CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
August 3, 2026 at 4:00 PM
Council Chamber

The Charlottesville City Council met on Monday, August 3, 2026, Vice Mayor Natalie Oschrin presiding. The meeting was called to order, and Clerk of Council Kyna Thomas called the roll, noting the following councilors present: Vice Mayor Natalie Oschrin and Councilors Jen Fleisher and Lloyd Snook. Mayor Juandiego Wade gave prior notice of his absence, and Councilor Payne arrived as the first report began.

On motion by Fleisher, seconded by Snook, Council by a 3-0 vote approved the meeting agenda (Ayes: Fleisher, Oschrin, Snook; Noes: none; Absent: Payne, Wade).

REPORTS

1. REPORT: ANCHOR FY 26 Annual Report

Hunter Smith, Deputy Director of Human Services, presented the ANCHOR Annual Report for FY2026. The ANCHOR (Assisting with Navigation, Crisis Help, and Outreach Resources) Co-Response Team is a collaborative group of law enforcement officers, firefighters, medical professionals, and mental health professionals who work together to respond to calls involving individuals experiencing behavioral health crises. The team aims to de-escalate situations, assess needs, and connect people with appropriate services instead of resorting to arrest when possible. Launched in July 2024, ANCHOR's goals are to connect community members to stabilizing provider/s for long support and prevention services and engage in harm-reduction efforts. The Team, responding to calls for service that come into our community's 9-1-1 system, works to de-escalate and support residents who are in crisis to help provide support in the moment and prevent alternative options for resolution.

Notable achievements in year two of the ANCHOR Co-Response Team operation included successfully implementing a client record keeping system which allows team members to access up-to-date information on client interactions. It also provides real-time data that can be shared community wide. The team also attended the annual International Co-Responders Conference in Houston, Texas, to learn from experts and peers in this emerging field. ANCHOR operates Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The ANCHOR Team had 420 encounters and supported 241 unique clients, about 67% of encounters which were live responses to 911 calls for service, and about 20% were related to follow-up interactions post-incident.

Members of the ANCHOR team answered questions from City Council.

2. REPORT: Homeless Services Update

Assistant City Manager Samuel Roman provided an update of outreach activity over the past two weeks to connect individuals at the Rivanna encampment with resources and to address logistical issues such as cleanup of trash, and servicing of the dumpster, handwashing stations and portable restrooms. The City continues to take the lead on emergency shelter operations while collaborating with community partners and continuing the goal of opening 2000 Holiday Drive with a sustainable operating plan as close as possible to September 1, 2026. The internal communications team solidified a communications and engagement plan for businesses near Holiday Drive and City staff conducted business outreach visits today. Several online resources were created and are being updated to keep the public informed.

Misty Graves, Director of Human Services, and Councilor Jen Fleisher, who serve on the engagement team provided additional information to answer questions from Council. City Manager Samuel Sanders,

Jr., explained how funding of $7 Million appropriated by the State of Virginia budget will be placed on an upcoming City Council agenda for consideration of making a $3 Million contribution to the Salvation Army Center of Hope capital campaign, and leaving $4 Million with the City for transitional housing and workforce solutions for individuals who are unhoused.

CLOSED MEETING

On motion by Payne, seconded by Snook, Council voted 4-0 to meet in closed session as authorized by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, as follows:

1. 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, interlocal agreements pertaining to natural gas and water infrastructure.

On motion by Payne, seconded by Fleisher, Council certified by the following vote: 4-0 (Ayes: Fleisher, Oschrin, Payne, Snook; Noes: none; Absent: Wade), 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 Snook announced The Triangle of Hope project, of which three Charlottesville teenagers are participating. On Saturday, August 8 the showing of "Jonathan Daniels: " at Trinity Episcopal Church He provided background on each announcement.

Councilor Fleisher announced Loop de Ville on September 27, 2026.

Vice Mayor Oschrin announced the August 9 community walk in Fifeville, and the August 13 pop-up workshop about a traffic-calming proposal in Fifeville.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

1. Donnas Chambers, Free Bridge, spoke in opposition to the proposed shelter at Holiday Drive, and about the unhoused community living near Free Bridge, requesting help besides the proposed shelter for unhoused neighbors.
2. James McKinley-Oakes, city resident, spoke in support of the restoration of the historical marker at 0 Park Street and Jefferson Street memorializing the auction block for enslaved people. He asked that an item be placed on the August 17 City Council meeting agenda for a vote.
3. Andrew Gray, Albemarle County resident, spoke about the need to expand the housing supply to help neighbors facing homelessness and improve public safety.
4. Jamie Knorr, Co-founder of Village School, spoke in support of restoring Court Square signage memorializing the enslavement auction block, so that passersby can feel the full weight of history.
5. Isis Neumann, spoke about the City's role and approach to caring for people at the encampment near the Rivanna River. She expressed that moving campers by September 1 would place people in danger.
6. Heidi Dhivya Berthoud, city resident speaking for the Court Square Enslavement Memorial Group,

spoke in support of the restoration of the enslavement auction block historical marker at 0 Park Street and Jefferson Street.

7. Josh Epstein, city resident, spoke about the treatment of the unhoused community in Charlottesville, particularly inhabitants of the Rivanna/Free Bridge encampment who do not want to move into the emergency shelter on Holiday Drive. He suggested building housing.
8. Jennifer Grant, resident at the Free Bridge encampment, requested answers to questions and concerns expressed by herself and others who are considering moving to the Holiday Drive shelter. She requested that those working on the relocation effort listen to campers and provide answers.
9. Donna Tietjen, city resident, spoke about trauma in many people experiencing homelessness. Regarding city outreach, she expressed the need for a trauma-informed response and relationship building.
10. Mike Henrietta, city resident, spoke in support of the restoration of the historical marker in Court Square memorializing the auction block for enslaved people. He stated that his group will cover the cost.
11. Ann Cofflin, criminal law professor at UVA, spoke about the criminalization of people experiencing homelessness. She stated that the city is not providing enough notice to people before taking action to move them from the Rivanna encampment.
12. Genevieve Keller, city resident speaking for Preservation Piedmont, thanked Council for supporting the 801 West Street IPP (Individually Protected Property) item on the Consent Agenda, and she spoke about the gutting of Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, specifically referring to the razing of Vinegar Hill, negatively impacting Black and Brown neighbors. She stated that Section 106 is currently being rewritten without a consultative process.
13. Raimi Liebel, city resident, spoke about ineffective outreach efforts with the unhoused community at Free Bridge. She stated that Holiday Drive will not be a viable option for people in need of housing, by the September 1, 2026 deadline. She expressed a need for mental health resources.
14. Joshua Ballou, city resident, spoke about the encampment at the Rivanna Trail, the lack of security provided by the installed cameras, and about unkept promises.

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; Noes: none; Absent: Wade).

3. MINUTES: May 4, 2026 regular meeting

4. RESOLUTION appropriating funds for the Virginia Department of Education Special Nutrition Program Summer Food Service Program - $40,000 (2nd reading)

RESOLUTION
Appropriating up to $40,000.00 from the Virginia Department of Education Special Nutrition Program to Provide Free Meals to Children at Select After-school Centers

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville ("City"), through the Department of Parks & Recreation, has received approval for reimbursement up to $40,000.00 from the Virginia Department of Education Special Nutrition Program to provide free meals to children attending select drop-in after-school centers; and

WHEREAS, the grant award period spans June 15, 2026, through October 31, 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville ("City Council") that the sum of $40,000.00 received from the Virginia Department of Education Special Nutrition Program is hereby appropriated in the following manner:

Revenues $40,000.00

Fund: 209 Internal Order: 1900678 G/L: 430120

Expenditures $40,000.00

Fund: 209 Internal Order: 1900678 G/L: 530670

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this appropriation is conditioned upon the receipt of $40,000.00 from the Virginia Department of Education Special Nutrition Program.

5. ORDINANCE amending and reenacting Chapter 2, Article XV of the Code of the City of Charlottesville, the Charlottesville Human Rights Ordinance (2nd reading)

   AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REENACT SECTION 2-437.2 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE TO PERMIT THE CITY MANAGER OR THEIR DESIGNEE TO CONTRACT WITH THIRD PARTIES IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES TO CONDUCT SPECIFIED TASKS ON BEHALF OF THE OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND TO MAKE OTHER MINOR CHANGES

6. 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 (2nd reading)

   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

   WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, established the Charlottesville Affordable Housing Fund ("CAHF") Grant Program to provide financial support for community agency programs aiding in affordable housing and homelessness relief.

   NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that the sum of $425,000 be allocated from previously appropriated funds in the CAHF under Fund 426 Project: CP-084 to the Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority for South First Street Phase Two project.

7. ORDINANCE: 801 West Street; Zoning Text Amendment (Pl-26-0043), Designation of Individually Protected Property (2nd reading)

   ORDINANCE AMENDING AND REENACTING CHAPTER 34 (DEVELOPMENT CODE) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA, TO DESIGNATE 801 WEST STREET (TMP 310042000) AS AN INDIVIDUALLY PROTECTED PROPERTY

8. ORDINANCE: 801 West Street: Zoning Map Amendment (Pl-26-0042), Designation of Individually Protected Property (2nd reading)

   ORDINANCE AMENDING AND REENACTING THE ZONING MAP INCORPORATED WITHIN CHAPTER 34 OF THE CODE OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY OF

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CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA, TO DESIGNATE 801 WEST STREET (TMP 310042000) AS AN INDIVIDUALLY PROTECTED PROPERTY

9. RESOLUTION to Authorize $204,017 in additional funds for the Albemarle Charlottesville Regional Jail (layover)

10. RESOLUTION to appropriate Albemarle County Human Services funding to the Department of Human Services for the Community Attention Youth Internship Program for $63,000 (layover)

11. RESOLUTION to appropriate additional $45,330.18 from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS/HIV grant 25-HOPWA-303 (layover)

12. RESOLUTION for Compromise of Claim: Water and Wastewater Leak Credit for $13,074.68 for CRHA.

RESOLUTION
Approval of a Compromise of Claim in the Form of a Leak Credit of $13,074.68 for Water and Wastewater Charges to the Utility Account of "CRHA"

WHEREAS, the Director of Finance, City Attorney, and City Manager concur that circumstances associated with a leak at 801 Harris St. warrant a credit in the amount of $13,074.68 for water and wastewater charges, in accordance with City Code Sec. 11-132(4), City Council has the authority to grant such a compromise of claim;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that the Director of Finance is hereby authorized to apply a credit of $13,074.68 to the utility account of "CRHA".

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Budget Director Krisy Hammill confirmed the City received the highest credit ratings possible from Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investors Services. Moody's has rated Charlottesville "Aaa" since 1973 and Standard & Poor's has rated "AAA" since 1964. Ms. Hammill listed projects to be bonded by Series 2026 Bonds.

Deputy City Manager James Freas stated that the city continues to be in a drought watch status, and he requested that residents conserve water where possible to prevent restrictions should it be necessary to elevate to a drought warning.

City Manager Samuel Sanders, Jr., announced several community events, including back-to-school events and the Soul of Cville Festival.

ACTION ITEMS

13. PUBLIC HEARING and RESOLUTION for Approving a Lease of City-Owned Property located at 708 Page Street and a portion of City-Owned Property located at 210 8th Street NW to City of Promise, Inc.

Brenda Kelley, Downtown Strategy Manager, asked for approval of a lease agreement for City of Promise, for the use of City-owned property located at 708 Page Street and a portion of City-owned property located at 210 8th Street NW.

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

On motion by Fleisher, seconded by Snook, Council by a vote of 4-0 (Ayes: Fleisher, Oschrin, Payne, Snook; Noes: none; Absent: Wade) approved the following resolution:

RESOLUTION
Authorizing the Execution of a New Lease Agreement for City-owned Property Located at 708 Page Street and a Portion of Property Located at 210 8th Street NW to City of Promise, Inc. ("COP")

WHEREAS, COP desires to lease a certain City-owned property for a term of one (1) year, and with option for renewal of additional terms, and the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia ("City Council"), has considered the terms of the proposed new Lease Agreement, and has conducted a public hearing in accordance with the requirements of Virginia Code § 15.2-1800(B). NOW,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by City Council, that the new Lease Agreement for the use of City-owned property located at 708 Page Street and a portion of property located at 210 8th Street NW, Charlottesville, Virginia, to COP, presented to City Council this same date for consideration, is hereby APPROVED, and the City Manager is hereby authorized to execute the newly approved Lease Agreement on behalf of City Council.

14. RESOLUTION Authorizing Agreement with Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport Authority for Provision of Legal Services by City Attorney's Office

City Attorney John Maddux presented the request to approve an Agreement for Legal Services between the City of Charlottesville and the Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport Authority. The City Attorney's Office has provided legal services to the Airport Authority for many years. Based on the records currently available, however, that arrangement does not appear to have been formalized in a written agreement. In addition, the compensation paid to the City for those services has not been updated in many years, if ever. The proposed agreement formalizes the existing relationship and establishes the scope of services, compensation, responsibilities of the parties, and procedures for addressing conflicts of interest, outside counsel, amendments, and termination.

The agreement provides a clear and current framework for a longstanding relationship between the City Attorney's Office and the Airport Authority. It defines the legal services included within the arrangement and updates the compensation paid to the City to better reflect the scope and value of those services.

Under the agreement, the City Attorney's Office will provide general legal services concerning matters such as governance, public meetings and records, contracts, procurement, leases, real estate, employment, regulatory compliance, negotiations, claims, and routine operational matters. The agreement does not require the City to assign a particular attorney or provide a dedicated attorney to the Authority. The City Attorney will retain responsibility for assigning personnel and allocating office resources, and Authority matters will not take priority over City matters.

Certain services are excluded from the annual fee, including litigation, bond counsel and public-finance services, specialized federal aviation work, complex labor or employment matters, and other matters requiring specialized outside expertise. The Authority will be responsible for retaining and paying outside counsel when necessary. The agreement also addresses potential conflicts between the City and the Authority.

The City Attorney's Office will not represent the Authority in a matter adverse to the City and may

decline, limit, or withdraw from representation when required by law or applicable professional obligations. This arrangement allows the Authority to continue benefiting from the City Attorney's Office's institutional knowledge while protecting the City's ability to manage staffing, workload, conflicts, and outside-counsel needs.

On motion by Payne, seconded by Fleisher, Council by a vote of 4-0 (Ayes: Fleisher, Oschrin, Payne, Snook; Noes: none; Absent: Wade) approved the following resolution:

RESOLUTION
Approving an Agreement for Legal Services Between the City of Charlottesville and the Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport

WHEREAS, Charlottesville City Attorney's Office currently provides legal services to the Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport Authority; and

WHEREAS, the City and the Authority desire to formalize that arrangement and establish the scope of services to be provided, the compensation to be paid to the City, and the other terms governing the representation; and

WHEREAS, City Council finds that continuation of this arrangement is in the best interests of the City and the Authority;

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

1. The Agreement for Legal Services between the City of Charlottesville and the Charlottesville-Albemarle Airport Authority is hereby approved in substantially the form presented to City Council.

2. The Mayor is authorized to execute the Agreement on behalf of the City, following approval as to form by the City Attorney, with such minor or technical revisions as the City Attorney determines are necessary and consistent with this Resolution.

3. The Agreement shall be effective as of July 1, 2026, as provided in the Agreement, and City Council hereby ratifies the continuation of legal services provided to the Authority on and after that date pending execution of the Agreement.

15. RESOLUTION to Authorize the Allocation of Up To $4 Million for Emergency Sheltering Services and Direct to Housing Initiatives in Collaboration with the Department of Human Services

Samuel Sanders, Jr., City Manager, presented a request for appropriation of funds from the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Contingency Fund to address one-time expenditures for homeless intervention services to include emergency sheltering and direct-to-housing supports. He stated that CASS (Central Arizona Shelter Services) has been identified as the entity to manage the low barrier shelter based on their experience and expertise to tailor a program to Charlottesville's needs; however, no contract has been issued.

Councilor Payne requested a future work session to review mental health resources, including Region Ten.

On motion by Fleisher, seconded by Payne, Council by a vote of 4-0 (Ayes: Fleisher, Oschrin, Payne, Snook; Noes: none; Absent: Wade) approved the following Resolution, waiving the second reading:

RESOLUTION
To Appropriate $4,000,000 from the Capital Improvement Program Contingency Fund to be used for Homeless Intervention Services to include Emergency Sheltering and Direct to Housing Supports

WHEREAS per the City of Charlottesville's financial policy, year-end surpluses from the City's General Fund are transferred to the CIP contingency Fund where they accumulate until appropriated by the City Council for expenditure; and

WHEREAS the City Manager has made a recommendation and request to allocate a portion of the contingency funds to address one-time expenditures that have not previously been appropriated; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that the sum of $4,000,000 is hereby allocated from currently appropriated funds in the CIP Contingency Fund to be used for homeless intervention services to include emergency sheltering and direct to housing supports.:

Transfer from:

$4,000,000 Fund: 426 WBS Element: CP-080 GL Code: 599999

Transfer to:

$4,000,000 Fund: 426 WBS Element: P-01163 GL Code: 599999

COMMUNITY MATTERS (2)

- Lydia Brunk, county resident, asked about Council and staff motivations toward community members who come before them to share their needs. She stated that unhoused people are asking to not be displaced.
- Flores, county resident, spoke about helping people who live at the Free Bridge encampment, and asked about the plan that will be in place for unhoused individuals should the shelter not be ready by the September 1 deadline to move from the encampment. They asked for transparency, truthfulness, and creating better relationships.
- Cooke Harvey, city resident, stated that a two-party political system prevents forward movement as a united people.
- Lizzy M, city resident, requested that Council give housing, possibly tiny house villages, to people instead of paying a company to run a shelter.
- Laura Sirgany, city resident, expressed concerns about the September 1 deadline for moving from the Free Bridge/Rivanna encampment. She questioned how the information gathered from a community needs assessment will be used.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Snook, seconded by Fleisher, Council by acclamation adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

BY Order of City Council BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council

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