



**CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JOINT MEETING WITH
ALBEMARLE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.**

County Administration Building, 401 McIntire Rd, Charlottesville, VA, Room 241

The Charlottesville City Council convened in a special meeting on Tuesday, September 17, 2024, with the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors. Chair Jim Andrews called the Board of Supervisors to order with the following supervisors participating: Chair Jim Andrews, Vice Chair Diantha McKeel, and Supervisors Ned Gallaway, Bea LaPisto-Kirtley, Ann Mallek, and Mike Pruitt. Mayor Juandiego Wade called the City Council to order with the following councilors present: Mayor Juandiego Wade, Vice Mayor Brian Pinkston, and Councilors Natalie Oschrin, Michael Payne, and Lloyd Snook.

The meeting began with a welcome and introductions of Supervisors, Councilors and staff. Mayor Wade thanked the County for hosting the joint meeting and acknowledged the importance of the adjacent communities working together as governing bodies and amongst staff.

City Manager Sam Sanders and County Executive Jeff Richardson led a review and discussion of City of Charlottesville Use of Revenue Sharing report which is produced annually in August, and the Albemarle County and City of Charlottesville Partnership List. Mr. Sanders noted that the City provides approximately an additional \$5 Million in services above the revenue provided from the County. Mr. Richardson stated that partnerships maximize shared service delivery at the lowest cost, identify capacity, and set up the community for future success. Councilors and Supervisors alternated making comments about partnerships and thanked city and county leaders for the level of trust and transparency demonstrated.

Alice Raucher, University Architect, University of Virginia, presented the Land Use and Environmental Planning Committee (LUEPC) Report and answered questions.

- The Three-Party Agreement, adopted in 1986, was established to promote cooperation in planning and community development between the University, City, and County. The Planning and Coordination Council (PACC) was established at the same time to promote and manage the cooperative effort. The Three-Party Agreement remains in effect as to land use planning between the City, County, and UVA.
- In 2019, by joint agreement, PACC was reconstituted as the Land Use and Environmental Planning Committee to share and coordinate land use and development plans and projects; consider environmental and infrastructure issues facing the community; and, from time to time, advance ideas and solutions that support our mutual advantage. The LUEPC may also serve as an advisory committee to the City, County, and UVA. Through its work, the Committee further seeks to ensure that the actions, policies, and processes of the Committee are reflective of an ongoing commitment by the entities to support an equitable and inclusive community.
- The Committee defines equity as all community members having access to community benefits and opportunities needed to reach their full potential and to experience optimal well-being and quality of life; inclusion means that all peoples shall be respected and valued as members of this community. Bi-annual reports are provided to the City, County and UVA.

The Committee is comprised of members from Albemarle County, the City of Charlottesville, the University of Virginia, the University of Virginia Foundation, and the Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority. Agendas and minutes from LUEPC meetings are posted within a few days of the meetings.

Ann Wall, Deputy County Executive, and Ben Chambers, Transit Planning Manager for the City of Charlottesville, presented the Regional Transit Authority Update. The presentation focused on the work to-date in forming CARTA (Charlottesville Albemarle Regional Transit Authority), benefits of a Regional Transit Authority, and next steps in the work plan. Discussion ensued about having a unified voice from the County and City to engage at the General Assembly level for a funding mechanism; about a positive turning point for Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District when university transit merged with public transportation; about the need for JAUNT and UVA to join the regional authority; and about existing legislation in other jurisdictions. Participants agreed that local authority should be established by the governing bodies before making a request to the General Assembly. Mayor Wade mentioned that he has been in contact with the mayor of Blacksburg to learn about the impact of a partnership between public and university transit, and the university involvement has had a positive impact on the whole system. Transit Director Garland Williams referenced his experience with GRTC (Greater Richmond Transit Company) and stated that it took about three years to get legislation passed by the General Assembly. Supervisor Gallaway challenged the notion of the surrounding counties waiting to see what happens in Charlottesville and Albemarle, and suggested that other localities engage in advocating and lobbying for regional transit.

Garland Williams, Charlottesville Area Transit (CAT) Director, provided an overview of the May 2024 site visit to the Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, Mass Transit District site. He stated that CAT engaged a consultant to develop a transition plan for paving the way to zero emission fleet. Charlottesville City Council in February 2024 adopted the Alternative Fuels Transition Plan for CAT to guide them toward reaching the city's carbon neutrality goals by 2050. CAT's goal is for the fleet to reach carbon neutrality by 2040, piloting two potential fuels – battery electric and hydrogen. The primary objective of the trip to Champaign-Urbana was to visit the Mass Transit District (MTD) and observe their groundbreaking hydrogen fuel cell technology up close. CAT is aiming to be the first hydrogen-fueled fleet in the Commonwealth, while balancing with battery electric buses for redundancy. Mr. Williams acknowledged the significant financial implications of funding new infrastructure, new buses, transportation of fuel and maintenance of a zero emissions fleet. MTD trip highlights were the visual and practical insights gained into hydrogen technology and the reality of a zero emissions fleet. To move toward the city's sustainability goals, after December 31, 2027, the City of Charlottesville will purchase no additional diesel fueled buses. Supervisor McKeel suggested bringing a representative from Champaign-Urbana to make a presentation in Charlottesville and Albemarle. A delegation trip to Champaign-Urbana is planned for the end of October to include representatives from the City, County, City Schools, and the University of Virginia.

The governing bodies engaged in board-to-board discussion, including, the work being done in Blacksburg with Virginia Tech, a model of cooperation and strategic planning. Supervisor McKeel asked what a strategic model of cooperation would look like between the City, County and University. Supervisor Gallaway asked about impacts of the student population and on weekend

visitors as indicated by flights into the Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport. Responding to a question from Vice Mayor Pinkston, County Executive Richardson mentioned that the article included in the packet regarding Virginia Tech was published in The Daily Progress in May of this year and sparked interest locally. City Manager Sanders spoke about looking for areas where the city and county overlap. Mr. Pinkston reflected on the needs expressed by citizens, and the importance of a regional approach to solving some of the problems with minimal funds. Councilor Payne expressed a desire to convene a body of members representing the City, County and UVA to discuss immediate locality needs that are not addressed by LUEPC. Mayor Wade expressed the intention for City Council and the Board of Supervisors to meet more regularly, and Supervisor McKeel mentioned that the University of Virginia should also participate.

Both governing bodies adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council