



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

The Charlottesville City Council met on Monday, July 20, 2026. 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 Oschrein and Councilors Jen Fleisher and Michael Payne.

*Councilor Snook requested approval to participate electronically, and there were technical difficulties while trying to establish an audible connection.

On motion by Payne, seconded by Fleisher, Council by a 4-0 vote approved the meeting agenda as amended to approve Item #17 by motion instead of resolution (Ayes: Fleisher, Oschrein, Payne, Wade; Absent: Snook).

REPORTS

1. REPORT: Transportation Planning Annual Update

Ben Chambers, Transportation Planning Manager, presented the annual Transportation Planning Update to highlight the accomplishments of the previous year and look ahead to upcoming work, including the Citywide Mobility Plan.

Zoe Macomber, Senior Transportation Planner, described the process for planning, prioritizing and implementing traffic-calming design elements on Rose Hill Drive with goals to:

- reduce the design speed to 25 mph,
- improve bicycle safety with protected facilities,
- improve pedestrian crossing safety,
- reduce conflicts between transit vehicles and bicycles at bus stops,
- provide space for bus stop amenities and bike parking, and
- provide safe pick-up/drop-off patterns in front of Burley Middle School.

Mr. Chambers provided an overview of Citywide Mobility Plan scope, and key findings from the review of existing plans. The purposes of the Citywide Mobility Plan are to:

- Create a consistent approach to identifying and designing projects
- Ensure approach promotes equity and is consistent with the City's adopted plans and policies, and
- Develop a long-term vision and an implementation strategy with a program of projects, policies, and actions that will achieve that vision.

City Council engaged in discussion.

*A voice connection was confirmed at 5:24 p.m. for Councilor Lloyd Snook and he confirmed that he was participating from Basye, Virginia, because of personal travel. On motion by Fleisher, seconded by Oschrein Council voted 4-0 to approve electronic participation by Councilor Snook (Ayes: Fleisher, Oschrein, Payne, Wade; Noes: none).

CLOSED MEETING

On motion by Oschrin, seconded by Fleisher, Council voted 5-0 (Ayes: Fleisher, Oschrin, Payne, Snook, Wade; Noes: none) to meet in closed session as authorized by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, specifically:

1. Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) for:
 - a. discussion and consideration of the performance of a City Council appointee, specifically, to conduct the City Manager's annual performance evaluation, and
 - b. discussion and consideration of prospective candidates to be appointed to the Retirement Commission

On motion by Oschrin, seconded by Fleisher, Council certified by the following vote: 5-0 (Ayes: Fleisher, Oschrin, Payne, Snook, Wade; Noes: none.), 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

City Council began the business meeting by observing a moment of silence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Payne acknowledged ICE raids in Greene County involving individuals in their work vehicles. He also announced open seats on Council-appointed boards and commissions.

Vice Mayor Oschrin announced the open application process for eBike vouchers at www.connect.charlottesville.gov, and she announced the MyCville public engagement platform.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

Mayor Wade had City Attorney Maddux make remarks to address requests for City Council to rescind or take another vote regarding its decision to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for The Mark project on 7th Street. Mr. Maddux summarized legalities as outlined in the following statement released to the public:

“CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA - The Charlottesville City Council recognizes that its decision regarding the historic review Certificate of Appropriateness for The Mark has generated significant concern and disagreement within the community. Council respects the right of residents to continue expressing their views about the project and understands that some residents remain deeply disappointed by the decision.

In recent days, members of the community have asked Council to rescind its prior action or vote again on the Certificate of Appropriateness. Council is providing the following clarification regarding the legal process applicable to that decision.

Council's general procedural rules include a process for reconsidering certain votes. Those rules may apply, for example, when Council adopts a resolution establishing or changing a City policy on a matter that remains within its continuing authority.

The decision regarding The Mark is different. It was made under the specific historic review process established by Virginia law and the City's Development Code. That process provides for a decision by the Board of Architectural Review and an appeal to Council. Council's decision on the appeal is the final decision in this case.

Council's general reconsideration procedures do not override or add to that specific process. Because the historic-review process does not authorize Council to reopen, rescind, or re-vote on its decision, another vote is not legally available."

Councilor Payne requested that Council initiate a Zoning Text Amendment process to expand the core neighborhood overlay and allow student housing by Special Exception Permit versus by-right and amend the 0.5-mile radius framework so that student housing does not pay lower affordable housing fees than non-student housing.

Mayor Wade opened the floor for comments from the public.

1. Mary Gulland, city resident, spoke in support of the City proposal to end the Rivanna encampment.
2. Claude Convisser, city resident, encouraged Council not to open the proposed homeless facility. He spoke of a personal situation involving his stays at The Haven and PACEM.
3. Jeffrey Lisciandrello, city resident, spoke in support of clearing the Free Bridge encampment. He also spoke in opposition to building a low-barrier shelter.
4. Donnas Chambers, Free Bridge encampment resident, spoke about the September 1st deadline to clear the Free Bridge encampment, and expressed concerns and challenges with the available shelters and programs perpetuating homelessness conditions.
5. Jennifer Grant, Free Bridge encampment resident, spoke about the September 1st deadline to clear the Free Bridge encampment, and expressed concerns about pets being allowed at the homeless shelter, and about various entities such as jail officials being sent to the encampment. She stated that many people in the encampment need mental health resources and to be helped by Region Ten.
6. Rosia Parker, city resident, spoke about housing and the history of dismantling and displacing Black and Brown residents. She suggested that funds for jail renovations should have been used instead to help the homeless population.
7. Anna Malinowski ceded her time to Christopher Kenneth Scott Hall, who stated that he is a drifter and has been homeless for some time. city resident, and that certain nonprofit organizations who provide services to homeless individuals need to hear directly from the City. Ms. Malinowski used the remaining time to speak against the September 1 deadline for disbanding the Rivanna encampment.
8. Frank Bechter, city resident, spoke about the need to value, protect, respect, and celebrate neighbors by receiving community input for development projects - particularly affordable housing at 7th and Delevan Streets.
9. Rev. Dr. R. S. Long, Jr., spoke in defense of building public trust related to public housing decisions by including community members in the decision-making process and creating stronger zoning practices.
10. Laura Goldblatt, city resident, reviewed the effects of luxury student housing on surrounding neighborhoods, and how student housing contributes to rising costs, displacement and "studentification."
11. Brandon Tyson, First Baptist Church, spoke about the need for City Council to include Fifeville

residents in student housing discussions that impact their neighborhood, and to build housing that makes sense.

12. Roscoe, city resident, stated that he started "tent city" as a protest. He stated that he wants to start another movement.
13. Don Gathers, city resident, referenced a statement from the June 24 meeting by developers about renting to people who can afford the units. He requested that Council demand more from the developers, and to know what the plans are for the \$7M allotted by the State budget to address homelessness...
14. Drew, city resident and public health worker, opposed the city's decision to disband the Free Bridge encampment.
15. Zyanha Bryant, city resident, spoke in opposition to the luxury student housing development approved for building in Fifeville.
16. Jessica Jackson, city resident, spoke about the need for more affordable housing in Charlottesville, and she opposed the idea that the city needs more student housing in general. She spoke in opposition to The Mark development approved by City Council.

Sam Roman, Assistant City Manager, gave an update on the proposed transition plan for relocating people staying in the encampment(s) near Free Bridge, and to align needs with available resources and connection to services.

CONSENT AGENDA

Clerk of Council Kyna Thomas read the following Consent Agenda items into the record, and on motion by Fleisher, seconded by Oschrein, Council by the following vote adopted the Consent Agenda: 5-0 (Ayes: Fleisher, Oschrein, Payne, Snook, Wade; Noes: none).

2. MINUTES: March 16 regular meeting, April 6 regular meeting, April 20 regular meeting, July 8 work session
3. Resolution Allocating \$575,000 in Housing Operations and Support FY27 Grant Funding (2nd reading)

RESOLUTION

Allocating FY27 Housing Operations and Program Support Grant Program Funding for Housing and Homelessness Prevention Programs in the Amount of \$575,000

WHEREAS, City of Charlottesville, Virginia ("City"), having established the Housing Operations and Program Support ("HOPS7.") Grant Program to provide financial support for operational needs of nonprofit organizations that provide essential housing-related services, hereby allocates \$575,000 from the Charlottesville Affordable Housing Fund ("CAHF") under Fund 426 Project: CP-084, as per the City's FY27 Capital Improvement Program Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia ("City Council"), that upon consideration of the CAHF Committee's recommendations for the HOPS Grant Program, City Council hereby allocates funds to the following HOPS Applicants:

Fund	Project	G/L Account	Applicant	Funded Project/Initiative	Award
426	CP-084	530670	Albemarle Housing Improvement Program	AHIP System of Care	\$42,905.00
426	CP-084	530670	Community Services Housing	Community Services Housing	\$44,700.00
426	CP-084	530670	Georgia's Friends	Georgia's Friends Recovery Residence & Support Program	\$1,900.00
426	CP-084	530670	Habitat For Humanity of Greater Charlottesville	Habitat Homeownership Program	\$33,525.00
426	CP-084	530670	International Rescue Committee	IRC Housing Navigation Support	\$20,115.00
426	CP-084	530670	Legal Aid Justice Center	Legal Services to Prevent Evictions and Ensure Housing Stability	\$22,350.00
426	CP-084	530670	Monticello Area Community Action Agency	Hope House	\$13,410.00
426	CP-084	530670	People and Congregations Engaged in Ministry	PACEM Case Management	\$53,640.00
426	CP-084	530670	Piedmont Housing Alliance	Charlottesville Affordable Housing Program	\$89,400.00
426	CP-084	530670	SupportWorks Housing	The Crossings PSH Program	\$29,055.00
426	CP-084	530670	The Haven at First & Market	Day Shelter Program	\$77,000.00
426	CP-084	530670	The Haven at First & Market	Homeless Information Line at The Haven	\$35,000.00
426	CP-084	530670	The Haven at First & Market	Vital Housing Services	\$112,000.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all funding awards within this Resolution shall be provided as grants to the entities listed under the "Applicant" column above to be used solely for the purposes outlined in their respective Grant Applications, and any subsequent Grant Agreement. The City Manager is authorized to negotiate and execute Funding Grant Agreements with each recipient to ensure proper utilization of funds.

4. Resolution for Approval of Addendum to Lease with Botanical Garden of the Piedmont (2nd reading)

RESOLUTION

Authorizing Approval of an Addendum to the City's Ground Lease with the Botanical Garden of the Piedmont, Inc.

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville, Virginia (the City) is the owner of certain land currently leased to the Botanical Garden of the Piedmont, Inc. (the Botanical Garden) pursuant to a forty-year ground lease dated November 8, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Botanical Garden is preparing its first phase of construction of a botanical garden that will be open and free of charge to City residents; and

WHEREAS, the Botanical Garden has been awarded a federal grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to assist with implementation of a nature-based stormwater management system intended to improve water quality and protect native habitat; and

WHEREAS, the Botanical Garden has requested the City's approval to enter into the grant agreement and the City's acknowledgment of a limited federal reversionary interest solely in certain grant-funded improvements constructed with grant funds during their useful life, and only to the extent provided in the grant agreement; and

WHEREAS, the proposed lease addendum clarifies that the City is not granting any interest in its fee simple ownership of the land, is not creating any lien or encumbrance on City property, is not pledging the City's credit or assets, is not guaranteeing the obligations of the Botanical Garden and is not assuming any repayment or performance obligations under the grant agreement; and

WHEREAS, the proposed lease addendum further provides that any default by the Botanical Garden under the grant agreement during the lease term, including any extensions, shall constitute a default under the lease; and

WHEREAS, City Council finds that approval of the proposed lease addendum is in the public interest.

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

1. The City Manager is hereby authorized to execute an addendum to the November 8, 2021 ground lease with the Botanical Garden in substantially the form presented to City Council, together with such minor or technical revisions as the City Manager and City Attorney deem necessary or appropriate, provided that such revisions do not materially alter the substance of the addendum.
2. The City's approval and acknowledgment shall be limited to the terms set forth in the lease addendum and shall not be construed to grant any interest in the City's fee simple ownership of the land, create any lien or encumbrance on City property, pledge the City's credit or assets, make the City a guarantor of any obligation, or cause the City to assume any repayment or performance obligation arising under the Botanical Garden's grant agreement.
5. RESOLUTION appropriating funds for the Virginia Department of Education Special Nutrition Program Summer Food Service Program - \$40,000 (layover)
6. RESOLUTION Considering A Special Exception Permit for 1138 Rose Hill Drive

RESOLUTION

Approving a Request for a Special Exception Permit ("SEP") for Property Located at 1138 Rose Hill Drive

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville, Virginia ("Landowner"), is the current owner of a lot identified on 2025 City Tax Map 44 as Parcel 302 (City Parcel Identification No. 440030200), having an area of approximately 2.54 acres (110,642 square feet); ("Subject Property"); and

WHEREAS, Landowner wishes to expand a ground mechanical equipment area on the Subject Property ("Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Project is described in more detail within the Landowner's Application materials submitted in connection with Application PL-26-0063 ("Application"), as required by City Development Code Section 34-5.2.15.B.2 (collectively, "Application Materials"); and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia ("PC"), made a recommendation of approval of the SEP at its June 9, 2026, Public Meeting, per City Development Code Section 34-5.2.15.C.2.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia ("City Council"), upon consideration of the PC's recommendation and the City Staff Report discussing the Application, as well as the factors set forth within City Development Code Section 34-5.2.15.D, that it finds and determines that granting the proposed SEP would serve the public necessity, convenience, general welfare, or good zoning practice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by City Council, pursuant to City Development Code Section 34-5.2.15, a SEP is hereby approved and granted to authorize the Project and permit ground mechanical equipment consistent with the Application Materials for the Subject Property, with the following condition:

1. Trex composite material shall be used for all required equipment screening.
7. ORDINANCE amending and reenacting Chapter 2, Article XV of the Code of the City of Charlottesville, the Charlottesville Human Rights Ordinance (layover)
8. Adoption of Amending Ordinance Correcting Two (2) Scrivener's Errors in the Original Ordinance Vacating and Quitclaiming Clarke Court to the Jefferson Scholars Foundation

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE DECEMBER 15, 2025 ORDINANCE CLOSING, VACATING, AND DISCONTINUING CLARKE COURT TO CORRECT SCRIVENER'S ERRORS

9. RESOLUTION Allocating Charlottesville Affordable Housing Fund Grant Program Funding for Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority South First Street Phase Two in the Amount of \$425,000 (layover)

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Sam Sanders thanked Assistant City Manager Roman for the report regarding the Free Bridge encampment approach, and he said that compassion will be important moving forward. He reinforced the drought declaration for the region and encouraged voluntary conservation.

ACTION ITEMS

10. **PUBLIC HEARING and RESOLUTION to Authorize the Issuance and Sale of General Obligation Public Improvement Bonds of The City of Charlottesville, Virginia, in an Aggregate Principal Amount Not to Exceed \$29,000,000, to Finance the Costs of Certain Public Improvement Projects, Providing for the Issuance and Sale of General Obligation Refunding Bonds Of The City Of Charlottesville, Virginia, in an Aggregate Principal Amount Not to Exceed \$25,000,000, Providing for the Form, Details and Payment of Such Bonds, and Providing for the Refunding of Certain Outstanding General Obligation Bonds of the City**

Krisy Hammill, Director of Budget and Grants Management, presented the request for authorization, followed by the public hearing where one person came forward:

- James Rogers asked for clarification of the city's bond rating.

Mayor Wade closed the public hearing.

On motion by Snook, seconded by Payne, Council by a vote of 5-0 (Ayes: Fleisher, Oschrein, Payne, Snook, Wade; Noes: None) approved the following resolution:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT BONDS OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA, IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$29,000,000, TO FINANCE THE COSTS OF CERTAIN PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA, IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$25,000,000, PROVIDING FOR THE FORM, DETAILS AND PAYMENT OF SUCH BONDS, AND PROVIDING FOR THE REFUNDING OF CERTAIN OUTSTANDING GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE CITY

11. PUBLIC HEARING and ORDINANCE Adoption: 801 West Street; Zoning Text Amendment (PI-26-0043), Designation of Individually Protected Property (layover)

Jeff Werner, Historic Preservation and Design Planner, provided an overview of the request to designate the property at 801 West Street, as an Individually Protected Property (IPP).

On December 9, 2025, the Planning Commission (PC) recommended approval of a Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) to City Code Section 34-2.9.3.B. to designate the Subject Property as an IPP, and, per City Code Section 34-5.2.5, amend the City Zoning Map to identify the Subject Property as having an IPP overlay. On the Subject Property, the proposed contributing structure is a two (2)-story, framed dwelling, clad in stucco. The dwelling is characterized by a hipped roof with pedimented gables, a wood-railed widow's walk in the center, with an attached single-story, rear addition. In 1905, James Patterson constructed the dwelling for his family. The Patterson family sold the property in 1944, during WWII, to James Fleming, a fireman with the railroad, and his wife Maude Fleming, a prominent local teacher at the Jefferson School for forty (40) years. The Subject Property remains in the family to this day. (The NE corner of the 10th and Page neighborhood was initially segregated. Between 1930 and 1950, it transitioned to predominantly Black residents, including the Flemings.) Richard Hunt, the current owner, is the grandson of Maude and James Fleming, and a descendant of Henry Martin (1826-1915), the bell ringer at the University of Virginia from c.1868 until 1909.

In June 2020, on behalf of the City, the 106 Group completed a Reconnaissance Architectural History Survey of 438 properties within the 10th and Page neighborhood. As a result, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources State Review Board recommended the approximately fifty (50)-acre Tenth and Page Historic District be eligible for listing on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places ("NRHP"). Within that review, the Subject Property was assessed as retaining excellent integrity of both location and setting. In the areas of design, materials, and workmanship, the dwelling was assessed as retaining good integrity and therefore recommended as potentially individually eligible for listing in the NRHP under criterion "A," as one (1) of the oldest extent houses within the (also eligible) 10th and Page neighborhood. After consideration of the Standards of Review for IPP Designations (City Code Section 34-2.9.3.C), the City's Board of Architectural Review (BAR) approved a Motion recommending the ZTA to City Council on January 21, 2026. The PC held a Public Hearing on May 12,

2026, during which the Subject Property owner provided context for seeking IPP designation status for the Subject Property. Following discussion, the PC voted to recommend approval.

Mr. Richard Hunt, homeowner, provided some background on his request, and described the lineage of his family and the way this designation honors the neighborhood and people who have been part of the fabric of Charlottesville.

Following clarifying questions from Council, Mayor Wade opened the public hearing.

- Frank Bechter, city resident, stated that Mr. Hunt has kept up the property.

Mayor Wade closed the public hearing.

Council agreed to carry the item to the August 3, 2026, meeting for second reading and vote.

12. PUBLIC HEARING and ORDINANCE: 801 West Street: Zoning Map Amendment (PI-26-0042), Designation of Individually Protected Property (layover)

A Zoning Map Amendment (ZMA) was proposed for property located at 801 West Street, Charlottesville, Virginia, TMP # 310042000 (Subject Property), pursuant to Charlottesville City Code Section 34-5.2.5.

On July 25, 2025, the Subject Property owner requested City Staff initiate the ZMA process to designate the Subject Property (an existing house at 801 West Street) as an Individually Protected Property (“IPP”). The proposed IPP designation will overlay an approximately 0.3-acre parcel, located at the NW corner of West Street and 8th Street, NW, within the 10th and Page neighborhood.

Following clarifying questions from Council, Mayor Wade opened the public hearing, and with no speakers coming forward the public hearing was closed.

Council agreed to carry the item to the August 3, 2026, meeting for second reading and vote.

13. PUBLIC HEARING and ORDINANCE to Update the Citizen Participation Plan, a Component of the City’s Community Development Block (CDBG) Grants and HOME Investment Partnerships Programs (HOME), and Associated Municipal Code

Anthony Warn, Grants Analyst, presented the request, which involves a resolution and ordinance. Following clarifying questions from Council, Mayor Wade opened the public hearing on both the resolution and ordinance. With no speakers coming forward, Mayor Wade closed the public hearing.

a. RESOLUTION Amending the Citizen Participation Plan, a Component of the City’s Community Development Block Grants and HOME Investment Partnerships Programs

On motion by Payne, seconded by Oschrein, Council by a vote of 5-0 (Ayes: Fleisher, Oschrein, Payne, Snook, Wade; Noes: None) approved the following resolution:

A Resolution to Approve Amending the Citizen Participation Plan, a Component of the City’s Community Development Block Grants and HOME Investment Partnerships Programs

WHEREAS the City of Charlottesville engages as a ‘participating jurisdiction’ (“PJ”) in the Community Development Block Grant (“CDBG”) & HOME Investment Partnerships (“HOME”) programs offered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) and in that

role is the periodic recipient of federal funds to support eligible community development, affordable housing and planning activities; and

WHEREAS the city's is called on by HUD to adopt a Citizen Participation Plan ("CPP") that sets forth the jurisdiction's policies and procedures that encourage broad and representative citizen participation in certain aspects of the development of HUD-funded programs, including CDBG and HOME; and

WHEREAS updates to the CPP and associated municipal code, at Chapter 2, Article XIII, can strengthen the City's work to address important community needs through meaningful citizen engagement with the CDBG and HOME programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, hereby approves the amended Citizen Participation Plan as presented here before us today.

b. PUBLIC HEARING and ORDINANCE to Amend and Reordain Article XIII of Chapter 2 of the Charlottesville City Code, 1990, as Amended, Relating to Community Planning and Development Grant Programs

On motion by Payne, seconded by Oschrin, Council by a vote of 5-0 (Ayes: Fleisher, Oschrin, Payne, Snook, Wade; Noes: None) approved the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REORDAIN ARTICLE XIII OF CHAPTER 2 (ADMINISTRATION) OF THE CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY CODE, 1990, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAMS

**14. PUBLIC HEARING and RESOLUTION for City Right-of-Way Agreement Execution
Dedicating an Easement to Dominion Energy**

Glenn Lee Cooper, Transportation Project Manager, presented the request for City Council to approve the execution of a Right-of-Way Agreement ("Agreement") resolution authorizing the dedication of an easement on City-owned property to Virginia Electric and Power Company, doing business in Virginia as Dominion Energy Virginia ("Dominion Energy") for the purpose of charging Battery Electric Buses ("BEB's") for City use in the Charlottesville Area Transit ("CAT") transit parking lot at 1545 Avon St Ext.

Mayor Wade opened the public hearing and with no speakers coming forward, the public hearing was closed.

On motion by Oschrin, seconded by Payne, Council by a vote of 5-0 (Ayes: Fleisher, Oschrin, Payne, Snook, Wade; Noes: None) approved the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION
Granting an Easement to Dominion Power to Enable Electrical Power Service to
Electric Charging Infrastructure**

WHEREAS, the City has the need to install Charlottesville Area Transit (CAT) transit bus chargers; and

WHEREAS, CAT buses will require access to electric charging infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Dominion Energy offers a program to support the City's fleet electrification initiatives by delivering and operating utility-owned charging infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the installation of electric charging infrastructure required the establishment of an easement to enable the provision of electrical service to the charging system; and

WHEREAS, City staff has worked with Dominion Power to verify the location, effectiveness, and practicality of the proposed easement and has concluded that these modifications are legitimate and necessary additions to the easement to enable Dominion to provide electrical service to the charging system; and

WHEREAS, the proposed easement is depicted in instrument 81-26-00300, which is enclosed for reference; and

WHEREAS, the electrical charging system will support the climate action initiative of electrifying the school bus fleet.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Charlottesville approves the existing easement provided to Dominion Power for the provision of electrical power service to the electrical charging system, located at 1545 Avon Street Ext.

15. RESOLUTION to appropriate \$320,000 in School Zone Photo Enforcement Revenue for FY2027

Sam Roman, Assistant City Manager, presented the request. In February 2023, City Council passed a resolution (#R-23-020) which approved the use of speed cameras on Monticello Avenue for the school zone near Summit Elementary and on Cherry Avenue for the school zones near Charlottesville Middle School and Tall Oaks Elementary. In August 2024, the City entered into a Photo Enforcement Services Agreement with American Traffic Solutions, Inc, doing business as Verra Mobility. The agreement provided several payment options for the services. It was the understanding of staff that the cost of the services would be budget-neutral in the sense that the revenues generated from enforcement would be equal to or exceed the cost of the equipment and service fees.

Krisy Hammill, Budget Director, provided financial information related to the appropriation request. Six cameras (two at each approved school zone) were installed and placed in service in October 2025. In November 2025, the City received an invoice for the month of October for \$25,504. The fees break down to \$4,250 a month for each camera and include some miscellaneous fees for the mailing of the notices. The original agreement provided multiple payment options but was silent as to which one had been selected. Upon receiving the invoice, staff reached out to the vendor to discuss the different options and requirements of each option. One of the options provided allows for the City to pay either the amount of the monthly invoice or the amount of enforcement revenue received, whichever is less.

From October 2025 through April 2026, \$177,125 in enforcement revenue was collected. After many attempts to discuss and reach agreement on the payment options with the vendor, a payment in the amount of \$177,125 was wired to the vendor on May 22, 2026. The photo enforcement revenue was not appropriated as part of the FY 2026 budget. Funds previously appropriated funds to the Citywide reserve account were used to pay the invoices. This resolution seeks to appropriate the enforcement revenue which will be used to pay the invoices anticipated for FY 2027.

The term of the Photo Enforcement Services Agreement with American Traffic Solutions, Inc, doing business as Verra Mobility is for 5 (five) years. The enforcement fees should cover a majority of the

equipment costs. However, as staff continues to work through the administrative requirements of the program, it is likely that funds in excess of the enforcement revenue will be needed.

On motion by Payne, seconded by Oschrein, Council by a vote of 5-0 (Ayes: Fleisher, Oschrein, Payne, Snook, Wade; Noes: None) approved the following resolution, waiving the second reading:

RESOLUTION

To Appropriate \$320,000 of School Zone Photo Enforcement Revenue for FY 2027

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Charlottesville passed a resolution (#R-23-020) on February 6, 2023 which approved the use of speed cameras on Monticello Avenue for the school zone near Summit Elementary and on Cherry Avenue for the school zones near Charlottesville Middle School and Tall Oaks Elementary; and

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville has entered into a Photo Enforcement Services Agreement with American Traffic Solutions, Inc, doing business as Verra Mobility;

WHEREAS, the City Council intends to use the revenue received from the enforcement services to help offset the cost of the equipment and other administrative costs;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that the sum of \$306,000 or the amount of revenue actually collected, whichever is more, during FY 2027 is hereby appropriated as follows:

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Cost Center</u>	<u>G/L Account</u>
\$320,000	105	TBD	440050
<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Cost Center</u>	<u>G/L Account</u>
\$320,000	105	TBD	530550

16. RESOLUTION Initiating a Referendum to Authorize Imposition of a Local General Retail Sales Tax Not to Exceed One Percent, the Proceeds of Which Would Be Used Solely for Capital Projects for the Construction or Renovation of Public Schools Serving the City of Charlottesville

City Attorney John Maddux summarized the resolution for consideration of whether City Council should adopt a resolution initiating a referendum on the question of whether the City should be authorized to impose a local general retail sales tax of up to one percent, with the revenues used solely for capital projects involving the construction or renovation of public schools serving the City.

On motion by Payne, seconded by Fleisher, Council by a vote of 5-0 (Ayes: Fleisher, Oschrein, Payne, Snook, Wade; Noes: none) approved the following resolution:

RESOLUTION INITIATING A REFERENDUM PURSUANT TO SECTION 58.1-605.1 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA TO AUTHORIZE IMPOSITION OF A LOCAL GENERAL RETAIL SALES TAX NOT TO EXCEED ONE PERCENT, THE PROCEEDS OF WHICH WOULD BE USED SOLELY FOR CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OR RENOVATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS SERVING THE CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE

WHEREAS, Section 58.1-605.1 of the Code of Virginia authorizes qualifying localities to levy a general retail sales tax at a rate not to exceed one percent to provide revenue solely for capital projects for the construction or renovation of schools; and

WHEREAS, revenues from any such tax may be used solely for capital projects for new construction or major renovation of schools, including bond and loan financing costs related to such construction or renovation; and

WHEREAS, such tax may be levied only if approved by referendum within the City, held in accordance with Virginia Code § 24.2-684 and initiated by resolution of the Charlottesville City Council; and

WHEREAS, the Charlottesville City Council desires to initiate such a referendum for the purposes set forth herein; and

WHEREAS, if approved by referendum and subsequently imposed by ordinance, any such tax shall expire on June 30, 2046; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to preserve the City's ability to use revenues from such tax to pay directly for eligible school construction or renovation projects, to pay bond or loan financing costs related to such projects, or to use any lawful combination of financing methods, provided that the tax shall expire on June 30, 2046.

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

1. The Charlottesville City Council hereby requests that the Circuit Court of the City of Charlottesville order and fix a referendum to be held in the City of Charlottesville on November 3, 2026, the date of the November 2026 general election, pursuant to Virginia Code §§ 24.2-684 and 58.1-605.1 on the issue of whether the City may levy a local general retail sales tax at a rate not to exceed one percent, the revenues of which shall be used solely for capital projects for the construction or renovation of public schools serving the City of Charlottesville.
2. Any tax approved by referendum and subsequently imposed by ordinance pursuant to Virginia Code § 58.1-605.1 shall expire on June 30, 2046.
3. Revenues from any such tax may be used solely for capital projects for the construction or renovation of schools serving the City of Charlottesville, including bond or loan financing costs related to such construction or renovation. To the extent revenues from such tax are used for bond or loan financing costs, the date by which such bonds or loans are to be repaid from revenues of the tax shall be June 30, 2046.
4. Nothing in this Resolution shall prohibit the City from using other legally available revenues or financing sources for school capital projects, provided that revenues from any tax approved by referendum and imposed pursuant to Virginia Code § 58.1-605.1 shall be used only as authorized by that section and shall not be collected after June 30, 2046.
5. The language to appear on the ballot on the referendum is proposed by the Charlottesville City Council to be as follows:

Shall the City of Charlottesville, Virginia be authorized to levy a local general retail sales tax at a rate not to exceed one percent (1%), the revenues of which shall be used solely for capital projects for the construction or renovation of public schools serving the City of Charlottesville, and which shall expire on June 30, 2046?

6. The City Attorney, City Manager, Clerk of Council, and such other appropriate officers and staff

of the City are authorized and directed to execute, deliver, and file all documents, pleadings, petitions, certificates, and instruments, and to take all further actions as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this Resolution. The City Attorney, City Manager, and Clerk of Council are further authorized to make non-substantive, conforming modifications to the proposed ballot question and related court filings as may be necessary to conform to the requirements of the Circuit Court, the State Board of Elections, the City Electoral Board, or the General Registrar, provided that the ballot question shall continue to state that the revenues from the tax shall be used solely for capital projects for the construction or renovation of schools and that the tax shall expire on June 30, 2046.

7. A copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded by the Clerk of Council to the Clerk of the Circuit Court for consideration and approval by the Court, if deemed to be in order, and for processing and publication in accordance with state law.
8. An attested copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded by the Clerk of Council to the Registrar and the Electoral Board of the City of Charlottesville.
9. The recitals to this Resolution are incorporated by reference and are declared to be findings of the Council in connection with its adoption of this Resolution.
10. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

17. BY MOTION: Appointment of Director of the Office of Police Civilian Oversight

Steve King, Assistant to the City Manager, requested appointment of James Walker as Director of the Office of Police Civilian Oversight. Mr. Sanders spoke in support of the work that Mr. Walker has achieved and helped to administer since the departure of the previous director. Mr. Walker made a few remarks.

On motion by Payne, seconded by Fleisher, Council by the following vote Appointed James Walker as Director of the Office of Police Civilian Oversight: 5-0 (Ayes: Fleisher, Oschrein, Payne, Snook, Wade; Noes: none).

GENERAL BUSINESS

18. WRITTEN REPORT: Rivanna Authorities Quarterly Update

Mayor Wade acknowledged receipt of the quarterly update from the Rivanna Authorities (Rivanna Solid Waste Authority and Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority).

COMMUNITY MATTERS (2)

Mayor Wade opened the floor for comments from the public.

- Gloria Beard, resident of the 10th & Page neighborhood, spoke about her experience living in Charlottesville. She expressed concerns about historically Black neighborhoods being negatively impacted by encroaching housing developments. She asked about respect for First Baptist Church and the neighborhood, with the recent decision to allow the building of a 7-story luxury student housing building.
- Carmelita Wood, city resident, spoke on behalf of the Fifeville Neighborhood Association about the approved high-rise luxury student housing building on 7th Street, and the negative impacts of student-focused and UVA-focused developments on existing neighborhoods.
- Amber Guskin, city resident, spoke in opposition to luxury student housing approved for the Fifeville neighborhood. She expressed concern that First Baptist Church and a broader spectrum of community members were not consulted for input about The Mark project.

- Deanna McDonald, city resident, spoke about an announcement today that the proposed food co-op cannot operate at 501 Cherry Avenue because of financial reasons related to the building design. She related the issue to systemic racism and the lack of programs and policies in place to dismantle systemic racism and hold developers accountable for helping.
- James Rogers, city resident, expressed concern about stories in local media, and he asked about the intended use of the emergency shelter at 2000 Holiday Drive and what a low or no barrier shelter means for the community, including whether such shelter would permit access to convicted sex offenders. He asked Council to keep in mind educating the broader community beyond those who attend public meetings.

City Manager Sanders provided additional context for the definition of an emergency shelter, and the scope of the capacity needed to address issues and provide resources to those in need.

- Sam Gulland, city resident, spoke in support of the city's decision to transition the Rivanna encampment, to help provide resources to people in need, and to restore the riverfront. He encouraged the city to protect public spaces and to reconsider passing an anti-camping ordinance.
- Lizzie suggested using \$24 Million to give housing to the unhoused community, using the police budget. She stated that the encampment residents have already been surveyed and need action.
- Io Long, city resident, asked Council not to remove the Free Bridge encampment until all individuals have a home to go to.
- Kagle McDonald, city resident, spoke about her observations of the impacts of the Rivanna encampment, and she spoke in support of the city's plans to relocate individuals in the encampment and provide services. She suggested the city provide guidance or a list of ways other residents can help.
- Wren Walker, city resident, spoke about people she knows who have become homeless. She requested the city take care of its residents, including individuals at the Free Bridge encampment, many of whom have fallen on hard times living in Charlottesville.
- Sarah Tansey, city resident, expressed concerns about Council's leadership and decisions that push people out of sight and traumatize Black and Brown neighborhoods.
- Jenny Ragsdale, city resident, spoke about the proposed Mark luxury student housing development and the lack of appropriate infrastructure to address the traffic. She expressed other concerns about the need to stop the project, including the church, the neighborhood and the history of Vinegar Hill, hoping Council would reconsider its decision to approve the project.
- Jim Snyder, city resident, spoke about the Virginia Liberty Bell at the Ridge Street Fire Station. He provided a handout of a letter that he sent to the Fire Marshal regarding access across 5th Street and 7th Street, particularly when blocked by a train. He expressed concerns about infrastructure needed to serve Fifeville and the Mark project and stated that the new zoning will limit the ability to enhance service at the train station.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Fleisher, seconded by Oschrein, Council by acclamation adjourned the meeting at 9:41 p.m.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council