



City Council Meeting Agenda

March 16, 2026

City Hall Council Chamber
605 E. Main St.
Charlottesville, VA 22902

Juandiego R. Wade, Mayor
Natalie Oschrin, Vice Mayor
Jen Fleisher
Michael K. Payne
J. Lloyd Snook, III
Kyna Thomas, Clerk

4:00 PM Opening Session

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

II. Agenda Approval

III. Reports

1. Report: VDOT STARS Study Update (Ridge Street at West Main Street Intersection)
2. Report: Collecting Bargaining Impacts

5:30 PM Closed Meeting (Housing Advisory Committee Appointment)

6:30 PM Business Session

IV. Moment of Silence

V. Announcements

VI. Recognitions/Proclamations

- Proclamation: Social Work Month

VII. Community Matters

Public comment for up to 16 speakers (limit 3 minutes per speaker). Preregistration available for first 8 spaces at <https://www.charlottesville.gov/692/Request-to-Speak>; speakers announced by Noon on meeting day (9:00 a.m. sign-up deadline). Additional public comment at end of meeting. Comments on Public Hearing items are heard during the public hearing only.

VIII. Consent Agenda*

The consent agenda consists of routine, non-controversial items whereby all items are passed with a single motion and vote. Individuals speaking during Community Matters may address items on the Consent Agenda.

3. Minutes: January 20 regular meeting; March 5 & March 12 budget work sessions
4. Resolution: Resolution to Grant \$125,000 for a Small Business Energy Efficiency Incentive Program (2nd reading)

IX. City Manager Report

- Report: City Manager Report
 - a. Report: CACVB Report on VA250 Activities

X. Action Items

5. Public Hearing: Public hearing on the Charlottesville real property tax rate
6. Ordinance: City Code Changes
 - a. Ordinance: Ordinance Amending Chapter 2 of the City Code by Repealing Sections 2-47 and 2-48 Relating to the City Council Finance Committee

- b. Ordinance: Ordinance to amend Chapter 2, Article X of the City Code to repeal outdated provisions pertaining to School Board appointments (1 of 2 readings)
- c. Ordinance: Ordinance to amend City Code Chapter 19, Article III, Section 19-57 to update city manager representation on the Retirement Plan Commission
- 7. Ordinance: Public Art Program Proposal
 - a. Ordinance: Ordinance to establish the Charlottesville Public Art Program
 - b. Resolution: Resolution to fund the Charlottesville Public Art Program - \$100,000 (1 of 2 readings)
- 8. Resolution: Resolution in support of Charlottesville High Performance Building Standards
- 9. Resolution: Resolution to authorize a refund of \$159,947.55 to a taxpaying entity or business

XI. General Business

- 10. Written Report: Land Use and Environmental Planning Committee Semi-Annual Report

XII. Community Matters (2)

XIII. Adjournment

MEETING GUIDELINES

- This is an in-person meeting with an option for the public to participate electronically by registering in advance for the Zoom webinar at www.charlottesville.gov/zoom. The meeting may also be viewed on the City's streaming platforms and local government Channel 10. Individuals with disabilities who require assistance or special arrangements to participate in the public meeting may call (434) 987-1267 or submit a request via email to ada@charlottesville.gov. The City of Charlottesville requests that you provide 48 hours' notice so that proper arrangements may be made.
- The presiding officer shall ensure that individuals address their comments to City Council at appropriate times, in accordance with the meeting agenda and Council's Rules of Procedure.
- No person who is not a member of the city council shall orally address it until leave to do so has been granted by the city council or until invited to do so by the mayor. (City Code sec.2-71)
- Remarks and actions that disrupt the progress of the Council meeting, and remarks from persons other than councilors, the City Manager, the City Attorney, or a presenter for an Agenda Item are not permitted.
- The presiding officer shall call an individual to order, including a councilor, when that individual goes afoul of these rules. The following are examples of remarks and behavior that are not permitted:
 - i. Interrupting a speaker who is addressing Council at the speaker's microphone, or interrupting a speaker who has otherwise been invited to address Council during Community Matters or a Public Hearing
 - ii. Interrupting a councilor who is speaking
 - iii. Shouting, and talking (either individually or in concert with others) in a manner that prevents a speaker or a Councilor from being heard or that otherwise hinders the progress of the meeting
 - iv. Blocking paths for emergency exit from the meeting room; engaging in any conduct that prevents a member of the audience from seeing or hearing councilors during a meeting; standing on chairs or tables within the Council meeting room
 - v. Threats or incitement of violence toward councilors, City staff or members of the public
 - vi. Engaging in conduct that is a criminal offense under the City Code or the Virginia Code
 - vii. Campaigning for elected office
 - viii. Promotion of private business ventures
 - ix. Using profanity or vulgarity
 - x. Personal attacks against Councilors, City staff or members of the public
 - xi. Behavior which tends to intimidate others
- During a City Council meeting the presiding officer shall have control of the Council Chambers and the connecting halls and corridors within City Hall, and any other venue where a Council meeting is being held. In case of any conduct described above, the presiding officer may take measures deemed appropriate, including but not limited to suspending the meeting until order is restored, ordering areas to be cleared by the Sergeant at Arms, or requiring any individual to exit the meeting room and adjacent premises (connecting halls and corridors.)

Policy Briefing Summary

City Council



Regarding:	VDOT STARS Study Update (Ridge Street at West Main Street Intersection)
Staff Contact(s):	Ben Chambers, Transportation Planning Manager
Presenter:	Ben Chambers, Transportation Planning Manager
Date of Proposed Action:	March 16, 2026

Issue

Background / Rule

In 2025, the Virginia Department of Transportation ("VDOT") began work on a STARS Study at the intersection of West Main Street and Ridge Street ("Project"). This Project was aimed at moving the existing statue plinth to a safer location for vehicle, bike, and pedestrian movements through the intersection, improving safety and access for all users. VDOT held public engagement on its recommended design concept in January 2026. This Project is slated as the City's SMART SCALE Application for 2026, due in August, which would put the Project in consideration for state funding and inclusion in the Commonwealth's Six (6)-Year Improvement Program.

Analysis

City Staff will update City Council on the STARS Study Process and next steps for Project development and public engagement.

Financial Impact

At this time, there is no financial impact from the planning process for this potential future project.

Recommendation

City Staff will seek Council approval for this project and its SMART SCALE application in July 2026.

Recommended Motion (if Applicable)

Not applicable.

Attachments

1. W Main_Ridge VDOT Update 31626



Update on the VDOT STARS Study on W Main/Ridge Intersection

Neighborhood Development Services

March 2026



Project Background

- In 2024, local VDOT staff worked with City and County staff to identify key project locations for a new round of STARS studies to develop new SMART SCALE applications
 - US 29 North and US 29/US 250 Bypass Interchange
 - West Main/Ridge Intersection
- Locations were identified as areas of concern in MPO long-range plan Moving Toward 2050 and the regional safety action plan Move Safely Blue Ridge
- West Main/Ridge was identified as a candidate for the City's first new SMART SCALE project application since returning state funds that awarded in previous rounds



Study purpose and goals

- Improve safety for all road users
- Improve traffic flow and ease of use for all road users
- Maintain the pedestal as a cultural resource for re-use
- Develop a competitive SMART SCALE application
 - Must show some benefits to congestion
 - Must be cost-competitive

Study timeline

- **November 2024:** Traffic data collected
- **March 2025:** Public survey on existing concerns in study area
- **April 2025:** Existing conditions findings published
- **August 2025:** Public information meeting and survey on three alternatives
- **January 2025:** Public information meeting and feedback collection on the draft proposed VDOT staff recommendation



RIDGE ST & W MAIN ST (US BUS 250)/ W WATER ST/ SOUTH ST W INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT STUDY

Project Needs

- Improve multi-modal safety: 27 reported total crashes (2019-2024)
 - Reduce probability of rear end, side-swipe, angle, head on, pedestrian, and bicyclist crashes
- Improve traffic flow
- Enhance accessibility and connectivity

Project Benefits

- Increased traffic flow along W Water St and South St W
- Simplified 5-leg intersection by creating one-way pair
- Shorter crosswalks to increase pedestrian safety
- Optimal signal timings
- Improved right-turn visibility on W Main St

Concept Description

- Convert W Water St to a one-way street between Ridge St and 2nd St SE
- Add a westbound dedicated bike lane along W Water St and add parking on the south side
- Add curb bump-outs and curb ramps at the mid-block crossings on W Water St and South St W
- Switch bike lane on South St W from westbound (contraflow) to eastbound
- Updated signal timing and signage for intersection
- Reconstruct channeling right turn island along W Main St and add a pedestrian plaza
- Install new ADA compliant curb ramps at intersection
- Re-align crosswalks for shorter crossing distances

Preliminary Cost Magnitude \$5

Conceptual Layout: Alternative 1 (One-Way Pair Water St and South St)

RIDGE ST & W MAIN ST (US BUS 250)/ W WATER ST/ SOUTH ST W INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT STUDY

Project Needs

- Improve multi-modal safety: 27 reported total crashes (2019-2024)
 - Reduce probability of rear end, side-swipe, angle, head on, pedestrian, and bicyclist crashes
- Improve traffic flow
- Enhance accessibility and connectivity

Project Benefits

- Increased traffic flow along W Water St and South St W
- Increased bicycle and pedestrian safety through dedicated signal phases
- Optimal signal timings
- Improved right-turn visibility on W Main St

Concept Description

- Convert W Water St to a one-way street between Ridge St and 2nd St SE
- Add a westbound dedicated bike lane along W Water St and add parking on the south side
- Add curb bump-outs and curb ramps at the mid-block crossings on W Water St and South St W
- Switch bike lane on South St W from westbound (contraflow) to eastbound
- Add bikeway on north side of W Main St
- Reconstruct channeling right turn island along W Main St and add a pedestrian plaza
- Install new ADA compliant curb ramps at intersection
- Add dedicated signal phase for bicycles and pedestrians to enhance comfort and reduce conflicts

Preliminary Cost Magnitude \$5

Conceptual Layout: Alternative 2 (One-Way Pair Water St and South St with Bikeway)

RIDGE ST & W MAIN ST (US BUS 250)/ W WATER ST/ SOUTH ST W INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT STUDY

Project Needs

- Improve multi-modal safety: 27 reported total crashes (2019-2024)
 - Reduce probability of rear end, side-swipe, angle, head on, pedestrian, and bicyclist crashes
- Improve traffic flow
- Enhance accessibility and connectivity

Project Benefits

- Increased traffic flow along W Water St and South St W
- Simplified 5-leg intersection by creating one-way pair
- Increased bicycle and pedestrian safety through dedicated signal phases
- Optimal signal timings
- Improved right-turn visibility on W Main St

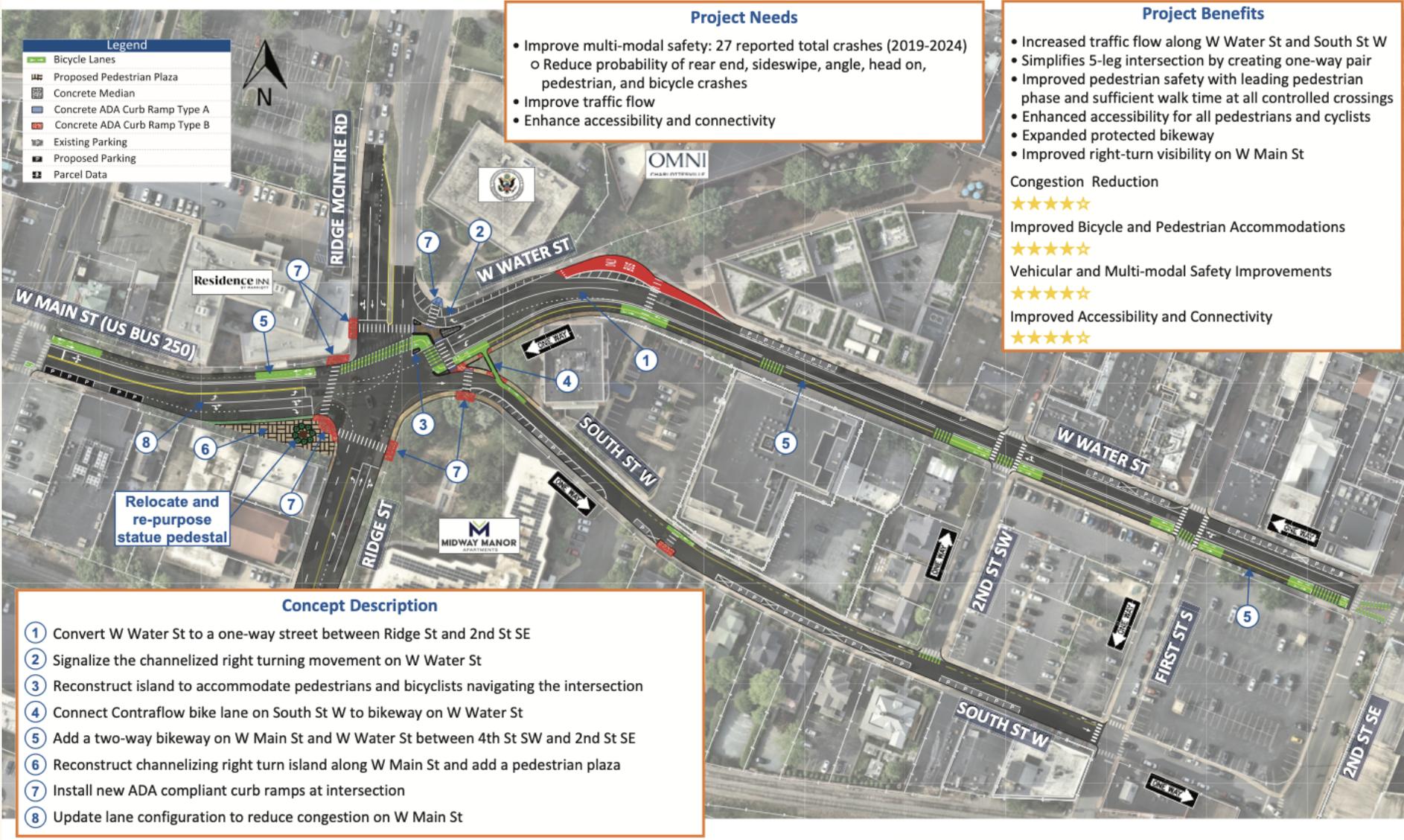
Concept Description

- Convert signalized intersection to a roundabout
- Convert W Water St to a one-way street between Ridge St and 2nd St SE
- Add a westbound dedicated bike lane along W Water St and add westbound travel lane
- Add curb bump-out and curb ramp at the mid-block crossings on South St W
- Switch bike lane on South St W from westbound (contraflow) to eastbound
- Shared Use Paths to facilitate safer pedestrian and bicyclist movements and increase comfort when engaging the roundabout
- Install new ADA compliant curb ramps
- Would require right-of-way acquisitions and utility relocations

Preliminary Cost Magnitude \$555

Conceptual Layout: Alternative 3 (Roundabout with One-Way Pair Water St and South St)

Ridge St & W Main St / W Water St/ South St W Intersection Improvement Study



Project Needs

- Improve multi-modal safety: 27 reported total crashes (2019-2024)
 - Reduce probability of rear end, sideswipe, angle, head on, pedestrian, and bicycle crashes
- Improve traffic flow
- Enhance accessibility and connectivity

Project Benefits

- Increased traffic flow along W Water St and South St W
- Simplifies 5-leg intersection by creating one-way pair
- Improved pedestrian safety with leading pedestrian phase and sufficient walk time at all controlled crossings
- Enhanced accessibility for all pedestrians and cyclists
- Expanded protected bikeway
- Improved right-turn visibility on W Main St

Congestion Reduction
★★★★★

Improved Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodations
★★★★★

Vehicular and Multi-modal Safety Improvements
★★★★★

Improved Accessibility and Connectivity
★★★★★

Concept Description

- 1 Convert W Water St to a one-way street between Ridge St and 2nd St SE
- 2 Signalize the channelized right turning movement on W Water St
- 3 Reconstruct island to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists navigating the intersection
- 4 Connect Contraflow bike lane on South St W to bikeway on W Water St
- 5 Add a two-way bikeway on W Main St and W Water St between 4th St SW and 2nd St SE
- 6 Reconstruct channelizing right turn island along W Main St and add a pedestrian plaza
- 7 Install new ADA compliant curb ramps at intersection
- 8 Update lane configuration to reduce congestion on W Main St

Preferred Conceptual Layout: One-Way Pair Water St and South St with Bikeway



Project Benefits

- Simplifies 5-leg intersection by creating one-way pair
 - Decreases delays
 - Reduces turning-movement conflicts
- Improved pedestrian safety with enlarged spaces for waiting, leading pedestrian phases on and sufficient walk time at all controlled crossings
- Enhanced accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists
- Expanded protected bikeway
- Improved right-turn visibility on W Main
- *Improved wayfinding signage*

Next Steps

- VDOT refines the preferred conceptual design, based on public and staff input, develops cost estimate (including identifying the future local match needed)
- **April 1:** Pre-applications for SMART SCALE due
- **April:** Engagement with Downtown residents and businesses
- **April/May:** VDOT and OIPI will review Pre-applications and provide feedback
- **June-August:** SMART SCALE application window, will need City Council endorsement of project application with preferred concept
- **September 2026-January 2027:** SMART SCALE applications assessed
- **Spring 2027:** Projects selected for funding by Commonwealth Transportation Board in Six Year Improvement Program
- **2027-2028:** Planning for restriping on West Main following Utilities project
- **2029:** Earliest full repaving of West Main and implementation of restriping with protected bike facilities, up to the STARS study project area
- **2033:** Funding for STARS study project construction become available



April Engagement with Downtown Businesses and Residents

- Working with VDOT to summarize collected feedback
- Inviting downtown residents and business to participate in focus group session to clarify and develop solutions for collected concerns
- Workshop to review feedback, provide further detail on items to consider for future refinements
- Interested? Look out for more info and RSVP to participate
- Coordinating with VDOT, Office of Economic Development, and Friends of Downtown
- Tentative date: 4/27 at City Space

Thank You



Policy Briefing Summary

City Council



Regarding:	Collecting Bargaining Impacts
Staff Contact(s):	Krisy Hammill, Director of Budget, Joe Gilkerson, Jimmy Morani
Presenter:	Samuel Sanders, Jr., City Manager
Date of Proposed Action:	March 16, 2026

Issue

The City of Charlottesville is one of a few municipalities to have approved Collective Bargaining Ordinances and negotiated contracts with segments of their employees. Charlottesville City Schools also approved collective bargaining and now have to union contracts, one active and one pending budget approval with an effective date of July 1, 2026. The increased costs resulting from these contracts is a solid indication of the value placed on the existing workforce and prioritizing their needs. The issue now facing both operating budgets is the reconciliation of increasing compensation and benefits costs and how to address other needs and priorities.

This Work Session is intended to visualize the impacts of collective bargaining as a priority of both City and Schools workforce groups and the unintentional structural imbalances that must be recognized and resolved within the production and management of balanced operating budgets.

Background / Rule

The City of Charlottesville approved its Collective Bargaining Ordinance in 2023 authorizing up to six (6) bargaining units: Police, Fire, Transit, Labor & Trades, Administrative & Technical, and Professional. Today, there are four active collective bargaining contracts: Police, Fire, Transit, and Labor & Trades.

Charlottesville City Schools has an active contract with Licensed Teachers for FY26 - FY28. The pending contract with Professional Support personnel will cover FY27 - FY29.

Analysis

Financial Impact

The work session is to discuss the known and projected financial impacts as Council considers adoption of its FY27 Budget.

Recommendation

Recommended Motion (if Applicable)

Attachments

None

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE



Proclamation

Social Work Month 2026 Uplift. Defend. Transform.

WHEREAS Social Workers positively impact the lives of millions of Americans daily, in hospitals, schools, child welfare agencies, community centers, and within the federal, state and local governments nationwide;

WHEREAS, for more than a century, Social Workers have worked to improve human well-being, to advocate for justice, and to support everyone's basic needs, selecting this profession out of a deep commitment to help uplift, defend, and transform the lives of others, their families and communities;

WHEREAS the 2026 theme, "**Social Workers: Uplift. Defend. Transform,**" shines a light on the resolute spirit of social workers who transform lives while bringing hope, healing, and justice to the communities they serve - especially in times of profound change and challenges; they follow a Code of Ethics that calls on them to stand for equity, uphold human dignity, and fight injustice;

WHEREAS Social Workers stand on the frontlines supporting vulnerable populations, including individuals experiencing poverty, discrimination, trauma, mental health challenges, and substance use disorders, while strengthening the social safety net that supports our community;

WHEREAS Social Workers assist individuals and families as they navigate grief, systemic barriers, public health crises, and other life challenges, helping them recover and thrive; and

NOW, THEREFORE, in recognition of the numerous contributions made by Social Workers, the Charlottesville City Council proclaims the month of March 2026 as Social Work Month and call upon community members to join in celebration and support of the Social Work profession and this year's theme of Uplift. Defend. Transform.

Signed and sealed this 16th day of March 2026.

Juandiego Wade, Mayor

Kyna Thomas, Clerk



CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
January 20, 2026 at 4:00 PM
Council Chamber

Mayor Juandiego Wade called to order the Tuesday, January 20, 2026, City Council Meeting and Clerk of Council Kyna Thomas called the roll, noting all councilors present: Mayor Juandiego Wade, Vice Mayor Natalie Oschrin, and Councilors Jen Fleisher, Michael Payne and Lloyd Snook.

On motion by Snook, seconded by Oschrin, Council unanimously adopted the meeting agenda.

REPORTS

1. REPORT: Discussion on Student Housing

City Manager Sanders stated that the topic of student housing is being presented and discussed at the request of City Council. Kellie Brown, Director of Neighborhood Development Services, presented the work session report, requesting guidance from City Council.

The Affordable Dwelling Unit Monitoring and Procedures Manual (“ADU Manual”) must be updated annually. The intent of these annual updates is to ensure that the Affordable Dwelling Unit Requirement and Affordable Dwelling Unit Bonus provisions in the City’s Development Code continue to support the affordable housing goals of the Comprehensive Plan. Since its 2024 adoption, the manual has not yet been reviewed or updated. The focus of this update process will be to evaluate and potentially refine expectations for in-lieu fee payments if affordable units are not provided on site as part of a development project, for both student housing projects, non-student housing projects, and projects requesting bonus height. The evaluation will also look at the criteria (building features and geography) for which student housing project affordable housing expectations apply. Staff developed background information and scope of work for this study, including a community engagement process and timeline, and requested feedback from City Council on the scope of work to inform Staff’s approach.

Councilors each shared their ideas on student housing, displacement of local residents, population growth at the University of Virginia, the need to increase housing options beyond core neighborhoods, trickle-down effects of catering development to students and investors, impacts on services and amenities, and opportunity costs of conducting further studies and not implementing strategies sooner. Councilors requested a future report with additional data and scenarios, a recalibration schedule, keeping in mind the tax abatement study and mixed-use commercial development.

Councilor Oschrin encouraged the community to visit the city’s community engagement online hub at www.Connect.charlottesville.gov.

City Manager Samuel Sanders, Jr., summarized comments from Council to confirm direction for zoning-specific matters:

- Overlay district for student housing
- Moving the overlay districts conversation in regard to sensitive neighborhoods forward on the timeline
- Revisiting Board of Architectural Review oversight
- Updating the rate of growth for the university, and if unable to confirm, use a growth rate of 1%
- Consideration of a student housing overlay district in the JPA neighborhood.

CLOSED MEETING

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

1. Pursuant to 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:
 - a. Police Civilian Oversight Board
 - b. Council Finance Committee

2. Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) 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, specifically, contemplated council action with respect to federal immigration enforcement.

On motion by Oschrin, seconded by Snook, Council by a vote of 5-0 (Ayes: Fleisher, Oschrin, Payne, 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.

RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Wade made brief comments in honor of Ms. Sarah Pool who passed away recently. Councilor Payne read a proclamation recognizing Ms. Pool's contributions to accessibility education and accountability citywide and beyond. The proclamation was accepted with remarks by her widower, Mr. Kevin Cox.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

On motion by Oschrin, seconded by Snook, Council by a vote of 5-0 appointed the following members to the Police Civilian Oversight Board: Caron LeNoir-Kelly and Nathalie Reaves.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

Mayor Wade read a statement from City Council:

“Charlottesville is a community that cares for one another. We know that recent ICE actions and rhetoric in Minneapolis are alarming and impact many of us personally. We want to be clear: we do not tolerate any enforcement actions that are illegal or create fear or instability for Charlottesville residents. We also support efforts at the state level to protect the civil rights of all residents and to strengthen privacy and access protections under Virginia law. We are actively creating a resolution that reflects our values. We will share that resolution publicly as soon as it is ready. We also honor that speaking out and peaceful protest are at the core of an American healthy democracy, and we support residents who exercise those rights as part of civic life. In the meantime, we stand with the communities, agencies, and organizations that work with those most at risk. We will continue to use Council's voice, partnerships, and authority to foster trust, dignity, and a sense of belonging for all of Charlottesville.”

Mayor Wade invited comments from the public.

1. Alicia Lenahan, Albemarle County resident, spoke about an “Unmask ICE resolution” presented to City Council in July.
2. Susan McCulley, property owner in the city, spoke about actions of ICE agents and an “Unmask ICE resolution” resolution presented to City Council in July.
3. Heidi Berthoud, member of the Court Square Enslavement Memorial Group, requested the City reinstall a commemorative marker to a post at 0 Park Street to read, “Traditional Site of Enslavement Auction Block”.
4. Michael Beaudet, city resident, spoke in support of Council passing a resolution regarding federal law enforcement operating within the city, unmasked and with proper identification.
5. Emily Little, city resident, spoke in support of Council passing a resolution to require ICE agents to be unmasked and show identity.
6. Jody Sweeny, member of the Court Square Enslavement Memorial Group, requested that the City reinstall a commemorative marker for the enslavement auction block at 0 Park Street.
7. Richard Allan, member of the Court Square Enslavement Memorial Group, requested that City Council vote on whether the enslavement auction block should be restored.
8. Rosia Parker, city resident, spoke about student housing developments being built around the 10th & Page core neighborhood and areas of low-income housing, displacing residents.
9. Don Gathers, city resident, spoke in support of the resolution to appropriate funds to help the neighborhood grocery store move forward. He stated that the city needs to be prepared for ICE, and he advocated that Rosia Parker be appointed to the Police Civilian Oversight Board.
10. Kristen Szakos, city resident, spoke in support of the future community market, and she gave historical context to the law regarding wearing masks in public, requesting that City Council pass a resolution opposing the wearing of masks by ICE agents.
11. Angela Carr, city resident, spoke: 1) about the need for community engagement before approving student housing developments; 2) in support of signage to memorialize the enslavement auction block in the city; and 3) in support of immigrant families being impacted by ICE enforcement.
12. Wendy Gao, city resident, spoke in opposition to luxury student housing development in proximity to low-income neighborhoods near UVA.
13. Mel Warthog, city resident and UVA law student, spoke in support of the proposed resolution to unmask ICE agents in the city. She mentioned the impact that it could have on legal cases.
14. Terry Tyree, city resident, spoke in support of protecting core neighborhoods while addressing housing needs thoughtfully and equitably.
15. Genevieve Keller, city resident, spoke about recommendations made by Preservation Piedmont during the Zoning Code development process, to protect core neighborhoods from intrusions by developers. She encouraged Council to use the Neighborhood Conservation Tool to help residents manage change.
16. Anna Figueroa, UVA law student specializing in immigration, emphasized the importance of the ICE resolution to the average resident in ensuring their rights.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

2. MINUTES: January 9 retreat; January 12 special meeting
3. RESOLUTION to appropriate Stormwater Local Assistance Grant Fund for the Rivanna Restoration at Riverview Park in the amount of \$607,610.00 (2nd reading)

RESOLUTION

Appropriating Funding in the Amount of \$607,610 To Be Received from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality’s Stormwater Local Assistance Fund

WHEREAS, The City of Charlottesville has been notified that it will be awarded a grant from the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (S.L.A.F.) grant program from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality in the amount of \$607,610.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that upon receipt of the S.L.A.F. funding the Commonwealth of Virginia, said funding, anticipated in the sum of \$607,610, is hereby appropriated in the following manner:

Revenues

\$607,610	Fund 209	Order: 1900620	G/L 430110
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Expenditures

\$607,610	Fund 209	Order 1900620	G/L 599999
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this appropriation is conditioned upon receipt of \$607,610 in funds from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

4. RESOLUTION to appropriate funding from the Supreme Court of Virginia Behavioral Health Docket Grant - \$78,150.09 (layover)
5. RESOLUTION to appropriate the Virginia Department of Social Services Family Assistance Management (F.A.M.) grant in the amount of \$125,754.06 (layover)

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Samuel Sanders, Jr., presented his quarterly work plan and provided an overview of positions within the reorganized City Manager’s Office.

ACTION ITEMS

6. **ORDINANCE Approving Amendments to Previous Ordinance Authorizing a Forgivable Loan to SupportWorks Housing for Vista 29** (layover)

Brenda Kelley, Redevelopment Manager, summarized the proposal. In August 2024, City Council approved an Ordinance authorizing a forgivable loan to Virginia Supportive Housing (“VSH”) in the amount of \$750,000. VSH, now known as SupportWorks Housing (“SupportWorks”), requested amendments to the Loan Agreement and the Declaration of Affordable Housing Covenants to comply with all the requirements.

Council agreed unanimously to move this item forward to the February 2nd meeting for second reading and vote on the consent agenda.

7. ORDINANCE Authorizing a Forgivable Loan to Piedmont Housing Alliance to Support Redevelopment of 1025 Park Street/MACAA for the Purpose of Producing New Housing for Low- and Moderate-Income Persons (layover)

Brenda Kelley, Redevelopment Manager, summarized the proposal and noted a correction to materials presented, to remove references to the Head Start program, which is no longer run by the Monticello Area Community Action Agency (“MACAA”). City Capital Improvement Project funding totaling \$3,770,000 has been allocated for the proposed affordable housing development at 1025 Park Street (a/k/a the MACAA site). City Staff requests City Council's approval of an Ordinance approving the execution of necessary legal documents to disburse these funds and ensure the housing units remain affordable over time. Staff requested waiver of the second reading.

On motion by Oschrin, seconded by Snook, Council unanimously adopted the following ordinance, waiving the second reading with at least a four-fifths vote (Ayes: Fleisher, Oschrin, Payne, Snook, Wade; Noes: none):

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A FORGIVABLE LOAN TO PIEDMONT HOUSING ALLIANCE TO SUPPORT REDEVELOPMENT OF 1025 PARK STREET/MACAA FOR THE PURPOSE OF PRODUCING NEW HOUSING FOR LOW- AND MODERATE-INCOME PERSONS

8. RESOLUTION Supporting the Dogwood Veterans Memorial Pedestrian Bridge and Parking Area

Brennen Duncan, City Engineer, presented the request, asking City Council to reaffirm policy support for the Dogwood Veterans Memorial Pedestrian Bridge and Accessible Parking Area Project ("Project"), and, through Resolution, confirm the City’s intent to accept the completed bridge, parking lot, and associated shared use paths into the City’s asset system upon completion, provided the Project is constructed in accordance with City and VDOT approved plans, permits, and applicable standards.

Councilors asked questions and made comments about design aesthetics, maintenance costs, alternatives that were considered before reaching this recommendation, environmental impacts, and being good stewards of funds, optimizing accessibility.

On motion by Snook, seconded by Payne, Council voted 3-2 to approve the following resolution (Ayes: Payne, Snook, Wade; Noes: Fleisher, Oschrin):

**RESOLUTION
REAFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE DOGWOOD VETERANS MEMORIAL
PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE AND ACCESSIBLE PARKING AREA AND
EXPRESSING INTENT TO ACCEPT THE COMPLETED INFRASTRUCTURE**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia (“City Council”), adopted Resolution R-22-161 on December 5, 2022, expressing its support for a pedestrian bridge and parking area to improve accessibility to the Dogwood Veterans Memorial (“Memorial”) and the eastern portion of McIntire Park; and

WHEREAS, the Dogwood Veterans Memorial Foundation (“Foundation”) has proposed the development of a pedestrian bridge over John Warner Parkway, an accessible parking area, and associated shared use paths to improve safe and ADA accessible access to the Memorial and surrounding park amenities (“Project”); and

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville, Virginia (“City”), has awarded grant funding to the Foundation to support planning and design activities associated with the proposed Project; and

WHEREAS, the City has encouraged the Foundation to advance the Project using a public right-of-way plan delivery approach, with the Foundation responsible for fundraising, final design, permitting, and construction, subject to review, inspection, and approval by the City and other applicable agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Foundation has advanced the Project design and has represented its intent to construct the pedestrian bridge, accessible parking area, and associated shared use paths in compliance with City approved plans, permits, specifications, and applicable standards; and

WHEREAS, City Council recognizes that formal policy direction regarding future acceptance of the completed infrastructure is necessary to support continued design advancement and private fundraising efforts, while preserving the City’s authority to ensure compliance with all applicable requirements prior to acceptance.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by City Council that it hereby reaffirms its support for the Project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Council expressly agrees and formally resolves, subject to final inspection and approval by the City Engineer and appropriate City officials, to accept the completed pedestrian bridge, accessible parking area, and associated shared use paths into the City’s asset system, provided that the infrastructure is constructed in accordance with City approved plans, permits, specifications, and applicable standards; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that nothing in this Resolution shall be construed as authorizing additional City funding for construction of the Project, nor as obligating the City to accept the infrastructure, unless and until all applicable requirements for acceptance have been satisfied.

9. RESOLUTION appropriating \$700,000 and Initiating an Amendment to the Terms of a Performance Agreement Supporting the 501 Cherry Avenue Mixed-Use Development Project (layover)

James Freas, Deputy City Manager, introduced the item, and Madelyn Metzler, Acting Housing Manager, presented the resolution request from Piedmont Housing Alliance (PHA) for additional investment in the previously funded 501 Cherry Avenue Mixed-Use Development Project ("Project"). The request includes increasing the Performance Agreement from 50% to 100% of the incremental real estate value created by the Project over the performance period and \$700,000 cash to support commencement of the Project in 2026.

Sunshine Mathon, Executive Director of PHA, provided additional context and stated that the draft Memorandum of Understanding between PHA and the food co-op is 95% complete to move forward with the food co-op as the occupant for 501 Cherry Avenue commercial space, and there is still a lot of work to be done to get the co-op ready. He shared suggestions for getting the Project over the finish line, and he expressed urgency in having this resolution request approved in order to leverage additional funding sources.

Following clarifying questions from Council, Deputy City Manager James Freas stated that the Performance Agreement will be considered by the Economic Development Authority before bringing a

final version to City Council. Director of Economic Development Chris Engel explained the Performance Agreement Grant parameters.

Councilor Snook expressed concern about the viability and sustainability of a neighborhood grocery store. Council agreed to carry the item to the February 2nd Council meeting for second reading and vote on the Consent Agenda.

10. RESOLUTION appropriating \$390,000 to Support a Rental Arrears Intervention Pilot Program (layover)

Madelyn Metzler, Acting Housing Manager, presented the resolution request. Piedmont Housing Alliance ("PHA") has confirmed a rental arrears priority at Kindlewood, in both existing and new housing units. The persistence of arrears suggests a critical financial assessment and counseling intervention is needed, and PHA requested consideration of \$390,000 to support a Rental Arrears Intervention Pilot Program ("Pilot Program"). Rental arrears at PHA properties have grown to over \$450,000, creating financial strain for PHA and increasing eviction risk for residents. This challenge prompted consideration of interventions that combine financial counseling with partial arrears payments to stabilize households and property operations.

PHA is experiencing a growing rent delinquency crisis that may be indicative of a larger trend among affordable housing residents. CRHA (Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority) indicated similar trends in its properties, and both organizations face financial strain and the increasing risk of eviction. This challenge threatens property operations and long-term affordability unless addressed through targeted intervention. PHA proposed a two-year Pilot Program that would combine financial counseling through its Financial Opportunity Center with partial arrears payments. The requests include City funding to cover up to 50% of arrears (approximately \$220,000) and \$170,000 for a dedicated financial literacy counselor for a total of \$390,000. If implemented, the Pilot Program would pair payment assistance with accountability measures and financial education, aiming to stabilize households and reduce eviction rates. The Pilot Program would include performance metrics and would be monitored under the City's Grant Monitoring and Compliance Program, with funding for the Pilot Program coming from the City's CIP Contingency Fund. The funds will be disbursed to PHA as a grant and in accordance with the terms of a signed Grant Agreement. The terms of the Grant Agreement will be finalized after the appropriation is approved by City Council.

Sunshine Mathon, Executive Director of PHA, stated that the arrears problem is not limited to the local community. In response to Councilor Fleisher, Mr. Mathon stated the Pilot Program could start Mid-March or early April.

Councilors generally spoke in favor of the Pilot Program and agreed to carry the item to the February 2nd Council meeting for second reading and vote on the Consent Agenda.

11. RESOLUTION to appropriate funding from the International City / County Management Association (ICMA) Economic Mobility and Opportunity Special Assistant Grant in the amount of \$354,000 (layover)

Ashley Marshall, Chief Prosperity Officer, presented the resolution request. The City of Charlottesville applied for and was awarded the ICMA Economic Mobility and Opportunity Special Assistant Grant in the amount of \$354,000 to support the hiring of an Economic Mobility and Opportunity Special Assistant for the period of September 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028.

The funding will support the hiring of a senior-level staff member to drive the implementation of comprehensive economic mobility strategies for the City of Charlottesville. The position title for the City of Charlottesville is Economic Mobility Officer (EMO) who will serve under the supervision of the Assistant to the City Manager, Steve King. The EMO will work across departments and external partners to identify strategic priorities and develop and execute a tailored implementation plan informed by a community-engaged co-design process. In addition to advancing local EMO activities, the Economic Mobility Officer will participate along with other grant awardees in regular coaching, training, and networking activities facilitated by ICMA. They will contribute to ongoing measurement, learning, and evaluation efforts to help develop a model for replication by other local governments.

Roles and Responsibilities include:

1. Conduct a co-design process to develop a community-informed workplan for EMO priorities and activities over the period of performance
2. Implement EMO activities outlined in the community-informed work-plan
3. Develop and enhance formal networks of local EMO stakeholders
4. Participate in all required virtual and in-person meetings.
5. Develop a strategy/resource roadmap for sustaining the EMO work beyond the duration of the grant
6. Comply with reporting and evaluation requests from ICMA and funding partners
7. Utilize customizable templates provided to deliver progress reports in a timely manner

Council agreed to carry the item to the February 2nd Council meeting for second reading and vote on the Consent Agenda.

GENERAL BUSINESS

12. WRITTEN REPORT: Rivanna Authorities Quarterly Report

Council acknowledged receipt of the written Rivanna Authorities Quarterly Report.

COMMUNITY MATTERS (2)

Mayor Wade opened the floor for comments from the public:

- Don Gathers, city resident, congratulated Councilor Fleisher on her election to City Council. He encouraged Council to be mindful of spending funds wisely, and he spoke about hope in the face of ICE.
- Angela Carr, city resident, thanked Council and staff for their work. She spoke about the need to unmask ICE and to welcome refugees. Regarding core Black neighborhoods, she requested that the City not take more from them.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Snook, seconded by Oschrin, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 p.m.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council



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 Oschrin, 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 Oschrin, 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



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

Policy Briefing Summary

City Council



Regarding:	Resolution to Grant \$125,000 for a Small Business Energy Efficiency Incentive Program (2nd reading)
Staff Contact(s):	Emily Irvine, Climate Program Manager, Kristel Riddervold, Director of the Office of Sustainability, Taylor Harvey-Ryan, Grants Program Manager
Presenter:	Emily Irvine, Climate Program Manager
Date of Proposed Action:	March 16, 2026

Issue

The Office of Sustainability (OS) recommends awarding \$125,000 in grant funds to the Community Climate Collaborative (C3) to establish and administer a pilot *Small Business Energy Efficiency Incentive Program*. This new program would support Charlottesville small businesses and non-profits in making energy efficiency retrofits at their locations, therefore reducing their energy bills and greenhouse gas emissions.

Background / Rule

Approximately 95% of Charlottesville's greenhouse gas emissions are attributable to non-municipal, community-based activities. Of this share, approximately 30% come from the non-residential sector, including small businesses and non-profits. The City's Climate Program recognizes that this sector can benefit from targeted support in reducing emissions from their buildings through energy saving strategies. Small businesses and nonprofits often operate on very thin financial margins and often lack the bandwidth or technical expertise needed to make energy improvements, even if it could lower their utility bills and positively impact their operating costs.

In January 2026, OS issued a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) seeking a non-profit partner to develop and deliver a pilot energy efficiency program to support local small businesses and not-for-profit organizations in reducing their energy use. The goals of such a program are to:

- Reduce energy usage and utility costs for area small businesses and non-profits.
- Provide energy audits and technical assistance as well as financial support to small businesses to make energy improvements in their buildings.
- Support area businesses in reducing their greenhouse gas emissions.
- Leverage additional funds available to businesses from utility-led energy programs.
- Augment services available to commercial entities through the Energy Resource Hub.

Analysis

In response to the NOFA, OS received a proposal from C3 to deliver a program that would provide commercial energy audits, technical assistance, and tiered financial subsidies to support Charlottesville small business and non-profits. The program proposal meets the intended goals as described in the NOFA, and OS staff recommend adopting the resolution to grant the funds.

The *Small Business Energy Efficiency Incentive Program* proposes to provide participants with an ASHRAE¹ Level-1 equivalent energy audit (industry accepted standard), customized technical assistance, and funds to support energy upgrades. It is specifically designed to stack funds available through Dominion Energy's [Small Business Improvement Enhanced Program](#), therefore leveraging

outside funds that local business owners often lack the time or expertise to access.

The pilot program proposes three levels of improvements that build on one another, with a maximum incentive amount of \$4,500 available to any one small business or non-profit organization:

1. Level 1 – Weatherization and Insulation – Eligible measures include building weatherization, air sealing, duct sealing, and insulation practices. The incentive provides up to a 50% rebate, capped at \$1,000 per participant, for the total project cost of the eligible Level 1 measures.
2. Level 2 – LED lighting, Controls, and Window Films – Eligible measures include LED lighting, smart thermostats, lighting sensors (occupancy and daylight), and window films that reduce heating loads from solar insolation. Program participants will be supported in aligning measures with applicable Dominion Energy criteria to maximize benefits. The incentive provides up to 30% rebate, capped at \$1,500 per participant, for the total project cost of the eligible Level 2 measures.
3. Level 3 – Appliances, Equipment, and Electrification – Eligible measures include purchase and installation of conventional appliances to EnergyStar-certified appliances; retrofit of a natural gas water heater to a heat-pump water heater; or the upgrade of HVAC. Incentives are equal to 30% of upgrade costs, capped at \$2,000.

This program supports ongoing implementation of the City's Climate Action Plan. It also contributes to the Climate Action and Partnerships Strategic Outcome Areas of City Council's 2023 Strategic Plan Framework.

[\[i\]](#) ASHRAE is the American Society for Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers. An ASHRAE Level-1 Energy Audit is a known standard to industry professionals.

Financial Impact

There is no budgetary impact to the City. The proposed grant funds will be funded through the Climate Action Initiative Fund, previously appropriated as part of the FY2026 Capital Improvement Program.

Recommendation

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolution.

Recommended Motion (if Applicable)

Motion to approve the resolution granting \$125,000 to C3 for a Small Business Energy Efficiency Incentive Program and to schedule the resolution for a second reading..

Attachments

1. Small Biz EE Program_Resolution

RESOLUTION #R-__-__

**ALLOCATION OF CLIMATE ACTION INITIATIVE FUNDS FOR THE DELIVERY OF
A SMALL BUSINESS ENERGY EFFICIENCY INCENTIVE PROGRAM IN THE
AMOUNT OF \$125,000**

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville, having established the Climate Action Initiative Fund for projects and programs in support of the City's Climate Action goals; and

WHEREAS, approximately 95% of Charlottesville's greenhouse gas emissions are attributable to non-municipal, community-based activities, of which approximately 30% derive from the non-residential sector, including small businesses and non-profits; and

WHEREAS, small businesses and non-profit organizations often operate on very thin financial margins and often lack the technical expertise needed to make energy improvements, even if it could lower their utility bills and positively impact their operating costs;

WHEREAS, the City's Climate Program recognizes that this sector can benefit from targeted support in reducing emissions from their buildings through energy saving strategies; and

WHEREAS, the City's Climate Program issued a notice of funding opportunity seeking a non-profit partner to develop and deliver a pilot Small Business Energy Efficiency Incentive Program, which aims to support businesses and non-profit organizations located in the City of Charlottesville in reducing their energy use through energy audits, technical assistance, and financial subsidies for energy efficiency improvements, thereby lowering utility costs and contributing to the City's community climate goals; and

WHEREAS, the Climate Action Grant Committee received and reviewed responses to the notice of funding opportunity, and voted unanimously to recommend award of the grant to the Community Climate Collaborative;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, having received and considered the recommendation of the Climate Action Grant Committee regarding award of the grant, that \$125,000 is hereby allocated from the Climate Action Initiative Fund (Fund 426, IO 100028), previously appropriated as part of the FY2026 Capital Improvement Program, as a grant award to the Community Climate Collaborative for the establishment and administration of the Small Business Energy Efficiency Incentive Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is hereby authorized to execute a grant agreement consistent with this resolution.



City Manager's Report

City Departments

3-16-2026

City Manager's Office – Assistant City Manager (ACM) Evan Pilachowski (he/him)

- ACM Pilachowski has continued to meet with community leaders throughout February and March 2026 to familiarize himself with the community and better understand the needs of its neighborhoods and citizen groups. He looks forward to continued collaboration with these and other community stakeholders.
- Notable meetings over the last month include introductory discussions with Sunshine Mathon of the Piedmont Housing Alliance and the leadership team of the Community Climate Collaborative.
- ACM Pilachowski also attended the Virginia Local Government Management Association (VLGMA) winter conference in Staunton, where he used the opportunity to learn more about municipal leadership and specific challenges within Virginia, as well as receiving an update on the current legislative session.
- Conversations at these events provide valuable insight and help to shape how to develop policy, process, and procedures to best serve the community.

Utilities – Director Lauren Hildebrand (she/her)

- Energy-Saving Trees Program
 - The Department of Utilities offered 200 free trees to residents through the Arbor Day Foundation's Energy-Saving Trees Program. Marking the seventh offering of this program to the community, these trees will add to over 1,100 trees already distributed by Utilities through this initiative. The program guides residents in strategically planting trees on their property to assist with energy conservation and a reduction in household energy costs. The program also serves to reinforce safe digging practices by having participants contact Virginia 811 prior to planting their tree. Utilities worked with the City's arborist to determine the most suitable tree species for the community to plant and offered four species to choose from.
 - Tree reservations opened to the community on March 9 to considerable enthusiasm. The tree pick-up event will be held on March 27 and 28 at the Utilities Administration Building, and any unclaimed trees will be donated by Utilities to the Parks & Recreation Department. Utilities thanks the community for their continued support and excitement for the Energy-Saving Trees Program!
- Storm Drain Art Contest
 - Community voting for the Fan Favorite winner of the Charlottesville Utilities Storm Drain Art Contest wrapped up on March 9. Over 1,350 votes were cast between 27 entries, helping to make the first contest of this kind in Charlottesville a great success! Through creative expression and educational messaging, the contest set out to raise awareness of, and engagement in, the importance of stormwater pollution prevention and the vital role the community plays in that effort. Serving as visual reminders of

the interconnectedness between our daily actions and the health of the City's waterways, this artwork will serve the community for years to come. The announcement of the Youth, Open, and Fan Favorite winners will be shared in the coming weeks. Utilities extends a big thank you to all of the artists and voters for making this contest a success!

Parks & Recreation – Director Riaan Anthony (he/him)

- The irrigation project at Meadowcreek Golf Course is currently ongoing; however, the course remains open and operating under normal hours.
- Registration for the Spring Golf Clinics is now open. Customers can sign up through the [Parks and Recreation Activity Search](#).
- The annual Eggstravaganza will take place on March 21 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at McIntire Park. This is a free event and no registration is required. Additional details can be found on the [Parks and Recreation calendar](#). Residents can also join the egg-citing fun early by participating in the Egg-Scavenger Hunt geocaching activities taking place throughout the City. More information is available on our social media platforms and the [Parks & Recreation website](#).
- [Summer camp registration](#) is off to a strong start, with more than 50% of weekly capacity already filled. Registration opened on February 2 for City residents and February 17 for non-City residents.
- The Farmers in the Park [vendor application](#) period opened on March 1.
- The Saturday Farmers Market will begin its season on April 4 and will operate every Saturday from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM.
- All outdoor restrooms, drinking fountains, and the Downtown Mall fountains are scheduled to be open and operational no later than the second week of April.

Human Services (DHS) – Director Misty Graves (she/her)

- The Community Attention Youth Internship Program (CAYIP) is actively [recruiting new sites](#) to host teens in this summer's program. CAYIP aspires to enroll over 100 youth in the summer – and we depend on partners to step up to host them!

See below for more information and to sign up!

5 Reasons to be a CAYIP Site Partner

#1 : Be a Mentor

Site Supervisors provide not just supervise our interns but also have the unique opportunity to support and empower our local youth through this unique hands-on experience.

#3 : Grow Awareness of your Business or Agency

As part of becoming a site partner, we strive to highlight and share our partnership through means like our Annual City Council Report and social media platforms and word of mouth!

#5 : No Financial Obligation!

CAYIP - Community Attention Youth Internship Program is part of the Dept of Human Services - City of Charlottesville. Intern stipends are paid for and no cost for businesses and agencies to participate!

CAYIP Coordinator:
Latara Ragland- 434-987-0018
RaglandLS@Charlottesville.gov
www.charlottesville.gov/256

LEARN MORE 



#2 : Year Round Opportunites



CAYIP offers school year sessions (4) and a summer session so sites have the flexibility to participate where they can and all year long if desired.

#4 : Build a stronger Community

Community is at the heart of what we do at CAYIP! Many youth and families have their first look at what businesses and agencies exist in our community through their CAYIP experience. THANK YOU in advance for being part of that!



- Applications for 14–21-year-old residents to participate in the CAYIP Spring Session (April 6- May 31) can be found at <https://www.charlottesville.gov/256/Community-Attention-Youth-Internship>.
- This month, several Community Based Services staff attended the National Youth Advocacy and Resilience Conference in Savannah, GA. There, they built connections from across the country for continued collaboration and learned from experts in the youth development field. Specifically, staff will continue to learn from other cities that have Youth Council cohorts as well as other providers that engage in Parent Advocacy work. In the spirit of Organizational Staff, DHS emphasizes staff training and development.
- Deputy Director Charlsie Stratton and Youth Opportunity Coordinator Juanika Howard recently stepped in to the role of co-facilitators of the Charlottesville Area Network Dedicated to Youth Development (CANDYD). In this role, they will convene and inspire the collective work of organizations and staff dedicated to youth development!

- Community Attention Foster Families (CAFF) and DePaul Community Resources are offering in-service training for their foster families. Humane Hair Foundation will partner with Curls and Caregivers to host a one-hour virtual education and hands-on seminar designed to empower partners, grandparents, foster parents, and caregivers with the knowledge and confidence to properly care for children's natural and/or textured hair at home.

CHARLOTTESVILLE ALBEMARLE COUNTY

VA250



OVERVIEW



- What is VA250?
 - Statewide commission leading commemorative efforts in VA
 - Brand of the semiquincentennial in VA
- How did CACVB get involved?
 - Resolutions by City, County, Town of Scottsville
- Why do we support this work?
 - Aligns with destination development and tourism assets
- What are statewide priorities & opportunities?
 - Engaging people with history and promoting civic participation
 - Commemorative partners, exhibits, marketing
- What have we accomplished so far?
 - Local committee, VA250 grants, Founding Footprints
- What are local opportunities & milestones for programming?
 - Monticello, Highland, UVA, and more

**CHARLOTTESVILLE
ALBEMARLE COUNTY
VA 250**

WHAT IS VA250?



- Tasked with planning and promoting Virginia's role in 250th anniversary of American independence
- Statewide organization established in 2020
- Leader among state commissions
- Includes Commission members appointed by Governor + staff who support day to day efforts
 - Monticello & Virginia Humanities serve on Commission
 - UVA serves on African American Advisory Council
 - Monacan Nation serves on Tribal Nations Leadership Advisory Council
 - Monticello & UVA serve on Education Committee
- America. Made in Virginia.
 - Looking at history leading up to + during Revolution
 - Revolutionary ideas since
 - Hoping to share lesser-known stories
 - Will remain active through 2031

**CHARLOTTESVILLE
ALBEMARLE COUNTY
VA 250**

250th anniversary = semiquincentennial
= ½ of 5 x 100 years

250th anniversary = sestercentennial
= ½ of 500 years

250th anniversary = quartermillennial
= ¼ of 1000 years

HOW DID CACVB GET INVOLVED?



**RESOLUTION TO FORM THE VIRGINIA AMERICAN REVOLUTION
250 COMMISSION
AND DESIGNATE THE CHARLOTTESVILLE-ALBEMARLE CONVENTION AND
VISITOR'S BUREAU'S
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO OVERSEE THE COMMISSION'S EFFORTS**

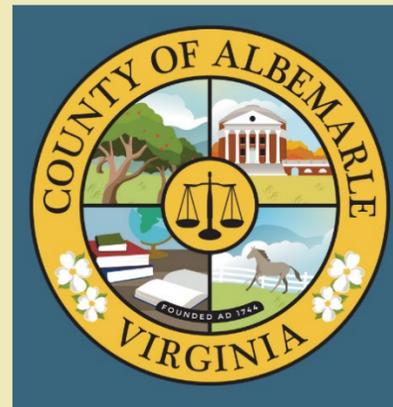
WHEREAS, the County of Albemarle will form a local Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission (VA250) to prepare for and commemorate the 250th anniversary of Virginia's participation in American independence;

WHEREAS, the committee will plan and coordinate programs occurring within the locality and communicate regularly with VA250;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors designates the Charlottesville-Albemarle Convention and Visitor's Bureau (CACVB) Executive Director to serve as the local liaison to the Commission and to form the VA250 Committee on behalf of the County.

I, Claudette K. Borgersen, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Albemarle County, Virginia, by a vote of five to zero, as recorded below, a regular meeting held on January 11, 2023.

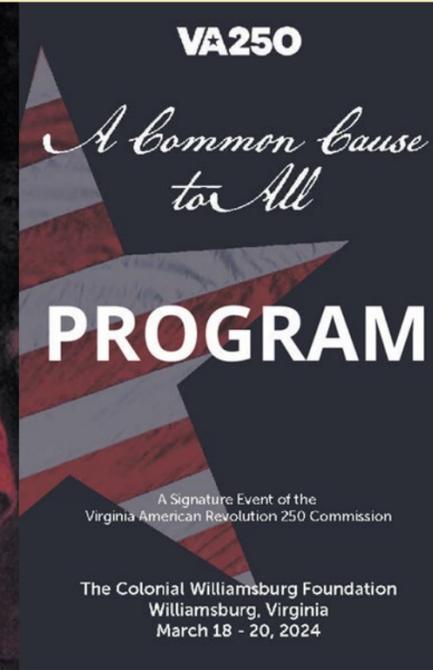
Claudette K. Borgersen
Clerk, County Board of Supervisors



OPPORTUNITIES VIA VA250: <https://VA250.org/>



DESCENDANTS DAY
AT HIGHLAND



- **Website:** Community landing page, places to visit listings and calendar of events
- **Exhibits:** Mobile History Museum experiences and pop-up exhibits through partnership with Virginia Museum of History and Culture
- **Marketing and Public Relations:** Social media and partnership with Cardinal News
- **Funding:** Grants and wholesale merchandise
- **General Support and Collaboration:** Office hours, regional meet-ups, and Common Cause to All Conference

VA250 COMMISSION PRIORITIES



- America. Made in Virginia
 - Virginia's history belongs to everyone
 - Encourage civic engagement!
- Amplifying brand via social media
 - @VARevolution250, #VA250
- Getting more people involved
 - Commemorative Partner Program
 - Grant programs
 - Teacher resources
- Mobile Museum
 - "Out of Many, One"
 - Current museums will run through 2027, possibly 2031
- Collaborative Programming for 2026
 - The Voice, The Pen, The Sword
 - Look for calls to action for July 3 - 5

WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED SO FAR



Regularly convene local meetings and provide guidance for partners



Attend statewide meetings and office hours
Connect local partners with VA250



Awarded VTC VA250 Market Leverage Program grant
Provided letters of support for partners' applications



Secured Mobile Museum for 2025 and 2026



Founding Footprints podcast and related itineraries

LOCAL COMMITTEE



- Foster ideas for programming and encourage partnerships
- Plan and coordinate programs that engage residents and visitors with the 250th
 - Celebrate
 - Commemorate
 - Explore
- 100+ people from 25+ organizations

EXAMPLES: VA250 PLACES TO VISIT AND LOCAL EVENTS



[ABOUT](#)
[EVENTS & MORE](#)
[PROGRAMS](#)
[EDUCATION](#)
[COMMUNITY](#)

DONATE

SHOP

Location

ALL

Category

ALL

The history of the Revolution can be felt everywhere in Virginia, from the mountains to the beaches. Learn about the American Revolution and Independence and how Virginia helped shape our nation at these attractions and museums.

Notice an historical site or museum in Virginia missing? [Click here](#) to add a location to this listing.

James River Batteau Company
Albemarle County

James River Batteau Company offers one-of-a kind river experiences that get you out on the water in style! Take a step back in time, as you are invited aboard their 18th century replica James River Batteau for a River Tour, Sunset Cruise, or Private ... [Read More](#)



Jefferson School African American Heritage Center
City of Charlottesville

Located in Charlottesville's historic Jefferson School City Center, the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center features a permanent historical exhibit, a rotating contemporary art gallery, and a robust calendar of events, all of which comb... [Read More](#)



[ABOUT](#)
[EVENTS & MORE](#)
[PROGRAMS](#)
[EDUCATION](#)
[COMMUNITY](#)

DONATE

SHOP

Location

ALL

Category

ALL

Start Date

mm/dd/yyyy

End Date

mm/dd/yyyy

Commemoration related events are already happening throughout Virginia and can be found in the listing below. If you would like VA250 to include events not currently listed here, please [click here](#) to submit your event.

Founding Friends, Founding Foes Tour
May 23, 2025 - December 31, 2025
Albemarle County

Offered daily at 12:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. Pricing: Adults, \$42; Children 12-18, \$13; Children 5-11, \$4; Children under 5, Free On July 4, 1826, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams died on the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. ... [Read More](#)



Finally Remembered: The Black Patriots of Central Virginia Exhibit
September 20, 2025 - January 31, 2026
City of Charlottesville

The exhibition honors the African American Men and Women who served in the Revolutionary War. Through rare documents, profiles, military records, and historical interpretation, it restores the visibility of those whose courage helped shape the ... [Read More](#)



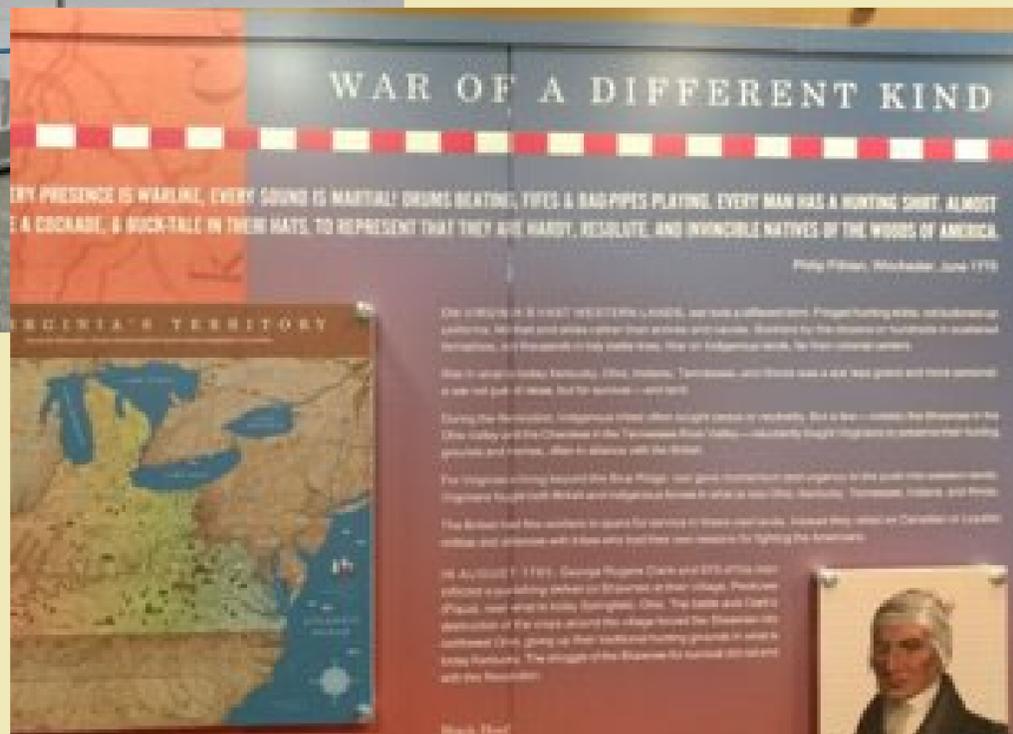
9

Page 43 of 106

MOBILE MUSEUM AND OTHER EXHIBITS



Photos from the mobile museum at Highland



- James Monroe's Highland hosted in 2025
 - July 31 – August 2, during Albemarle County Fair
 - 625 attendees
 - Including two County supervisors, City Mayor, and Congressman John McGuire
 - Coverage by CBS19 and NBC29
- Sites secured for 2026
 - Monticello – Founders Day programming
 - Partnership with Downtown Mall
 - Highland – Albemarle County Fair
- Requirements
 - 100' x 150' of flat, outdoor space
 - Approval of locality, if not state agency
 - \$2M+ liability insurance
- Virginia Museum of History & Culture traveling exhibits
 - Give Me Liberty @ Highland and JMRL Northside
 - We The People @ JMRL Northside
 - Looking for partners for other exhibits

What is Founding Footprints?



PODCAST

- 10 interview-style episodes led by public historian
- Each episode runs 20 – 30 minutes and originally aired between June and December 2025
- Lives on Virginia Audio Collective and is available through multiple listening platforms
- Lives online: <https://www.visitcharlottesville.org/things-to-do/history-museums/founding-footprints/>

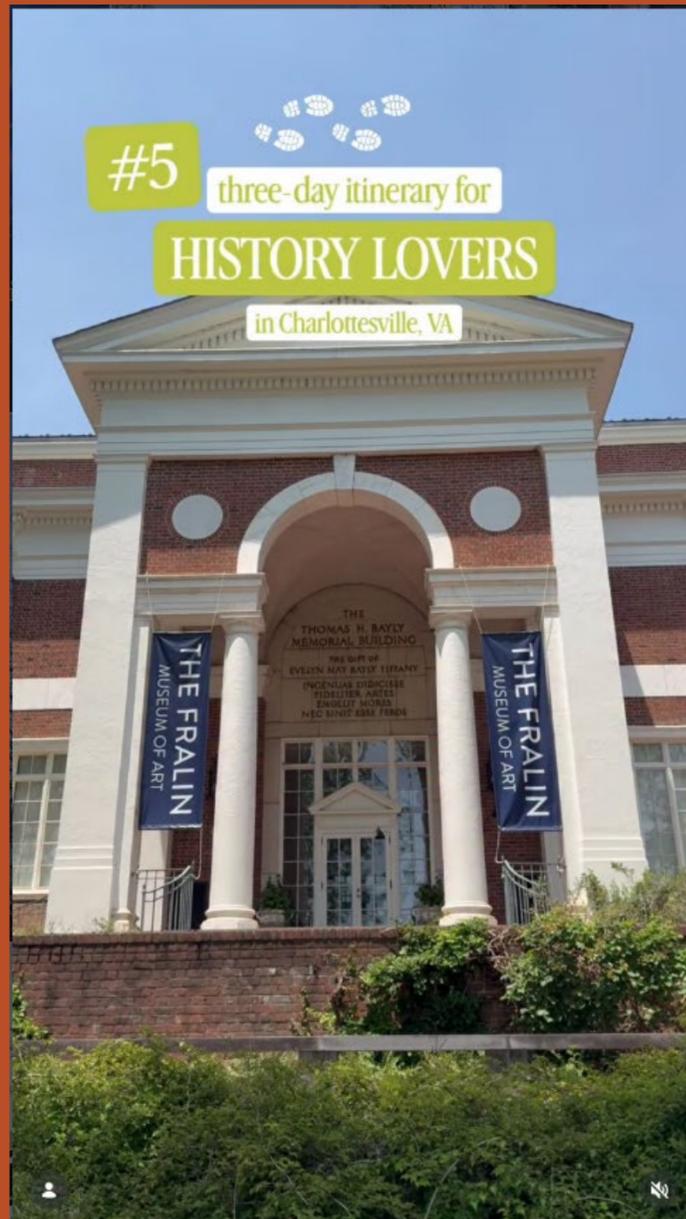
ITINERARIES

- 10 itineraries – one for each interview – that highlight lesser-known, local stories of history and culture
- Each itinerary encourages in-person exploration over 2.5 – 3 days
- Can be found at VisitCharlottesville.org

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Facebook and Instagram posts that provide condensed versions of itineraries and direct people to learn more
- Posts allow for quick sharing among partners and consumers via their preferred platforms
- FB @charlottesvillevirginia IG @charlottesvilleva FB and IG @VARevolution250

What is Founding Footprints?



charlottesvilleva and 2 others
JIM • Chill Afternoon Near the Mekong

charlottesvilleva This year marks the 250th anniversary of the United States — let's celebrate by learning! Here's a three-day itinerary to help you explore lesser-known history surrounding education & civil rights in the area

— Day One: Find Community —

- @MarieBetteCafe or @PetiteMarieBette
- Tour @CvilleJeffSchool
- Get creative at @theArtBarCville
- Dinner at @Stellas_Cuisine

★ *BONUS* Participate in @prolyfyckruncrew's Liberation & Freedom Day Reparations Walk/Run

— Day Two: Learn About Trailblazers —

- Coffee at @ShenandoahJoe
- Visit the Swanson v. UVA Marker at @JMRLib
- Lunch at @EthosWineandTea
- Take a self-guided 'History of Women on Grounds' tour at @UVA
- Dinner at @FigBistroUVA

★ *BONUS* Attend the @IndieShortFilmFest (3/20-22) or @VAFilmFest (10/21-25)

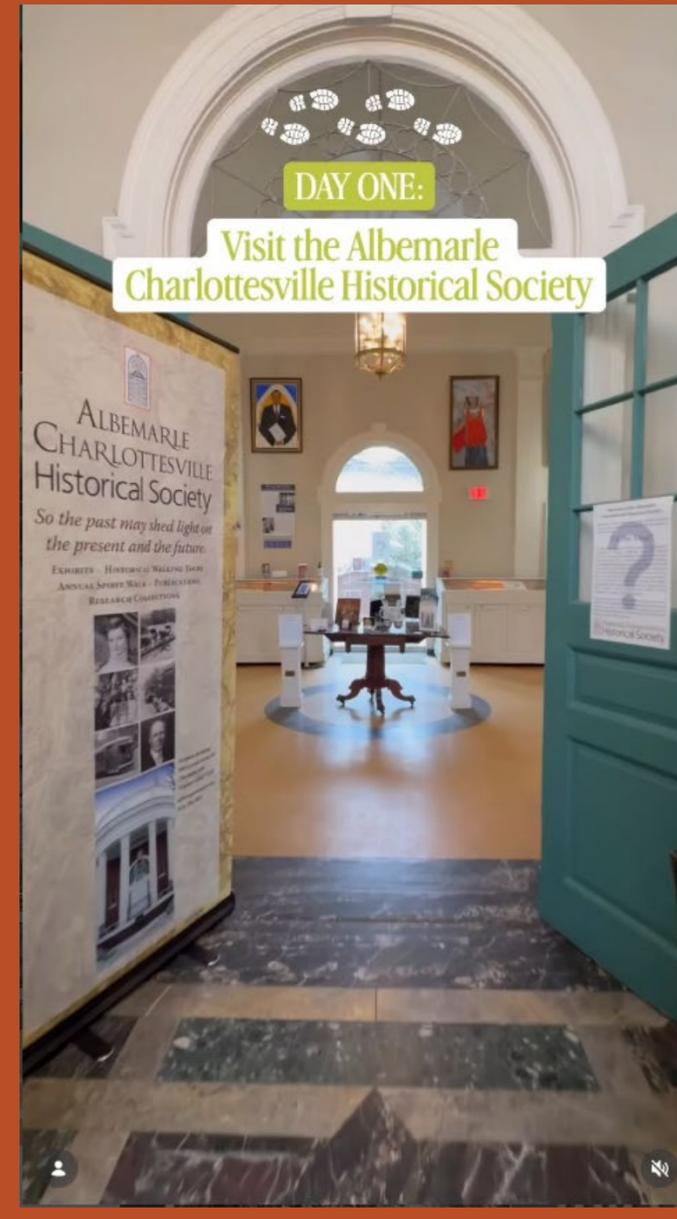
— Day Three: Art as Civic Engagement —

- Visit the @FralinMuseumUVA
- Lunch at @Botanical.Fare (vegan)
- Visit @SecondStreetGallery
- Visit the @KlugeRuhe
- Dinner at @CafeFrankCville

★ *BONUS* Enjoy modern and contemporary art at @lydmgallery

Liked by monticellowinetrail and 120 others
February 17

Add a comment... Post



charlottesvilleva and 2 others
ABBA • Fernando

charlottesvilleva Happy 250th America!

This year marks the 250th anniversary of the United States — let's celebrate by learning! Here's EPISODE THREE of our Founding Footprints' itineraries to help you explore

— Day One: History in Plain Sight —

- Visit the @achistsoc's Research Library
- Shop, dine, and explore the Downtown Mall
- Walk around local cemeteries (Maplewood, Daughters of Zion, UVA)
- Dinner at @tavernandgrocery (its building was built in 1820 and is one of the last standing in the historic, predominantly Black 'Vinegar Hill' neighborhood)

★ *BONUS* @achistsoc Spring Tours begin in April but they host special events year-round! Also check out the @rarebookschool

— Day Two: We Are Family —

- Explore 'Getting Word' at @TJMonticello, an oral history project that collects, records, and preserves the family histories of those enslaved there.
- Visit family-owned @EastwoodFarmandWinery
- Visit the Memorial to Enslaved Laborers at @UVA
- Dine family-owned (@ARPSteakhouse, @Hanallc2022, @Monsoon_Siam)

— Day Three: Pieces of the Puzzle —

- @CumbreBakery coffee + breakfast
- @UnlockedHistory Escape Rooms
- Explore the @CharlottesvilleAleTrail with a Scavenger Hunt/Puzzle Crawl by @Cville_Puzzle
- Enjoy @triviawithOlivia (now on Wednesdays at

Liked by charlottesvillealetrail and 161 others
January 22

Add a comment... Post

Who Was Involved?



- Benjamin Bernard, PhD
 - Executive Producer and Public Historian
- Sage Tanguay and Ben Larsen
 - Audio Producers at WTJU 91.1 FM
- 10 Interviewees
 - Represented 3 museums, 3 culinary partners, 1 historian, 1 cultural site, 1 historic experience, and 1 accommodation
- Carla Mullen
 - Project Management and Connector at CACVB
- Sabrina Combs, Amanda Vierrether, and Anna Whitlow
 - Social Media and Marketing at CACVB
- Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society and Amtrak Virginia
 - Partners on grant and flyer
 - Partners willing to assist as needed



How Did We Do It?



FUNDING:

CACVB committed \$10,000 and applied for VA250 matching grant through Virginia Tourism Corporation

PODCAST:

- CACVB identified stories and recruited partners
- Executive Producer led interviews and provided insightful commentary within scripts
- Audio Producers edited interviews, assigned titles/descriptions, and posted to Pinecast
- Interviewees shared their stories and enthusiasm

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Be flexible – interviews were recorded on site, in studio, and virtually
- Let the interview inform the script
- CACVB and Producers approved final product before posting each episode
- 1 – 1.5 hours of interview = 20+ minute episode

How Did We Do It?



ONLINE PRESENCE:

CACVB provided space for Founding Footprints content on our website and through our social media channels

ITINERARIES and SOCIAL MEDIA:

- CACVB identifies secondary stories and partners and writes itineraries
- Graphic designer created logo and flyer
- CACVB produces Facebook and Instagram posts
- Each itinerary receives 3 posts across FB and IG

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Highlight places and people who define your community/site, even if connection to 250th isn't immediately obvious
- Be real – use real-life visuals in social posts to inspire visitation
- Experiment with stills and reels
- Collabs = success

Successes



SHARE LOCAL HISTORY as of March 2026

- # of total listens: 1000 listens / Episode with most listens: "From Tobacco Fields to Richmond Markets: James River Batteau Company"
- # of partners featured in podcast: 10
- # of partners featured in itineraries: 170
- # of total views of itineraries: 2,440
- Itinerary with most views: "Explore Lesser-Known History: Transportation and Commerce"
- Average time on itinerary: 4.75 minutes
- # of total shares: 247 / # of total saves: 168
- # of total comments: 69
- # of total impressions: 187,622
- Most shared post: Episode 2 had 74 shares*



COURTESY OF JUSTIN WILSON PHOTOGRAPHY

Successes



DEEPEN RELATIONSHIPS

- With WTJU and key local partners
- With statewide partners like Amtrak Virginia

LEARN MORE

- CACVB staff members developed new skills
- Podcast and itineraries serve as test case that can be replicated or adapted

INCREASE PROMOTIONAL ASSETS

- Value-added product for tour operators
- Ideas for story pitches

Challenges



FUNDING

- State's delay in funding condensed the time we had to complete interviews and affected who was available and how interviews were recorded
- Delay also limited how much we could share in advance with partners and the public

CAPACITY

- Itineraries and social media were time-consuming to produce
- Project identified a need for high quality photos and videos related to local historic sites and experiences

GRASSROOTS EFFORTS

- Founding Footprints flyer need to be repurposed by partners
- Semi-quincentennial is only gaining attention now

PODCAST **Itinerary**

Founding Footprints

Tracing America's Journey in Charlottesville & Albemarle County

10 Episodes
with historian **Dr. Benjamin Bernard**

VA250 and WTJU 91.1 FM present Founding Footprints, a podcast tracing the legacy of the Revolutionary era in Charlottesville and Albemarle County, Virginia.

Listen as we explore the history and culture of the region, reflecting on the 250 years since the American Revolution.

Then make plans to Follow the Footprints with suggested itineraries – one for each episode!

CHARLOTTESVILLE ALBEMARLE COUNTY VA250 **VIRGINIA IS FOR HISTORY LOVERS**

ALBEMARLE CHARLOTTESVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY **AMTRAK** *Charlottesville* ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

PARTNER PROJECTS: MONTICELLO, HIGHLAND & UVA



- Monticello
 - New Tours, Feast of Reason, and Culinary Diplomacy
 - Civic Season and July 4 + Declaration Book Club
 - Updates to exhibit galleries
- Highland
 - New exhibit and 50th anniversary
- Both
 - Virginia 250 Passport Program
 - Special merchandise
 - Partnered with Lafayette 200 in 2024/2025
 - Part of Virginia's History Road Trip
- UVA
 - Programming to engage students
 - Co-curricular events and activities for public



UPCOMING PARTNER PROJECTS



-  Centennial Celebrations: Jefferson School African American Heritage Center
-  Voices of Virginia: Charlottesville Ballet
Together in Song: Oratorio Society of Virginia
-  2026 C'Ville Puzzle Hunt: WTJU and Puzzled Bee
-  Revolutions: Virginia Festival of the Book
Courage: Tom Tom Festival
-  Jefferson in Southern France exhibit: Fralin Museum of Art

HOW TO MOVE FORWARD



- Continue to highlight local history sites, activities, and events
 - Including historical aspects of our culinary scene
- Continue to honor local milestones and anniversaries
- Continue to encourage collaborative and clever programming
 - Monticello has taken the lead on statewide passport program
 - ACHS has taken lead on local grant program
- When possible, leverage VA250 and VTC priorities
- Build capacity to sustain existing organizations
- Inspire new leaders and organizations to strengthen economic and social health of community

**CHARLOTTESVILLE
ALBEMARLE COUNTY
VA 250**

HOW YOU CAN HELP



CHARLOTTESVILLE ALBEMARLE COUNTY VA 250

- Encourage partners to share stories and projects with CACVB
 - Direct interested partners to VA250@visitcharlottesville.org
- Stay informed
 - Check out our online resources
 - Attend local committee meeting
 - Sign up for statewide newsletter
 - <https://va250.org/newsletter/>
- Get excited and find your passion
 - Follow Founding Footprints
 - Participate in programming
 - Attend events
 - 2026 is just the beginning!

Policy Briefing Summary

City Council



Regarding:	Public hearing on the Charlottesville real property tax rate
Staff Contact(s):	Krisy Hammill, Director of Budget
Presenter:	Krisy Hammill, Director of Budget
Date of Proposed Action:	March 16, 2026

Issue

The FY 2027 Proposed Budget includes a two-cent real estate tax increase. Virginia Code requires a public hearing be held if Council seeks an increase the tax rate.

Background / Rule

Virginia Code requires that a public hearing be noticed and held prior to any increase in the real property tax rate. As part of the FY 2027 Budget Development process, the City Council will hold two separate public hearings on the \$0.02 real estate tax rate increase currently being proposed. The hearings will be held on March 16, 2026 and April 6, 2026.

Analysis

The FY 2027 Proposed Budget includes a \$0.02 increase to the real estate tax rate, moving it from the current \$0.98 per \$100 of assessed value to \$1.00 per \$100. Although only one public hearing is required, City Council will hold two hearings to ensure the community has ample opportunity to provide input on the proposed increase. The first hearing will take place on March 16, followed by a second hearing on April 6.

Under Virginia Code, a public hearing must be advertised at least seven days before a vote to increase the tax rate. To meet this requirement, an advertisement (draft attached) will be published in the Daily Progress no later than Monday, March 30, to officially notice the April 6 hearing. While the March 16 hearing will also allow for public comment, it will serve as an additional engagement opportunity for residents to speak directly with Council about the proposed rate change.

Financial Impact

Staff estimates the additional \$0.02 real estate tax levy will generate an additional \$2,467,724 in revenue and has been included as part of the FY 2027 Proposed Budget.

Recommendation

N/A

Recommended Motion (if Applicable)

N/A

Attachments

1. NOTICE OF PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE 2026 - DRAFT

NOTICE OF PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Charlottesville proposes to increase property tax levies.

1. **Assessment Increase:** Total assessed value of real property, excluding additional assessments due to new construction or improvements to property, exceeds last year's total assessed value of real property by 3.42 percent.
2. **Lowered Rate Necessary to Offset Increased Assessment:** The tax rate which would levy the same amount of real estate tax as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of real estate with the exclusions mentioned above, would be \$0.9476 per \$100 of assessed value. This rate will be known as the "lowered tax rate."
3. **Effective Rate Increase:** The City of Charlottesville proposes to adopt a real estate tax rate of \$1.00 per \$100 of assessed value. The difference between the lowered tax rate and the proposed rate would be \$0.0524 per \$100 or 5.528 percent. This difference will be known as the "effective tax rate increase".

Individual property taxes may, however, increase at a percentage greater than or less than the above percentage.

4. **Proposed Total Budget Increase:** Based on the proposed real property tax rate and changes in other revenues, the total budget of the City of Charlottesville will exceed last year's by 5.47 percent.

A public hearing on the increase will be held on Monday, April 6, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers at City Hall, 605 East Main Street, Charlottesville, Virginia. Persons desiring to be heard may attend and share their views on the proposed real estate property tax levy increase, within such reasonable time limits as established by City Council. Individuals with disabilities who require assistance or special arrangements to participate in the public hearing may call (434) 987-1267 or submit a request via email to ada@charlottesville.gov. The City of Charlottesville requests that you provide 48 hours' notice so that proper arrangements may be made.

Kyna Thomas
Chief of Staff /Clerk of Council

Policy Briefing Summary

City Council



Regarding: City Code Changes
Staff Contact(s):
Presenter:
Date of Proposed Action: March 16, 2026

Issue

Background / Rule

Analysis

Financial Impact

Recommendation

Recommended Motion (if Applicable)

Attachments

None

Policy Briefing Summary

City Council



Regarding:	Ordinance Amending Chapter 2 of the City Code by Repealing Sections 2-47 and 2-48 Relating to the City Council Finance Committee
Staff Contact(s):	John Maddux, City Attorney
Presenter:	John Maddux, City Attorney
Date of Proposed Action:	March 16, 2026

Issue

Sections 2-47 and 2-48 of the City Code establish a standing finance committee of the City Council and assign that committee certain responsibilities relating to the City's finances. The finance committee described in these provisions is no longer utilized, and the responsibilities described in these sections are carried out through other established administrative and governance processes. The proposed ordinance repeals these outdated provisions in order to ensure the City Code accurately reflects the City's current governance structure and practices.

Background / Rule

Sections 2-47 and 2-48 were adopted at a time when municipal governing bodies commonly relied on standing committees of council members to review and report on specific areas of city operations. Under these provisions, the mayor was required to appoint a three-member finance committee of the City Council, which was tasked with investigating and reporting on matters relating to the City's finances, debts, revenues, and assets. The finance committee was also responsible for approving certain surety bonds of city officials and employees.

Under the City's current council–manager form of government, the financial administration of the City is carried out by the City Manager and the Finance Department. Oversight of the City's finances occurs through the annual budget process, regular financial reporting to City Council, and independent auditing requirements. As a result, the standing finance committee contemplated by these provisions is no longer utilized, and the duties described in these sections are performed through other established mechanisms.

Analysis

The provisions establishing a City Council finance committee are outdated and no longer reflect the City's current governance practices. Maintaining these provisions in the City Code may create confusion about the City's financial oversight structure, particularly because the committee described in the Code is not currently utilized.

Repealing these sections will remove obsolete provisions and ensure the City Code more accurately reflects the City's current council–manager system and modern financial management practices.

Financial Impact

The proposed ordinance is a housekeeping amendment to the City Code and will have **no fiscal impact** on the City.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that City Council adopt the proposed ordinance repealing City Code §§ 2-47 and 2-48 in order to remove outdated provisions relating to the City Council finance committee and ensure that the City Code accurately reflects the City's current governance and financial management practices.

Recommended Motion (if Applicable)

I move to adopt the ordinance repealing City Code §§ 2-47 and 2-48 relating to the City Council finance committee.

Attachments

1. Ordinance Repealing 2-47 and 2-48 of the City code

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2 OF THE CITY CODE BY REPEALING SECTIONS
2-47 AND 2-48 RELATING TO THE CITY COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Charlottesville City Code currently contains provisions establishing a standing finance committee of the City Council and assigning that committee certain responsibilities relating to the City's finances; and

WHEREAS, these provisions reflect an earlier governance structure in which standing committees of City Council were assigned responsibility for reviewing and reporting on municipal financial matters; and

WHEREAS, under the City's current council-manager form of government, the administration of the City's financial operations is carried out by the City Manager and the Finance Department, with oversight provided by the City Council through the annual budget process, financial reporting, and independent auditing requirements; and

WHEREAS, the finance committee described in Sections 2-47 and 2-48 is not currently utilized and the duties described in those provisions are performed through other established administrative and governance processes; and

WHEREAS, City Council finds that repealing these outdated provisions will improve the clarity and accuracy of the City Code and better reflect the City's current governance practices.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville that the Charlottesville City Code is hereby amended as follows:

1. Repeal of Sections 2-47 and 2-48.

Sections 2-47 and 2-48 of the Code of the City of Charlottesville are hereby repealed.

Policy Briefing Summary

City Council



Regarding:	Ordinance to amend Chapter 2, Article X of the City Code to repeal outdated provisions pertaining to School Board appointments (1 of 2 readings)
Staff Contact(s):	John Maddux, City Attorney
Presenter:	John Maddux, City Attorney
Date of Proposed Action:	March 16, 2026

Issue

Several provisions of the City Code relating to the composition and appointment of the City School Board are outdated and no longer reflect the City's governing structure. The Charlottesville School Board has been elected by the voters of the City since approximately 2006, and the City Charter was amended in 2020 to reflect that change. However, Sections 2-341 and 2-342 of the City Code still reference the prior system under which School Board members were appointed by City Council. The proposed ordinance repeals those obsolete provisions and recodifies the remaining reporting provision to maintain clarity and consistency within the Code.

Background / Rule

Historically, members of the Charlottesville School Board were appointed by City Council. Consistent with that structure, the City Code included provisions addressing the composition of the School Board, the appointment and terms of its members, and certain reporting responsibilities to City Council.

In 2006, the method of selecting School Board members changed from appointment to election by the voters of the City. The City's Charter was subsequently amended in 2020 to reflect that the School Board is elected. As a result, the provisions of City Code §§ 2-341 and 2-342, which address the appointment and composition of the School Board, no longer reflect the City's governing structure.

Section 2-343 of the City Code requires the School Board to submit to City Council an annual report of expenditures and an estimate of funds needed for the maintenance and growth of the public schools. This reporting requirement is consistent with the budgeting relationship between the School Board and the City under Virginia law.

The proposed ordinance repeals the outdated provisions relating to the appointment and composition of the School Board and recodifies the remaining reporting provision to maintain continuity within the City Code.

Analysis

The provisions currently codified in §§ 2-341 and 2-342 reflect a governance structure that no longer exists. Because the Charlottesville School Board is elected rather than appointed, those sections are outdated and potentially confusing to readers of the City Code. Repealing these provisions will align the Code with the City Charter and the City's current governmental structure.

Section 2-343, however, establishes an annual reporting obligation for the School Board to provide the City Council with a report of expenditures and an estimate of funds needed for the maintenance and

growth of the public schools. That reporting requirement remains consistent with the budgeting relationship between the School Board and the City and continues to serve a useful purpose. The proposed ordinance therefore retains that provision and recodifies it to maintain continuity within the Code.

Overall, the proposed amendments are administrative in nature and are intended to improve the clarity and accuracy of the City Code.

Financial Impact

The proposed ordinance is a housekeeping amendment to the City Code and will have no fiscal impact on the City.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that City Council adopt the proposed ordinance repealing §§ 2-341 and 2-342 of the City Code and recodifying § 2-343 as § 2-341 in order to remove outdated provisions and ensure the City Code accurately reflects the City's current governance structure

Recommended Motion (if Applicable)

Move to adopt the ordinance repealing City Code §§ 2-341 and 2-342 and recodifying § 2-343 as § 2-341 to remove outdated provisions relating to the appointment of School Board members and to ensure the City Code reflects the City's current governance structure.

Optional: I further move that City Council waive the requirement for a second reading of this ordinance and that it take effect immediately upon adoption.

Attachments

1. Ordinance Amending Chapter X of the City Code

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE X OF THE CITY CODE BY
REPEALING SECTIONS 2-341 AND 2-342 AND RECODIFYING SECTION 2-343 AS
SECTION 2-341

WHEREAS, the Charlottesville City Code currently contains provisions concerning the composition and appointment of the City School Board; and

WHEREAS, the City School Board has been elected by the voters of the City since the mid 2000s; and

WHEREAS, the Charter of the City of Charlottesville was amended in 2020 to reflect the election of School Board members rather than appointment by City Council; and

WHEREAS, Sections 2-341 and 2-342 of the City Code reflect an earlier system under which members of the School Board were appointed by City Council and therefore no longer accurately reflect the City's governing structure; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that repealing those outdated provisions and retaining the remaining reporting provision will improve the clarity and accuracy of the City Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council for the City of Charlottesville that the Code of the City of Charlottesville is hereby amended as follows:

1. Repeal of Sections 2-341 and 2-342.

Sections 2-341 and 2-342 of the Code of the City of Charlottesville are hereby repealed.

2. Recodification of Section 2-343.

Section 2-343 of the Code of the City of Charlottesville is hereby recodified as Section 2-341, and shall read as follows:

Sec. 2-341. Report of expenditures and estimate of needed funds.

It shall be the duty of the school board annually, on or before March thirty-first of each year, and oftener if deemed necessary by the city council, to submit to the city council, in writing, a classified report, as prescribed by the city council, of all expenditures and a classified estimate of what funds will be needed for the proper maintenance and growth of the public schools of the city and to request the city council to make provisions by appropriation or levy for the same.

Policy Briefing Summary

City Council



Regarding:	Ordinance to amend City Code Chapter 19, Article III, Section 19-57 to update city manager representation on the Retirement Plan Commission
Staff Contact(s):	John Maddux, City Attorney
Presenter:	John Maddux, City Attorney
Date of Proposed Action:	March 16, 2026

Issue

City Council is asked to adopt an ordinance amending City Code § 19-57 to allow the City Manager to appoint a Deputy City Manager or other designee to serve on the Retirement Plan Commission.

Background / Rule

Section 19-57 of the City Code establishes the Retirement Plan Commission, which is responsible for administering the City's retirement-related plans, including the supplemental retirement plan, defined contribution plan, and deferred compensation plan.

Under the current code provision, the City Manager serves as a member of the Commission. Because the Commission's work often involves administrative, financial, and personnel matters that are handled by senior staff within the City Manager's Office, participation by a designated representative may be more practical in many circumstances.

Analysis

The proposed ordinance replaces the City Manager's designated seat on the Retirement Plan Commission with a Deputy City Manager or other designee appointed by the City Manager.

The amendment allows the City Manager to designate the most appropriate senior staff member to participate in Commission meetings, ensure continued representation from the City Manager's Office, and provide administrative flexibility without altering the responsibilities or authority of the Commission.

Financial Impact

None

Recommendation

Staff recommends that City Council adopt the proposed ordinance.

Recommended Motion (if Applicable)

I move that City Council adopt the ordinance amending Section 19-57 of the Code of the City of Charlottesville to revise the composition of the Retirement Plan Commission to allow the City Manager to appoint a Deputy City Manager or other designee to serve on the Commission.

Optional: I further move that City Council waive the requirement for a second reading of this ordinance and that it take effect immediately upon adoption.

Attachments

1. Ordinance Amendment 19-57

**ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 19-57 OF THE CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY
CODE RELATING TO THE COMPOSITION OF THE RETIREMENT PLAN
COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, Section 19-57 of the Code of the City of Charlottesville establishes the Retirement Plan Commission and sets forth its membership; and

WHEREAS, the current ordinance designates the City Manager as a member of the Retirement Plan Commission; and

WHEREAS, the work of the Commission frequently involves administrative, financial, and personnel matters that are often handled by senior staff within the City Manager's Office; and

WHEREAS, allowing the City Manager to appoint a Deputy City Manager or other designee to serve on the Commission will provide flexibility while maintaining representation from the City Manager's Office.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council for the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that Section 19-57 of the Code of the City of Charlottesville is hereby repealed and replaced as follows:

Sec. 19-57. Created; purpose; composition.

(a) There is hereby created a commission, to be known as the retirement plan commission, whose duty it shall be to administer all city-sponsored retirement plans, including the supplemental retirement or pension plan, the defined contribution plan, and the deferred compensation plan, in accordance with the provisions of this article and of article IV of this chapter.

(b) The commission shall be comprised of a member of city council, a deputy city manager or other designee appointed by the City Manager, the director of finance, the director of human resources, the city treasurer, three (3) employees of the city, including employees of any city agency participating in a city-sponsored retirement plan, one (1) retiree participating in a city-sponsored plan, and two (2) members of the community.

Policy Briefing Summary

City Council



Regarding:	Public Art Program Proposal
Staff Contact(s):	James Freas, Deputy City Manager
Presenter:	James Freas, Deputy City Manager
Date of Proposed Action:	March 16, 2026

Issue

Public art in Charlottesville is already an important component of the city's culture and legacy as public art displays are present in neighborhoods across the community. Despite this presence, in 2026 there is no existing public or private body that is responsible for managing, accepting, placing, or deaccessioning public art in Charlottesville.

Background / Rule

Public art can encompass a broad range of expression, media, materials, and functionality. It can come in many forms including murals, statues, performances, and writings. Public art, and the process of creating public art, can help cities engage residents, create safer streets, and thrive economically. Community identity, cultural understanding, and connection to place can all be strengthened by public art. Public art is already an important component of the City's culture and legacy as murals liven the pedestrian experience downtown and sculptures create visual interest for corridors throughout the City. Charlottesville is also home to a collaborative network of non-profit arts organizations, art galleries, and workshops. Reflective conversations around monuments and memorials mark Charlottesville's public art history, and provide incentive for a structured community led decision process around the design and placement of public art.

The City has made decisions around public art in different ways over the years. From 1988 to 2017 Piedmont Council of the Arts served as the designated local arts agency for Charlottesville. They coordinated the development of the area's first-ever cultural plan, titled Create Charlottesville (CreateCville) in 2014, and in 2015 helped create an economic impact assessment. This assessment found that arts and culture organizations generated \$5.7 million for local governments in the greater Charlottesville area and supported the equivalent of 2,131 full-time jobs. More recently Charlottesville's PLACE Committee was tasked with reviewing and advising on proposals for public art. However, this committee is no longer active. Organizations such as Art in Place and the Bridge Progressive Arts Institute have provided numerous art installations and public art resources in partnership with the City, including a Map of Murals in Charlottesville. Once again, however, in 2026 there is no existing public or private body responsible for managing public art in the city.

Charlottesville's Comprehensive Plan (2021) includes the following strategy under Goal 8, "Encourage community vitality and interaction through the incorporation of both private and publicly funded art into public spaces, neighborhoods, signage, gateways, and nodes of development. Ensure neighborhood engagement and involvement in this process."

With this background and history as context, and given the current level of community interest in public art as evidenced by work by New City Arts to conduct a planning process for creating a new community Arts Council or similar regional arts entity, staff has drafted an Ordinance for City Council consideration that would create a Charlottesville Public Art Commission that is intended to lead to the creation of a Public Art Program within city government.

The intention of this Ordinance is twofold:

1. To create a Commission that would be tasked with creating a Public Art Program and Public Art Master Plan in-line with community values and the Charlottesville Comprehensive Plan; and,
2. The Commission would function as a standing public art advisor to City Council in its responsibility for accepting, placing, commissioning (when applicable), monitoring, deaccessioning, and approving new public art projects.

Analysis

This Ordinance supports and aligns with the imperatives of effective management of city assets, in this case public art, and the Ordinance and follow-on project aligns with the city's strategic initiatives in particular in Recreation, Arts & Culture, and in Partnerships.

In addition, this Ordinance and Resolution align with Strategy 8.2 in Charlottesville's 2021 Comprehensive Plan regarding the role of public art in public spaces in the community.

Financial Impact

Were this proposal to go forward for consideration of adoption of the proposed ordinance, staff will request \$100,000 to be used to hire a consultant that will do the work to stand-up the Public Art Commission and the Public Art Program and hand these off to city staff.

Going forward, in alignment with other peer cities in Virginia, it is projected that the Public Art Program would require a .50 FTE staff time. It is not clear if that would need to be a new position or if that .50 FTE responsibility could be integrated into existing staff workload.

Recommendation

N/A

Recommended Motion (if Applicable)

Attachments

1. PublicArt_Presentation_021726
2. Art Commission Ordinance

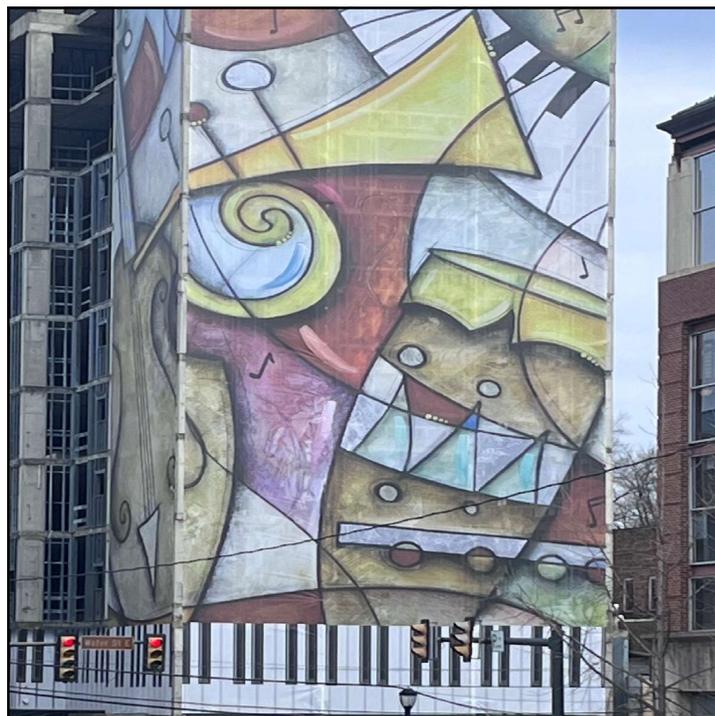


City of Charlottesville

**Consider an Ordinance Creating the
Charlottesville Public Art Commission**

January 5, 2026

1



**Public Art can be found
throughout the
Charlottesville
Community**

**Murals in high visibility
locations**

Places we all recognize

2

An alley mural on 2nd Street NW

Murals in less visible locations

To brighten up and obscure utility placements

To create a sense of “place”



3

A sculpture in a park or in a pedestrian thoroughfare

To focus our contemplation

To provide a creative landmark

To bring a smile or joy to a passerby



4

And over time, some public art exposed to the elements begins to deteriorate

And managing these assets is needed:

- Deaccessioning/Removal
- Restoration
- Replacement
- Commissioning new art objects



5

This Ordinance and Resolution will create...

The Charlottesville Public Art Commission:

- To advise and make recommendations to Council
- To engage community sentiments about artistic style, location, etc.

...and provide the seed funding to design and stand-up...

A Public Art Program within city government:

- To manage public art assets
- To create an ongoing structure, process, and planning for public art

6



7

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2 OF THE CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY CODE BY
ADDING ARTICLE XVIII REGARDING A PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Charlottesville recognizes the value of public art in enriching the cultural, historical, and aesthetic character of the community; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to promote thoughtful and transparent processes for the commissioning, placement, acceptance, maintenance, and deaccessioning of public art located on City property; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that an appointed citizen body can provide meaningful public input, professional expertise, and community representation in the review of such matters; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a Public Art Commission will assist City Council by providing informed recommendations on proposed projects and policies, consistent with the City's adopted goals for equity, inclusion, and cultural expression; and

WHEREAS, the City Council affirms that the City shall retain ownership of all public art located on City property, whether commissioned, donated, or otherwise acquired; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to codify the creation, composition, and duties of the Public Art Commission within Chapter 2 (Administration) of the Charlottesville City Code.

Now therefore be it ordained by the Council of the City of Charlottesville that the following sections be added to Chapter 2 (Administration), Article VI (Boards and Commissions) of the Charlottesville City Code:

Article XVIII – Public Art Commission

Sec. 2-484. - Public Art Commission created; purpose.

- (a) There is hereby created a *Public Art Commission* for the City of Charlottesville (“the Commission”).
- (b) The purpose of the Commission is to advise and make recommendations to City Council concerning the selection, placement, acceptance, maintenance, relocation, and deaccessioning of public art located on property owned, leased, or controlled by the City of Charlottesville.
- (c) The Commission shall further serve to promote awareness and appreciation of public art within the community and to encourage the integration of artistic and commemorative works into the City's public spaces.

Sec. 2-485. - Membership; terms; vacancies.

- (a) The Commission shall consist of seven (7) members appointed by the City Council.
- (b) Members shall serve three-year terms and may be reappointed for one (1) additional consecutive term. Members appointed to fill an unexpired term shall be eligible for appointment to two (2) additional full terms.
- (c) In making appointments, City Council shall seek to ensure a broad representation of backgrounds and expertise, including but not limited to the fields of visual arts, history, architecture, landscape design, and education.
- (d) Vacancies shall be filled by City Council for the unexpired portion of the term in the same manner as the original appointment.

Sec. 2-486. - Officers; meetings; quorum.

- (a) The Commission shall annually elect a chair and vice-chair from among its members.
- (b) The Commission shall adopt rules of procedure consistent with state law as well as the City Code and any applicable City policies and shall hold regular meetings at least quarterly.
- (c) Five (4) members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Sec. 2-487. - Staff liaison; coordination with other departments.

- (a) Administrative and professional support for the Commission shall be provided through a staff liaison designated by the City Manager.
- (b) The staff liaison shall coordinate with other departments as necessary to provide information and technical assistance to the Commission.

Sec. 2-488. - Powers and duties.

The Commission shall serve in an advisory capacity to the City Council and shall have the following powers and duties:

- (1) To review and make recommendations to City Council concerning proposals for the commissioning, acquisition, acceptance, placement, relocation, or removal of public art on City property.
- (2) To recommend policies and guidelines governing the City's public art and memorial programs, including procedures for community engagement and selection criteria.

(3) To advise City Council regarding priorities for conservation and maintenance of existing public art.

(4) To promote educational and cultural initiatives designed to enhance public understanding of the City's art and memorial heritage.

(5) To submit an annual report to City Council summarizing its activities, recommendations, and the status of the City's public art and memorial assets.

Sec. 2-489. - City Council authority.

(a) City Council shall retain ultimate authority to approve or deny any proposal concerning the placement, commissioning, acceptance, relocation, or deaccessioning of public art on City property.

(b) All recommendations of the Commission shall be advisory only and shall not be binding upon City Council.

Sec. 2-490. - Ownership of public art.

(a) All public art accepted by City Council or installed on property owned, leased, or controlled by the City shall be and remain the property of the City of Charlottesville, unless otherwise provided by written agreement approved by City Council.

(b) The City shall have full authority to maintain, conserve, relocate, modify, or remove such works in accordance with applicable law and City policy.

Policy Briefing Summary

City Council



Regarding: Ordinance to establish the Charlottesville Public Art Program
Staff Contact(s):
Presenter:
Date of Proposed Action: March 16, 2026

Issue

Background / Rule

Analysis

Financial Impact

Recommendation

Recommended Motion (if Applicable)

Attachments

None

Policy Briefing Summary

City Council



Regarding: Resolution to fund the Charlottesville Public Art Program - \$100,000 (1 of 2 readings)

Staff Contact(s):

Presenter:

Date of Proposed Action: March 16, 2026

Issue

Background / Rule

Analysis

Financial Impact

Recommendation

Recommended Motion (if Applicable)

Attachments

1. City Council Appropriation to Stand Up Public Art Commission_April 2026



RESOLUTION #R-__-__
Resolution to Allocate \$100,000 from Council Strategic Investment Fund

WHEREAS public art in Charlottesville is an important component of the city’s culture and legacy public art displays are present in neighborhoods across the community; and

WHEREAS there is no public or private body that is responsible for accepting, managing, placing or deaccessioning public art in Charlottesville; and

WHEREAS the Charlottesville City Council has passed an ordinance to the City Code to create a Public Art Commission;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that the sum of \$100,000 is hereby allocated from Council Strategic Investment Fund for the purpose of issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) to hire a consultant to complete the work necessary to stand-up the Public Art Commission, that was approved by Ordinance, and to stand up a Public Art Program to be handed off to city staff:

	Aye	No
Fleisher	___	___
Oschrin	___	___
Payne	___	___
Snook	___	___
Wade	___	___

Date Adopted:

Certified: _____
Clerk of Council

Policy Briefing Summary

City Council



Regarding:	Resolution in support of Charlottesville High Performance Building Standards
Staff Contact(s):	Kristel Riddervold, Director of the Office of Sustainability
Presenter:	Kristel Riddervold, Director of the Office of Sustainability
Date of Proposed Action:	March 16, 2026

Issue

Office of Sustainability is bringing forward a High Performance Buildings Resolution for the purpose of aligning with state requirements and establishing High Performance Building Standards for the design, construction, operation, maintenance, and renovation process for all municipal buildings. This action reflects strategies found in both the Comprehensive Plan as well as the Charlottesville Climate Action Plan and will replace the City's 2008 Green Buildings Resolution.

Background / Rule

In 2008, Charlottesville adopted its first Green Buildings Resolution, making a policy commitment to environmentally sustainable building practices. Since that time, all major City construction projects have achieved certification through the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building rating standard. To date, the City has built seven LEED certified facilities and two more (the Bypass Fire Station and Charlottesville Middle School) are in process.

More recently, the Virginia General Assembly passed the *High Performance Buildings Act of 2021*, requiring certain facilities constructed by Virginia localities to meet a state-mandated performance threshold. These requirements went into effect for smaller localities in 2023. Charlottesville has been in compliance with the state law through the existing green building policy as well as the design/construction of new facilities to achieve LEED certification.

Analysis

Charlottesville has long been committed to building high performing, energy efficient facilities. Adopting this updated policy to reflect current best-practices is in alignment with many of the City's guiding documents, including the Comprehensive Plan, the Climate Action Plan, the Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, the Green Building Policy, and the Energy & Water Management Policy. It will also ensure that we continue to be in compliance with Virginia's *High-Performance Buildings Act*.

Staff from the Office of Sustainability, with consultant support, worked closely with an interdepartmental team to develop the *Charlottesville High Performance Building Standards v1.0* (HPBS) for municipal building projects. These standards establish current practices as requirements and are intended to standardize building methods across all departments and for all building projects. They also present strategies and technologies that may be appropriate for some projects (referred to as Opportunities) and point to developing technologies for staff to monitor or consider piloting (referred to as Stretch Goals). The HPBS sections include:

- Sustainable Design Procedures and Activities - outlines the procedures that apply broadly to the design and construction of high-performance buildings. This section also includes a matrix to assist project managers and designers in assessing requirements for specific projects.

- Building Planning - describes a wide range of issues that apply to the planning and scoping phases of a building project.
- Technical guidance sections - explore an array of topics organized into traditional building categories (building envelope, building materials, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems, commissioning, and site design).

High-performance buildings have many benefits, including increased occupant comfort and safety, reduced energy and water usage, reduced operating costs, minimized environmental impacts, and maximized building longevity. Continuing our commitment to build and operate efficient, environmentally responsible buildings will contribute to reaching our climate commitments as well as reduce utilities costs for the City. Modernizing our high-performance building best practices also ensures that we take future environmental conditions into account as we plan and build the next generation of public facilities.

Financial Impact

Development of the *High Performance Building Standards* was funded through the Climate Action Initiative Fund, previously appropriated as part of the FY2026 Capital Improvement Program. Since the HPBS are largely based on existing building methods including ones that have contributed to the City's track record of achieving LEED certification for new and major building projects, adopting the proposed Resolution should not have significant new financial impacts.

Recommendation

Staff recommend adopting the High Performance Buildings Resolution.

Recommended Motion (if Applicable)

Recommended to move to a second reading for approval.

Attachments

1. High Performance Buildings Resolution
2. Attachment 1 - HPBS link
3. HPB Resolution 03162026

RESOLUTION #R-__-__

Charlottesville High Performance Buildings

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Charlottesville is committed to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, whose mission is to support and mobilize local governments in taking ambitious, measurable climate and energy action; and

WHEREAS, on September 2, 2008, the City Council adopted an initial Green Buildings Resolution, reflecting alignment with the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement which promotes sustainable building practices and energy efficiency; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the City Council adopted community-wide greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals of 45% by 2030 from 2011 levels and carbon neutrality by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the City's Comprehensive Plan incorporates goals and objectives related to high performance building practices; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, the City Council adopted a Climate Action Plan to guide actions toward reaching the adopted emissions reduction targets, including high performance building strategies; and

WHEREAS, the Climate Action Plan established energy and water use intensity goals of 30% reduction by 2030 in all City facilities; and

WHEREAS, the state High Performance Building Act, codified at section 15.2-1804.1 of the Code of Virginia, establishes that for certain new buildings and major renovations, a locality shall ensure such building:

- Is designed, constructed, verified, and operated to comply with a high performance building certification program such as the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program.
- Has sufficient zero-emission vehicle charging and fueling infrastructure.
- Has features that permit the locality to measure the building's energy consumption, including metering of all electricity, gas, water, and other utilities.
- Incorporates appropriate onsite renewable energy generation, energy storage, and resilience features as determined by the locality.

WHEREAS, building standards for certain local buildings, including compliance with a high performance building certification program means achieving certification using the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building rating standard; and

WHEREAS, a number of existing municipal facilities reflect the City’s goals and commitment to environmental improvement, sustainability, and climate action; and

WHEREAS, current building best practices have recently been documented in the Charlottesville High Performance Building Standards (HPBS) manual. The HPBS manual has been established as a central repository for those best practices recognized by City staff engaged in delivering and managing buildings and building systems. It brings these practices into alignment with City commitments to climate and sustainability. The standards also reflect mandates established by the Commonwealth of Virginia and translates these into implementation guidelines for users.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville:

- That the City of Charlottesville is committed to high performance building practices regarding site selection and development, water and energy efficiency, air quality protection, clean energy strategies, material selection, electric vehicle charging, and resilience considerations.
- That the City of Charlottesville High-Performance Building Standards will be used to guide the design, construction, operation, maintenance, and renovation process for all municipal buildings.
- That adherence to the High-Performance Building Standards will ensure that a basic suite of facility management and maintenance practices are consistently incorporated.
- That City staff will continue to monitor industry standards by which high performance building practices are evaluated in order to ensure the City’s standards are in alignment with current best practice.

Date Introduced:

Date Adopted:

Certified: _____
Clerk of Council

Attachment 1
Link to High Performance Building Standards

To access the High Performance Building Standards, use this link:

<https://www.charlottesville.gov/DocumentCenter/View/15397/Charlottesville-HPBS---Version-10>



Charlottesville High Performance Buildings

March 16, 2026

Kristel Riddervold
Director, Office of Sustainability



PURPOSE

Presentation of a Charlottesville High Performance Buildings Resolution to replace the 2008 Green Building Resolution

- Accomplishes alignment with state requirements
- Establishes High Performance Building Standards for the design, construction, operation, maintenance, and renovation of all municipal buildings.

BACKGROUND – Commitments and Policy

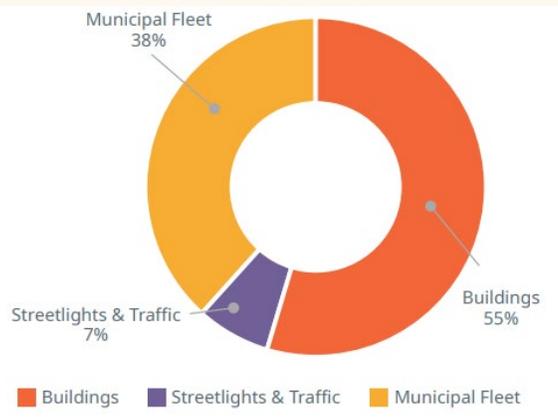


In 2019, the City of Charlottesville committed to updated greenhouse gas *emissions reduction goals* of 45% by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050.

- City Manager approved an internal *Energy and Water Management Policy*.

In 2023, the *Climate Action Plan (CAP)* was adopted to pursue these goals.

- The municipal sector represents 5% of Charlottesville’s GHG emissions
- Buildings account for about 55% of the municipal emissions
- The CAP identifies various building-related strategies
 - Reduce Energy Demand in Existing Buildings
 - Reduce Energy Demand for New Construction
 - Achieve carbon neutrality for all electricity used by City facilities by 2030
 - Incorporate internal process adjustments to improve coordination effectiveness and collaboration on capital projects and planning.



Charlottesville’s *Comprehensive Plan* also contains statements and strategies that support high performance, sustainable, and energy-efficient buildings.

BACKGROUND



**Environmental Regulations
and Policy Review**

This project is also aligned with the City's **Environmental Regulations and Policy Review Project** within that project's Energy Efficiency topic.

The Environmental Review is a multi-year project that will have deliverables along the way, dependent on related City initiatives.

The Environmental Review Project phasing is aligned with:

- The timing of related plans and programs (such as the High-Performance Building Standards)
- Impact on Comprehensive Plan implementation
- Regulatory complexity

BACKGROUND – State Requirements



- In 2021, the Virginia General Assembly passed Virginia Code Section 15.2-1804.1, requiring localities to meet the standards of the High Performance Building Act (HB 2001).
 - The Act became effective for localities with populations under 100,000 on July 1, 2023. Updates were passed in 2024.
-
- Section 15.2-1804.1 requires that, unless exempted under that section, new buildings and major renovations are designed, constructed, verified and operated to comply with a **high performance building certification program**, such as LEED.
 - Section 15.2-1804.1 further requires that localities ensure that these building have sufficient zero-emissions **vehicle charging and fueling infrastructure**, features that permit the locality to **measure** the building's **utility consumption** and associated carbon emissions and **incorporates appropriate resilience and distributed energy features**.

BACKGROUND – City Green Building Experience

In 2008, City Council adopted its first Green Buildings Policy, making commitments to environmentally sustainable building practices.

Since then, all major City building projects have achieved Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification through the US Green Building Council.



- Charlottesville Middle School – Certification anticipated in 2026
- ByPass Fire Station – Certification anticipated in 2026
- Circuit Court – 2020 - Gold
- Fontaine Fire Station – 2014 - Platinum
- Facilities Maintenance Building – 2013 - Gold
- Charlottesville Area Transit – 2012 - Gold
- Smith Aquatic Center – 2010 - Platinum
- ecoREMODO – 2009 - Platinum
- Downtown Transit Station – 2008 - Gold

High Performance Building Standards

- Project Goals
 - Develop a tool to effectively guide the design, construction, and operation of municipal buildings by codifying and consolidating an already robust set of best practices and standard operating procedures.
 - Establish a central repository for best practices recognized by those engaged in delivering and managing buildings and building systems.
 - Model facility design and performance for local building owners, operators, and builders.
- Outcomes of the High Performance Building Standards
 - Defines **expectations** for new and existing buildings
 - Brings practices into **alignment** with City commitments to climate and sustainability.
 - Captures **mandates** established by the Commonwealth of Virginia
 - Provides **actionable** guidelines
 - Support the delivery of **quality** and **consistency** across the organization

HPBS PROJECT TIMELINE



HPBS SCOPE

SCOPE

Defines specific requirements by project type

Project planning & design

Building envelope requirements

Building materials requirements

Building systems (aka MEP)

Basic site design

Monitoring and maintenance



PROJECT TYPES & COMPLIANCE PATH

- **New Construction**
 - Over 20k SF
 - Between 5-20k SF
 - Conditioned
 - Unconditioned
 - Under 5k SF
- **Renovations**
 - Over 20k SF
 - with costs > 50% of Bldg Value
 - with costs <50% of Bldg Value
 - Under 20k SF
 - with costs > 50% of Bldg Value
 - with costs <50% of Bldg Value
- **Other**
 (Energy Performance, Retrocommissioning, Maintenance, Emergency Maintenance)

	Referenced Section	Renovation Project Description			
		Over 20k SF		Under 20k SF	
		Major Renovations			
		Reno Cost > 50% of Bldg. Value	Reno Cost < 50% of Bldg. Value	Reno Cost > 50% of Bldg. Value	Reno Cost < 50% of Bldg. Value
Primary Compliance Method					
Certify to most recent version of LEED NC	Section 2.6	Certified+		Certified+	
Has sufficient ZEV charging and fueling infrastructure	Section 9.4	Required	Recommended	Required	
Metering of all electricity, gas, and water	Section 9.5	Required	Recommended	Required	
Incorporates appropriate onsite renewable energy generation + energy storage	Section 3.11	Required	Recommended	Required	
Incorporates appropriate resilience features	Section 3.4	Required	Recommended	Required	
Fundamental Commissioning (LEED Definition)	Section 10.1	Required	Recommended	Required	
Building Envelope Commissioning	Section 10.3	Recommended	Recommended	Recommended	
Meet HPBS as applicable		Required	Required	Required	

HPBS STRUCTURE

STRUCTURE

Required Basis: Virginia State Code; applicable laws and regulations

Current Practice:

What we've been doing; or propose we should be doing going forward

Opportunities:

Strategies and technologies that might be appropriate for certain projects.

Stretch Goals:

Strategies and technologies to keep our eyes on.

Resources:

Links to further detailed explanation or information

8.6 Heat Pumps

Heat pumps utilize a refrigeration cycle, rejecting heat to the atmosphere or a condenser water loop to efficiently heat and cool spaces. These systems, whether air-source or water-source, help reduce energy consumption and improve operational efficiency.

8.6.1 Current Practice

8.6.1.1 Where Applicable

These systems are extremely flexible and should be considered in all new construction projects and major renovations.

8.6.1.2 Low Ambient Package

Utilize heat pumps with low-ambient rating, such as NEEP Cold Climate Air Source Heat Pump Specification V4.0 or equivalent to ensure efficient operation in colder temperatures.

8.6.1.3 Minimum COP

Maintain 15% better than code required minimum COP/EER values to maximize system performance

8.6.1.4 Heat Pump Sizing

Right size heat pumps for space to improve longevity for the system

8.6.1.5 Multi-Stage Compressor

Provide with multi-staged compressor modulating operation to increase efficiency

8.6.1.6 Refrigerant Requirements

Low global warming potential refrigerant gas emissions. Refer to LEED Building for High Performance Greenhouse Gas Management.

8.6.2 Opportunities

8.6.2.1 Water-Source Configuration

Utilize ground/water-source options to provide higher efficiency due to stable temperature conditions, offering a longer system life and lower maintenance needs.

8.6.2.2 Scheduling

Integrate setback temperatures when spaces become unoccupied for extended periods of time.

8.6.3 Stretch Goals

8.6.3.1 Hybrid Systems

Consider dual-source hybrid systems to combine traditional cooling equipment like cooling towers and geothermal exchange fields in projects that do not have adequate space for a full geothermal wellfield. This will result in reduced first cost and year-round energy savings.

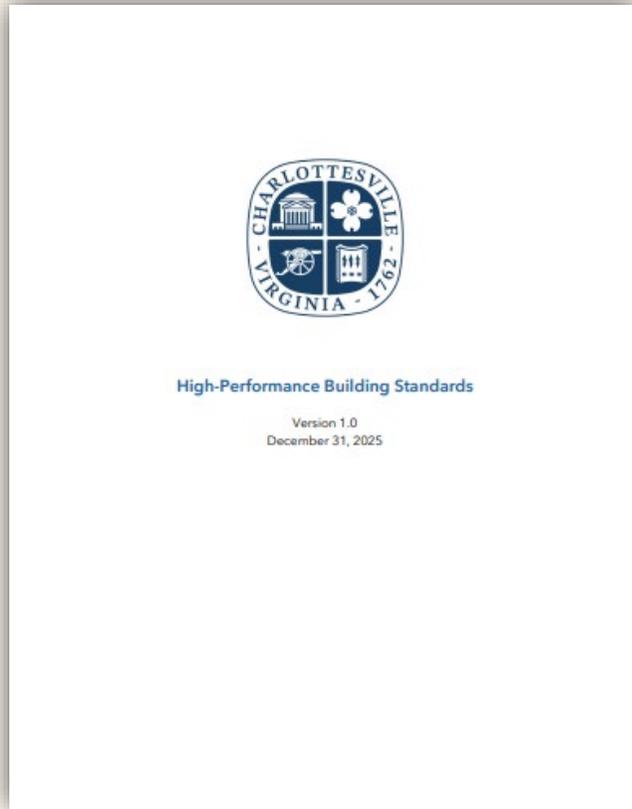
8.6.3.2 Demand Usage

Implement peak demand management via a building management system to shift heating/cooling to off-peak hours, reducing grid strain and lowering electricity costs.

8.6.4 Resources

- NEEP Cold Climate Air-Source Heat Pump Standard
<https://neep.org/heating-electrification/ccashp-specification-product-line>

OTHER HPBS ITEMS



- Waivers
 - When compliance with the HPBS is technically infeasible, a waiver may be requested.
 - Relief from HPBS practices required by the Code of Virginia requires a resolution by City Council.
- HBPS Reviews
 - to ensure they provide appropriate current practices
 - to ensure they are supportive of project delivery,
 - To ensure compliance with state requirements,
 - To ensure they remain aligned with local goals and commitments.
- Internal SOP

RESOURCES

City of Charlottesville
HIGH-PERFORMANCE BUILDING STANDARDS CHECKLIST
Checklist Version 1.0 (12.31.25)

Project Name: _____

Section 3 Building Planning

3.1 Development and Permitting Requirements	
3.1.1.1	Use the City of Charlottesville's website outlining the full development review process.
3.1.1.2	Use VCC Section 108 to determine when a building permit is required.
3.1.1.3	Develop and submit construction documents to the Building Official in accordance with VCC Section 109.
3.2 Design Professional Requirements	
3.2.1.1	Determine when an Architect or Engineer is required.
3.3 Accessibility Features	
3.3.1	Meet the VCC and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
3.4 Resilience Features	
3.4.1.1	Do not locate buildings, hardscapes, or systems in sensitive locations described in this section.
3.5 Building Reuse	
3.5.1.1	Fully assess opportunities for building renovation, rehabilitation, or re-purposing before demolishing and replacing any existing building.
3.6 Salvaged Materials	
3.6.1.1	Assess building materials and furnishings for potential salvage, re-use, and re-purposing.
3.6.1.2	Salvage retired furnishings with useful life remaining for re-use.
3.6.1.3	Recover and store phasing-out refrigerants that are still in use elsewhere in the City. Legally dispose of obsolete refrigerants.
3.6.1.4	Do not reclaim faucets and pipes with unknown levels of lead.
3.7 Construction and Demolition Debris	
3.7.1.1	Implement a C&D waste recovery program.
3.7.1.2	Divert aluminum, steel, glass, cardboard, wood, paper, films, and carpet from landfills.
3.7.1.3	Use a single stream co-mingled recycling container OR deploy multiple recycling containers for on-site separation.
3.7.1.4	Process carpet for removal through a manufacturer take-back program.
3.8 Construction Materials and Methods	
3.8.1	Evaluate and consider the materials and methods used for a building's primary structural frame, walls, and partitions.
3.9 All-Electric Buildings	
3.9.1.1	Design all new construction and major renovations as fully electric, generally.
3.9.1.2	Avoid fossil fuel-based heating systems.
3.10 Roof Planning and Design	
3.10.1.1	Where Applicable
3.10.1.2	Consider all aspects of the roof design.
3.10.1.2.1	Design new roofs shall be designed to be green roofs.
3.10.1.2.2	Consider the building's roof structure.

- HPBS Checklist
- Intranet site for easy staff access to the HPBS and related materials
- Updated public City webpage (in development)
- More to come

The screenshot shows the City of Charlottesville website. At the top left is the city seal. The navigation bar includes 'EMPLOYEE RESOURCES', 'DEPARTMENTS', and 'HOW DO I...?'. Below the navigation bar is a search bar with social media icons for Facebook, X, YouTube, Instagram, and Zoom. The main content area features a large image of a building with the text 'WELCOME TO Charlottesville'. Below this is a sidebar with 'Employee Recognition Program: THRIVE!', 'Energy and Water Management Program', and 'High Performance Buildings Program'. The main text area contains the title 'High Performance Buildings Program' and a paragraph: 'Published in December 2025, the Charlottesville's High-Performance Building Standards define the City's expectations for its new and existing municipal buildings.' At the bottom, there is a link: 'Access the Charlottesville High-Performance Building Standards Document (Version 1.0) Here (PDF)'.



RECOMMENDED ACTION

- Adoption of the proposed High Performance Buildings Resolution
 - Accomplishes alignment with state requirements
 - Establishes High Performance Building Standards for the design, construction, operation, maintenance, and renovation of all municipal buildings.

Policy Briefing Summary

City Council



Regarding:	Resolution to authorize a refund of \$159,947.55 to a taxpaying entity or business
Staff Contact(s):	Jason Vandever, City Treasurer, John Hunt, Chief Deputy City Attorney
Presenter:	Todd Divers, Commissioner of the Revenue
Date of Proposed Action:	March 16, 2026

Issue

For the City Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia's ("City Council"), review and consideration, attached is a Resolution authorizing the refund taxes paid in error by a City business.

Background / Rule

An out-of-state contracting business ("Taxpayer") erroneously filed for and paid a business license tax in the City of Charlottesville, Virginia ("City"), on work performed in Albemarle County, Virginia ("County"), for tax years 2023 through 2025. The error was subsequently discovered by a City business tax auditor, who advised the Taxpayer to contact the County about acquiring the necessary County business license and that the COR's Office would begin the process of issuing a refund.

In accordance with Sec. 14-12 of the Charlottesville City Code and § 58.1-3703.1 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, a refund is due, with interest, to the Taxpayer for business license taxes paid in error for the current year and prior three years. Since the business had not yet paid for a 2026 business license, no refund is due for 2026.

Analysis

The total amount of tax paid in error is \$159,947.55:

2025 - \$58,281.15
2024 - \$36,000.34
2023 - \$65,666.06

It is the determination of the Commissioner of the Revenue ("COR") that this amount should be refunded to the taxpayer. City Code Sec. 30-6(b) requires City Council approval for any tax refunds resulting from an erroneous assessment in excess of \$10,000.

Per City Code Sec. 30-6(b), the COR has provided the City Attorney information necessary to enable him to consent to the COR's determination that the tax paid by the taxpayer was erroneous and should therefore be refunded. The City Attorney, COR, and City Treasurer have therefore approved the refund for presentment to City Council.

Financial Impact

The refund will reduce current year Business License Tax revenue (GL 410150) by \$159,947.55, plus a yet to be determined amount of interest.

Recommendation

City Staff recommend City Council adopt the attached Resolution approving the above-described tax refund.

Recommended Motion (if Applicable)

"I move to adopt the attached Resolution authorizing a refund of \$159,947.55 to a taxpaying entity or business, for business license tax and business tangible personal property tax paid in error for 2023, 2024, and 2025."

Attachments

1. taxrefundresolution2026



RESOLUTION #R-__-__

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A REFUND OF \$159,947.55 TO A TAXPAYING ENTITY OR BUSINESS, FOR BUSINESS LICENSE TAX PAID IN ERROR FOR 2023, 2024, AND 2025

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of the Revenue for the City of Charlottesville, Virginia (“COR”), has determined that a taxpaying entity or business paid 2023, 2024, and 2025 Business License Tax to the City of Charlottesville, Virginia (“City”), in error; and

WHEREAS, that taxpaying entity or business has requested a refund of the amount paid in error; and

WHEREAS, the COR has certified that a refund of taxes paid is due in the amount of \$159,947.55; and

WHEREAS, City Code Section 30-6(b) requires City Council approval for any tax refund exceeding \$10,000.00.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council for the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that it hereby approves and adopts this Resolution authorizing the City Treasurer to issue a refund of \$159,947.55 payable to that taxpaying entity or business.

Date Adopted:

Certified:

Clerk of Council

Policy Briefing Summary

City Council



Regarding:	Land Use and Environmental Planning Committee Semi-Annual Report
Staff Contact(s):	Lauren Hildebrand, Director of Utilities
Presenter:	Lauren Hildebrand, Director of Utilities
Date of Proposed Action:	March 16, 2026

Issue

The attached Report is intended to inform City Council of the Land Use and Environmental Planning Committee ("LUEPC") Meetings. Historically, City Council is briefed twice a year on the topics discussed at the LUEPC Meetings.

Background / Rule

In 1986, the Planning and Coordination Council ("PACC") was established with the purpose of promoting cooperation in planning and community development among the City of Charlottesville, Virginia ("City"), Albemarle County, Virginia ("County"), and the University of Virginia ("UVA"). As an advisory body, PACC fostered cooperative planning and provided guidance and recommendations for decisions made by the City, the County, and UVA.

In November 2019, City Council, the County Board of Supervisors, and UVA approved dissolution of the PACC and established the LUEPC to broaden PACC's collaboration beyond land use and to include environmental topics and sustainability. Also, LUEPC would allow professional staff to develop solutions on a continuous basis with regularly scheduled reports to leadership of all three (3) entities. LUEPC is intended to be a vehicle to collaborate and coordinate land use and development plans and projects and to consider environmental and infrastructure issues facing the community.

Analysis

LUEPC met both virtually and in-person for the second half of 2025. LUEPC has continued concentrating on project discussion and coordination. The monthly Meeting Agendas are developed around themes – either geographical areas or specific topics. LUEPC's Semi-Annual Report for the second half of 2025, attached, has been compiled and includes the highlights of the Meetings. LUEPC's Agenda and Meeting Minutes are published on the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission's website for the community to review.

Financial Impact

None.

Recommendation

Not applicable.

Recommended Motion (if Applicable)

Not applicable.

Attachments

1. LUEPC Semi-Annual Report - July to December 2025



Land Use and Environmental Planning Committee
Second Half-Yearly Report
July through December 2025

The Land Use and Environmental Planning Committee (LUEPC) was established to replace the Planning and Coordination Council (PACC) by the County of Albemarle, the City of Charlottesville, and the University of Virginia (UVA) in 2019. The Committee shares and coordinates land use and development plans and projects; considers environmental and infrastructure issues facing the community, and, from time to time, advances ideas and solutions supporting the mutual advantage of these entities. As part of its charge the Committee shall, not less than twice each year, submit a report summarizing the group's work.

The County, City and the University face similar environmental planning and project challenges. The committee, by its nature, creates opportunities to address these shared challenges by coordinating community messaging and institutional practices. The second half of 2025 continued the focus on project discussions and coordination. The agendas for the monthly meeting are formed around themes - either geographical areas or specific topics. This report focuses on some of the key themes under discussion, and VDOT representatives are invited on a quarterly basis to share updates on transportation projects. The Committee's meeting minutes and presentations are posted on the LUEPC website which is hosted by the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC): <https://vapacc.org>.

Charge Statement

The Land Use and Environmental Planning Committee was established to share and coordinate land use and development plans and projects, consider environmental and infrastructure issues facing the community, and, from time to time, advance ideas and solutions that support our mutual advantage. The LUEPC may also serve as an advisory committee to the City, County, and UVA. The Committee will meet regularly to discuss timely issues from each entity and share that information with the public and each entity's senior leadership at bi-annual updates of all three entities. Through its work, the Committee further seeks to ensure that the actions, policies, and processes of the Committee are reflective of an ongoing commitment by the entities to support an equitable and inclusive community. The Committee defines equity as all community members having access to community benefits and opportunities needed to reach their full potential and to experience optimal well-being and quality of life; inclusion means that all people shall be respected and valued as members of this community. The Three-Party Agreement dated May 5, 1986, remains in effect as to land use planning between the City, County and UVA.



Land Use and Environmental Planning Committee Summary of Activity

Second Half Yearly Report–July through December 2025

Virtual meetings were routinely held via the Zoom meeting platform. For 2025, in-person quarterly meetings were held at the County of Albemarle, 401 McIntire Road, Charlottesville, Virginia with the City serving as Chair and the County serving as Vice-Chair. In 2026, the County will serve as Chair and the University as Vice-Chair of LUEPC.

July meeting cancelled

August 15, 2025

SOLAR AND WATER SUPPLY AND TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Presenter: Bill Fritz, Albemarle County

- [Solar Ordinance](#)

Presenter: Bill Mawyer, RWSA

- [Ivy Landfill Solar Farm & Drinking Water Supply Project Updates](#)

Presenters: Sean Nelson & Charles Proctor, VDOT

- [Transportation Projects Update](#)

September 19, 2025

ALBEMARLE COUNTY HOUSING AND AC44 AND CITY NDS UPDATES

Presenters: Tonya Swartzendruber & Stacy Pethia, Albemarle County

- [Housing & AC44 Updates](#)

Presenter: Kellie Brown, City of Charlottesville

- [NDS FY26 Workplan and Development Code Implementation](#)

October meeting cancelled

November 21, 2025

TRANSPORTATION

Presenters: Mike Goddard & Ben Chambers, City of Charlottesville

- [Transportation Projects and Studies](#)

Presenter: Sean Nelson, VDOT

- [Transportation Projects Update](#)
- Traffic Management and Construction Coordination (Discussion only)

December 19, 2025

HOUSING AND REGIONAL COORDINATION

Presenters: Dan Rosensweig, CEO Habitat for Humanity & Fred Missel, UVAF

- [Southwood Redevelopment Update & Residential Housing Initiatives](#)

Discussion for group:

- [Regional Infrastructure Coordination Planning Framework](#)



LUEPC Membership

Albemarle County

Community Development Director

Facilities and Environmental Services Director

Representative from the County Planning Commission

City of Charlottesville

Neighborhood Development Services Director

Director of Public Works

Director of Utilities

Representative from the City Planning Commission

University of Virginia

Architect for the University

Director of Facilities Management Operations

Director of Real Estate and Leasing Services

University of Virginia Foundation

Director of Design and Development

Director of Real Estate Asset Management

Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority

Executive Director

