



CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
July 21, 2025 at 4:00 PM
Council Chamber

The Charlottesville City Council held a regular meeting on Monday, July 21, 2025. Vice Mayor Brian Pinkston called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m., and Clerk of Council Kyna Thomas called the roll, noting the following councilors present: Vice Mayor Brian Pinkston and Councilors Natalie Oschrin and Michael Payne. Mayor Juandiego Wade gave prior notice of his absence because of travel, and Councilor Lloyd Snook requested to participate electronically because of a personal matter. With a physical quorum established in Council Chamber, councilors considered Mr. Snook's request, and he confirmed his participation from Basye, Virginia, while on vacation.

On motion by Oschrin, seconded by Payne, Council by a vote of 3-0 approved electronic participation by Councilor Snook pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3708.3.

On motion by Payne, seconded by Oschrin, Council by a vote of 4-0 adopted the meeting agenda.

REPORTS

1. PRESENTATION: Transit Service Scenarios for FY27

Garland Williams, Director of Transit, introduced his senior leadership team and consultants from Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates, Inc. He then began the presentation on the Charlottesville Area Transit System Optimization Plan: Proposal Updates, providing an overview of service history and current service levels, which have not yet reached pre-Covid levels. The City's adopted Transit Strategic Plan calls for a range of service improvements over time, including expansion in service hours, increased frequency of service for many routes, and the re-introduction of Sunday service for certain routes. These service improvements will require the City to hire additional drivers and support staff, increasing the cost of operations. Strong community interest in making these investments over the last couple of budget cycles prompted staff to explore the cost of significantly advancing service improvements identified in the Strategic Plan.

Jim Baker, Senior Principal with Nelson Nygaard reviewed the System Optimization Plan (2022) and service enhancement scenarios.

Greg Nordin, Principal with Nelson\Nygaard provided a Title VI policy review and Council (Board) requirements. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 provides that "No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." Title VI is the foundation for US transit agencies to demonstrate their services do not discriminate against minority and low-income populations.

Councilors asked questions and engaged in discussion.

CLOSED MEETING

On motion by Payne, seconded by Oschrin, Council voted unanimously to convene in a closed meeting as authorized by:

- (1) Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(7) for consultation with legal counsel pertaining to actual litigation where such consultation would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body, specifically, *White v. City of Charlottesville*;

- (2) Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(8) for consultation with legal counsel for specific legal advice pertaining to matters involving the City's zoning ordinance; and
- (3) Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) for discussion and consideration of prospective candidates to be appointed to the Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority (CRHA).

On motion by Payne, seconded by Snook, Council voted 4-0 to certify the closed meeting (Ayes: Oschrin, Payne, Pinkston, Snook; Noes: none; Absent: Wade).

BUSINESS SESSION

The business session of the meeting began with a moment of silence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice Mayor Pinkston announced the July 26 African American Cultural Arts Festival (Chihamba Festival) at Jackson P. Burley Middle School.

On motion by Payne, seconded by Oschrin, Council by a vote of 4-0 (Ayes: Oschrin, Payne, Pinkston, Snook; Noes: none; Absent: Wade) appointed Lise Clavel and Gillet Rosenblith to the Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority.

COMMUNITY MATTERS

Mr. Pinkston opened the floor for comments from the public.

1. Gordon Hair, member of the Ben Hair Just Swim for Life Foundation, spoke about the program's aim at helping to decrease incidences of drowning by teaching swim lessons to target demographics.
2. Kim Basile-Wood, member of the Ben Hair Just Swim for Life Foundation, spoke about the program. She stated that 17 of 20 local pools are privately owned and she requested help with access to the Crow Pool.
3. Alicia Lenahan, county resident, spoke about ongoing concerns about how City leadership is managing immediate threats and preparing for those that are coming for undocumented immigrants. She shared a handout with City Council with a template resolution condemning non-transparent federal immigration enforcement.
4. Emily Kingsley, city resident, spoke about immigrant rights and requested that the city pass the resolution that was proposed by Alicia Lenahan.
5. Malva Managan, swim instructor for the Ben Hair Just Swim for Life Foundation, spoke about her experience with teaching swim lessons and water safety.
6. Kevin Cox, city resident, spoke about a recent incident during which he chalk-painted a city street. He presented an envelope of cash to the City Manager, stating that it covered his debt to the city of \$607. Mr. Pinkston handed the envelope to the Clerk of Council.
7. Alex Joiner, local transit rider and city resident, thanked Council for identifying transit as a priority. He reiterated data from the county and recent presentations.
8. Allison Webb, county resident and retired public health professional, listed previous benefits no longer available to immigrants.
9. Rory Stolzenberg, city resident, spoke about the transit presentation given during the 4:00 p.m. work session. He refuted information shared regarding service levels, Title VI and funding tied to ridership.

CONSENT AGENDA

Clerk Thomas read the following Consent Agenda items into the record, and on motion by Snook, seconded by Oschrin, Council unanimously adopted the Consent Agenda (Ayes: Oschrin, Payne, Pinkston, Snook; Noes: none; Absent: Wade).

- 2. RESOLUTION to Appropriate Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services - Victims of Crime Act Grant in the amount of \$123,600 (2nd reading)

RESOLUTION

Appropriation of Charlottesville Student Victim Outreach Program Department of Criminal Justice Services Victim of Crimes Act Grant in the amount of \$123,600

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville has been awarded \$123,600 from the Department of Criminal Justice Services;

WHEREAS, this award requires a 20% match in the amount of \$30,900;

WHEREAS, the funds will be used to support Evergreen, a program operated by the Department of Human Services. The grant award covers the period from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia that a total of \$123,600 is hereby appropriated in the following manner:

Revenues - \$154,500

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| \$123,600 | Fund: 209 | Cost Center: 3413018000 | G/L Account: 431110 |
| \$30,900 | Fund: 209 | Cost Center: 3413018000 | G/L Account: 498010 |

Expenses- 154,500

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| \$150,372 | Fund: 209 | Cost Center: 3413018000 | G/L Account: 519999 |
| \$4,128 | Fund: 209 | Cost Center: 3413018000 | G/L Account: 599999 |

Transfer From

| | | | |
|----------|-----------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| \$30,900 | Fund: 209 | Cost Center: 3413003000 | G/L Account: 561209 |
|----------|-----------|-------------------------|---------------------|

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this appropriation is conditioned upon the receipt of \$123,600 from the Department of Criminal Justice Services.

- 3. ORDINANCE Regarding an Easement to Dominion Energy for Undergrounding of Electrical Equipment at Pen Park and Quarry Road (2nd reading)

ORDINANCE

GRANTING AN EASEMENT TO DOMINION ENERGY FOR THE UNDERGROUNDING OF ELECTRIC POWER EQUIPMENT

WHEREAS Dominion Energy Virginia (“Dominion Energy”) has a Strategic Underground Program that includes a system-wide initiative to shorten power restoration times following major storms; and

WHEREAS said initiative identifies overhead electric distribution lines and above ground equipment known to be susceptible to damage due to severe weather; and

WHEREAS Dominion Energy is requesting a permanent easement to relocate overhead power service and maintain a replacement underground power service located on City of Charlottesville, Virginia (“City”), property located at Pen Park, parcel numbers 48B002000 and 48B001000, and Quarry Park, parcel number 600255000; and

WHEREAS placement of the existing overhead electric equipment underground will not adversely affect current use or future planned use of the properties; and

WHEREAS pursuant to Virginia Code § 15.2-1800, cities are authorized to grant easements over, through, under, or across any City property; and

WHEREAS the proposed easement is depicted on plats entitled Work Request No. 10684276 and Work Request No. 10750577, which are attached for reference and made a part fully hereof; and

WHEREAS on July 7, 2025, after due notice as required by Virginia § 15.2-1800(B), this City Council conducted a Public Hearing on the requested easement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that the mayor is hereby authorized to execute a Right-of-Way Agreement, in a form approved by the City Attorney, or their designee, granting the above-described easement to Dominion Energy.

4. RESOLUTION to Appropriate Additional Funds for Emmet Street Corridor Streetscape Project - \$1,436,519 (layover)

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Inez Gonzalez, Director of the Police Civilian Oversight Board (PCOB) and James Walker, Management Analyst, presented an overview of the PCOB Annual Report.

Councilor Payne requested that the city manager schedule a work session with PCOB stakeholders and City Council. Ms. Gonzalez agreed about the need for a focused work session.

City Manager Sanders added context to the 4:00 p.m. transit presentation and described next steps to inform the August 15-16 Council retreat.

ACTION ITEMS

5. **PUBLIC HEARING and 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 \$38,000,000, 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

Kristina Hammill, Director of Budget and Grants Management, presented the request, stating that the bonds have been part of the Capital Improvement Plan for years. She stated that the City continues to hold

a bond rating of AAA.

Vice Mayor Pinkston opened the public hearing. With no speakers coming forward, the public hearing was closed.

On motion by Payne, seconded by Oschrin, Council by a vote of 4-0 approved the **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 \$38,000,000, 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.**

6. RESOLUTION Appropriating Funds for Federal Transit Operations and Capital Grants - \$6,666,809 (layover)

Garland Williams, Director of Transit, presented the appropriation request and announced that a public hearing will be held on August 4 as part of the second reading. The funds will be used to purchase vehicles and for operating assistance. Council agreed unanimously to lay the item over to the August 4, 2025, Action Items for a public hearing and vote.

7. RESOLUTION initiating amendment and referring adoption of the 2024 Development Code (Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances) to the Planning Commission for review and recommendation

Matt Alfele, Development Planning Manager, presented the staff recommendation to initiate the process for re-adoption of the Development Code if the need arises.

On motion by Oschrin, seconded by Payne, Council by a vote of 4-0 approved the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

Initiating Amendment and Referring adoption of the 2024 Development Code (Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances) to the Planning Commission for review and recommendation

WHEREAS, Cville Plans Together was a multi-year, equity-focused effort to shape the City of Charlottesville, Virginia’s (“City”), future of the built environment; and

WHEREAS, following extensive civic outreach and public participation, Cville Plans Together produced an Affordable Housing Plan (adopted by City Council in March 2021), a new Comprehensive Plan (adopted by City Council in November 2021), and, finally, a Development Code that directly implements the recommendations of both the Affordable Housing Plan and the Comprehensive Plan, and encompasses updated Zoning and Subdivision regulations; and

WHEREAS, on December 18, 2023, City Council adopted the Development Code (“2024 Development Code”); and

WHEREAS, on January 14, 2024, in the Circuit Court for the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, in a case styled *White, et al. v. City of Charlottesville, et al.*, several City residents, arguing the City did not gather or consider required information prior to adoption, filed a lawsuit challenging the City’s 2024 Development Code; and

WHEREAS, on June 30, 2025, the Honorable Claude V. Worrell, II, granted a default judgment in *White* after the City’s outside counsel failed to respond to the Plaintiff’s Amended Complaint by the required deadline; and

WHEREAS, Judge Worrell’s ruling, when officially implemented via the execution of a forthcoming Order, invalidated the 2024 Development Code, ostensibly leaving the City with no current Zoning or Subdivision rules or regulations, or reversion to the repealed 2003 Development Code; and

WHEREAS, because the Court’s decision did not dispose of the case on the merits, if necessary, the City may re-adopt the voided 2024 Development Code; and

WHEREAS, § 15.2-2286(A)(7), Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, provides, in pertinent part, that “[w]henver the public necessity, convenience, general welfare, or good zoning practice requires, the governing body may by ordinance amend, supplement, or change the regulations, district boundaries, or classifications of property” and that “[a]ny such amendment may be initiated (i) by resolution of the governing body” or “by motion of the local planning commission;” and

WHEREAS, § 15.2-2285(A), Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, provides, in pertinent part, “[t]he planning commission of each locality may, and at the direction of the governing body shall, prepare a proposed zoning ordinance including a map or maps showing the division of the territory into districts and a text setting forth the regulations applying in each district,” and “[u]pon the completion of its work, the commission shall present the proposed ordinance or amendment including the district maps to the governing body together with its recommendations and appropriate explanatory materials;” and

WHEREAS, § 15.2-2285(B), Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, provides, in pertinent part, “[n]o zoning ordinance shall be amended or reenacted unless the governing body has referred the proposed amendment or reenactment to the local planning commission for its recommendations;” and

WHEREAS, while the City pursues legal recourse, out of an abundance of caution, City Staff proposes initiating re-adoption of the 2024 Development Code so that, if necessary, the City can move with all possible haste to re-adopt the 20024 Development Code.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville that the amendment and reenactment of the 2024 Development Code is hereby initiated pursuant to § 15.2-2286(A)(7) and §§ 15.2-2285(A) and (B), Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the 2024 Development Code incorporating the amended Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances is hereby referred to the City’s Planning Commission for its review and recommendations, and to be scheduled for a Public Hearing. Based on the Planning Commission’s deliberations and input received during the Public Hearing process, the Planning Commission shall report its findings and recommendations to City Council within one hundred (100) days after its first Regular Meeting following the adoption of this Resolution.

8. Amending the FY 2026 Budget Ordinance to Provide the City Manager Authority to Reallocate Funds Appropriated for the Office of Community Solutions

City Manager Sanders informed Council that effective July 1 he closed the Office of Community Solutions and re-distributed the staff to other office and departments citywide with a desire to right-size, right-fit, and reorganize operations. He also renamed the Budget Department to the Office of Budget and Grants Management. The reallocation of funds to follow staff to their respective new departments was needed since the FY26 City Budget was already adopted.

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

RESOLUTION

Amending the FY 2026 Budget Ordinance to Provide the City Manager Authority to Reallocate Funds Appropriated for the Office of Community Solutions

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Charlottesville, VA adopted an ordinance on April 14, 2026, setting a budget for FY 2026 (“the Budget Ordinance”); and

WHEREAS, the Budget Ordinance allocated funds for the Office of Community Solutions (“OCS”) which has now been closed by the City Manager; and

WHEREAS, the staff and duties of OCS have been reassigned to other departments or offices within the organization;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia that the FY 2026 Budget Ordinance is hereby amended to include the following provision:

The City Council further ordains that the City Manager is authorized to reallocate appropriations from the Office of Community Solutions (“OCS”) to other City departments or offices that have assumed the responsibilities or personnel of OCS, provided that such reallocations do not increase the overall appropriation and are reported to City Council in periodic financial reports.

GENERAL BUSINESS

9. WRITTEN REPORT: Rivanna Authorities Quarterly Report

Councilor Payne asked for an update on the Rivanna Authorities public emergency alert system. Mr. Sanders described the system as a proactive measure to notify people within the footprint of the Sugar Hollow Dam in the event of catastrophic failure of the dam or during extreme rain and flooding events.

10. WRITTEN REPORT: Sister Cities Commission Annual Report

Mr. Sanders and Council congratulated the Sister Cities Commission for hosting a recent Gospel Choir delegation visit from Besancon, and encouraged attendance at additional events involving the group.

COMMUNITY MATTERS (2)

Vice Mayor Pinkston opened the floor for comments from the public.

- Rory Stolzenberg, city resident, stated that Council should request from consultants a menu of optional FY27 transit services.

On motion by Oschrin, seconded by Snook, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council

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