

CITY COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSESSION
Thursday, March 5, 2020
CITYSPACE

The Charlottesville City Council met in a worksession on March 5, 2020, at CitySpace, 100 5th St NE, Charlottesville, with the following Councilors present: Mayor Nikuyah Walker, Vice Mayor Sena Magill, Ms. Heather Hill, Mr. Michael Payne and Mr. Lloyd Snook.

Ms. Walker called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. and turned the meeting over to Dr. Richardson, who introduced the topic for the meeting: the Fiscal Year 2021 City budget.

Ms. Krisy Hammill and Mr. Ryan Davidson, Senior Budget and Management Analysts, shared information about the Balancing Act tool available to the public on the City website, expenditure drivers for the budget, key decision points for Council to make, revenue drivers, and the remainder of the budget cycle calendar.

The following department directors and leaders answered Councilor questions: Mr. Garland Williams, Charlottesville Area Transit; Mr. Todd Divers, Commissioner of the Revenue; Mr. Chris Engel, Director of Economic Development; Dr. Rosa Atkins, School Superintendent; Ms. Kim Powell, Assistant School Superintendent.

The four decision points Councilors discussed were:

1. Real Estate Tax rate increase: Councilors were not in favor of increasing the rate, acknowledging increases in real estate assessments.
2. City Schools Full Operating Request of \$1.8 Million: Councilors discussed that without raising taxes, the funds would need to come from departmental cuts. Councilors asked staff to provide scenarios for future discussion.
3. Employee Cost of Living Adjustment: Councilors discussed a 2% or 3% increase, but came to no conclusion.
4. Charlottesville Housing Assistance Program (CHAP) adjustments: Councilors came to no conclusion.

Ms. Walker opened the floor for public comment. The following people spoke: Mr. Rory Stolzenberg, Mr. Harold Folley, Mr. Markell Henderson, Ms. Andrea Massey, Ms. Tanesha Hudson, Mr. Walt Heinecke, and Mr. Eric Beale.

Ms. Walker closed public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council