



CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

July 1, 2024 at 4:00 PM

Council Chamber

The Charlottesville City Council met on July 1, 2024. Vice Mayor Brian Pinkston called the meeting to order and Clerk of Council Kyna Thomas called the roll, noting the following councilors present: Vice Mayor Brian Pinkston and Councilors Natalie Oschrein, Michael Payne, and Lloyd Snook. Mayor Juandiego Wade gave prior notice of his absence.

On motion by Snook, seconded by Payne, Council by a 4-0 vote adopted the meeting agenda (Ayes: Oschrein, Payne, Pinkston, Snook; Noes: none; Absent: Wade).

REPORTS

1. REPORT: United Way Update

Ravi Respetto, United Way president, presented the update and answered Council questions. She described the "New United Way" and shared data about the crisis and opportunities in early childhood education and care. The United Way created a Financial Resiliency Task Force - a network of nonprofits working together to reduce poverty in the city of Charlottesville. The Family Investment Program helps families decrease bad debt, raise household income/investments, and purchase their first homes. The Driving Lives Forward program provides reliable transportation while building credit. The Small Business Grantmaking Program has collaborated with the Charlottesville Department of Economic Development.

2. REPORT: Local Energy Alliance Program (LEAP) update

Katie VanLangen and Wilson Ratliff, LEAP Co-Executive Directors, presented the update. The Local Energy Alliance Program (LEAP) is a Charlottesville-based nonprofit delivering energy efficiency, electrification, and solar solutions in Virginia to make homes safer, healthier, and more affordable while reducing energy usage and mitigating climate change. LEAP was founded in 2009 in partnership with the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County. Presenters described the home weatherization process and the evolving business model, which allows LEAP to leverage diverse funding sources. LEAP served approximately 750 households in the state during the past year and projects expansion in 2024.

3. REPORT: Sidewalk Priority List update

The City's Comprehensive Plan sets goals and objectives for improving the safety and effectiveness of a variety of transportation modes operating on City streets. Looking at 2024 and beyond, the focus of transportation planning in the City will shift from responding to present-day concerns to more holistically aligning the City's goals and objectives with future actions and projects. One of those areas where the City is focusing efforts is to increase pedestrian movement and access through sidewalk improvements. Ben Chambers, Transportation Planning Manager, provided the update on planning work completed to-date, including qualitative and quantitative assessments, and the workflow for next steps. He answered questions from Council about project costs, distribution of projects, staff capacity, and funding sources.

CLOSED MEETING

On motion by Payne, seconded by Snook, Council voted unanimously to convene in closed session pursuant to section 2.2-3712 of the Virginia Code specifically:

1. Virginia Code section 2.2-3711(A)(1) to discuss appointments to the City Retirement Commission; and
2. Virginia Code sections 2.2-3711(A)(7) to consult with legal counsel and receive briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to probable litigation regarding the Water Street Parking garage. where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body, and 2.2-3711(A)(8) to receive advice of legal counsel.

On motion by Oschrin, seconded by Payne, Council certified by a recorded vote of 4-0 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 (Ayes: Oschrin, Payne, Pinkston, Snook; Noes: none; Absent: Wade).

BUSINESS SESSION

Council began the business session with a moment of silence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Oschrin made a statement about Independence Day fireworks safety.

RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

- **PROCLAMATION: Park and Recreation Month**

Councilor Oschrin presented the proclamation to Riaan Anthony, Interim Director of the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Anthony announced upcoming events and community engagement opportunities for input on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

- **PROCLAMATION: Charlottesville PEG-TV 30th Anniversary**

Councilor Payne presented the proclamation to David Dillehunt, Deputy Director for the Department of Communications and Public Engagement, who accepted with remarks.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

Vice Mayor Pinkston opened the floor for comments from the public.

1. Alex Janssen, county resident and city natural gas customer, spoke about climate change and in opposition to decarbonization efforts.
2. Nar Maya Gurung, city resident, spoke about the importance of the International Rescue Committee (IRC) garden program, IRC New Roots Farm.
3. Cecilia Lapp Stoltzfus, manager of the IRC food and agriculture program IRC New Roots Farm, spoke in support of the program at 410 Old Lynchburg Road, an item being considered

later in the meeting.

4. Kerry J. Rock, city resident, spoke about a problem of drug dealing and drug use in the Rose Hill neighborhood on Charlton Avenue. He spoke about similar issues at Washington Park, and he suggested installing a camera system at Washington Park like the one at Tonsler Park.
5. Tony Casey, city resident, spoke about crime issues on Charlton Avenue, and his observations. He requested additional police patrols in the neighborhood.
6. Trish Sizensky, city resident, spoke about crime issues in the Rose Hill neighborhood and feeling unsafe in her neighborhood. She asked about solutions for creating safe space in the neighborhood.
7. Peter Krebs, Piedmont Environmental Council, spoke in support of the Lease Agreement with the IRC for property at 410 Old Lynchburg Road for the New Roots Garden, and stated that this is the highest best use of the property.
8. Alphonsine Nyabenda, city resident and a local farmer for ten years, spoke about the joy of gardening and working with the IRC.

On motion by Snook, seconded by Oschrein, Council by a vote of 4-0 reappointed Phil Garber to the Retirement Commission.

CONSENT AGENDA*

Clerk Thomas read the following items into the record, and on motion by Snook, seconded by Oschrein, Council by a vote of 4-0 adopted the consent agenda (Ayes: Oschrein, Payne, Pinkston, Snook; Noes: none; Absent: Wade).

4. MINUTES: March 18 regular meeting, June 25 Joint Council-CRHA meeting
5. RESOLUTION to appropriate funds for the Virginia Department of Education Special Nutrition Program Summer Food Service Program - \$100,000 (carried)

CITY MANAGER REPORT

At the request of City Manager Sam Sanders, Police Chief Michael Kochis provided an update on crime activity in the city.

Mr. Sanders acknowledged community frustration and requested that community members be proactive and cooperative to help police to hold criminals accountable.

Mr. Sanders met with community leaders during the past week to get ideas for solutions. He spoke about the Co-responder model goal to help get to the root cause of calls for service when people are in crisis. Regarding the unhoused population, he acknowledged the challenge and complications of implementing sustainable solutions, and he stated that issues that he finds unacceptable will be addressed. The city is moving closer to the reality of an overnight shelter.

ACTION ITEMS

- 6. PUBLIC HEARING and RESOLUTION Authorizing The Issuance And Sale Of General Obligation Public Improvement Bonds Of The City Of Charlottesville, Virginia, In An Aggregate Principal Amount Not To Exceed \$65,000,000, To Finance The Costs Of Certain Public Improvement Projects, Providing For The Issuance And Sale Of General Obligation Refunding Bonds Of The City Of Charlottesville, Virginia, In An Aggregate Principal Amount Not To Exceed \$25,000,000, Providing For The Form, Details And Payment Of Such Bonds, And Providing For The Refunding Of Certain Outstanding General Obligation Bonds Of The City**

Krisy Hammill, Budget Director, summarized the parameters and background surrounding bond issuance and answered clarifying questions for Council.

Vice Mayor Pinkston opened the public hearing. No one came forward to speak and the public hearing was closed.

On motion by Snook, seconded by Payne, Council by a vote of 4-0 passed the resolution authorizing the sale of bonds. (Ayes: Oschrein, Payne, Pinkston, Snook; Noes: none; Absent: Wade).

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT BONDS OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA, IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$65,000,000, TO FINANCE THE COSTS OF CERTAIN PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA, IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$25,000,000, PROVIDING FOR THE FORM, DETAILS AND PAYMENT OF SUCH BONDS, AND PROVIDING FOR THE REFUNDING OF CERTAIN OUTSTANDING GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE CITY

- 7. ORDINANCE authorizing a grant of public funding to subsidize the South First Street Phase Two Redevelopment Project of Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority (carried)**

Alex Ikefuna, Office of Community Solutions Director, summarized the request to approve the agreement designating how previously approved funds will be spent. Council agreed to carry the item to the July 15 consent agenda for second reading and vote, with updates as discussed.

- 8. RESOLUTION to approve an Agreement of Lease with International Rescue Committee (IRC) for property at 410 Old Lynchburg Road**

Riaan Anthony, Parks and Recreation Director, presented the request. The City, through its Parks and Recreation Department, acquired an approximately 8.45 acre parcel of land located in

Albemarle County at 410 Old Lynchburg Road (aka Moores Creek Farm) in August 2023. At the time of purchase, and currently, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) operates the New Roots Farm on this property. An Agreement of Lease with the IRC is proposed for Council approval to allow continuation of these outdoor gardening activities. If approved, the lease will ensure the existing farm and gardens might remain on the property for up to approximately five years as the Parks and Recreation Department works with the IRC to determine a long-range home and plan for the farm and gardens, and while City staff continues to review lease processes and procedures on City-owned properties.

On motion by Payne, seconded by Oschrein, Council by a vote of 4-0 passed the resolution. (Ayes: Oschrein, Payne, Pinkston, Snook; Noes: none; Absent: Wade).

RESOLUTION

Approving an Agreement of Lease with International Rescue Committee (IRC) for lease of property at 410 Old Lynchburg Road

WHEREAS, IRC desires to lease certain City-owned property for a term of eighteen (18) months with City or Lessee option for additional three (3) one-year extensions;

WHEREAS, City Council has considered the terms of the lease of this city-owned property at 410 Old Lynchburg Road; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that the Agreement of Lease of City-owned property located at 410 Old Lynchburg Road, Charlottesville, Virginia, to IRC, presented to Council this same date for consideration, is hereby APPROVED and the City Manager is hereby authorized to execute the approved lease on behalf of City Council.

COMMUNITY MATTERS (2)

Vice Mayor Pinkston opened the floor for comments from the public and there were no speakers.

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council