



CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

July 15, 2024 at 4:00 PM

Council Chamber

The Charlottesville City Council met on July 15, 2024. Mayor Juandiego Wade called the meeting to order and Clerk of Council Kyna Thomas called the roll, noting the following councilors present: Mayor Juandiego Wade, Vice Mayor Brian Pinkston and Councilors Natalie Oschrin, and Michael Payne. Councilor Lloyd Snook arrived during agenda approval.

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Payne, Council unanimously approved the meeting agenda.

REPORTS

1. REPORT: 2024 Climate Action Report

Kristel Riddervold, Director of the Office of Sustainability, and Emily Irvine, Climate Program Manager, presented the inaugural Climate Action Report. The City of Charlottesville has a long history of environmental stewardship and climate action. The City joined the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement in 2006 and established the Climate Protection Program in 2008. In 2019, the City adopted emissions reduction goals of 45% reduction (from 2011 baseline) by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050, and directed staff to write a plan for reaching those targets. In January 2023, Charlottesville City Council adopted the City's first Community Climate Action Plan as an addendum to the City's Comprehensive Plan. This report is the first update to City Council and to the public on progress made towards implementation of the Climate Action Plan.

The Climate Action Plan (CAP) includes a commitment to annual progress reports. After the adoption of the CAP last year, the City Manager directed Climate Program (CP) staff to compile and publish a Climate Action Workplan consisting of actions being taken both within the City organization and in the broader community to make progress towards implementation of the CAP. CP staff worked with internal and external partners to build the first Climate Action Workplan, which was published in July 2023. In December 2023, CP staff were directed to align the workplan with the fiscal year, and thus with the City's budget cycle. The Office of Sustainability is launching a Climate Action and Sustainability dashboard tool to help make their work more transparent and accessible to the community: www.climateaction.charlottesville.gov.

Ms. Irvine announced the Climate Resilience Cohort as a component of the Resilient Together Project:

- Seeking up to ten community-based organizations that serve disadvantaged or underserved community members
- Selected organizations will receive \$15,000 to engage in planning process and \$25,000 to implement a community-led resilience project
- Designed to center vulnerable community members centered in the climate adaptation and resilience plan
- Funded through the EPA EJG2G grant

Other Upcoming Initiatives:

- Sustainability in the Workplace Program
- C-PACE
- Municipal Green Building Standards
- Power Purchase Agreements
- School Bus Electrification Planning
- E-bike Subsidy Program
- 24/7 Compost Program Expansion
- Landscape Equipment Electrification Pilot

Staff answered questions from councilors.

2. REPORT: Vibrant Community Fund Update

Hunter Smith, Human Services Planner, presented the update and Misty Graves, Director of Human Services, helped to answer questions for Council.

The Vibrant Community Fund (VCF) panel is tasked by the City of Charlottesville with reviewing community agency program funding requests to the City and providing ratings recommendations to the Charlottesville City Manager and City Council. City staff serve as the grant managers for the Vibrant Community Fund process, including issuing the application, facilitating orientation and training, providing technical assistance to applicant agencies, organizing and staffing panel meetings, and preparing the final report. City Council makes the final budget approvals. This report included an overview of the Vibrant Community Fund process and upcoming changes for consideration. Orientations for potential applicants take place in August and the application launches in early September.

Per suggestions from the report, Council agreed to cap funding requests at either \$150,000 or \$200,000 based on staff calculations and discretion using prior years' experience.

Mayor Wade requested a presentation from CNE (the Center for Nonprofit Excellence) and other nonprofit organizations during a Council work session. Councilors agreed.

CLOSED MEETING

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Payne, Council voted unanimously to close the open meeting and convene in closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-3712 of the Virginia Code, as authorized by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, as follows:

- 1) Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) for discussion and consideration of assignment, appointment, performance, demotion, salary, discipline, and/or resignation of a specific named employee of the public body; and
- 2) Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) for discussion and consideration of the acquisition of specific real property to mitigate displacement of residents and/or their property where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body; and

- 3) Under Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(6) for discussion and consideration of the investment of public funds related to the Water Street Garage, where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the City would be adversely affected.

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Payne, Council certified by a recorded vote 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 Motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed, or considered in the closed session (Ayes: Oschrin, Payne, Pinkston, Snook, Wade; Noes: none).

BUSINESS SESSION

Council began the business session with a moment of silence.

Councilor Oschrin made a statement about Independence Day fireworks safety.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

Mayor Wade opened the floor for comments from the public.

1. Elizabeth McKenney spoke in opposition to the impending sale of the Carlton Views Mobile Home Park. She asked the Council to collaborate with Habitat for Humanity to purchase the property.
2. Marta Keane, JABA CEO, provided an update on JABA programs, and she shared testimonials from participants. Mayor Wade congratulated Ms. Keane on her upcoming retirement.
3. Joan Fenton, business owner, and Greer Achenbach, Friends of the downtown mall, spoke about business struggles on the downtown mall, with a million fewer visitors in the last year. They want to partner with the city for solutions.
4. Elizabeth Stark, city resident, spoke about the impending sale of the Carlton Views Mobile Home Park, and in opposition to it becoming a private development.
5. Bill Emory, city resident, requested that Council include in its legislative packet a request for canopy credit, establishing a fee for landowners based on ratio of tree canopy to impervious surface.
6. Ayda Mengistie, city resident and housing intern at the Legal Aid Justice Center, spoke about the impending sale of the Carlton Views Mobile Home Park, requesting that Council collaborate with Habitat for Humanity to purchase the property on behalf of residents.
7. Heidi Berthoud, city resident, spoke about a proposal to name the park at Court Square to the Lorraine and Eugene Williams Memorial Park at Court Square, as presented by the Court Square Enslavement Memorial citizen group.
8. Joan Kovatch, Dillwyn resident and downtown mall business owner, spoke about the positive impact of community aid efforts on the downtown mall.
9. Blair Williamson, Albemarle county resident with two businesses on the downtown mall,

spoke about a city ordinance regarding panhandling, and holding everyone accountable for their actions.

10. Richard H. "Freeman" Allan, member of the Court Square Enslavement Memorial citizen group, made a recommendation for creating the Lorraine and Eugene Williams Memorial Park at Court Square. He gave language for a memorial plaque.
11. Laura Goldblatt, city resident, spoke about the impending sale of the Carlton Views Mobile Home Park, and in opposition to it becoming a private development. She spoke about racial profiling on an ad for another home being sold by the developer (Be Still Properties) proposing to purchase the property.
12. Gloria Beard, city resident, spoke about high rent rates and the condition of the homeless population downtown.
13. Sinlan Means, city resident and co-owner of a business on the downtown mall, spoke about respect and dignity for the unhoused community, welcoming their presence on the downtown mall until a housing solution is found, and in opposition to increasing police presence.
14. Susan Bashline, co-owner of a business on the downtown mall, spoke about the recent unattractiveness of the downtown mall. She requested city help with to make the mall more safe and secure from trip hazards and the unhoused people. She expressed concern about unleashed dogs on the downtown mall and asked for ordinance enforcement.
15. Michael Kaplan, Friends of Cville Downtown, spoke about having an intentional park where the unhoused people can go, moving them away from the downtown mall where businesses say they are negatively impacted. He requested that the city take action to ensure that the bricks do not become an unregulated pop-up campground.

CONSENT AGENDA*

Clerk Thomas read the following items into the record, and on motion by Payne, seconded by Pinkston, Council by the following vote approved the Consent Agenda: 5-0 (Ayes: Oschrin, Payne, Pinkston, Snook, Wade; Noes: None).

3. MINUTES: April 1 regular meeting
4. RESOLUTION to appropriate funds for the Virginia Department of Education Special Nutrition Program Summer Food Service Program - \$100,000 (2nd reading)

RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR Virginia Department of Education Special Nutrition Program Summer Food Service Program - \$100,000

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville, through Parks and Recreation, has received approval for reimbursement up to \$100,000 from the Virginia Department of Education Special Nutrition Program to provide free breakfast and lunch to children attending summer camp programs; and

WHEREAS, the grant award covers the period from period June 17, 2024 through October 31, 2024.

Revenue – \$100,000

Fund: 209

Internal Order: 1900562

G/L Account: 430120

Expenditures - \$100,000

Fund: 209

Internal Order: 1900562

G/L Account: 530670

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, which the sum of \$100,000, received from the Virginia Department of Education Special Nutrition Program, is hereby appropriated in the following manner:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this appropriation is conditioned upon the receipt of \$250,000 from the Virginia Department of Education Special Nutrition Program.

5. ORDINANCE authorizing a grant of public funding to subsidize the South First Street Phase Two Redevelopment Project of Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority (2nd reading)

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A GRANT OF PUBLIC FUNDING TO THE CHARLOTTESVILLE REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AFFORDABLE FOR-RENT HOUSING UNITS AT 900 FIRST STREET SOUTH, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA IN A NOT-TO-EXCEED AMOUNT OF SIX MILLION DOLLARS (\$6,000,000.00) FOR HOUSEHOLDS OF LOW AND MODERATE AREA MEDIAN INCOME LEVELS

6. RESOLUTION of the Charlottesville City Council approving the City's participation in the Proposed Settlement of Opioid-Related Claims Against Kroger

A RESOLUTION OF THE CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL APPROVING OF THE CITY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF OPIOID-RELATED CLAIMS AGAINST KROGER AND ITS RELATED CORPORATE ENTITIES AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER OR THEIR DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE THE DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THE CITY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE SETTLEMENT

WHEREAS, the opioid epidemic that has cost thousands of human lives across the country also impacts the Commonwealth of Virginia and its counties and cities, including the City of Charlottesville, by adversely impacting the delivery of emergency medical, law enforcement, criminal justice, mental health, and substance abuse services, and other services by Charlottesville's various departments and agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia and its counties and cities, including the City of Charlottesville, have been required to allocate substantial taxpayer dollars, resources, staff energy, and time to address the damage the opioid epidemic has caused and continues to cause the citizens of the Commonwealth and Charlottesville, and

WHEREAS, a settlement proposal has been negotiated that will cause Kroger to pay over a billion dollars nationwide to resolve opioid-related claims against it; and

WHEREAS, the City has approved and adopted the Virginia Opioid Abatement Fund and Settlement Allocation Memorandum of Understanding (the “Virginia MOU”), and affirms that this pending settlement with Kroger shall be considered a “Settlement” that is subject to the Virginia MOU, and shall be administered and allocated in the same manner as the opioid settlements entered into previously with opioid distributors McKesson, Cardinal Health, and AmerisourceBergen, opioid manufacturers Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Teva Pharmaceuticals, and Allergan, and retail pharmacy chains CVS, Walgreens, and Walmart;

WHEREAS, the City’s outside counsel, Sands Anderson, has reviewed the available information about the proposed settlement and has recommended that the City participate in the settlement in order to recover its share of the funds that the settlement would provide;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Charlottesville City Council, this 15th day of July 2024, approves of the City’s participation in the proposed settlement of opioid-related claims against Kroger and its related corporate entities, and directs the City Manager or their Designee to execute the documents necessary to effectuate the City’s participation in the settlement, including the required release of claims against Kroger.

This resolution shall be effective immediately.

7. RESOLUTION to appropriate Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services Victims of Crime Act Grant Award FY24-\$123,614 (carried)

CITY MANAGER REPORT

At the request of City Manager Sam Sanders, Misty Graves, Director of Human Services, presented Youth – LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion), a program to support youth through accessing programs, services and activities that build protective factors and provide positive, healthy outlets so youth avoid juvenile justice involvement.

Mr. Sanders presented the 4th Quarter City Manager Work Plan update, summarizing FY2024 accomplishments.

ACTION ITEMS

8. **PUBLIC HEARING and ORDINANCE to amend Chapter 19 of the Charlottesville City Code - Definition of Actuarial Equivalent in Defined Benefit Plan**

Jason Vandever, City Treasurer, presented the request.

The Defined Benefit Plan pays participants a pension upon retirement payable for the participant's lifetime. However, participants have the option to elect a contingent beneficiary (or survivor). If a participant elects a contingent beneficiary, the participant's monthly pension is reduced and upon the participant's death, the beneficiary continues to receive the pension payment. The amount that the participant's pension is reduced is determined by a mortality table. According to current City Code language, the City is required to use the UP-84 Mortality Table. Since 1984, mortality experience has improved. The proposed ordinance will update the definition of actuarial equivalence in the City Code to allow the Retirement Commission to use updated mortality tables as they become available.

Mayor Wade opened public hearing. With no speakers, the mayor closed the public hearing.

Councilor Snook disclosed that his wife is a former city employee who receives a small pension, but that he has no conflict of interest.

On motion by Snook, seconded by Payne, Council by the following vote adopted the ORDINANCE TO AMEND CITY CODE CHAPTER 19 SECTION 19.91 – DEFINITIONS: 5-0 (Ayes: Oschrin, Payne, Pinkston, Snook, Wade; Noes: None).

9. ORDINANCE to Correct Ordinance #O-21-172: Amending the Agreement to Operate a Joint Convention and Visitors Bureau

Chris Engel, Director of Economic Development and member of the Charlottesville-Albemarle Convention and Visitors Bureau (CACVB) explained the need for correction was based on the incorrect version of the Agreement having been submitted when Council previously considered it. The content of the Agreement remained the same.

Mayor Wade opened public hearing. With no speakers, the mayor closed the public hearing.

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Snook, Council by the following vote adopted the ORDINANCE TO CORRECT ORDINANCE #O-21-172 TITLED: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE AGREEMENT TO OPERATE A JOINT CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU: 5-0 (Ayes: Oschrin, Payne, Pinkston, Snook, Wade; Noes: None).

10. ORDINANCE: Amend and re-enact city ordinance(s) enabling the Emergency Medical Services Agreement with the Charlottesville Albemarle Rescue Squad (C.A.R.S.) (carried)

Fire Chief Michael Thomas presented the item. In 2017 the City of Charlottesville and Charlottesville Albemarle Rescue Squad (CARS) collaborated to establish emergency medical services for the City with the Charlottesville Fire Department (CFD) as the designated emergency services agency. The City Attorney's office noticed the need for a well-defined funding relationship that aligns with current billing laws and practices; therefore, a new agreement was established allowing CARS to continue providing emergency medical services

for the City of Charlottesville as a designated component of CFD. The volunteer Charlottesville Fire Company will also come under the umbrella of CFD, and CFD will remain responsible for emergency operations and EMS billing.

The City and CARS recently updated their agreement for citywide service delivery parameters. The new agreement designates certain CARS units as part of CFD and allowances for the operating costs of these services. The City Code section is being updated to better reflect the current response model and deployment of EMS services within the City.

After discussion, Council unanimously agreed to carry the ordinance to the August 5 consent agenda for second reading and vote.

11. ORDINANCE: Proposed amendments to the Charlottesville Human Rights Ordinance - Code of the City of Charlottesville, Chapter 2, Article XV (carried)

Todd Niemeier, Director of the Human Rights Commission, presented proposed amendments to the Charlottesville Human Rights Ordinance - Code of the City of Charlottesville, Chapter 2, Article XV. The purpose of these proposed amendments was three-fold:

1. To meet the requirements to enter a Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP) workshare with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Fair Housing Office.
2. To make the sections relating to the roles and responsibilities of the Human Rights Commission (HRC) more understandable and straightforward to implement.
3. To update key components of the investigation process to reflect what has been learned from experience in the Office of Human Rights (OHR).

Council agreed to carry the ordinance to the Action Items agenda for August 5.

12. ORDINANCE authorizing a grant of public funding to subsidize the Sixth Street Redevelopment Project of the Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority (carried)

Alex Ikefuna, Director of the Office of Community Solutions summarized the request.

Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority (CRHA) is proposing the Sixth Street Phase One Redevelopment Project at 707-713 Sixth Street. This phase includes the construction of 47 affordable rental units in a 4-story apartment building. The units will range from 0% AMI to 60% AMI, including 9 one-bedroom, 26 two-bedroom, and 12 three-bedroom units. The redevelopment will also involve demolishing six existing public housing townhouses to make space for the new building. The total development cost is estimated at \$31,000,000, with construction expected to start in December 2024 and complete by December 2026. CRHA has received Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) to finance the project, which is crucial for the development of deeply affordable housing. City Council approved a financial resolution on January 3, 2022, supporting this project and designating the site as a revitalization area.

After discussion, Council unanimously agreed to carry the ordinance to the August 5 consent

agenda for second reading and vote.

13. ORDINANCE to authorize a forgivable loan to Virginia Supportive Housing for Premier Circle PSH - \$750,000 for redeveloping 405 Premier Circle into 80 permanent affordable units (carried)

Alex Ikefuna, Director of the Office of Community Solutions summarized the request.

The Virginia Supportive Housing (VSH) is proposing to redevelop a property located at 405 Premier Circle, on Route 29, as a Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) project. The project is a mixed income project and would provide 80 permanent affordable housing units for very low-income households; 12 units at less than 40% Area Median Income (AMI), and 68 units at incomes between 40% and 50% AMI.

The project currently has funding shortfall of \$1.5 million. The City and Albemarle County have agreed to split the funding gap in half and staff is requesting the City Council to approve a resolution appropriating \$750,000 from the Capital Improvement Plan Contingency Account to the Virginia Supportive Housing (VSH) to enable the redevelopment of the Premier Circle. The Piedmont Housing Alliance (PHA) owns the land, but VSH is the developer. The project cost is estimated at approximately \$24 million. The City Council approved \$186,722 for this project in FY 2023 under the Charlottesville Affordable Housing Fund (CAHF) allocation process. Construction is scheduled to start in May 2024. The cost for this request is \$750,000, which was already budgeted in the CIP contingency account and appropriated by City Council on January 22, 2024.

Council unanimously agreed to carry the ordinance to the August 5 consent agenda for second reading and vote.

14. RESOLUTION of Financial Support for 501 Cherry Avenue Redevelopment Project

Chris Engel, Director of Economic Development, presented the request.

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Payne, Council by the following vote approved the resolution: 5-0 (Ayes: Oschrin, Payne, Pinkston, Snook, Wade; Noes: None).

RESOLUTION

Financial Resolution Supporting 501-A Cherry Avenue and 501-B Cherry Avenue (501 Cherry Avenue site)

Parcel Numbers: 290177000, 290178000, 290178100, 290178200, 290179000

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia hereby commits to pursue a performance agreement or similar tool that shares a portion of the incremental increase in real estate tax created by the improvements contemplated for this site in the form of an annual grant for a specified period of years. The grant will support the redevelopment of the overall 501 Cherry

Avenue project site (includes 501-A Cherry Avenue and 501-B Cherry Avenue) and the commitment will specifically help to subsidize the creation of approximately 71 newly constructed affordable housing units at the 501 Cherry Avenue project, in the City of Charlottesville. The funding will be documented pursuant to the required forms and agreements of the City. This commitment will be made to Piedmont Housing Alliance.

15. RESOLUTION to enact a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between City of Charlottesville and Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Steven Hicks, Director of Public Works, presented the request.

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Snook, Council by the following vote approved the resolution: 5-0 (Ayes: Oschrin, Payne, Pinkston, Snook, Wade; Noes: None).

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL TO ENACT A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE AND VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville has been unable to advance development of transportation projects funded by Virginia Department of Transportation primarily due to lack of sufficient project management staff; and

WHEREAS, these transportation projects will improve health and safety and benefit the City's transportation system; and

WHEREAS, transportation projects can be turned over to the Virginia Department of Transportation for project management, subject to the terms of a Memorandum of Agreement and a Project Agreement specific to the individual transportation project;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Charlottesville City Council, this 15th day of July, 2024, enacts the Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Charlottesville and the Virginia Department of Transportation.

This resolution shall be effective immediately.

16. RESOLUTION to accept Right of Way Acquisition and Eminent Domain/Quick Take Process and Procedures

Steven Hicks, Director of Public Works, presented the request.

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Snook, Council by the following vote approved the resolution: 5-0 (Ayes: Oschrin, Payne, Pinkston, Snook, Wade; Noes: None).

RESOLUTION
A RESOLUTION OF THE CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL
**TO ACCEPT RIGHT OF WAY ACQUISITION AND EMINENT DOMAIN/
QUICK TAKE PROCESS AND PROCEDURES**

WHEREAS, timely processes to acquire the necessary Right of Way or easements for City transportation projects are an essential component of completing these projects within the desired timeframe and budget; and

WHEREAS, the process for acquiring necessary Right of Way must be fair, transparent, and consistent with State and Federal law and procedures; and

WHEREAS, a documented process and procedure will help to ensure that the City of Charlottesville acquires necessary Right of Way and easements in a timely manner that is also fair, transparent, and consistent with State and Federal law and procedures;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Charlottesville City Council, this 15th day of July 2024, accepts the presented Acquisition Procedures and Policy Manual. Further, the Department of Public Works may, as necessary, update the Acquisition Procedures and Policy Manual consistent with State and Federal requirements and best practices in the field.

This resolution shall be effective immediately.

GENERAL BUSINESS

17. PUBLIC COMMENT: Accepting public comments on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan - Court Square and Market Street Parks

William Bassett, Parks and Recreation provided background on the project. The City of Charlottesville is developing a Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan for the first time in 20 years. The Plan will provide strategic direction and vision as the department strives to meet current and emerging public needs, as well as remain the primary steward of the significant natural, cultural, and historic resources. The City added additional site specific framework plans for Court Square Park and Market Street Park to develop appropriate or recommended usage of these parks since the removal of confederate statues. PROS Consulting and their partner Kimley-Horn, who was hired to develop the Master Plan, is utilizing a variety of community engagement tactics and this public comment session is an opportunity for the public to provide thoughts and comments on future usage of the parks.

Tristan Cleveland from Kimley-Horn consultants presented the Park Concept Framework Plans for Court Square and Market Street Parks. Some questions for members of the public to consider during this meeting's feedback session were:

- What are the community values that need to be reflected in the improvements for Court Square and/or Market Street Park?

- What are the experiences that need to be provided at Court Square and/or Market Street Park?

Mayor Wade opened the floor for public comment:

1. Dr. Andrea Douglas, Executive Director of the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center, provided information about the Swords into Plowshares project and stated that the intention is for the final report to be turned over to the City. She requested, based on Swords into Plowshares project survey feedback, that the park spaces be interactive, a representation of equity, and places where children can play.

With no additional speakers, the public hearing was closed.

Responding to the mayor, Chuck D'Aprix, Downtown Economics, and Cheryl Gross-Wright, Community Engagement and Charrette Associates, LLC, described the public engagement process with individuals and focus groups.

Councilor Payne recommended defining these public spaces with intentionality, engaging with history of local and national significance.

Councilor Oschrin requested that site-specific historical plaques be incorporated in the design of the spaces, ADA accessibility, more dedicated space for children, shade structures, and for Market Street Park to collaborate with Central Library for programming. She stated that she would be in favor of closing the street between the library and Market Street Park. She suggested that having the parks ready for use by the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Vice Mayor Pinkston spoke about honoring the pain and history of the parks, engaging with the Historic Resource Committee, Deputy City Manager Ashley Marshall and others to tell stories authentic to Charlottesville with intentionality, recognizing why the statues were there and why they are gone, and looking to the future.

Councilor Snook spoke about Court Square Park and asked consultants to think about how the space could be used to tell a larger story of Charlottesville's history that can be consumed within an hour for someone visiting.

Mayor Wade mentioned a recent community request to name a park for Lorraine and Eugene Williams, local civil rights leaders.

Riaan Anthony, Director of Parks and Recreation, encouraged the public to engage in public engagement sessions about the future of Parks and Recreation.

18. WRITTEN REPORT: Rivanna Authorities Quarterly Report

Mayor Wade acknowledged receipt of the written Rivanna Authorities Quarterly Report.

COMMUNITY MATTERS (2)

Mayor Wade opened the floor for comments from the public.

- Don Gathers, city resident, spoke about including the homeless population in conversations about Market Street Park. He suggested another date and time for a parks and recreation meeting at Tonsler Park since it coincides with another event. He expressed concern about the condition of the Police Civilian Oversight Board and requested that a new attorney be selected to represent the board.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council