



CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 3, 2024 at 4:00 PM

Council Chamber

The Charlottesville City Council convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 3, 2024. Mayor Juandiego Wade called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m., and Clerk of Council Kyna Thomas called the roll, noting the following councilors present: Mayor Juandiego Wade, Vice Mayor Brian Pinkston, and Councilors Natalie Oschrin, Michael Payne, and Lloyd Snook.

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

REPORTS

1. REPORT: UVa Student Research: The Memory Project

Dr. Jalane Schmidt, UVA Professor and former Director for The Memory Project at UVA's Karsh Institute of Democracy, presented findings from The Memory Project which concluded earlier in 2024. Between 2021 and 2024 a team of researchers working on behalf of the University of Virginia's Memory Project researched the antebellum history of Court Square and the Albemarle County Courthouse to uncover the site's significance as a place of enslavement and the commodification of human beings.

The research team's efforts involved reading through all Chancery Orders of the Albemarle County Court between the years 1830 and 1865, documenting every mention of enslaved people. Over the course of this research, documents revealed that the Court directly involved itself in the auctioning and sale of hundreds of enslaved people, especially in relation to the arbitration of estate disputes. These sales were ordered, advertised, and administered directly by court commissioners and on the grounds of Court Square. The Memory Project research indicated deep implications for further research, anticipating that genealogists and historians could use the hundreds of names and stories recovered to make connections and enhance their research into the history of slavery in Central Virginia. The research also indicated implications for ongoing interpretation of public spaces like Court Square. The final project was titled, "Enslavement by the Book: An Index to the Albemarle County Chancery Court Cases with mentions of Enslaved People, 1831 – 1865".

Following questions by City Council, City Manager Sam Sanders stated that the consultants retained for the Parks Master Plan process will not design what goes in city parks. The consultants have been instructed to have deeper engagement with the public regarding Tonsler, Washington, Court Square and Market Street parks to retain the character and integrity of what the city wants, while recommending options that take into consideration the historical context of the particular park and intentionality in future usage. The Memory Project findings and other community projects such as Swords into Plowshares will be provided as input to the Parks Master Plan process.

2. REPORT: Downtown Mall Tree Management Plan

Riaan Anthony, Director of Parks and Recreation introduced Paul Josey, Wolf/Josey Landscape Architects, who presented the Downtown Mall Tree Management Plan report and recommendations. The Downtown Mall is on the National Register of Historic Places for its design innovation and high artistic value. The Downtown Mall represents Lawrence Halprin's only remaining work in Virginia and his only existing pedestrian mall. Of the 132 pedestrian malls constructed in U.S. cities between 1959 and 1974, only 43 remain. Charlottesville's Downtown Mall is eight blocks long, making it the longest in the country.

The presentation detailed the history of Downtown Mall trees, the original intentions of the landscape architect that designed the Downtown Mall, relative health of the trees occupying the mall, suggestions regarding how mall trees will be removed and replaced over time, and suggestions regarding how utilities and services will be maintained throughout the span of the project.

Councilors engaged in discussion and City Manager Sanders spoke about the interconnectivity of work performed by various city departments to manage and maintain the Downtown Mall. He also explained that he would bring forth related requests for Council's consideration and approval, some having financial implications.

CLOSED MEETING

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Snook, Council voted unanimously to close the open meeting and convene in closed session pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3712 as authorized by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) for discussion and consideration of assignment, appointment, performance, demotion, salary, discipline, and/or resignation of a specific named employee of the public body.

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Snook, Council certified by a recorded vote 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, Wade; Noes: none).

BUSINESS SESSION

Council began the business session with a moment of silence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Oschrin read a press release regarding the renaming of City schools and corresponding celebrations.

Councilor Payne reminded members of the public to sign up for CHAP real estate tax relief.

RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMTIONS

- **RECOGNITION: Charlottesville High School Varsity Boys Tennis and Soccer Teams**

and Elaina Pierce - State Champions

Mayor Wade presented Certificates of Achievement to the Charlottesville High School state athletic champion teams and to Elaina Pierce as an individual state champion.

- **PROCLAMATION: International Day of Democracy - September 15**

Mayor Wade presented the proclamation to Kirk Bowers, who stated words of thanks and invited everyone to an event on September 14 promoting democracy.

- **PROCLAMATION: Sister City Besancon - 80th anniversary of liberation**

Mayor Wade presented the proclamation to Edward Herring, Chair of the Charlottesville Sister Cities Commission.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

Mayor Wade opened the floor for comments from the public.

1. Sally Hudson, city resident, spoke in support of ranked choice voting.
2. Jen Fleisher, city resident, spoke in support of ranked choice voting.
3. Alexandra McGee, city resident, spoke in support of ranked choice voting, and about the need to anticipate and prepare for violence following the November General Election.
4. Nicholas Co, city resident, spoke in support of ranked choice voting.
5. Joshua Throneburg, on behalf of the Charlottesville Democratic Committee, recommended adoption of ranked choice voting.
6. Brett Jones, city resident, spoke in support of ranked choice voting.
7. Kevin Cox, city resident, spoke about the need for crosswalks and specific areas where marked crosswalks have been removed. He requested a copy of the engineering study that was used to justify the crosswalk at Hessian Road and Barracks Road between 2008-2012, and he requested an estimate of the cost.
8. Andrew Shelton, city resident, spoke in support of ranked choice voting.
9. Gloria Beard, city resident, spoke about the homeless population and the loss of affordable housing in the city.
10. Dede Smith, on behalf of the Charlottesville Historic Resources Committee, presented the new walking tour brochure available in hard copy and at charlottesville.gov/walkingtourmap.
11. Cindy Cartwright, city resident, spoke in support of ranked choice voting.
12. Liza Vance, city resident, spoke about the condition of the city with increasing homelessness and the need for improved city cleanliness. She requested that citizens come together to help beautify the city and help the homeless population.
13. Mo Van de Sompel, city resident, explained the fairness of the single transferable vote as a component of ranked choice voting.

CONSENT AGENDA

Clerk Thomas read the following Consent Agenda items into the record, and on motion by Snook, seconded by Pinkston, Council by a vote of 5-0 adopted the Consent Agenda (Ayes: Oschrein,

Payne, Pinkston, Snook, Wade; Noes: None).

3. MINUTES: July 15 regular meeting, August 5 regular meeting, August 19 regular meeting, August 26 and 27 special meetings

4. RESOLUTION to Appropriate Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act Grant (VJCCCA) - \$452,704 (2nd reading)

RESOLUTION

Appropriating the sum of \$452,704 received from the Commonwealth as a Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act Grant (V.J.C.C.C.A.)

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville has been awarded \$292,058 from the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice; and

WHEREAS, this grant requires local maintenance of effort funds in the amount of \$52,231 from Albemarle County and \$108,415 from the City; and

WHEREAS, the grant award covers the period from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that upon receipt of the sum of \$452,704 from the Commonwealth of Virginia, that sum is hereby appropriated in the following manner:

Revenue – \$452,704

\$292,058	Fund: 220	Cost Center: 3523001000	G/L Account: 430080
\$52,231	Fund: 220	Cost Center: 3523001000	G/L Account: 432030
\$108,415	Fund: 220	Cost Center: 3523001000	G/L Account: 498010

Expenditures - \$452,704

\$103,704	Fund: 220	Cost Center: 3523001000	G/L Account: 519999
\$349,000	Fund: 220	Cost Center: 3523001000	G/L Account: 599991

All funds hereby appropriated shall be accounted for and expended only in accordance with requirements of the VJCCCA grant program.

5. CDBG and HOME Investment Partnerships Programs (2nd readings)

- a. Program Year 2023-2024 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Programs (2nd reading)

Resolution to Approve the City of Charlottesville & Thomas Jefferson HOME Consortium Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the Program Year 2023-2024 (PY23) CDBG & HOME Programs

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

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

WHEREAS City Council approved a 5-Year Consolidated Plan covering program years 2023-2027 at a public hearing held on May 1, 2023, and the associated 1-Year Annual Action Plan for program year 2023-2024 at a public hearing on June 5, 2023; and

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Charlottesville, Virginia, hereby approves the city's Program Year 2023-2024 CAPER report.

b. Establish Council Priorities for Program Year 2025-2026 (2nd reading)

**Resolution to Establish Council Priorities for the Program Year 2025-2026
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) &
HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Programs**

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

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

WHEREAS in accordance with the City of Charlottesville's HUD-approved Citizen Participation Plan, the city's CDBG/HOME Task Force composed of residents and community representatives will be called on to review requests for funding of potential CDBG & HOME projects and to make recommendations for funding to Council in the Spring of 2025; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Charlottesville, Virginia, that the Program Year 2025-2026 CDBG & HOME programs (PY25) shall prioritize to the degree possible:

- A continued emphasis on expanding access to affordable housing opportunities, including but not limited to low-income housing redevelopment; workforce development, including but not limited to efforts to bolster Section 3 training opportunities other economic development activities; microenterprise assistance; access to quality childcare; homeowner rehabilitation and energy-efficiency upgrades; down payment assistance; and improvements to public infrastructure designed to eliminate or reduce barriers to access to public amenities for mobility-impaired residents
 - For program year 2025-2026, \$89,896.51 of CDBG Entitlement funds shall be set aside to support Economic Development activities
 - For program year 2025-2026, \$89,896.51 of CDBG Entitlement funds shall be set aside to support Public Facilities and Improvement activities, with a special emphasis on activities that will eliminate or reduce barriers to access for mobility-impaired residents
 - The CDBG Admin and Planning budget shall be set at 20% of the City's CDBG allocation
 - Any other guidelines or directions Council may wish to give in determining how CDBG and HOME funds should be spent
6. ORDINANCE to repeal City Code Sections 18-24(b) and 18-25(f) pursuant to the Ragged Mountain Reservoir Settlement Agreement (2nd reading)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CITY CODE CHAPTER 18, PARKS, AND RECREATION SECTIONS 18-24(b) and 18-25(f)

7. RESOLUTION appropriating funds from the 2024 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) - \$76,840 (carried)
8. RESOLUTION for State Pass-Thru Funding for Tonsler League - \$250,000 (carried)
9. RESOLUTION to appropriate Fiscal Year 2025 Fire Programs Aid to Locality Funding (Firefund) - \$238,581.00 (carried)
10. RESOLUTION to appropriate funds from the Department of Housing and Community Development- Virginia Homeless Solutions Program Grant \$470,805 (carried).
11. ORDINANCE for Stonehenge Avenue Encroachment Agreement (carried)

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Deputy City Manager Eden Ratliff summarized an ongoing contract negotiation process with the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA.

City Manager Sanders reported that at the end of August there was a Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority Board update on the Rivanna Reservoir. The update addressed water quality concerns related to other localities and assured that those issues are not present for the city and that water quality and safety are a top priority for the City of Charlottesville and partners. Mr. Sanders

stated that there has been some interest in a land bank for the city as an additional affordable housing tool and he has been working with the Housing Advisory Committee to review a proposed ordinance that will be presented to City Council. Regarding the issue of homelessness, he acknowledged the complicated nature of finding solutions. A city working group has been working with The Salvation Army and other partners with the hope of establishing for the first time a permanent year-round low barrier shelter. The project would require a comprehensive approach as well as significant and ongoing investments of time and funding.

ACTION ITEMS

12. ORDINANCE and RESOLUTION: Ranked Choice Voting

Staff previously presented reports on Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) at several City Council meetings. Council engaged in discussion. Councilors Payne, Oschrein, Pinkston, and Wade spoke in favor of the proposed ordinance to adopt RCV. Councilor Snook expressed concern that the proposal is not a straightforward RCV but includes Single Transferable Vote (STV). Mayor Wade expressed a need for RCV proponents to conduct outreach to a diverse population of voters for public input and education.

a. Ordinance to Adopt Ranked Choice Voting ("RCV") as the Voting Method for the June 2025 City Council Primary election (2nd reading)

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Oschrein, Council by a vote of 4-1 adopted the **ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING RANKED CHOICE VOTING AS THE ELECTION METHOD FOR THE JUNE 2025 CITY COUNCIL PRIMARY ELECTION.** (Ayes: Oschrein, Payne, Pinkston, Wade; Noes: Snook).

b. Resolution to appropriate \$26,460 for Ranked Choice Voting (2nd reading)

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Oschrein, Council by a vote of 5-0 approved the resolution for funding to support ranked choice voting for the June 2025 City Council Primary election.

RESOLUTION

Appropriating Funding for Ranked Choice Voting \$26,460

WHEREAS the City Council has approved an ordinance to adopt Ranked Choice Voting as the voting method for the June 2025 City Council Primary election; and

WHEREAS pursuant to Virginia State Administrative Code 1VAC20-100-80, the local governing body must develop and distribute an educational/outreach program and purchase new hardware/software for ranked choice voting tabulation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that the sum of \$26,460 is hereby appropriated to be transferred

from the Council Strategic Initiatives account in the General Fund to the Voter Registrar's budget for this purpose.

Transfer From:

\$26,460 Fund: 105 Cost Center: 1011001000 G/L Code: 599999

Transfer To:

\$26,460 Fund: 105 Cost Center: 2301001000 G/L Code: 599999

13. ORDINANCE amending the City Code to extend the Public Safety Supplement Retirement Benefit to EMS-only Employees Enrolled in the Defined Benefit plan (carried)

Scott Carpenter, Deputy Chief of Operations, introduced the ordinance request. Current members of the Charlottesville Fire Department ("CFD") who are classified as firefighters/ EMT's and enrolled in the Defined Benefit (pension) plan receive a public safety supplement if they retire with at least twenty (20) years of service. The CFD intends to hire EMS-only employees and would like to extend the same public safety pension supplement under the same provisions.

Council agreed to carry the item to the September 16 consent agenda for second reading and vote.

14. RESOLUTION to approve the Seventh Amended Grant Agreement, Charlottesville Supplemental Rental Assistance Program (carried)

Antoine Williams, Housing Program Manager, introduced the agenda item. On June 19, 2017, the City Council approved the creation of the Charlottesville Supplemental Rental Assistance Program (CSRAP). The Grant Agreement between the City and the Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority (CRHA) was executed in January 2018, with the first voucher issued in April 2018. To date, the City Council has approved a total funding of \$5,295,000 for CSRAP, distributed across various fiscal years. This includes a contribution of \$900,000 for FY23-24. Additionally, the City Council has committed \$900,000 annually from FY25 through FY29, totaling \$4,500,000 from the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). As part of the City's CIP housing investment portfolio, this ongoing commitment ensures that the program can scale and adjust to meet the community's needs, with specific funding allocations reviewed and adjusted each year, generally between July and August. For this current iteration of CSRAP, there are no substantial changes as part of the CSRAP seventh amendment.

Zoe Parakuo, CRHA, made a presentation about CSRAP and helping participants to reach self-sufficiency. John Sales, CRHA, mentioned reasons for the decreased number of referrals and plans to enhance relationships with referral agencies as well as to enhance education about the program.

Council agreed to carry the item to the September 16 consent agenda for second reading and vote.

15. RESOLUTION considering a Sidewalk Waiver Request for 2117 Ivy Road

Dannan O'Connell, Planner, presented the waiver request.

Timmons Group ("Applicant"), on behalf of Up Campus Student Living ("Owner"), requests a waiver from the requirement of Section 29-182(j)(3) of the City Code for construction of sidewalks to connect to existing sidewalk on adjacent properties. The request seeks to waive the sidewalk requirement for a portion of Copeley Road as part of the 2117 Ivy Road Planned Unit Development (PUD) final site plan. This development was subject to a PUD rezoning and development plan with proffers, which was approved by City Council on January 24, 2024. The approved PUD Development Plan does not show sidewalk along this stretch of Copeley Road, and the submitted site plan matches this layout. However, approval of the PUD Development Plan does not constitute a waiver for subdivision or engineering streetscape design standards, and an approved waiver is still required to permit the proposed sidewalk layout. The City's new Development Code no longer requires City Council approval to waive or modify sidewalk standards for new development projects; however, the 2117 Ivy Road PUD is considered vested in the City's previously approved zoning and subdivision regulations, and therefore the previous practice remains applicable to the project.

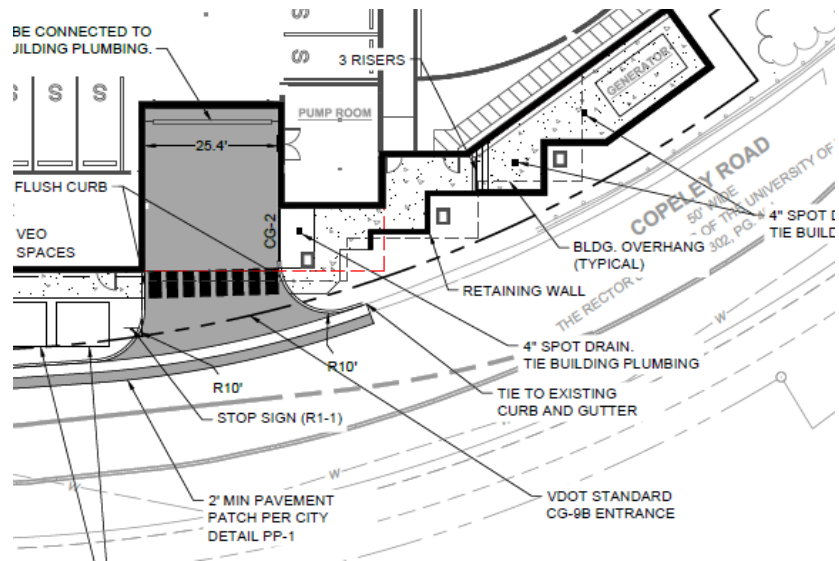
On motion by Snook, seconded by Pinkston, Council by a vote of 5-0 approved the resolution granting the sidewalk waiver (Ayes: Oschrein, Payne, Pinkston, Snook, Wade; Noes: none).

**RESOLUTION
SIDEWALK WAIVER REQUEST FOR A RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
REFERRED TO AS "2117 IVY ROAD PUD"**

WHEREAS, Timmons Group ("Applicant"), on behalf of Up Campus Student Living, ("Owner") the owner of certain land fronting on Ivy Road and Copeley Road, designated on the City Tax Map and Parcel (TMP) as Parcel 070001200 (the "Subject Property"), has submitted an application seeking a waiver of the requirement of City Code Section 29-182(j)(3) that sidewalks shall be constructed and land dedicated to the public for developments along existing streets to connect them to existing sidewalks. This application is submitted in connection with the Applicant/Owner's proposed development of ZM23-00003 (Planned Unit Development), and

WHEREAS, City staff has submitted to City Council a staff report providing information and staff's recommendation regarding the sidewalk waiver request, and City Council has reviewed the application and the staff report and has considered the factors set forth within the City's Subdivision Ordinance, Sections 29-36 and 29-182(j)(5); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council for the City of Charlottesville, Virginia that the sidewalk waiver request presented to this Council by the Applicant/Developer is hereby granted along approximately one hundred thirty (130) feet along the west side of Copeley Road abutting City Lots currently identified as Real Estate Parcel Identification Number 070001200 as depicted below.



GENERAL BUSINESS

Mayor Wade announced the retirement of City Attorney Jacob Stroman.

COMMUNITY MATTERS (2)

Mayor Wade opened the floor for comments from the public.

- Sally Hudson thanked Council for adopting Ranked Choice Voting and thanked councilors for their input.
- Nicholas Co thanked Council for adopting Ranked Choice Voting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

BY ORDER of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council