



**CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 2, 2026 at 4:00 PM**  
**Council Chamber**

The Charlottesville City Council met on Monday, February 2, 2026. 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 Natalie Oschrin and Councilors Jen Fleisher, Michael Payne, and Lloyd Snook.

On motion by Oschrin, seconded by Fleisher, Council unanimously approved the agenda as amended.

## **REPORTS**

### **1. REPORT: Power Purchase Agreement Update (CHS & CMS)**

Kristel Riddervold, Director of the Office of Sustainability, provided a high-level overview of what a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) is and how it presents an opportunity for the City to install solar power systems on Charlottesville High School (CHS) and Charlottesville Middle School (CMS). She summarized efforts to-date regarding the pursuit of this model for these facilities as well as proposed next steps that will include Charlottesville City School Board (CCS) and City Council decisions.

In 2019, the City of Charlottesville committed to updated greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals of 45% by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050. In 2023, Charlottesville adopted the first community Climate Action Plan (CAP) to pursue these goals. The CAP identifies the installation of solar energy production systems on suitable municipal properties as a key implementation strategy to generate clean energy, reduce electricity bills, and reduce greenhouse gases. It also identifies PPAs as a mechanism to expedite this strategy.

Two municipal buildings, CHS and CMS, have been identified as ideal candidates for solar systems; they are the two largest facilities in the portfolio and both have new roofs. The potential solar system sizes for these two CCS facilities come with substantial installation costs that have been deemed infeasible to pursue with local capital funding at this time. An alternate financing strategy to local funding – the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) – is a compelling opportunity. A PPA enables a customer to receive predictable and often lower-cost electricity, while also enabling the owner/financer of the system to take advantage of tax credits and receive income from the sale of electricity. The PPA model involves a long-term contract and site access arrangement on the property of a host customer. The developer retains ownership and operational responsibility of the solar array and the host customer purchases the system's electrical output at a negotiated rate (proposed to be lower than the prevailing utility rate) and for a predetermined period (usually up to 25 years). This arrangement can help the customer meet their climate and clean energy goals while also reducing their long-term electricity costs. The developer/investor receives stable revenue from the customer over the life of the solar array. There is no required upfront cost to enter into a PPA. A PPA locks in a rate for the electricity generated by the solar system, along with an escalation rate, that provides assurance and predictability related to future energy costs.

Meghan Milo shared project development information and stated that there are multiple back-up plans to ensure meeting deadlines.

### **2. REPORT: Update on Plans for Phase 4 of the Kindlewood Housing Project**

Sunshine Mathon, Executive Director of the Piedmont Housing Alliance, presented the report. The City and Piedmont Housing Alliance (PHA) face a choice in the approach to Phase 4 of the Kindlewood /

Friendship Court redevelopment project. Phase 4 can include a sufficient number of units to meet the number of overall units for the entire project as called for in the City's agreement with PHA, which would require a substantial further investment of funds by the City into the project and increases the project risk, or the City can amend the agreement and accept fewer units with no additional cost to the City and a more definitive timeline to completion. Mr. Mathon stated that the public engagement phase with public housing residents has not yet occurred but is still being planned.

Kindlewood is a multi-phase redevelopment project governed by a master covenant that sets unit targets for each phase. Phase 1 is complete with 106 units, and Phase 2 is underway and expected to deliver 104 units. The City previously approved a reduction in Phase 3 to 85 units, which is below the original range of 88-102 units. Phase 4, the largest and final phase, was planned for 128-153 units, but rising construction costs and reliance on competitive Low-Income Housing Tax Credit allocations have created a significant funding gap. The City has already committed \$6.9 million in total to Phase 4, including \$4.5 millions for construction costs and \$2.4 million for infrastructure improvements. With this current commitment, the PHA project budget supports the delivery of 93 units, 37 units short of the covenant requirement. Closing this approximately \$3 million gap could allow the project to meet its original targets and maintain the overall goal of 425-475 units across all phases. However, delivery of these units would be dependent on securing future LIHTC allocations and would require additional project phases.

The Affordable Housing Plan sets the goal of increasing the number of subsidized affordable units by 1,100, prioritizing the creation of new units. The Plan also sets funding targets for 50% of funding to serve households with incomes up to 30% of AMI, 30% of funding for households earning up to 60% AMI, and 20% of funding for households earning up to 80% AMI, prioritizing deeper affordability. While increasing the funding for Kindlewood would support the creation of more units, it would also require three LIHTC awards and increase the construction timeline for the project, creating further uncertainty about future project phases.

Mr. Mathon asked for direction from Council following his presentation of funding options A and B, noting high administrative costs. Councilors indicated support for Option A, which would reduce the required number of units.

## **CLOSED MEETING**

On motion by Oschrin, seconded by Fleisher, Council voted 5-0 (Ayes: Fleisher, Oschrin, Payne, Snook, Wade; Noes: none) to meet in closed session as authorized by Virginia Code Section 2.2-3712:

1. Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(8) for consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel, specifically, contemplated council action with respect to federal immigration enforcement.
2. Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(19) for discussion of plans to protect public safety as it relates to terrorist activity or specific cybersecurity threats or vulnerabilities and briefings by staff members, legal counsel, or law-enforcement or emergency service officials concerning actions taken to respond to such matters or a related threat to public safety; discussion of information subject to the exclusion in subdivision 2 or 14 of § 2.2-3705.2, where discussion in an open meeting would jeopardize the safety of any person or the security of any facility, building, structure, information technology system, or software program; or discussion of reports or plans related to the security of any governmental facility, building or structure, or the safety of persons using such facility, building or structure.

On motion by Oschrin, seconded by Snook, Council certified by a vote of 5-0 (Ayes: Fleisher, Oschrin, Payne, 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**

The business meeting began with a moment of silence.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Wade thanked the community and city staff for efforts made during the recent Winter storm.

Councilor Oschrin announced the monthly neighborhood walk in Johnson Village, meeting at Tall Oaks Elementary on February 8 at 10:00 a.m.

## **ACTION ITEM moved during agenda approval**

### **17. RESOLUTION: A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Charlottesville Regarding Recent Immigration Enforcement Actions and Reaffirming the City's Commitment to Civil Rights, Due Process, and Community Trust**

Councilors commented individually before taking turns reading portions of the resolution.

On motion by Snook, seconded by Oschrin, Council by a vote of 5-0 approved the following resolution (Ayes: Fleisher, Oschrin, Payne, Snook, Wade; Noes: none):

#### **A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Charlottesville Regarding Recent Immigration Enforcement Actions and Reaffirming the City's Commitment to Civil Rights, Due Process, and Community Trust**

**WHEREAS**, The City Council of Charlottesville is entrusted with safeguarding the health, safety, and welfare of the community and with expressing the values and priorities of the City; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City of Charlottesville seeks to be a city where everyone thrives; and

**WHEREAS**, Charlottesville is a diverse and inclusive community that values fairness, equal protection under the law, and respect for the dignity and humanity of all persons; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Charlottesville seeks to be a welcoming community, including being welcoming to immigrants from other countries; and

**WHEREAS**, recent immigration enforcement actions undertaken by federal authorities, including actions that have resulted in serious injury or loss of life, have generated widespread public outrage regarding civil rights, accountability, and the appropriate use of force; and

**WHEREAS**, such actions, regardless of the ultimate outcome of any investigation, can profoundly affect public trust, community cohesion, and the willingness of residents to engage with local government and public safety services; and

**WHEREAS**, the City recognizes that immigration enforcement is a federal responsibility and that the

City has no authority or responsibility to regulate, direct, or control the operations of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) or other federal agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council nevertheless retains the authority and responsibility to speak on matters that affect the safety, rights, and trust of the Charlottesville community, and to advocate for constitutional protections and humane treatment for all persons.

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

**1. Expression of Condemnation and Grief**

Charlottesville mourns the loss of life caused by recent immigration enforcement actions. The City unequivocally condemns any enforcement tactics that needlessly endanger human life, disregard basic dignity, and erode the rule of law.

**2. Affirmation of Community Values and Practices**

The City affirms its commitment to constitutional protections, equal treatment under the law, and the humane and respectful treatment of all individuals within the community.

Charlottesville rejects the normalization of fear, secrecy, and violence as tools of governance. Public safety must never be achieved through terror, humiliation, or the abandonment of due process. Peaceful protest is an American right and not a valid target for federal action.

**3. Public Safety and Community Trust**

The City finds that, in the context of federal immigration enforcement, practices such as concealing an official’s identity, operating in plain clothes, using unmarked vehicles, failing to clearly and promptly identify authority, or engaging in confrontational tactics without clear legal justification create an unreasonable risk of violent escalation. Moreover, tactics that deny persons access to basic human needs and rights guaranteed by the Constitution, such as operations aimed at schools, medical facilities, courthouses, and houses of worship run counter to the American spirit and should not be tolerated.

Such practices do not merely undermine community trust; they place residents, bystanders, and officers themselves in immediate danger, and are incompatible with principles of transparent, accountable policing.

Charlottesville Police officers do not hide their identities. Charlottesville Police officers activate their body-worn cameras when working in the community. Charlottesville Police officers have been trained to de-escalate confrontations. Charlottesville Police officers receive extensive training on how to protect the Constitutional rights of all persons. The City is proud of its Police Department’s commitment to building trust with all residents, including through its longstanding practice of not collecting or maintaining information about a person’s immigration status, recognizing that community trust is essential to public safety.

**4. Federal Immigration Authority**

The City recognizes that federal immigration enforcement authority is derived from federal statute and limited by the United States Constitution, and that unless the City and ICE enter into an agreement under Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Naturalization Act, the City has no responsibility or authority to enforce immigration laws.

Federal law does not generally authorize immigration officers to stop vehicles, enter private property, or take enforcement actions absent lawful authority supported by probable cause and, where required, a judicially issued warrant. Moreover, the City finds that immigration

enforcement actions aimed at schools, medical facilities, courthouses, and houses of worship, while potentially legal, are unduly disruptive to the community's well-being, and wrongfully interfere with human dignity and rights granted by law.

The City rejects enforcement actions that exceed or evade these legal limits and finds that such actions erode public confidence, destabilize communities, and undermine the legitimacy of lawful authority itself.

#### **5. Call for Transparency and Accountability**

The City urges federal authorities to conduct thorough, independent, and transparent investigations into incidents involving the use of force in immigration enforcement and to make findings available to the public to the extent permitted by law.

The City further calls on federal agencies to immediately reevaluate and discontinue tactics that conceal identity, obscure authority, or rely on fear and force rather than clear legal process.

#### **6. Impact on Federal Personnel**

The City recognizes that certain tactics now commonly employed in federal immigration enforcement, even when authorized or condoned by federal officials, can place federal officers themselves at risk of physical harm, legal jeopardy, and moral injury.

The City further finds that enforcement practices that obscure identity, that rely on fear created by ambiguity, or that prioritize displays of force over clearly bounded legal authority can dehumanize both community members and the officials charged with carrying out those actions, while entangling federal personnel in operations that serve political objectives rather than public safety.

#### **7. Limitation on Scope and Authority**

This resolution is intended solely as an expression of the values and concerns of the City as expressed by its current City Council. Nothing in this resolution is intended to direct the City Manager or City staff to interfere with lawful federal activities or to alter any existing legal obligations or authorities.

#### **8. Communication to Federal and State Officials**

The City Council, as a body, will communicate with Charlottesville's representatives in the United States Senate and House of Representatives, as well as Virginia's Governor and Attorney General, to convey the City's concerns regarding federal immigration enforcement and to request they exercise their respective authorities to promote transparency, accountability, and adherence to constitutional and statutory protections through any means possible, including appropriate legislative action.

City Attorney John Maddux spoke about next steps of sending a letter to State officials and representatives. He issued guidance to city staff on how to interact with federal agents.

### **COMMUNITY MATTERS**

1. Mike Henrietta spoke about traditions of the Court Square Enslavement auction block, requesting signage for a memorial.
2. Alicia Lenahan, Albemarle County resident, spoke about community safety in the face of federal ICE actions.
3. Freddy Jackson, Love No Ego Foundation, living in the Charlottesville area, spoke about the trade of enslaved laborers at Court Square, and in support of the request for a memorial to preserve the history

of enslavement trading in Charlottesville.

4. Richard Allan, Court Square Enslavement Memorial Group, spoke in support of soul honoring of enslaved laborers with the Court Square Enslavement Memory Project.
5. Wendy Gao, Friends of PHAR, spoke about rejection of ICE and spoke the names of individuals killed at the hands of authority. She requested a change to the Zoning Code and by-right developments because of adverse impacts on historically Black and Brown residents and neighborhoods.
6. Susan McCulley, owner of property in the city, spoke in support of the resolution passed earlier in the meeting by Council regarding immigration enforcement. She suggested State legislation to support.
7. Kate Fraleigh, city resident, spoke in support of the resolution passed by Council regarding immigration enforcement, and suggested adding the police department in the guidelines for interaction with ICE.
8. Melvina Hill, city resident, spoke about Crescent Hall and reasons why tall buildings on West Main Street are not a good idea near Westhaven. Some reasons stated were the creation of a wall and barrier to Westhaven and reducing light, which can create a psychological burden, contributing to anxiety and depression, as well as traffic congestion and other issues.
9. Sadhbh O'Flynn, Community Climate Collaborative, spoke in support of the 4:00 p.m. report from the Office of Sustainability; the need to oppose the gas plant expansion in Fluvanna County; and as an individual, spoke in support of abolishing ICE at all levels. She spoke of a personal situation involving law enforcement who requested racially profiling information about neighbors, and she requested abolishing ICE everywhere.
10. Sophia Merrero, city resident, spoke about Tenant Day of Action in Richmond. She requested abolishing ICE at all levels and spoke in support of refugees and immigrants.
11. Rosia Parker, city resident, advocated for changing the Zoning Code to correct damages to disadvantaged and historic communities. She spoke about being a victim of several racially motivated events, about historical trauma, and about a racial profiling incident in Albemarle County. She thanked Council for passing the resolution earlier in the meeting regarding ICE.
12. Frank Bechter, Fifeville resident, thanked staff for video recording public meetings. Regarding zoning for student housing, he emphasized the need for Council to direct the City Manager to implement the policies enacted by City Council, and to be specific about priorities.
13. Deanna McDonald, health education consultant, addressed contradictions in funding for the proposed grocery store at 501 Cherry Avenue. She stated that the fundraising being conducted by the Co-op is done for the grocery store operation and not for the structure.
14. Zyahna Bryant, city resident, thanked City Manager Sanders for the recent budget forum activity, and she thanked public safety and first responders for their recent work during the aftermath of the Winter storm. She stated that additional funding is needed to address safe routes to schools. She emphasized neighbors helping neighbors, collaboration with schools, and continued accountability.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Clerk of Council Kyna Thomas read the following Consent Agenda items into the record:

On motion by None, seconded by None, Council by the following vote, the Consent Agenda: (Ayes: None; Noes: None).

3. RESOLUTION to appropriate funding from the Supreme Court of Virginia Behavioral Health Docket Grant - \$78,150.09 (2nd reading)

**RESOLUTION**  
**Appropriating Albemarle-Charlottesville Therapeutic Docket Grant Award**  
**\$78,150.09**

**WHEREAS**, the Supreme Court of Virginia awarded the Supreme Court of Virginia Recovery Court Docket Grant in the amount of \$78,150.09 for the Charlottesville/Albemarle Recovery Court in order to fund salaries, benefits, and operating expenses; and

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

**WHEREAS**, the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County both have dedicated local matches to this grant, totaling \$186,539.00; and

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

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, which the sum of \$78,150.09, received as a grant from the Supreme Court of Virginia, is hereby appropriated in the following manner:

**Revenues**

\$78,150.09      Fund: 209      Internal Order: 1900617      G/L Account: 430110

**Expenditures**

\$78,150.09      Fund: 209      Internal Order: 1900617      G/L Account: 530670

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this appropriation is conditioned upon the receipt of \$78,150.09 from the Supreme Court of Virginia.

4. RESOLUTION to appropriate the Virginia Department of Social Services Family Assistance Management (F.A.M.) grant in the amount of \$125,754.06 (2nd reading)

**RESOLUTION**  
**Appropriating Funding in the Amount of \$125,754.06 To Be Received from the Virginia Department of Social Services' Family Assistance Management (F.A.M.) Grant**

**WHEREAS** The City of Charlottesville has been notified that it will be awarded a grant from the Family Assistance Management grant program from the Virginia Department of Social Services in the amount of \$125,754.06.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that upon receipt of the F.A.M. funding the Commonwealth of Virginia, said funding, anticipated in the sum of \$125,754.06, is hereby appropriated in the following manner:

**Revenues**

\$125,754.06      Fund: 209      Order: 3413023000      G/L: 530550

**Expenditures**

\$125,754.06      Fund: 209      Order: 3413023000      G/L: 530550

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this appropriation is conditioned upon the receipt of \$125,754.06 in funds from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

5. ORDINANCE Approving Amendments to Previous Ordinance Authorizing a Forgivable Loan to SupportWorks Housing for Vista 29 (2nd reading)

**AMENDED ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A FORGIVABLE LOAN TO VIRGINIA SUPPORTIVE HOUSING TO SUPPORT THE PREMIER CIRCLE/VISTA 29 PROJECT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PRODUCING NEW HOUSING UNITS FOR HOMELESS PERSONS AND VERY LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS**

6. RESOLUTION Appropriating \$700,000 and Initiating an Amendment to the Terms of a Performance Agreement Supporting the 501 Cherry Avenue Mixed-Use Development Project (2nd reading)

**RESOLUTION**

**To appropriate \$700,000 and initiate consideration of amending a certain performance agreement to support the 501 Cherry Avenue mixed-use development project**

**WHEREAS** the 501 Cherry Avenue mixed-use development project is proposed to consist of 71 affordable rental dwelling units and commercial space to be occupied by the Music Resource Center (MRC) and a community grocery store; and

**WHEREAS** the project represents a partnership between the neighborhood association, a private for-profit developer, and a not-for-profit affordable housing developer to develop a project that meets a number of community needs as envisioned in the Cherry Avenue Small Area Plan; and

**WHEREAS** the project developer, Piedmont Housing Alliance, is requesting an additional \$1,700,000 to support the project; and

**WHEREAS** the City of Charlottesville would provide an additional \$700,000 from the Capital Improvement Program contingency fund and support increasing the funding payment contemplated in an existing Performance Agreement, dated March 20, 2025, to 100% of the incremental real estate value created by the project, subject to approval by the Economic Development Authority of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia and the City Council of the City of Charlottesville; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, hereby appropriates \$700,000 to the Piedmont Housing Alliance and supports initiation of an amendment to the terms of the 501 Cherry Avenue Performance Agreement as stated herein.

7. Resolution Appropriating \$390,000 to Support a Rental Arrears Intervention Pilot Program (2nd reading)

**RESOLUTION**

**APPROPRIATING \$390,000 TO SUPPORT THE CREATION OF A RENTAL ARREARS INTERVENTION PROGRAM WITH PIEDMONT HOUSING ALLIANCE**

**WHEREAS** Piedmont Housing Alliance has confirmed a significant issue of rental arrears associated with the Kindlewood property; and

**WHEREAS** Piedmont Housing Alliance has experience running a Financial Literacy Center; and a rental arrears intervention program operating within a financial literacy center could work with tenants to resolve their payment of rent through coupling payment assistance with accountability measures and financial education; and

**WHEREAS** the City Manager has made a recommendation and request to allocate a portion of the CIP contingency funds to Piedmont Housing Alliance (PHA) to support a two-year rental arrears pilot program that includes \$170,000 for a financial literacy counselor and up to \$220,000 to cover 50% of arrears for participating households;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that the sum of \$390,000 is hereby allocated from currently appropriated funds in the CIP Contingency Fund for the following:

**Transfer from:**

Fund: 426                      Funded Program: CP-080                      GL Code: 599999

**Transfer to:**

Fund: 210                      Internal Order: 1900638                      GL Code: 599999

8. Resolution to appropriate funding from the International City / County Management Association (ICMA) Economic Mobility and Opportunity Special Assistant Grant in the amount of \$354,000 (2nd reading)

**RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$354,000 TO BE RECEIVED FROM THE INTERNATIONAL CITY MANAGERS' ASSOCIATION ICMA ECONOMIC MOBILITY AND OPPORTUNITY SPECIAL ASSISTANT GRANT**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Charlottesville has received an Economic Mobility and Opportunity grant from the International City Managers Association (ICMA) Economic Mobility and Opportunity Special Assistant Program in the amount of \$354,000; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Charlottesville has received an Economic Mobility and Opportunity grant from the International City Managers Association (ICMA) Economic Mobility and Opportunity Special Assistant Program in the amount of \$354,000; and

**WHEREAS**, the grant award covers the period from September 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that upon receipt of the ICMA Economic Mobility and Opportunity Special Assistant Grant, said funding, anticipated in the sum of \$354,000.00 is hereby appropriated in the following manner:

**Revenue – \$354,000.00**

\$354,000.00                      Fund: 210                      CC: 1674001000                      Functional Area: 1671

**Expenditures - \$354,000.00**

\$354,000.00                      Fund: 210                      CC: 1674001000                      Functional Area: 1671

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this appropriation is conditioned upon the receipt of \$354,000.00 from the International City Managers Association (ICMA) Economic Mobility and Opportunity Special Assistant Program.

9. Resolution to Appropriate National League of Cities Southern Cities Economic Initiative Program Funds - \$60,000 (carried)
10. Consent and end to the January 24, 2026 local Declaration of Emergency

**A Resolution Consenting to the City Manager’s Local Emergency Declaration of January 24, 2026 and Declaring the Termination of the Local Emergency Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 44-146.21**

**WHEREAS**, on January 24, 2026 the City Manager of the City of Charlottesville, acting as the City’s local director of emergency management, declared a local emergency pursuant to section 44-146.21 of the Code of Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, under section 44-146.21 of the Code of Virginia, the City Council is required to consent to such declaration at its next regular meeting in order for the declaration to remain in effect; and

**WHEREAS**, the circumstances giving rise to the emergency declaration have been abated and no longer require the continuation of a local emergency;

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

1. The City Council hereby consents to the City Manager’s declaration of a local emergency dated January 24, 2026, as required by § 44-146.21 of the Code of Virginia; and
2. The City Council hereby declares the local emergency terminated effective February 3, 2026.

**CITY MANAGER REPORT**

City Manager Sanders thanked local residents, volunteers, and staff for work done to recover from the recent winter storm, which was worse than expected with ice accumulation. He stated that the city ordinance regarding sidewalk clearing is a requirement, and everyone should do their part to recover. He thanked the Schools team for working to make sure that children could return to school to minimize learning loss.

Mr. Sanders introduced new Chief Strategy Officer Jennifer Hendrick, and Assistant City Manager Sam Roman.

Finance Director Chris Cullinan presented the FY25 General Fund fund balance surplus for Fiscal Year 2025, which totaled \$8,502,178, approximately 3.4% of the Adopted FY25 Budget.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **14. RESOLUTION Establishing a Section of West Main Street as Mel's Walk**

This item was moved up to honor the time of audience members in attendance to support the resolution. Mayor Wade introduced the request and acknowledged a proclamation that was issued upon the death of Mel Walker.

Mr. Alex-Zan acknowledged the 100th year for Black History Month and he introduced the family of Mel Walker. Mr. Walker's mother approached Alex-Zan to explore a way to honor Mel's legacy. He thanked Mr. James Freas for pushing the process forward. Vice Mayor Oschrin read the resolution.

Family members thanked Council for the street designation.

#### **RESOLUTION GRANTING THE HONORARY STREET DESIGNATION OF "MEL'S WALK" TO A PORTION OF WEST MAIN STREET BETWEEN 8TH STREET NW AND 7TH STREET NW**

**WHEREAS** Melvin Walker was the owner and chef of Mel's Café located at 811 West Main Street for 39 years; and

**WHEREAS** Mel's Café was an essential community gathering spot and institution, playing host to all people of the community from residents, students, politicians, and unhoused community members; and

**WHEREAS** Mel's Café served as the unofficial center of the historically black Star Hill neighborhood as it was the only black-owned restaurant on West Main Street; and

**WHEREAS** Mr. Walker contributed to Westhaven, the University of Virginia, the Boys and Girls Club, City of Promise, Prolyfyck Run Crew and many other groups and organizations; and

**WHEREAS** Mr Walker was a member of the First Baptist Church and was known for offering a free meal to those in need that the church sent over; and

**WHEREAS** Mr Walker spent much of his life nurturing and nourishing family, friends, and community with not only his homemade sweet potato pies and fried chicken, but also his "infectious love of life.";

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that the City Council hereby grants the honorary street designation of "Mel's Walk" to the portion of West Main Street between 8th Street NW and 7th Street NW.

### **11. ORDINANCE Amending 2-98 of the City Code Pertaining to Procedures for Passage of Certain Ordinances and Resolutions**

City Attorney John Maddux summarized the ordinance amendment.

On motion by Snook, seconded by Oschrin, Council adopted the **ORDINANCE AMENDING 2-98 OF THE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO PROCEDURES FOR PASSAGE OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS** by a vote of 5-0, waiving the second reading (Ayes: Fleisher, Oschrin, Payne, Snook, Wade; Noes: none).

**12. ORDINANCE Amending Section 11-131 of the Charlottesville City Code Regarding Compromise and Payment of Claims Against the City. (carried)**

**13. RESOLUTION Appropriating Existing Funds to the E-Bike Voucher Program (carried)**

Tommy Safranek, Bike & Pedestrian Coordinator, and Tra Biasioli, Office of Sustainability, presented an update on the E-Bike Voucher Program. The E-Bike Voucher Program awards vouchers to local residents using funds from Dockless Mobility Permit Program revenues from the Bike Infrastructure Capital Fund and already-appropriated Climate Action Funds.

In 2025, City Council re-allocated funds from the Climate Action Fund and Dockless Mobility Permit revenues into a new fund for the E-Bike Voucher Pilot Program. Each funding source contributed \$75,000, funding the Pilot Program at \$150,000 for 2025. Of that funding, \$100,000 was programmed for use in the Voucher Lottery Pilot, which has successfully awarded 100, \$1,000 vouchers to City residents across four quarterly drawings. The remaining \$50,000 was intended to support a second Pilot that would be focused on income-qualifying residents, but City Staff found that, rather than developing a second program, refinements to the Lottery Pilot would provide additional benefits to qualified residents and be far simpler and more effective to administer.

Councilor Payne asked for consideration of reducing the income threshold to make e-bikes more affordable to households.

**14. RESOLUTION to reallocate \$45,000 from the Council Strategic Initiatives Fund to support the Piedmont YMCA renovations project**

City Manager Sanders presented the off-cycle budget request of \$45,000.

On motion by Payne, seconded by Oschrin, Council voted 5-0 to pass the following resolution, waiving the second reading (Ayes: Fleisher, Oschrin, Payne, Snook, Wade; Noes: none).

**Resolution to Allocate \$45,000 from Council's Strategic Initiatives Fund to Support the Piedmont YMCA Renovations Project**

**WHEREAS** the YMCA is experiencing a critical need for support to resolve a matter of egress for the childcare center it operates at the Jefferson School City Center;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that the following allocation be paid from the Council's Strategic Initiatives Fund:

**\$45,000 Fund: 105 Cost Center: 1011001000 Cost Center: 540100**

**15. RESOLUTION to reallocate \$469,000 originally appropriated for Low Barrier Shelter Operations to the continuation and implementation of alternative shelter programming as one-time investments**

City Manager Sanders presented the funding request.

On motion by Payne, seconded by Fleisher, Council voted 5-0 to pass the following resolution, waiving the second reading (Ayes: Fleisher, Oschrin, Payne, Snook, Wade; Noes: none):

**Resolution to Reallocate \$469,000 Originally Appropriated for  
Low Barrier Shelter Operations to the Continuation and Implementation of Alternative Shelter  
Programming as One-Time Investments**

**WHEREAS** the City Council of the City of Charlottesville, VA adopted an ordinance on April 14, 2026 (“the Budget Ordinance”), setting a budget in the amount of \$500,000 to be used in FY 2026 for Low Barrier Shelter Operations; and

**WHEREAS**, emergency situations continue to plague the continuum of care for the unhoused in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, PACEM, Blue Ridge Area Coalition for the Homeless (BRACH), and the Salvation Army, three of the City’s local service providers are in need of one-time support to strengthen and maintain critical service delivery;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, that the \$500,000 previously appropriated as part of the FY 2026 Budget Ordinance to be used for low barrier shelter operations is hereby reallocated as follows:

**Transfer From:**

Fund: 105    Cost Center: 9773006000    GL Code: 540100

**Transfer To:**

\$65,000	Fund: 105	Cost Center: 9743021000	GL Code: 540100	(PACEM)
\$234,000	Fund: 105	Cost Center: 9743027000	GL Code: 540100	(BRACH)
\$170,000	Fund: 105	Cost Center: TBD	GL Code: 540100	(Salvation Army)

**COMMUNITY MATTERS (2)**

Mayor Wade opened the floor for public comment and there were no speakers.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Snook, seconded by Oschrin, Council by unanimous consent adjourned the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council