

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY COUNCIL WILL BE HELD ON Monday, February 1, 2010 AT 6:15 p.m. IN THE Second Floor Conference Room.

THE PROPOSED AGENDA IS AS FOLLOWS:

Closed session as provided by Section 2.2-3712 of the Virginia Code

BY ORDER OF THE MAYOR

BY Jeanne Cox

SECOND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM – February 1, 2010

Council met in special session on this date with the following members present: Dr. Brown, Ms. Edwards, Mr. Huja, Mr. Norris, Ms. Szakos.

On motion by Dr. Brown, seconded by Ms. Edwards, Council voted (Ayes: Dr. Brown, Ms. Edwards, Mr. Huja, Mr. Norris, Ms. Szakos. Noes: None) to meet in closed session for discussion of the resignation of the City Manager, and discussion and consideration of the appointment of an Acting City Manager as authorized by Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Virginia Code.

On motion by Ms. Szakos, seconded by Mr. Huja, Council certified by the following vote (Ayes: Dr. Brown, Ms. Edwards, Mr. Huja, Mr. Norris, Ms. Szakos. Noes: None) that to the best of each Council Member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and identified in the motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed or considered in the closed session.

COUNCIL CHAMBER – February 1, 2010

Council met in regular session on this date with the following members present: Dr. Brown, Ms. Edwards, Mr. Huja, Mr. Norris, Ms. Szakos.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Edwards presented the Big Read proclamation

Mr. Norris made the following announcements: applications are available for the real estate and rent relief programs; free water conservation kits are available at City Hall, and this is Clean Energy Week. Mr. Norris noted that the City Manager's announced his retirement last week, and he thanked him for his outstanding service to the City.

Ms. Szakos said there is now a number to call at City Hall to volunteer to help clear snow off sidewalks. She said funds have been raised to send Charlottesville High School students to a college fair in Washington, D. C. She announced two weekend events celebrating Black History Month.

Ms. Edwards said QCC's heart health walks will begin February 6, and report cards are in the mail for Charlottesville Schools

PUBLIC

Ms. Colette Hall, 201 Robertson Lane, asked how affordable housing is defined. She said that with the City Manager leaving this is not the time for a dedicated funding stream for affordable housing.

Ms. Brenda Parrish, 802-L Hardy Drive, a member of PHAR, said she is thankful for the growing partnership between PHAR and the Housing Authority. She said funding provided by the City helped residents be involved in the redevelopment process.

Ms. Yamelle Woodfolk, 808-B Hardy Drive, a member of PHAR, expressed concern that the City will not support the leadership and internship program next year.

Ms. Dede Smith, 2652 Jefferson Park Circle, said the Mayor gave an excellent presentation on the water issue at the Chamber of Commerce lunch. She said a lot happens with technology over a 50 year period that can impact the water plan.

Ms. Jane Foster, 6 Gildersleeve Wood, a member of the PHAR Advisory Council, said she hopes the City will continue to fund the internship program.

Mr. Peter Kleeman, 407 Hedge Street, thanked the City Manager's office and other departments for the meeting after the December snow storm which was held to discuss ideas of how to do a better job in the future. He said staff did an excellent job changing priorities.

COUNCIL RESPONSES TO MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC

Ms. Szakos thanked the PHAR speakers, and said their leadership and internship program is impressive.

Ms. Edwards said she is impressed to see the representatives from PHAR present, and presented them with a book given to her by the Library in celebration of the "Big Read." She supported making sure that PHAR's efforts continue.

Dr. Brown thanked the PHAR representatives for coming.

Mr. Norris said that the original request from PHAR was for the City to match a grant, and Council had indicated it would see at the end of the year how the money was

spent and would reconsider funding for a second year. He asked staff to add renewal of the funding to PHAR at an upcoming agenda. He commended staff for an excellent job in the latest snow event.

Dr. Brown said he does not want to leave the impression that staff did not work hard during the December snow storm, and noted that we only received one third of that amount of snow this time.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Huja removed the special use permit for Preston Avenue from the consent agenda.

On motion by Dr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Huja, Council approved the following consent agenda items by the following vote. Ayes: Dr. Brown, Ms. Edwards, Mr. Huja, Mr. Norris, Ms. Szakos. Noes: None.

- a. Minutes of January 4, 2010
- b. **APPROPRIATION**: \$292,000 – Insurance Reimbursement for Transit
(2nd reading)
- c. **APPROPRIATION**: Amending FY 2010 Budget to Appropriate \$2,351,744 in Transit Grant Funds (2nd reading)
- d. **APPROPRIATION**: \$100 – Donation to Police Department
- e. **APPROPRIATION**: \$11,500 – Piedmont Housing Alliance Loan Payoff
(carried over)
- f. **APPROPRIATION**: \$1,000 – First Tee Contribution from Sam’s Club
- g. **APPROPRIATION**: \$38,063 – Youth Internship Program Grant (carried over)
- h. **RESOLUTION**: Authorizing Application for State Transit Funding
- i. **ORDINANCE**: “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND REORDAINING ARTICLE I OF CHAPTER 28 (STREETS AND SIDEWALKS) BY ADDING A NEW SECTION NUMBERED 28-32, RELATING TO THE CITY’S ACCEPTANCE OF STREETS” (2nd reading)
- j. **ORDINANCE**: “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ABANDONMENT OF A PORTION OF A NATURAL GAS EASEMENT OFF OLD IVY ROAD GRANTED TO THE CITY BY UVA IN 1990” (2nd reading)
- k. **ORDINANCE**: “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REORDAIN

SECTION 34-796 (Use Matrix) OF ARTICLE VI (MIXED-USE CORRIDOR DISTRICTS) OF CHAPTER 34 (ZONING) TO ADD ANIMAL BOARDING/ GROOMING FACILITIES, KENNELS AND VETERINARY CLINICS WITH A SPECIAL USE PERMIT IN THE HIGHWAY (HW) CORRIDOR DISTRICT”
(carried over)

PUBLIC HEARING/ORDINANCE: CONSERVATION EASEMENT TO THE NATURE CONSERVANCY ACROSS CITY-OWNED LANDS NEAR BRANDYWINE DRIVE AND THROUGH GREEN PARK

Mr. Brian Daly, Director of Parks and Recreation, said the ordinance would grant a conservation easement to the Nature Conservancy for three parcels of land, a total of 59 acres.

Mr. Huja asked if this land could be used for community vegetable gardens, and Mr. Daly said no, and noted that it is all wooded anyway.

The public hearing was opened.

Ms. Colette Hall, 101 Robertson Lane, said that a group of citizens took the City and VDOT to court alleging that granting a permanent easement for the Meadow Creek Parkway was not constitutional, but the judge said it is alright to give a permanent easement to another governing body. She said granting an easement to a private organization may not be constitutional.

Ms. Dede Smith, 2652 Jefferson Park Circle, wondered if the Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District could not hold the easement instead.

As there were no further speakers, the public hearing was closed.

Mr. Brown said there is no question that the City has the authority to grant this easement, and said it is contemplated in the enabling legislation.

Mr. Daly said that the Nature Conservancy is the managing agent of funds for projects of this nature.

On motion by Mr. Huja, seconded by Ms. Szakos, the ordinance entitled “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF CONSERVATION EASEMENTS ACROSS CITY-OWNED LANDS NEAR BRANDYWINE DRIVE AND THROUGH GREENBRIER PARK TO THE NATURE CONSERVANCY” was offered and carried over to the next meeting for consideration.

Mr. Norris said he thinks this is one of the most exciting environmental initiatives to occur in Charlottesville.

REPORT: AFFORDABLE HOUSING STRATEGY

Ms. Melissa Celi, Grants Coordinator, said that the Affordable Housing Strategy outlines the current inventory and future goals for affordable housing. She said the report identifies three options for Council to consider: 1) Maintain the current number of supported affordable units; 2) Maintain the current ratio of supported affordable units to total housing units as the City's housing stock grows (10%); or 3) Increase the ratio of supported affordable units to 15% of total housing units by 2025. She said the Committee recommends goal three. She said another alternative would be to continue the current City funding level and to increase the ratio to 15% using CDBG and HOME funds.

Mr. Norris said his preference would be to have Council agree on a goal and approve the resolution, but defer the funding level discussion until the budget discussions.

Mr. Huja said he would start with a ratio of 12%.

Dr. Brown asked about the change from past years in defining affordable housing as supportive affordable housing.

Ms. Celi it refers to a unit with a subsidy or other mechanism for a family making less than 80% of the area median income (AMI), not just low income.

Ms. Szakos said it also looks at teachers, nurses, firefighters, etc. and their ability to afford housing here.

Ms. Szakos said she supports the 15% goal, but is willing to start at 12%.

Ms. Edwards said she supports the 15% goal and said housing is an area of infrastructure that we should invest in.

Responding to a question from Mr. Huja about the available funding, Ms. Celi said there is \$1 million in the housing fund and \$550,000 available in CDBG funds.

Dr. Brown said we should always be cognizant of not trying to solve the region's housing problems alone and we have talked before about ways to target funds for City residents. He said he thinks a goal of 12% is a good place to go at the moment, and wait and see if the budget can handle it.

Ms. Celi said we can target funds except CDBG funds.

Ms. Szakos said it is clear that in Charlottesville the housing costs are higher than the surrounding area, and it is more an issue of people being able to live here.

Mr. Norris said he would push to aim for 15% over 15 years depending on our financial ability to meet that goal. He suggested an amendment to the resolution adding to the third bullet: “other federal, state, regional and private sources.”

Mr. Huja made a motion to approve the resolution with the 15% goal and changes made by Mr. Norris, Ms. Szakos seconded the motion, and Council approved the resolution by the following vote. Ayes: Dr. Brown, Ms. Edwards, Mr. Huja, Mr. Norris, Ms. Szakos.

REPORT: CHARLOTTESVILLE REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY END OF YEAR REPORT

Mr. Randy Bickers, Executive Director of the Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority, presented highlights from the previous years: new Executive Director; HUD status changed to standard performer status; pilot workforce program with PVCC; receipt of stimulus funds; progress with vacant units; and master planning for redevelopment.

Mr. Jason Halbert, Chairman of the CRHA Board, reviewed goals for 2010: new Family Self Sufficiency Coordinator for Section 8 tenants; better resident services coordination with PHAR and community service providers; growing partnerships with PVCC; ongoing improvements in relationship with police; redevelopment to present the best opportunity for major neighborhood revitalization, poverty reduction, crime reduction, increasing affordable housing, and building green; redevelopment to directly address economic and racial segregation; leaders in green public housing; new financial model for CRHA and the City; and seeking of significant local commitment and partners.

Responding to a question from Dr. Brown, Mr. Bickers said more funding will be needed in order to issue more vouchers for the proposed SRO.

Mr. Norris said he hopes we can find a resolution to move forward. He said he does not understand why CRHA administers the down payment loan program. He said the waiting list for vouchers is a mystery to him, and said this is an opportunity to explore consolidating the City and County programs.

REPORT: TRANSIT

Mr. Bill Watterson, Transit Manager, provided a comparison of passenger trips, trips per resident, operating budget, increase in trips, and cost per passenger trip with other college towns, combing data from CTS and UTS. Mr. Watterson presented possible changes to the bus routes, some revenue neutral and others that would require additional funding. He said he supports holding a charrette or community dialogue, and said new services could be part of the agenda.

Ms. Szakos asked if it would be possible to look at a Greenbrier route to run in the morning, at 3:00 p.m. and during the evening rush hour, and Mr. Watterson said yes, and

said consideration should also be given to connecting points to a Greenbrier route such as Fashion Square Mall or Barracks Road Shopping Center.

Mr. Huja said that one third of the City has no transit service. He suggested taking out some of the streets which would make a Greenbrier route more practical.

Mr. Watterson said he thinks that would make it run late at peak times.

Mr. Huja said he would like to see a proposal for Greenbrier to downtown and U. Va.

Mr. Watterson said that cannot be done in 30 minutes and additional funding would be required.

Ms. Szakos noted that the City pays its transit drivers a living wage and she encouraged those around us to do so as well.

Mr. Huja said a transit charrette is long overdue. He said we should look at a totally new system of transit.

Dr. Brown said he likes the idea of a bus route to Avon Street Extended. He said U. Va.'s concern about combining their system with ours is that there are federal rules that restrict the use of CTS buses. He said he thinks the University has been a good partner. He said a lot depends on the budget. He said it will be easy to do those things that are revenue neutral.

Ms. Szakos asked if we can say that we support the basic principle of a route change contingent on neighborhood support, and Mr. Watterson said yes.

Mr. Norris said that Route 1B enhances service to the County, but reduces service to the City. He said he presumes that the County is not offering money for this change

Mr. Watterson said that is correct. He said he does not believe the City is losing service, but individuals might disagree with him.

Mr. Norris said that the core area of Belmont would lose service.

Mr. Huja suggested that a charrette be held in the spring.

Dr. Brown asked if a route from Belmont/Avon Street Extended/PVCC/downtown is possible, and Mr. Watterson said yes.

Dr. Brown asked how much the County would be expected to chip in if the route is extended to Avon Street Extended, and Mr. Watterson said he can get that information.

REPORT: COMMUNITY PRENATAL CARE

Dr. Lilian Peake, Director of the Health Department, said that a community health assessment was completed and the issue of infant mortality, especially for African-Americans, was identified. She said several initiatives were developed to address the issues, including the Safe Sleep Program. She identified some of the factors that contribute to sudden infant death syndrome.

Ms. Sheila Early, a Clinical Social Worker at U. Va., said she was part of a focus group to address this issue, and she presented a video that was produced to educate the public about the issue.

REPORT: SISTER CITIES CLOCK COMPETITION

Ms. Mary Joy Scala, Preservation and Design Planner, explained that there were ten entries in the sister city clock competition, and the jury selected three winners: a meridian clock, brick clock tower, and clock with a map. She said there was also a "people's choice" award. She said Council is being asked to decide if it is appropriate to place such a clock on the mall, and if so, which one. She noted that components of each winning entry could be incorporated, or there could be more than one clock. She said the Sister City Commission voted to have a clock and wanted to continue to be involved in the process. She said they supported the obelisk and map idea.

Mr. Norris asked if there is a provision if a city is removed as a sister city, and Ms. Scala said no.

Mr. Edmund Smith, designer of the first place clock entry, noted that the shadow created by the clock will pinpoint a time in history designated by each sister city.

Mr. Norris said he likes the winning design. He said he likes the idea of the live video showing images from our sister cities which was part of the people's choice award, and he said he would like to figure a way to use that idea on our website.

Mr. Huja suggested that the clock be lighted so it can be seen at night.

Dr. Brown agreed with the first choice, but suggested that Council defer action and talk about it in context of the budget.

Mr. Huja said we can at least support the design and find out the cost in the meantime.

Responding to a question from Ms. Edwards, Mr. O'Connell said that the percent for art program used to set aside 1% of major construction expenses for art related projects. He said he can provide Council with information on the balance of the fund.

Mr. Norris asked if there is a consensus to approve the conceptual design and wait for the budget or a final decision, and get the balance in the fund in the meantime. He said he thinks there would be too much clutter with a map.

Ms. Szakos suggested that we agree to no map at this time, but that we review a design for a map later.

On motion by Mr. Huja, seconded by Ms. Szakos, Council approved the conceptual design, but deferred a decision pending a final discussion during the budget by the following vote. Ayes: Dr. Brown, Ms. Edwards, Mr. Huja, Mr. Norris, Ms. Szakos. Noes: None.

RESOLUTION: SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR BOARDING HOUSE AT 632 PRESTON PLACE

Ms. Ebony Walden, Planner in Neighborhood Development Services, said the property had been used as a fraternity house, but has been vacant. She said the Planning Commission approved the special use permit. She said the prevailing issue was parking. She said the Board of Architectural Review recommended a decrease in parking in the front yard, and the Planning Commission recommended a maximum of four parking spaces. She said the applicant thought this would be an undue burden, and asked that consideration be given to allowing up to two spaces for visitors parking.

Dr. Brown asked if restricting the two additional spaces to visitor parking would be enforceable.

Ms. Walden said staff could enforce having no more than six spaces, but it would be hard to enforce it being restricted to visitors.

Ms. Szakos said we want to reduce congestion of cars, especially in this area.

Mr. Huja said he thinks it would be useful to have some temporary parking.

Dr. Brown said he thinks it should be left as the Planning Commission recommended, with four spaces, as he does not buy the argument for two additional spaces.

Ms. Walden said that allowing five spaces might be a compromise.

Ms. Szakos said she would prefer four spaces.

Mr. Huja said he would support five spaces.

Mr. Norris said he would be fine supporting six spaces as long as there is clear signage and enforcement if there is abuse.

Ms. Walden said staff will investigate if they get complaints.

The applicant for the special use permit said it is hard for her to understand why she should not put the maximum number of parking spaces on the lot that can attractively fit, with a buffer, when parking is such an issue in the neighborhood.

Mr. Huja made a motion to amend the resolution to allow five parking spaces, with the fifth properly marked as visitor spaces, and that it be enforced. Mr. Norris seconded the motion and it was approved by the following vote. Ayes: Dr. Brown, Ms. Edwards, Mr. Huja, Mr. Norris, Ms. Szakos. Noes: None.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Huja said he remains concerned with the transit issue and cannot comprehend why we cannot get transit service to the northern part of the City with Route 9.

The meeting was adjourned.