

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
April 13, 2021
Virtual/electronic meeting via Zoom

5:30 PM SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Virginia Code §15.2-1417, the Charlottesville City Council held a special meeting on Tuesday, April 13, 2021, to conduct business related to tax relief, tax levy and the FY2022 budget. The meeting was held electronically in accordance with local ordinance #O-21-026, amended and re-enacted February 16, 2021, to ensure continuity of government and prevent the spread of disease during the coronavirus State of Emergency.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Walker called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Nikuyah Walker, Vice Mayor Sena Magill, and Councilors Heather Hill, Michael Payne, and Lloyd Snook.

ACTION ITEMS

1. RESOLUTION: Establishing 2021 tax year Personal Property Tax Relief Percentage

Todd Divers, Commissioner of the Revenue, provided a brief summary of the resolution.

On motion by Councilor Hill, seconded by Councilor Snook, Council by a vote of 5-0 (Ayes: Hill, Magill, Payne, Snook, Walker; Noes: none) ADOPTED the following resolution:

RESOLUTION
Establishing 2021 Tax Year Tax Relief Percentage

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia that the personal property tax relief percentage on up to \$20,000 value for vehicles valued over \$1,000 is set at 40% for tax year 2021.

2. ORDINANCE: Tax Rate/Tax Levy Ordinance for Calendar Year 2021 (2nd reading)

City Manager Chip Boyles provided a brief summary.

On motion by Councilor Hill, seconded by Councilor Snook, Council by a vote of 5-0 (Ayes: Hill, Magill, Payne, Snook, Walker; Noes: none) ADOPTED the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH THE ANNUAL TAX LEVY ON VARIOUS CLASSES OF PROPERTY FOR THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST AND RETIREMENT OF THE CITY DEBT, FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT AND CITY SCHOOLS, AND FOR OTHER PUBLIC PURPOSES.

3. RESOLUTION: FY 2022 Budget Adoption and Appropriation of Funds (2nd reading)

City Manager Boyles introduced the item, advising that Council would need to reach agreement on allotted amounts to include for Council in the City Budget.

Mayor Walker indicated that she sent a budget for \$10,000 on April 12.

Vice Mayor Magill shared that she submitted an itemized budget to Clerk Thomas for the \$1000 per Councilor previously discussed.

Other Councilors did not submit individual budget proposals.

Councilor Hill voiced the desire for Council to act as a body as much as possible with public funds. She shared that if it is decided that discretionary funds would be allotted, then she would be comfortable with amounts of \$500 for “Meetings and Events – food/refreshments”, \$250 for “Meetings and Events Other”, and \$250 for “Constituent Communications and Outreach”, with Council being able to address other needs as they arise.

Councilor Snook advised that his preference would be to not allocate funds for discretionary spending by Council but agreed to the allotted amounts proposed by staff.

Vice Mayor Magill expressed interest in starting the use of discretionary funds based on staff recommendations for line items.

Councilor Payne indicated no strong preference on a dollar amount so long as spending was within State guidelines.

Council reached agreement on \$1000 discretionary funding per Councilor as discussed and line items as presented, totaling \$5000 from the Council Strategic Initiatives Fund.

Mayor Walker made comments about having a more inclusive process going forward and having a system for ranking staff requests. She added comments about the changing of the ABRT process to Vibrant Community Fund and that the system was not working as quickly as she hoped in the interest of citizens. She added that the Council budget should include funds for items that the Councilors individually want to handle. She advised that with limited funding for Council engagement, she would like to see more community engagement from staff and that there is a need to review compensation for people who participate on City boards and commissions.

On motion by Councilor Hill, seconded by Councilor Snook, Council by a vote of 4-1 (Ayes: Hill, Magill, Payne, Snook; Noes: Walker) ADOPTED the following resolution:

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2021 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2022 AND PROVIDING FOR THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR SUCH FISCAL YEAR.

Mayor Walker adjourned the meeting at 5:53 p.m.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council

Approved by Council
May 17, 2021

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kyna Thomas".

Kyna Thomas, MMC
Clerk of Council