



CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
December 16, 2024 at 4:00 PM
Council Chamber

The Charlottesville City Council met on Monday, December 16, 2024. Mayor Juandiego Wade called the meeting to order and Clerk of Council Kyna Thomas called the roll, noting the following councilors present: Mayor Juandiego Wade, Vice Mayor Brian Pinkston, and Councilors Natalie Oschrein and Lloyd Snook. Councilor Michael Payne arrived at 4:06 p.m. during the presentation of Item #1.

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

REPORTS

1. REPORT: Budget Briefing: Public Safety and Transportation

City Manager Sam Sanders provided a briefing on the Fiscal Year 2026 City Budget, with specific attention to public safety and public transportation. The purpose of budget briefings is to share trends that impact the budget, to highlight fiscal demands, to identify this budget's fiscal drivers, and to confirm that priorities are captured. The presentation included budget drivers for Fire Service, Police, Emergency Management, and Transit. Mr. Sanders stated that there may be a need for a work session to discuss transit in January. Council engaged in discussion.

CLOSED MEETING

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Snook, Council voted 5-0 (Ayes: Oschrein, Payne, Pinkston, Snook, Wade; Noes: none) to meet in closed session as authorized by Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) for discussion and consideration of prospective candidates to be appointed to the following boards and/or committees:

- i. Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport Commission
- ii. Housing Advisory Committee
- iii. Piedmont Family YMCA Board of Directors
- iv. Rivanna Solid Waste Authority Board
- v. Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority Board.

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Snook, Council certified by a vote of 5-0 (Ayes: Oschrein, 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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Payne announced city board and commission vacancies.

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Payne, Council voted 5-0 to appoint the following individuals to boards and commissions:

- Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport Commission – Susan Pace Lochte
- Housing Advisory Committee – Peppy Linden, Sunshine Mathon, Mike Parisi, and Nicole Scro
- Piedmont Family YMCA Board of Directors – Melissa Carter
- Rivanna Solid Waste Authority Board – Mike Gaffney
- Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority Board – Mike Gaffney

RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

- **PROCLAMATION OF RECOGNITION: Honoring Rosalind Collins for her recognition by the Commissioners of the Revenue Association of Virginia as the Margaret Anderson Outstanding Deputy for 2024**

Councilor Snook presented the proclamation of recognition to Rosalind Collins. Commissioner of the Revenue Todd Divers explained the Margaret Anderson Outstanding Deputy Award. Each year at its annual conference, the Commissioners of the Revenue Association of Virginia chooses one Deputy from across the Commonwealth to receive the Margaret Ann Anderson Outstanding Deputy Commissioner Award. This is the highest honor that our Association confers on a Deputy.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

City Manager Sanders made remarks about recent community input regarding a proposed low-barrier shelter. Mayor Wade opened the floor for comments from the public.

1. Lisa Custalow, city resident, stated that there were seven deaths of homeless people in the community this year. She ceded her time to Robin Hoffman who spoke about homelessness in the city. Ms. Hoffman also spoke about the need for bus stop canopies and improved pedestrian crossings. She commended the Grand Illumination event and the ReLeaf program.
2. Matthew Gillikin, city resident, spoke on behalf of Livable Cville in support of plans expressed by City Manager Sanders to provide housing access to homeless individuals. He spoke about a variety of struggles experienced by people dealing with homelessness.
3. Dede Smith, city resident, spoke about segregation through the lens of housing and education. She referenced differences in demographics relative to the train tracks.
4. Em Gunter, city resident, spoke about homelessness and in support of the proposed low-barrier shelter on Cherry Avenue.
5. Benjamin Efferd, city resident, spoke about the recent Fifeville Neighborhood Meeting regarding the proposed low barrier shelter, and he made a suggestion to swap the locations of the proposed low-barrier shelter and the high-barrier shelters.
6. Louis Desibri, city resident, spoke about a program that he provides to give computers to low-income individuals and the group would like to help more people.
7. Susan Kruse, Executive Director of the Community Climate Collaborative, recapped city successes in the area of sustainability this past year and encouraged Council to vote in favor of joining a Regional Transit Authority. She acknowledged the growing need for energy solutions and energy efficiency incentives.
8. Karen Waters, city resident and Co-Chair of Cultivate Charlottesville, acknowledged the city's investment in the program and asked for continued consideration of a community garden in Washington Park.
9. Jessica Jackson, city resident and member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, expressed concerns about equity in the rental program for garden plots and the need for term limits to avoid monopolization of garden plots.

10. Aleen Carey, Cultivate Charlottesville Co-executive Director, spoke about the organization's initiatives and she expressed interest in hearing the update report on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, particularly regarding a garden space at Booker T. Washington Park. She stated that the organization is in a funding gap.

CONSENT AGENDA*

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

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Oschrin, Council by the following vote adopted the Consent Agenda*: 5-0 (Ayes: Oschrin, Payne, Pinkston, Snook, Wade; Noes: none).

2. MINUTES: December 2, 2024 regular meeting
3. RESOLUTION to appropriate funding from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS/HIV (HOPWA) grant 24-HOPWA-303 in the amount of \$389,312 (2nd reading)

RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING FUNDS Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS/HIV (HOPWA) Grant \$389,312

WHEREAS, The City of Charlottesville, through the Office of Community Solutions, has received the H.O.P.W.A. Grant from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development in the amount of \$389,312;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia that the sum of \$389,312 is hereby appropriated in the following manner:

Revenues

\$389,312 Fund: 209 IO: 1900576 G/L: 430120 Federal Pass-Thru State

Expenditures

\$389,312 Fund: 209 IO: 1900576 G/L: 530550 Contracted Services

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this appropriation is conditioned upon receipt of \$389,312 in funds from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development.

4. RESOLUTION to appropriate BAMA Works Special Event Funding - \$38,700 (2nd reading)

Resolution To Appropriate a Financial Sponsorship from BAMA Works for Special Events \$38,700

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville Parks and Recreation, through a partnership with the BAMA Works Fund, has received generous financial sponsorship to host two Sunday Sundown events at Washington Park, two Sounds of Summer events, and the annual Downtown Safe Halloween festival on the downtown mall;

Revenues - \$38,700

Fund: 105

Internal Order: 2000121

G/L Account: 451020

Expenditures - \$38,700

Fund: 105

Internal Order: 2000121

G/L Account: 599999

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that a total of \$38,700 be appropriated in the following manner:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this appropriation is conditioned upon the receipt of the donations.

5. RESOLUTION to appropriate grant funds from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation in the amount of \$393,456.60 for the Pollocks Branch Pedestrian/Trail Bridge (Carried)
6. RESOLUTION to allocate funds from the CIP Contingency Fund for emergency repairs to the Fontaine Fire Station Parking Lot - \$200,000

RESOLUTION

Allocating \$200,000 from the Capital Improvement Program Contingency Account for the Fontaine Fire Station Drive Apron Repair

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville needs to make an emergency repair to stabilize the drive apron at the Fontaine Fire Station, which was found to be undermined after a recent storm event;

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville requires appropriation of \$200,000 for the emergency repair of City property such that the City can continue governmental operations; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that funds needed for the drive apron repairs will be paid from the Capital Improvement Program Contingency Account:

Transfer From:

\$200,000

Fund: 426

WBS: CP-080

G/L Account: 599999

Transfer To:

\$200,000

Fund: 426

Funded Program: P-01118

G/L Account: 599999

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Sam Sanders announced that the sidewalk on Monticello Road, leading to Quarry Road, will be open soon. He stated that he received a staff request to apply for two more battery electric school buses, and he is hoping to make a determination before the January application deadline.

Responding to Councilor Pinkston, Mr. Sanders stated that the Urgent Infrastructure list will be provided at a meeting in January.

- **REPORT: Parks & Recreation Master Plan: Key Technical Findings, Preliminary Recommendations and Concept Plans**

William Bassett, Parks and Recreation Department, introduced Mike Smith from Pros Consulting, who provided an update on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan which is scheduled for completion in early 2025. The presentation focused on a Trail Connectivity Analysis update, Framework Plan update, cost estimating for capital improvements, and next steps.

Mr. Smith announced a Concept Plan/Connectivity Analysis Open House at Carver Recreation Center on Tuesday, December 17, answered questions for Council, and announced the following planned meetings in 2025:

- February 6 - Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
- February 11 - Planning Commission
- March 17 - City Council (first reading)
- April 7 – City Council (second reading)

ACTION ITEMS

7. PUBLIC HEARING and RESOLUTION for supplemental appropriation of \$7,571,300 in Federal, State, and Local Capital Grant funding for Charlottesville Area Transit (Carried)

Garland Williams, Director of Charlottesville Area Transit, presented the resolution. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (VDRPT) have awarded the Transit Division of the City of Charlottesville federal and state assistance to support capital projects in the operations of public transit services. The FY24 Grant Award of \$2.1 million will support the purchase of battery electric vehicles and the FY23 Grant Award of \$5.1 million will support the purchase of diesel buses, equipment, support vehicles, and software.

Mayor Wade opened the public hearing. With no speakers, Mayor Wade closed the public hearing.

Council agreed unanimously to carry the item forward to the January 6 meeting for second reading and vote on the consent agenda.

8. REPORT on Annual Financial Audit for Fiscal Year 2024 from the City's Auditors

Chris Cullinan, Director of Finance, introduced the city's new Comptroller, Charles Clemmer, before presenting the audit rationale.

Michael Lupton of Robinson, Farmer, Cox, and Associates, made the audit presentation, stating that the firm will render an Unmodified (Clean) Opinion. He recommended keeping in mind the timing for state and federal reimbursement requests.

Mr. Cullinan advised that once the written audit opinion is received, the CAFR (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report) will be made available online.

9. RESOLUTION to reallocate remaining unspent/unobligated American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for eligible uses.

Mr. Cullinan presented the agenda item with a resolution intended to obligate the City's remaining American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds by the December 31, 2024 deadline from the US Treasury Department.

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

RESOLUTION

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds –Reallocation of Unspent/Unobligated Funds

WHEREAS, the Charlottesville City Council previously appropriated \$19,609,708 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to be spent on a number of eligible projects to mitigate the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on individuals, businesses, and the City organization; and

WHEREAS, ARPA funds are required to be obligated (not just appropriated) by December 31, 2024 or be returned to the US Treasury Department; and

WHEREAS, the City will have unobligated ARPA funds it desires to fully obligate by the December 31, 2024 deadline; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia that the balance of unspent/unobligated ARPA funds as of December 31, 2024 be allocated to the Salvation Army Center of Hope expansion and for public safety payroll expenses incurred by the City since July 1, 2024.

From Fund 207:

Internal Order	Project Description	Unspent/Unobligated Balance
1900421	ARPA 1 OED Economic Recovery Roadmap	\$29,338.74
1900437	ARPA 1 City Technology Improvements	\$673.43
1900439	ARPA 1 DSS Sheltering for COVID Positive Individuals	\$9,743.04
1900440	ARPA 1 COVID Testing for Employees	\$203,757.75
1900450	ARPA 1 Take Home COVID Tests	\$20,000.00
1900452	ARPA 1 Café Fee Waiver	\$169,745.95
1900457	ARPA 1 CFD Uses 1	\$534.78
1900458	ARPA 1 CM Office Improvements	\$73.55
1900459	ARPA 1 City Council Chamber Improvements	\$9,782.17
1900460	ARPA 1 City Hall Lobby Improvements	\$2,652.29
1900480	ARPA 1 Unallocated Contingency	\$1,449,565.00
1900481	ARPA 1 Contingency (Revenue Recovery)	\$195,146.00
1900482	ARPA 2 CFD Accreditation (Revenue Recovery)	\$50.00
1900484	ARPA 2 Sheriff Bonus (Revenue Recovery)	\$34.00
1900492	ARPA 2 Arts Festival (Revenue Recovery)	\$1,000.00
1900506	ARPA 1 Automated External Defibrillators	\$38.51
1900507	ARPA 1 City Badge/Access Project	\$15,000.00
1900545	ARPA 2 Avon/Levy Lot Purchase (Revenue Recovery)	\$159,831.06
1900488	ARPA 2 Shelter Generator (Revenue Recovery)	\$40,000.00
1900523	ARPA 1 CFD Uses 2	\$1,551.53
1900485	ARPA 2 Downtown Mall Improvements	\$18,697.10
1900486	ARPA 2 Wayfinding Improvements	\$43,341.47
1900491	ARPA 2 Strategic Initiatives (Revenue Recovery)	\$400,000.00
1900494	ARPA 2 Strategic Planning (Revenue Recovery)	\$107,000.00
1900522	ARPA 2 Success Factors HRMIS System (Revenue Recovery)	\$379,518.06

1900524	ARPA 1 ADA Transition Plan	\$2,700.00
1900479	Meadowcreek Trail Project	\$500,000.00
TOTAL		\$3,759,774.43

To Fund 207:

Internal Order	Project Description	Amount
TBD	Salvation Army Center of Hope	\$3,000,000.00
TBD	Reimbursement for Public Safety Payroll Expenses	\$759,774.43
TOTAL		\$3,759,774.43

10. RESOLUTION to approve the City of Charlottesville's Initial Membership in the Charlottesville-Albemarle Regional Transit Authority

Ben Chambers, Transportation Planning Manager, and Ann Wall, Deputy County Executive for Albemarle County, presented the agenda item. In 2009, the General Assembly provided the ability to the City of Charlottesville, Albemarle County, and the surrounding counties to form a regional transit authority, called the Charlottesville-Albemarle Regional Transit Authority (CARTA). CARTA's enabling legislation identifies the City and Albemarle County as initial members and identifies its purpose as a regional forum to conduct transit planning. On August 22, 2024, the Regional Transit Partnership received a presentation on the formation of a regional transit authority and unanimously endorsed its formation. On September 17, 2024, the Charlottesville City Council and the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors met jointly, received a presentation, and indicated support for the formation of a regional transit authority. On December 11, 2024, the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors approved their initial membership in CARTA through a resolution that mirrors the resolution presented to Council.

On motion by Oschrin, seconded by Pinkston, Council by the following vote approved the resolution for the City of Charlottesville's Initial Membership in the Charlottesville-Albemarle Regional Transit Authority: 5-0 (Ayes: Oschrin, Payne, Pinkston, Snook, Wade; Noes: none).

RESOLUTION

TO APPROVE THE CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE'S INITIAL MEMBERSHIP IN THE CHARLOTTESVILLE-ALBEMARLE REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, *Virginia Code* §33.2-2800 establishes the political subdivision of the Commonwealth known as the Charlottesville-Albemarle Regional Transit Authority ("the Authority");

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville ("City") is committed to enhancing transportation services within the community and recognizes the benefits in collaborating with the Authority to provide efficient and effective transit solutions; and

WHEREAS, *Virginia Code* §33.2-2802 provides that City shall be an initial member of the Authority upon adoption of an approving ordinance or resolution by the governing body;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia hereby adopts this resolution to approve the City's initial membership in the Authority, pursuant to *Virginia Code* §33.2-2802; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is authorized to take any other necessary actions to complete or confirm the City's initial membership in the Authority.

11. ORDINANCE amending City Code Section 15-144 (Parking of buses, trucks, etc. between midnight and 6:00 a.m.) (2nd reading)

Brennen Duncan, City Engineer, presented a copy of the proposed amended ordinance incorporating feedback from City Council since the item was introduced on November 8, 2024. Council engaged in discussion and Councilor Payne suggested that a better approach would have been to consider parking zones to impact areas where parking is an issue rather than a blanket city ordinance.

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Snook, Council by a vote of 4-1 adopted the following ordinance (Ayes: Oschrin, Pinkston, Snook, Wade; Noes: Payne):

ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE SECTION 15-144 (PARKING OF BUSES, TRUCKS, ETC. BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND 6:00 A.M.)

12. RESOLUTION for revisions to Architecture Design Control District Design Guidelines: Chapter 5, Section E. Outdoor Cafes (2nd reading)

Councilor Oschrin delineated her proposed ordinance amendments.

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Oschrin, Council by the following vote approved the Resolution for revisions to Architecture Design Control District Design Guidelines: Chapter 5, Section E. Outdoor Cafes, with amendments as discussed: 5-0 (Ayes: Oschrin, Pinkston, Snook, Wade; Noes: Payne).

COMMUNITY MATTERS (2)

Mayor Wade opened the floor for comments from the public.

- Matt Daring, Cultivate Charlottesville, expressed support for the items presented in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan report.
- Kitter Bishop, city resident, spoke about stormwater management issues near Cherry Avenue. May need to be addressed with consideration of updates to the Salvation Army building.
- Dave Stackhouse, city resident, spoke about paved connectivity in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. He stated that connectivity is needed with to the County and that the Plan appeared to pave over a substantial amount of the Rivanna Trail, which is in-demand and used as an off-road rustic trail for various activities. He suggested that the City and County create a joint Regional Recreation Association.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Payne, seconded by Pinkston, Council voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:49 p.m.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council