



## CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 26, 2026 at 6:00 PM

CitySpace: 100 5th St NE, Charlottesville, VA 22902

The Charlottesville City Council held a special meeting on Thursday, March 26, 2026, to discuss budget development for Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27), particularly the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Mayor Juandiego Wade called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and Clerk of Council Kyna Thomas called the roll, noting all councilors present: Mayor Juandiego Wade, Vice Mayor Natalie Oschrein, and Councilors Jen Fleisher, Michael Payne and Lloyd Snook. Mr. Wade turned the meeting over to City Manager Samuel Sanders, Jr. and Director of Budget and Grants Management, Kristina Hammill.

Mr. Sanders indicated that this meeting was programmed for discussion of the CIP, and the agenda for the April 2<sup>nd</sup> proposed special meeting date is up to Council discretion for budget topics should they choose to meet. Ms. Hammill led a discussion based on the following agenda and Councilors asked clarifying questions throughout the presentation:

- CIP 5-Year Summary
  - Education Projects
  - Facilities Projects
  - Public Safety Projects
  - Transportation and Access Projects
  - Parks and Recreation Projects
  - Affordable Housing Projects
  - Technology Infrastructure and Total Projects
- CIP Revenues
- Debt Projection
- 1% Sales Tax for School Construction
- CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) Applications Summary

Ms. Hammill previewed upcoming meetings, including opportunities for public input and the official Budget Public Hearing scheduled for April 6 during the regular City Council meeting.

Mayor Wade opened the floor for speakers from the public and Zyahna Bryant, city resident, spoke about funding needed for schools. She encouraged Council to ask questions to the School Board and to approve the full funding request in the FY27 Adopted School Board Budget.

Councilors discussed options for decreasing the proposed 2% real estate tax increase and for potentially changing the Charlottesville City Code ordinance that requires City Council to adopt a City Budget by April 15.

Councilors agreed to provide feedback to the City Manager on individual preferences for use of Council Strategic Initiatives Fund or other funds by Monday, March 30, in preparation for the April 2 budget work session. Several councilors mentioned the need for additional staffing to address housing issues and they discussed the potential for participatory budgeting.

On motion by Snook, seconded by Oschrein, Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council