



CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 12, 2026 at 6:00 PM

CitySpace: 100 5th St NE, Charlottesville, VA 22902

The Charlottesville City Council held a special meeting on Thursday, March 12, 2026, to discuss budget development for Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27), specifically regarding outside and non-profit agencies. 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 Natalie Oschrin, and Councilors Jen Fleisher and Michael Payne. Councilor Lloyd Snook gave prior notice that he would try to join the meeting electronically while traveling if possible.

Mr. Wade turned the meeting over to Budget Director Kristina Hammill, who summarized the meeting agenda:

- 1) Vibrant Community Fund (VCF)
- 2) Housing Operations and Program Support (HOPS)
- 3) Fundamental Agencies
- 4) Intergovernmental Agency Budget Adjustments

Hunter Smith, Human Services Planner, presented the Vibrant Community Fund (VCF) FY27 Report. for FY27 were based on the City Council Strategic Plan and included the following categories: Public Safety & Housing* (housing related applications are accessed via other opportunities) Transportation, Climate Action, Commitment to Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, Education, Economic Prosperity and Recreation, Arts and Culture. There were 86 applicants for the FY27 VCF process and 9 Arts and Cultural Events applications (which shifted from VCF to the City Manager's Discretionary Fund). The total amount requested for FY27 was \$5,471,711.20. The total number of funded applications was 71. The VCF report reflects award levels of 91%, 48% and 27% of each grant proposal. The primary factor of the funding levels is due to the total amount of funds requested compared to the total available funds (\$5,099,211.20 vs. \$2,600,000 budgeted for VCF).

Madelyn Metzler, Interim Housing Manager, presented recommendations for awarding Housing Operations and Program Support (HOPS) funds. The HOPS program was established in FY24 to separate affordable housing funding from the Vibrant Community Fund. It supports non-profit organizations focused on affordable housing and homelessness prevention. Funding is allocated through the Charlottesville Affordable Housing Fund (CAHF) Committee comprised of assigned city staff and appointed resident volunteers. Applications are reviewed and scored based on program quality, community impact, and alignment with city priorities. A Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) was issued in August 2025, with applications due by October 20, 2025. Fourteen applications were submitted, requesting a total of \$1,390,000 in funding and \$575,000 was available for granting.

Mr. Sanders presented the Fundamental Agencies funding proposal, totaling \$2,342,121, a 9.6% increase from FY26.

Ms. Hammill explained Intergovernmental Agency budget adjustments, which increased 7.4% over the prior fiscal year for a total proposal of \$20,435,540. She then previewed the upcoming budget development meetings calendar and announced an informal tax rate public hearing during the March 16 City Council meeting and the official real estate tax public hearing during the April 6 City Council meeting.

Councilors asked clarifying questions throughout the presentations.

Mayor Wade opened the floor for comments from members of the public. The following individuals spoke in support of additional funding:

- Sakeena Alkateeb, Charlottesville Tomorrow
- Adam Nemett, Mima Music
- Janasha Bradford and program participant Jaqueez, Mahogany & Friends Foundation
- Cathy Boyd and students, Releaf Cville Green Team
- Nancy Littlefield, Hospice of the Piedmont and Hospice House
- Maureen Brondyke, New City Arts
- Samantha Strong, Bennett's Village
- Kara McClurken, Bennett's Village
- Brian (?) substituting for Herb Dickerson, Central Virginia Violence Interruptors
- Annette Anthony, Central Virginia Violence Interruptors
- Shante Davis, Central Virginia Violence Interruptors
- Shevon Wilson, Central Virginia Violence Interruptors
- Jane Mills, Loaves & Fishes
- Molly Jackson, Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Kerri Clemons, Piedmont Regional Dental Clinic
- Daniela Pretzer, The Bridgeline
- Joseph Chaney, The Bridgeline
- Ryan McKay, Charlottesville Albemarle Health Department
- Suzanne Bowers, MACAA
- Kate Lambert, Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Virginia
- Ckalib Nelson, Live Arts
- Deanna Gould, Lighthouse Studio
- Lindsey Hepler, Lighthouse Studio
- Courtney Polk, Building Goodness Foundation
- Doreen Bonnet, Birth Sisters of Charlottesville
- Megan Gildea, Piedmont Family YMCA
- Kim Basile-Wood, Ben Hair Just Swim for Life
- Price Thomas, City of Promise
- Kate Chirico, Bennett's Village
- Quinton Harrell, New Hill Development Corporation & BEACON Kitchen
- Ashley Cinalli-Mathews, Central Virginia Community Justice
- George & Matt, Wartime Fitness Warriors
- Gordon Hair, Ben Hair Just Swim for Life
- Bellamy Brown, Bennett's Village
- Derek Rush, Uhuru Foundation
- Kevin Parks, Uhuru Foundation participant and Central Virginia Violence Interruptors
- Beatrice Bradford, Mahogany & Friends, suggested combining some of the programs.

City Attorney John Maddux advised Council to be transparent in making decisions for additional funding, and to not make promises individually while out and about in the community.

On motion by Fleisher, seconded by Oschrin, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council