



CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

April 10, 2025 at 6:00 PM

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

The Charlottesville City Council convened in a special meeting on Thursday, April 10, 2025, to discuss budget development for Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26). Mayor Juandiego Wade called the meeting to order, noting the following councilors present: Mayor Juandiego Wade, Vice Mayor Brian Pinkston and Councilors Natalie Oschrin and Lloyd Snook.

Mayor Wade turned the meeting over to City Manager Samuel Sanders, Jr., who provided an agenda overview.

Krisy Hammill, Director of Budget, presented revised revenue projections, and funding decisions made by City Council throughout the budget development process to-date.

Commissioner of the Revenue Todd Divers, at the request of Councilor Snook, explained Business, Professional, and Occupational License (BPOL) tax.

Councilor Michael Payne arrived at 6:07 p.m.

Mr. Sanders explained revisions causing a reduction in the Council Discretionary Fund balance, and Ms. Hammill led Council through a line-by-line review of Council-directed funding allocations. Council discussed the processes for determining funding the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center and the Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority.

At Mayor Wade's request, Deputy City Manager Ashley Marshall described the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) program and the PROSPER program with the United Way of Greater Charlottesville. She disclosed that she serves as a member of the United Way of Greater Charlottesville Board of Directors and does not vote on funding or make funding requests on their behalf. Several councilors indicated their support for filling a gap in funding for the ALICE Program.

Mr. Sanders introduced a request for The Tonsler League that was missed throughout the budget development process.

Councilor Snook requested discussion of a process by which budgetary items are brought before City Council outside of the regular budget process, for use of Council's discretionary funds. Mr. Sanders and Council discussed adding the topic for discussion during a City Council retreat. Council discussion informed funding amounts to include in the FY26 City Budget ordinance for adoption at a special meeting on April 14, 2025.

Vice Mayor Pinkston gave feedback from a meeting that he recently attended in which the public requested funding for 16 additional transit driver positions. Mr. Sanders stated that the City is doing everything it can to fill existing vacant positions, yet filling the positions continues to be a challenge. James Freas, Deputy City Manager, stated that Albemarle County will contribute funding for transit in the upcoming budget. Council discusses transit and funding questions in further detail.

Ms. Hammill reviewed upcoming meeting dates related to the City Budget:

- April 14 – budget adoption
- April 21 – Real Property Tax Rate public hearing
- April 24 – special meeting to vote on the tax rates

Council agreed to hold the April 24 meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Councilor Payne suggested revisiting the participatory budgeting initiative that began years ago.

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

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Snook, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council