

Policy Briefing Summary

City Council



Regarding:	Public Hearing and Resolution to adopt amendments to City Charter (1 of 1 Reading)
Staff Contact(s):	John Maddux, City Attorney
Presenter:	John Maddux, City Attorney
Date of Proposed Action:	October 19, 2026

Issue

Whether City Council should request that the Virginia General Assembly enact the proposed amendments to the City Charter.

Background / Rule

The City Charter establishes the City's governmental structure and powers. Amendments require action by the General Assembly. Virginia Code §§ 15.2-201 and 15.2-202 provide the process for requesting amendments, including an advertised public hearing before Council submits its request. The submission must include the proposed amendments, a publisher's affidavit documenting the hearing advertisement, and certified minutes showing Council's action at the hearing.

The proposed amendments update provisions that contain outdated language, incorrect cross-references, or procedures that should be brought into alignment with current state law. They also clarify the City's authority in certain areas of municipal administration.

Analysis

The proposed amendments update administrative procedures, clarify the City's authority, correct drafting errors and cross-references, and remove outdated requirements. Where appropriate, they replace detailed procedural language with references to general state law, reducing the need for future Charter amendments when those laws change.

These revisions would make the Charter clearer and easier to administer. The attached redline identifies the proposed changes. Following the public hearing, Council may approve the amendments for submission to the City's General Assembly delegation for introduction during the 2027 legislative session. Council's action would authorize that request; enactment of the amendments requires action by the General Assembly.

Financial Impact

No appropriation is requested with this action. Financial effects associated with implementation of the amendments would be addressed through the City's budget process and any necessary subsequent Council action.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that Council conduct the public hearing, approve the proposed Charter amendments for submission to the General Assembly, and direct staff to transmit the request and required supporting documentation to the City's legislative delegation.

Recommended Motion (if Applicable)

“I move that Council approve the proposed amendments to the City Charter, request their enactment by the Virginia General Assembly during its 2027 session, and direct staff to transmit the proposed amendments and required supporting documentation to the City’s legislative delegation.”

Attachments

1. Charlottesville Charter Amendments Resolution
2. City of Charlottesville Charter Amendments - Oct 2026