



CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

July 8, 2026 at 4:00 PM

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

The Charlottesville City Council held a special meeting on Wednesday, July 8, 2026, Mayor Juandiego Wade called the meeting to order, and Clerk of Council Kyna Thomas called the role, noting all councilors present: Mayor Juandiego Wade, Vice Mayor Natalie Oschrein and councilors Jen Fleisher, Michael Payne and Lloyd Snook.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Charlottesville City Schools Facilities Construction Program, including the financial assessment, portfolio assessment, and Sales Tax referendum.

Mayor Wade turned the meeting over to Deputy City Manager James Freas, who gave an overview of enabling legislation regarding the sales tax referendum, and shared important dates related to enacting a referendum and subsequent adoption of the related ordinance.

- The recently enacted state budget authorizes the City, if approved by voters, to impose an additional local general retail sales tax at a rate not to exceed 1%.
- Revenue from the tax may be used only for the construction or renovation of schools. The statute also permits the revenue to be used for bond and loan financing costs related to those school construction or renovation projects.
- The tax cannot be imposed by City Council alone; it must first be approved by City voters in a referendum.
- The referendum must be initiated by a City Council resolution. That resolution is slated for Council's July 20, 2026 meeting.
- The resolution must identify the proposed tax, state the expiration date for the tax, and request that the Circuit Court order the referendum. The draft resolution uses June 30, 2046, as the expiration date (20-year maximum).

Michael Goddard, Deputy Director of Public Works, provided an update on planning procedures, and presented the Working Group Facility Needs Report with specific recommendations for each school.

Krisy Hammill, Director of Budget and Grants Management, answered questions about fund appropriations and provided a financial picture of how much a 1% sales tax would generate. Ms. Hammill shared information about the City's estimated projects funded with bonds, the City's current and projected debt profile, and available revenue.

School Board Chair Lisa Torres, Vice Chair Amanda Barnes, School Chief Operating Officer Kim Powell, and Director of Community Relations Amanda Simalchik participated in the discussion and expressed the need to address structural and programmatic needs for schools.

Next steps toward enacting a 1% local general retail sales tax:

1. July 20, 2026 – Council to consider adopting resolution
2. August 12, 2026 – Joint City Council / School Board meeting
3. August 14, 2026 – Last Date to receive order from Circuit Court to place referendum on the ballot
4. November 3, 2026 – General Election including Referendum
5. Council to Adopt an ordinance to adopt the tax
6. Tax to take effect 120 days after the date of the Ordinance

Councilors provided recent updates on the respective boards and committees on which they serve, and other activities.

On motion by Oschrin, seconded by Snook, Council by acclamation adjourned the meeting at 5:59 p.m.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council

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