



CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
February 18, 2025 at 4:00 PM
Council Chamber

The Charlottesville City Council met on Tuesday, February 18, 2025. Vice Mayor Pinkston called the meeting to order and Clerk of Council Kyna Thomas called the roll, noting the following councilors present: Vice Mayor Brian Pinkston and Councilors Natalie Oschrin, Michael Payne, and Lloyd Snook. Mayor Juandiego Wade gave prior notice that he would arrive later during the work session. Mr. Wade joined the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

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

REPORTS

1. REPORT: Mapp2Health Report from Blue Ridge Health District

Ryan McKay, Director of the Blue Ridge Health District (BRHD), introduced the report and provided historical context for MAPP (Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships), a community-driven strategic planning process for improving community health.

Jen Fleisher, CHA/CHIP Program Officer BRHD, presented the 2024-2025 MAPP2Health Community Health Needs Assessment. The most recent MAPP process took place in 2022 and focused on health disparities plus racism as a public health crisis. Transportation, Telemedicine, and Community Paramedicine were the launched programs that will continue beyond 2025. The mission of MAPP2Health is to improve the overall health of District residents through community-driven inclusive services and policy advocacy. Ms. Fleisher stated that the City's bike and pedestrian infrastructure work aligns with MAPP2Health goals, and she requested that the City stay connected to the CHIP (Community Health Improvement Plan), remove barriers for providers to do the work, and amplify successes of the programs.

Mr. McKay mentioned that the BRHD is funded by 44-45 federal grants, and they are monitoring changes at the federal level to determine whether and how local deliverables may be affected.

2. REPORT: Opioid Abatement Plan

Ashley Reynolds Marshall, Deputy City Manager for Social Equity, began the report with historical context about the public health emergency that began in the late 1990s related to the 1996 introduction of OxyContin; the mid-2010s saw an influx of cheaper opioid alternatives than prescriptions like heroin and fentanyl. States and cities, including Virginia, began legal action against major drug manufacturers, distributors, and retailers. Virginia had its 133 subdivisions sign on to one suit - including the City of Charlottesville. Results of legal action culminated in 2021 and 2022 with settlements from several large pharmaceutical companies and large pharmacies. Ms. Marshall provided data about related deaths, visits to the emergency department, and incidents that were substance-use-related requiring emergency medical services.

Since January 19, 2023, three national-level opioid settlements have been approved by Virginia state courts that result in payments to Virginia. A Memorandum of Understanding for the Virginia Opioid Abatement Fund and Settlement Allocation was drafted in August 2021 that outlined the distribution process for the Commonwealth. All 122 counties and cities in the Commonwealth, including the City of Charlottesville, signed this MOU. Ms. Marshall introduced a pilot project in partnership with Albemarle County for a jail-based sublocade medication for opioid use disorder

and hiring an embedded mental health clinician at the Emergency Communications Center.

CLOSED MEETING

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Snook, 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)(1) for discussion and consideration of prospective candidates to be interviewed or considered following boards and commissions:
 - a. Charlottesville Economic Development Authority
 - b. Human Rights Commission
 - c. Police Civilian Oversight Board
 - d. Tree Commission

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Oschrin, 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.

BUSINESS SESSION

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Wade announced the February 14 passing of Satyendra Huja, former Charlottesville mayor and Planning Director, and he lauded Mr. Huja's contributions to the Historic Downtown Mall, Dogwood Housing and Riverview Trail, as well as his mentorship and impact on others in the community.

Mr. Wade also announced the passing of an unhoused resident named Joe, living near the Downtown Transit Center, on February 17.

Councilor Snook made remarks about former mayor Huja's contributions to the Charlottesville community, particularly as an advocate for the pedestrian Downtown Mall, its trees, and its anchors of the Omni Hotel and the Pavilion.

Mr. Wade mentioned that he has received calls voicing concern about mail delivery, and he stated that officials have been in touch with State Senators Warner and Kaine to voice concerns. The senators have been working to address mail delivery issues.

Councilor Oschrin reminded individuals who won e-Bike grants to pick up their vouchers from Tommy Safranek, Bike and Pedestrian Coordinator.

BOARD and COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

On motion by Payne, seconded by Pinkston, Council voted 5-0 to appoint the following members to boards and commissions:

- Charlottesville Economic Development Authority: Gareth Gaston and Quinton Harrell
- Human Rights Commission: Marian Doyle and L.D. Perry
- Police Civilian Oversight Board: Isaiah Alvarez, Kyle Dobson, Jeffrey Fracher, W. Andrew Frye,

and Shenandoah Titus

- Tree Commission: Eric Bredder, Hannah Brown, and Meredith Keppel.

Mr. Payne stated that the appointment for the Belmont Neighborhood representative was put on hold to receive additional applications.

RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

- **Proclamation: The Center at Belvedere 65th Anniversary**

Mayor Wade acknowledged the event held on February 14, celebrating the Center at Belvedere's 65th anniversary, where he presented the proclamation.

- **Proclamation: National Invasive Species Awareness Week: February 24 - 28, 2025**

Councilor Oschrin presented the proclamation to Ruth Starnetta and Joann Dalley, who accepted the proclamation and highlighted related events to help educate the public.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

Mayor Wade opened the floor for comments from the public.

1. Jeffrey Levien, city resident, spoke about a potential collaborative project at 200 West Main Street, and the zoning review rights of the Board of Architectural Review regarding massing and step-backs. He requested help from Council to clarify what can be built and under what conditions.
2. Deanna McDonald, founder of RN HEARTwork-Health Education, Coaching & Consulting, working in partnership with the Fifeville Neighborhood Association, requested financial support from the City for the proposed Charlottesville food co-op on Cherry Avenue. She shared results of the 6-month community engagement initiative that wrapped up in December.
3. Paola Covarrubias, city resident and steering committee member for the proposed food co-op on Cherry Avenue, spoke about the need for city support and a sustainable community-driven grocery option.
4. Colette Hall, city resident, spoke about the FY24 budget surplus, increased property assessments, and last year's tax increases, and she asked Council not to increase taxes this year.
5. Susan Kruse, city resident and Executive Director of the Community Climate Collaborative, commended the following City actions: 1) Mayor Wade's sign-on to a letter asking the U.S. Congress for protection for clean energy tax credits, and 2) the city's sustainability team efforts to help launch the Energy Resource Hub (energyresourcehub.org).
6. Lisa Draine, city resident and steering committee member for the proposed food co-op on Cherry Avenue, spoke about the need for city support and a sustainable community-driven grocery option.
7. A resident spoke about the need for a food co-op on Cherry Avenue, and the possibility of schools using it as a teaching tool for children.
8. Zyahna Bryant, city resident, spoke in support of the proposed food co-op on Cherry Avenue. She also requested funding for city schools, specifically using city surplus funds.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

3. MINUTES: December 19, 2024 joint Council-School Board work session; January 30 FY26 budget work session; February 3 regular meeting; February 10 joint Council-School Board meeting; February 11 special meeting
4. RESOLUTION of Appropriation to Amend the FY25 Budget - \$27,851,605.84 (2nd reading)

RESOLUTION
To Amend the City Budget Adopted for Fiscal Year 2025 (“ Year End” Appropriation)
\$27,851,605.84

WHEREAS the Charlottesville City Council has received and reviewed the results of the year-end audit for Fiscal Year 2024, which identified a surplus of appropriations over expenditures; and

WHEREAS the City Council desires to amend the budget previously adopted for Fiscal Year 2024, to increase the amount of authorized expenditures by a total of \$27,851,605.84 and, since this Budget Amendment exceeds one percent (1%) of the total expenditures shown in the currently-adopted budget, City Council conducted a public hearing on the proposed amendment following public notice given in accordance with Virginia Code §15.2-2507(A); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that the expenditures hereinafter set forth are hereby authorized and appropriated within the accounts of the City for the uses listed below, for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2024. The details explaining the purposes for which the following expenditure amounts are authorized, shall be as set forth within the City Council agenda memo dated February 3, 2025, which agenda memo is incorporated into this Resolution by reference.

I. GENERAL FUND.

The following amounts shall be permitted to be carried over and expended in the General Fund’s respective cost centers or internal orders in the following fiscal year and shall remain as continuing appropriations unless further altered by Council:

Interest income due to Utility Funds	\$489,080.15
Funds Transfer for Previously Appropriated Commitments	\$2,273,192.00
Surplus Funds above the 17% Fund Balance Policy to be transferred to CIP Contingency	\$22,386,718.77
Total Section I	\$25,148,989.92

II. FACILITIES REPAIR FUND.

Courthouse Maintenance (P-00099) - \$10,140.18 - These unspent restricted court fees will be used for future court repair work or records conversion. The amount will be carried over in the Facilities Repair Fund.

Courthouse Construction (P-00783) - \$14,347.50– These unspent restricted court fees will be used for future renovations or construction projects relating to the courts and will be carried over in the Facilities Repair Fund.

Total Section II. **\$24,487.68**

III. GRANTS FUND.

These funds were received from outside sources and are being appropriated to be spent by the respective grants:

\$11,382.24 – these funds will be used for additional qualifying State Fire Grant expenditures (1900010).

Total Section III. \$11,382.24

IV. SCHOOLS GAINSHARING.

In 1998, the School Board and City Council entered into a gainsharing agreement. This agreement mandates that the first \$100,000 to go to facilities for School Capital Improvement Projects, the next \$100,000 is retained by the Schools in the General Fund and then any amount over \$200,000 will be shared equally (50/50) between the School Board and the City.

For the year ending June 30, 2024, \$2,666,746.00 will be returned to the City as per the terms of the agreement. The funds will be deposited in the City’s CIP Contingency account.

Total Section V. \$2,666,746.00

- 5. RESOLUTION: Citywide Bicycle Infrastructure Program: 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 (2nd reading)

**RESOLUTION
Appropriating funds to a new fund for electric bicycle programs - \$150,000**

WHEREAS the expanded use of electric bicycles in the community provides a more sustainable transportation option, which meets the City’s transportation and climate action goals;

WHEREAS Council has appropriated funding for sustainability goals in the Climate Action Fund and for transportation goals associated with biking in the Bicycle Infrastructure capital fund;

WHEREAS revenues from the dockless mobility permit program are used as part of the Bicycle Infrastructure capital fund and are dedicated to expanding the use of bicycles in Charlottesville;

AND WHEREAS the City has pilot projects associated with electric bicycles that are coordinated between Neighborhood Development Services and the Office of Sustainability;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that the sum of \$150,000 is hereby appropriated as follows:

Transfer From

\$75,000	Fund: 426	I/O: 1000028	G/L Account: 599999
\$75,000	Fund: 426	WBS: CP-083	G/L Account: 599999

Transfer To

\$150,000	Fund: 426	WBS: TBD	G/L Account: 599999
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6. RESOLUTION: Safe Routes to School Program: Resolution appropriating \$229,803 for Safe Routes to School Program Non-Infrastructure Grants (2nd reading)

**RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING FUNDS
For Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS) Non-Infrastructure Grants - \$229,803**

WHEREAS, the Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS) non-infrastructure grant, providing Federal payments for education, encouragement, evaluation and enforcement programs to promote safe walking and bicycling to school has been awarded the City of Charlottesville, in the amount of \$183,843;

WHEREAS, the two year SRTS award is a 80% reimbursement program requiring a 20% match of \$45,960. It will come from in kind donations and volunteer services from Charlottesville Area Mountain Bike Club and cash match from the City of Charlottesville in form of employee benefits.

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

<u>Transfer From</u>			
\$45,960	Fund: 105	Cost Center: 390100100	G/L: 561209
<u>Transfer In</u>			
\$45,960	Fund 209	Cost Center: 3901008000	G/L: 498010
<u>Revenue</u>			
\$183,843	Fund: 209	Cost Center: 3901008000	G/L: 430120
<u>Expenditure</u> (expenditures and salary)			
\$104,000	Fund: 209	Cost Center: 3901008000	G/L: 519999
\$ 79,843	Fund: 209	Cost Center: 3901008000	G/L: 599999

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this appropriation is conditioned upon the receipt of \$183,843 from the Virginia Department of Transportation.

7. RESOLUTION to Approve Reimbursement of \$285,861.38 for Buford/Charlottesville Middle School project (layover)
8. RESOLUTION: Financial Resolution Supporting Kindlewood/Friendship Court Phase 3

**RESOLUTION
Financial Resolution Supporting Kindlewood/Friendship Court Phase 3
Parcel Number: 280112000**

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia hereby commits up to \$4,150,000 in the form of loans for the redevelopment of Kindlewood/Friendship Court Phase 3. The commitment of up to \$4,150,000 will help to subsidize Phase 3 which in turn will create a total of approximately 79 newly constructed affordable housing units, through Phase 3A and Phase 3B, in the City of Charlottesville. This commitment will be made to Piedmont Housing Alliance.

9. ORDINANCE Amending Chapter 25 (Social Services), Article III (Rental Relief for the Elderly and Disabled Persons) to correct a drafting error

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND REORDAINING SECTIONS 25-61 OF ARTICLE III OF

CHAPTER 25 (SOCIAL SERVICES) OF THE CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY CODE, 1990, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO RENT RELIEF FOR THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED PERSONS

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Sanders acknowledged the requests for support of the food co-op and stated that while he can make no promises, he continues to support public and internal conversations about options. He stated that he will reach out to Ms. Deanna McDonald, who identified herself during Community Matters as the neighborhood group representative.

Krisy Hammill, Director of Budget, summarized the quarterly financial report for FY 2025 through December 31, 2024, including revenue and expenditure projections. The city's revenue team continues to monitor revenues closely to analyze the factors that may be contributing to current revenue trends and to develop FY26 budget projections.

Kevin Rotty, the city's financial advisor from PFM Financial Advisors LLC, provided a brief economic update.

ACTION ITEMS

10. PUBLIC HEARING and ORDINANCE for Temporary Aerial Easement for the Verve Charlottesville PUD at 409 Stadium Road (layover)

Matthew Alfele, City Planner, introduced the item and summarized the need for an aerial easement to allow for temporary cranes to construct a property at 409 Stadium Road. Subtext Acquisitions, LLC is in the process of developing property known as the Verve Charlottesville located at 409 Stadium Road. Subtext represents that the proposed new building being constructed will require placement of up to three tower cranes on their property. The booms of the cranes would swing over the airspace of City right-of-way located along Stadium Road, Montebello Circle, and Jefferson Park Avenue. It is anticipated that the easement will not exceed a period of five years.

Councilors asked clarifying questions about crane span and about height of any materials being lifted.

Mayor Wade opened the public hearing.

- Ellen Contini-Morava, neighboring resident to the construction property, asked questions about swinging loads of equipment and materials and hours of operation.

Hunter Cline, Construction Manager with John Moriarty and Associates, confirmed that any swinging loads will be confined within the construction zone.

With no additional speakers coming forward, Mayor Wade closed the public hearing and Council unanimously agreed to lay the item over to the March 4 consent agenda for second reading and vote.

GENERAL BUSINESS

11. WRITTEN REPORT: Land Use and Environmental Planning Committee (LUEPC) Semi-Annual Report

Council acknowledged receipt of the written report. Councilor Payne expressed concern about a lack of substantive information in the report, as well as concern that the group's meetings do not include public officials. He stated that LUEPC is the only body for coordination between UVA and the city and county

local governments.

COMMUNITY MATTERS (2)

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

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Oschrin, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council