

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

The Charlottesville City Council held a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 2, 2025. Mayor Juandiego Wade called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m., and Clerk of Council Kyna Thomas called the roll, noting all councilors present: Mayor Juandiego Wade, Vice Mayor Brian Pinkston and Councilors Natalie Oschrin, Michael Payne and Lloyd Snook.

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

REPORTS

1. REPORT: Sister Cities Commission

Edward Herring, Chair of the Sister Cities Commission, presented the annual report. He reviewed activities from each sister city and announced an upcoming delegation visit to Friendship City Huehuetenango, Guatemala.

2. REPORT: Blue Ridge Juvenile Detention Center

Jay Boland, Director of the Blue Ridge Juvenile Detention Center, presented the report, emphasizing their mission of "Promoting Public Safety Through Structured Rehabilitation and Community Reintegration". The Blue Ridge Juvenile Detention Center (BRJD) opened for operations in July of 2022. They serve juveniles aged 10 to 17 in five jurisdictions: City of Charlottesville, County of Albemarle, County of Culpeper, County of Fluvanna, and the County of Greene. Mr. Boland highlighted information about the facility, education program, mental health services, medical services, post-dispositional programs, and community partners.

3. REPORT: Historic Resources Committee (2025-2026 Work Plan)

Julie Basic, Historic Resources Committee (HRC) Chair and Jeff Werner, Historic Preservation and Design Planner, presented a report on the Historic Resources Committee. The committee's mission is: "To advocate for historic preservation; to promote an appreciation of local historic resources, both tangible and intangible; and to encourage and coordinate, with appropriate municipal agencies, civic organizations, institutions and individual scholars, the documentation and interpretation of local history.

Ms. Basic highlighted the importance of the Historic Resources Committee:

- Citizen-led group appointed by City Council to share insight, input, and concerns regarding historic resources.
- Diverse group with individual expertise; unique experiences and careers; and variety of qualifications
- Serves as sounding board for Preservation staff
- Assists Preservation and Design staff with projects and tasks
- Assist other City departments with historic resource concerns
- Available to receive public comments about preservation issues
- Informs and educates the community about the City's history and its historic and cultural resources.
- On behalf of the City, collaborates with other historical-minded organizations

She reviewed a list of projects and activities from the past five years, along with current projects, and advised what the HRC needs to accomplish the City's Preservation goals.

With no closed meeting, Mayor Wade recessed the meeting from 5:23 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

BUSINESS SESSION

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

RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

• RECOGNITION: Charlottesville High School Boys Varsity Tennis State Champions (Second Straight Year)

Mayor Wade presented a Certificate of Achievement to the Charlottesville High School Boys Varsity Tennis State Championship Team. Andy Jones, Director of Student Activities at Charlottesville High School, made remarks commending the students for their love of sport, their dedication, and the good example that they set for camaraderie.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Wade announced the Charlottesville Albemarle NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet on September 19,

Vice Mayor Pinkston announced Charlottesville Twelve Day on September 8, as recognized by City Schools to commemorate 66 years since twelve black students bravely integrated the all-white Venable Elementary (now Trailblazer Elementary) and Lane High School in 1959.

Councilor Oschrin announced an upcoming community walk on September 14 in JPA. She also announced the September 27 Loop de Ville event.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

Mayor Wade opened the floor for comments from the public.

- 1. Bethany Robinson spoke in opposition to the Ordinance on Camping and Storage on City Property under consideration listed later on the agenda, and questioned to whom the ordinance would apply.
- 2. Mary Joy Scala, city resident representing Preservation Piedmont, asked Council to deny the Certificate of Appropriateness for demolition of 1301 Wertland Street.
- 3. Jeffrey E. Fogel, city resident, spoke against criminalization of the unhoused community.
- 4. Don Gathers, city resident, spoke in opposition to the Ordinance on Camping and Storage on City Property under consideration later on the agenda.
- 5. Anna Malo, city resident, spoke in opposition to the Ordinance on Camping and Storage on City Property under consideration later on the agenda, and in opposition to criminalizing homelessness.
- 6. Joshua Balleu, city resident, spoke about his experience with homelessness while working, and reasons why people may be homeless. He spoke in opposition to the Ordinance on Camping and Storage on City Property under consideration later on the agenda.
- 7. Genevieve Keller, city resident, spoke in support of preserving Wertenbaker House and denying the appeal of the Board of Architectural Review (BAR) denial of a Certificate of Appropriateness for demolition. She also spoke in opposition to the student housing development proposed near Westhaven.
- 8. Joy Johnson, city resident, spoke in support of 10th and Page and Westhaven residents, in opposition to the proposed 12-story student housing development, and in support of affordable housing.
- 9. Jessica Jackson, property owner in Charlottesville, posed questions for Council to ask the police chief when considering the Camping Ordinance. She implored the city to focus on providing adequate

housing.

- 10. Christopher Hall, city resident, spoke about his experience with homelessness, about his work in the human services field, and in opposition to the Ordinance on Camping and Storage on City Property.
- 11. Greer Achembach, Executive Director for the Friends of Downtown Charlottesville, spoke in support of the Ordinance on Camping and Storage on City Property and suggested that camping should not be on the Downtown Mall, although there should be a designated location for camping.
- 12. Rev. Dr. Arthur Long, Jr., spoke about reasons besides homeless individuals for struggling businesses on the Downtown Mall, and about homelessness as a result of failing to meet people's needs.
- 13. Alex Joyner, Co-Chair of IMPACT Charlottesville and local pastor, spoke about the proposed Ordinance on Camping and Storage on City Property, and addressing homelessness with respect. He asked what new thing will be put in place to give people hope who have no home. He asked for compassion in enforcing the ordinance.
- 14. Jordan McNanshen(?), non-city resident, spoke of his experience with homelessness. He commented in support of a designated camping area and stated that the camping ordinance does not propose an alternate camping location. He stated that not passing the ordinance would allow homeless people more autonomy.
- 15. Dr. Jean Katherin Gray, speaking as a business owner, asked about businesses working together to create solutions to improve the community and address homelessness.
- 16. Shayla Washington, Executive Director of the Blue Ridge Area Coalition for the Homeless (BRACH) and city resident, spoke in opposition to the proposed Ordinance on Camping and Storage on City Property. She shared personal experience with homelessness. On behalf of BRACH, she requested delaying consideration of the ordinance, designating certain city-owned spaces for camping, and participating in a working group to develop solutions.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 4. MINUTES: July 7, July 21 and August 4 regular meetings; August 6 joint meeting with the Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority; August 15-16 Council retreat
- 5. RESOLUTION to Transfer Additional Funds for Electric School Buses in the amount of \$10,032 (2nd reading)

RESOLUTION

Appropriation of Climate Initiative Funds to Support Electric School Bus Acquisition in the amount of \$10,032

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Charlottesville appropriated \$420,000 in anticipated rebates funding from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean School Bus Program on August 19, 2024; and

WHEREAS, two (2) Electric School Buses (ESBs) have been purchased with a combination of annual school bus acquisition funds and the anticipated funding from the rebates; and

WHEREAS, the maximum allowable rebate amount established by EPA to support inclusion of a

wheelchair lift for one of the ESBs was \$20,000; and

WHEREAS, the actual cost of the wheelchair lift component was for the lesser amount of \$9,968 and therefore the rebate payment received was \$10,032 less than what was appropriated; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville that Climate Action Initiative Funds in the amount of \$10,032 are hereby transferred, in the following manner:

Revenues \$10,032	Fund: 106	I/O: 2200076	G/L Account: 498426
Expenditures \$10,032	Fund: 106	I/O: 2200076	G/L Account: 599999
Transfer \$10,032	Fund: 426	I/O: 1000028	G/L Account: 561426

6. RESOLUTION Appropriating Opioid Abatement Authority Cooperative Partnership Grant for Fiscal Year 2026 to OAR (Offender Aid and Restoration) for Expanded Specialty Docket Services - \$13,504.43 (2nd reading)

RESOLUTION

Resolution Appropriating Opioid Abatement Authority Cooperative Partnership Grant COOP540106-0A01 for Fiscal Year 2026 to OAR for Expanded Specialty Docket Services \$13,504.43

WHEREAS the Opioid Abatement Authority of Virginia awarded a Cooperative Partnership Grant for the Expansion of Specialty Docket Services in the amount of \$13,504.43to the City of Charlottesville to fund expanded Specialty Docket services in Charlottesville, Albemarle, Nelson, Fluvanna, Orange, and Madison; and

WHEREAS the City of Charlottesville serves as the fiscal agent for this grant program; and

WHEREAS, the grant award covers July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that the sum of \$13,504.43, received as a grant from the Opioid Abatement Authority of Virginia and as matching funds from Nelson, Fluvanna, Orange, and Madison, is hereby appropriated in the following manner:

Revenues: \$13,504.43

Amount	Fund	Order	GL Code
\$13,504.43	214	1900574	440040 Legal Settlements

Expenditures: \$13,504.43

Amount	Fund	Order	GL Code
\$13,504.43	214	1900574	540369 Grant Pass-Thru

7. RESOLUTION Appropriating Virginia Department of Social Services Temporary Aid to Needy Families Grant - \$69,312.67 (2nd reading)

RESOLUTION

Appropriating Funds - Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) Grants \$69,312.67

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville, Virginia ("City"), has received a sixth (6th) renewal of Grant funds from the Virginia Department of Social Services ("VDSS") in the amount of \$69,312.67; and

WHEREAS, said Grant funds will be used to support workforce and business development training programs, supportive services, and staffing provided by the City's Office of Economic Development; and

WHEREAS, the Grant award covers the period from July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that the sum of \$69,312.67 is hereby appropriated in the following manner:

Revenue (\$69,312.67)

\$69,312.67 Fund: 209 IO: 1900606 G/L: 430120 (State/Fed pass through)

Expenditures (\$69,312.67)

\$69,312.67 Fund: 209 IO: 1900606 G/L: 530010 (Lump Sum); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this appropriation is conditioned upon the receipt of \$69,312.67 from the VDSS.

8. RESOLUTION to appropriate funds from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development- Virginia Homeless Solutions Program in the amount of \$440,885 (2nd reading)

RESOLUTION

Appropriating Funding in the Amount of \$440,885 To Be Received from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's Virginia Homeless Solutions Program

WHEREAS, The City of Charlottesville, through the Office of Budget and Grants Management has been notified that it will be awarded a grant from the Virginia Homeless Solutions Program (V.H.S.P.) of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development in the amount of \$440,885.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that upon receipt of the VHSP funding the Commonwealth of Virginia, said funding, anticipated in the sum of \$440,885, is hereby appropriated in the following manner:

Revenues

\$440,885 Fund 209 Order 1900611 G/L 430110 State Grant

Order 1900611 G/L 530550 Contractual Services

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this appropriation is conditioned upon receipt of \$440,885 in funds from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development.

9. RESOLUTION for the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the Program Year 2024-25 Community Development Block Grants and HOME Investment Partnerships Programs (2nd reading)

RESOLUTION

Resolution to Approve the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the Program Year 2024-25 Community Development Block Grants and HOME Investment Partnerships Programs

WHEREAS the City of Charlottesville has been designated as an Entitlement Community by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") and as such is a recipient of federal funds through HUD's Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") & HOME Investment Partnerships ("HOME") programs; and

WHEREAS the City is a contributing member of the Thomas Jefferson HOME Consortium ("TJHC") in partnership with the counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa and Nelson, and through the Consortium shares in the benefits of participation in HUD's HOME program; and

WHEREAS City Council approved 5-Year Consolidated Plan covering program years 2023-2027 at a public hearing held on May 1, 2023 (#R-23-065) and the associated 1-Year Annual Action Plan ("AAP") for program year 2024-25 at a public hearing on June 3, 2024 (#R-24-060); and

WHEREAS HUD requires all localities receiving HUD funds to report on their annual accomplishments at the end of each program year through the CAPER;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Charlottesville, Virginia, hereby approves the city's Program Year 2024-25 CAPER report, as presented here before us.

- 10. RESOLUTION to Appropriate Grant Funds from the Anne and Gene Worrell Foundation for the C.A.Y.I.P. (Community Attention Youth Internship Program) in the amount of \$42,480 (layover)
- 11. RESOLUTION to appropriate Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act Grant (VJCCCA) \$452,704 (layover)
- 12. RESOLUTION to appropriate Virginia State Police FY 26 HEAT Equipment Reimbursement Funding \$10,000 (layover)
- 13. RESOLUTION to Appropriate \$25,680 from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services 2026 JAG Law Enforcement Equipment Grant (layover)

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Sanders introduced John Oprandy as the new Emergency Management Coordinator. Mr. Oprandy made remarks.

City Attorney John Maddux commented on the White v. Charlottesville zoning case and negotiations with law firm Gentry Locke.

• REPORT: Human Services Update

Misty Graves, Director, presented an update on Department of Human Services programs and operations.

ACTION ITEMS

14. APPEAL RESOLUTION: Appeal of Board of Architectural Review (BAR) denial of a Certificate of Appropriateness for demolition of a Contributing Structure (BAR #HST 25-0068) at 1301 Wertland Street

Jeffrey Werner, Historic Preservation and Design Planner, presented a staff report and recommendation regarding an appeal of a decision made by the Board of Architectural Review. City Staff recommended City Council render a final decision, by Resolution, to deny a Certificate of Appropriateness to allow demolition of the structure at 1301 Wertland Street.

The property owner of 1301 Wertland Street ("Appellant") appealed the Board of Architectural Review's ("BAR") May 20, 2025, denial of a certificate of appropriateness ("CoA") to allow demolition of the Wertenbaker House. This appeal was within the ten (10)-day period following the BAR's action, as proscribed by City Code Chapter 34, Div. 5.2.7.E. This structure was designated by City Council a contributing structure within The Wertland Street Architectural Design Control District. Per City Code Chapter 34, Div. 5.2.7.A.1.c., the demolition of a contributing structure requires approval of a CoA. On May 20, 2025, the BAR, by a vote of 7-0, denied a CoA to allow demolition of the structure at 1301 Wertland Street, known as the Wertenbaker House.

Steven Blaine spoke on behalf of the appellant. He acknowledged the BAR's limited scope for evaluation of the Certificate of Appropriateness. He stated that the currently underutilized lot could be developed to provide increased student housing.

Councilors asked questions and provided feedback.

BAR Chair, James Zehmer, reiterated the BAR's position, and councilors stated their positions based on the criteria used in the BAR review.

On motion by Payne, seconded by Pinkston, Council by a vote of 4-1 upheld the BAR's decision by approving the resolution for denial of a CoA for demolition (Ayes: Payne, Pinkston, Snook, Wade; Noes: Oschrin). Councilor Oschrin spoke in support of building as much housing as possible to meet the need for affordable housing.

RESOLUTION DENIAL OF A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS FOR DEMOLITION OF THE STRUCTURE AT 1301 WERTLAND STREET

WHEREAS, on June 2, 2025, Steven W. Blaine, with Woods Rogers Vandeventer Black PLC ("Applicant"), on behalf of 1301 Wertland LLC and JSB Development LLC, the owners of certain land identified within the City of Charlottesville, Virginia ("City"), real estate assessment records as Parcel Identification number 04030300 and currently addressed as 1301 Wertland Street ("Property"), requested a Certificate of Appropriateness ("CoA") for the

demolition of the existing, two-story, brick Wertenbaker House ("Structure") on the Property ("Requested CoA"); and

WHEREAS, per City Code Chapter 34, Section 2.9.2.B.6., in 1999, the City established the Wertland Street Architectural Design Control District ("ADC District"); and

WHEREAS, the Property is within the Wertland Street ADC District, and the Structure designated a "contributing structure" within the ADC District; therefore, per City Code Chapter 34, Section 5.2.7.A.1.c., its demolition is subject to review by the City's Board of Architectural Review ("BAR"), and requires approval of a CoA; and

WHEREAS, on May 20, 2025, in a Motion approved 7-0, the BAR denied—the Requested CoA, stating it had "considered the standards set forth within the City Code, including the ADC District Design Guidelines" and "the proposed demolition of 1301 Wertland Street [BAR #HST 25-0068] does not satisfy [or] the BAR's criteria and guidelines and is not compatible with this property nor other properties in the Wertland Street ADC District" and, in its discussion and Motion, stating the reasons for denial, and;

WHEREAS, on June 2, 2025, as permitted by City Code Chapter 34, Section 5.2.7.E.1.b. and c., the Applicant appealed to City Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia ("City Council"), the BAR's denial of the Requested CoA ("Appeal"); and

WHEREAS, on September 2, 2025, per City Code Chapter 34, Section 5.2.7.E.1.d., following a review of the Appeal, the Project, and the Application, and having considered relevant information and opinions, including the BAR's determination, the City Staff Report, the City's ADC District Design Guidelines, and the City's standards for considering demolitions of contributing structures within ADC Districts (City Code Chapter 34, Section 5.2.7.D.1.b.,), this City Council determines the requested demolition of the Structure at the Property does not satisfy the design guidelines and review criteria, and is not compatible with this Property.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by City Council that, pursuant to the reasons stated below, *inter alia*, a CoA is hereby denied for the requested demolition of the Structure at the Property.

15. BY MOTION Support for the City of Charlottesville's Efforts in becoming a Bee City USA locality

Chris Gensic, Parks and Trails Planner, presented the request to become a Bee City USA locality. He outlined portions of the program that align with existing city practices, and he stated that Steven Gaines, Urban Forester, would represent the city on Virginia Bee Cities Committee.

A member of the Rivanna Garden Club spoke in support of the initiative as an education opportunity and a way to help pollinators. She shared more details about support from local organizations, stating that the City can determine from year to year whether it wants to continue participation.

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Snook, Council by a vote of 5-0 indicated support for the City's obtaining the designation of being one of the "Bee City USA" participants and to authorize the city manager to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the City organization and the Xerces Society

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

16. ORDINANCE on Camping and Storage on City Property (Tabled to a date uncertain)

Police Chief Michael Kochis asked for consideration of an ordinance addressing camping in public rights-of-way and the storage of personal property in those areas. This proposed ordinance seeks to balance public safety, accessibility, and quality of life concerns with a compassionate and empathetic approach to enforcement, using measures designed to ensure accessibility for pedestrians, maintain public safety, and preserve the use of shared spaces, while also being mindful of the circumstances of those experiencing homelessness.

Council discussed State legislation and asked clarifying questions about the implementation of the ordinance and discussions that led to the creation of the ordinance. Councilor Payne discouraged passing the ordinance until a permanent supportive shelter can be built and Councilor Oschrin agreed. Councilor Snook suggested consideration of moral, ethical and practical questions to address the issues surrounding homelessness. He proposed a city-monitored camping park with certain amenities.

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Oschrin, Council voted unanimously to table the ordinance indefinitely (Ayes: Oschrin, Payne, Pinkston, Snook, Wade; Noes: none).

COMMUNITY MATTERS (2)

Mayor Wade opened the floor for comments:

- Zyahna Bryant, city resident, expressed concerns with the proposed Ordinance on Camping and Storage on City Property, and various reasons why certain groups of people do not or rarely visit the Downtown Mall.
- Rosia Parker, city resident, spoke about her experience with homelessness.
- Aleen Carey, Cultivate Charlottesville, spoke in opposition to a proposed student housing development that would look down on the Westhaven neighborhood. She spoke about racial history of Vinegar Hill.
- Major Donald Wilson, new officer at the Salvation Army, spoke about the organization's existing and new efforts to provide shelter and address homelessness, working with local partners.
- Matthew Gilliken, city resident, spoke about the ordinance on Camping and Storage on City Property
 and suggested not placing a heavy issue on a Council agenda on a holiday weekend. He noted that only
 one person spoke in support of the ordinance, which was Friends of the Downtown Mall. Regarding
 support for a designated camping area, he reminded everyone of a previous encampment that was
 disbanded.
- A resident suggested placing a homeless shelter in the business district.
- Mo van de Sompel, city resident, spoke about the Ordinance on Camping and Storage on City Property, and the likelihood of disproportionate enforcement.
- Ralph Braun, Crozet resident, spoke about candor in the Ordinance on Camping and Storage on City Property. He questioned why the Downtown Mall was being discussed since the ordinance did not state anything about the Downtown Mall. He spoke about police accountability.
- Reverend Matt Seaton spoke in support of Council's decision to table the Ordinance on Camping and Storage on City Property, asking that decisions consider whether they are rooted in love.
- John Hall, city resident, spoke about the population and providing tents and mats to homeless individuals.

- A resident spoke about homelessness and issues that she has faced.
- Aiden Workman, city resident, spoke in support of placing a homeless shelter in the Fifeville neighborhood. He spoke about the need for public restrooms and seating on the Downtown Mall, making it more accessible for everyone.
- Jacqueline Kim, Albemarle County resident, spoke in opposition to the Ordinance on Camping and Storage on City Property. She spoke in support of the 10th and Page Neighborhood in opposition to a newly proposed housing development and suggested that people watch the BAR meeting that discussed it.
- Latricia Giles, Executive Director of PHAR (Public Housing Association of Residents), spoke in opposition to the proposed student housing development near Westhaven. She spoke about a need for respect in centering public housing residents in decisions about neighborhood development and about the importance compassion in prioritizing people over profit.
- Jeff Fogel, city resident, spoke about a past issue with panhandling on the Downtown Mall, and a compromise that was made fifteen years ago. He spoke against criminalizing homelessness and encouraged the reading of the dissenting statement from Supreme Court Justice Sotomayor.
- Wendy Gao, city resident, stated that building more student housing does not increase housing for Black and Brown people, and that it displaces historically Black and Brown long-term residents. She spoke about the crisis in deeply affordable housing and about campaign donations made by some board of directors members of the Friends of the Downtown Mall.
- Jessica Jackson, city resident, expressed concern that no homeless people were part of the work group to
 develop the proposed Ordinance on Camping and Storage on City Property. She asked everyone to be
 willing to listen to different points of view respectfully.
- Joy Johnson, city resident, spoke about the \$250 fine mentioned in the Ordinance on Camping and Storage on City Property, and stated that court costs would also be added. Regarding the proposed 11-story housing development near Westhaven, she suggested ways that Council could address similar housing development proposals in the future, including legislative options.
- John Hall, city resident, spoke about a former city councilor Paul Long, and he proposed honoring several people by displaying portraits at City Hall.

On motion by Pinkston, Council voted 4-0-1 to adjourn the meeting at 10:37 p.m., with Councilor Payne abstaining.

BY Order of City Council	BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council	
	Date Adopted:	
	Certified:	