



CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 17, 2025 at 4:00 PM
Council Chamber

The Charlottesville City Council held a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 17, 2025. 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 Brian Pinkston, and Councilors Natalie Oschrin and Michael Payne. Having established a physical quorum, Council considered a request from Councilor Snook to participate electronically. Pursuant to Council's adopted procedures and in compliance with the Virginia Freedom of Information statute for meeting participation through electronic communication means, Mr. Snook stated that he was participating from Ypsilanti, Michigan, while visiting family. On motion by Payne, seconded by Pinkston, Council voted 4-0 to approve electronic participation by Councilor Snook (Ayes: Oschrin, Payne, Pinkston, Wade; Noes: none).

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Oschrin, Council unanimously approved the meeting agenda.

REPORTS

1. REPORT: Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Riaan Anthony, Director of Parks and Recreation, thanked the community for engagement throughout the Parks and Recreation Master Plan development process, and he thanked staff who were involved in the development process. Mr. Anthony introduced Mike Svez, Principal Project Manager with PROS Consulting, who presented the Charlottesville Parks and Recreation Master Plan, provided an overview of the development process, and answered councilor questions. He stated that the population number used in the Plan is based on data provided by the University of Virginia's Weldon Cooper Center, and that the service area will continue to become more diverse. Plan documents were made available for viewing on the city website at <https://www.charlottesville.gov/1742/Parks-Recreation>.

CLOSED MEETING

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Payne, Council voted 5-0 (Ayes: Oschrin, Payne, Pinkston, Snook, Wade; Noes: none) to meet in closed session as authorized by Section 2.2-3712 of the Virginia Code, specifically Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) for discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, and/or of the disposition of publicly held real property where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Payne, Council certified by a vote of 5-0 (Ayes: Oschrin, Payne, Pinkston, 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

Mayor Wade encouraged businesses to provide feedback by completing the Office of Development's 2025 City of Charlottesville Business Survey. The survey was made available on the City website at: www.charlottesville.gov/econdev.

Councilor Snook announced an event on Saturday, March 22, 2025, at 3:00 p.m., when the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and the City of Charlottesville will unveil a state historical marker at the site of the Carver Inn at the 700 block of Preston Avenue. During the era of segregation, the inn was listed in the Green Book, a national guide to facilities that welcomed African American travelers. It was among the few hotels in central Virginia where they could stay. In addition to lodging, the Carver Inn offered fine dining, a private social club, and a beauty salon. The inn was razed in the 1970s to widen Preston Avenue. The new marker was funded by the City's Historic Preservation Committee. Following the unveiling (at approximately 3:30 p.m.), Preservation Piedmont will host a viewing of a documentary film featuring the Carver Inn in the Swanson Room at the Central Library (201 East Market Street). The room honors Gregory Swanson, the first African American attendee at the University of Virginia. Mr. Swanson resided at the Carver Inn after his successful lawsuit to gain admission to the graduate law program.

RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

- Councilor Oschrin read a proclamation in recognition of Women's History Month.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

Mayor Wade opened the floor for comments from the public.

1. Bill Emory, city resident, spoke about challenges with and opportunities for stormwater and bicycle-pedestrian infrastructure.
2. Lisa Costello, city resident, stated that a donor paid for the grave marker for Dave Yancey, to be moved from Hartman's Memorial, where it was held for 50 years, to Mr. Yancey's place of internment at Oakwood Cemetery. Mr. Yancey was an African-American World War II veteran, and a ceremony is being planned by the local Veterans of Foreign Wars.

CONSENT AGENDA

Clerk Thomas read the following Consent Agenda items into the record, and on motion by Pinkston, seconded by Payne, Council unanimously adopted the Consent Agenda, moving Item #4 to be discussed during the Action Item agenda (Ayes: Oschrin, Payne, Pinkston, Snook, Wade; Noes: none).

2. MINUTES: March 4 regular meeting; March 6 budget work session
3. RESOLUTION to appropriate funding from the FY24 State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) Grant for Albemarle Charlottesville Regional Jail - \$9,036 (2nd reading)

RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING FUNDS

State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) Grant for 2024 reimbursement \$9,036

WHEREAS, the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) grant, providing federal payments for correctional officer salary costs incurred for incarcerating certain undocumented criminals has been awarded the City of Charlottesville, on behalf of the Albemarle-Charlottesville Regional Jail, in the amount of \$9,036.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia that a total of \$7,048.08 be appropriated and passed through to the Albemarle-Charlottesville Regional Jail and \$1,987.92 be appropriated and passed through to Justice Benefits, Inc.

Revenues

\$9,036 Fund: 211 Internal Order: 1900587 G/L Account: 431110

Expenses

\$7,048.08 Fund: 211 Internal Order: 1900587 G/L Account: 530550

\$1,987.92 Fund: 211 Internal Order: 1900587 G/L Account: 530670

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this appropriation is conditioned upon the receipt of \$9,036 from the U. S. Bureau of Justice Assistance.

4. RESOLUTION considering a Critical Slope Special Exception request for 1115 St. Charles Court

At the request of Councilor Payne, this item was moved from the Consent Agenda to the end of the Action Items for discussion.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

- WRITTEN REPORT - City Manager's Report
- REPORT - Bennett's Village Update: Kara McClurken, President and co-founder of Bennett’s Village presented an update on Bennett’s Village and invited the community to a “Party in the Park” celebration on April 27 at Pen Park from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- REPORT - Botanical Garden Update: Jill Trischman-Marks, Executive Director, presented the 2023-2024 Botanical Garden of the Piedmont Annual Report. She also brought concerns about water to irrigate the gardens and about requests in the land lease agreement.

ACTION ITEMS

5. PUBLIC HEARING and RESOLUTION for Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan Adoption (layover)

Riaan Anthony, Director of Parks and Recreation, referenced the presentation from the 4:00 p.m. work session and introduced Mike Svetz, Project Manager with PROS Consulting, who provided a summary of the Charlottesville Parks and Recreation Master Plan, including public engagement, goals of the Plan, outcomes, and relation to other city plans.

Mayor Wade opened the public hearing.

- Jackie Temkin, business owner in the city, stated concerns about data in the Plan not aligning with recommendations. She also stated that the Plan does not address partnership concerns – specifically access and support for girls’ and women’s sports, and socioeconomic equity.
- Alene Carey, spoke in support of garden space at Booker T. Washington Park. She also stated that the potential installation of a dog park is unwanted by neighbors and current park users.
- Gabe Silver, Rivanna River Company, spoke about water and river access as a priority according to surveys to enhance tourism and quality of life. He expressed concern about river corridor planning being further delayed instead of having concrete specific action plans.

With no additional speakers coming forward, Mayor Wade closed the public hearing.

Staff answered Council questions and addressed concerns about river access, partnerships, and equity in

parks and recreation access. Deputy City Manager Ashley Marshall stated that the Department of Parks and Recreation passed an internal equity audit.

Council unanimously agreed to lay the item over to the April 7 Action Agenda for a second reading and vote.

6. PUBLIC HEARING and RESOLUTION for the 2025 ReadyKids Accessible Play Program, a Substantial Amendment in the Amount of \$50,000 (CDBG-CV & CDBG) (Adopted, waiving the second reading)

Anthony Warn, Office of Community Solutions Grants Analyst, summarized the request and introduced Amy Troyer with ReadyKids. The request was for reprogramming of funds previously appropriated to mitigate issues related to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Ms. Troyer described the project, which would correct and improve physical barriers to accessibility and inclusivity.

Mayor Wade opened the public hearing. With no speakers coming forward, Mayor Wade closed the public hearing.

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Oschrin, Council unanimously approved the resolution (Ayes: Oschrin, Payne, Pinkston, Snook, Wade; Noes: none).

Resolution to Approve the 2025 ReadyKids Accessible Play Project and to Appropriate Associated Community Development Block Grant Funds, a Substantial Amendment, in the Amount of \$50,000

WHEREAS the City of Charlottesville has been recognized as an entitlement community by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) and, as such, City Council has previously approved certain sums of federal grant receipts to support the city’s Community Development Block Grant (“CDBG”) Fund; and

WHEREAS the City now has the opportunity to provide essential financial support to one of Charlottesville's oldest youth-serving nonprofits, ReadyKids, to make possible the creation of a welcoming and accessible play space for their clients and an inviting accessible outdoor waiting area for caregivers while children are receiving their services; and

WHEREAS this project will support Council’s Strategic Plan Framework vision of strengthening partnerships between Charlottesville and its youth services partners like ReadyKids, its commitment to providing a broad and well-integrated set of educational opportunities, and its support for increasing access to outdoor and recreational opportunities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that the proposed project as presented here today before Council is approved and that the Office of Community Solutions is hereby authorized to begin work to implement said program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in support of this program, appropriations made to the following expenditure account(s) in the CDBG Fund be amended by the respective amounts shown below and that the balance accumulated in the Fund as a result of these adjustments be hereby appropriated to the revenue account(s) indicated below, as follows:

<i>Fund</i>	<i>SAP Expenditure Account(s)</i>	<i>Proposed Reduction(s)</i>
218	Cost Center #3914004000 (CDBG-CV)	-7,224.38
218	Cost Center #3914004000 (CDBG)	-22,336.12
218	Order #1900527	-20,439.50
Subtotal, Reductions =		-50,000.00

<i>Fund</i>	<i>SAP Revenue Account(s)</i>	<i>SAP Order #</i>	<i>Proposed Addition(s)</i>
218	FY25 ReadyKids Accessible Play PY24+ CDBG-CV	1900589	\$7,224.38
218	FY25 ReadyKids Accessible Play PY24+ CDBG	1900591	\$42,775.62
Subtotal, Additions =			\$50,000.00

To this end, the City Manager, the Director of Finance, and public officers to whom any responsibility is delegated by the City Manager pursuant to City Code Section 2-147 are authorized to establish administrative procedures and provide for guidance and assistance in the execution of the funded program.

Additionally, as the funds to be appropriated in support of this activity have been previously awarded to the City by HUD in prior program years and have also previously been appropriated by Council in support of approved CDBG activities, this proposal does not involve the appropriation of any new funds from the City’s general budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any unspent funds available after the approved activity is completed and closed out with HUD will hereby be returned to the unallocated lump sum account within Fund 218 to be reallocated to suitable new activities by Council at a later date.

FINALLY, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the funding award appropriated within this resolution will be provided as a grant to a private non-profit, charitable organization (“subrecipient”) and shall be utilized by the subrecipient solely for the purpose(s) stated within their approved Scope of Work. The City Manager is hereby authorized to enter into a funding agreement with the subrecipient named herein as deemed advisable to ensure that all grant funds are expended for their intended purposes and in accordance with applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

7. ORDINANCE amending and reordaining Sections 19-91 and 19-94 of Article IV of Chapter 19 of the City Code Regarding Public Safety Disability Eligibility

Jason Vandever, City Treasurer, presented the request to amend and reordain sections of the City Code. The recommendation was approved by the Retirement Commission.

On motion by Snook, seconded by Payne, Council unanimously approved the ordinance (Ayes: Oschrin, Payne, Pinkston, Snook, Wade; Noes: none).

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND REORDAINING SECTIONS 19-91 AND 19-94 OF ARTICLE IV OF CHAPTER 19 AND AMENDING AND REORDAINING SECTION 19-151, 19-152, 19-154, AND 19-156 OF ARTICLE VI OF CHAPTER 19 OF THE CITY CODE OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, 1990, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO CHANGES TO THE RETIREMENT PLAN AND PUBLIC SAFETY DISABILITY RETIREMENT

8. ORDINANCE to reauthorize and amend Ordinance (#O-24-098) and its corresponding Memorandum of Agreement authorizing a grant of public funding to subsidize the Sixth Street Redevelopment Project of the Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority (Adopted, waiving 2nd reading)

Antoine Williams, Housing Program Manager, presented the request. On August 5, 2024, Charlottesville City Council approved an Ordinance (#O-24-098), authorizing a \$3 million grant to the Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority (CRHA) for its Sixth Street Redevelopment Project Phase One Redevelopment Project. The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) executed alongside the ordinance outlined the terms and conditions of funding, including pre-disbursement conditions, compliance reporting, and project milestones. Under the terms of the agreement, financial closing and construction were initially scheduled to commence by December 1, 2024, with an option for CRHA to request a one-time extension if delays were anticipated. However, construction did not commence by the deadline, and no formal extension request was submitted within the required timeframe. Under the terms of the agreement, the agreement became void at the point when this deadline passed.

Following internal reviews, City staff identified challenges in compliance tracking, coordination, and milestone adherence that necessitate updates to the MOA. Discussions with CRHA and its development team on February 14, 2025, confirmed that adjustments to project timelines and compliance mechanisms are needed to ensure the project's success. To enhance oversight, strengthen reporting structures, and provide more transparent accountability, staff recommend reauthorizing the ordinance with amendments to ensure a more structured path forward for both CRHA and City staff.

On motion by Payne, seconded by Pinkston, Council by a vote of 5-0 adopted the following ordinance, waiving the second reading (Ayes: Oschrin, Payne, Pinkston, Snook, Wade; Noes: none).

ORDINANCE AMENDING AND REAUTHORIZING ORDINANCE (#O-24-098) AUTHORIZING A GRANT OF PUBLIC FUNDING TO SUBSIDIZE THE SIXTH STREET PHASE ONE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT OF CHARLOTTESVILLE REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY

9. RESOLUTION for award of FY25 Charlottesville Affordable Housing Fund Grant funding (layover)

Antoine Williams, Housing Program Manager, introduced the request and noted a clerical correction to the resolution, updating the total allocation to \$788,000 of \$823,000 previously appropriated funds, leaving a difference of \$35,000 for allocation at Council discretion. The City's Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (FY25) budget included funding for the Charlottesville Affordable Housing Fund (CAHF). A Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) was issued on August 19, 2024, announcing timelines and the amount of funding available for the CAHF Grant program. The notice specified \$823,000 available for CAHF with an application period of October 21, 2024, through November 22, 2024. The CAHF Committee recommendations for FY25 CAHF allocations were presented to City Council, who unanimously agreed to lay the item over to the April 7 consent agenda for a second reading and vote.

10. RESOLUTION authorizing the execution of an Agreement for Provision of Animal Shelter Services with the Charlottesville Albemarle Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (CASPCA)

Deputy City Manager Eden Ratliff presented the request. The City of Charlottesville has an agreement with the Charlottesville-Albemarle SPCA for the provision of services to lost stray, stranded, and surrendered animals within the city. The SPCA terminated that agreement in March 2024 which kicked off a year of negotiations between the CA-SPCA, Albemarle County, and the City of Charlottesville, to see if terms

could be reached for a new agreement. The CA-SPCA provides services that the City is required by law to ensure they are provided as well as other services deemed beneficial to the community.

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

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia that this Council hereby authorizes the City Manager or his designee to execute the following document, in a form approved by the City Attorney:

AGREEMENT FOR THE PROVISION OF ANIMAL SHELTER SERVICES is made as of this 17th day of March, 2025, by and among the CHARLOTTESVILLE-ALBEMARLE SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (the “SPCA”), a Virginia nonstock corporation (SCC No. 00115279), located at 3355 Berkmar Drive, Charlottesville, Virginia; the COUNTY OF ALBEMARLE, VIRGINIA (the “County”), a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia; and the CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA, a body politic and corporate (the “City”, and together with the SPCA and the County, the “Parties”).

11. BY MOTION Confidential Settlement Agreement

On motion by Snook, seconded by Payne, Council by a vote of 5-0 approved a confidential settlement agreement (Ayes: Oschrin, Payne, Pinkston, Snook, Wade; Noes: none).

4. RESOLUTION considering a Critical Slope Special Exception request for 1115 St. Charles Court

This item was moved from the Consent Agenda at the request of Councilor Payne. Matt Alfele, City Planner, answered a question for Councilor Payne regarding rights of the critical slope special exception.

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING A REQUEST FOR A CRITICAL SLOPES SPECIAL EXCEPTION FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1115 ST. CHARLES COURT

WHEREAS, Matthew Morrill (“Landowner”) is the current owner of a lot identified on 2025 City Tax Map 48A as Parcel 41B08 (City Parcel Identification No. 48A041B08), having an area of approximately 0.17 acres (7,200 square feet); (“Subject Property”); and

WHEREAS, the Landowner wishes to install a retaining wall, patio, and accessory shed 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-24-0107 (“Application”), as required by City Development Code § 34-5.2.16.B.2 (collectively, "Application Materials"); and

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville Planning Commission (“PC”) made a recommendation of approval at its February 25, 2025 Public Meeting per City Development Code § 34-5.2.16.C.3.

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 § 34-5.2.16.D, this City Council finds and determines that granting the proposed Critical Slopes Special Exception would serve the public necessity, convenience, general welfare, or good zoning practice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by City Council, pursuant to City Development §§ 34-4.10.1.D and 34-5.2.16, a Critical Slopes Special Exception is hereby approved and granted to authorize the Project and permit installation of a retaining wall, patio, and accessory shed consistent with the Application Materials for the Subject Property.

COMMUNITY MATTERS (2)

Mayor Wade opened the floor for comments from the public. No speakers came forward.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Pinkston, seconded by Oschrin, Council voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council

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