CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
February 20, 2024 at 4:00 PM
Council Chamber

The Charlottesville City Council met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 20, 2024. Mayor Juandiego Wade called the meeting to order, and Clerk of Council Kyna Thomas called the roll, noting all councilors present: Mayor Juandiego Wade, Vice Mayor Brian Pinkston and Councilors Natalie Oschrin, Michael Payne, and Lloyd Snook.

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

REPORTS

1. Presentation: CVille Scholarship

Ella Jordan and Charlie Rogers presented the report. The Charlottesville Scholarship Program is a scholarship fund of the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation established by City Council in 2001 with an initial gift of $250,000, and the fund endowment has grown to $1.1 Million. It provides financial support to City of Charlottesville high school seniors and adults pursuing 2- or 4-year undergraduate degrees, vocational training, or professional certifications. The program operates with a volunteer Board of Directors and one part-time Program Manager. Volunteer Navigators support and encourage scholars throughout their course of study. Presenters requested $150,000 funding from the city to start an endowment for additional adult support.

2. Presentation: CDBG Presentation

A group of students from the University of Virginia made the presentation: Justin Gabriele, Meredith Hicks, Talib Kante, Abba Kodiaga, Laura Kun, Grace Shawah, and Tytus Suchotinunt, Justin Gabriele, and Meredith Hicks. They provided an overview of Community Development Block Grants (CDBGs), qualifications for CDBG funds, concerns about how CDBG funds are used, how applications are prioritized, income levels in target neighborhoods, and training for the CDBG Task Force. They questioned whether the portion of funds allocated for administrative functions could be reimagined to support a designated grant writer, pay for childcare to enable participation, or fund community workshops.

Suggested next steps were: 1) Analyze budget priorities (specifically administrative and planning bucket); 2) redefine priority neighborhoods; and 3) restructure CDBG task force and prioritize citizen engagement through community workshops.

3. Presentation: Ranked Choice Voting

Taylor Yowell, Elections Director, and Jim Nix, Electoral Board Member, summarized the presentation made to City Council in the Fall of 2023 regarding Ranked Choice Voting (RCV). Ms. Yowell stated that voting equipment and tabulation software will be certified by the Department of Elections, and that legislation is still moving through the General Assembly.
Presenters explained challenges with RCV. Mr. Nix stated that the Electoral Board would be willing to help the city attorney to write an ordinance if Council decided to implement RCV, and

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he stressed the importance of community outreach for education. Councilors indicated unanimous support for moving forward with RCV.

CLOSED MEETING

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Payne, Council voted 5-0 (Ayes: Oschrin, Payne, Pinkston, Snook, Wade; Noes: none) to meet in closed session 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: Board of Architectural Review, Charlottesville Affordable Housing Fund Committee, Charlottesville Economic Development Authority, Community Development Block Grant Task Force, Community Policy and Management Team, Historic Resources Committee, Housing Advisory Committee, Human Rights Commission, Jefferson Area Board for Aging Advisory Council, Jefferson Area Board for Aging Board of Directors, Local Building Code Board of Appeals, Minority Business Commission, Planning Commission, Sister Cities Commission, Social Services Advisory Board, Towing Advisory Board, Tree Commission, and Vendor Appeals Board.

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Snook, Council certified by the following vote: 5-0 (Ayes: Oschrin, Payne, Pinkston, 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 portion of the meeting began with a moment of silence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Snook announced that the Charlottesville High School Girls Basketball Team was undefeated and moving on to the quarterfinals.

BOARD/COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Snook, Council voted 5-0 to Approve the following appointments to boards and commissions:

- Charlottesville Economic Development Authority: John Barnhardt and James Cauthen
- Historic Resources Committee: Julie Basic
- Human Rights Commission: Charley Burton
- Jefferson Area Board for Aging Board of Directors: Richard Brugh, John Dearth, and Elayne Phillips
- Planning Commission: Betsy Roettger
- Sister Cities Commission: Salvatore Moschella

CONSENT AGENDA

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

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4. MINUTES: December 5 Draft Development Code public hearing, December 13 special meeting/work session, December 14 special meeting/work session

5. Resolution to Appropriate Opioid Abatement Funds - $45,073 (2nd reading)

RESOLUTION
Appropriating funds from the National Opioid Settlement Program
$45,073

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville through the Virginia Opioid Abatement Fund, has received funds from the National Opioid Settlement Program to be used for eligible costs under the Memorandum of Understanding;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia that the sum of $45,073 is hereby appropriated in the following manner for use by the Charlottesville Fire Department to purchase medication dispensing machines:

Revenues - $45,073

Fund: 214	CC: 3531001000	G/L Code: 440040

Expenditures - $45,073

Fund: 214	Internal Order: 2000185	G/L Code: 520900

6. Resolution to Appropriate Additional COVID Homeless Emergency Response Program (C.H.E.R.P.) Grant Award - $16,636.84 (carried)

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

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Sam Sanders provided an update on two infrastructure projects: 1) Belmont Bridge construction is coming to an end and a should be completed by the end of June, and 2) a Notice to Proceed was issued for the Bypass Fire Station and May 2025 is the expected move-in date for the Fire Department. He stated that he finalized the City Council work session schedule for the remainder of 2024 and will post it on the city website.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

1. John Ertl, Amalgamated Transit Unit (ATU), stated that on February 4 the ATU collective bargaining agreement was ratified, and he applauded city leadership for allowing employees to unionize. He spoke about unsuccessful efforts for JAUNT workers to unionize and asked the city to explore ending the contract with JAUNT and providing paratransit services internally.
2. Sally Hudson, city resident, thanked Council for their expressed support for Ranked Choice Voting earlier in the meeting, and she thanked Taylor Yowell and Jim Nix who presented

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information during the work session. She provided clarity to questions raised by Council during the work session.

3. James Groves, city resident, spoke about the Charlottesville Area Transit Alternative Fuels Study. He expressed concern about the city not following national guidelines to meet climate goals with buses.
4. Robert McAdams, city resident, spoke about the expansion of the CAT diesel bus fleet to meet ridership goals, and how to convince drivers to use public transit. He spoke in support of implementing battery electric buses and building an ad campaign on CAT protecting the future.
5. Nicholas Co thanked Council for their support of RCV and stated that he is part of a group who help to educate voters about RCV.
6. Marta Keane, JABA CEO, shared impact stories from the Jefferson Area Board on Aging. She shared information about a new grant program in partnership with the TJPDC, where JABA was subcontracted to act as Mobility Specialist, an adjunct service to JABA's hotline and a system for tracking gaps in service.
7. Dr. Emily Yen, city resident, spoke in support of exploring the move of paratransit services in-house to the City of Charlottesville.
8. Peter Gates, Cville 100, spoke about moving toward climate goals by electrifying the public transit fleet. He encouraged residential and work integrated living.
9. Tom Olivier, Albemarle County resident, endorsed the call for urgent acquisition of electric buses for public transit.
10. Brent Jones, city resident, thanked Council for expressing support for Ranked Choice Voting.

ACTION ITEMS

7. RESOLUTION: Resolution to approve the 2024 Blue Ridge Area Food Bank Cold Storage Project and to reprogram Community Development Block Grant funds from prior Program Years, in the amount of $215,000 (carried)

Anthony Warn, Grants Analyst, presented the request and opportunity to support the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank Cold Storage Expansion Project. Michael McKee, BRAFB, and Alex Ikefuna, Department of Community Solutions Director, explained more about the need. Following a question-and-answer period, Councilors spoke in support of the resolution and agreed to carry it to the March 5 Consent Agenda for second reading and vote.

8. **ORDINANCE: Ordinance for creating Shenandoah Mobile Franchise Agreement (carried)**

City Manager Sanders recommended moving this item to the next meeting in order for the appropriate staff to be available to present the ordinance request.

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Payne, Council voted 5-0 to continue consideration of the item to the March 5, 2024, City Council meeting (Ayes: Oschrin, Payne, Pinkston, Snook, Wade; Noes: none).

9. RESOLUTION: Resolution of Support for Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority and its South 1st Street Phase 2 Redevelopment

Alex Ikefuna, Office of Community Solutions Director, presented the request.

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

RESOLUTION FOR A SINGLE-TIME AND PURPOSE FINANCIAL COMMITMENT FOR THE SOUTH 1ST STREET PHASE 2 REDEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS the City of Charlottesville recognizes the critical need for affordable housing development to address housing challenges within the community and the redevelopment of South 1st Street Phase 2 represents a significant opportunity to expand affordable housing options and revitalize the community and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED WHEREAS, the Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority (CRHA) has requested a total funding commitment of $6,000,000 inclusive of the $3,000,000 commitment and an additional $3,000,000 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 to support the South 1st Street Phase 2 Redevelopment Project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is authorized to negotiate and execute funding grant agreements with CRHA to facilitate the disbursement of funds in accordance with this resolution.

10. ORDINANCE: Ordinance amending Chapter 25 (Social Services), Article III (Rental Relief for the Elderly and Disabled Persons) Increasing Income Limit, Rents-Paid Limit (used in the Grant Formula), and Maximum Grant Amount (carried)

Todd Divers, Commissioner of the Revenue, presented the request to update the rental relief program. Council unanimously agreed to carry the ordinance to the March 5, 2024, meeting for second reading and vote on the consent agenda.

11. RESOLUTION: Resolution for City purchase of 405 Avon Street and 405 Levy Avenue properties

Mr. Sanders summarized the real estate transaction request. Mayor Wade stated that before decisions are made to determine the use of the site, the city will engage with the public for input.

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

RESOLUTION
Approval of Purchase by the City from CRHA of 405 Avon St. and 405 Levy Ave. Properties

WHEREAS, pursuant to Virginia Code §15.2-1800, the City of Charlottesville (the "City")

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has the power and authority to acquire real estate for any public purpose; and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes it to be in the best interests of the City to acquire certain real property consisting of various parcels located at 405 Avon St. and 405 Levy Ave. (the Levy Ave. parcels consisting of Lots 2 -11) in the City and all such parcels being described in more detail in the Purchase and Sale Agreement described below (the "Real Property") from the Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority ("CRHA") and to lease the same back to CRHA, all as set forth in such Purchase and Sale Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the City Attorney has prepared a Purchase and Sale Agreement (the "Agreement") between the City and CRHA to set forth in writing the terms and conditions of such acquisition and lease back of the Real Property, a copy of which Agreement has been provided to City Council for review; and

WHEREAS, City Council desires to approve such Agreement and authorize the City Manager and other city officials to execute and carry out the same; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE that the Council finds it to be in the best interests of the City and the citizens thereof to approve the Agreement and hereby does approve the Agreement with such changes as may be deemed necessary or advisable by the City Manager, such changes and the approval thereof to be conclusively evidenced by his execution of the Agreement in a form approved by the City Attorney; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager and City Attorney are hereby authorized and directed to take such action as is necessary in their sole discretion to carry out the purposes and intents of this resolution, including without limitation, the execution and delivery of Agreement, the acceptance of a deed to the Real Property, the approval and execution of a settlement statement and payment to CRHA of the purchase price set forth in the Agreement, and all documents related thereto; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all actions taken in furtherance of this matter prior to the date of adoption of this Resolution are hereby ratified and confirmed.

GENERAL BUSINESS

12. WRITTEN REPORT: 2023-Integrated Pest Management Report

This written report was included in the Council Meeting packet for informational purposes. There was no discussion.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Sanders reminded Council about the work session on February 27 to discuss the Charlottesville Area Transit Alternative Fuels Study.

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COMMUNITY MATTERS

- Bill Mendez, Chair of the Police Civilian Oversight Board, asked Council why appointments were not made this evening to the PCOB. He expressed concerns about the Chief of Police removing files six months ago from the PCOB, and he expressed frustration about waiting for Standard Operating Procedures that would allow the Chief to share information with the PCOB.
    - Mr. Sanders provided an update on his review of Standard Operating Procedures for the PCOB and stated the review should be complete within days.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

BY Order of City Council BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council

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