

## **CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**December 6, 2021**

**Virtual/electronic meeting via ZOOM**

### **4:00 PM WORK SESSION**

Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3712, the Charlottesville City Council met in work session on Monday, December 6, 2021, to hear reports. The meeting was held electronically pursuant to a local ordinance amended and re-enacted on October 4, 2021, to ensure the continuity of government and prevent the spread of disease during the coronavirus State of Emergency.

Mayor Walker called to order at 4:02 p.m. and Clerk of Council Kyna Thomas called the roll, noting the following members present: Mayor Nikuyah Walker and Councilors Heather Hill, Michael Payne, and Lloyd Snook; and Vice Mayor Sena Magill absent for a family emergency.

### **REPORTS**

#### **1. Governance related to the Charlottesville Affordable Housing Fund (CAHF)**

Deputy City Manager Sam Sanders made the presentation. He advised that the Office of Housing and Redevelopment was renamed the Office of Community Solutions, focusing on:

1. Affordable housing programs
2. Commercial revitalization and development
3. Neighborhood and constituent services

Mr. Sanders shared the tenets of Affordable Housing Plan governance and requested next steps from Council for reconfiguring the Housing Advisory Committee (HAC).

Council discussed their preferences and staff will present a final recommendation at the January 18, 2022 Council meeting.

#### **2. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)-HOME Program Task Force**

This report was tabled to a future meeting in the interest of time.

#### **3. Annual Comprehensive Financial Report presentation from auditor and discussion of FY21 year-end results**

Chris Cullinan, Director of Finance, introduced the City's financial auditors.

Michael Lupton and Matthew McClaren with Robinson, Farmer, Cox and Associates shared the following letter and report:

1. Communication with those Charged with Governance (required communication)
2. Independent Auditor's Report

The auditors issued a clean opinion of the city's Annual Financial Report.

Mr. Cullinan advised that the Finance Department would post a copy of the Annual Financial Report (AFR) on the City's website. He stated that concluding the AFR, the city realized a surplus of \$5.5 Million from a combination of better than expected revenues and expenses. He shared two staff recommendations:

1. Appropriate \$6.7 Million "downturn funds" set aside to the CIP contingency fund per the normal financial management policy.
2. Appropriate \$5.5 Million for a series of employee compensation adjustments:
  - a. Thank you for work completed during the pandemic. \$3500 on a sliding scale according to hours reported for 11 out of 12 months in 2021.
  - b. Proposed 6% Mid-year market adjustment to address effects of inflation and a competitive job market.
  - c. Update on Classification and Compensation study

Mayor Walker noted that the Infrastructure Bill was passed and should be part of the conversation, as dollars could be allocated to ensure that families are not in more poverty than when the pandemic began. Councilor Hill noted the School reconfiguration project.

Councilors and City Management expressed thanks to city staff for work during a difficult time.

The year-end appropriation is intended for a public hearing and first reading on December 20.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Walker opened the floor for comments from the public.

- Brandon Collins spoke in support of the Housing Advisory Committee and asked about the use of CRHA as the city's housing arm, possibly a permanent place on the HAC.
- Richard Allan asked Council to honor enslavement history with a Slave Auction Block Memorial. He asked that the parking spaces obstructing the slave block site be removed.

## **CLOSED MEETING MOTION**

On motion by Councilor Hill, seconded by Councilor Snook, Council voted 4-0 (Ayes: Hill, Payne, Snook, Walker. Noes: none; Absent: Magill) to meet in closed session as authorized by Virginia Code Sections 2.2-3711 and 2.2-3712, specifically:

- Sections 2.2-3711(A)(1) and (A)(8) for the purposes of discussion and consideration of the appointment of individuals to City boards or commissions, and for consultation with legal counsel regarding disposition of statues and/or contracting for city management services.

The work session adjourned at 5:51 p.m. and Council convened in closed session.

BY Order of City Council

BY Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council