

**CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 18, 2023 at 4:00 PM**  
**Council Chamber**

The Charlottesville City Council met on Monday, September 18, 2023. Mayor Lloyd Snook called the meeting to order, and Deputy Clerk of Council Maxicelia Robinson called the roll, noting all councilors present: Mayor Lloyd Snook, Vice Mayor Juandiego Wade and Councilors Michael Payne, Brian Pinkston and Leah Puryear.

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Puryear, Council unanimously approved the meeting agenda.

**REPORTS**

**1. Report from Cultivate Charlottesville on City Food Equity Initiative**

Jeanette Abi-Nader, Cultivate Charlottesville Co-Executive Director, gave an overview of the Food Equity Initiative (FEI) program along with a review of the program activities and accomplishments over the previous 12+ months. Cultivate Charlottesville is engaged in an active partnership with City Departments that have an individual focus in food equity. Ms. Abi-Nader shared the Food Equity profiles of each of the City Departments, noting that implementation, funding, and transportation to food access areas are an ongoing challenge for departments. She also reviewed the 2023 Food Equity Initiative Policy Platform which, in part, serves as a mechanism for tracking the organization's goals and progress. Ms. Abi-Nader introduced the FY24 Food Equity Initiative Goals as well. The organization's current partnership with City Council is scheduled to expire in June 2025.

Quentia Taylor, Program Director, and Aleen Carey, Co- Executive Director of Cultivate Charlottesville, presented background information about the Food Equity Initiative's, Power to Grow Campaign. The Power to Grow Campaign aligns with Plank #3 of the Food Equity Initiative Policy Platform by the advancement of affordable housing and urban agriculture. The presenters reported the history of land ownership in the City of Charlottesville and the disparate impact on African American residents within the community. The FEI led a community engagement campaign between 2019 and 2023 to help Charlottesville residents decide if they would like an Urban Agriculture Collective Farm Site at Booker T. Washington Park. Survey results indicate that 95% of residents of public and affordable housing support free and fresh produce and 94% of residents believe that an Urban Agriculture Collective farm at Washington Park will benefit their community. The Food Equity Initiative submitted the following Community Asks:

- 1) Charlottesville City Council recommends dedicating land in Booker T. Washington Park for an Urban Agriculture Collective farm.
- 2) Charlottesville City Council asks Parks and Recreation to prioritize a community design for this farm site in the upcoming Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan.
- 3) Charlottesville City Council recommends explicitly including food equity goals in the City's Strategic Plan in a way that aligns with the City's Comprehensive Plan Chapter 7 (Goal 4) and the Food Equity Initiative Policy Platform.

FEI next steps:

- 1) December 31, 2023 - Compile and analyze community engagement data.
- 2) March 1, 2024 – Work with Parks & Rec Strategic Planning Committee on site design for Washington Park with an UAC Farm included.
- 3) April 1, 2024 - Launch History of Booker T. Washington Park Documentary.
- 4) June 30, 2024 – Vote and approval of the Urban Agriculture Collective Farm at Washington Park by Council.
- 5) July 1, 2024 - Launch Phase II Community Engagement for Park Design and by 2025 Launch Capital Campaign.

The proposed UAC Farm at Washington Park will model the same program as existing UAC Farm's in neighborhoods within the City of Charlottesville. The produce that is harvested from the Farm will be available at the weekly Community Market Days at no cost to residents.

Councilor Puryear suggested the possibility of expanding the project to include a Farmer's Market and nutrition classes at Washington Park. Riaan Anthony, Deputy Director of Parks, confirmed that the planning process for the Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan will take 12 to 14 months to complete. The planning process will start within the month of October, and Mr. Anthony anticipates that the comprehensive plan will be submitted to Council for adoption in January 2025. Ms. Abi-Nader added that the FEI previously made a recommendation to City Council to divert 2% of city meals tax to a City Food Equity Fund that will aid the City in developing its own infrastructure to address food equity as a governing body. Following a discussion about food equity as it relates to community wealth-building as part of the City's Comprehensive Plan, Cultivate Charlottesville will review the comprehensive plan for the purpose of recommending changes to the language that will make food equity an explicit goal for community wealth-building.

## **2. Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority Sustainability Plan**

John Sales, Executive Director of the Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority (CRHA) introduced the item, after which Dr. Gina Merritt, Northern Real Estate Urban Ventures (NREUV), presented an update of the CRHA Sustainability Plan. NREUV performed a sustainability study on the CRHA to determine the ability of the agency to be a viable organization over the long term and to prove that the agency's plan for redevelopment helps to elevate and stabilize the agency's overall long-term financial position. The study included: a physical assessment of CRHA properties, market analysis, best practice research, development of a road map that outlines the goals for the study, development of conceptual designs for (2) CRHA sites, and a redevelopment strategy for the balance of the CRHA portfolio. Through this process NREUV developed the CRHA Sustainability Plan that focuses on redevelopment,

positioning assets, renovations, and increasing revenue. The results of the study conclude that a \$40M investment is required to extend the useful life of the CRHA portfolio. Dr. Merritt advised Council that the result of the study demonstrates that the CRHA should leverage public financing options to redevelop more substantial assets and utilize capital improvement program dollars to renovate smaller communities.

#### CRHA's Redevelopment Strategy:

- Redeveloping existing property
- Repositioning specific assets
- Performing capital improvements
- Adding environmental sustainability as a core tenet of the redevelopment activities
- Including resident participation as a key factor of the strategy
- Increasing density where possible
- Increasing the number of units at 30% of AMI & the number that qualify for housing subsidies

#### Redevelopment Strategy Forecast:

- The capital improvement program completed by the end of 2026
- Higher-density development completed by 2032 (e.g., Westhaven)
- Total units to be developed 896, an increase of 218% (Currently 376 units)
- Subsidized units increase by 12.5%
- This strategy yields \$23M in developer fees over the life of the redevelopment process, \$11M in sales proceeds, and \$21M in cash flows

#### Long term sustainability of the Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority:

- Depends on HUD Payments, Developer Fees, and ongoing cash flows
- Each property to be redeveloped would be self-sustaining and generate cash flows to support Agency expenses
- Existing properties to be redeveloped under Capital Improvement programs would be supported by programs for the long-term
- The few units remaining would rely on a small investment from HUD or could be repaired utilizing the significant reserves created by developer fees
- Developer fees should be invested in stable fixed-income assets to be drawn upon when required, reserves are vital to the long-term sustainability of the agency

John Sales, CRHA Executive Director, clarified that the ask of Council for the Westhaven Redevelopment Project is \$15M, 10% of the budget for the project, not \$17M as stated in a past

presentation. The overall budget is projected to render 354 new units; however, the total units may change as the result of the design of the project. Residents who reside in Westhaven will be temporarily relocated to 6<sup>th</sup> Street, new units at South 1<sup>st</sup> Street, and possibly Wertland Street during the construction phase.

Mr. Sales explained that CRHA is exploring additional opportunities to promote long term financial sustainability by creating a non-profit entity to qualify for grant funding and pursue opportunities in the tax bonds market. Housing Authorities can collect an annual fee for providing tax bonds. Mr. Sales projects that \$15M from the City will enable CRHA to leverage an additional subsidy of \$150M. The CRHA Phase II Plan will include a homeownership program for low-income families for CRHA property on 6<sup>th</sup> Street. The program will allow CRHA to issue (5) housing vouchers per year that may be utilized by the recipient to subsidize rent or mortgage costs for a 15-year period.

The \$15M payout from the city for the Westhaven Redevelopment Project is \$3M per year, beginning in 2026.

CRHA will submit the financial data for CRHA housing developments to Council at a later date.

## **CLOSED MEETING**

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Wade, Council voted 5-0 (Ayes: Payne, Pinkston, Puryear, Snook, Wade; Noes: none) to meet in closed session pursuant to section 2.2-3712 of the Virginia Code, I hereby move that City Council convene a closed meeting, as authorized by Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) for the discussion and consideration of prospective candidates for appointment to the following boards, commissions and authorities: Charlottesville Albemarle Airport Commission, Charlottesville Economic Development Authority, Housing Advisory Committee, Jefferson Area Community Criminal Justice Board, Piedmont Family YMCA Board of Directors, and Sister Cities Commission.

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Puryear, Council certified by the following vote: 5-0 (Ayes: Payne, Pinkston, Puryear, 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**

City Council began the business portion of the meeting by observing a moment of silence.

## **RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS**

### **• Proclamation: Energy Efficiency Day – October 4, 2023**

Mayor Snook presented the proclamation to Emily Irvin, Climate Protection Program Manager.

## **BOARD/COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS**

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Wade, Council unanimously approved the appointment of Brian Johnson and Roy Van Doorn to the Airport Commission; Quinton Harrell to the Economic Development Authority; Shaneice Bradford to the YMCA Board; Casey Erickson and Murray Susen to the Sister Cities Commission; Dashad Cooper to the Community Criminal Justice Board.

### **CONSENT AGENDA\***

Deputy Clerk of Council Maxicelia Robinson read the following Consent Agenda items into the record.

3. Minutes: August 8 joint City Council-Planning Commission public hearing
4. Resolution: Resolution to appropriate Fiscal Year 2024 Fire Programs Aid to Localities Funding (Firefund) - \$209,603 (2nd reading)

### **APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION**

#### **Fiscal Year 2024 Fire Programs Aid to Locality Funding (Firefund) \$209,603.00**

**WHEREAS**, the Virginia Department of Fire Programs has awarded a grant to the Fire Department, through the City of Charlottesville, specifically for fire service applications;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that a total of \$209,603.00 be appropriated in the following manner:

#### **Revenues - \$209,603**

|           |           |              |                     |
|-----------|-----------|--------------|---------------------|
| \$209,603 | Fund: 209 | I/O: 1900010 | G/L Account: 430110 |
|-----------|-----------|--------------|---------------------|

#### **Expenditures - \$209,603**

|           |           |              |                     |
|-----------|-----------|--------------|---------------------|
| \$209,603 | Fund: 209 | I/O: 1900010 | G/L Account: 599999 |
|-----------|-----------|--------------|---------------------|

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this appropriation is conditioned upon the receipt of \$209,603.00 from the Virginia Department of Fire Programs.

5. Ordinance: Ordinance to rezone the properties located at 501-507 Cherry Avenue, 0 5th Street SW, and 0 6th Street SW (2nd reading)

**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A REQUEST TO REZONE LAND FRONTING ON CHERRY AVENUE, 5TH STREET SOUTHWEST, AND 6TH STREET SOUTHWEST FROM CHERRY AVENUE MIXED USE CORRIDOR (CH) AND RESIDENTIAL SMALL LOT (R-1S) TO B-3 (COMMERCIAL) WITH PROFFERS**

6. Resolution: Resolution to approve a Special Use Permit for properties located at 501-507 Cherry Avenue, 0 5th Street SW, and 0 6th Street SW (1 reading)

**RESOLUTION GRANTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR THE PROPERTY  
LOCATED AT 501, 507 CHERRY AVENUE, 0 5TH STREET SOUTHWEST, AND 0  
6TH STREET SOUTHWEST (TAX MAP PARCELS 290179000, 290178200, 290177000,  
290178100, and 290178000)**

**WHEREAS** WP-501 Cherry LLC is the owner of certain land identified within the City of Charlottesville real estate records as Parcels No. 290179000, 290178200, 290177000, 290178100, and 290178000 (the “Subject Property”), which has frontage on Cherry Avenue, 5th ST SW, and 6th ST SW; and

**WHEREAS** the Subject Property is located within B-3 (Commercial) zoning district, a district in which, according to the Use Matrix set forth within City Code 34-480, use of Residential Density up to 87 Dwelling Units per Acre (DUA) may be authorized by City Council by means of a Special Use Permit; and

**WHEREAS** the Project is described in more detail within the application materials submitted in connection with SP23-00001, as required by City Code §34-158 (collectively, the “Application Materials”); and

**WHEREAS** the City Council and the Planning Commission conducted a joint public hearing on August 8, 2023, following public notice given in accordance with applicable law; and

**WHEREAS** the Planning Commission considered and recommended approval of this application at their August 8, 2023 meeting, subject to conditions recommended within the Staff Report, and modified as discussed in the meeting; now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council for the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that a Special Use Permit is hereby granted, to allow the Project as a permissible use of the Subject Property subject to the following conditions:

1. Per Section 34-480: Permitted Residential density up to 87 Dwellings Units per Acre (DUA) on the Subject Property.
2. Per Section 34-162: Alter the 5th ST SW side yard setback requirements to zero (0) feet minimum and nine (9) feet maximum, and at minimum fifty (50) percent of the building façade width must be in the build-to zone.
3. Per Section 34-162: Alter the 6th ST SW side yard setback requirements to zero (0) feet minimum and nine (9) feet maximum, and at minimum fifty (50) percent of the building façade width must be in the build-to zone.

4. Per Section 34-162: Alter the Cherry Avenue side yard setback requirements to zero (0) feet minimum and twenty-five (25) feet maximum, and at minimum fifty (50) percent of the building façade width must be in the build-to zone.
  5. Per Section 34-162: Alter the yard setback abutting any Low Density Residential zoned district to ten (10) feet minimum.
  6. Per Section 34-157(b): Any yard abutting a Low Density Residential zoned district shall provide S-3 Screening as defined in Section 34-871.
  7. Per Section 34-162: Off-Street Parking shall be required at the following ratios:
    - a. Multifamily Dwelling Units:
      - i. For efficiencies, 1-bedroom units, and 2-bedroom units = one-half (1/2) parking space per unit.
      - ii. For 3-bedroom units and 4-bedroom units = one (1) parking space per unit.
    - b. General Retail and Sales:
      - i. Two point five (2.5) spaces per 1,000 square feet of gross floor area. Storage space may be deducted from the square footage requirement.
    - c. Grocery Stores and Pharmacies:
      - i. One (1) space per 500 square feet of gross floor area.
- Any off-street parking not listed above may adhere to the parking requirements found in Section 34-984. Notwithstanding the off-street parking standards listed in conditions 7 and 8, the applicant will work with the City's Traffic Engineer to develop a Master Parking Plan for the site. This plan will be kept on file with the City and may be updated or altered from time to time with authorization of the City's Traffic Engineer. The plan shall indicate how the developer will distribute available parking spots on site, how potential residents and commercial tenants are informed of their parking opportunities, and any possible offsite parking arrangements for residents, etc....
8. Per Section 34-162: Up to forty (40) percent of the off-street parking spaces may be designated to the dimensions for compact cars as defined in Section 34-977.
  9. Per Section 34-157(b): The exterior of any parking garage (structured parking, parking deck...) shall be screened such that automobiles and the interior of the garage are not visible from Cherry Avenue, 5th ST SW, 6th ST SW, or abutting Low Density Residential zoned districts.
  10. Per Section 34-157(b): The applicant will provide a five (5) feet by fifteen (15) feet concrete pad that is ADA accessible behind the sidewalk near the intersection of Cherry Avenue and 6th ST SW for a future transit stop.

7. Resolution: Resolution authorizing revenue bond financing on behalf of St. Anne's Belfield School (1 reading)

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA REGARDING THE APPROVAL OF ISSUANCE OF BONDS BY THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA FOR THE BENEFIT OF ST. ANNE'S-BELFIELD, INC.**

**WHEREAS**, the Economic Development Authority of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia (the "Authority") is empowered by the Industrial Development and Revenue Bond Act, Chapter 49, Title 15.2 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended (the "Act") to issue its revenue bonds for the purposes of, among other things, financing or refinancing the construction and equipping of facilities for private, accredited and nonprofit institutions of elementary, or secondary education that are exempt from taxation pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), thereby promoting the safety, health, welfare, convenience, and prosperity of the residents of the Commonwealth of Virginia (the "Commonwealth"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Authority has approved the application of St. Anne's-Belfield, Inc., a Virginia nonstock corporation (the "Organization"), whose primary business address is 2132 Ivy Road, Charlottesville, Virginia 22903, requesting that the Authority issue up to \$3,000,000 of its revenue bonds in one or more series at one time or from time to time (the "Bonds"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Organization owns and operates St. Anne's-Belfield School, which consists of, among other things, a lower school and an upper school. The upper school is located on a campus (the "Campus") in and around 2132 Ivy Road, Charlottesville, Virginia 22903; and

**WHEREAS**, the Authority will loan the proceeds of the Bonds to the Organization to finance and refinance all or a portion of the costs associated with the projects described below:

(1) The acquisition, construction, developing and equipping of a portion of the renovation and expansion of Randolph Hall, which is located on the Campus; and

(2) The financing, if and as needed, of capitalized interest on the Bonds, costs of issuance related to the issuance of the Bonds, working capital, other capital expenditures at the Campus and other related costs (collectively (1) and (2), the Plan of Finance"); and

**WHEREAS**, following notice given as required by Section 147(1) of the Code and Section 15.2-4906 of the Act, the Authority held a public hearing on August 17, 2023, regarding the Plan of Finance and issuance of the Bonds as required by Section 147(1) of the Code and Section 15.2- 4906 of the Act; and

**WHEREAS** Section 147(1) of the Code provides that the governmental unit having jurisdiction over the issuer of private activity bonds and over the area in which any facility financed with the proceeds of private activity bonds is located must approve the issuance of the bonds and Section 15.2-4906 of the Act sets forth the procedure for such approval; and

**WHEREAS** the Authority issues its bonds on behalf of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia (the City"), and the facilities to be financed and refinanced with the proceeds of the Bonds are located in the City and the City Council of the City (the "City Council"), constitutes the highest elected governmental unit of the City; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Section 15.2-4906 of the Act, the Authority has recommended that the City Council approve the Plan of Finance and the issuance of the Bonds, solely to the extent required by Section 147(t) of the Code and Section 15.2-4906 of the Act; and **WHEREAS**, a copy of the Authority's inducement resolution approving the issuance of the Bonds, subject to the terms to be agreed upon, and a certificate of the public hearing have been filed with the City Council.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA AS FOLLOWS:**

1. Subject to paragraph (2) below, the City Council hereby approves the issuance of the Bonds, in an aggregate principal amount up to \$3,000,000, by the Authority for the benefit of the Organization, solely to the extent required by Section 147(t) of the Code and Section 15.2-4906 of the Act, to permit the Authority to assist in accomplishing the Plan of Finance.

2. The approval of the issuance of the Bonds by the City Council does not constitute an endorsement to a prospective purchaser of the Bonds of the creditworthiness of the Plan of Finance or the Organization, the economic viability of the facilities to be financed as part of the Plan of Finance, or any other matters relating to the Bonds, the facilities to be financed or refinanced with the proceeds of the Bonds, or the Plan of Finance. The Bonds shall not constitute a debt, liability or obligation of the City. In accordance with the Act, the Bonds shall not be deemed to constitute a debt or a pledge of the faith and credit or taxing power of the Commonwealth or any political subdivision thereof, including the Authority and the City. The Bonds shall provide that neither the Commonwealth, nor any political subdivision thereof, including the City and the Authority, shall be obligated to pay the principal of or interest on the Bonds or other costs incident thereto except from the revenues and moneys pledged therefor by the Organization.

3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Mayor Snook opened the floor for public comment on the Consent Agenda. No speakers came forward.

On motion by Wade, seconded by Pinkston, Council by a vote of 5-0 (Ayes: Payne, Pinkston, Puryear, Snook, Wade; Noes: none) APPROVED the consent agenda.

**CITY MANAGER REPORT**

Ashley Marshall, Deputy City Manager, reported that the Department of Parks & Recreation is engaged in efforts to ensure the utilization of city recreational facilities and park facilities are repaired as needed. The Parks Department began accepting requests for pool lane rentals in June

and is actively working with community members and numerous community partners to rent pool lanes. Parks has secured signed agreements with Saint Annes-Belfield School, Fitter and Faster Swim Tour, and Albemarle County Schools.

DCM Marshall announced that the Herman-Key Jr. Recreation Center will be closed through the end of the year for roof replacement. Members of Key Recreation Center may use Carver Recreation Center at no extra cost while Key is closed for repairs,

The Parks Department is working on creating several benefits-eligible full and part-time positions within the department. Openings will be advertised soon.

Parks' Fall Recreation activities are underway. Staff will monitor class enrollment and may offer, another section of classes with high volume enrollment, if possible.

Steven Hicks, Deputy City Manager, reported that Neighborhood Development Services (NDS) has begun accepting online payments for building permit applications via a permit software. The final phase of implementation of the software is scheduled to begin in November.

DCM Hicks announced the hiring of a new City Planner.

The City of Charlottesville has agreed to support Albemarle County's application for the Reconnecting Community and Neighborhood grant to the Federal Department of Transportation. The study will cover areas North of the 250 Bypass along either side of Route 29, including the Meadows Neighborhood and Michie Drive.

The City of Charlottesville has been accepted as an affiliate member of the National Association of Transportation Officials.

City Manager Sam Sanders gave a recap of his participation in recent activities held by local and regional organizations. City Manager Sanders noted that the City of Charlottesville is not currently participating in the FLOCK, license plate reader, program. Charlottesville Police Chief, Michael Kochis, presented the program to City Council as a recommendation as part of the City's Gun Violence Task Force. At the request of Council, Chief Kochis is leading additional community engagement on the program for a follow up report to Council.

## **COMMUNITY MATTERS**

Mayor Snook opened the floor for comments from the public.

1. C.L. Bohannon, Associate Dean for Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, UVA Professor of Landscape Architecture, and Cultivate Charlottesville Board Member, spoke about the advantages of community-led urban agriculture.
2. Donna Gasapo, asked Council to extend the public comment period to allow everyone who desires to speak an opportunity to do so. Ms. Gasapo ceded the remainder of her time to Deirdre Gilmore. Ms. Gilmore, city resident, spoke about her concerns regarding the

treatment of the homeless population in the city and an incident that took place at Market Street Park involving a police officer who kicked a homeless person to wake them.

3. Karen Waters, Co-Director of the Board of Directors of Cultivate Charlottesville, spoke in support of the Power to Grow campaign, an Urban Agricultural Collective Farm at Booker T. Washington Park, and including food equity goals in the City's Strategic Plan.
4. K.J. Howard, Food Justice Network (FJN) Associate, spoke about his experience as a youth participating in the FJN gardening program.
5. Maria Geyer, city resident, spoke in favor of the Charlottesville Area Transit's transition to battery-electric buses.
6. Michele Gibson, city resident and FJN Food Advocate Lead, spoke about residents need to access healthy food and asked Council to support an Urban Agriculture Collective (UAC) Farm at Washington Park.
7. Anna Mendez, Executive Director of The Haven, asked Council to approve the Haven's request for property tax exemption for the Haven building. The building is privately owned, and the owner has agreed to sell the building to The Haven if Council will agree to the property tax exemption. The Haven is currently ineligible for capital improvement funds because the building is privately owned.
8. Katie Ebinger, city resident and C3 Climate Justice Policy Manager, spoke in support of an UAC Farm at Washington Park and zero emission buses for the Charlottesville Area Transit.
9. Elizabeth Stark, city resident, spoke in opposition of the recommendation for the city to implement the FLOCK program. She asked Council to prioritize resources to support unhoused community members and expressed her concern about a police incident involving an unhoused person at Market Street Park that was referenced by speakers earlier during the meeting.
10. Donna, Gasapo, spoke in opposition of the FLOCK program, and asked members of the community to support unhoused community members and resident-led initiatives to build deeply affordable housing, and to oppose the proposed expansion of Albemarle-Charlottesville Regional Jail (ACRJ). She expressed support for UAC Farms at city parks and announced that the Fluvanna Historical Society will be building a Monacan dwelling.
11. Robin Hoffman, city resident, announced a Charlottesville Community Media Center Open House event on Saturday, September 23.
12. Ang Conn, Director of Housing Programs, The Haven, asked members of Council to go check on a homeless individual on oxygen who was sitting outside of City Hall when she

entered the building for the council meeting. She also spoke about police harassment of unhoused persons who are camping at Market Street Park.

13. Zyahna Bryant, city resident, spoke in support of a UAC Farm at Washington Park, Council's obligation to address homelessness in the Charlottesville community and her desire for council members to be more engaged with unhoused residents. She also voiced her support for the denial of the recommendation for the city to participate in the FLOCK program.
  14. Harold Folley, city resident, spoke in opposition of the expansion of the Albemarle-Charlottesville Regional Jail Authority. Mr. Folley ceded the remainder of his time to Gloria Beard. Ms. Beard also spoke in opposition of the ACRJ expansion and asked Council to prioritize housing for unhoused individuals.
  15. Rosia Parker, city resident, spoke about disparities in the community and the significance of Booker T. Washington Park to the black community. She showed Council a picture of her design of a UAC Farm at Washington Park.
  16. Darryl Jones, city resident, asked Council to be proactive about gun violence prevention in the community. He asked Council to address the homelessness problem in the city and always consider the needs of the Charlottesville community at-large.
- Council agreed to accept additional speakers because there were no items on the business agenda.
17. Tasia Courts, UVA student, spoke against the treatment of homeless individuals camping at Market Street Park by CPD officers. She spoke about the lack of affordable housing in Charlottesville and the negative impact that the FLOCK program will have on the most vulnerable members of the community.
  18. S. Pitt-Ali, non-resident, expressed her concerns about the state of the city pertaining to housing and other issues.
  19. Imani, 6-year-old city resident (escorted by Rosia Parker, city resident), spoke about gun violence in her neighborhood.
  20. Kati, UVA student, spoke about disparities in the city and urged Council to deny funding the expansion of ACRJ.
  21. Luis Oyola, Fluvanna County resident, Legal Aid Justice Center, stated that in his experience the FLOCK program does not provide the expected results. He spoke in opposition of the city contributing funds to the jail expansion project and expressed the need for additional shelter housing in the city.

22. Le Leon(?), Albemarle County resident, emphasized the need to help the most vulnerable population in the city.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Council discussed the request from The Haven for property tax exemption for their building. City Manager Sanders explained that there was a past decision by Council to discontinue property tax exemptions in exchange for the city offering community investment grants. The City Manager will research the matter and provide an update to Council.

Council scheduled six (6) Draft Zoning Ordinance Work Sessions, as needed:

Wednesday, September 27 at 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 3 at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 11 at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 25 at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 1 at 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 9 at 6:00 p.m.

Councilor Payne commented that homelessness will be prioritized in the FY25 budget process and is also a part of the City's Strategic Plan, adding that the Housing Advisory Committee is currently accepting membership applications.

Mayor Snook noted that a Homelessness Intervention Strategy has already been added to the City Manager's work plan at his request.

## **COMMUNITY MATTERS (2)**

Mayor Snook opened the floor for comments from the public.

- Robin Hoffman, city resident, made a recommendation to promote food equity resources on the Cville Public Access Station.
- Katrina Turner, city resident, spoke about her: support of a UAC Farm at Washington Park, concerns about the city's response to its homelessness issue, opposition to the ACRJ expansion, and she asked Council to investigate the incident at Market Street Park involving a CPD Officer and a homeless individual who was camping at the park.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

By Order of City Council

BY Maxicelia Robinson, Deputy Clerk of Council