



CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 27, 2025 at 6:00 PM

CitySpace: 100 5th St NE, Charlottesville, VA 22902

The Charlottesville City Council convened in a special meeting on Thursday, March 27, 2025, to discuss budget development for Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26), specifically regarding the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Vice Mayor Brian 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 Oschrein and Lloyd Snook. Mayor Wade provided notice that he would arrive a few minutes late. Councilor Payne joined the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

Mr. Pinkston turned the meeting over to City Manager Samuel Sanders, Jr., who provided an agenda overview:

- CIP Review and Discussion
 - What's New?
 - Parks and Recreation
 - School Projects
- Transit Operations
- Public Comment on CIP
- Agency Funding Follow-up (if time allows)

Budget Director Kristina Hammill presented a summary of the CIP, including new expenditures for the five-year Plan related to Education, Facilities Capital Projects, Public Safety and Justice, Transportation and Access, Parks and Recreation, and Affordable Housing. Steven Hicks, Director of Public Works, answered a question regarding funding for guardrails in public rights-of-way.

Mr. Sanders stated that he has had discussions with City Schools personnel to consider a joint meeting of City Council and the Charlottesville City School Board over the summer to discuss facility needs for Schools.

Vice Mayor Pinkston suggested funding The Hill that Heals fundraising campaign for The Dogwood Foundation's to make accessibility improvements at Dogwood Vietnam Memorial on the 250 Bypass.

Mayor Wade joined the meeting at 6:16 p.m.

Council discussed the alternatives to a large price tag for improvements at the Vietnam Memorial. City Engineer Brennen Duncan addressed the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) standards of the pathway leading to the Memorial and stated that over the years parts of the pathway have settled, but that the ADA requirements are still being met. Councilors each expressed their opinions on funding and previous discussions regarding accessibility improvements for the Memorial. A majority were in favor of adding \$100,000 to the FY26 budget as seed money to support fundraising efforts.

Riaan Anthony, Parks and Recreation Director presented an update on the department's CIP. He specifically outlined a request of \$250,000 for a study to review causes and potential solutions to the ingress and egress issues in the Riverview Park parking area, including safety access for emergency vehicles and better kayak access to the river.

Michael Goddard, Deputy Director of Public Works, presented proposals regarding school infrastructure projects. After hearing about an option to begin the construction project for the Walker Pre-K Center sooner

than previously presented, councilors each indicated support for moving forward.

Deputy City Manager James Freas and Charlottesville Area Transit Director Garland Williams reviewed information related to transit, comparing pre-pandemic service, staffing and ridership data to current data trends and city goals. Mr. Williams stated that the city's goal remains to have buses running on a 30-minute schedule, while facing difficulty with filling driver vacancies and a high number of drivers nearing retirement. Mr. Freas spoke of the need for collaboration between city and county transit providers, through the recently formed Charlottesville Albemarle Regional Transit Authority (CARTA), to study challenges and opportunities for reaching transit goals.

Mayor Wade opened the floor for comments from members of the public. No speakers came forward.

As follow-up to a previous meeting, Mr. Sanders and Ms. Hammill led Council through a line-by-line review of proposed funding amounts to agencies, using City Council discretionary funds. Council discussion informed funding amounts to include in the FY26 City Budget ordinance.

On motion by Snook, seconded by Oschrin, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council