



CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
October 19, 2026 at 4:00 PM
Council Chamber

The Charlottesville City Council met on Monday, October 19, 2026, Mayor Juandiego presiding. The meeting was called 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 Lloyd Snook. Councilor Michael Payne arrived during agenda approval.

On motion by Snook, seconded by Oschrein, Council by acclamation adopted the meeting agenda.

REPORTS

1. REPORT: Charlottesville Albemarle Regional Transit Authority Update

Ben Chambers, Transportation Planning Coordinator, presented an update on the Charlottesville Albemarle Regional Transit Authority.

In December 2024, the City of Charlottesville, Virginia ("City"), along with Albemarle County, Virginia ("County"), created the Charlottesville Albemarle Regional Transit Authority ("CARTA"). CARTA, enabled by 2009 state legislation, is able to coordinate regional transit expansion priorities and determine a future dedicated revenue source for regional transit services. Over the past year, CARTA, supported by staff from the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission ("TJPDC"), the City, and the County, has been reviewing existing transit services and plans to assess the scale of the region's transit needs and determine which priorities would benefit from additional regional funding. As CARTA concludes this study of potential future services, it is looking to clarify the role of CARTA in governing the implementation of those services and recommend changes to its enabling legislation to create a regional source of revenue.

CARTA's current Study of Regional Planning Priorities ("Study") reviewed plans from TJPDC, the former Regional Transit Partnership, CAT, Jaunt, the City, and the County, and documented a comprehensive range of options for transit service expansion. The Study identified opportunities for improvements in frequency and span of service for high-ridership fixed service routes, investments in commuter routes, stronger links to major regional destinations and employers like the University of Virginia, the Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport, and the Downtown Mall, and better connectivity across our urban, suburban, and rural communities. In addition to the existing plans for improvement to CAT services that should come online prior to 2030, this Study has identified approximately \$12 million worth of additional annual transit services that would be feasible to implement starting in 2031. The Study also identified additional aspirational investments beyond this initial set of transit expansions.

Before the City and the County can request changes to state legislation that could enable CARTA to serve as the vehicle for the kinds of investments identified in the prioritization study, CARTA will be working to answer what the role of CARTA will be in terms of governing regional transit decisions and identifying what opportunities could be available to set dedicated revenue for implementing them. The Study identified approximately \$12 million in regional transit priorities that could potentially be implemented beginning in 2031. The direct financial impact of these proposed transit service expansions on the City has not been determined yet, as revenue sources and the roles and responsibilities of regional partners, including CARTA itself, are still in the process of being identified.

CLOSED MEETING

On motion by Oschrein, seconded by Snook, Council voted 5-0 (Ayes: Fleisher, Oschrein, Payne,

Snook, Wade; Noes: none) to meet in closed session as authorized by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act:

1. Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) for discussion and consideration of the performance of specific appointees and pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(8) for consultation with legal counsel employed by the City Council regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel, specifically, CRHA governing board appointees and Council authority with respect to same; and
2. Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(7) for consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body. The specific matter to be discussed is SCC Case PUR-2026-00112; and
3. Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(8) 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, procedural requirements for certain matters on the City Council's agenda.

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 Fleisher announced a VDOT meeting on October 22 at Monticello High School to receive public input on multimodal improvements to Avon Street, with a public comment period open until November 2. She also announced an October 26 public meeting at Henley Middle School in Crozet, where Albemarle County will be sharing the preferred route for the Three Notch'd Trail.

Vice Mayor Oschrin announced: 1) VDOT STARS Studies surveys for roadway solutions; 2) the October eBike subsidy voucher application period open on the City's ConnectCharlottesville website; and 3) early voting options.

RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

- **PROCLAMATION:** Mayor Wade read the **Support Your Local Chamber of Commerce Day** proclamation.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

Mayor Wade opened the floor for comments from the public.

1. Elizabeth Smiley, Sister Cities Commission, provided a Besançon Delegation Trip Report.
2. Tom Oakley, city resident and Vietnam veteran, spoke about city parks development, particularly the difficulty of accessing the Dogwood Vietnam Memorial.
3. Mike Henrietta, city resident, requested that Council approve reinstallation of the Court Square enslavement auction block memorial marker.

4. Alicia Lenahan, Albemarle County resident, spoke about preserving core neighborhoods, and about forced economic displacement of working class and poor people in the face of urban renewal.
5. Heidi Dhivya Berthoud, city resident, spoke in favor of reinstallation of the Court Square enslavement auction block memorial plaque.
6. Richard H. “Freeman” Allan, Albemarle County resident, spoke in favor of reinstallation of the Court Square enslavement auction block memorial marker.
7. Bellamy Brown, city resident, asked Council to consider establishing a regular, predictable and transparent process for reviewing changes to the Charlottesville Development Code.
8. Casey Joeli, city resident, thanked Council for listening to resident comments regarding Stanley Martin Homes and issues with the development project at Azalea Springs. She expressed a need to figure out a solution for paper streets to meet the needs of landowners and will meet city environmental goals.
9. Frank Bechter, city resident, shared a story about two recent housing development meetings concerning which were spontaneously taken over by residents, and sparked a sense of pride in a long-time resident who expressed the importance of residents speaking up for change.

CONSENT AGENDA

Clerk of Council Kyna Thomas read the following Consent Agenda items into the record, and on motion by Oschrein, seconded by Snook, Council by the following vote Adopted the Consent Agenda, waiving the second reading for Item #6 resolutions: 5-0 (Ayes: Fleisher, Oschrein, Payne, Snook, Wade; Noes: none).

2. **ORDINANCE to renew Franchise Agreement for FiberLight, LLC**
AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A FRANCHISE TO FIBERLIGHT, LLC, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS TO USE THE STREETS AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA FOR ITS POLE, WIRES, CONDUITS, CABLES AND FIXTURES, FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE (5) YEARS
3. RESOLUTION to Appropriate the Victim Witness Grant - \$313,698 (layover)
4. RESOLUTION for Blue Ridge Health District Carryover Request - \$18,000 (layover)
5. RESOLUTION to appropriate funding from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development FY2027 Continuum of Care Capacity Building Funds - \$25,000 (layover)
6. Tonsler Fitness Court
 - a. RESOLUTION appropriating \$40,000 from National Fitness Campaign for Installation of an Outdoor Gym at Tonsler Park

RESOLUTION

Allocating Funds from National Fitness Campaign for Installation of an Outdoor Gym at Tonsler Park

WHEREAS, pursuant to Va. Code § 15.2-1806, the City of Charlottesville (the “City”), through the Department of Parks & Recreation, plans to build such a free outdoor gym at Tonsler Park with partial funding help through a \$40,000.00 grant awarded by National Fitness Campaign (“NFC”), a private-

public wellness initiative that builds and funds its trademarked outdoor Fitness Court® in the United States; and

WHEREAS, while the City has a fitness trail at Pen Park, it is not readily available to downtown residents. An outdoor gym at Tonsler would have equipment similar to an indoor gym, such as stationary bicycles and other workout apparatus; and

WHEREAS, NFC's grant requires (1) a Resolution of Adoption endorsed by the local governing body; (2) authorization to proceed documented by formal funding confirmation (commonly a purchase order); and (3) confirmation of a scheduled shipping date for NFC's outdoor gym and storage plans; and

WHEREAS, NFC's Grant Program Requirements ("GPR") milestones must be met to maintain funding eligibility, which includes confirmation of a remaining funding requirement of \$164,050.00. The City understands the scope of this project includes the installation of a concrete pad, as well as the assembly of NFC's outdoor gym, both to be completed by separate vendors external to NFC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville that a total of \$40,000.00 be appropriated in the following manner:

Revenues \$40,000.00

Fund: 209 Order: 1900742 G/L: 430110

Expenditures \$40,000.00

Fund: 209 Order: 1900742 G/L: 530550

- b. RESOLUTION Appropriating \$149,500 Land and Water Conservation Grant from the Virginia Department of Conservation Grant for Installation of Outdoor Gym at Tonsler Park

RESOLUTION

Allocating \$149,500 from Land and Water Conservation Grant from the Virginia Department of Conservation for Installation of Outdoor Gym at Tonsler Park

WHEREAS, pursuant to Va. Code § 15.2-1806, the City of Charlottesville (the "City"), through the Department of Parks & Recreation, plans to build such a free outdoor gym at Tonsler Park with partial funding help through a \$149,500.00 Land and Water Conservation Fund ("LWCF") grant through the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation; and

WHEREAS, the LWCF grant requires placing a permanent deed restriction on Tonsler Park to ensure the park remains open space for public recreation, and matching funds of \$149,500.00.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville that a total of \$149,500.00 from the LWCF grant be appropriated in the following manner:

Revenues \$149,500.00

Fund: 209 Order: 1900742 G/L: 430110

Expenditures \$149,500.00

Fund: 209 Order: 1900742 G/L: 530550

Transfer From

Grant Match Amount: \$149,500

Fund: 426 WBS Element: P-00777 G/L: 599999

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Mayor Wade acknowledged the City Manager Report in the agenda packet.

ACTION ITEMS

7. PUBLIC HEARING and RESOLUTION to Adopt Amendments to City Charter

City Attorney John Maddox presented the requested City Charter amendments.

Following clarifying questions from Council, the public hearing was opened. There being no speakers, the public hearing was closed and Council engaged in discussion.

On motion by Payne, seconded by Oschrein, Council by the following vote Approved the Resolution to Adopt Amendments to the City Charter: 5-0 (Ayes: Fleisher, Oschrein, Payne, Snook, Wade; Noes: none).

RESOLUTION

Requesting General Assembly Enactment of Amendments to the City Charter

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to update and clarify provisions of the Charter of the City of Charlottesville, as set forth in the proposed amendments attached to this resolution as Attachment A; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Code §§ 15.2-201 and 15.2-202 provide for a locality to request that the General Assembly amend its charter following an advertised public hearing; and

WHEREAS, City Council held an advertised public hearing on October 19, 2026 to receive public comment on the proposed amendments and has considered the comments received;

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

- Council approves the proposed Charter amendments set forth in Attachment A, which is incorporated into this resolution, and requests that the Virginia General Assembly enact the amendments during its 2027 regular session.
- The Clerk of Council is directed to transmit this resolution and the proposed amendments, together with the publisher's affidavit documenting the public hearing advertisement and certified copies of the minutes showing Council's action at the hearing, to the City's General Assembly delegation for introduction of the necessary legislation.
- The City Attorney is authorized to coordinate with the City's legislative delegation and the Division of Legislative Services in preparing legislation consistent with this resolution.

8. RESOLUTION to Initiate the Five (5)-Year Review to City's Comprehensive Plan and Report on Project Scope

Per Virginia State Code § 15.2-2230, each locality must review its Comprehensive Plan (“Comp Plan”) at least every five (5) years to determine whether it is advisable to amend the Comp Plan. While there have been several amendments to the City’s Comp Plan to date, it is best practice to complete a review of the Comp Plan every five (5) years and determine if additional changes are needed. Virginia Code § 15.2-2229 authorizes City Council to initiate Comp Plan Amendments by majority vote and to refer the same to the Planning Commission (“PC”) for review/recommendation.

Victoria Kanellopoulos, City Planner, provided an overview of the City’s draft process and approach for reviewing the City’s Comp Plan and Project objectives. The Comp Plan review is an opportunity to evaluate and respond to challenges, opportunities, and emerging issues that have been identified since the City adopted the updated Comp Plan in 2021. The Comp Plan review will be informed by feedback and expertise from City Staff, community members, the PC, and City Council, along with qualitative and quantitative data, State Code requirements, and best practices. This will include:

- Updating existing conditions data and trends;
- Incorporating any new State Code requirements;
- Alignment with City plans that have been completed since November 2021 and coordinating with in-progress plans that are moving in parallel;
- Evaluating strategies and priorities and where changes are needed; and
- Opportunities for community input and information-sharing throughout the process.

The community, PC, and City Council will be informed throughout the Project, and will be engaged at key points to ask for input and feedback. City Staff will provide regular Project status updates and share upcoming opportunities for engagement, including through a future Connect Charlottesville webpage. City Staff will also hold work sessions with both the PC and City Council and will share the PC's recommendations and feedback with City Council.

Councilors expressed a desire to have a robust public engagement and input process.

On motion by Fleisher, seconded by Oschrin, Council by the following vote Approved the Resolution to Initiate the Five (5)-Year Review to City's Comprehensive Plan and Report on Project Scope: 5-0 (Ayes: Fleisher, Oschrin, Payne, Snook, Wade; Noes: none).

RESOLUTION Initiating the Five (5)-Year Review to City’s Comprehensive Plan

WHEREAS, Virginia Code § 15.2-2230 requires that each locality review its Comprehensive Plan (“Comp Plan”) at least once every five (5) years to determine whether it is advisable to amend the Comp Plan; and

WHEREAS, In November 2021, City Council formally adopted the City’s Comp Plan, and since then, there have been several Amendments thereto, including adopting the Climate Action Plan and the Parks & Recreation Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, it is best practice to periodically review the Comp Plan informed by qualitative and quantitative data, Virginia Code requirements, best practices, City Staff expertise, community input, City Planning Commission (“PC”) feedback, and City Council direction; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable to have recommendations, goals, strategies, and policies that reflect the City's current priorities, policies, plans, and values, and that reflect current conditions and projected future growth and change; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Code § 15.2-2229 authorizes City Council to initiate Comp Plan Reviews and Amendments by majority vote and to refer the same to the PC for review/recommendation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by City Council as authorized by Virginia Code §§ 15.2-2229 and 15.2-2230, that City Council hereby initiates a review of the City's Comp Plan, and refers the same to the City's PC for review/recommendation.

9. RESOLUTION allowing the installation of a sign recognizing the sale of enslaved persons in Court Square

Michael Goddard, Interim Director of Neighborhood Development Services, summarized the request. A group of local residents identified as the Court Square Enslavement Memorial (CSEM) group requested that Council place a marker on a light post near to the building known as "0 Court Square" and that this marker should read, "Auction Block of Enslaved Persons; Early 1800s - 1865; Removed 1920s." The Historic Resources Committee ("HRC") submitted the following statement:

"Position On CSEM Plaque Proposal:

HRC concurs with the view that the brutal reality of sales of enslaved people in Charlottesville and Albemarle County must be kept alive in the collective memory. HRC is committed to fully, accurately, and formally disseminating the terrible legacy of Charlottesville's slave trade. We note, however, that the current CSEM proposal is not an historically accurate means to this end and may serve to limit the broader story of enslavement at Court Square. While HRC commends the wider intentions advocated by CSEM, we feel that the current proposal placed before Council would put forth inaccurate historical information.

Position On Accuracy:

No credible evidence has been identified or provided to support the concept that a dedicated slave auction block existed within the Courthouse Square vicinity. The apparent theory that an auction block ever existed began with circumstantial second-hand accounts compiled by Mary Rawlings in her 1942 book. No first-hand primary resource accounts have been identified that mention the presence of a slave auction block. Refer to Appendix B. Extensive research shows that enslaved individuals were sold in several locations including the Courthouse door and steps, neighborhood taverns, and private homes. No contemporaneous firsthand accounts have been found of enslaved individuals being sold on a platform or block of any kind specifically dedicated to this purpose. This finding led to the 2025 installation of a State historical marker noting that auctions occurred in several locations throughout Court Square.

Basis for Position:

This position is based on research undertaken by several professional and volunteer historians over the last quarter of a century. Prior to creating this statement, the HRC reviewed auction block commemoration efforts dating from the 1940s to the present day. HRC also reviewed original source material including newspaper articles and advertisements, oral histories, books, reports, and other primary and secondary source materials."

Staff concurred with findings and recommendations from the HRC.

Council engaged in discussion, and Vice Mayor Oschrein read the wording from existing historic marker

#Q-49, located in Court Square. In response to a question from Ms. Oschrein, Deputy City Manager James Freas stated that the process to stand up the Arts and Memorials Commission is expected to take until early 2027.

On motion by Snook, seconded by Oschrein, Council by the following vote Approved a substitute to the published resolution allowing the installation of a sign recognizing the sale of enslaved persons in Court Square: 5-0 (Ayes: Fleisher, Oschrein, Payne, Snook, Wade; Noes: none). The substitute motion became the main motion.

On motion by Snook, seconded by Fleisher, Council by the following vote Approved the following resolution to DENY the request for installation of a sign recognizing the sale of enslaved persons in Court Square: 5-0 (Ayes: Fleisher, Oschrein, Payne, Snook, Wade; Noes: none).

RESOLUTION
Denying Sign Request and Providing Direction Regarding Court Square
Historical Markers and Memorials

WHEREAS the Court Square Enslavement Memorial group (CSEM) has requested that the Charlottesville City Council authorize the installation of a sign near the building known as Number Nothing Court Square that would state “Auction Block of Enslaved Persons; Early 1800s – 1865; Removed 1920’s”; and

WHEREAS City Council has reviewed a report by the Historic Resources Committee, with its Appendices, materials submitted by the CSEM group, and the public comments made on the subject; and

WHEREAS City Council agrees with the conclusion of the Historic Resources Committee that the available historical evidence does not substantiate the claim that a dedicated auction block for the sale of enslaved people existed at the proposed marker location;

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

1. CSEM’s request that the City Council authorize the installation of the above-described marker is denied.
2. Consideration of any further historical markers or memorials in the Court Square area should be undertaken as part of a plan that will accurately reflect the square’s complete history, including the sale of enslaved people in and around the same.

10. ORDINANCE to Approve Construction Management at Risk Procedures (CMAR)

Bruce White, Capital Development Manager in Public Works, presented a recommendation for City Council to approve the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, Construction Management at Risk (CMAR) Procedures. CMAR is a construction delivery model alternative to the traditional public procurement model known as Design, Bid, and Build (“DBB”). When utilized on appropriate projects, CMAR provides better cost control, reduces the risk of change orders, and reduces unanticipated impacts during construction when compared to traditional DBB projects. CMAR is particularly well-suited to complex projects, because it integrates the experience and construction perspective of a contractor into the design development process.

The Virginia Public Procurement Act (“VPPA”) permits the use of CMAR by a public body in certain

instances and with certain prerequisites, including the adoption of written procedures for the selection, evaluation, and award of CMAR contracts. CMAR contracts have several features which increase the potential for project success. First, is the utilization of a rigorous competitive negotiation process for selection of the contractor. This allows the City of Charlottesville to select a contractor based upon a measured evaluation of the contractor's qualifications, in addition to anticipated cost. The second key factor is that the contractor is integrated into the project team during the schematic design phase of the project.

The contractor imparts a crucial constructability perspective during the development phase and becomes a critical partner in the project team - fostering accountability and ownership of the resultant project. Through contractor engagement at an early stage in the design process, ambiguities, errors, or omissions in the plans and specifications are resolved before the price for construction is established. Potential impact on timely completion and project cost is thereby minimized. The contractor can negotiate subcontracts during the pre-construction phase, thus allowing the contractor to present a Guaranteed Maximum Price based in part on agreed subcontract pricing, rather than estimated costs. Moreover, a more cooperative spirit is developed for the construction phase as the contractor gains a sense of ownership in the design by having actively contributed to it and by sharing responsibility for any errors or omissions. Achieving timely completion with reduced potential for change orders is therefore much more likely than under the traditional Competitive Sealed Bidding approach.

On motion by Natalie Oschrein, seconded by Jen Fleisher, Council by the following vote Approved the Resolution to Approve Construction Management at Risk Procedures (CMAR): 5-0 (Ayes: Fleisher, Oschrein, Payne, Snook, Wade; Noes: none). *Following consultation with the City Attorney's Office, Clerk Thomas confirmed a scrivener's error, wherein the item should have been labeled as an Ordinance. The corrected ordinance title is:*

ORDINANCE APPROVING CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT AT RISK PROCEDURES

11. RESOLUTION to Appropriate Revenue from Participation in Energy Load Reduction Program in the Amount of \$12,375.53 (layover)

Kirk Vizzier, Energy Management Coordinator, presented the appropriation request. In March 2025, the City of Charlottesville enrolled in the Emergency Load Response Program (ELRP) with PJM Interconnection, LLC (electric grid operator) as part of their demand response offerings. Through this program, the City of Charlottesville can earn revenue by temporarily reducing energy usage at participating sites/facilities to reduce the energy load on the PJM electric grid.

Krisy Hammill, Director of Budget and Grants Management, explained the financial procedures for accepting additional revenue funds from this program.

Council agreed to carry the item to the November 2, 2026, meeting for a second reading and vote.

12. RESOLUTION to Adopt the City Council 2027 Legislative Agenda

Steve King, Assistant to the City Manager, presented the City Council Legislative Priorities for 2027.

Councilor Snook stated that he was not in favor of Single Transferable Voting which will come with Ranked Choice voting listed in Tier 1.

Councilor Payne asked Council to consider attaching the Human Rights Commission recommendations regarding renter rights in Tier 2. Vice Mayor Oschrein explained why the recommendations were not included.

On motion by Oschrin, seconded by Fleisher, Council by the following vote Approved the Resolution to Adopt the City Council 2027 Legislative Agenda: 5-0 (Ayes: Fleisher, Oschrin, Payne, Snook, Wade; Noes: none).

RESOLUTION

Adopting the City of Charlottesville's 2027 Legislative Agenda

WHEREAS, City Council wishes to establish legislative priorities to guide the City's advocacy during the 2027 session of the Virginia General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, City Council's Legislative Committee has developed a tiered legislative agenda informed by recommendations from City departments, boards and commissions, and community partners;

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

1. City Council adopts the six-page document entitled "Proposed Legislative Priorities," attached as Exhibit A and incorporated into this resolution, including its Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 designations, as the City's 2027 Legislative Agenda.
2. The City Manager, or designee, in consultation with the City Attorney and in coordination with the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission's legislative liaison, is authorized to communicate and advocate for positions consistent with the adopted agenda, including through testimony, correspondence, and coordination with legislators, state agencies, and regional partners.
3. The City Manager shall transmit this resolution and the adopted agenda to the City's General Assembly delegation and the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission and provide City Council with updates on significant legislative developments.

Proposed Legislative Priorities

TIER 1

- *Planning & Zoning*
 - Delegate Special Exceptions Approval by amending § 15.2-2286 to allow governing bodies to delegate the authority to grant special exceptions to their Planning Commissions, rather than reserving that function exclusively to themselves.
 - Clarify Local Hardship Standards by modifying § 15.2-2286 to permit local jurisdictions to define through ordinance the conditions under which a "hardship" exists for zoning relief applications.
 - Modifying state law by broadening and clarifying the definition of "blighted property" for eminent domain purposes; Removing overly burdensome elements from the definition of "derelict" in the code; Increasing the tax penalties a locality can place on a blighted or derelict property; and expanding the penalties and fines authorized under the finding of a nuisance by a citizen-initiated special grand jury.
- *Transportation*
 - Advocate that the Virginia Department of Rail and Transportation's (DRPT) 'Commonwealth Corridor' plan to create an east-west passenger rail connection between

Charlottesville, Richmond, and Hampton Roads is included DPRT's 2026 Statewide Rail Plan. Advocate for state funding to implement DPRT's 'Commonwealth Corridor' plan.

- *Development/ADA*

- Enable ADA compliance by streamlining pole transfers and establishing a One Touch Make Ready process by amending Title 56 of the Code of Virginia to:
 - Require attaching entities to transfer facilities within 30 days after notice that a replacement pole is ready.
 - Establish expedited procedures when double poles affect ADA access, pedestrian safety, traffic operations, emergency response, or active infrastructure projects.
 - Direct the SCC to establish a coordinated One Touch Make Ready process allowing qualified contractors to perform eligible transfers for multiple entities.
 - Require pole owners to remove obsolete poles within 15 days after all attachments have been transferred, unless documented safety or engineering conditions prevent removal.
 - Require pole owners and attaching entities to maintain current contact information and use electronic notices for replacement-pole activity and outstanding transfers.
 - Authorize SCC enforcement for repeated or unreasonable failures to meet required timelines.
 - Allow localities to formally identify double poles affecting public safety or accessibility and request expedited resolution.
 - Clarify the process for correcting ADA or pedestrian accessibility conflicts by amending Title 56 of the Code of Virginia to:
 - Allow localities, after engineering or accessibility review, to formally designate utility facilities creating a documented ADA or pedestrian obstruction.
 - Require utilities to evaluate the obstruction and develop relocation or mitigation plans within defined timeframes.
 - Establish clear timelines for completing relocation when feasible.
 - Provide expedited procedures for priority locations such as intersections, curb ramps, accessible routes, transit stops, schools, government buildings, and documented pedestrian safety concerns.
 - Create an SCC coordination and escalation process when a locality and utility cannot agree on need, feasibility, schedule, or responsibility.
 - Establish reasonable standards for assigning financial responsibility, accounting for cases where facilities predate sidewalks and situations where utilities impede ADA compliance.
 - Allow relocation work to align with utility upgrades or capital projects when it reduces cost or disruption.
 - Require consideration of alternative relocation, consolidation, undergrounding where appropriate, or 2 facility modification before concluding a conflict cannot be resolved.

- *Taxes*
 - Amend § 58.1-3703.1(A)(4)(b) to clearly distinguish good-faith jurisdictional errors from fraud or failure to obtain a license. Under this amendment, when a taxpayer shows that they in good faith obtained a business license and paid the business license tax to the wrong Virginia locality, that mistake will not be treated as fraud or non-licensure. In such cases, the correct locality may assess and collect only:
 - The tax due for the current license year, and
 - The tax for the three preceding license years.
- *Elections*
 - Amend the Virginia State Code to specify that ranked-choice voting applies to all local offices, including school board elections

TIER 2

- *Planning & Zoning*
 - Enable “Housing Near Jobs” Zoning Reform by adding § 15.2-2286.2 to permit by-right multi-unit development in commercial zones statewide (as proposed in HB 816/SB 454).
 - Direct DHCD to study potential regulatory modifications to allow cost-effective elevators in residential midrise buildings that meet safety standards but are less costly than full commercial elevators, improving affordability in multi-unit construction.
 - Commission a General Assembly study on how state-level daycare licensure standards affect the viability of urban childcare centers, with the aim of identifying scalable, cost-effective licensing for facilities under 12 children in dense neighborhoods.
- *Transportation*
 - Extend the delegation of building-code enforcement for state-funded bus shelters by local officials until 2032.
- *Emergency Management*
 - Any legislation establishing a state grant fund for local emergency management planning, preparedness, and mitigation, consistent with VEMA’s 2027 platform.
 - Any measure that shifts VDEM core programmatic functions to the general fund or otherwise increases the agency’s pass-through of federal grant funding to cities and counties.
 - The funding mechanism recommended by the Emergency Management Needs Evaluation once it reaches the General Assembly.
- *Human Rights/Economic Security*
 - Increase and sustain funding for the State Rental Assistance Program, providing adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities the financial means to lease private market rental housing and the opportunity to choose where and with whom they live.

- Renew legislation protecting access to courthouses, schools, health care facilities, polling places, and other essential public institutions from civil immigration enforcement absent a valid judicial warrant.
- Increase and sustain state funding for deeply affordable housing, with particular attention to households with incomes below 30% of Area Median Income and those at greatest risk of housing instability and homelessness.
- Increase and sustain investment in the Virginia Housing Trust Fund, providing predictable and sustained resources for the creation, preservation, rehabilitation, and support of affordable housing.
- *Tax*
 - Preserving local administration of the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) and oppose any legislation that would transfer authority over TOT collection, enforcement, or revenue distribution from local governments to the Virginia Department of Taxation.
- *Health*
 - Request that the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) pursue an 1115 waiver amendment under the federal Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN) authority to add medical respite care as a reimbursable Medicaid service
 - Request that the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) explicitly include “medical respite” as an eligible use under both the Virginia Homeless Solutions Program (VHSP) and the Housing Trust Fund’s Homeless Reduction Grant (HTF-HRG).
- *Sustainability*
 - Allocate \$600,000 to support the operations of the Energy Resource Hub initiative for 3 years. This Charlottesville/Albemarle partnership aims to help community members improve the energy and water performance of their homes and businesses by assisting them in navigating and accessing local, state, federal, and utility program incentives.

TIER 3

- *Planning & Zoning*
 - Authorize a one-time appropriation for planning and initial construction of the World Heritage Trail connecting UVA and Monticello. This cultural infrastructure project would enhance pedestrian and heritage tourism, aligning with regional goals.
 - Clarify that if a demolition permit for a historic property is not granted and the owner elects to offer the property for sale for 12 months, after which they can proceed with the demolition, they must publicly advertise that the property is for sale.
 - Adjust Notice Requirements in Areas Without Daily Newspapers by amending § 15.2-2204 to allow alternate notice methods (e.g., digital publication or public posting) for jurisdictions where no daily-print newspaper exists.
- *Emergency Management*
 - Support for VEMA’s 2027 legislative platform, and for any legislation establishing a state grant fund for local emergency management planning, preparedness, and mitigation.

- Support for the funding mechanism recommended by the Emergency Management Needs Evaluation once that report is delivered to the General Assembly.
- *Human Rights/Economic Security*
 - Strengthen state support for preservation of existing affordable housing. State housing policy should prioritize preservation and rehabilitation of existing affordable properties, including subsidized properties at risk of conversion to market-rate housing, alongside the production of new affordable housing.
 - Amend and reenact Code of Virginia §§ 55.1-1258 and 55.1-1314 to prohibit retaliatory nonrenewal against all tenants who engage in legally protected activity.
 - Improve language accessibility to state agencies and public-facing state information. Establish and adequately fund consistent statewide standards for interpretation, translation of vital documents, and meaningful language access in state agencies, courts, schools, and other public programs and services.
- *Health*
 - Fund a full-time Tick Surveillance Coordinator position within the Virginia Department of Health, ensuring dedicated leadership and oversight of vector surveillance efforts statewide.
 - Allocate resources to modernize tick surveillance data systems
 - Provide recurring research funding
- *Sustainability*
 - Support data center reform legislation to minimize environmental impacts and reduce financial burden on ratepayers (e.g., building data disclosure, cost-share reform, transmission cost allocation).
 - Maintain the intent of the Virginia Clean Economy Act (VCEA), in particular in light of the Dominion/Next Era acquisition negotiations.
 - Support review of the methodology for allocating funding from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) to expand access beyond current eligible recipients.

GENERAL BUSINESS

13. PRESENTATION of the Social Services Advisory Board Annual Report

Cherry Stewart, Chair, presented the Social Services Advisory Board Annual Report. With changes at the Federal and State levels, the Board recommended additional personnel to support the work of Social Services. Councilors highlighted the negative local impacts from Federal changes.

Leon Henry, Director of Social Services, outlined the specific request for appropriate staffing and technology to implement the work requirements of the Department of Social Services.

14. WRITTEN REPORT: Land Use and Environmental Planning Committee Semi-Annual Report

The Land Use and Environmental Planning Committee Semi-Annual Report was received as a written-only report.

15. WRITTEN REPORT: Rivanna Authorities Quarterly Update

The Rivanna Authorities quarterly report was received as written-only.

COMMUNITY MATTERS (2)

Mayor Wade opened the floor for comments from the public. There were no speakers.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Fleisher, seconded by Oschrin, Council by acclamation adjourned the meeting at 9:24 p.m.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council