

CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**September 5, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 605 E. Main Street**

The Charlottesville City Council met at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 5, 2023. Mayor Lloyd Snook called the meeting to order and Clerk of Council Kyna Thomas called the roll, noting the following councilors present: Mayor Lloyd Snook, Vice Mayor Juandiego Wade and Councilors Brian Pinkston and Leah Puryear. Mayor Snook stated that Councilor Payne provided notice that he was in transit to the meeting.

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Puryear, Council by a vote of 4-0 (Payne absent) approved the meeting agenda.

REPORTS

1. REPORT: City of Charlottesville Strategic Plan (Raftelis)

City Manager Sam Sanders introduced the presentation which precedes a vote later in the meeting to adopt the updated City of Charlottesville Strategic Plan Framework. Michelle Ferguson, Raftelis Financial Consultants, summarized steps that led to the current draft of the Strategic Outcome Areas, including work sessions held in May 2023 and engagement with staff, and she provided an overview of the overall framework.

Councilor Payne joined the meeting at 4:09 p.m.

Councilor Pinkston asked about next steps for making the Strategic Plan actionable, and Mr. Sanders explained that Council's first action item is adoption of the Strategic Plan later in the meeting, and that he and city departments will prioritize the Strategic Plan in their work plans.

Vice Mayor Wade requested adding Food Equity as a focus area. Mr. Sanders stated that the Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) item includes food equity, and that JEDI is integrated into all areas of the Plan.

Councilor Puryear asked about measures for ensuring implementation of JEDI in the Strategic Plan. Mr. Sanders stated that each category will have a component of JEDI that will roll into the overall success measures for JEDI as a whole.

CLOSED MEETING

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Puryear, Council voted 5-0 (Ayes: Payne, Pinkston, Puryear, Snook, Wade; Noes: none) to meet in closed meeting as authorized by Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(8), consultation with the City Attorney regarding legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice, specifically, legal matters regarding notice and public hearing requirements for the adoption of the City's new zoning ordinance.

After it was brought to Council's attention that a provision of the closed meeting notice was missed, Mayor Snook called the meeting back to order.

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Puryear, Council voted 5-0 (Ayes: Payne, Pinkston, Puryear, Snook, Wade; Noes: none) to amend the closed meeting motion to add Section 2.2-3711 (A)(3), for discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the Council, specifically discussion of prospective real estate transactions for the Sugar Hollow Reservoir and the proposed 0 East High Street development.

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Puryear, Council certified by the following vote: 5-0 (Ayes: Payne, Pinkston, Puryear, Snook, Wade; 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 amended motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed or considered in the closed session.

BUSINESS SESSION

City Council began the business session by observing a moment of silence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Payne announced that the Charlottesville Community Media Center (CCMC) open house on Saturday, September 23rd from 12pm-2pm inside York Place on the Downtown Mall. The CCMC serves as the home of Charlottesville Public Access Television, and the mission is to encourage and inspire community expression by offering resources to create and distribute media that celebrates art, education, cultural exchange, achievement, and social awareness.

Councilor Puryear announced CYM (Close Your Mouth) Day, a day dedicated to active listening, organized by Mr. Alex-Zan.

Vice Mayor Wade encouraged people to participate in the sensory and meditative Water Appreciation Experience on 1326 East High Street; www.thewaterexperience.com.

RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

- **RECOGNITION: Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting**

Mayor Snook read the award criteria and noted that this is the first year of receiving this award, making the City of Charlottesville a Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Triple Crown Winner. Philip Spence, Risk Manager, was given special recognition for submission of the materials to earn the award.

CONSENT AGENDA

Clerk of Council Kyna Thomas read the following Consent Agenda items into the record and on motion by Wade, seconded by Puryear, Council unanimously adopted the Consent Agenda.

2. RESOLUTION: Resolution to appropriate Fiscal Year 2024 Fire Programs Aid to Localities Funding (Firefund) - \$209,603 (carried)

3. RESOLUTION: Resolution to appropriate funds from the Department of Housing and Community Development - Virginia Homeless Solutions Program Grant \$539,369 (2nd reading)

RESOLUTION

Appropriating Funding in the Amount of \$539,369 To Be Received from Virginia Homeless Solutions Program

WHEREAS, The City of Charlottesville, through the Office of Community Solutions, has been notified that it will be awarded an additional grant from the Virginia Housing Solutions Program (V.H.S.P.) Fund of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, in the amount of \$539,369.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that upon receipt of the additional VHSP funding from the Commonwealth, said funding, anticipated in the sum of \$539,369, is hereby appropriated in the following manner:

Revenues

\$444,062	Fund 209	Order 1900475	GL 430100 State Grant
\$95,307	Fund 209	Order 1900475	GL 430120 State (Federal pass-thru)

Expenditures

\$539,369	Fund 209	Order 1900475	GL 530550 Contractual Services
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this appropriation is conditioned upon receipt of from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development.

4. RESOLUTION: Resolution to appropriate funds from the Department of Criminal Justice Systems FREE GRANT School Security Officer: School Resource Officer Incentive Grant Program - \$150,000 (2nd reading)

RESOLUTION

Appropriating Funding in the Amount of \$150,000 To Be Received from the 2024-FREE-Grant, FY24 School Security Officer (SSO): School Resource Officer (SRO) Incentive Grant Program \$539,369

WHEREAS, The City of Charlottesville, through the Office of Community Solutions, has been notified that it will be awarded a School Security Officers grant from the Fund of the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, in the amount of \$150,000.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia that, upon receipt of the SSO funding from the Commonwealth,

said funding, anticipated in the sum of \$150,000 is hereby appropriated in the following manner:

Revenues

Fund 209	Order 1900531	GL 430110 State Grant	\$150 000
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Expenditures

Fund 209	Order 1900531	GL 530550 Contractual Services	\$150,000
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this appropriation is conditioned upon receipt of \$45,720 in funds from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services and \$104,280 from Charlottesville City Schools.

5. RESOLUTION: Resolution to appropriate funds from the Safe Routes to School Non-infrastructure Grant - \$33,150 (2nd reading)

**RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING FUNDS for
Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS) Non-infrastructure Grants
\$33,150**

WHEREAS, the Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS) non-infrastructure grant, providing Federal payments for education, encouragement, evaluation and enforcement programs to promote safe walking and bicycling to school has been awarded the City of Charlottesville, in the amount of \$183,842 that has already been appropriated;

WHEREAS, the two year SRTS award is a 80% reimbursement program requiring a 20% match of \$45,961. It will come from in kind donations and volunteer services from Charlottesville Area Mountain Bike Club and \$33,150 cash match from the City of Charlottesville in form of employee benefits;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the of Charlottesville, Virginia, that the funding is hereby appropriated in the following manner:

REVENUE

\$33,150	Fund:209	Cost Center: 3901008000	G/L:498010
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EXPENDITURES

\$33 ,150	Fund:209	Cost Center: 3901008000	G/L: 519999
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TRANSFER FROM

\$33,150	Fund:105	Cost Center: 390100100	G/L: 561209
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6. RESOLUTION: Resolutions to approve HOME-ARP FY 2023-2024 Action Plan and to appropriate funds of approximately \$347,404 (2nd reading)

6a. RESOLUTION: Resolution to Approve the FY 2023-2024 HOME-ARP Action Plan

Resolution Approving the City of Charlottesville FY 2023-2024 HOME-American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) Action Plan, in the Amount of Approximately \$347,404

WHEREAS the City of Charlottesville has been designated as an Entitlement Community by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and as such is a recipient of federal funds through the HOME Investment Partnerships program, and

WHEREAS the City is a contributing member of the Thomas Jefferson Area HOME Consortium, in partnership with the counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa and Nelson, and through the Consortium shares in the benefits of participation in HUD's HOME program, and

WHEREAS the City has recently been informed of a one-time allocation from HUD of approximately \$2,452,270 in HOME-ARP funds to be shared equally among the HOME Consortium members and through which the City anticipates receiving an allocation of approximately \$347,404 in HOME-ARP funds to support the development of affordable rental units within the city limits, and

WHEREAS Council has previously expressed its support of the Consortium's HOME-ARP Allocation Plan, as presented by TJPDC staff to Council at a public hearing on January 3, 2023, and

WHEREAS the members of the City's CDBG/HOME Taskforce have carefully evaluated funding requests made through an open and competitive application process and have made the funding recommendations put forth in the FY 2023-2024 HOME-ARP Action Plan reviewed and approved by the Planning Commission at their August 8, 2023, public hearing and presented before Council, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Charlottesville, Virginia, hereby approves the FY 2023-2024 HOME-ARP Action Plan, as presented at a public hearing on August 21, 2023.

6b. RESOLUTION: Resolution to Approve the appropriation of the HOME-ARP funding recommendations outlined in the FY 2023-2024 HOME-ARP Action Plan, in the amount of \$347,404.92

Appropriation of HOME-American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) Funds Anticipated from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, in the Amount of Approximately \$347,404

WHEREAS the City has recently been informed of a one-time allocation from HUD of approximately \$2,452,270 in HOME-ARP funds to be shared equally among the HOME Consortium members and through which the City anticipates receiving an allocation of

approximately \$347,404.92 in HOME-ARP funds to support the development of affordable rental units within the city limits, and

WHEREAS City Council has received recommendations for the expenditure of funds from the city’s CDBG/HOME Task Force, as reviewed and approved by the City Planning Commission, which conducted a public hearing thereon as provided by law, now

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Charlottesville, Virginia, that upon receipt of anticipated HOME-ARP funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), said funds are hereby appropriated to the following individual expenditure accounts in the city’s HOME Fund in accordance with the respective purposes set forth; provided, however, that the City Manager is hereby authorized to transfer funds between and among such individual accounts as circumstances may require, to the extent permitted by applicable federal grant regulations, as set forth below:

HOME-ARP American Rescue Plan

Fund	Account Code	Taskforce Funding Recommendation	Proposed Award
210	1900533	Continued Rehabilitation Repairs to Preserve CSH Affordable Rental Housing <i>(Community Services Housing, Inc.)</i>	\$67,361.00
210	1900534	1025 Park Street Redevelopment <i>(Piedmont Housing Alliance)</i>	\$280,043.92
Subtotal HOME-ARP Funding Recommendations			\$347,404.92

HOME Local Match Funds

The customary local matching funds requirement for HOME programs has been waived by HUD for HOME-ARP.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this appropriation is conditioned upon the receipt by the City of not less than \$347,404.92 in HOME-ARP funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development for FY 2023-2024, and all subrecipient awards are also conditioned upon receipt of such funds, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the event that HOME-ARP funding received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for FY 2023-2024 differs from the amounts referenced above, all appropriated amounts may be administratively increased/reduced at the same prorated percentage of change to actual funding received. No subrecipient’s grant may be increased above their initial funding request without further consideration by Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the amounts appropriated above within this resolution will be provided as grants to public agencies or private non-profit, charitable organizations (individually and collectively, “subrecipients”) and shall be utilized by the subrecipients solely for the purpose stated within their grant applications. The City Manager is hereby authorized to enter into agreements with each subrecipient as deemed advisable, to

ensure that the grants are expended for their intended purposes and in accordance with applicable federal and state laws and regulations. To this end, the City Manager, the Director of Finance, and public officers to whom any responsibility is delegated by the City Manager pursuant to City Code Section 2-147 are authorized to establish administrative procedures and provide for guidance and assistance in subrecipients' execution of the funded programs.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Sam Sanders announced a change to how City Manager reports will be presented at each meeting. He welcomed the new Director of Communications and Public Engagement, Afton Schneider, who will begin work on September 6. Regarding matters from the public, he addressed public concerns about the need for battery-electric buses. He stated that no decisions have been made, but that all options are being studied and operational priorities continue to be reliability, ridership, frequency and quality of service. He reported on his first 30 days as City Manager and stated that he is allowing opportunities for his team to provide feedback for settling into the position and areas for improvement.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

Mayor Snook opened the floor for comments from the public.

1. Marta Keane, Jefferson Area Board on Aging CEO, provided the 2022 Annual Report on JABA programs, services, and stories of impact. The Mary Williams Community Center at Hillsdale will be expanding.
2. Katherine Slaughter, city resident, spoke in opposition to the proposed sale of property at 601 West Main Street. She suggested that the city retain ownership and plant shade trees.
3. Patricia Edwards, city resident, spoke in opposition to the proposed sale of property at 601 West Main Street. She suggested that the city retain ownership and plant shade trees. She suggested reconsidering the use of the term "gentrification" and gave historical context for the word "gentry".
4. Peter Gates, Cville 100 Environmental Alliance officer and city resident, spoke about the Alternative Fuels Study, and made suggestions for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in transit.
5. Zyahna Bryant, city resident, spoke in opposition to the Dairy Market expansion plan. She suggested more neighborhood engagement and she spoke about an upcoming rally for affordable housing.
6. Syleethia Carr, city resident, spoke about Charlottesville Low Income Housing Coalition's goal of ensuring deeply affordable housing. She spoke about the benefits of the Public Housing Association of Residents internship program and showed a petition with 338 signatures from people who want deeply affordable housing.
7. Jay Hooper, city resident, spoke about displaced people in Charlottesville because of individual unmet needs. He pleaded for the community to come together to address the homelessness problems.

ACTION ITEMS

7. ORDINANCE: Ordinance to approve 601 West Main Street Land Sale (2nd reading) - MOVING TO A FUTURE MEETING if necessary

City Manager Sanders stated that he wanted to give staff additional time to reconsider actions that were taken to reach the conclusion to recommend the sale of the property and to discuss options with the requestor. He stated that if there is a reason to bring it back for Council action, staff will bring it back.

8. ORDINANCE: Ordinance to rezone the properties located at 501-507 Cherry Avenue, 0 5th Street SW, and 0 6th Street SW (carried)

Matt Alfele, City Planner, presented the request. After discussion, Council agreed by unanimous consent to move the item to the Consent Agenda on the September 18th meeting for second reading and vote.

9. BY MOTION: Adoption of the 5-Year City of Charlottesville Organizational Strategic Plan Framework

Mr. Sanders summarized the Strategic Planning process for City Council and the purpose for a Strategic Plan and framework. The nine Strategic Outcome Areas in no particular order of priority are Climate Action; Organizational Excellence; Housing; Public Safety; Economic Prosperity; Education; Partnerships; Transportation; and Recreation, Arts and Culture. An annual plan will roll into the five-year plan, and he plans to provide regular updates. Future agenda items will tie to the Strategic Plan. He stated a desire to extend the contract with Raftelis to implement the Plan.

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Puryear, Council by a vote of 5-0 (Ayes: Payne, Pinkston, Puryear, Snook, Wade; Noes: none) ADOPTED the 5-Year City of Charlottesville Organizational Strategic Plan Framework.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

Mayor Snook opened the floor for comments from the public. No speakers came forward.

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council