

CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Budget Development Work Session

March 16, 2023, at 6:00 PM

In person: CitySpace, 100 5th Street NW

Electronic: Zoom, www.charlottesville.gov/zoom

The Charlottesville City Council met on Thursday, March 16, 2023, in a budget work session to discuss Fiscal Year 2024 City budget Outside and Non-profit agencies funding. The meeting was held in hybrid format with Council members and public seating in CitySpace and electronic participation on the Zoom webinar platform. Mayor Lloyd Snook called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Clerk of Council Kyna Thomas called the roll, noting all councilors present: Michael Payne, Brian Pinkston, Leah Puryear, Lloyd Snook, and Juandiego Wade.

FY 2024 Budget Development – Outside and Non-profit agencies

Krisy Hammill, Budget Director began the meeting with a presentation on tax relief, specifically the following programs:

- **Real Estate Tax Relief (RETR) for the Elderly and Disabled Persons**
Found in Chapter 30, Article IV of the Charlottesville City Code and authorized by §58.1-3210 et seq of the Code of Virginia
- **Charlottesville Homeowner Assistance Program (CHAP)**
Re-authorized by City Council each year under authority provided by §63.2-314 of the Code of Virginia
- **Rental Relief for the Elderly and Disabled Persons**
Found in Chapter 25, Article III of the Charlottesville City Code and authorized under §63.1-106 of the Code of Virginia (possibly recodified as §63.2-314). Almost one out of every twenty households in the city benefitted from RETR or CHAP in 2022.

Hunter Smith, Human Services Planner, presented a report on the Vibrant Community Fund (VCF) process. He stated that the FY24 process continued to develop on previous years' adjustments and changes and that equity continues to be a focus area for all applicants. Questions around how organizations are working toward equity were part of the application process. For FY24 the total request for funding was \$4,342,459.25 and the total VCF budget was \$2,175,000. There were a total of 71 program applications submitted and 59 of those received between 22% and 90% of their request.

Brenda Kelley, Redevelopment Manager, walked through Housing Operations and Program Support (HOPS) process. Previously the affordable housing applications came in through the VCF; however, based on the city's new Affordable Housing Plan, the Office of Community Solutions now addresses affordable housing programs in all categories. This competitive

application process is open to not-for-profit organizations that engage in affordable housing related activities that may be requesting operational or program type funding. Organizations must have substantial presence in the City of Charlottesville and engage in affordable housing activities within the City limits. Applications were due December 31, 2022 and funding was not guaranteed. There were 14 applications received, requesting \$1,344,072. Total funding available for distribution through the Charlottesville Affordable Housing Fund (CAHF) was \$575,000, and Ms. Kelley shared the CAHF recommendation to fund a list of programs at 90% of their requests.

Krisy Hammill reviewed proposed funding for a number of intergovernmental agencies.

Misty Graves reviewed the budget for the Pathways assistance program, which decreased from the FY23 budget to the FY24 proposed budget. In FY22 disbursements totaled \$657,285 to City residents and projected disbursement for FY2023 are \$1.24 Million. She described the Beyond Pathways program which is separate allocation of American Rescue Plan funds to provide emergency hotel stays for people with medical vulnerabilities and/or family who are experiencing homelessness, as well as flexibility to help with other financial and material needs.

Deputy City Manager Sam Sanders informed Council of a support request from the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center (AAHC). At the request of staff, the AAHC submitted a funding request through the Vibrant Community Fund for programming and rent support. Councilors individually expressed ways to address the funding requests and to have further conversations about sustainability. Mr. Sanders stated that he will prepare an agenda item to present to Council on April 3.

Interim City Manager Michael C. Rogers presented the budget request from JAUNT and summarized JAUNT's balance sheet.

- Ted Rieck, JAUNT CEO, spoke about JAUNT paratransit services provided on behalf of the City of Charlottesville, and updates to JAUNT's financial reporting.

Mr. Rogers referenced upcoming budget meetings and public hearings.

Councilor Payne asked several clarifying questions about specific line items.

Public Comment

Mayor Snook opened the floor for public comment.

- Asia Green, city resident, and organizer for the PHAR (Public Housing Association of Residents) youth program, spoke in support of Vibrant Community funding for PHAR.
- Elizabeth Stark, city resident, requested additional funding for the Pathways program.

- Jon Nafziger, Executive Director for Child Health Partnership, requested funding support for Child Health Partnership.
- Shelby Edwards, former Executive Director of PHAR, requested funding for PHAR to support youth programming.
- Taylor Frome, Interim Executive Director of PHAR, requested funding support for PHAR youth programming from the Vibrant Community Fund.
- Gwendolyn Allen, PHAR intern, spoke in support of funding for PHAR youth programs.
- Paola Covarrubius, Community Organizer with PHAR, spoke in support of funding for PHAR youth programs.
- Cam Gaillard, city resident, spoke in support of funding for PHAR youth programs.
- Michelle Stinnie, city resident, spoke in support of funding for PHAR youth programs.
- Cory Demchak, Director of Programs for the Albemarle Housing Improvement Program (AHIP), requested continued funding support through the HOPS process.
- Elise Noyes, Client Advocate with AHIP, requested funding support for home rehabilitation and repair services.

With no additional speakers coming forward, Mayor Snook closed the public comment period.

Councilor Payne requested clarification on ways that Council can provide budget feedback to staff.

Mayor Snook adjourned the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council