



CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
November 4, 2024 at 4:00 PM
Council Chamber

The Charlottesville City Council met on Monday, November 4, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. Mayor Juandiego Wade called the meeting to order, and Clerk of Council Kyna Thomas called the roll, noting all councilors present: Mayor Juandiego Wade, Vice Mayor Brian Pinkston and Councilors Natalie Oschrin, Michael Payne, and Lloyd Snook.

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

REPORTS

1. REPORT: Charlottesville Area Alliance Annual Report

Sue Friedman and Kris Miller, Co-Chairs of the Charlottesville Area Alliance (CAA) Steering Committee, made the presentation and highlighted that CAA was awarded three consultants to assist in pursuing AARP's eight domains of a Livable Community. Misty Graves, Human Services Director, provided the 2023 Annual Report to Council. A major focus for CAA in 2024 was to conduct a bus stop audit for services friendly to older individuals, and the information will be shared in a final report by December. CAA was voted the #1 age-friendly community initiative in the state of Virginia by AARP.

2. REPORT: VDOT Portfolio Update

James Freas, Deputy City Manager for Operations introduced a proposal to revise the list of city projects within the Virginia Department of Transportation portfolio. Mr. Freas along with Public Works Director Steven Hicks, City Engineer Brennen Duncan, and Transportation Planner Ben Chambers reviewed a list of projects, previous estimates, scope changes, revised estimates, and recommendations for continuation or cancelation, with a desire to reallocate funds to bring remaining projects to completion. City Manager Sam Sanders spoke about the need to scale the project portfolio to a manageable workload.

Councilor Snook requested a quarterly or periodically available chart of projects and their status. Mr. Freas mentioned that the updated website is a step in the right direction and the chart should be something that staff can develop.

With no items for closed session, Mayor Wade recessed the meeting from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.

BUSINESS SESSION

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Wade reminded the public about the "Telling Their Stories" educational event on November 9, hosted by The Veterans Committee of Central Virginia, commemorating the African American military experience. He also announced his participation along with Fire Chief Michael Thomas in the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank "Shop to Stop Hunger" event on Thursday November 7.

RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

- **PROCLAMATION: Lung Cancer Awareness Month**

Councilor Payne read a proclamation for Lung Cancer Awareness Month.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

Mayor Wade opened the floor for comments from the public.

1. Renee Byrd, city resident, spoke about a petition for a crosswalk at Elliot Avenue and 2nd Street for increased safety, and she suggested additional safety measures.
2. Kevin Cox, city resident, spoke in support of the petition for a marked crosswalk and other safety measures at Elliot Avenue and 2nd Street for increased safety.
3. David Walker Jr., city resident, spoke about homelessness in Charlottesville and other city challenges
4. Dan Schleifer, city resident, spoke about potential loopholes in the City's noise ordinance. He requested that City Council ask staff to develop an ordinance...
5. Aileen Bartels, city resident, spoke in support of the petition for a marked crosswalk at Elliot Avenue and 2nd Street and asked that pedestrian safety be prioritized.
6. Chelsee Braun, city resident, spoke in support of the petition for a marked crosswalk and other safety measures at Elliot Avenue and 2nd Street.
7. Rebecca Cobbs, city resident, spoke in support of the petition for a marked crosswalk and other safety measures at Elliot Avenue and 2nd Street.
8. Christina Rieflack, city resident, spoke in support of the petition for a marked crosswalk at Elliot Avenue and 2nd Street. She requested more proactive solutions for the city app (MyCville) and close call reporting.
9. Rory Stolzenberg, city resident, spoke about the decision-making process regarding the proposal to cancel some VDOT projects to right-size the city's portfolio, and he requested more transparency.
10. Elizabeth Bikowsky, city resident, spoke in support of the petition for a marked crosswalk at Elliot Avenue and 2nd Street. She spoke about the need for increased pedestrian safety in other areas.

CONSENT AGENDA

Clerk of Council Kyna Thomas read the following Consent Agenda items into the record, and on motion by Pinkston, seconded by Snook, Council voted 5-0 to adopt the Consent Agenda.

3. MINUTES: October 21 regular meeting
4. RESOLUTION to Appropriate Community Development Block Grant COVID Relief Funds (CDBG-CV) from HUD, in the Amount of \$90,321.98 (2nd reading)

RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS

Resolution to Appropriate CDBG-CV Covid Relief Funds from HUD, in the amount of \$90,321.98

WHEREAS the City of Charlottesville has been recognized as an entitlement community by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and, as such, City Council has previously approved certain sums of federal grant receipts to support the city's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Fund; and

WHEREAS the City now has a balance of previously awarded CDBG-CV COVID relief funds from HUD that have not yet been appropriated within the city's local accounts; and

WHEREAS appropriating these funds will constitute an important step in making these funds available to support meaningful and high impact community development activities through the city’s CDBG program, as approved by HUD;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that the proposed appropriation of previously unappropriated CDBG-CV funds from HUD be approved and that the Office of Community Solutions is hereby authorized to work to identify worthy programs to be brought before Council for consideration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in support of this proposal, a new appropriation be made within the CDBG Fund by the respective amount shown below:

<i>Source</i>	<i>Revenue Account</i>	<i>Fund</i>	<i>GL</i>	<i>Amount</i>
CDBG-CV	3914004000	218	431110 Federal Grants	\$90,321.98

<i>Source</i>	<i>Expenditure Account</i>	<i>Fund</i>	<i>GL</i>	<i>Amount</i>
CDBG-CV	3914004000	218	55999 Lump Sum Appropriation	\$90,321.98

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this appropriation is conditioned upon receipt of not less than \$90,321.98 in funds from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development.

- RESOLUTION to appropriate funds from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development - Virginia Homeless Solutions Program Grant amendment - \$93,564 (2nd reading)

RESOLUTION
Appropriating Funding in the Amount of \$93,564 To Be Received from the Virginia Homeless Solutions Program

WHEREAS, The City of Charlottesville, through the Office of Community Solutions, has been notified that it will be awarded a grant from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development for the Virginia Homeless Solutions Program (V.H.S.P.) in the amount of \$93,564,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that upon receipt of the funding from VHSP from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, said funding, anticipated in the sum of \$93,564, is hereby appropriated in the following manner:

Revenues

\$93,564 Fund: 209 I/O: #1900566 G/L: 430120 State (Federal Pass-thru)

Expenditures

\$93,564 Fund: 209 I/O: #1900566 G/L Account: 530670

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this appropriation is conditioned upon the receipt of \$93,564 from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development.

6. RESOLUTION to appropriate funding from the Supreme Court of Virginia Behavioral Health Docket Grant - \$115,400.58 (2nd reading)

RESOLUTION
Appropriating Albemarle-Charlottesville Therapeutic Docket Grant Award
\$115,400.58

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Virginia awarded the Supreme Court of Virginia Behavioral Health Docket Grant in the amount of \$115,400.58 for the Albemarle-Charlottesville Therapeutic Docket in order to fund salaries, benefits, and operating expenses; and

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville serves as the fiscal agent for this grant program; and

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County both have dedicated local matches to this grant, totaling \$186,538; and

WHEREAS, the grant award covers the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that the sum of \$115,400.58, received as a grant from the Supreme Court of Virginia, is hereby appropriated in the following manner:

Revenues

\$115,400.58 Fund: Internal Order: #1900569 G/L Account: 430110 (State Grant)

Expenditures

\$115,400.58 Fund: Internal Order: #1900569 G/L Account: 530670

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this appropriation is conditioned upon the receipt of \$114,500.58 from the Supreme Court of Virginia.

7. RESOLUTION for the *2024 ReadyKids Youth Services* Proposal, a Major Amendment to the Program Year 2024-25 Annual Action Plan in the amount of \$50,000 (CDBG-CV) (2nd reading)

RESOLUTION
Resolution to Approve the *2024 ReadyKids Youth Services* Project and to appropriate Associated CDBG-CV Covid Relief Funds, a Major Amendment in the Amount of \$50,000

WHEREAS the City of Charlottesville has been recognized as an entitlement community by the U.S. Dept of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and, as such, City Council has previously approved certain sums of federal grant receipts to support the city's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Fund; and

WHEREAS the City now has the opportunity to support children and families in need of critical youth services growing out of the recent Covid pandemic; and

WHEREAS this project will support Council's Strategic Plan Framework vision of the City of Charlottesville as a community in which everyone thrives by strengthening partnerships between the City and its youth services providers and as a city committed to education and supportive of broad and

well-integrated educational opportunities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that the proposed project as presented here today before Council is approved and that the Office of Community Solutions is hereby authorized to begin work to implement said program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in support of this program, appropriations made within the CDBG Fund be amended by the respective amounts shown below and that the balance accumulated in the Fund as a result of these adjustments be hereby appropriated to the revenue account indicated below, as follows:

<i>Expenditure Account(s)</i>	<i>Fund</i>	<i>Proposed Reductions</i>	<i>Proposed New Balance</i>
1900379	218	(\$1,807.22)	\$0.00
1900397	218	(26,753.89)	\$0.00
3914004000	218	(\$21,438.89)	\$94,925.71

<i>Revenue Account</i>	<i>Fund</i>	<i>CC</i>	<i>Proposed Addition</i>	<i>New Balance</i>
FY25 ReadyKids Youth Services CDBG-CV PY24+	218	1900572	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00

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 the execution of the funded program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any unspent funds available after this HUD-funded activity is completed and closed out with HUD will hereby be returned to the unallocated lump sum account within Fund 218 to be reallocated to suitable new activities by Council at a later date.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these appropriations are conditioned upon the receipt of not less than \$50,000.00 in CDBG-CV COVID relief funds from HUD for Program Year 2024-25 activities.

FINALLY, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the funding award appropriated within this resolution will be provided as a grant to a private non-profit, charitable organization ('subrecipient') and shall be utilized by the subrecipient solely for the purpose stated within their approved Scope of Work. The City Manager is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with the subrecipient named herein 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.

8. RESOLUTION for donation of antique fire engine to Old Dominion Historical Fire Society, Inc.

RESOLUTION

Donation of Antique Fire Engine to Old Dominion Historical Fire Society, Inc.

WHEREAS, in 2007 the Old Dominion Historical Fire Society (ODHFS) donated Engine 2, a 1929 Seagrave pumper, back to the Charlottesville Fire Department (CFD); and

WHEREAS, the engine's intended display has not been feasible, and the Engine has been stored in a

shipping container at the Ridge Street Fire Station for some time; and as the CFD lacks adequate storage space or a display area, and the Engine is no longer operational; and

WHEREAS, the ODHFS intends to donate the Engine to the Virginia Fire Service Museum in Roanoke, Virginia.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Charlottesville that Engine 2, a 1929 Seagrave pumper, is hereby donated to the Old Dominion Historical Fire Society, Inc.

9. RESOLUTION for Compromise of Claim: Water and Wastewater Leak Credit of \$10,887.26 for University of Virginia Foundation

RESOLUTION

Approval of a Compromise of Claim in the Form of a Leak Credit of \$10,887.26 for Water and Wastewater Charges to the Utility Account of University of Virginia Foundation.

WHEREAS, the Director of Finance, City Attorney, and City Manager concur that circumstances associated with a leak at 1982 Arlington Boulevard warrant a credit in the amount of \$10,887.26 for water and wastewater charges, and in accordance with City Code Sec. 11-132(4), City Council has authority to grant such a compromise of claim; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia that the Director of Finance is hereby authorized to apply a credit of \$10,887.26 to the utility account of “University of Virginia Foundation”.

10. RESOLUTION for Virginia Department of Social Services (V.D.S.S.) Temporary Aid to Needy Families (T.A.N.F.) Grants – \$69,312.67 (Carried)
11. RESOLUTION to appropriate Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services Victims of Crime Act Grant Award FY24-\$123,000 (Carried)
12. RESOLUTION for Virginia Department of Education Special Nutrition Program Child and Adult Care Food Program - \$20,000 (Carried)

CITY MANAGER REPORT

James Freas, Deputy City Manager for Operations, announced safety improvements at 1st Street and Elliot Street as an immediate measure following a recent fatal event in the crosswalk. He stated that staff has been instructed to continue to evaluate and implement safety infrastructure within a short period of time.

City Manager Sanders announced the commencement of leaf collection in the city, and informed those who would like text alerts to message 434-771-0251. He announced two communication tools used by the City:

- City Scoop, a bi-weekly community newsletter will be available in November in hard copy and by email request.
- Inside Charlottesville, the City’s public affairs television program airs on Charlottesville’s TV10 Fridays and Sundays at 7:00 p.m. and on Saturdays and Mondays at 9:00 a.m.

City Treasurer Jason Vandever presented an overview of the City's retirement plan and the Retirement Commission. Budget Director Krisy Hammill presented the quarterly financial update. Commissioner of the Revenue Todd Divers answered Council questions about sales tax revenue.

ACTION ITEMS

13. PUBLIC HEARING and RESOLUTION for the 2024 Parks & Recreation Pollocks Branch Trail Bridge Accessibility Enhancements Project, a Minor Amendment to the Program Year 2024-25 Annual Action Plan, in the amount of \$55,527.91 (CDBG)

Anthony Warn, Grants Analyst, introduced the resolution for public hearing. The City of Charlottesville is an Entitlement Community (EC) as designated by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) and, as such, is the recipient of annual allocations of federal funds through the Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) program. These funds are provided to the city by HUD to support the city's ongoing community development and affordable housing activities. This proposal seeks to continue the city's history of using CDBG funds for meaningful and high impact community development activities by supporting the development of an accessible trail bridge in the Ridge Street/South First Street neighborhood.

Brenda Kelley, Redevelopment Manager, provided background details about planning and previous actions by Council to appropriate funds. Conceived as part of the larger Pollocks Branch Walkable Watershed Concept Plan first approved by Council in 2016. This new Pollocks Branch Trail Bridge will provide residents and visitors new safe, stable and accessible pedestrian connectivity to the creek and the emerging Rivanna Trails network, crossing the water at the end of Rockland Avenue and leading directly into CRHA's South First Street residential community. In addition, this neighborhood is expected to experience a significant growth in population with the redevelopment of the Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority's (CRHA) nearby South First Street residential complex. This trail and the bridge will also provide new and safe access to the developing Pollocks Branch greenway to Jordan Park. Responding to Councilor Payne, Ms. Kelley anticipated the project taking eight months for construction, but noted factors that could impact the timing.

Mayor Wade opened the public hearing.

- Peter Krebs, Piedmont Environmental Council, spoke in support of this resident-initiated project. He spoke about the walkable watershed as a pedestrian connection to downtown.

With no further speakers, Mayor Wade closed the public hearing.

Chris Gensic, Parks and Trails Planner, provided information about the process once the resolution is approved.

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Oschrin, Council by a vote of 5-0 approved the resolution, waiving the second reading. (Ayes: Oschrin, Payne, Pinkston, Snook, Wade; Noes: none)

RESOLUTION

To Approve the 2024 Parks & Recreation Pollocks Branch Trail Bridge Accessibility Enhancements Project and to Appropriate Associated CDBG Funds, a Minor Amendment in the Amount of \$55,527.91

WHEREAS the City of Charlottesville has been recognized as an entitlement community by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and, as such, City Council has previously approved certain sums of federal grant receipts to support the city's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program; and

WHEREAS the City now has the opportunity to remove a significant longstanding barrier to access and enhance connectivity to the city's recreational spaces and trails for residents and visitors to the city alike; and

WHEREAS this project will support Council’s Strategic Plan Framework vision of supporting access to recreational opportunities and greenspace;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that the proposed project as presented here today before Council is approved and that the Office of Community Solutions is hereby authorized to begin work to implement said program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in support of this program, appropriations made within the CDBG Fund be amended by the respective amounts shown below and that the balance accumulated in the Fund as a result of these adjustments be hereby appropriated to the revenue account indicated below, as follows:

<i>Fund</i>	<i>SAP Expenditure Account(s)</i>	<i>Proposed Reduction(s)</i>
218	P-00001-05-19	-\$26,513.05
218	3914001000	-\$29,014.86
Subtotal =		-\$55,527.91

<i>SAP Account Code</i>	<i>SAP Revenue Account</i>	<i>Proposed Addition(s)</i>
1900567	FY25 Pollocks Branch Trail Bridge P&R PY24+	\$55,527.91
Subtotal =		\$55,527.91

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 the execution of the funded program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any unspent funds available after this HUD-funded activity is completed and closed out with HUD will hereby be returned to the unallocated lump sum account within Fund 218 to be reallocated to suitable new activities by Council at a later date.

FINALLY, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the funding award appropriated within this resolution will be provided as a grant to a private non-profit, charitable organization (‘subrecipient’) and shall be utilized by the subrecipient solely for the purpose stated within their approved Scope of Work. The City Manager is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with the subrecipient named herein 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.

14. ORDINANCE for Mas Canopy Footer Encroachment Agreement (2nd reading)

Benjamin Koby, City Planner, summarized the request, which was laid over from the October 21, 2024, City Council meeting. He reiterated that staff is generally against this type of encroachment request.

The applicant team answered questions from Council. regarding sidewalk repair, design elements, alternate designs, and existing conditions. Councilor Snook expressed concerns about past issues with encroachments. Councilor Oschrin stated a preference for the applicant to find another solution that does not require and encroachment.

On motion by Payne, seconded by Pinkston, Council by a vote of 3-2 approved the encroachment agreement. (Ayes: Payne, Pinkston, Wade; Noes: Oschrin, Snook)

**ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ENCROACHMENT OF A CANOPY FOOTER
CONSTRUCTED PARTIALLY ON PROPERTY IDENTIFIED ON CITY TAX MAP 57 AS
PARCEL 22 AND HAVING THE ADDRESS OF 904-906 MONTICELLO RD**

**15. RESOLUTION authorizing Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority (CRHA) to
create a Corporation and/or Limited Liability Corporation (LLC)**

Alex Ikefuna, Director of Community Solutions, presented the request to create Westhaven Phase One, LLC, which will construct, operate and finance the construction of new apartment units on property at the current Westhaven public housing development. John Sales, CRHA Executive Director, provided details about the project and he emphasized the magnitude of management needed for relocating families during the project.

After discussion Council continued the item to the November 18 consent agenda pending City Attorney review of the resolution to review and confirm wording related to a separate LLC, and to make minor clerical corrections.

GENERAL BUSINESS

**16. BY MOTION: Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission Proposed Legislative
Positions for 2025**

David Blount, TJPDC Legislative Liaison, presented the Planning District's proposed legislative positions for the 2025 General Assembly session. As in past years Council indicated approval of the TJPDC positions except for: General Government - "The state should maintain the principles of sovereign immunity for local governments and their employees, to include regional jail officers", and Environmental and Water Quality - "We oppose legislation mandating expansion of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act's coverage area."

On motion by Snook, seconded by Payne, Council voted unanimously in support of the TJPDC legislative positions as discussed.

17. BY MOTION: City of Charlottesville Legislative Priorities for 2025

Councilor Snook presented the City's legislative priorities to be advocated during the 2025 General Assembly session and opened discussion for additional items. Kristel Riddervold, Director of Sustainability, provided context for recommendations she made related to sustainability. After Council agreed to include sustainability priorities, Councilor Snook stated that he would revise the final document.

On motion by Snook, seconded by Payne, Council voted unanimously in support of the City legislative priorities as presented and amended.

COMMUNITY MATTERS (2)

Mayor Wade opened the floor for comments from the public. There were no speakers.

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council