

CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL
BUDGET WORK SESSION
April 7, 2022 at 6:00 PM
Virtual/electronic meeting via Zoom

The Charlottesville City Council met in an electronic meeting on Thursday, April 7, 2022, in accordance with a local ordinance amended and re-enacted on March 7, 2022, to ensure continuity of government and prevent the spread of disease during the coronavirus State of Emergency. Mayor Lloyd Snook called the meeting to order, noting all councilors present: Mayor Lloyd Snook, Vice Mayor Juandiego Wade, and Councilors Sena Magill, Michael Payne and Brian Pinkston.

WORK SESSION

Mayor Snook provided a summary of decision points for Council and the process that councilors used to provide budget feedback to the City Manager.

Interim City Manager Michael Rogers summarized the City Manager Proposed FY2023 Budget and subsequent adjustments throughout the budget development process.

Krisy Hammill, Senior Budget and Management Analyst, reviewed potential Capital Improvement Plan amendments and funding scenarios including:

- School reconfiguration project
- Stribling Avenue sidewalk
- Meadowcreek trail - Section 3
- Piedmont Housing Alliance – Monticello Area Community Action Agency (MACAA) apartments
- Piedmont Housing Alliance – Park Street apartments

Several of these projects would not have an impact on the FY2023 budget but have been discussed by Council. Ms. Hammill answered questions for Council and walked them through a spreadsheet for decision points, and Council went line by line to achieve consensus.

Commissioner of the Revenue Todd Divers and Deputy City Managers Sam Sanders and Ashley Marshall answered questions for Council. Mr. Sanders discussed additional capacity needs to address areas that Council identified as priorities such as climate action, housing, and project management in Public Works - Engineering.

Following up on a budget request Mr. Rogers provided an update on the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center (JSAAHC) lease with the Jefferson School Foundation. He stated that the JSAAHC lease renewal is scheduled for November and that it was set up as a five-year lease with a five-year renewal option with the Foundation. In addition to the 2023 allocation, a decision would need to be made on whether to commit to support for a five-year lease or allow for the option. He recommended funding in FY 2023 and allowing time to work through the mechanics of future support.

Councilors individually voiced their postures on tax rates for real estate, personal property, lodging and meals.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Snook opened the floor for comments from the public.

1. Bill Emory, city resident, spoke in support of increased funding for tree planting. He questioned where to locate a map for affordable housing units from consultants HR&A. As part of the FY2023 Capital Improvement Plan, he stated that Small Area Plans are not receiving enough funding.
2. Maddy Green, city resident, spoke in support of reimbursing the Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority (CRHA) for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes program. She spoke in support of CRHA housing services and recommended a line item for redevelopment of public housing as well as funding the Affordable Housing Plan and increasing the Charlottesville Supplemental Rental Assistance Program payment standard. She supported increasing the real estate tax.
3. Vikki Bravo, city resident representing IMPACT (Interfaith Movement Promoting Action by Congregations Together), spoke in support of additional funding for the Charlottesville Affordable Housing Fund.
4. Brad Slocum, commuter to Charlottesville, suggested removing funds from the police budget to fund other areas of the city budget. He spoke in support of tax increases to fund tree planting and other items related to climate change.
5. Louis Mitler, city resident, spoke about the increasing unaffordability of his residence, and requested that the City relax the asset requirement for seniors to receive real estate tax relief. He requested that \$3 Million be placed in the Charlottesville Affordable Housing Fund for new development of affordable housing so that seniors will have affordable options in the city.
6. Greg Weaver, city resident, spoke in support of the funds going towards Transit. He shared support for comments made by Mr. Slocum during public comment and Mr. Payne earlier in the meeting.
7. Benjamin Heller spoke about the cost of school construction and asked Council to drill down to evaluate estimated costs.

Mr. Rogers summarized next steps and the meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council