamation designating July as Parks and Recreation month. Mr. Brian Daly, Director of Parks and Recreation, accepted the proclamation on behalf of the department.

Mr. Norris wished a happy birthday to Ruby Gordon Lincoln Wiltshire, who is 100 years old today. She is the oldest member of Rose Hill neighborhood and a member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

Mr. Huja announced Sundays in the Park at McIntire Park, which are the second Sundays of each month. Call 970-3260 for more information.

Ms. Szakos announced a program offering cooling assistance to residents. Call 972-4010 for County residents or 970-3400 for City residents. For more information, please visit www.charlottesville.org.

Mr. Norris requested a discussion regarding strategies for reducing power outages to Other Business.

MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

Mr. Kirk Bowers, City of Charlottesville, thanked Council for voting against the western bypass.

Mr. Brandon Collins, 536 Meade Ave., said he was pleased to see that dredging is coming closer to a reality. Including a local workforce in any projects should be a priority. He said he would like to see hybrid buses purchased, but he asked if current buses really need replacement.

Ms. Rebecca Quinn, 104 4th St., thanked Council for potentially making the cost share agreement contingent on dredging.

Ms. Dede Smith, 2652 Jefferson Park Cir., said the request for a permit modification has been deemed a major modification, thus requiring a 30 day public comment period and a public hearing. This is a great opportunity to get consideration for the multiple studies Council has funded.

Mr. Paul Long, 1410 Grady Ave., said there are several hundred potential voters who will not be allowed to vote because they do not have a legal residence in the City. He asked if these individuals could use The Haven for an address if they have been here for a specified length of time.

COUNCIL RESPONSES TO MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

Ms. Szakos said the voter registrar says can register homeless residents to vote, as long as they have a place they can get their mail. She asked if staff can assist with homeless voter registration.

Mr. Huja said he supported hiring local workforce for dredging.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a. Minutes of June 20
- b. RESOLUTION: Transit Development Plan for CAT
- c. RESOLUTION: Fontaine Fire Station #10 – Grant of Easement to Dominion VA Power
- d. ORDINANCE: Temporary Move of Carver Precinct (2nd reading)
- e. ORDINANCE: Validity Period of Certificates of Appropriateness (2nd reading)

PUBLIC HEARING/ORDINANCE: EXCHANGE OF LAND – MADISON AVENUE AND RIVER COURT (carried)

Mr. Chris Gensic presented to Council on the ordinance regarding the exchange of land at Madison Avenue and River Court.

Mr. Norris asked if this would preclude extending Madison Ave. and connecting it to Preston. Mr. Gensic said it would not.

The public hearing was opened.

Having no speakers, the public hearing was closed.

On motion by Ms. Szakos, seconded by Dr. Brown, the ordinance carried.

PUBLIC HEARING/ORDINANCE: SPOT BLIGHT ABATEMENT – 704 MONTROSE (deferred)

Ms. Patty Armstrong presented to Council. She described the history of the property, the owner's actions, and the structural integrity of the property.

The public hearing was opened.

Mr. Rogers, who owns the house at 704 Montrose, said the home can be repaired, and he has the money to do so. He said he had to stop work on the home because he is disabled. He asked for six months, after which he would agree to have it demolished if he does not meet the City's requirements in that amount of time.

Mr. Huja asked Mr. Rogers if he has spoken to any contractors. He said he has not formally spoken to any because of all the books he has stored in the house, but he believes it will cost \$20,000 - \$30,000 dollars to repair.

Mr. Norris asked Mr. Rogers if he had seen the letter from Alloy. Mr. Rogers said he had not. Mr. Norris said the professional opinion of the consultant from Alloy was that the house is in bad enough condition that it does not make financial sense to renovate.

Mr. Norris asked what the compelling public interest was in having the home demolished. Mr. Tolbert said termites and mosquitoes have been a nuisance to the neighborhood. The home has been vacant for several years, which has a negative impact on surrounding properties. Ms. Armstrong said the walls are collapsing in on themselves and will continue to do so.

Dr. Brown asked if the contractor said it was safe for the books to be removed. Ms. Armstrong said they recommended the belongings not be relocated because of what could be transferred to the new location.

Having no further speakers, the public hearing was closed.

Mr. Huja said he is familiar with this house, and it is in bad shape. He said a few people in the neighborhood have said they would be willing to buy the house and fix it because of the nuisance it has been to the neighborhood. He said he would be willing to give it six more months to have it repaired, although he is not optimistic that it would happen.

Ms. Edwards said she is concerned with the safety of Mr. Rogers and the safety of the home. She said we should discuss how we can support aging homes and the elderly as they try to remedy the problem. She said she supports the six month timeframe. She said Mr. Rogers should consider whether continued investment in this property is prudent.

Dr. Brown said this house has been in violation for years, and now an independent opinion has shown the property to be unsafe. If we want to extend the time, it should be a short period, say one month, for him to come with a plan of action, with either a contractor's estimate or letters of intent to purchase from potential buyers.

Ms. Szakos said it is important to offer support during this process. She asked if there is support available through JABA. She said she is comfortable with the one month proposal.

Council will give Mr. Rogers 30 days to come back with a contract from a contractor to bring the home up to code or a letter of intent to purchase the house. Staff will follow up with Mr. Rogers and report back to Council.

PUBLIC HEARING/ORDINANCE: TRANSFER OF PROPERTY ON ELLIOTT AVENUE (carried)

Ms. Kathy McHugh presented to Council. This was first discussed on June 20th, but there was not a public hearing at that time. Habitat for Humanity plans to partner with Southern Development to undertake Burnett Commons Phase 2. Staff recommends approval of the ordinance.

Mr. Huja asked for clarification on lot 2. Ms. McHugh said Southern Development said they were willing to take possession of the lot and use it for green space or Art In Place. Mr. Huja said it should be paid for.

The public hearing was opened.

Mr. Charlie Armstrong, Southern Development, said that the original contract provided for building one house on the lot. With the stipulation that the lot not be built on, Southern Development would prefer not to purchase the lot and keep it City maintained, or leave it to the Homeowner's Association to maintain.

Having no further speakers, the public hearing was closed.

On motion by Mr. Huja, seconded by Ms. Szakos, the ordinance carried.

REPORT: FUNDING PRIORITIES FOR NONPROFIT AGENCIES – STEERING COMMITTEE AND STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Ms. Gretchen Ellis presented to Council. She thanked staff for their diligent work over the past nine months. She also thanked the University for their help with conducting research on the project. Staff has passed along five of the six recommendations the steering committee devised.

Mr. Norris asked how the proposed rating system compared to what is currently in place. Ms. Ellis said funding was decreased by a percentage for programs that were rated as fair or poor instead of being eliminated.

Ms. Szakos asked how the amounts would be evaluated. Ms. Ellis said it would be tied to what they receive each year. Ms. Szakos said she appreciated the work of the committee and asked about an appeals process.

Dr. Brown said he supported a smaller reserve dedicated for contingencies during the year, which would reduce one-off requests for favors. Mr. Huja said he disagreed, because having a discretionary pool for Council allows groups who are not as sophisticated to obtain funding.

Ms. Szakos said it is important to do a needs analysis.

Mr. Huja asked if art and culture programs will be included in the process. Ms. Ellis said yes, as there will be sub-teams involved that have expertise in various areas. Ms. Beauregard said festivals will have to submit applications as always.

Ms. Edwards said she was concerned about the makeup of the steering committee in that it lacked outside objectivity. There did not seem to be a focus group or any sort of communication with poor people in the community. She said throwing money at problems does not fix them.

Mr. Norris said he does not regret a single allocation Council has made to agencies through direct appeal to Council; however, there should be a process. He said guidelines should not be overbroad. He asked how the fact that previous allocations will affect future funding is going to change going forward. Mr. Murphy explained how the process is changing to implement other factors for determining funding.

Mr. Norris said workforce development is a priority and asked if there is a process by which Council can request particular types of proposals. Ms. Ellis said the committee recommended against it because it makes the nonprofit environment too unpredictable and subject to political trends.

Mr. Norris asked for staff to come back with recommendations to incorporate into a revised plan. Staff will come back with a revised report at the August 1st meeting.

REPORT: FY 2012 CHARLOTTESVILLE AREA TRANSIT BUS REPLACEMENT GRANTS

Mr. Bill Watterson reported to Council. CAT has been working to achieve the vision of a green city in transit. Mr. Norris asked for clarification on state funding for diesel versus hybrid buses. State funding covers the cost of diesel buses only. The City would have to pay for the additional cost of hybrid buses. Staff expects a minimum of 20% increase in fuel efficiency and roughly estimates about \$10,500 a year in fuel savings.

Mr. Norris asked if maintenance costs are higher. Mr. Watterson said other cities have said there are actually maintenance savings. Mr. Watterson said the buses are cleaner burning than Diesel buses and much cleaner than the older buses the City currently has in use.

Dr. Brown said he is concerned that the batteries on the hybrid buses will need to be replaced every six years. Mr. Watterson said we have had good response when requesting funds to replace parts such as this, although there are no guarantees. Mr. Huja said this is an important environmental issue, and we should support this financially.

Dr. Brown said if we want to spend this amount of money, we should spend it on improving services, not on hybrid buses.

On motion by Mr. Huja, seconded by Ms. Szakos, Council voted to authorize the purchase of hybrid buses. (Ayes: Mr. Norris, Mr. Huja, Ms. Szakos, Ms. Edwards; Noes: Dr. Brown.)

REPORT: PUBLIC WORKS SUMMER CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Mr. Mike Mollica presented to Council. He overviewed government facilities capital projects for Council, including the Smith Aquatic Center, Fontaine Fire Station, Facilities Maintenance Renovation at the Public Works Yard on 4th Street, Market Street Parking Garage repairs, Police Department locker and roll call rooms and GDC expansion, school projects, and other small capital projects.

Regarding the Buford/Walker configuration, Mr. Norris asked Mr. Mollica if his charge was to come back with recommendations on reducing construction costs. Mr. Mollica said staff will come back with options.

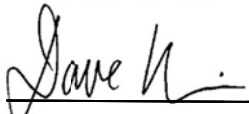
Ms. Szakos asked if the Johnson school envelope project has energy benefits. Mr. Mollica said it does not. Ms. Szakos asked where the high school is playing football before November. Mr. Mollica said staff and the athletic director are working on a solution. Ms. Szakos asked what efforts are made to employ local workers on projects. Mr. Mollica said staff works with the economic development division to encourage workers to hire locally, and funds have been provided to allow for certain subcontractors to bring in trade help. However, staff ultimately takes the lowest bidder, which does not ensure employment of local workers.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Norris said he wants to know why the power system seems to be so fragile, causing so many outages. He asked staff to work with Dominion on researching what factors contribute to the power outages we have, and what steps need to be taken to prevent them. Mr. Jones said staff can invite Mr. Reid from Virginia Dominion Power to

present to Council. We have a lot of power lines overhead, and it is very expensive to install underground utilities.

The meeting was adjourned.



President



Clerk