



CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
January 21, 2025 at 4:00 PM
Council Chamber

The Charlottesville City Council convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 21, 2025. Mayor Juandiego Wade called the meeting to order and stated that some of the items on the agenda were continued from the January 6th meeting date which was postponed due to hazardous weather conditions. 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 Pinkston, seconded by Payne, Council unanimously approved the meeting agenda.

REPORTS

1. PRESENTATION: State of the Forest Annual Report by the Charlottesville Tree Commission

a. State of The Forest Presentation - January 2025

Makshya Tolbert, Tree Commission Chairperson, provided an overview of the State of the Forest report and background information. Susan McKinnon, incoming Chairperson, presented a letter from the Urban Forester, details about tree plantings and tree canopy, and suggested strategies for increasing tree canopy as well as managing invasive species. The Tree Commission recommended that the City hire a second Urban Forester to be housed in Neighborhood Development Services.

b. Storm Water Fee Presentation - January 2025

Tyler Miller presented suggestions from the Tree Commission for changes to the Stormwater Program (Code Section 10-10).

Councilors followed up with questions, accepted the report, and stated that city staff will take time to consider the recommendations before bringing an action item before Council. City Manager Sam Sanders stated that he received a request from staff for an additional Urban Forester and that a work session will be scheduled for later in the year regarding stormwater. Most tree plantings would need to be in the greater community since the local government controls a small portion of city land.

CLOSED MEETING

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Oschrin, Council voted unanimously (Ayes: Oschrin, Payne, Pinkston, Snook, Wade; Noes: none) to meet in closed session as authorized by Section 2.2-3712 of the Virginia Code, specifically:

- (1) Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) for discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, and/or of the disposition of publicly held real property where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body; and
- (2) Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) for discussion and consideration of prospective candidates to be interviewed for the Police Civilian Oversight Board; and discussion of members to be appointed to the Charlottesville Albemarle Regional Transit Authority (CARTA).

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

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Snook, Council appointed Brian Pinkston and Natalie Oschrin to CARTA by a vote of 5-0 (Ayes: Oschrin, Payne, Pinkston, Snook, Wade; Noes: none).

BUSINESS SESSION

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice Mayor Pinkston announced a Martin Luther King, Jr., celebration program to be held on January 26 at Mt. Zion First African Baptist Church.

Councilor Oschrin announced the City's e-Bike subsidy lottery and e-Bike Demo Day on January 29 at Ting Pavilion.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

Mayor Wade opened the floor for comments from the public.

1. Allison Wrabel, city resident, spoke about the need to reinstate certain downtown bus routes, particularly in light of the closure of Reid's Market. She requested additional bus service along routes with grocery stores.
2. Anne Benham, city resident, spoke about the Tree Commission Report and enforceable zoning. She urged increasing the tree canopy through planting and zoning enforcement for new developments.
3. Susan Kruse, Charlottesville Climate Collaborative Executive Director, spoke about federal executive orders affecting climate initiatives, and she spoke about the need for the City to strengthen action suggested in the Natural Gas Decarbonization Study.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

2. MINUTES: December 16, 2024, regular meeting
3. RESOLUTION to appropriate grant funds from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation in the amount of \$393,456.60 for the Pollocks Branch Pedestrian/Trail Bridge (2nd reading)

RESOLUTION

Appropriation of Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation grant funds in the amount of \$393,456.60 for the Pollocks Branch Pedestrian/Trail Bridge

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville seeks to expand access to the city's network of parks and trails, support recreational enjoyment, and promote forest and stream preservation and restoration purposes; and

WHEREAS, following a competitive application process, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation notified the City of Charlottesville of award of grant funding in the total amount of \$393,456.60 to assist with the construction of the Pollocks Branch Pedestrian/Trail Bridge; and

WHEREAS, the grant award covers the period August 21, 2024 through August 31, 2027; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager, or their designee, is hereby authorized to sign the necessary documents to effectuate acceptance of the grants; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, that the sum of \$393,456.60, received as a grant from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, is hereby appropriated in the following manner:

<u>Revenues</u>	Fund:	209	Order: 2600050	G/L:	430120 State/Fed Pass-thru
\$314,765.28					
\$ 78,691.32	Fund:	209	Order: 2600050	G/L:	498010 Transfer from Other
<u>Expenditures</u>					
\$314,765.28	Fund:	209	Order: 2600050	G/L:	541080 Acq Bridge
<u>Transfer From</u>					
\$ 78,691.32	Fund:	426	WBS: P-00818	G/L:	561209 Transfer to Grants

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this appropriation is conditioned upon the receipt of \$314,765.28 from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

4. RESOLUTION for supplemental appropriation of \$7,571,300 in Federal, State, and Local Capital Grant funding for Charlottesville Area Transit (2nd reading)

RESOLUTION
Approving Supplemental Appropriation of Federal and State Grant Funds for
Transit Projects - \$7,571,300

WHEREAS, the FY23 and FY24 Federal Capital Grant in the amount of **\$2,119,964**, and the State Capital Grant in the amount of **\$5,148,484**, have been awarded to the City of Charlottesville with a local match of **\$302,852**, for a total of **\$7,571,300**;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia that the following is hereby appropriated in the following manner, contingent upon receipt of the grant funds:

<u>Revenue (Capital)</u>					
\$2,119,964	Fund: 245	Cost Center: 2804001000	GIL: 431010	Federal Grants	
\$5,148,484	Fund: 245	Cost Center: 2804001000	GIL: 430110	State Grants	
\$ 302,852	Fund: 245	Cost Center: 2804001000	GIL: 498010	Local Match	
<u>Expenditures (Operating)</u>					
\$6,473,420	Fund: 245	Cost Center: 2804001000	GIL: 541040	Vehicles	
\$1,097,880	Fund: 245	Cost Center: 2804001000	GIL: 541090	Equipment	

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this appropriation is conditional upon the receipt of \$2,119,964 from the Federal Transit Administration, \$5,148,484 from the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, and \$302,852 from local sources.

5. RESOLUTION to appropriate Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) - \$25,375 (layover)

6. RESOLUTION for Charlottesville-Albemarle Health Department Carryover Request - \$74,625

RESOLUTION
Authorization of Carryover for Charlottesville-Albemarle Health Department
\$74,625

WHEREAS, the Charlottesville-Albemarle Health Department ended the 2024 fiscal year with a surplus of \$74,625; and that this surplus is due to vacancy savings for several positions, as well as higher than projected revenue; and

WHEREAS, the Health Department intends to use these surplus funds to cover the costs of Sexually Transmitted Infection (“STI”) testing kits, as previous grant funds intended for this purpose are no longer available to local health departments; and that these test kits would be available at key locations and events throughout the City of Charlottesville; and

WHEREAS, previous grant funds are no longer available to cover the expense of processing STI testing kits, and other related laboratory expenses; and the Health Department intends to use surplus funds for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, the Health Department also seeks to use a portion of the surplus funds to make improvements to its facility, specifically by painting the facility’s lobby areas, office spaces, and examination rooms, and renovating two public-facing restrooms;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that the Charlottesville-Albemarle Health Department is authorized to carry over the sum of \$74,625 from Fiscal Year 2024 for the above-stated purposes.

7. RESOLUTION for refund of Business License Tax - \$10,679.96

RESOLUTION
Authorizing a refund of \$10,941.56, plus an as yet to be determined amount of
interest, to a taxpaying entity or business, for business license taxes paid in error for 2024

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of the Revenue has determined that a taxpaying entity or business paid 2024 Business License Tax to the City of Charlottesville in error; and

WHEREAS, that taxpaying entity or business has requested a refund of the amount paid in error; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of the Revenue has certified that a refund of taxes paid is due in the amount of \$10,941.56; and

WHEREAS, an amount of interest that is dependent on the actual date of the refund will also be due; and

WHEREAS, City Code Section 30-6(b) requires City Council approval for any tax refund exceeding \$10,000.00; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council for the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that the City Council hereby authorizes the City Treasurer to issue a refund of \$10,941.56, plus an as yet to be determined amount of interest (approximately \$150), payable to that taxpaying entity or business.

8. RESOLUTION to appropriate State assistance and citizen donation for Spay and Neuter Program at SPCA - \$450.00

**RESOLUTION to Appropriate
State Assistance Funds for Spay and Neuter Program at S.P.C.A.
\$450.00**

WHEREAS, the City has received assistance in the amount of four hundred and fifty dollars (\$450.00) from the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (“DMV”) for sales of license plates bought to support they spaying and neutering of pets and stray animals; and

WHEREAS, these funds are appropriated to the local agency that performs the local spay and neutering program, which is the Charlottesville/Albemarle Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (“SPCA”); and

WHEREAS, supporting the SPCA with additional funds will increase the level of service that SPCA can provide and potentially supplement the level of funding that is needed from the City each year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that a total of \$450.00 is hereby appropriated to the Charlottesville / Albemarle SPCA in the following manner:

Revenues - \$450.00

Fund: 105 Cost Center: 9713006000 G/L Account: 430080

Expenditures - \$450.00

Fund: 105 Cost Center: 9713006000 G/L Account: 540100

9. RESOLUTION to appropriate grant funds from the ICMA Economic Mobility and Opportunity Grant – \$24,000 (layover)

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Sanders introduced Jason Burch, CEO of the Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport (CHO), who presented an update report on the airport and the Airport Authority Board. Ridership continues to rise since the Covid pandemic yet has not reached pre-pandemic levels.

Deputy City Manager Ashley Marshall announced the annual Point in Time (PIT) Count survey, coordinated by BRACH (Blue Ridge Area Coalition for the Homeless), and she encouraged community members to volunteer to help conduct the survey.

Deputy City Manager James Freas reported on the city’s snow clearing efforts during and following recent snow and ice events. He commended staff efforts and indicated areas for improvement. He also announced publication of the City of Charlottesville Natural Gas Decarbonization Study. Council asked questions about snow removal responsibilities.

ACTION ITEMS

10. REPORT: Charlottesville City Schools CIP (Capital Improvement Projects)

Michael Goddard, Deputy Director of Public Works, presented an update on the status of the City Schools capital improvement projects, as well as an outlook for future planned work. The City of Charlottesville is currently engaged in development of the FY26 budget. Completed and current projects include Middle

School Reconfiguration, Johnson Modernization (Roof Terrace), Charlottesville High School (CHS) Electrical Equipment Replacement (Phase 3), CHS Roof (Phase 2), CHS Restroom Renovation, CHS Softball Fields Access and Batting Cage, and Johnson Sidewalk Access Project.

Projects in the upcoming years funded as of FY25 include: Venable Priority Improvement, Walker Pre- K Adjustments, CHS Track Lighting, CHS MLK Performing Arts Center Lighting, Summit Window Replacements, Burnley Moran Roof Replacement FY27- \$1.5M, Pre-K Center at Walker campus \$25M-\$30M FY27, Jackson Via Roof Replacement FY28- \$1.5M, and CHS Generator Upgrades - \$550K.

Kristel Riddervold, Director of Sustainability, provided an update on sustainability-related work and priority emissions reduction strategies.

Krisy Hammill, Budget Director, provided a budget update related to the FY26 budget cycle.

11. PUBLIC HEARING on FY26 City of Charlottesville Capital Improvement Program

Krisy Hammill, Budget Director, presented the draft FY 2026 - 2030 Capital Improvement Program, with feedback being considered in developing the FY26 City Budget.

Mayor Wade opened the public hearing.

- Emily Dooley, Chair of the Charlottesville School Board, spoke in support of the Charlottesville City Schools CIP presentation given by Michael Goddard. She spoke about Schools undergoing a rezoning review and requested that Council add a member of the School Board to the Planning Commission. She stated that the School Board seat on the Housing Advisory Commission was removed during reconfiguration of the HAC and she reminded Council about the joint work session with the School Board on February 10.

With no additional speakers coming forth, Mayor Wade closed the public hearing.

12. ORDINANCE: Charlottesville Human Rights Ordinance - proposed amendments (1st reading)

Todd Niemeier, Director of the Human Rights Commission, presented the recommended amendments. The proposed amendments incorporate feedback from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of General Counsel, Fair Housing Enforcement Division. HUD has reviewed the draft and confirmed that the proposed changes satisfy the requirement of substantial equivalence to federal fair housing law, a prerequisite for FHAP interim certification.

On motion by Payne, seconded by Oschrin, Council by the following vote adopted the amendments to the Human Rights Ordinance, waiving the second reading: 5-0 (Ayes: Oschrin, Payne, Pinkston, Snook, Wade; Noes: none).

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND REENACTING CHAPTER 2 (ADMINISTRATION) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE (1990), AS AMENDED, ARTICLE XV (HUMAN RIGHTS) TO UPDATE THE ORDINANCE TO EXPAND THE COMMISSION'S DUTIES AS AUTHORIZED BY THE VIRGINIA HUMAN RIGHTS ACT (VIRGINIA CODE TITLE 2.2, CHAPTER 39), THE VIRGINIA FAIR HOUSING LAW (VIRGINIA CODE TITLE 36, CHAPTER 5.1), and VIRGINIA CODE, TITLE 15.2, CHAPTER 9, §15.2-965, AS AMENDED.

13. RESOLUTION to establish days, times and places of Regular Meetings of the Charlottesville City Council during Calendar Year 2025

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Snook, Council by unanimous vote adopted the Resolution establishing days, times and places of Regular Meetings of the Charlottesville City Council during Calendar Year 2025: 5-0 (Ayes: Oschrein, Payne, Pinkston, Snook, Wade; Noes: none).

RESOLUTION
Establishing Days, Times and Places of Regular Meetings of the Charlottesville City Council
During Calendar Year 2025

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA, THAT pursuant to Virginia Code Sec. 15.2-1416, the regular meetings of the Charlottesville City Council shall be conducted on the following days, times, and places during calendar year 2025:

DATES		
January 6, 2025 (continued to January 21)	May 5, 2025	September 2, 2025 (<i>Tuesday</i>)
January 21, 2025 (<i>Tuesday</i>)	May 19, 2025	September 15, 2025
February 3, 2025	June 2, 2025	October 6, 2025
February 18, 2025 (<i>Tuesday</i>)	June 16, 2025	October 20, 2025
March 4, 2025 (<i>Tuesday</i>)	July 7, 2025	November 3, 2025
March 17, 2025	July 21, 2025	November 17, 2025
April 7, 2025	August 4, 2025	December 1, 2025
April 21, 2025	August 18, 2025	December 15, 2025

TIME: 4:00 p.m. work session
5:30 p.m. closed meeting (if called)
6:30 p.m. business meeting upon conclusion of the closed meeting agenda

LOCATION: City Hall Council Chamber
605 E. Main Street, 2nd Floor
Charlottesville, VA

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT any regular meeting may be adjourned from day to day, or from time to time, or from place to place, not beyond the day and time fixed by this resolution for the next regular meeting, until the business before this City Council is completed. Notice of any regular meeting continued in this manner shall be reasonable under the circumstances and shall be given as provided in subsection D of Virginia Code Section 2.2-3707.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, in the event that the Mayor, or the Vice Mayor if the Mayor is unavailable or otherwise unable to act, finds and declares that weather or other conditions are such that it is hazardous for members to attend a regular meeting, that regular meeting shall be continued to the next business day on which the said hazardous conditions no longer exist or to the next regular meeting date. Such finding and declaration shall be communicated to all city councilors and to the press as promptly as possible, along with the date and time on which the continued meeting will commence. All public hearings and other agenda matters previously advertised shall be conducted at the continued meeting with no further advertisement.

GENERAL BUSINESS

14. REPORT regarding the FY24 Financial Audit results

Chris Cullinan, Director of Finance, stated that written documentation was issued for the "unmodified" or clean financial audit results. He provided a summary of the General Fund surplus for FY24, which was 9.8% of the Adopted FY24 City Budget.

15. REPORT on Neighborhood Development Services Work Plan

Kellie Brown, Director of Neighborhood Development Services (NDS), provided a mid-year update on the FY25 NDS workplan and look ahead to potential priorities to plan for FY26. The presentation provided an overview of the NDS organizational structure, accomplishments, key workplan considerations, workplan priorities, a look ahead to potential items to plan for in FY26.

16. REPORT on Urgent Infrastructure Projects

Ben Chambers, Transportation Planning Manager, presented the overall Safer Streets strategy with examples of projects. Following a fatal pedestrian crash at 1st & Elliot Streets on October 3, 2024, city staff took action to identify and implement a set of quick-build safety improvements. The City Manager then directed staff to identify more permanent safety improvements for this location as well as safety improvements for locations throughout the City, identified as an urgent infrastructure project list. Following the direction to identify more opportunities to make urgent permanent improvements, staff worked to identify specific project locations and opportunities to merge this effort with existing projects and planning efforts. These include commitments to conduct testing of traffic calming devices, to lower speed limits on City streets, and to develop a new generation of citywide transportation plans that would update priorities for new projects throughout the transportation network. These programs, along with existing projects and the new investment in urgent transportation improvements at intersections, are the basis of a more comprehensive Safer Streets strategy. This strategy employs a variety of temporary and permanent-concrete interventions, planning processes, public engagements, and policy updates over the course of the next five years to allow the City and its residents to work together to make significant change happen in the community.

17. WRITTEN REPORT: Rivanna Authorities Quarterly Update

Mayor Wade acknowledged receipt of the written report.

COMMUNITY MATTERS (2)

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

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Payne, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:46 p.m.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council