



CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 5, 2026 at 6:00 PM

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

The Charlottesville City Council held a special meeting on Thursday, March 5, 2026, to discuss budget development for Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27). Mayor Juandiego Wade called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. and called the roll, noting all councilors present: Mayor Juandiego Wade, Vice Mayor Natalie Oschrein, and Councilors Jen Fleisher, Michael Payne and Lloyd Snook. Mr. Wade turned the meeting over to Krisy Hammill, Director of Budget and Grants Management.

Budget Director Krisy Hammill and City Manager Sam Sanders led a discussion based as follow-up to the FY27 Proposed Budget introduction at the March 2 regular Council meeting, covering the following topics:

- FY27 General Fund Revenues and Expenditures, highlighting changes from FY26
- Budget Drivers: Transit, Schools, and Affordable Housing
- 5-year General Fund Forecast, with expenditure growth to outpace revenue growth
- Tax Rates:
 - Advertisement
 - Impact
 - Tax Relief Programs

Councilors asked clarifying questions about various expenditures such as collective bargaining, healthcare expenditures, new positions, school budgeting practices, State contributions, thoughts on zero-based budgeting, tax payments from UVA, one-time expenses and specific line items. City Treasurer Jason Vandever and Commissioner of the Revenue Todd Divers helped answer Council's questions.

Ms. Hammill explained parameters for advertising a potential real property tax rate and requested Council feedback. Mr. Divers provided an overview of the following tax relief programs:

- Rental Relief for Elderly/Disabled
- Real Estate Tax Relief for Elderly/Disabled
- Charlottesville Homeowner Assistance Program
- Real Estate Tax Exemption for Disabled Veterans and/or Surviving Spouse

Ms. Hammill previewed upcoming meetings, including opportunities for public input and the official Budget Public Hearing on April 6 during the regular City Council meeting. Councilors agreed to advertise up to a 2-cent tax increase for the purpose of discussion and flexibility. Mr. Sanders requested Council brainstorm ideas for alternatives to a tax increase in order to balance the budget and meet city needs. Councilors discussed several options and suggested benchmarking other localities.

On motion by Oschrein, seconded by Snook, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council