



CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
June 2, 2025 at 4:00 PM
Council Chamber

The Charlottesville City Council held a regular meeting on Monday, June 2, 2025. Mayor Juandiego Wade called the meeting to order, and Clerk of Council Kyna Thomas called the roll, noting all councilors present: Mayor Juandiego Wade, Vice Mayor Brian Pinkston and Councilors Natalie Oschrein, Michael Payne and Lloyd Snook.

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Snook, Council unanimously adopted the meeting agenda.

REPORTS

1. REPORT: Transportation Planning Update

Chris Engel, Director of Economic Development, presented an update on paid public parking and announced upcoming changes to technology and equipment that will impact transient and monthly users.

Ben Chambers, Transportation Planning Manager, provided a transportation planning update with details about where investments of resources are being made to improve mobility for all: Safer Streets Strategy, Sidewalks, VDOT Planning, Bike Infrastructure, and Bus Stop Amenities. He also explained plans for implementation of the investments such as: Safe Routes to School, CARTA (Charlottesville Albemarle Regional Transit Authority) Priorities, FY27 Transit Planning, Dockless Mobility Permit Update, Neighborhood Walks, BikeCville.com, and E-bike Programs.

City Engineer Brennen Duncan explained why a requested crosswalk at 2nd Street and Elliott Avenue was not included in the plan for urgent transportation improvements.

Some items on the Quick-build list for 2025 were: new crosswalks, flex posts and reflectors, No Right-Turn on Red signage with push buttons; rapid flashing beacons, mini-roundabouts, bump-outs and chicanes, adjusted slip-lanes, bike boxes, defined parking and driving lanes, and speed tables and cushions.

CLOSED MEETING

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Payne, Council voted unanimously to convene in a closed meeting as authorized by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, as follows:

- 1) Under Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) for discussion and consideration of prospective candidates for appointment to the Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority Board; and
- 2) Under Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) for discussion of performance of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of the public body.

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Snook, Council voted 5-0 to certify the closed meeting.

BUSINESS SESSION

The business session of the meeting began with a moment of silence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Oschrein announced a Locust Grove neighborhood walk open to the public.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

Mayor Wade opened the floor for comments from the public.

- 1) Harold Folley, Jr., city resident, spoke about how funding should go into the community, and he ceded his remaining time to Kate Fraleigh, who recommended not cutting funds for renovations to the Albemarle Charlottesville Regional Jail (ACRJ), although not agreeing with the final design.
- 2) Cherry Henley, city resident, spoke about the jail expansion fund reform and alternate ways to treat people without caging them. She spoke about recommendations from the Imagine a Just Cville report submitted following the Disproportionate Minority Contact Report. She introduced Raquan Jones who runs a nonprofit youth sports program called Brothers Blessing.
- 3) Elizabeth Stark, city resident, requested halting the jail expansion project and requested that funds be used for restorative justice programs, rehabilitation programs, and re-entry programs and reduce dependency on the jail system. She asked for reconsideration of Flock program usage and other data aggregators.
- 4) Rosia Parker, city resident, spoke about ACRJ expansion funding and requested a halt to funding the project. She suggested improvements to the jail's recreation room.
- 5) Alicia L. Lenahan, city resident, expressed concerns and spoke about transparency around agreements with Homeland Security, ICE, and federal law enforcement.
- 6) Gloria Beard, city resident, spoke about inadequate mental health services and expressed concerns about treating mental health issues in a jail environment.
- 7) Jessica Jackson, property owner in Charlottesville, spoke about insufficient resources for mental health and rehabilitation care, and she suggested increasing the availability of medical professionals dedicated to mental health at the regional jail. She requested that Council require ACRJ in addition to renovations set aside funds for mental health and rehabilitation care and training.
- 8) Members of Brothers Blessings - Jaquan Jones, Joe Walen, Asan Niblins, and Raquan Jones, introduced themselves and explained why they want to help the youth in the community.
- 9) A county resident expressed concerns about Homeland Security, ICE, and federal law enforcement, and he spoke in opposition to the city's \$150,000 investment in the data acquisition and aggregation system for the Police Department.
- 10) Robin Hoffman, city resident, spoke about a visit from a police officer requesting information about how a traffic-slowing sign was acquired on Caroline Avenue, and about how a resident advocate for traffic crossings who was recently arrested advocated to place the sign in the neighborhood.
- 11) Dede Smith, city resident, called attention to changes to the Central Waterline Pipeline Project, and requested that Council receive a full presentation.
- 12) Reverend Karen Mann spoke in opposition to funding the jail expansion. She spoke about systemic racism and disproportional minority contact. She spoke against unjust immigration practices, unjust racial profiling and surveillance and the need to invest in real justice for all neighbors regardless of immigration status.
- 13) Bill Emory, city resident, spoke about an upcoming Albemarle County vote on a Special Use Permit across from a trailer park on Franklin Street in the city. He encouraged Council to speak with counterparts in the county before they approve a Special Use Permit in the floodplain.
- 14) Jenny McCulskey, city resident living in the lowest-elevation residence in the city on Franklin Street, spoke about her experience living near the development mentioned by the previous speaker. She suggested a city-county partnership since the light industrial project can only be accessed by using city streets. She spoke about the loss of her sister three years ago to suicide and stated that

when her sister was unable to find bed space for mental health treatment, she was often sent to sleep at the jail.

- 15) Sadhbh O'Flynn, Community Climate Collaborative, thanked those who spoke against jail expansion, and she expressed concerns about the gas utility rate increases proposed in an agenda item later in the meeting.
- 16) A resident spoke about progressive property tax and ways to bring down the cost of housing.

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 (Ayes: Oschrin, Payne, Pinkston, Snook, Wade; Noes: none).

2. MINUTES: May 5, 2025 regular meeting
3. RESOLUTION to appropriate \$7,285.76 from the Virginia Department of Social Services to use for overtime for Medicaid unwinding (2nd reading)

RESOLUTION

Appropriating Funding Received from the Virginia Department of Social Services to provide overtime for Medicaid unwinding in the amount of \$7,285.76

WHEREAS, the Charlottesville Department of Social Services has received an allocation of \$7,285.76 in the Fiscal Year 2025 budget from the Virginia Department of Social Services to be used to provide overtime for Medicaid unwinding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that the sum of \$7,285.76, upon receipt by the City, is hereby appropriated for expenditures within the FY25 budget in the following manner:

Revenue – \$7,285.76

Fund: 212	Cost Center: 9900000000	G/L Account: 430080	\$7,285.76
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Expenditures - \$7,285.76

Fund: 212	Cost Center: 3301005000	G/L Account: 510060	\$7,285.76
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4. RESOLUTION to appropriate \$419,279.00 in additional funding received from the Virginia Department of Social Services to support staffing and operations (2nd reading)

RESOLUTION

Appropriating Funding Received from the Virginia Department of Social Services to be used for staffing and operations, in the amount of \$419,279.00

WHEREAS, the Charlottesville Department of Social Services has received an allocation of \$419,279.00 in the Fiscal Year 2025 budget from the Virginia Department of Social Services to be used for staffing and operations, and to provide auxiliary grants and family preservation services to clients.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia,

that the sum of \$419,279.00, upon receipt by the City, is hereby appropriated for expenditures within the FY25 budget in the following manner:

Revenue – \$419,279.00

Fund: 212 Cost Center: 9900000000 G/L Account: 430080 \$419,279.00

Expenditures - \$419,279.00

Fund: 212	Cost Center: 3311004000	G/L Account: 540060	\$132,000.00
Fund: 212	Cost Center: 3301005000	G/L Account: 510010	\$125,000.00
Fund: 212	Cost Center: 3301008000	G/L Account: 510010	\$125,000.00
Fund: 212	Cost Center: 3301001000	G/L Account: 520010	\$ 16,350.00
Fund: 212	Cost Center: 3301001000	G/L Account: 520500	\$ 16,350.00
Fund: 212	Cost Center: 3343004000	G/L Account: 540060	\$ 4,579.00

5. RESOLUTION to appropriate \$15,000 from NLC Southern Cities Economic Initiative Program to use for project planning (2nd reading)

RESOLUTION

**To Appropriate National League of Cities Southern Cities Economic Initiative Grant
\$15,000**

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville has received a Southern Cities Economic Initiative grant from the National League of Cities (NLC) Southern Cities Economic Initiative (SCEI) Program for \$15,000.00; and

WHEREAS the funds will be used to support the planning of a local project that seeks to expand and sustain the economic mobility of residents and small businesses; and

WHEREAS the grant award covers the period from April 24, 2025, through October 31, 2025

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, the sum of \$15,000.00 is hereby appropriated in the following manner:

Revenue – \$15,000.00

\$15,000.00 Fund: 210 Order: 1900600 G/L: 451022 Other Grant Funding

Expenditures - \$15,000.00

\$15,000.00 Fund: 210 Order: 1900600 G/L: 530550 Contracted Services

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this appropriation is conditioned upon the receipt of \$15,000.00 from the National League of Cities Southern Cities Economic Initiative Program

6. RESOLUTION to Appropriate \$266,387 in FY 24 Meadowcreek Golf Course Surplus Funds (layover)
7. RESOLUTION to allocate \$125,350 to the Local Energy Alliance Program ("LEAP") from the 2025 City Climate Program Support Grant and authorize the City Manager to sign a Memorandum of Understanding

RESOLUTION #R-25-070

2025 Climate Protection Program Support Grant \$125,350 and Memorandum of Understanding

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that the sum of \$125,350 is hereby paid to Local Energy Alliance Program (LEAP) from previously appropriated funds in the Gas Fund, Environmental Sustainability Cost Center as follows:

\$125,350 Fund: 631 Cost Center: 2711001000 G/L Account: 599999

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is hereby authorized to sign the following document, in form approved by the City Attorney or designee:

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City and the Local Energy Alliance Program (LEAP) for grant funds to support the Climate Protection Program and promote energy performance improvements.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

a. Report on City Housing Portfolio

John Sales, Executive Director for the Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority (CRHA) provided a report on the City's housing portfolio and answered questions from Council. He stated there are not enough subsidies to meet the needs.

City Manager Sanders added that he is working to schedule a joint meeting between City Council and CRHA. He spoke about recent items of city business that have received increased attention:

- Accusations of the city manager directing the police chief to arrest someone
- Flock
- Sanctuary City list
- Federal Executive Institute and pivoting to meet school needs

ACTION ITEMS

~~8. PUBLIC HEARING and ORDINANCE regarding an Easement to Dominion Energy for Undergrounding of Electrical Equipment at Pen Park and Quarry Rd~~

9. PUBLIC HEARING and RESOLUTION to allocate \$12,035,000 of Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Contingency Funds (layover)

City Manager Sanders presented the item and requested revisions to the resolution as presented in the meeting packet, reducing the original proposed allocation to \$8,690,000. Krisy Hammill, Budget Director, detailed budget line items for consideration, using previously appropriated funds.

Mayor Wade opened the public hearing. With no speakers, the public hearing was closed.

Council agreed to lay the item over to the June 16, 2025 meeting as an Action Item for a second reading and vote.

10. PUBLIC HEARING and ORDINANCE to Amend and Reordain City Code Chapter 31 (Utilities) to Establish New Utility Rates and Service Fees for City Gas, Water, and Sanitary Sewer (layover)

Utilities Director Lauren Hildebrand presented a report on public utilities, and Finance Director Chris

Cullinan provided a financial overview for the impact of proposed ordinance changes to take effect July 1, 2025. Councilors asked clarifying questions.

Mayor Wade opened the public hearing for consideration of amending and reordaining City Code Chapter 31 (Utilities) to establish new utility rates and service fees for City gas, water, and sanitary sewer. The following speakers came forward:

- Dede Smith spoke about concerns with Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority (RWSA). She also spoke about funds generated by the utility enterprise and placed into the City's general fund.
- Sadhbh O'Flynn, Community Climate Collaborative, asked for improved transparency and clarity on actual impact to the bottom line for people's bills.

With no additional speakers coming forward, the public hearing was closed.

Councilor Payne spoke about the service that people receive for the utility rates they pay and he expressed a desire for a presentation on the Central Water Line. Regarding the natural gas utility, he expressed concerns about a lack of progress in decarbonization.

Staff answered questions for Council and Council agreed to lay the item over to the June 16, 2025 meeting on the Consent Agenda for a second reading and vote.

11. ORDINANCE to Amend and Reenact Article IX (Transient Occupancy Tax) of Chapter 30 (Taxation) of the Code of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia (1990)

Commissioner of the Revenue Todd Divers introduced the ordinance amendment request, described the processes for collection of AirBnB transient occupancy taxes, and described changes to privacy language in State Code section 58.1-3.

On motion by Payne, seconded by Snook, Council by a vote of 5-0 (Ayes: Oschrein, Payne, Pinkston, Snook, Wade; Noes: none) adopted the **ORDINANCE AMENDING AND REENACTING CHAPTER 30 (TAXATION), ARTICLE IX. (TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA (1990), AS AMENDED, TO CONFORM THE CITY'S PROCESS FOR COLLECTION AND REPORTING OF TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX WITH RECENT CHANGES IN STATE ENABLING LEGISLATION.**

12. RESOLUTION Move Safely Blue Ridge Regional Safety Action Plan and East High Street Demonstration Project Alternative Selection

a. Resolution to adopt the Move Safely Blue Ridge Regional Safety Action Plan

Ben Chambers introduced staff from the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC).

Gorjan Gjorgjievski, TJPDC Planner II presented the Draft Blue Ridge Regional Safety Action Plan and project background.

On motion by Payne, seconded by Oschrein, Council by a vote of 5-0 approved the resolution as follows:

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE MOVE SAFELY BLUE RIDGE SAFETY ACTION PLAN

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville is committed to improving transportation safety and ensuring that

all people, regardless of mode of travel, can move safely throughout the city; and

WHEREAS, between 2018 and 2022, thirteen individuals lost their lives and one hundred ninety-five (195) individuals sustained serious injuries in traffic crashes within the City of Charlottesville; and

WHEREAS, roadway fatalities and serious injuries are preventable, and each one represents a profound loss to families, neighborhoods, and the broader community; and

WHEREAS, the adopted 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan, through the Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization, sets forth a goal to “improve the geometric conditions and physical characteristics of the transportation network to reduce fatalities and serious injuries”; and

WHEREAS, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law established the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary grant program to support local, regional, and Tribal initiatives aimed at preventing roadway deaths and serious injuries; and

WHEREAS, the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC), in partnership with its member jurisdictions, has led the development of the Move Safely Blue Ridge Safety Action Plan to identify, prioritize, and support implementation of data-driven and community-informed roadway safety strategies across the region; and

WHEREAS, the Move Safely Blue Ridge plan supports and aligns with the Virginia Strategic Highway Safety Plan, which establishes a vision of zero deaths and serious injuries and sets a statewide goal to reduce both by 50 percent by the year 2045;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that the City formally adopts the Move Safely Blue Ridge Safety Action Plan as a guiding document to advance transportation safety for all users within the city limits;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Charlottesville reaffirms its commitment to eliminate roadway fatalities within the city by 2045 and to reduce the number of serious injuries by at least 50 percent over the same period.

- b. Resolution selecting a Preferred Alternative Design for the East High Street Demonstration Project

Ben Chambers presented the resolution request and answered questions from Council.

On motion by Payne, seconded by Pinkston, Council by a vote of 5-0 approved the resolution as follows:

**RESOLUTION
SELECTING A PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE DESIGN FOR THE
EAST HIGH STREET DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia (“City Council”), has affirmed its commitment to the development of a Regional Safety Action Plan (“Plan”), with grant-support from the Safe Streets and Roads for All Program; and

WHEREAS, City Council has established a goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and halving serious

roadway injuries by 2045; and

WHEREAS, the Plan and Move Safely Blue Ridge, included design and public outreach for a temporary demonstration project at a target location of serious safety concern; and

WHEREAS, the Move Safely Blue Ridge Project Team has identified the intersection of East High Street and Meade Avenue as a target location due to pedestrian crossing safety concerns and developed multiple design alternatives for public feedback.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by City Council that it authorizes City Staff to implement the preferred design alternative, for up to sixty (60) days, to test and evaluate safety improvements on East High Street, Meade Avenue, and Stewart Street.

GENERAL BUSINESS

13. BY MOTION: Approval of an Employment Agreement appointing John Maddux as Charlottesville City Attorney

City Manager Sanders presented John Maddux as his selection for appointment to the position of Charlottesville City Attorney, taking responsibility fully on June 6, 2025.

Mr. Maddux spoke to the transition of Sands Anderson and thanked Pamela O'Berry who served as Acting City Attorney.

Mr. Sanders, Councilors and Clerk Thomas thanked Ms. O'Berry for her partnership, leadership and support.

On motion by Snook, seconded by Pinkston, Council by a vote of 5-0 approved the Employment Agreement appointing John Maddux as Charlottesville City Attorney.

COMMUNITY MATTERS (2)

Mayor Wade opened the floor for comments from the public.

- Dede Smith, city resident, spoke about the applicability of transient occupancy tax to the primary residence, about Payment in Lieu of Taxes related to the gas utility, and about the public's need to know about the Central Water Line Project.
- Lucy, a city resident, asked about the scale of Flock surveillance and the tradeoffs or benefits of using tracking technology.

On motion by Snook, seconded by Oschrein, Council voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 10:03 p.m.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council