



CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

November 17, 2025 at 4:00 PM

Council Chamber

The Charlottesville City Council held a regular meeting on Monday, November 17, 2025. Mayor Juandiego Wade called the meeting to order at 4:01 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 and Lloyd Snook.

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Oschrin, Council by a vote of 4-0 (Ayes: Oschrin, Pinkston, Snook, Wade; Noes: none; Absent: Payne) adopted the meeting agenda, as amended per staff request to remove an item related to the Dairy Road Bridge.

Councilor Michael Payne arrived at 4:03 p.m.

REPORTS

1. REPORT: JAUNT Presentation

Mike Murphy, JAUNT Chief Executive Officer, presented a report on JAUNT's paratransit service and budget. JAUNT is a public service corporation owned by five governmental entities, serving seven jurisdictions plus nonprofit agencies, celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2025. JAUNT became the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) service provider in 1987. Mr. Murphy noted that with the implementation of CARTA (Charlottesville Area Regional Transit Authority), the last meeting for the Regional Transit Partnership will be on November 18, 2025. Mr. Murphy stated that JAUNT is updating its scheduling software after using the same system for thirty years. The report included budget concepts for FY27 services, capital, people, and other operations considerations.

Five priorities listed for 2025-2026 were to:

- Maintain active presence as CARTA develops
- Secure written agreement for ADA service in Charlottesville
- Implement Microtransit pilot for ADA customers
- Create performance evaluation system for all team members
- Select/implement new software technologies for scheduling and planning

Mr. Murphy listed ways that the City can help:

- Continue support of our long-standing partnership
- Remember CAT changes mean Jaunt changes
- Extend fare free service provision
- Determine the timeline for Sunday service
- Advocate for transit dollars at the State level
- Track the future of Infrastructure Investment and Job Act dollars as they phase out and provide advocacy for funding
- Celebrate our success and plan for our future.

2. REPORT: Region Ten Community Services Board Presentation

Dr. Lisa Beitz, Executive Director, presented a report on Region Ten Community Services Board services in Charlottesville for FY25. Region Ten serves Charlottesville and five surrounding counties. Of all localities served, Charlottesville has the highest population of clients. Some challenges noted in the

community services environment were: 1) Medicaid access, 2) behavioral health redesign, 3) workforce development and retention, and 4) community-based services infrastructure.

3. REPORT: Environmental Regulations and Policy Review Project

In the interest of time and at the request of City Manager Sanders, this item was moved to the December 1, 2025 agenda.

CLOSED MEETING

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Snook, Council voted 5-0 (Ayes: Oschrin, Payne, Pinkston, Snook, Wade; Noes: none) to meet in closed session as authorized by Virginia Code Section 2.2-3712 for the following reasons:

1. Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(7) for consultation with legal counsel pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body; and,
2. Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(8) which permits closed sessions for consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Snook, Council by a vote of 5-0 (Ayes: Oschrin, Payne, Pinkston, Snook, Wade; Noes: none) certified 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 session of the meeting began with a moment of silence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Oschrin announced Saturday morning bike rides, meeting at the bike rack near City Market.

Mayor Wade announced the 50th anniversary for JAUNT, and the callout for JAUNT impact stories from community members.

RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

- **PROCLAMATION: Restorative Justice Week, November 16-22, 2025**

Councilor Oschrin presented the Restorative Justice Week proclamation to Ashley Cinalli-Mathews, Central Virginia Community Justice Executive Director, who shared a story about restorative justice after a local incident.

- **RESOLUTION of RECOGNITION: 100th Birthday Recognition for Teresa Walker-Price**

Mayor Wade presented the Resolution of Recognition to Ms. Teresa Walker-Price.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

Mayor Wade invited Ms. Delia Cohen to speak about a TEDx program all day on March 11, 2026 (proximityforjustice.org or email info@proximityforjustice.org), at Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women, then he opened the floor for comments from the public.

1. Adrienne Dent, city resident, rebutted comments made by Jefferson Scholars regarding the vacation of Clarke Court during the November 3, 2025, City Council meeting, and she expressed concerns about the City Council vote of 3-2 to vacate the street. She requested reconsideration of the vote and reconsideration of allowing public comments over Zoom.
2. Joy Johnson, city resident and Chair of PHAR (Piedmont Housing Association of Residents), requested that City Council consider changing the zoning code to stop LV Collective and Landmark luxury apartments.
3. Lucy Gunter, city resident, expressed interest in seeing public housing development on West Main Street. They asked why more public housing has not been built in the last 30 years.
4. Aylin Dutt, UVA student and Friends of PHAR member, spoke for students against the LV Collective luxury student housing development proposal, citing data from other cities and the housing market.
5. Terry Tyree, city resident and PHAR intern, spoke in opposition to the proposed LV Collective development near the Westhaven neighborhood. She shared a list of concerns that she heard from others regarding the potential negative impacts of the development.
6. Alicia Lenahan, Albemarle County resident, spoke about public safety, protection of Constitutional rights, and a Resolution to Unmask ICE.
7. Rebecca Newell, city resident, requested a pause on the Fifeville quick-build traffic calming project scheduled for December 2025. She expressed concerns about insufficient communication from staff to the Fifeville neighborhood regarding the project. Neighborhood members were curious about how the traffic data collected led to the proposed traffic changes.
8. Sophia Merrero, city resident and PHAR organizer, spoke in opposition to the LV Collective luxury student housing development proposal on West Main Street. She requested affordable housing and holding UVA accountable for providing student housing.
9. Joe Lawson, city resident, requested a pause on the Fifeville quick-build traffic calming project scheduled for December 2025 so that feedback from neighbors can be considered and addressed, and the community can receive the data influencing the decision.
10. Frank Bechter, city resident, stated that the Zoning Code needs adjustment, and all city departments need to be on the same page. He read a comment from the city engineer stating that there is no desire to change the character of the Fifeville Neighborhood.
11. Rachel Veni, Friends of PHAR member, asked supporters of PHAR to stand to give Council a visual of those in opposition to the LV Collective proposal for luxury student housing on West Main Street.
12. Brandon Dean, new city resident, spoke about the visibility of the homelessness problem in Charlottesville. He compared the visual of homeless individuals on the Downtown Mall as compared to the lack of visibility in other areas of the city, and he asked how the issue can be fixed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Clerk Thomas read the following Consent Agenda items into the record, and on motion by Pinkston, seconded by Snook, Council unanimously adopted the Consent Agenda (Ayes: Oschrin, Payne, Pinkston, Snook, Wade; Noes: none).

4. MINUTES: May 19, 2025 regular meeting; October 6, 2025 regular meeting
5. ORDINANCE amending City Code Article XVI. – Police Civilian Oversight Board (2nd reading)

ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE ARTICLE XVI. - POLICE CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT

BOARD TO IMPROVE OPERATIONAL FUNCTIONALITY, CLARIFY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, ESTABLISH AN OFFICE OF POLICE CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT, AND ALIGN OVERSIGHT FUNCTIONS WITH CITY POLICIES AND STATE LAW

6. RESOLUTION to appropriate Virginia Department of Historic Resources Grant Funds to Jefferson School African American Heritage Center - \$500,000 (layover)
7. RESOLUTION to approve Critical Slope Special Exception at 1000 2nd Street SE

**RESOLUTION APPROVING A REQUEST FOR A CRITICAL SLOPES SPECIAL EXCEPTION FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1000 2nd STREET SE,
TMP #270050001 SUB-LOT 6-B**

WHEREAS, Joseph Baber (“Landowner”) is the current owner of a lot identified on the 2025 City Tax Map 27 as Parcel No. 50001 (City Parcel Identification No. 270050001), having an area of approximately 0.084 acres (2,340 square feet); (“Subject Property”); and

WHEREAS, the Landowner wishes to improve the Subject Property by building between two (2) and five (5) residential dwelling units (“Project”); and

WHEREAS, the Project is described in more detail within the Landowner’s application materials submitted in connection with Application PL-25-0066 (“Application”), as required by City Development Code (“DC”) Sec. 34-5.2.16.B.2 (collectively, “Application Materials”); and

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville Planning Commission (“PC”) made a recommendation of approval at its October 14, 2025, Public Meeting per City Development Code Sec. 34-5.2.16.C.3.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia (“City Council”), upon consideration of the PC’s recommendation and the City Staff Report discussing the Application, as well as the factors set forth within City DC Sec. 34-5.2.16.D, that City Council finds and determines that granting the proposed Critical Slopes Special Exception would serve the public necessity, convenience, general welfare, or good zoning practice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by City Council, pursuant to City DC Secs. 4.10.1.D and 34-5.2.16, a Critical Slopes Special Exception is hereby approved and granted to authorize the Project and permit installation of between two (2) and five (5) residential dwelling units consistent with the Application Materials for the Subject Property with the following conditions:

1. An advanced erosion and sediment control measures to be in place before, during, and after construction as approved by the VSMP Administrator;
2. Engineered retaining structures designed to blend with the natural landscape; and
3. A detailed landscaping and re-vegetation plan using native species to permanently stabilize all disturbed areas upon completion of the project.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

FY 2026 First Quarter Financial Report

City Treasurer Jason Vandever provided an overview of the City’s retirement plans, overseen by the Retirement Commission.

Budget and Grants Management Director Krisy Hammill, provided the FY 2026 1st Quarter Financial Review, stating that after multiple months of declines, there has been a slight upward trend for both meals and sales tax, among other adjustments.

Brian Ray from the Office of Budget and Grants Management, demonstrated the Budget Explorer tool available on the city website.

Ms. Hammill and Deputy City Manager James Freas debuted a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Quarterly Report interactive tool available on the city website. Ms. Hammill announced the planned release of a CIP Book on November 18, all the CIP budgets in draft form for future budget discussions.

City Manager Sam Sanders summarized the benefits of the new transparency tools. He also responded to comments made by members of the Fifeville Neighborhood regarding public engagement, stating that he will look into their concerns.

ACTION ITEMS

8. RESOLUTION Authorizing a Lease Agreement Extension for Carver Recreation Center

Riaan Anthony, Director of Parks and Recreation, presented the request to adopt the resolution authorizing the execution of the attached Lease Agreement Extension through June 30, 2026, and authorize Parks and Recreation Staff to finalize the long-term Lease Agreement with the Jefferson School Foundation.

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXTENSION OF THE CARVER RECREATION CENTER LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE JEFFERSON SCHOOL FOUNDATION THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville, through its Department of Parks and Recreation, has maintained a 15-year lease agreement with the Jefferson School Foundation (JSF), a Virginia nonprofit, nonstock corporation and successor in interest to the Jefferson School Community Partnership, L.L.P., for the operation of the Carver Recreation Center located within the Jefferson School City Center; and

WHEREAS, Carver Recreation Center continues to serve as a vital hub for wellness, learning, and social connection, promoting the values of resilience, inclusion, and community well-being; and

WHEREAS, the current lease agreement between the City of Charlottesville and the Jefferson School Foundation is set to expire in March 2026, and an extension is necessary to align the agreement with the City's fiscal year cycle (July 1 – June 30); and

WHEREAS, extending the current lease through June 30, 2026, will ensure uninterrupted operations and allow sufficient time for staff to negotiate a new long-term lease that reflects current operational needs, fiscal responsibility, and community use priorities; and

WHEREAS, there is no fiscal impact associated with this action, as operational funding for the Carver Recreation Center has already been appropriated within the Parks and Recreation Department's Fiscal Year 2026 budget;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that the City Council hereby authorizes the extension of the existing lease agreement with the Jefferson School Foundation through June 30, 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City staff are authorized to finalize and execute all necessary documents to effectuate this lease extension and to continue negotiations toward a new long-term lease agreement that will ensure the ongoing success and community value of the Carver Recreation Center.

9. RESOLUTION to approve establishment of a Sister City partnership with Huehuetenango, Guatemala

Edward Herring, Charlottesville Sister Cities Commission (CSCC) Chairperson and Kristen Petros, CSCC member, made a presentation to request elevating the status of Huehuetenango, Guatemala, from Friendship City to a full Sister City relationship. Mr. Herring provided background information about the steps taken to arrive at this point of solidifying a Sistership.

Ms. Petros shared information about her background with Guatemala, making the Sister City relationship meaningful and valuable.

Since the establishment of the Friendship City relationship between the City of Charlottesville and Huehuetenango, Guatemala, the cities have engaged in mutually beneficial exchanges rooted in cultural appreciation, educational connections, and community engagement. This relationship has grown steadily through active participation from both cities and with the support of local organizations, including the GuateMaya Alliance (formerly the Ixtatan Foundation), which has played a key role in fostering ties between our communities. This partnership reflects values that align with the mission of the Sister City program, including cross-cultural understanding, grassroots collaboration, and people-to-people diplomacy. Huehuetenango and Charlottesville share many areas of mutual interest and potential for continued collaboration, from arts and education to sustainable development and civic engagement. Given the demonstrated commitment on both sides and the growing momentum of engagement, the CSCC and New City Committee fully supports the elevation of Huehuetenango to official Sister City status and recommends the City Council to approve this next step.

Mayor Wade expounded on the local Charlottesville delegation visit to Huehuetenango and concurred with the possibilities for partnership.

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

**RESOLUTION
To Authorize Establishment of a Sister City Partnership
with Huehuetenango, Guatemala**

WHEREAS, the Charlottesville Sister Cities Commission (CSCC), a member of Sister Cities International, received authorization by resolution approved by the City Council on December 7, 2020, to initiate a sistering partnership between the City of Charlottesville, USA, and Huehuetenango City, Guatemala; and

WHEREAS, on May 23, 2021, the Mayor of Huehuetenango, Gustavo Adolfo Cano, accepted the invitation for the two cities to partner as "Friendship Cities," and since then, both cities have remained actively engaged in the process of mutual discovery, including an exploratory visit by a

Huehuetenango delegation to Charlottesville in November 2023, followed by a reciprocal visit from a Charlottesville delegation to Huehuetenango in October 2025; and

WHEREAS, in response to community interest in establishing a Spanish-speaking Sister City, the CSCC conducted a robust selection process with significant community engagement and recommended Huehuetenango as Charlottesville's newest candidate for a Sister City partnership; and

WHEREAS, Huehuetenango and Charlottesville are well-matched as Sister Cities, based on shared values, cultural similarities, and strong support from individuals and organizations in both communities, including ongoing collaboration with the local advocacy group, GuateMaya Alliance; and

WHEREAS, the Charlottesville Sister Cities Commission has formally approved the advancement of the partnership between the two cities;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, USA, that a Sister City partnership between Charlottesville and Huehuetenango is hereby officially established; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council approves the Memorandum of Understanding between the two cities, which formalizes the terms, goals, and commitments of the Sister City partnership.

COMMUNITY MATTERS (2)

Mayor Wade opened the floor for comments from the public.

- Joe Lawson, Fifeville resident, expressed thanks and spoke about data regarding speeding in the neighborhood. He also stated that with the attempt to remove disproportionate policing in the neighborhood, policing has been taken away completely, and he would like to have traffic enforcement.
- Joy Johnson, Chair of PHAR, explained why she continues to speak out at City Council meetings, stating that she speaks for people who need deeply affordable housing. She also spoke about the loss of public housing units eligible for vouchers.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Oschrin, Council voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council