



**CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 30, 2025 at 5:00 PM**  
**CitySpace: 100 5th St NE, Charlottesville, VA 22902**

The Charlottesville City Council convened in a special meeting on Thursday, January 30, 2025, to discuss budget development for Fiscal Year 2026. Mayor Juandiego Wade called the meeting to order, and called the roll, noting the following councilors present: Mayor Juandiego Wade, Vice Mayor Brian Pinkston and Councilor Natalie Oschrin. Having established a physical quorum, Council considered a request from Councilor Snook to participate electronically. Councilor Payne joined the meeting at 5:03 p.m. Pursuant to Council's adopted procedures and in compliance with the Virginia Freedom of Information statute for meeting participation through electronic communication means, Mr. Snook stated that he was participating from Ypsilanti, Michigan, while visiting family. On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Oschrin, Council voted 4-0 to approve electronic participation by Councilor Snook (Ayes: Oschrin, Payne, Pinkston, Wade; Noes: none).

**FY 2026 Budget Development Overview and Discussion**

City Manager Sam Sanders and Budget Director Krisy Hammill led an overview and discussion of the following FY 2026 city budget development considerations:

- Budget Guidelines and Financial Policies
- First Glance at FY 2026 Revenue Projections
- Budget Drivers
- Tax Rate Discussion and Advertisement

Members of the city's budget team: Commissioner of the Revenue Todd Divers and City Treasurer Jason Vandever added comments about tax revenues and reasons for variations. City Assessor Jeffrey Davis clarified for Council that the new construction value increases are reflected in the presented budget projections.

Expenditure drivers discussed were employee compensation and benefits, Schools local contribution, jail renovation, Carlton Mobile Home Park, and debt service. Ms. Hammill stated that the first tax rate public hearing will be on March 17 at 6:30 p.m. and any consideration of a tax increase would need to be advertised by early March. Other important budget dates noted were:

- Work sessions: March 6, March 13, March 27, April 10
- Public hearings: March 17 and April 7
- Community Budget Forum: March 20
- Budget adoption: April 14

City budget information can be located online at [www.Charlottesville.gov/budget](http://www.Charlottesville.gov/budget).

**Public Comment**

- Lisa Wittenborn, Executive Director of the Rivanna Conservation Alliance, requested \$250,000 to match funds collected for the project to restore, protect, and improve the park and main access to

the Rivanna River at Riverview Park.

- Peter Krebs, Piedmont Environmental Council, spoke in support of the request from the Rivanna Conservation Alliance for \$250,000 in funding.
- Gabe Silver, co-owner of the Rivanna River Company and former member of the Tourism Board, spoke about the Rivanna River community asset and the opportunity to enhance environmental sustainability, attraction for tourism and quality of life in the city by funding the Rivanna Conservation Alliance project at Riverview Park.
- Margaret, city resident, spoke in support of funding the Rivanna Conservation Alliance project to restore, protect, and improve access to the Rivanna River at Riverview Park.
- David Smith, volunteer for the Rivanna Conservation Alliance, spoke in support of stabilizing the riverbank and decreasing erosion.
- Jim Nix, board member for the Rivanna Conservation Alliance, spoke in support of the project to restore and improve access to the Rivanna River.
- Laila Bobbert, city resident, provided a youth perspective in support of the Riverview Park restoration project, and the opportunity to engage more youth in outdoor activity.

On motion by Payne, seconded by Oschrin, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council