



CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 10, 2026 at 4:00 PM

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

The Charlottesville City Council held a special meeting on Wednesday, June 10, 2026, to receive a presentation from the Charlottesville Early Learning Center (ELC) Workgroup outlining a proposed vision for the Early Learning Center. Vice Mayor Oschrein called the meeting to order, and Clerk of Council Kyna Thomas called the roll, noting the following councilors present: Vice Mayor Natalie Oschrein and councilors Jen Fleisher, Michael Payne and Lloyd Snook. Mayor Juandiego Wade gave prior notice of his absence while traveling with a local delegation on the Southern Pilgrimage tour.

Vice Mayor Oschrein called for a moment of silence in honor of a member of the unhoused community who was found dead at the Freebridge encampment site. She acknowledged that the police are conducting an investigation. Following the moment of silence, the vice mayor turned the meeting over to the Deputy City Manager James Freas, who stated that the last time City Council discussed the ELC with the Charlottesville School Board was August 2025.

Michael Goddard, Deputy Director of Public Works, made a presentation showing existing conditions of the Walker Upper Elementary School site and three design proposals for the Charlottesville ELC.

Mr. Freas expressed concern about the cost of Scheme B. He noted the desire to make efficient use of existing school space and to recognize the need for flexibility, considering the full portfolio of school upgrades and rehabilitation needed over time.

Council and staff engaged in discussion and expressed a desire to follow legislation that may allow a referendum for a 1% sales tax to fund school capital improvements.

When asked about the possibility of holding public hearings in preparation for a potential tax referendum, City Attorney John Maddux advised that authority has not yet been given by the State.

Krisy Hammill, Director of Budget and Grants Management, confirmed that \$34,000,000 is earmarked in the City Budget for the ELC project.

Miranda Densky, VMDO Architects, explained variations between Schemes A and C in response to a question from Vice Mayor Oschrein.

Councilor Oschrein asked what steps would be required to add housing options to the designs. Mr. Goddard stated that it would be challenging to incorporate housing in the design; however, it would be possible to discuss in the future. Mr. Freas further explained complexities of housing considerations.

Responding to Councilor Fleisher, City Attorney Maddux confirmed that the Oak Lawn site will not be used for the Early Learning Center.

Staff recommended moving forward with Scheme C, which would require a new budget request of \$17 Million to provide the full \$51 Million project cost. Councilors were generally in agreement with moving forward with Scheme C. Mr. Goddard stated that he presented the options to the School Board last week and they were also in favor of Scheme C.

Councilors provided recent updates on the respective boards and committees on which they serve, and other activities.

- Snook: Jail Board, Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority(RWSA) Board, Rivanna Sewer and Water Authority (RSWA) Board, Historic Resources Committee
- Payne: Local Energy Alliance Program (LEAP), Housing Advisory Committee, Charlottesville Regional Housing Authority (CRHA), Regional Housing Partnership, Kindlewood Advisory Committee, Rivanna River Basin Commission, Finance Committee, Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission
- Fleisher: Jefferson Area Community Criminal Justice Board, Social Services Advisory Board
- Oschrin: NACTO Conference, eBike Demo during Bike Month, Planning and Development Workgroup Chamber2Chamber trip to Chapel Hill, Charlottesville Albemarle Regional Transit Authority (CARTA), Rose Hill Neighborhood Association meeting, Bike & Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Charlottesville Scholarship Program

On motion by Snook, seconded by Fleisher, Council by a vote of 4-0 adjourned the meeting at 5:28 p.m.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council