

**CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
June 22, 2021
Virtual/electronic meeting via Zoom**

3:00 PM WORK SESSION

Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3712, the Charlottesville City Council met in work session on Tuesday, June 22, 2021. The meeting was held electronically pursuant to a local ordinance amended and re-enacted on April 19, 2021, to ensure the continuity of government and prevent the spread of disease during the coronavirus State of Emergency.

CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

Mayor Walker called to order at 3:00 p.m. and Clerk of Council Kyna Thomas called the roll, noting the following members present: Mayor Nikuyah Walker, Vice Mayor Sena Magill, and Councilors Heather Hill, Michael Payne, and Lloyd Snook.

REPORTS

1. Vibrant Community Fund (VCF)

Kaki Dimock, Director of Human Services shared that the discussion would be instrumental in providing guidance for how to create the 2023 fiscal year process for non-profit agencies in order to launch the process in Fall 2021. She gave an introduction and background on continuous improvement efforts. The city has been granting money to outside agencies since 1984 and has adapted over the years. Many community members have helped to review applications to add additional layers of objectivity and varied perspectives.

She shared opportunities for improvement to address points of tension from the last several years:

Point of Tension	Proposed Solution
Does not allow for investments in start-ups	Create limited start-up funding pool
Does not allow for investments in solutions to emerging needs	Create emerging needs funding pool
Council has limited faith/trust/confidence in staff or process	Establish an orientation to the VCF process for council
Does not prioritize equity needs sufficiently	Prioritize Equity
Does not include or prioritize consumer feedback	Create mechanism for consumer feedback

Priority categories are broad	Identify broad AND specific funding priorities
No mechanism for considering agency need for funding	Include agency need in application process
Requests for funding are made throughout the year	Manage out of cycle requests
Does not have baked in process for evaluating outcomes	Create multiple methods for ongoing evaluation
Does not allow for multiple year commitments	Create mechanism for making two-year awards
Essential services are subject to competition for funding	Create an essential service category

Ryan Davidson, Senior Budget and Management Analyst, and City Manager Chip Boyles helped to answer questions for Council.

Council discussed capacity building, timelines, criteria for supporting established non-profits and startup non-profits, sharing resources, strategy for supporting agencies based on specific community needs, application scoring and equity.

Council gave support of the direction of the process and gave feedback for measures and types of data to include moving forward.

Councilors also suggested moving some services to a regular budget line item instead of having them compete for funds annually.

2. REMOVED - Charlottesville Area Transit (CAT) Title VI

City Manager Boyles advised that this item would come before Council at a future date.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Walker opened the floor for comments from the public. There were no speakers.

Mayor Walker adjourned the work session at 5:33 p.m.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council