

CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Special Meeting and Budget Development Work Session

February 1, 2024 at 5:00 PM

CitySpace, 100 5th Street NE

The Charlottesville City Council met on Thursday, February 1, 2024 in a special meeting and Fiscal Year 2025 budget work session. Mayor Juandiego Wade called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m. and Clerk of Council Kyna Thomas called the roll, noting the following members present: Natalie Oschrin, Vice Mayor Brian Pinkston, Lloyd Snook, and Mayor Juandiego Wade. Clerk Thomas received notification from Councilor Michael Payne requesting to participate in the meeting by electronic means. Mr. Payne joined the meeting via the Zoom platform and confirmed that he was unable to be present because of personal travel and that he was participating from Arlington, Virginia. Audio-visual connection was established.

On motion by Snook, seconded by Pinkston, Council voted unanimously to approve electronic participation for Councilor Payne.

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Snook, Council voted unanimously to adopt the meeting agenda.

ACTION ITEMS

1. PUBLIC HEARING/ORDINANCE: Ordinance adopting updated Neighborhood Development Services fee schedule items for Land Use Development Review and related fees (1 reading only)

Missy Creasy, Deputy Director of Neighborhood Development Services introduced the ordinance and answered clarifying questions for Council.

Mayor Wade opened the public hearing. No speakers came forward and the public hearing was closed.

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Snook, Council by a vote of 5-0 adopted the ordinance (Ayes: Oschrin, Payne, Pinkston, Snook, Wade; Noes: none).

ORDINANCE OF THE CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL: APPROVING AND ADOPTION OF A SCHEDULE OF FEES APPLICABLE TO VARIOUS SERVICES AND FUNCTIONS ADMINISTERED BY THE CITY'S DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES, RELATED TO APPLICATIONS, INSPECTIONS, PERMITS AND APPROVALS REQUIRED BY THE CHARLOTTESVILLE DEVELOPMENT CODE

2. PUBLIC HEARING/ORDINANCE: Consideration of a Development Code Amendment – Remove Retail in Residential Districts (1 reading only)

Missy Creasy, Deputy Director of Neighborhood Development Services, presented the

amendment request and stated that the public hearing addresses a scrivener's error, as advised by the City Attorney.

Mayor Wade opened the public hearing. No speakers came forward and the public hearing was closed, and Council discussion ensued.

Councilor Oschrin chose to abstain from the vote, as the Development Code was approved before her term started on City Council. Councilors addressed the need to revisit a timeline and approaches to the option of retail in residential districts.

On motion by Snook, seconded by Pinkston, Council by a vote of 3-1-1 adopted the ordinance (Ayes: Pinkston, Snook, Wade; Noes: Payne; Abstained: Oschrin).

**ORDINANCE TO AMEND NEW CHAPTER 34 OF THE CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY
CODE TO REMOVE GENERAL RETAIL IN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS**

3. PRESENTATION: Second quarter FY24 Financial Report

Budget Director Krisy Hammill presented the City's quarterly financial report.

4. PRESENTATION: December 2023 Investment Report

City Treasurer Jason Vandever presented the City's investment report.

FY 2025 Budget Development Overview and Discussion

City Assessor Jeffrey Davis provided an update on real property reassessments for 2024. Total taxable property increased from \$10,460,742,200 to \$10,923,926,200 which represents a total assessed value increase of \$463,184,000 or 5%. The reassessment of existing property increased by \$477,000,700 or 4%.

Ms. Hammill led an overview and discussion of the following FY 2025 budget development considerations:

- Budget Guidelines and Financial Policies
- First Glance at FY 2025 Revenue Projections
- Schools Budget Needs

Ms. Hammill and City Manager Sam Sanders explained key budget drivers:

- Classification and Compensation Study
- Collective Bargaining
- Retiree Cost of Living Adjustment
- City cost increase for employee healthcare

Ms. Hammill requested feedback from Council on the real estate tax rate to advertise for the first tax rate public hearing on March 18. Councilors were in general agreement to advertise a 4-cent

real estate tax rate increase from .96 to 1.00, understanding that the advertised rate is the maximum rate that could be considered for balancing the budget. Councilor Oschrin was in opposition and asked for a future presentation of budgeting scenarios. Councilor Payne recommended exploring increases in other taxes to increase revenues.

Council and staff discussed complexities of the budget including staffing, vacancies, as well as current and future demands.

Mayor Wade adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council