



CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
February 3, 2025 at 4:00 PM
Council Chamber

The Charlottesville City Council convened in a regular meeting on Monday, February 3, 2025. 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 Councilor Natalie Oschrin. Councilor Michael Payne provided notice of his absence. Having established a physical quorum, Council considered a request from Councilor Snook to participate electronically. 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 3-0 to approve electronic participation by Councilor Snook (Ayes: Oschrin, Pinkston, Wade; Noes: none).

REPORTS

1. REPORT: Report on Project Safe Neighborhoods

Misty Graves, Director of Human Services, provided background about Project Safe Neighborhoods. In 2023, in response to an increase in violence in Charlottesville and Albemarle, and the shooting that took place at the University of Virginia (UVA), the President's Council stood up the Community Safety Working Group. Members of this group included leaders in the community, city and county officials, and university faculty and staff. The goals of this working group are first, to create safe and welcoming community spaces. Second, to improve access to local programs and resources. Third, to strengthen communication among residents, service providers, schools, and law enforcement. And fourth, to connect our youth with caring adults and meaningful activities.

To ensure these recommendations were prioritized and implemented, the Community Safety Implementation Group was established and continues to bring together city, county, and UVA for intentional collaboration. The Community Safety Implementation Group has been the governing body that serves as one backbone for focusing on the community engagement and prevention and intervention pillars of Project Safe Neighborhoods. Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is a federal designation that brings together federal, state, and local law enforcement officials; prosecutors; community-based partners; and others to identify the most pressing violent crime concerns in a community and develop comprehensive solutions to address them. In August 2023, the Charlottesville City, Albemarle County and University of Virginia region announced the Project Safe Neighborhood designation for the region. The emphasis on restorative justice, diversion programs, and community safety solutions, alongside innovative partnerships, sets this community's approach to PSN apart as a holistic and inclusive approach to community safety in the region.

On January 22, 2025, members of the Community Safety Implementation Team, U.S. Attorney's Office, and UVA Equity Center staff hosted a press conference to update the community on PSN and its progress towards implementation. On January 28, 2025, at Burley Middle School, they held a Town Hall and engagement activity related to PSN.

Ms. Graves and Police Chief Michael Kochis answered questions from Council.

2. REPORT: FLOCK Pilot Progress Report

Chief Michael Kochis presented the Flock Pilot progress report. In October 2024, The Charlottesville Police Department began its pilot program for Flock ALPR (automated license plate readers). The process for

implementing this program lasted over twelve months, consisting of two City Council presentations and multiple community meetings where input and comments were taken about the program. He stated that ten cameras were deployed and the system of retaining information for seven days has been working for the Charlottesville Police Department. The Executive Director of the Police Civilian Oversight Board has the authority to audit the use of the system as desired.

City Manager Sam Sanders asked council members to indicate their positions on whether the Flock pilot program should continue, and all councilors indicated support for continuing the pilot.

CLOSED MEETING

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

- (1) Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) for discussion and consideration of prospective candidates to be interviewed for the Police Civilian Oversight Board.

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Oschrin, Council certified by the following vote: 4-0 (Ayes: Oschrin, Pinkston, Snook, Wade; Noes: none; Absent: Payne), 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.

BUSINESS SESSION

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Oschrin thanked city staff for conducting e-Bike Demo Day. Next Sunday is the next Community Walk around Buford Neighborhood. She announced the e-Bike subsidy lottery drawing is February 5 for vouchers.

RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Wade read a proclamation in recognition of Black History Month and honoring Vinegar Hill.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

Mayor Wade opened the floor for comments from the public.

1. Marta Keane, retired CEO, introduced new JABA (Jefferson Area Board on Aging) CEO Judith Selzer, who announced several upcoming events.
2. Robin Hoffman, city resident, stated that she is a recipient of JABA services. She spoke in support of CPA-TV, the local public access television station.
3. Mario, a city resident, voiced concerns about drug use in his apartment building and effects on his health. He requested help from city police or anyone who can help.

CONSENT AGENDA

Clerk Thomas read the following Consent Agenda items into the record, and on motion by Pinkston, seconded by Oschrin, Council unanimously adopted the Consent Agenda: 4-0 (Ayes: Oschrin, Pinkston, Snook, Wade; Noes: none; Absent: Payne).

3. MINUTES: January 21 regular meeting
4. RESOLUTION to Appropriate Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) - \$25,375 (2nd reading)

**RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR
Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)
Grant # 15PBJA-24-GG-04876-JAGX
\$25,375**

WHEREAS, the Office for Civil Rights, Office of Justice Programs, Department of Justice Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program Fiscal Year 2024 Local Formula awarded a grant to the Police Department, through the City of Charlottesville, to equip the department’s Special Response Team (SRT) members with Avon Protection C50 protective masks, as well as a KBT Powder Actuated Kinetic Energy Forced Entry Tool;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia that a total of \$25,375.00 be appropriated in the following manner:

Revenues – \$25,375

\$25,375 Fund: 211 Internal Order 1900577 G/L Account: 431110

Expenditures – \$25,375

\$25,375 Fund: 211 Internal Order 1900577 G/L Account: 525270

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this appropriation is conditioned upon the reimbursement of funds or goods as supplied from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Justice Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program.

5. RESOLUTION to appropriate grant funds from the ICMA Economic Mobility and Opportunity Grant – \$24,000 (2nd reading)

**RESOLUTION to Appropriate
ICMA Economic Mobility and Opportunity Grant \$24,000**

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville has received an Economic Mobility and Opportunity grant from the International City Managers Association (ICMA) Economic Mobility and Opportunity Peer Learning Cohort and Grant Program in the amount of \$24,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the funds will be used to support a local project that seeks to enhance economic mobility for residents; and

WHEREAS, the grant award covers the period from 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 \$24,000.00 is hereby appropriated in the following manner:

Revenue – \$24,000.00

\$24,000.00 Fund: 105 CC: 1621001000 IO: 2000194 G/L: 451022 State/Fed pass thru

Expenditures - \$24,000.00

\$24,000.00 Fund: 105 CC: 1621001000 IO: 2000194 G/L: 599999 Lump Sum

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this appropriation is conditioned upon the receipt of \$24,000.00 from the International City Managers Association (ICMA) Economic Mobility and Opportunity Peer Learning Cohort and Grant Program.

- 6. RESOLUTION to Approve the 2024 Parks & Recreation Pollocks Branch Trail Bridge Accessibility Enhancements Project (Amended)

RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS

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 (Amended)

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 the Department of Parks & Recreation, a component of the City of Charlottesville municipal government ('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 a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) 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.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Sanders presented his quarterly Work Plan update and stated that he would post a copy to the transparency portal on the city website.

ACTION ITEMS

7. PUBLIC HEARING and RESOLUTION of Appropriation to Amend the FY25 Budget - \$27,851,605.84 (layover)

Director of Finance, Chris Cullinan, introduced the item. To close the City's financial records for the year, several year-end adjustments to various accounts require City Council action, following completion of the audit for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024. These adjustments are to carry over unspent funds from the last fiscal year to the current fiscal year. These carry overs are the result of either previous City Council policy direction or requirements associated with the funds. The public hearing notice ran in The Daily Progress on January 25.

Mr. Sanders stated that he is not making a recommendation for allocation of all surplus funds at this time, pending further clarification after federal administration changes and State of Virginia funding decisions. He proposed that funds be directed into the CIP Contingency Fund until future decisions can be made for allocation.

Mayor Wade opened the public hearing. With no speakers coming forth, he closed the public hearing. Council agreed unanimously to lay the item over to the February 18 consent agenda for second reading and vote.

8. RESOLUTION: Citywide Bicycle Infrastructure Program

Ben Chambers, Transportation Planning Manager, presented a report on citywide bicycle infrastructure. In 2024, Neighborhood Development Services and the Office of Sustainability partnered to develop a program around electric bicycles, to support mobility options and promote sustainable transportation. This program, which includes the recently launched pilot program that would put vouchers for e-bikes in the hands of City residents, is part of a larger effort to expand opportunities for biking to be a useful mode of transportation in Charlottesville. Major projects are underway and coming in the near future that will be a part of that effort, coordinated with a strategy that aims to make travel choices in the community safer for all users.

Promoting e-biking in Charlottesville is one method of expanding safe and reliable transportation options for residents. It supplements the Safer Streets Strategy, which is a multi-phase effort to deploy safety improvements, lower speed limits, and develop new citywide transportation plans and policies.

a. REPORT on Citywide e-Bike Program

Tommy Safranek, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, spoke about the benefits of e-Bikes, about expanding access to e-bikes; making biking a more realistic mode choice for more people; providing educational resources about maintenance, safe riding and new places to ride; shopping at local bike shops; the opportunity for taking climate action toward electrification; and multiple options for deploying subsidies, grants and policies to test and use together to compound success...

Regarding the e-Bike Voucher Pilot Program, Mr. Safranek stated that 25 vouchers in the amount of \$1,000 will be distributed each quarter for four quarters. He described the e-Bike reservation program available for staff use and about other supportive programs around the city.

b. RESOLUTION creating the e-Bike Grant Program fund and appropriating \$150,000 in existing funds from the Bicycle Infrastructure capital fund and Climate Action Fund (layover)

Mr. Chambers addressed equity issues around e-Bike affordability. Council unanimously agreed to lay the appropriation resolution over to the February 18 consent agenda.

9. RESOLUTION: Safe Routes to School Program

Kyle Rodland, Safe Routes to School Coordinator, reviewed the history of the SRTS program. He stated that the Covid pandemic was a pivotal moment that changed the nature of the program, broadened the relationship with the schools, and re-prioritized the program in capital improvement discussions.

a. RESOLUTION appropriating \$229,803 for Safe Routes to School Program Non-Infrastructure Grants (layover)

Council unanimously agreed to lay the appropriation resolution over to the February 18 consent agenda.

COMMUNITY MATTERS (2)

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

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Snook, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council