

CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
Joint Public Hearing with Planning Commission
January 9, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 605 E. Main Street

The Charlottesville City Council met for a joint public hearing with the Charlottesville Planning Commission. Mayor Juandiego Wade called City Council to order following the Planning Commission opening of the public hearing portion of their regular meeting. The following Council members were present: Natalie Oschrin, Brian Pinkston, Lloyd Snook and Juandiego Wade.

Commissioner Habbab recused himself from participating in the public hearing based on his employment.

City Council and the Planning Commission heard a presentation from Budget Director Krisy Hammill regarding the Charlottesville Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for Fiscal Years 2025-2029 for consideration in the areas of Affordable Housing, Education, Public Safety & Justice, Facilities Management, Transportation & Access, Parks & Recreation, and Technology Infrastructure. She stated that the presentation was also made at a Planning Commission meeting in November 2023.

Steven Hicks, Interim Public Works Director, answered questions about climate action components of the CIP.

When asked about the cost of a homelessness strategy, City Manager Sam Sanders provided information about multiple projects and ongoing work to determine the scope of needs, and he stated that a composite cost has not yet been determined. He answered additional questions about Central Library renovations, Walker Upper Elementary School, and restrooms in city parks.

Council was asked whether they had questions before opening the public hearing. Mr. Snook and Mr. Pinkston suggested putting funds away in preparation for updates that will be needed for Walker Upper Elementary School. Mr. Pinkston also suggested getting the design done for Central Library renovations within the next couple of years. Ms. Oschrin asked about the Riverview Park restroom, a list of tree plantings, the bailer facility for the Solid Waste Authority, climate action initiatives and a number of other line items.

Chair Hosea Mitchell opened the public hearing.

- David Plunkett, Director of Jefferson Madison Regional Library, asked for consideration of including the Central Library renovation in the five-year CIP.
- Elizabeth Stark, city resident, suggested examining ways to take more control of the city's housing future by investing in land banks and land trust housing.
- Peter Krebs, Piedmont Environmental Council, shared ideas for improving bike and pedestrian infrastructure.
- Perri Meldon, city resident, suggested that the city invest in a land bank/land trust initiative.

Chair Mitchell closed the public hearing and the Planning Commission deliberated, moving the CIP forward to Council with recommendations to increase sidewalk funding to pre-pandemic levels and including Central Library renovations. City Council business concluded at 7:12 p.m.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council