

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina convened for a Business Meeting on Monday, April 27, 2026, at 5:35 p.m. in the Meeting Chamber of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center with Mayor Vi Lyles presiding. Council members present were Dimple Ajmera, Danté Anderson, J.D. Mazuera Arias, Ed Driggs, Malcolm Graham, Lawana Mayfield, Joi Mayo, James Mitchell, Kimberly Owens, and Victoria Watlington.

ABSENT: Councilmember Renee Johnson

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Mayor Lyles said good afternoon everyone. Thank you for being here. Good evening. I want to say thank you for joining us here in person and we also want to recognize those that are watching online for our April 27, 2026, Business Meeting. So, now let's begin with introductions at the dais.

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INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Councilmember Ajmera gave the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by all.

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Councilmember Driggs said I would like to just take that opportunity to point out that we have the Charlotte Catholic School Political Science class in the chamber with us. Would you guys stand up? Welcome. Thanks guys.

Mayor Lyles said thank you very much for being here with us tonight.

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CONSENT AGENDA

ITEM NO. 1: MAYOR AND COUNCIL CONSENT ITEM QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Mayor Lyles said so, let's continue. We'll start with our consent agenda items, questions and answers placed for the Council that have an opportunity. Are there any items to be removed by Council?

Marie Harris, Budget Director said excuse me Mayor, logistically, there's also two that have been pulled. Item No. 41 and 43 are settled. They're property transactions. So, they're removed from the agenda.

Mayor Lyles said that's a good plan that we get something accomplished in that. So, thank you very much.

Councilmember Watlington said 31 please.

Mayor Lyles said 31. So, Item No. 31 will be on this, so, alright, anyone else that had anything that they wanted to pull or change?

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ITEM NO. 31: CATS CAPITAL PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Councilmember Watlington said I have a couple of questions for staff. Thank you all for pulling some of these answers. I just want to enter them into the record for the public. Firstly, as it relates to CATS (Charlotte Area Transit System) Capital Program

Management Services, are the consultants going to be assigned the task for the CBI (Charlotte Business INClusion) firms listed in the staff report?

Marie Harris, Budget Director said so, those are the ones that they've put forward. Now it depends. This is task order. So, it's not already predetermined and depending on the task order, yes, they will negotiate with the CBI firms with the ones they've listed and potentially others too.

Ms. Watlington said okay. So, what's important to me is that in particular for the CBI related businesses, that they are included on some of the things because what I would hate to see happen is our team that was brought together end up not being able to utilize their CBI businesses because those tasks don't fall within their scope. So, what role do we play in ensuring that.

Ms. Harris said so, we do work with them and negotiate based on the task and based on the general task they've already identified some people that they would use. To your point too about following up, any time they submit an invoice they have to submit their utilization too. So, we do monitor that for payment.

Ms. Watlington said okay. So, that one's pretty important to me. From a proactive stance, I understand certainly they'll send over the appendix with the payout, but I want to make sure that we're helping to guide those discussions to ensure that there's sufficient utilization on tasks that make sense.

Ms. Harris said yes.

Ms. Watlington said does that make sense? Whether it's risk management or any other.

Ms. Harris said right, and this is more project management so they've already got some partners lined up for those.

Ms. Watlington said so then, last thing on that one.

Ms. Harris said yes, sure.

Ms. Watlington said I just want to be clear. The partners are there, but when it actually comes to executing the work, how do we know that those partners will be utilized for the specific scope?

Ms. Harris said so, in general they're just based on the types of work they're doing. They already know, I want to do this project management, so I've got these partners. So, there's two firms and depending on which one aligns better with the task, it's more so about which firm versus the specific, because they've already designated which CBI partners they're going to use.

Ms. Watlington said okay.

Ms. Harris said maybe I'm not being clear, but if you look at the bottom. So, if I'm one of these and I get a job, I know I want to use this person for risk management, I've already defined who I want to use because that's going to be standard. Even though the scope might be different, it's going to be standard for the project management work.

Ms. Watlington said so, what you're saying is if firm A has a risk manager and firm B has a risk manager, they've already determined which firm is going to take that piece of the scope? I could see if only one firm has a particular type of service, but if two firms have the same service within their team, how are we ensuring that CBI firms are actually getting part of that scope?

Ms. Harris said so, when they're task is done, we, City staff and CBI and CATS work with them to make sure they have participation, or they wouldn't move forward with a

task unless, to your point, unless it's some unique extenuating circumstance where they were just consulting and not doing something.

Ms. Watlington said got you. Thank you for that. My second question there on 31 again. Is there a mechanism for CATS to report back to Council how CBI utilization is being tracked on a monthly basis? I know we talked about the payouts and the invoice appendix that comes with it.

Ms. Harris said so, there's a couple of options. It's at the Council's pleasure if they would like to receive a report out, currently they don't, but they are included. It's not as robust and what you mean, but annually from the CBI report. We do get it on invoice basis, but to your point if Council's preference is to receive it more often, we can provide that.

Ms. Watlington said I certainly would like to see it more often just because this is going to be a substantial one going forward. Then thirdly, after contract execution, would CATS be open to the consultants bringing in other local firms?

Ms. Harris said yes, for sure. Of course, we always want more participation. Now, it depends. We'd have to work with procurement to make sure and CBI to make sure they're registered and make sure whatever requirements or legal pieces are in place, but yes.

Ms. Watlington said awesome. Then lastly, I just wanted to comment that it's important that as we think about all of the infrastructure and transportation work that's going on in these CATS specific projects, that that coordination is there with NC-DOT (North Carolina Department of Transportation) going forward because there's going to be a lot of decisions to be made and as we'll hear more about later on today thinking about the projects as part of that broader network.

Ms. Harris said yes ma'am. Thank you.

Ms. Watlington said so, thank you for following up on these.

Councilmember Graham said I'm tracking 100 percent with Councilmember Watlington. This is the largest transit project in the City's history. These firms identify small and minority-owned firms as a part of their package and I want some assurance that these guys are going to be utilized and that they were just not inserted to get a contract. So, can they come back in six months and tell us where they are with the utilization of those firms that they have identified?

Ms. Harris said yes, because we wouldn't be paying them. We can tell you two things. What contractually was negotiated and also report out on utilization.

Mr. Graham said utilization with those firms that they identified that would be a part of their team?

Ms. Harris said correct, and it's task order so it's each one. So, it's individual ones. When you said a big project, yes sir for sure, but these are task orders on individual pieces of the project, but yes.

Mr. Graham said I think that's extremely important and you said the word, the second one is payout, making sure that when these firms are paid that the invoices are timely paid. That seems to be historically an issue and so small business owners can't wait as long as some of the other big boys that are getting paid. So, if there can be some six-month comeback to this Council in terms of how those firms are being utilized and making sure that they are timely paid for the services that they rendered. They can't wait 60, 90, 120 days.

Ms. Harris said thank you. Yes, our general is 30-day turnaround and we try to beat that. So, if you're hearing about the ones that aren't, yes, we definitely will look into that.

Mr. Graham said there's a reputation out there that we don't pay our bills timely.

Ms. Harris said okay, yes. Thank you.

Mr. Graham said so, as we move forward with this, especially towards small businesses, I mean it just cannot wait. So, I'm tracking with Councilmember Watlington on that for sure and yes, I'll just leave it there. I would love for this to come back in six months and we can find out who's on first and who's on second and who's participating.

Ms. Harris said yes sir.

Councilmember Mayfield said along with Dr. Watlington and Councilmember Graham's comments, I want to make sure that it's very clear where I think we have an opportunity. When our subcontractors contract with the prime, that is a separate contract that the City is not a part of. One of the challenges that has been shared with Councilmember Mitchell and other members of Council is, it is our subs that do not receive necessarily 30, 45-day pay. They may receive pay 60, 90 days or even up to 120. The way that the contracts are written, they do not have the ability to come to Council and to go back to help ensure that they're payment is within a timely manner. I believe that the City pays the prime in a relative quick manner. That prime is not always making sure that our subs, who are in much different financial positions. We have a couple of million-dollar projects here, more than multi-million-dollar projects where we have a participation where one prime is getting \$5,000 or another is getting under \$50,000. Well, that \$50,000 could be the turnaround of whether or not they're able to pay their employees. Although under Council member's leadership, we created a partnership with CLIMB (Charlotte Legal Initiative to Mobilize Businesses), CLIMB is not there to be an enforcer of payment. They're not a payment collection agency. That is not why we created that partnership. They're to help with the contracts.

So, we've already identified this. Staff has been working on it. We just, I believe from my colleagues, we want to ensure on the front end because I have asked this question at previous meetings. How do we track when we identify multiple subcontractors to be a part of a major contract? How are we tracking, because we have some that I've met where they were listed to be awarded a year ago, but yet they have not actually been able to participate and work.

So, I think we have an opportunity with utilizing modern technology in other ways to actually track to ensure that if we're going to identify you as being rewarded, we should have some type of mechanism where we're saying within a certain window. Either a quarter or by the second quarter, we have clearly identified that sub being able to participate or have a window of expectation of when they will be able to participate. Of course this does not fall all on you, but I'm hoping that staff, mainly our manager hears where we have an opportunity to really ensure that we are supporting and growing our small businesses in the City.

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ITEM NO. 2: CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 23 THROUGH 43 MAY BE CONSIDERED IN ONE MOTION EXCEPT FOR THOSE ITEMS REMOVED BY A COUNCIL MEMBER. ITEMS ARE REMOVED BY NOTIFYING THE CITY CLERK

Motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, seconded by Councilmember Mayfield, and carried unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with the exception of Item No. 31 which was pulled for a separate vote, and Item No. 41 and Item No. 43 which were settled.

The following items were approved:

Item No. 23: Construction Equipment Repair Services

pti:mt

Approve a contract with Carolina 1926, LLC for construction equipment repair services for a term of two years.

Item No. 24: Harrisburg Road Shared-Use Path Project

Approve a contract in the amount of \$3,891,020 to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder Performance Managed Construction, Inc. for the Harrisburg Rd Shared-Use Path Project.

Summary of Bids

Performance Managed Construction, Inc.	\$3,891,020.00
Hux Contracting	\$3,983,965.73
Eagle Wood, Inc.	\$4,240,263.57
Sealand Contractors Corp.	\$4,320,000.00

Item No. 25: Sharon Road at Eastburn Road Improvement Project

Approve a contract in the amount of \$1,476,318.69 to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder Hux Contracting, LLC (SBE) for the Sharon Road at Eastburn Road Improvement Project.

Summary of Bids

HUX Contracting	\$1,476,318.69
United of Carolinas, Inc.	\$1,587,030.50
DOT Construction, Inc.	\$1,661,230.51
Efficient Developments, LLC	\$1,961,071.20

Item No. 26: Security Services for Charlotte Water

(A) Approve a unit price contract with Harrisburg Security, Inc. (SBE) for Charlotte Water security monitoring and patrol services for a term of three years, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to two, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 27: Valve Reconditioning Services

(A) Approve a unit price contract with A-C Service Repair Inc. for valve reconditioning services for a term of three years, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to two, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 28: Lorna-Laburnum Storm Drainage Improvement Project

(A) Approve contract amendment #2 for \$735,000 to the contract with The Isaacs Group, PC for design and construction administration services, and B. Authorize the City Manager to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract and this amendment were approved.

Item No. 29: Storm Water Repair and Improvement Projects – H

(A) Approve a contract in the amount of \$4,578,512 to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder Onsite Development LLC for the Storm Water Repair and Improvement FY26-H Projects, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Summary of Bids

Onsite Development, LLC	\$4,578,512.00
United of Carolinas, Inc.	\$4,933,854.86
Mountaineer Contractors, Inc.	\$5,805,712.50

Item No. 30: Storm Water Services Media Buying and Creative Services

(A) Approve a unit price contract with AC&M Group, LLC (MBE) for educational campaign media buying services for a term of three years, (B) Approve a unit price contract with Saturday Brand Communications, Inc. dba Saturday Creative (WBE) for educational creative services for a term of three years, and (C) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contracts for up to two, one-year terms with possible price

adjustments and to amend the contracts consistent with the purpose for which the contracts were approved.

Item No. 32: CATS Plumbing Maintenance and Repair Services

(A) Approve contracts for plumbing services for an initial term of three years with the following: After Hours Plumbing, Inc. (SBE), Holloway Plumbing, LLC (MBE), Marvin Plumbing, Inc., and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contracts for up to two, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contracts consistent with the purpose for which the contracts were approved.

Item No. 33: Transit Fare Modernization Program

(A) Approve the expansion of the CATS fare collection system to an account-based open payments design, (B) Authorize the City Manager to execute amendments to existing contracts with Kuba and Genfare to enable an open-payment system, (C) Authorize the City Manager to amend, renew, and adjust the terms of fare collection and on-call vendor contracts with price adjustments necessary to procure technology systems, equipment, and professional services to support the fare environment, and (D) Authorize the City Manager to purchase such additional software licenses, services, hardware, maintenance and support, and system upgrades/expansions as required to maintain the system for as long as the city uses the system.

Item No. 34: Amend Transfer of City-Owned Property on Freedom Drive

(A) Adopt an amended resolution approving the modified transfer of City-owned property located at 6514 Freedom Drive (a portion of parcel identification number 057-231-06) to the North Carolina Department of Transportation containing approximately 0.277 acres as fee simple and approximately 0.110 acres as a permanent utility easement, and (B) Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to negotiate and execute all documents necessary to complete the transaction.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 56, at Page(s) 432-433.

Item No. 35: Refund of Property Taxes

Adopt a resolution authorizing the refund of property taxes assessed through clerical or assessment error in the amount of \$25,998.76.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 56, at Page(s) 434-436.

Item No. 36: Set a Public Hearing on Ahsul Commercial Phase Area Voluntary Annexation

Adopt a resolution setting a public hearing for May 26, 2026, for the Ahsul Commercial Phase Area voluntary annexation petition.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 56, at Page(s) 437-438.

Item No. 37: Set a Public Hearing on Lofton Area Voluntary Annexation

Adopt a resolution setting a public hearing for May 26, 2026, for the Lofton Area voluntary annexation petition.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 56, at Page(s) 439-441.

PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

Item No. 38: Property Transactions – Albemarle Road Pedestrian Safety and Connectivity, Parcel # 7.

Resolution of Condemnation of 89 square feet (0.002 acres) in sidewalk utility easement and 446 square feet (0.010 acres) in temporary construction easement at 5924 Regal Estate Lane from Rise Avalon LLC - OREI Avalon Property Owner, LLC for \$2,350 for Albemarle Road Pedestrian Safety and Connectivity.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 56, at Page(s) 442-443.

Item No. 39: Property Transactions – Albemarle Road Pedestrian Safety and Connectivity, Parcel # 13

Resolution of Condemnation of 104 square feet (0.002 acres) in permanent shelter easement and 156 square feet (0.004 acres) in temporary construction easement at 6438 Albemarle Road from Cook Out - Albemarle Road, Inc. for \$1,575 for Albemarle Road Pedestrian Safety and Connectivity.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 56, at Page(s) 444-445.

Item No. 40: Property Transactions – Albemarle Road Pedestrian Safety and Connectivity, Parcel # 14

Resolution of Condemnation of 37 square feet (0.001 acres) in permanent shelter easement and 87 square feet (0.002 acres) in temporary construction easement at 6454 Albemarle Road from Aldi (N.C.), LLC for \$525 for Albemarle Road Pedestrian Safety and Connectivity.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 56, at Page(s) 446-447.

Item No. 42: Property Transactions – Harrisburg Road Shared-Use Path Winterwood to Sam Dee, Parcel # 8

Resolution of Condemnation of 2,053 square feet (0.047 acres) storm drainage easement, 390 square feet (0.009 acres) sidewalk utility easement, and 1,532 square feet (0.035 acres) temporary construction easement at 10417 Harrisburg Road from Timotheus Sherrod Simmons, Major Simmons Jr., and Jarin Simmons for \$15,150 for Harrisburg Road Shared-Use Path Winterwood to Sam Dee.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 56, at Page(s) 448-449.

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ITEM NO. 31: CATS CAPITAL PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Andrea Leslie-Fite, City Attorney said we didn't take action on Item No. 31.

Mayor Lyles said did we take action on Item No. 31?

Ms. Leslie-Fite said no, we did not.

Mayor Lyles said we just talked about it.

Motion was made by Councilmember Watlington, seconded by Councilmember Driggs and carried unanimously to (A) Authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute unit price contracts for capital program management services for a term of five years with the following: HNTB North Carolina, P.C., H.W. Lochner, Inc., and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contracts for one, two-year term with possible price adjustments and to amend the contracts consistent with the purpose for which the contracts were approved.

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AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

ITEM NO. 3: ALS AWARENESS MONTH

Councilmember Owens read the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, also commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive fatal neurodegenerative disease in which a person's brain loses connection with their muscles, slowly reducing a person's ability to walk, talk, eat

and eventually breathe and thousands of new ALS cases are reported every year. Estimates show that every 90 minutes, someone is diagnosed with ALS and someone passes away from ALS; and

WHEREAS, on average, patients diagnosed with ALS survive only two to five years from the time of diagnosis and the exact causes of ALS are unknown and there is no known cure for ALS; and

WHEREAS, people who have served in the military are more likely to develop ALS and die from the disease than those with no history of military service; and

WHEREAS, securing access to new therapies, durable medical equipment and communication technologies is of vital importance to people living with ALS; and

WHEREAS, clinical trials play a pivotal role in evaluating new treatments, enhancing quality of life and fostering assistive technologies for those living with ALS. The ALS Association is the largest philanthropic funder of ALS research globally and has committed more than \$154 million to support more than 550 projects across the United States and 18 other countries. The ALS Association is committed to make ALS livable and cure it for everyone, everywhere; and

WHEREAS, ALS Awareness Month provide an opportunity to increase public awareness of the dire circumstances of people living with ALS, acknowledge the terrible impact this disease has had on individuals and their families and support research to eradicate the disease:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Vi Alexander Lyles do hereby proclaim the month of May 2026 as

“ALS AWARENESS MONTH”

in Charlotte and commend its observance to all of our residents.

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PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Lyles said so now we will go to our public forum. I would like to thank all of you for joining us and on behalf of the entire City Council, I ask that all speakers and audience members be civil and courteous in their use of language. Speakers are encouraged to address Council and should refrain from responding to audience members. Likewise, audience members should be courteous of each speaker and not yell out or interrupt that person. We want to ensure that everyone has the chance to be heard. Since there are more than 10 speakers today, each speaker will have two minutes to address the Council.

Workforce Development

John Chen, 4700 Carson's Pond Road said my name is John Chen. I'm with the Carolina Asian American Chamber of Commerce. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you. In 2022 in the wake of the COVID 19 pandemic and the rise in anti-Asian violence, our team made a commitment. We have a vision to transform our diverse and often insular community with a significant income disparity in recent decades into one that is more connected and a mutually supportive entity, especially for those who are underserved. I'm pleased to report to you that we've been making meaningful progress. In 2023 we launched a Journey of Hope Exhibit with a three-month event that brought together over 20 ethnic groups to share their stories. It's not just an exhibit, it's a bridge connecting 20 communities who rarely worked together in the past. With the City Council's support, with the equal partner and later on the financial partner grants, we were able to expand our programs for workshops to support the small Asian-owned businesses as well as skill trade training for the young adults in our refugee communities. This year, over 50 participants will work and get a completion

certificate in areas like HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning), electrical work, EMS (Emergency Medical Services), computer literacy, all pathways leading to solid jobs and a better future.

Mayor Lyles said thank you very much.

Mr. Chen said two minutes that fast?

Mayor Lyles said it does go very quickly.

Mr. Chen said we are completely grateful for your support and partnership. We're not just building programs, we're building lives strengthening our community and creating opportunity for everyone to succeed. Thank you very much. Also, I want to acknowledge the people coming to support us and thank you to the Cambodian and [inaudible] communities. Thank you very much.

Jumping Dreams Double-Dutch

Angelicka Crawford, 5431 Hickory Grove Road said good evening Mayor, City Council members and community leaders. My name is Angelicka Crawford. I am the executive director of Jumping Dreams, a world champion Charlotte-based nonprofit double dutch program. For the past eight years, Jumping Dreams has served over 7,000 youth across our City. We've provided summer camps, after school programming, summer feeding initiatives and consistent youth engagement even during COVID when kids needed it the most. Through the art and sport of double dutch, our athletes have represented Charlotte nationally and internationally bringing home first place titles, but more importantly demonstrating discipline, leadership, and strong character wherever they go. Tonight, I'm not here just to share this story, but to ask for your support. In June 2026, our double dutch program will be represent the City of Charlotte in a world tournament in Cincinnati, Ohio. These are talented, hardworking, young people who have earned this place on stage. We're seeking financial support to help cover their essential needs to get there. It could be travel, lodging, meals, anything. The kids work really, really hard to represent our City for the positive that Charlotte has to give and we don't want the financial barriers of the families to prevent them from going. If you need numbers of how you guys can support, I'm happy to send an email to get the support, but it's bigger than that. So, we've been here for eight years, and we've gone from churches to schools to community spaces, whatever we could do to provide programming. What I'm looking for is a home for our kids. If you think about a kid going from foster home or family homes, they're not going to grow effectively until we have a home. So, I'm looking for a home for Jumping Dreams, if the City could help us get a home so we can sustain, grow, and continue to make an impact. I'm a product of what I started along with all of our coaches who are volunteers coming from Hartford, Connecticut, Boston, New York, everywhere, and now we're here to pour back into the kids. I'm just a product of what we do and I need help. That's it. Thank you for your time.

Mayor Lyles said thank you for what you do. I mean, that's an important thing and to have double dutch winners, this is really cool, right? So, let's just see how the community can help as well as we can help and we'll just keep on going. Thank you so very much for what you're doing. Thank you.

Ms. Crawford said thank you.

Noise and Traffic

Jeremy Lamb, 400 North Church Street said hi, my name's Jeremy Lamb. I play cello in the Charlotte symphony and I'm here for the second time in six months to talk about all the cars that drive around that have either no mufflers or they have illegally modified muffler cutouts. So, they do that to make a hellacious noise and last time in October 2026 when I spoke here, you put in touch with Shawn Heath, the Deputy City Manager. He honestly didn't even know what a muffler cutout was. So, he said he would talk to the police, and I don't think he really knew what to do. So, I just in the last couple of

months just walking around the streets of Charlotte where I'm dining and sleeping and whatever, I made a video for you guys and I'm turning the volume up so you can hear what cars sound like with modified muffler cutouts, okay?

Mayor Lyles said okay, thank you. I think that we got it. We really did get it.

Mr. Lamb said thank you. It would be great if you guys could do something about it.

Councilmember Driggs said thank you for your music. Seriously, thank you for playing in the orchestra.

Safety

Chris Connolly, 400 North Church Street said good evening. My name is Chris Connolly and I have lived in Charlotte since 1993. My family moved to the downtown neighborhood as pioneers in 1998. Back then our downtown was just starting to populate with homes and learning how to come alive after 5:00 p.m. As true believers in our City's promise, our neighbors wholeheartedly supported our leaders' efforts to make this happen. In time our City attracted tourists, diners, sports fans, music goers, music lovers from across the region. We even brought leaders here from across the nation to see President Obama accept his historic renomination in 2012 and for a while we were so proud, and with good reason. Every bit of that progress to attract and keep residents and visitors is now in jeopardy by lawless street takeovers. It's jeopardized by bicycle mobs that endanger themselves and everyone around them. It's jeopardized by grown men acting like adolescents showing off, trying to prove something by blasting their car sound systems and revving their engines like they're in NASCAR or cutting out their mufflers like we just heard. All of which is illegal, but none of which is enforced or penalized. This is because our Police Department is grossly under staffed and must therefore triage and respond only to the crisis of the minute. It does not have the necessary resources to proactively tackle the offenses that destroy the attractiveness, the livability, and the vibrancy of our communities. I think we would be embarrassed right now on the national stage if we were to bring back the DNC (Democratic National Convention) here with what we've allowed our Center City to become, sad to say. Last year this Council passed a substantial vibrancy tax just on the Tryon Street business and residential community. That money has not yet been applied in ways that can significantly address these very traffic related issues on this Tryon corridor, which is literally and figuratively the backbone of our City. We ask that you use these resources and other resources, our tax dollars for effective reinforcement of these traffic and noise related laws that will make our City enjoyable and safe. Thank you for your service to our community.

Matt Weschler, 112 South Turner Avenue said good evening City Council. My name is Matt Weschler and I serve as one of your advisors on the Charlotte Bike Advisory Committee. I'm also the father of a 19-month-old toddler who rides on the back of my bike as I commute with him from the West End to daycare in Uptown, which I've been told is very cute. In my role on the BAC (Bike Advisory Committee) I regularly hear from Charlotteans who would also like to bike with their children but choose not to because they feel our streets are unsafe. That perception is grounded in reality. In Charlotte, pedestrian and bicycle crashes make up just 1.5 percent of all crashes, yet account for 29 percent of all serious and fatal injuries, a disparity well above the national average. When streets feel dangerous, people don't bike. As a result, Charlotte lags behind peer cities like Minneapolis where the average worker is 10 times more likely to commute by bike. That difference is not accidental. Minneapolis has made sustained investments in building a safe connected bike network, funding its bicycle program at roughly \$14 per person per year compared to about \$3 per person per year in Charlotte. That funding gap translates directly what we can and cannot build. Charlotte's bike program is a low-cost high impact safety tool. It allows people to avoid our high injury corridors by building connections between existing low stress neighborhood streets, turning dead ends into living ends while linking strategic investment areas into a coherent City-wide network. For that reason, the BAC recommends increasing the bike program budget from its current \$8 million every two years to \$20 million every two years. If new sales

tax revenues are programmed as anticipated, that would scale the bike program proportionately with overall C-DOT (Charlotte Department of Transportation) funding while significantly expanding its impact. Thank you.

Noise Cameras

Hugh Templeman, 201 West Trade Street said my name is Hugh Templeman. I'm the general manager of the Grand Bohemian here in Charlotte. I was the opening general manager and been here for seven years and I'm a proud resident. My history is that I've worked and lived on four continents doing luxury hotels for over 38 years. I'm representing a community in this town with me in the audience that is very concerned. The market is down four percent of travelers coming into Charlotte over the last 12 months. Part of that problem is amazingly attached to the video we heard earlier, noise in the City. One needs to understand that perception is reality. Not only is the noise an issue, it is also the perception of safety as an issue in our location that has a Convention Center, more than 212 hotel, more than 2,500 restaurants. I have examples which I'd like to share with the Council, which I'll pass out of all of the complaints. Not all, many complaints that exist in our world. I'm going to give you an example. At my hotel, 70 complaints in 2025. Seventy, not so big deal. There's this thing called intent to recommend. That's when a guest tells you either online or through a survey or what have you, how well are you doing. My hotel does 78 percent positive process versus 22 percent negative. Not so bad. If you take that number out, it moves to 83 percent if you take the noise complaints out. That puts you in elite status. That mentions you into premier process. We're talking about how do we do this and make this better. We're losing business as a City. I'm losing business as a hotel. How much of a problem? One hundred and forty thousand dollars I spent to put third glazing into my hotel. My investment into a noise problem that's our problem. It is very important that we as an organization or as a City address this issue not only for its safety issues, but its long-term negative impact on the potential business outliers that exist for us as a City. I'm coming here with a solution. We have an idea. There are places around the world that do this very well.

Mr. Driggs said you need to wrap up.

Mr. Templeman said even in our own country in Philadelphia where they come up with a situation of sound activated street cameras. So, you'll get fined if your car is too loud.

Mayor Lyles said I just wanted to make sure that we're being recognized and so we have your remarks, additional remarks as well. We've heard this. This is an issue, and I think that we've got to [inaudible] somewhere in a place to figure out how this works better. So, thank you very much for the comments and bringing it to reality. Thank you.

Mr. Templeman said no problem. I'll leave these here.

Mr. Driggs said give it to the Clerk at the end there.

Mr. Templeman said perfect.

Senior Safety

Kathleen Mundle, 400 North Church Street said good evening Mayor and members of the Council. I pretty much have nothing left to say because I am also here to talk about the noise in this City as a neighbor who lives here. I would like, but still quickly, to make a couple of points. One is that we who live in this City understand that cities are noisy. Noise has a place certainly in suburban neighborhoods and we're old neighborhoods. I would like you to understand that we, living in the City, are neighborhoods too. We live in a neighborhood. I have spent 23 years at the corner of Seventh and Church Streets, a block away from the Discovery Place. That's my neighborhood. We have families. We have houses. We have children. We have buildings. We, in the City, are being subjected to noise levels and safety issues that would not be tolerated in other parts of the County. Excessive noise levels lead to safety

issues. Noise and safety issues lead to business issues as you've just heard and they discourage people from coming into the City. I mean I can tell you about my brother and sister-in-law who with a group of six other people came into the City all the time. They were in the City when I first moved here more than when I went to the restaurants in the City. I can't get them to come to dinner anymore. You walk down the street at night and it's just noise, it's aggravating. Those of us who live in the City live in literally a canyon where that noise that Jeremy showed you. That reverberates forever at two or three or four o'clock in the morning and sometimes on Sunday afternoons. I would like to say that Charlotte aspires to be a world class city, but while several world class cities and other cities of our size have instituted creative pilot programs to deal with these issues, we have not. You just heard one of them which is a very popular one and that's the cameras. So, I want to tell you that we want to be a world class city and we are asking you and our elected officials and public leaders to find it in yourselves to tackle this problem that other cities are addressing while I'm sitting in here speaking. I know we can do this. I know we can be a city with a truly inviable reputation, but right now we're coming up short.

Mayor Lyles said thank you.

Ms. Mundle said thank you.

Working Conditions

Charles McDowell-Medina, 801 South Main Street, Mount Holly said good evening Mayor, Council members. My name is Charles McDowell-Medina and I have been working at Charlotte Airport for over a year. I earn \$12.50 an hour helping American Airline passengers who need wheelchair assistance navigate the airport safely. The passengers I assist can be elderly, disabled or visually impaired. I help them with their luggage, assist them getting to the bathroom and make sure they are able to get something to eat before they get to their flight. I try to make passenger's day better and help them travel with less stress, but every day I face stress due to my poor working conditions. The weight of being the sole provider of my family sits heavy on my shoulders. I take care of my young nephew and help my sister out. If I have to miss a couple of days of work because I'm sick, it disrupts our entire cashflow. I don't get paid sick leave and I can't afford health insurance. If I don't go to work, I won't be able to pay for basic necessities. These are a pair of my work shoes. As you can see, I walk 10 to 14 miles every shift and I'm now on my third pair. The reality for us workers at Charlotte Douglas International Airport is that we're understaffed and don't have enough workers. Some of us are even asked by management to double push, meaning push two wheelchairs at the same time. Imagine walking through a crowded airport pushing two wheelchairs at once while trying to navigate around people. Now add a tight connection and their luggage to the situation. It's stressful and can be dangerous for both me and the passengers. When it's really busy, I've seen passengers left behind waiting more than 30 minutes because there simply aren't enough of us. My job is to make sure these passengers are comfortable and safe, but how can I do that if I'm being rushed by management? They rush us while doing aisle chairs, these are narrow wheelchairs we use to transport passengers while helping them to get to and from their seats on the aircraft. While some of these chairs aren't maintained and falling apart. We can do our best for customers, but management tells us that they can get fined if passengers stay on the plane too long. Passengers deserve better and so do we.

Mayor Lyles said thank you.

Mr. McDowell-Medina said thank you.

Dorothy Griffin, 809 High Meadow Lane said hello, my name is Dorothy Griffin and I've been working for the airport for eight years. I've worked as a terminal cleaner, a cabin cleaner and now I'm inside the Pro Shop at ABM and my job is to give out the equipment to the workers that clean the planes and search the planes for foreign objects, their equipment so they can do their work. We play an important part in the travel safety of the passengers, but we work hard to make sure that they have safe

travels, but we're under paid. We're tired. My coworkers, sometimes they don't have the right equipment to work with and we get blamed for that. We don't get overtime. We always have to do this. If they don't find an object on the plane, they get fired. I'm sorry. I'm just tired of making poverty wages. We have to do all of this and they want us to give them our best and we do give them our best because we love our job, but half of our workers are homeless. We don't make enough money to feed our families. We don't make enough money for this. I'm 68 years old. Last year I had to let my car go because it was either drive to work or have somewhere to stay and I chose to have a place to stay. We don't get PTOs (Paid Time Off). We don't have time off. I am a grandmother, a great grandmother. I have 17 grandkids, 14 great grandkids. I had to take a PTO, an unpaid day off to see the birth of my great grandbaby. It's not fair. All we're asking for is livable wages. We give Charlotte Douglas Airport our all, and as everybody knows, American Airlines is one of the biggest airlines out there. It's no way that we should be making poverty wages and they're raking in all the money. All we come here wanting is to pay us what we're due because we give you what you're due, make sure you're safe in your travel.

Noise and Traffic

Sarah Corley, 400 North Church Street said good evening Mayor and Council members. Thank you for your time. I'm here to ask that you install a noise camera on Church Street to address the persistent problem of excessively loud cars and motorcycles. This is not just an annoyance. Chronic noise affects sleep, stress, and well-being. It's a safety issue as well since Uptown is densely populated with cross walks, jay walkers, dog walkers, workers, and children. Cities from New York to California have already implemented noise camera systems. In 2023, Knoxville's noise camera pilot program caught over 1,300 noise violations in only a few months. Their noise camera data demonstrated that these loud cars often drive with quick dangerous acceleration in heavy pedestrian areas. Their threshold for enforcement is 82 decibels, about the sound of a blender. Many altered cars far exceed 100 decibels, comparable to a jackhammer or being on a construction site. More specifically, Knoxville signed a contract with the company Blue Line Solutions out of Chattanooga for red light speeding cameras. Blue Line Solutions company subcontracts noise cameras using Intelligent Instruments Company noise cameras out of New York City. Again, this is at no additional cost. Knoxville has gotten the red-light cameras and at no additional cost, they get the noise cameras. They are moving forward with two permanent noise cameras in their downtown. We all want Charlotte to remain a lively, welcoming City that looks after residents and visitors. By handling noise violations objectively without traffic stops or extra police resources, we can protect our quality of life and keep Uptown safe, vibrant, and fun for all. I strongly urge the City to implement a camera on Church Street. If other cities are successfully solving this problem, why can't Charlotte?

Mayor Lyles said thank you.

Ms. Corley said thank you.

Bicycle Program Funding

Connie Proctor, 2222 Selwyn Avenue said good evening. My name is Connie Proctor and I'm currently serving as Chair of the Bicycle Advisory Committee. The last time I was here I shared with you a vision of a calm but vibrant tree-lined street where people of all ages and abilities could move freely. I come back tonight to remind you of that vision and ask for your action to help make it a reality. Dr. Watlington sent a message yesterday acknowledging that the way we have been approaching transportation planning is wrong. I'm here to strongly agree. Community needs and concerns should not be considered at the end of the process. They should be considered at the beginning. Important work has been done as part of the Strategic Mobility Plan. The community was asked what they wanted. The answer was clear, more choices. People in Charlotte want to be able to choose something other than a car for every trip. They reiterated that desire when they voted for the one cent sales tax. It is time to listen. It is time to shape the budget to reflect those needs and desires. It is time to build public

spaces that serve children, the elderly and everyone in between. I'm therefore asking you to increase the bicycle program budget from \$4 million annually to \$10 million annually and work with us to find ways to deliver better bicycle projects quicker. The only way to solve traffic is by providing viable alternatives to driving. So, let's fund those viable alternatives. Let's build a Charlotte where we can meet face-to-face, not windshield to windshield. Thank you.

Firefighters' Budget Request

Yuliana Melendez Sanjurjo, 2601 East 7th Street said good evening. Let's play a game. Where was my husband February 2026? During the first two days of a back injury when I could hardly walk to get myself food, use the bathroom or tend to our dogs. January 2025 when I frantically called my husband that our power was flashing in and out quickly followed by the smell of burning within 60 seconds. The dogs and I were home with no heat in freezing temperatures for days without him. September 2024, I was in our home with no power for 15 days. I received one last call the morning of September 27, 2024 my husband asking if we were okay as Hurricane Helene unexpectedly stood over our county in South Carolina before he went radio silent for days. He left on deployment to the mountains of North Carolina with other fire departments to help. Here's the truth. Where was my husband is our every day reality in our household, during sickness, our region's famous snowstorms and other weather-related incidents, holidays and birthdays. [Inaudible] for phone calls are only a few minutes long and much more. Can I share the hard reality of our household? My husband has always had a second job as many firemen do. Our friends often ask, "So, what is your husband's side hustle? Every fireman we meet has a second job." Firefighters work 52-hour work weeks, 12 more than other departments, meanwhile we cannot afford to live within a reasonable distance from the City which employs my husband. We currently face an even larger economic stress as we experience a one income household for the first time after I was laid off in December of 2025. My husband loves his job, but I see all this risk and sacrifice, training and dedication, passion for serving the citizens of this City, while we cannot sustain even the basics of living where he serves. We are falling behind on sleep, quality time, and bills while he's risking his life running into burning buildings. I watch my husband sacrifice his mental and physical health with long term emotional and sleep issues. I am the wife of Fireman Travis Cash who serves in the Special Ops Team of Charlotte Fire Department Rescue 11, while maintaining a second job. We demand a livable wage to provide for our family. Where is Travis Cash tonight? His second job. Thank you.

Mayor Lyles said so this concludes opportunities for our public forum and having that. Thank you all for being so patient. I just really have to say it's a good way of getting to know what's going on and you guys have done a great job to help us tonight. Thank you very much.

Councilmember Mitchell said Mayor and Council, I just want to recognize a former colleague who served on the dais, actually served in this seat as Mayor Pro Tem. He's here tonight. Mr. Braxton Winston. Braxton, glad to see you here sir.

ITEM NO. 6: PUBLIC HEARING AND DECISION ON A RESOLUTION TO CLOSE A PORTION OF UNOPENED RIGHT-OF-WAY OFF HOYT HINSON ROAD

Mayor Lyles declared the hearing open.

There being no speakers, either for or against, a motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell, and carried unanimously to (A) Close the public hearing, and (B) Adopt a resolution and close a portion of unopened right-of-way off Hoyt Hinson Road.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 56, at Page(s) 299-304.

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ITEM NO. 5: PUBLIC HEARING AND DECISION ON THE FAIRES FARM SILOS HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION

Mayor Lyles declared the hearing open.

There being no speakers, either for or against, a motion was made by Councilmember Mayfield, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell, and carried unanimously to (A) Close the public hearing, and (B) Adopt Ordinance 1122-X with an effective date of April 27, 2026, designating the property known as the “Faires Farm Silos” (parcel identification number 051-293-17) as a historic landmark.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 70, at Page(s) 038-044.

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ITEM NO. 7: PUBLIC HEARING AND DECISION ON A RESOLUTION TO CLOSE A PORTION OF OPENED RIGHT-OF-WAY ADJACENT TO RALEIGH STREET

Mayor Lyles declared the hearing open.

There being no speakers, either for or against, a motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, seconded by Councilmember Ajmera, and carried unanimously to (A) Close the public hearing, and (B) Adopt a resolution and close a portion of unopened right-of-way adjacent to Raleigh Street.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 56, at Page(s) 305-309.

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ITEM NO. 8: PUBLIC HEARING AND DECISION ON A RESOLUTION TO CLOSE A PORTION OF ALLEYWAY OFF WADSWORTH PLACE

Mayor Lyles declared the hearing open.

There being no speakers, either for or against, a motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, seconded by Councilmember Ajmera, and carried unanimously to (A) Close the public hearing, and (B) Adopt a resolution and close a portion of alleyway off Wadsworth Place.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 56, at Page(s) 310-313.

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ITEM NO. 9: PUBLIC HEARING AND DECISION ON A RESOLUTION TO CLOSE A PORTION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY OFF WAKE DRIVE

Mayor Lyles declared the hearing open.

There being no speakers, either for or against, a motion was made by Councilmember Mayfield, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell, and carried unanimously to (A) Close the public hearing, and (B) Adopt a resolution and close a portion of right-of-way off Wake Drive.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 56, at Page(s) 314-318.

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ITEM NO. 10: PUBLIC HEARING AND DECISION ON 2026 GENERAL AIRPORT REVENUE BONDS AND CONSTRUCTION PERIOD FINANCING

Mayor Lyles declared the hearing open.

Patrick Waterman, 400 South Tryon Street, Suite 1300 said good evening Mayor Lyles, Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell and members of the Charlotte City Council. Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight in support of the Charlotte Douglas International Airport and the thousands of jobs, many held by your constituents that depend on continued airport investment. My name is Patrick Waterman. I serve as the incoming president for the American Council of Engineering Companies of North Carolina. It's an association representing more than 200 engineering firms across the State engaged in projects that drive economic growth, ensure public safety and protect our quality of life. Approval of these general airport revenue bonds help provide capital programming that delivers not only essential infrastructure, but sustained employment for engineers, designers, surveyors, environmental specialists, construction managers and skilled trades from across the Charlotte region. While tonight's vote may not be controversial, it is consequential. These bonds fund projects that put people to work on the airport campus, well beyond the fence line. CLT's (Charlotte Douglas International Airport) Capital Program depends on the depth and expertise of North Carolina based engineering construction firms that strengthen the State's national reputation and keeping this work and these paychecks local. ACEC (American Council of Engineering Companies) strongly supports policies that advance infrastructure investment while promoting quality, innovation and professional excellence. We believe this bond request is the result of strong collaboration among the City, airport leadership, airline partners and the private engineering sector. That collaboration translates directly into employment for local residents. Thank you for your consideration on the broader impact that CLT Airport has on our region and its workforce. Thank you again.

Tracy Montross, 717 East 24th Street said good evening everyone. My name is Tracy Montross. I'm managing director for government affairs for American Airlines and very please to be with you Mayor and members of Council. This month, American Airlines proudly celebrated its centennial anniversary, 100 years of connecting people, communities and economies and few places reflect that better than the legacy here in Charlotte. For more than 40 years, American has invested steadily, not speculatively in Charlotte Douglas International Airport aligning infrastructure growth with demand, operational needs and the long-term success of the hub. City Council's approval of the 2026 General Airport Revenue Bonds reinforces that same long-term vision, supporting CLT as one of the region's most powerful economic engines with an airline hub that supports 150,000 jobs statewide and \$30 billion in economic impact. Importantly, Airport Revenue Bonds are not backed by local taxpayers. They are repaid through airline rates and charges and airport generated revenues. As the largest airline at CLT, American assumes the majority airline share of these costs, reinvesting in the infrastructure necessary to sustain long-term operations. In other words, airline commitment enables large scaled investment in your airport. Over the past decade alone, American has supported more than \$3 billion in capital through the Destination CLT program with an expanded terminal lobby, four parallel runway, new concourses and significant airfield and terminal improvements. These multiyear investments depend on predictable airline revenue, stable policy, and growing passenger demand. A strong primary airline partner enables an airport to finance infrastructure at investment grade terms, and that

financing depends on an anchor airline's willingness to assume long-term financial responsibility coupled with restraint in future expansion, an approach American has demonstrated throughout its century of service. in conclusion, American Airlines investment is a great deal for the City of Charlotte. Thank you for your time.

Motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, seconded by Councilmember Graham, and carried unanimously to (A) Close the public hearing, (B) Adopt resolutions authorizing and approving the issuance of General Airport Revenue Bonds up to \$235,000,000 and construction period financing not to exceed \$175,000,000, and calling for the execution and delivery of various documents necessary to complete the sale, and (C) Adopt Budget Ordinance 1123-X appropriating \$32,000,000 in proceeds from the debt issuance, \$18,400,00 from the Airport Operating Fund, and \$6,600,000 from the Airport Passenger Facilities Charges Fund to the Airport Debt Service Fund.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 70, at Page(s) 045-046.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 56, at Page(s) 319-400.

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POLICY

ITEM NO. 11: CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Marcus Jones, City Manager said thank you Mayor and members of Council. Earlier today you received I believe in your offices the Impact Report as it relates to the Mobility Plus. What's so important about this is that the team has been working for the better part of nine months for us to get a better understanding of what are the gaps that are out there. So, we have this \$25 billion opportunity for the entire State over the next 30 years. We need to get a better understanding of do we have the workforce that's available to meet the demand, and do we have the businesses that are locally available to meet the demand. So, in both cases we don't. That doesn't mean that we haven't already begun to look at programs that can scale up the workforce and scale up businesses. This will be in the Jobs and Economic Development Committee next Monday. What I wanted to do again is to basically, one, get it to you first because we have the towns, the County, the CELC (Charlotte Executive Leadership Council), the Alliance, the MPTA (Metropolitan Public Transportation Authority) that's all waiting for this report. So, I'll take one step back. If you'll recall 40 percent of the one cent sales tax is for transit, 20 percent is for bus. That's going to make its way into the MPTA. There was a question earlier today. Beginning July 1, 2026, the MPTA is receiving the sales tax, both the half cent and the one percent sales tax but they won't be ready to take on our staff until January 1, 2027. So, we have this great opportunity to use this report. Many of the questions that happened earlier tonight about CBI, how do we have different businesses that can participate in this, that's why this gap analysis is so important and again, it starts with the Council but I'm very proud of the team and how you've worked so diligently to pull this all together. It's a lot of data. It's a lot of data. It's a lot of data, but it's going to be useful as we tackle this opportunity. So, that's the end of my report Mayor.

Councilmember Mayo said I have a quick question. Just based on some of the comments we received today about noise in Uptown, and I saw a referral for that. Do we know when that's coming through? Will that be part of this Mobility Plan as we're thinking about red light cameras? Can that be instituted at the same time with Mobility dollars with the PAVE Act (Projects for Advancing Vehicle-Infrastructure Enhancements)?

Mr. Jones said so, I'll start off by saying the red-light cameras, they've already been referred to Committee.

Ms. Mayo said yes, but for this other one as well?

Mr. Jones said that's on the agenda for next Monday and I believe later tonight there's going to be a discussion about the noise.

Ms. Mayo said oh okay. Thank you. I saw the memo. Okay, thank you.

Councilmember Anderson said before we move on from the Manager's report, I just want to ask a question around process and execution. So, beginning July 1, 2026, the MPTA will receive the penny sales tax, the 60 percent and the half penny sales tax, but they won't be in operation mode for another six months, right?

Mr. Jones said correct.

Ms. Anderson said okay, so during that time do we have insight as to the activities that they will be working on and investing in between July 1, 2026 and January 1, 2027 where I'm assuming their readiness level will be 100 percent for receipt of our City assets. Do we know what they're working on over the next six months?

Mr. Jones said so, that's a great question. City Attorney, if I fumble, help me out please, okay? So, there were certain requirements in the PAVE Act that must be met by July 1, 2026. That's exactly what the Authority is working on now, and I would say hand in hand with the City and the Authority. We feel comfortable that they will meet those targets. Okay?

Ms. Anderson said okay.

Mr. Jones said in a perfect world they would assumed the staff and Article 43 and Article 34 on July 1, 2026. We all know that we won't be ready for those other components. We've always said employees first. So, there's certain things that's from an employer perspective like healthcare that is much better to be on a calendar year than on a fiscal year. So, a lot of the thought process with employees first is let's make sure that we have this transition in such a way that helps them, but also let's make sure we set the Authority up for success as we also protect the City.

Ms. Anderson said thank you for that update. My interest in this is just professionally having done a lot of cutovers for systems and large system integrations throughout my career. To be able to take on these assets as well as the systems and the backbone effectively that's going to run the MPTA operationally, it's a huge and onerous task to level up your readiness. So, I just would love for us, for our responsibility, for our appointment to the trustees and in a good faith measure of just being good intergovernmental partners, if there is a way in which we the Council can get a steady cadence of the update of the readiness between July 1, 2026 and January 1, 2027. I think that would be very helpful for us to understand what's in front of us and if we have to pivot in any way, shape, or form. So, a regular cadence of an update, whether it manifest through a written report or perhaps having the chair or one of the trustees come and provide an update. I think that level of communication would be very helpful to us and to our residents.

Mr. Jones said I totally agree, and we will do that. One thing that's really important. This is not a July 1, 2026 we're finished or January 1, 2027 we're finished. This will be decades because there are assets that still have debt associated with them. So, we're going to have to be in lock step for a very long time.

Ms. Anderson said thank you.

Councilmember Driggs said I want to mention as well we do have a working group consisting of myself and Councilmember Owens and Dr. Watlington. Our job is to be briefed on the meetings for example, that are taking place between the staff and the MPTA Board and preview, look as far into the future as possible and keep Council up to speed on what is being discussed and what might be headed our way in terms of a

decision so we're never in a position of being asked to vote on something without having had a long runway to think about it.

Ms. Anderson said thank you Mr. Driggs. I appreciate that and perhaps this working group could be the conduit of that level of transparency. I'm not sure if you want to take on the responsibility of updating Council on MPTA's work activity, but I'll leave that to your working group. I do think nevertheless, whatever vehicle it is, whether it's a working group or whether it's the trustees, a trustee of the MPTA, I believe we need to have a level of transparency and a regular cadence of update as it relates to organization and operational readiness to take on our assets come January 1, 2027.

Mr. Driggs said absolutely, yes.

Ms. Anderson said thank you.

Councilmember Graham said I concur with that and I think the update should come from the authority itself, not the working group. We want to talk directly to the authority, the chairman, the vice chairman and members of the trustees in terms of what they're doing, when they're doing it, why are they doing it so we all can have the same information at the same time.

Ms. Mayo said just to kind of piggy back off that, can we create a cadence or some kind of expectation? So, once a month they join us at whatever type of meeting, maybe the Transportation and Planning Committee meeting and do a report out, but I think it's imperative that we actually set in stone when that's going to happen so that it's not a suggestion. I think it needs to be a direct ask and not so broad. Is that something we can do? Can we make a motion on that?

Mr. Driggs said I think we can make recommendations. If my working group colleagues agree, we can make a recommendation based on what we've been told tonight. That would be part of what we're trying to accomplish to make sure that communication is as the Council wants. So, we'll work on that.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mayo, and seconded by Councilmember Ajmera, to ask the MPTA to do a briefing at the Transportation and Planning Committee meeting once a month for Council members regarding progress, how we are collaborating.

Mr. Driggs said I would just say do you intend for that to be a board member, a representative or is it okay if we just have somebody who works there and knows what's going on to come?

Councilmember Mayfield said it should be a board member.

Mr. Driggs said see if the chair would do it, yes.

Ms. Anderson said I would suggest that it's actually either the Chair or the vice chair or one of our appointed trustees, again, to create stickiness and a transparent horizontal relationship between the MPTA and the Council.

Mr. Driggs said so, we need to communicate to that Board the desire of this Council. We don't have the authority to direct them to do that, but we will communicate to them that we would like to have that update.

Mr. Graham said I think we should stay in constant contact with our appointees. So, there needs to be a regular cadence with them whether it's quarterly or biyearly where we meet with them and share with them our expectations. For an example, we had a presentation talking about the bus stops and whether or not they're going to be sheltered or not. That's something we need to tell our trustees. There is an expectation

that there's uniformity throughout the system in reference to bus stops and being protected from the sun, the rain, etc. So, cadence with our trustees I think is extremely important in addition to, Councilmember Anderson, the chair or the vice chairman so they can have that type of relationship which is intergovernmental.

Ms. Mayo said yes. Oh, should it be going into intergovernmental?

Mr. Graham said it's already on another track.

Ms. Mayo said so, do you want to amend the motion?

Mr. Graham said no.

Mayor Lyles said yes, I wanted to know if there is an amendment to the motion. Is there one?

Mr. Graham said no.

Mayor Lyles said okay. Alright, thank you.

The vote was taken on the motion and recorded as unanimous.

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BUSINESS

ITEM NO. 12: CHARLOTTE FIRE DEPARTMENT PROTECTIVE VESTS DONATION

Motion was made by Councilmember Mayfield, seconded by Councilmember Anderson, and carried unanimously to adopt a resolution authorizing the donation of 139 Phalanx Defense Systems Plate Carriers to the following entities: Carolina Fire Department, Dallas Fire Department, Huntersville Fire Department, Pineville Fire Department, Steele Creek Fire Department, West Mecklenburg Fire Department, and Mecklenburg County Fire Marshal's Office.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 56, at Page(s) 401.

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ITEM NO. 13: GRANT AND DONATION FOR RAIL TRAIL BRIDGE PROJECT

Motion was made by Councilmember Mayfield, and seconded by Councilmember Driggs, to (A) Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to accept a grant in the amount of \$2,549,395 from the Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization for the Interstate 277 Rail Trail Bridge Project, (B) Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to accept a donation in the amount of \$511,529.13 from the Queen's Table for the Interstate 277 Rail Trail Bridge Project, and (C) Adopt Budget Ordinance 1124-X appropriating \$2,549,395 from the Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization and \$511,529.13 from the Queen's Table to the General Capital Projects Fund for the Interstate 277 Rail Trail Bridge Project.

Councilmember Anderson said I just wanted to make a very quick comment about this project because this project has been in the works for many, many years and it's actually reconnecting neighborhoods that were divided by an interstate some years ago. We say South End and Uptown, but really and truly it was the historical African-American neighborhood of Brooklyn that was really separated from the other part of our City. I had the pleasure of going to an event last year, last October 2025 where we kicked off this project and we worked with other community partners who are investing

in it. It's a really lovely bridge. It's a multi-use pedestrian crossing for families to walk and bike and use other mechanical pedestrian devices as well. It connects over 40 miles of bikeways into the Center City. So, it's a very safe way for cyclists to get into the Center City and it's going to be a very beautiful design with the double arches reaching over 40 feet. It will be the widest part of the Rail Trail. So, it will be able to deal with the capacity of the Rail Trail in addition to pedestrians trying to connect with both neighborhoods. So, very happy to see this project advance. Thank you Madam Mayor.

The vote was taken on the motion and recorded as unanimous.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 70, at Page(s) 047.

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ITEM NO. 14: STREET TREE MAINTENANCE GRANT

Motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, and seconded by Councilmember Anderson, to (A) Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to accept a grant in the amount of \$1,200,000 from the North Carolina Forest Service for tree maintenance and planting, and (B) Adopt Budget Ordinance 1125-X appropriating \$1,200,000 in grant funds from the North Carolina Forest Service to the Neighborhood Development Grants Fund.
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Councilmember Mayo said I just had a quick question for this. Is this going to be street trees with this maintenance or are they planning to do on public property as well? I know at one point we had received some funding from the federal government, but because of our current administration, you know, things did not go as planned. So, just wanting a little bit more clarity on is this going to be on street trees which are owned by the City of Charlotte or is this going to be on private property?

Mayor Lyles said alright, Phil, you want to help us out?

Phil Reiger, General Services Director said good evening, Phil Reiger Department of General Services Director. This particular grant is designated for City-owned trees and right-of-way.

Mayor Lyles said alright.

Mr. Reiger said so, we'll be working in under utilized areas that need street tree maintenance in the right-of-way.

Ms. Mayo said so, when you say underserved communities, are you looking at data for that, being thoughtful of equity, but are you also doing under canopied regions as well? I guess I'm wanting to know how you're designating some of those because I think we should also think through not only under served, but also areas that have historically lower canopy than some of their more affluent peers. So, just wanting to think through both of those because that could be a huge barrier for some of our most vulnerable residents taking care of trees even though they are the City's trees that you're talking about, many of our residents are still having a burden to buy those.

Mr. Reiger said that's a great question. The map of under served areas is defined by the State, and so we're using that map that they used to define those areas in the City.

Ms. Mayo said are you also taking into consideration based on which areas historically have a lower tree canopy? So, are you doing both? Are you doing under served and under canopied?

Mr. Reiger said this is really about the canopy that we have today to ensure that we have quality maintenance in those areas. Again, those areas are defined by the State

Forest Service. So, in the event that we have to remove a tree, you'll notice that part of this funding is to replant trees.

Ms. Mayo said I can just talk to you later. No worries. I'll just follow up a little later. Thank you.

Ms. Mayo said can I ask one more question?

Mayor Lyles said yes, you certainly can.

Ms. Mayo said when you talked about replacing trees, are you planning to water those new trees at all?

Mr. Reiger said yes ma'am.

Ms. Mayo said so, that's going to be in y'all's budget to water the trees?

Mr. Reiger said yes, that's a part of our planting program.

Ms. Mayo said okay, thank you.

The vote was taken on the motion and recorded as unanimous.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 70, at Page(s) 048.

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ITEM NO. 15: MECKLENBURG SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT URBAN COST SHARE PROGRAM

Motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, seconded by Councilmember Ajmera, and carried unanimously to adopt a resolution ratifying an Urban Cost Share Program agreement with the Mecklenburg Soil and Water Conservation District.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 56, at Page(s) 402-406.

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ITEM NO. 16: INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR SMITHVILLE WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Motion was made by Councilmember Driggs, seconded by Councilmember Mayo, and carried unanimously to (A) Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager, or his designee, to negotiate and execute an interlocal agreement with the Town of Cornelius to execute the Smithville Water System Improvements Project, (B) Authorize the City Manager to approve the reimbursement request for the actual cost of the utility construction.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 56, at Page(s) 407-417.

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ITEM NO. 17: HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FISCAL YEAR 2027 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

Motion was made by Councilmember Mayfield, seconded by Councilmember Driggs, and carried unanimously to adopt the Housing and Community Development proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Action Plan.

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ITEM NO. 18: AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT REQUESTS

Motion was made by Councilmember Mayfield, and seconded by Councilmember Mazuera Arias to (A) Approve up to \$20,617,000 in Housing Trust Fund allocations for the following affordable housing developments contingent upon their receiving a Low-Income Housing Tax Credit award from the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency, where applicable: The Village at Grier Heights, \$2,763,000 (nine percent Low-Income Housing Tax Credit) in Council District 1, Oak Valley Family, \$1,500,000 (four percent Low-Income Housing Tax Credit) in Council District 1, Mineral Springs Commons II, \$1,100,000 (nine percent Low-Income Housing Tax Credit) in Council District 4, River District II, \$5,600,000 (four percent Low-Income Housing Tax Credit) in Council District 3, Billingsley Homeownership, \$1,050,000 (Homeownership) in Council District 1, Oakdale Road, \$2,930,000 (Homeownership) in Council District 2, Legacy at Paw Creek, \$1,334,000 (Homeownership) in Council District 2, Hovis Road, \$780,000 (Homeownership) in Council District 2, South Crigler Duets, \$360,000 (Homeownership) in Council District 2, Aveline at Prosperity Church, \$800,000 (Homeownership) in Council District 4, Zion Hills, \$1,000,000 (Homeownership) in Council District 5, Wisteria Drive, \$1,400,000 (Homeownership) in Council District 6, (B) Approve up to \$300,000 in federal fund allocations for The Village at Grier Heights (nine percent Low-Income Housing Tax Credit) multi-family affordable housing development in Council District 1, and (C) Authorize the City Manager or his designee to execute, amend, modify, and renew contracts and other required documents to complete the transactions.

Councilmember Anderson said I'm just trying to do an alignment here of what's in front of us and what's on our RCA (Request for Council Action). It appears that the Evoke Living at Wilora Lake was not a part of your motion, but it is a part of our RCA here, correct?

Councilmember Mayfield said correct.

Ms. Anderson said it also appears that River District II, which was not brought forward the last time we discussed this as it being an approved project, but now you're motioning that it be on the approved list?

Ms. Mayfield said correct.

Ms. Anderson said okay, can we have some further discussion about that because it sounds like we have scratched one and brought in another and I've had some conversations with some of my colleagues. I was of the understanding that if we were going to advance something that we would advance both. So, I'd like to have further [inaudible].

Ms. Mayfield said so, for clarification Ms. Anderson, if it's a question sent to my motion, of which I sent out a very detailed email to all of Council last week. So, for clarification, the Committee has not had a conversation regarding any reallocation of particular funds, yet for one of the projects it was mentioned on more than one occasion as presentations were made, that they would attempt two rounds of funding through our Housing Trust Fund. This is one of two. It will feasibly be accessible for them to be a part of that second round. Committee did have an additional conversation last week, but we are also working towards our Ad Hoc instead of creating a whole separate Committee for Ad Hoc. We are going to utilize the membership of the Committee and add additional meetings so that we can actually drill down what funding we have still available in our Housing Trust Fund, under what line item, as well as if there are any considerations for reallocation of funds. As a Committee, we will be able to have that discussion. The reason for my recommendation and the reason that I sent an extremely detailed email to all of Council last week was because with the opportunity of the River

District where all the development and growth that is happening throughout the City as well as the investments that are happening at the River District, this is an opportunity to ensure that we have two projects that come out very close to each other as well as the potential impact of River District not going towards the initial goals from 2017, where the expectation was to create and support an entire new community that would have true diverse price point housing in it, both in multi-family and single-family. Right now, this project, for my recommendation and I have talked to a number of our Council colleagues as well, which is why what is presented tonight is basically not trying to allocate additional funds because we had three other projects that were recommended for deferral. This is a swap. At the end of the day, this is pretty much a swap versus recommending one to be deferred to the second round, one that representatives acknowledged that we will attempt up to two rounds, making a recommending that they are then brought forward in the second round. So, we have a motion and a second on it. The River District is a project that will address a lot of the concerns in a part of the City that is being developed, that is already seeing incredible growth and already seeing price ranges that are above market or at the current market rate. Whereas, this will help us to ensure that we have some diversity in our product for our workers that live out in the area and aligns with the City's goals and commitments and the infrastructure investments that we have made into that project going back to 2017.

Councilmember Graham said thank you Councilmember Mayfield for the email and the conversation that we had earlier today, but I see it a little different. Certainly, I clearly understand why we need to support what's happening in the River District and I support that whole heartedly but it shouldn't be at the expense of Evoke Living. Is there a way for us to do both?

Unknown said there is.

Mr. Graham said I think we should and even if it's a reallocation of some of the buckets, I think one of the things that the Council has to maintain is a level of flexibility in reference to how we utilize the dollars. Also, we're getting ready to get really deep in our budget in May 2026 and approval in June 2026 and hopefully there will be a bond referendum in November 2026 which will replenish all three buckets for the community. So, I hope and I'd be willing to second a motion, make a motion that we find a way tonight to fund both projects.

Substitute motion was made by Councilmember Graham, and seconded by Councilmember Anderson to (A) Approve up to \$26,467,000 in Housing Trust Fund allocations for the following affordable housing developments contingent upon their receiving a Low-Income Housing Tax Credit award from the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency, where applicable: The Village at Grier Heights, \$2,763,000 (nine percent Low-Income Housing Tax Credit) in Council District 1, Oak Valley Family, \$1,500,000 (four percent Low-Income Housing Tax Credit) in Council District 1, Mineral Springs Commons II, \$1,100,000 (nine percent Low-Income Housing Tax Credit) in Council District 4, Evoke Living at Wilora Lake, \$5,850,000 (four percent Low-Income Housing Tax Credit) in Council District 5, River District II, \$5,600,000 (four percent Low-Income Housing Tax Credit) in Council District 3, Billingsley Homeownership, \$1,050,000 (Homeownership) in Council District 1, Oakdale Road, \$2,930,000 (Homeownership) in Council District 2, Legacy at Paw Creek, \$1,334,000 (Homeownership) in Council District 2, Hovis Road, \$780,000 (Homeownership) in Council District 2, South Crigler Duets, \$360,000 (Homeownership) in Council District 2, Aveline at Prosperity Church, \$800,000 (Homeownership) in Council District 4, Zion Hills, \$1,000,000 (Homeownership) in Council District 5, Wisteria Drive, \$1,400,000 (Homeownership) in Council District 6, (B) Approve up to \$300,000 in federal fund allocations for The Village at Grier Heights (nine percent Low-Income Housing Tax Credit) multi-family affordable housing development in Council District 1, and (C) Authorize the City Manager or his designee to execute, amend, modify, and renew contracts and other required documents to complete the transactions.

Councilmember Ajmera said first of all, thank you to the Committee Chair Councilmember Mayfield for the detailed email where she explains what they are saying. They are not saying no. I just want to make sure. So, the Committee did not say no to the Evoke Living at Wilora Lake, all they are saying is defer it to the next round. So, the Committee gets to do the work. We talk about the process and process and process. This is the process that Committee is recommending because they came up with the allocation. So, let's not talk about the process if you're not going to stick with the process because the Committee came up with the allocation from what I understood based on your email and having this proposal be part of the second round of discussion that the Committee will further discuss. So, correct me if I'm wrong there.

Ms. Mayfield said yes.

Ms. Ajmera said that's correct? Okay. Then also I want to speak in favor of the River District proposal. We all got an email from [inaudible] and they are making solid arguments, a solid point about why we need to ensure that we include River District in our decision tonight because we don't want River District to end up like what we are seeing in Ballantyne.

Ms. Mayfield said we love Ballantyne.

Ms. Ajmera said so, I will support the Committee's work, and I will support the motion that the Chair has made. That's all I have.

Councilmember Watlington said listening to this and in discussions previously with my colleagues, I definitely see a couple of different sides having served as the Chair of the Housing Safety and Community Committee and a part of the subgroup with Councilmembers Mayfield and Driggs on allocating the \$100 million. It was very intentional, the allocations that we set up, to drive particular behaviors in our development community. The Innovation Fund in particular was set aside specifically to try to drive new ideas and I do think that that is still important. I do think given the rigor with which we set those targets, that if we're going to make adjustments, which we did say that we would maintain that flexibility. If we're going to make those adjustments, I think we need to give that conversation its just due, rather than making the adjustments here at the dais because as I understand it, there may be a couple of other strategic projects that we feel like are still adding value. So, I'm absolutely supportive of the River District and do want to see that move forward in this round. Just listening to the comments at the dais, I'm wondering if there is an appetite at all since Committee meeting is next week to have the policy discussion there and then come back May 11, 2026 to actually vote on the updated list of projects. I just don't want us to be making project decisions here without considering how that impacts the overall policy. I'd love to here from the Chair or others as to how they feel about that.

Ms. Mayfield said I don't want to make a commitment on that with how soon they'll come back because I do know that we all got an email earlier that we're getting ready to have some changes within the Housing and Neighborhood Services. So, also want to make sure that what we have on the calendar is in alignment, yet at the same time we are prepared to have the detailed conversation with the Ad Hoc and identifying specific meetings to add for that. I will double check with Mike and the team while y'all continue discussion.

Ms. Watlington said okay so pending the answers to those questions, I would ask if you would accept a further amendment to defer since the substitute motion is already on the floor, but we can wait until the answers. It may not be.

Mr. Graham said yes and probably not. I think even more reason, if there's going to be leadership change that we make a decision sooner than later and it's really whether or not we're going to utilize additional resources from one bucket to the next. One of the things that you said when you established the three buckets was a level of flexibility. So, I think this demonstrates some flexibility, going where the shovel ready projects are and letting the dollars follow that, notwithstanding the good [inaudible] in terms of setting the

three priorities. So, I just think we should move forward with it, but I'll listen to more members and comments.

Councilmember Mayo said yes, I would support Victoria's amendment to potentially defer and we have that conversation in our Committee potentially.

Ms. Mayfield said it has to be voted on.

Ms. Watlington said point of order. Was Councilmember Mayo the second?

Mayor Lyles said I just want to make sure. Andrea, would you help us? We have a substitute motion on the floor.

Andrea Leslie-Fite, City Attorney said a substitute motion made by Mr. Graham, seconded by Ms. Anderson, correct?

Ms. Mayfield said so, that's what we're discussing right now is the substitute motion that we haven't voted on.

Mayor Lyles said right. That's right.

Ms. Leslie-Fite said so, there's discussion on the substitute motion at this point around the dais and then there needs to be a vote on the substitute motion and then after that, depending on how that vote turns out, we'll revert back to the original motion.

Mayor Lyles said okay.

Councilmember Mitchell said so, Rebecca, if you don't mind, because I do think one issue for all of us is the funding level, how much do we have remaining.

Ms. Mayfield said is this referenced to the substitute motion?

Mr. Mitchell said yes, cause Councilmember Graham is trying to do both. So, I think for a lot of us around the table who are not on the Housing Committee is how much funding could remain in that bucket and I'm like him. I wish we could vote tonight. So, Rebecca if you don't mind just sharing the balance and then if we include River District with the Committee and staff recommendation, what would that leave us?

Rebecca Hefner, HNS Director said sure.

Ms. Mayfield said let's be clear. What I motioned was very specific.

Ms. Hefner said yes.

Ms. Mayfield said the amended motion was adding in what I did not say.

Mr. Mitchell said right.

Ms. Mayfield said so, that dollar amount has to be added in. So, that motion would have to be clarified just a little bit to say to add additional \$5,850,000. So, from there Rebecca.

Ms. Hefner said yes, I'm doing some quick math up here.

Ms. Mayfield said yes.

Ms. Hefner said good evening. Rebecca Hefner, Director of Housing and Neighborhood Services. So, I think there's two balances to discuss, well three. One is the balance, as written on the agenda the balance remaining would be \$14,281,000 and some change. The balance remaining after the motion that Councilmember Mayfield made would be \$14.5 million and if you made the third motion with both River District and Wilora Lake

the balance would be \$8.68 million and that's overall across all the categories in the Housing Trust Fund.

Mr. Mitchell said thank you.

Ms. Mayfield said so, for clarification. If we were to do both, that total of \$8.68 million, \$5 million of that is what we currently have. So, if we were to move forward just looking at rental opportunity, I want to make sure that everyone's clear where that potential \$8.68 million lies, and I want to make sure that I'm not inaccurate as far as having to potentially have a conversation of reallocating a line item that we have not had a discussion about.

Ms. Hefner said sure. So, if you're following the action as written in the agenda. So, I'm going back now to the action preview presentation, the Housing Trust Fund Forecast. The balance would be \$14.28 million. The places where funding would remain are homeownership category, \$2.7 million, supportive housing and shelter, \$2.75 million. There would be \$1 million remaining in housing rehab, \$5 million in the Innovation Pilot Fund and \$2.6 million in site acquisition and just a little bit of change, about \$200,000 in administration and evaluation.

Ms. Mayfield said thank you.

Ms. Ajmera said so, Rebecca, you gave us \$8.6 million. That would be the balance if we approved the motion made by Councilmember Graham, correct?

Ms. Hefner said correct.

Ms. Mayfield said in totality.

Ms. Ajmera said yes, in totality. Are there any projects in the pipeline right now?

Ms. Hefner said so, do you mean for those other categories?

Ms. Ajmera said for the \$8.6 million balance because it's in totality. So, what I'm trying to get to is how many projects are in the pipeline because we are not looking at it holistically by trying to make a decision here. Right?

Ms. Hefner said correct.

Ms. Ajmera said because the Committee is not able to do the work, so I'm trying to figure out if we're going to have a decision, what are the projects that are in the pipeline that we should be looking at from the holistic perspective.

Ms. Hefner said well you have several other projects in the rental housing production category that were recommended for deferral. So, let me make sure I'm giving you of the right names. Nevin Trace and the Grier Reserves in addition to River District which were recommended for deferral. The modular home and ADU (Affordable Dwelling Units) Development under the Innovation category, that was also recommended for deferral and you have received two applications in your rental housing preservation category, two NOAH (Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing) Developments that are going to be discussed by Council Committee on May 4, 2026. You have already exhausted funding in that category, but those submissions came in before those funds were exhausted. So, those will be discussed in Housing Committee on May 4, 2026.

Ms. Ajmera said thank you. So, personally I'm not in position to decide now because considering that there are multiple projects in the pipeline. What happens if we were to approve this and then one of the other projects that might be higher on the priority list, we would be an in-service to that. I would prefer us sending it back to the Committee so they can look at it holistically and provide recommendations for the Council. I know we asked Councilmember Mayfield to check in with the staff on the May 11, 2026 timeline, if we can just get a response to that.

Ms. Mayfield said the answer to that question, Rebecca did respond to.

Ms. Hefner said so, if these decisions were deferred until May 11, 2026, all of the developments would still be able to move forward on their timelines. The important date that drives the spring RFP (Request For Proposal) schedule is the deadline for tax credit applications with the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency, which is May 15, 2026. So, you would have an opportunity on May 11, 2026, but that would be the deadline for a decision in order to support the applications to the State.

Ms. Ajmera said thank you.

Councilmember Driggs said I just want to know do we have anything in the pipeline for the Innovation's \$5 million or are we going to arrive at the end of the year not having actually invested that as intended. Therefore, should we be thinking about the fact that it can be available because it's not likely to be used? Thank you.

Ms. Hefner said so, staff has been in conversation with a couple of developers who have ideas and concepts for that Innovation Pilot Fund but have not provided any date on which they might be able to put in an application.

Mr. Driggs said so, not this year.

Ms. Watlington said thank you. Just a couple of things just on the Innovation. I know that we've had a little bit of connection as it relates to at least one of the projects that is in the Innovation Fund. I want us to be careful to remember that we don't see the future. We're in April of 2026 and the Innovation Funds' intent was to do something a little bit different. So, I don't expect that whatever comes through at this point has the level of rigor to know what their schedule is going to be by the end of the year. So, that is less concerning for me because we plan to do another round. I think by then we would know whether or not we would want to pivot, and I certainly think that if we have this discussion in a week, we can have these discussions in a better way. I think this right here is an exact example of what we're seeing play out in broader discussions in transportation and other things, where we are making decisions before we really have a robust discussion around our values and how that shows up in policy. So, I would implore us rather than rushing a decision today, now that we've learned that we have two weeks and we can take this to Committee and have a responsible discussion about this considering the projects that are in the pipeline, I would just ask again to please consider to amend the motion so that we can do right by our people. Like, I get it, you've got your six and you can go there, but let's do better if possible.

Mr. Driggs said so, how do we do that?

Ms. Mayfield said clarification. So, I also want to make sure that everyone remembers that we have in Innovation Summit that the City is one of the partners of that is identified in bringing people all across the nation. So, that's one of the triggers for that particular bucket of which we were made aware of that when we first had our conversation regarding our Innovation bucket that we were going to win and that that summit was going to be hosted in Charlotte because it moves around. The other piece that I want us to keep in mind is as Director Hefner just mentioned, that would be a three-day window. So, between when we have our meeting on May 11, 2026 and the closing being on May 15, 2026, the recommendation that I propose is the recommendation that I stand by. So, we do have another round that's coming, but I do believe that Committee should have the opportunity to have a deeper conversation about the possible reallocation of funds. Because as was heard, if we move forward with the amended recommendation tonight, that potentially would give us \$8.68 million in totality which is really \$3 million and some change because \$5 million of it is already identified, really less than that because \$2.6 million is allocated for site acquisition. The \$5 million is in the Innovation bucket and we have, what did we say, about \$200,000 or so that's still in administrative. So, it's not really \$8 million that potentially would be accessible, and we do know that there are more projects that are coming forward. That is why I read it the way that I read it. So, even though we're on the amendment that we need to vote on, the votes are going to

land the way that they land. We're either going to get the votes on the amended version, but what I am standing by is the recommendation that I read and that we got a second on.

Mayor Lyles said I want to make sure. I believe Ms. Mayfield's program that was sent around and then it was a question of an additional for the substitute motion to go into Mr. Graham. So, we have two items on our list.

Councilmember Mazuera Arias said I think I agree with my colleague Councilmember Ajmera that if we're going to respect the process, let's respect the process, but also understanding where Dr. Watlington is coming from. I mean, I think to surpass Committee and go against the recommendation of what the Chair is saying, goes against the process of us having our Committees. Additionally, I think if we're going to support both projects as Councilmember Graham has motioned for, then we should support the other two, three projects that were deferred because we're giving preference to one project over the other. So, I would pump the brakes and think about what we're doing very wisely right here and what precedent it puts forward when it comes to the role of committees and committee leadership in the future. Thank you.

Mayor Lyles said alright, thank you. So, everyone has gotten the information.

The vote was taken on the substitute motion and recorded as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Anderson, Driggs, Graham, Mayo, Mitchell, and Owens

NAYS: Councilmembers Ajmera, Mazuera Arias, Mayfield, and Watlington

Mayor Lyles said the substitute motion has been approved. Alright, thank you.

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ITEM NO. 19: SALE OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Motion was made by Councilmember Mayfield, seconded by Councilmember Driggs, and carried unanimously to (A) Adopt a resolution approving the sale of the following city-owned properties to Habitat for Humanity of the Charlotte Region for \$1.00 for the development of affordable, for-sale housing units: 1727 Pegram Street (parcel identification number 081-147-08, approximately 0.2 acres) in Council District 1, 1809 Taylor Avenue (parcel identification number 069-125-66, approximately 0.27 acres) in Council District 2, 2610 Dundeen Street (parcel identification number 069-062-42, approximately 0.15 acres) in Council District 2, 429 Coxe Avenue (parcel identification number 071-105-50, approximately 0.168 acres) in Council District 2, and (B) Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to negotiate and execute all documents necessary to complete the sale of the property.

Councilmember Mitchell said Pastor Moss and [inaudible], thank you all for being here and for your project.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 56, at Page(s) 417-419.

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ITEM NO. 20: CATS TRANSIT GOVERNANCE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT AMENDMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Mayfield, seconded by Councilmember Driggs, and carried unanimously to (A) Adopt a resolution to approve the Termination Agreement for the Transit Governance Interlocal Agreement, and (B) Authorize the City

Manager to negotiate and execute all documents necessary to complete the Termination Agreement for the Transit Governance Interlocal Agreement.

The following persons submitted written comments regarding this item pursuant to S.L. 2020-3, SB 704. To review comments in their entirety, contact the City Clerk's Office.

Raki McGregor

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 56, at Page(s) 420-431.

Councilmember Driggs said would the Manager please resume his report and perhaps address an important topic.

Marcus Jones, City Manager said thank you. Dr. Stewart, don't go anywhere. So, Mayor and Council I do have three announcements today and I'm going to start with the toughest one. After 30 plus years of service for this City of Charlotte, our Deputy City Manager, Liz Babson is retiring. I think Liz represents what I would call grit. She could've left a couple of years ago, but there were some really special things going on like buying a railroad and Mobility Plus. So, Liz thank you for that extra time with us. I don't think we could've done it without you. We appreciate you. The pipeline is so strong with the City. So, we're going to have a little bit of an overlap.

So, for the listening public, the folks were wondering with Rebecca Hefner about her future role, which would be Deputy City Manager, but she wore her Housing Director hat tonight. So, we appreciate Rebecca, but then Rebecca did such a good job with Housing and Neighborhood Services that Dr. Raquishela Stewart will now be the new Director of Housing and Neighborhood Services. They've done such a great job in that pipeline. I'm sure that you'll hear more announcements soon. So, that's a lot going on, but very proud of the team. A lot to do, but again, it's really refreshing when you can go in-house with this level of talent. So, thank you.

Mayor Lyles said thank you. It's very nice to have those kinds of changes.

Councilmember Mayfield said Mayor, are we going to go to Council topics before we go into closed session?

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ITEM NO. 21: MAYOR AND COUNCIL TOPICS

Mayor Lyles said so, let's go ahead and get this. Before we start with Council topics, I want to address two topics that are being discussed among the Council and in the public. Data centers being one, and I-77 South being another. There's been a lot of discussion about data centers. I think Ms. Ajmera had put this in front of us and we, I think, do not have the information right now to say what is their impact that she's raised, what should Council do about them, she's raised, and all of these issues have come up and we know that this is an important discussion. Not just in our community but across the Country. You cannot turn on the tv without seeing some of that around. We were told at our last Business Meeting staff was researching the data center impacts, including meeting with other municipalities to see what they've done. Staff will have additional information to share with the Council in the next three to six months. Council could potentially address land use changes through the UDO (Unified Development Ordinance) Text Amendment process. I know that several Council members want to have a discussion sooner than later and I've talked to the Manager and we will be placing data centers on the May 11, 2026 Council meeting agenda as a discussion topic. Alright. Does that cover that? So, thank you very much for bringing that up Ms. Ajmera.

Another important topic is the I-77 South expansion. There's a lot of passion about this topic. We know Council members have had a lot of conversations about how to move forward. Personally, I believe issuing the RFP is the right thing to do, but I also know

that many Council members want to have a resolution to provide protection for our residents. I would like Council to work together so we can work on a resolution at our May 11, 2026 Council meeting and I'm prepared to add that on the May agenda should Council want to take up a resolution at that time. So, I'd like to start with that information for you, and I know that many of us have been around each of these issues or both of these issues and that we want to do it well and we want to get it right. So, by doing this, I do believe that if we continue to work together and build this up, that we will be able to do that and make that possible for all of us. So, with that, Council topics. All of you who are still with us today, we appreciate you so very much coming in and being a part of what I think is building community.

Councilmember Ajmera said first, let me say thank you for elevating the data center issue to our May 11, 2026 Council agenda. First, I want to thank Councilmembers Mayfield, Johnson, and Mazuera Arias for their strong advocacy on this issue. I remember Councilmember Mayfield back in 2023, she did sound an alarm. We were just a little late to the party, but here we are. Over the past several weeks, I have had an opportunity to speak with most of you about data centers and the concerns we are hearing from residents. So, I know that it's going to be on our agenda on May 11, 2026 but my motion is specific to ensuring that we have the hearing. So, I'm going to pass this on. It's pretty much if you read the attorney's memo, and if you looked at the email that I had sent, a follow up email, I talked about this issue. It requires our urgent and immediate attention because currently data centers are allowed by-right in multiple zoning districts. Thanks to the attorney for sending out that memo because under our current UDO, Commercial Districts, industrial Districts, Research Campuses, Mixed-Use Areas and even Uptown core, data centers are allowed by-right and that means these projects can currently move forward quickly without our approval. So, we have a full opportunity to evaluate the long-term impact on our water supply, on our electricity grade, on our neighborhoods, our environment and our taxpayers. So, currently this feels like the wild west right now, and we need some guardrails in place.

So, May 11, 2026, it's great that we can have a discussion, but what I would like to see is an action because other municipalities, especially across the State and I think Councilmember Mayfield raised that issue in her email, have already passed ordinances and guardrails around data centers. We have one of the best planning staff, not just in the State, but in the nation and I feel like we are not leading on this issue. We need to take an action now, where taking action means even considering a temporary moratorium so we can study the impacts and ensure that we have guardrails in place to protect our communities. So, in order to stop the bleeding now, because there is already 2.5 million square feet of data centers going up in the University area and so many of us have already gotten emails. There is one being proposed in East Charlotte and I'm sure there are more that's coming up by-right. So, in order to stop the bleeding, we need to consider a pause and make sure that we have protection in place, especially for our water and our electricity grid. So, with that, I move to place a public hearing on the City Council's May 11, 2026 business agenda to consider whether a temporary moratorium on new data center approvals is necessary while we fully evaluation their impacts. So, you will see there are four items that I'm looking at. Assessing impact on water supply, because we know that there is already an advisory out there to conserve water. So, if you don't have guardrails around conserving water for these facilities that can use millions of gallons a day, we are going to be behind in protecting our natural resources. Also energy demand. We know that these facilities can use tens of thousands of home's electricity. So, we need to make sure that there are guardrails in place around generating their own power or having some sort of solar systems in place. I know Councilmember Owens and I have had that conversation. There can be innovative solutions in place to address that high energy use.

Also, we have seen concerns around the noise, environmental quality, and just the quality-of-life impact. So, assessing those impacts and then second, determining whether we have any existing infrastructure constraints because we have conservation measures and we need to ensure that there is capacity in place to support a legally defensible temporary moratorium. Number three, we also need to ensure that we are not just putting suggestions, we are putting enforceable mitigation measures that

translate into water conservation, cooling systems, reclaimed water use and so on. Number four, guidance from our attorney and exemption analysis for Council consideration. This was based on our attorney's feedback on the legal language that came up with this language. So, that is my motion on the floor. Thank you.

Motion was made by Councilmember Ajmera, and seconded by Councilmember Mayfield to (A) Hold a public hearing on data centers on the May 11, 2026 Business Meeting, (B) Assess the by-right concerns of data centers and the impact of water and energy usage, noise, environmental quality and quality-of-life impact, (C) Determine whether we have any existing infrastructure constraints, and (D) Ensure enforceable mitigation measures that translate into water conservation, cooling systems, reclaimed water use, etc.

Councilmember Driggs said I think this is a conversation we need to have. I appreciate the initiative. We can have a hearing in the near term, but I think it will take a little time for us to come to grips with all the issues here. The public need, the actual impacts, the noise, the water, and therefore my concern is how long of a moratorium are we talking about because we do have existing policies that permit these. If we don't yet have a replacement for those policies and we just shut it down, I would be concerned about how long we do that.

Ms. Ajmera said so, currently we are being told by the planning team that it's going to take three to six months to develop regulations. So, here is an example. If staff says go ahead and use cooling systems, but there are no enforcement standards in place, it's a suggestion. So, what we are saying is that until we have guardrails in place, we put a temporary moratorium for 90 days so that it gives staff an opportunity to develop regulations and some guardrails to conserve our natural resources, especially our water.

Mr. Driggs said when we change our policies, otherwise we do so perspective. So, to slam on the brakes like this, again I think it's the right thing. I have more of a process concern that we don't know the implications of imposing that moratorium. We don't know what projects are in the pipeline and what availability of those computer resources. So, I would just like to be sure I understand all the dimensions of this problem before shutting down data centers for months. Thank you.

Councilmember Anderson said thank you Ms. Ajmera for bringing up the topic. Thank you Mayor for already putting it on the agenda so we do have a space to talk about this. I firmly believe we need to have a robust wholistic conversation about data centers. Data centers already exist in our community in places that we don't even know about and as we heard this topic sort of gain momentum over the last several weeks, there's a lot of misinformation and disinformation out there that I think we need to have a wholistic macro conversation. Yes, about impact to neighborhoods. Yes, about long-term health impacts, but also impacts to our community, impacts to our long runway as the 14th largest city. We just invested and brought up online The Pearl, which is our first medical center but also a generator for HealthTech, and it will be a lot of innovation around that. We are the second largest banking capital in the nation and so, right, wrong, or indifferent, many of us like to use AI, Chat GPT, play games, make little character pictures on these supercomputers that we hold that generate a lot of data use. So, I would just like for us to, before we advance anything in terms of policy, let's have a robust conversation. I'd also like to invite some of our partners into that conversation. Duke Energy has a tremendous amount of information on data centers because they support data centers throughout the State. So, having some experts, some subject matter experts come in and give the truth around what we're dealing with and then think about how it will impact our future and our long runway as a City. So, I welcome the conversation. I think it should be an S on the end, conversations before we begin to impact our standup policy. Thank you Madam Mayor.

Councilmember Mayo said I agree with Councilmember Driggs. Just wondering if this is something that should be referred to Transportation and Planning Committee if this is going to be a three-to-six-month process with maybe having more conversations about this and kind of coming up with policy regarding it. Is that something that I guess there's an appetite for?

Mayor Lyles said I think there's certainly an appetite for that, but I also want to say that I think what Ms. Anderson said about this is not just something that's one person or one person in a box. This is like going all over and I really do believe to have some kind of practice before we go into it, dive into it really deeply, we need to get some more information and be really careful about what we are able to accomplish and do. I think that's why moving it up on May 2026 is helpful and I think that makes it a little bit easier because we have some time to look and see who's talking about what, and where is it going. So, I would hope that we could do something just like this in a way that's very much open to the public as well, because I don't think that the public knows it. We have so many great places, all of our people that are in our colleges where we are talking about things like that, I think there's a lot more information. Just think about what we could do if we get UNC (University of North Carolina) Charlotte in here and do some of the things that are important to get a really solid ground foundation. That's what I'm really saying. Thank you Danté for doing that.

Councilmember Watlington said so I do think we're talking about two different things or two adjacent things. I think there's figuring out what the right policy is for the long-term, which we absolutely have to do. What I'm hearing from this is, in the meantime.

Ms. Ajmera said temporary protection.

Ms. Watlington said so, to me that's kind of two, in the sense of we want to stop the potential harm while we figure out what the right thing to do is. So, I'm willing to entertain that. I do wonder if that's something that needs to go Committee though to have that conversation.

Mr. Driggs said yes.

Ms. Watlington said one that happens a lot earlier, like I mean next week is our Committee meeting. So, that's a question of do we want to recommend to Council that we do hold off and do a moratorium and we need to be clear about if that means on the request or if that means on the approvals. To your earlier point Mr. Driggs, who's already in the pipeline, what does that mean for them because I do think there needs to be an offramp or some understanding for folks who are already in the pipeline. Yes, so I'm supportive. I say that to say that I'm supportive of both as long as we do it with surgical precision in regards to where we believe the most harm may be happening and how long we're going to do one for. Then in the meantime, I'm absolutely supportive of continuing these conversations to get to the right ultimate policy.

Councilmember Graham said I won't be long because I think Councilmember Anderson really articulated where we need to go and the Mayor has set the table for us on May 11, 2026. So, I understand, well maybe I don't understand why we're moving so fast. I think we ought to do our homework and make sure that we all collectively have the same understanding, the same information and even have some conversations among ourselves, but I think Ms. Anderson kind of clearly laid it out and the Mayor's already teed it up so I'll probably vote against it, but certainly very interested in the conversation and the policy direction that we have to go.

Councilmember Mazuera Arias said I want to be clear about what the motion is. It is to not place a moratorium, but to place a public hearing.

Ms. Ajmera said so, I'll let the attorney answer that.

Andrea Leslie-Fite, City Attorney said thank you Councilmember Mazuera Arias and Councilmember Ajmera. The motion is for a public hearing on May 11, 2026. The public

hearing is required for any moratorium consideration that will be longer than 61 days and for any moratorium that would be considered 61 days or more, there is a requirement that there be notice at least 10 days ahead of the hearing. So, Council will need to factor in that number of days for any potential moratorium, any hearing on that because we don't want that to be a failure on the process piece of a consideration.

Mr. Mazuera Arias said the public hearing would allow to invite all stakeholders to the table, those that know the real harmful impacts of data centers in residential areas as well as those corporations that profit from building data centers?

Ms. Leslie-Fite said correct Councilmember Mazuera Arias. The other thing I would add too, part of the moratorium requirements, one of the legislative findings is that there has to be a study of the unique pieces that would even necessitate the need for a moratorium and per statute, Council would need to find the least restrictive amount of time possible. Then let's say you get into the process and learn more information, then there would need to be another period of time considered and there's another opportunity for a public hearing to consider that as well.

Mr. Mazuera Arias said so, this public hearing would not, in consequence, place a moratorium that day?

Ms. Leslie-Fite said but would be required to actually enter the moratorium. Just placing it on the calendar does not in and of itself enter the moratorium.

Mr. Mazuera Arias said may I get an understanding of the difference between what the Mayor did and what is being motioned?

Ms. Leslie-Fite said sure. So, as I understand it, the Mayor's referral item would be for discussion on this topic and exploration of data centers more generally as opposed to the motion that Councilmember Ajmera made. It would place a public hearing on for discussion and if Council at the conclusion of that public hearing decided it wanted to enter a moratorium, it could do so on May 11, 2026. Without that, without the public hearing on May 11, 2026, Council could not enter a moratorium on May 11, 2026, and that's not even including the notice issues that I was discussing [inaudible].

Mr. Mazuera Arias said thank you Madam Attorney. I think it is of essence to also put the public hearing on the same day. I think we can do both options, a yes and. I think we can have a discussion, but I also think time is of the essence as data centers, specifically in my District are being proposed across the City. There is one that's going to be built right, if I'm not correct, in District Four, Reneé Johnson's District. So, I don't know how much more discussions we can do as a Council without also placing a public hearing on the date. I think we can be proactive and do both things, and it is something that I've been speaking to the attorney on since December 2026 when I first learned about this rezoning happened, something that Councilmember Mayfield, you sounded the alarm two years ago on it. So, I don't know how more discussions we have to do to really understand the impacts. I mean the public research is there and I don't know what benefit it will do to see the "benefits of data centers" or even the harms. I think we should approach it proactively and do both things.

Councilmember Owens said thank you colleagues. I think I've spoken to this issue with several of you before tonight, and I believe I've also put into the room when we've had discussions on data centers that I still have additional learnings that I need to undertake. I have also expressed a concern that a moratorium is something that really sends a message and I don't know if that's where we need to be on this issue because I quite honestly don't know enough about it. I have expressed a concern that pushing these offshore is a greater risk to our citizens than having them well-located. I'm not saying within our residential areas, I'm not saying that at all, but I want to understand and put in context the variety of places who have done these moratoriums, how that has been received and how we may or may not be hurting our residents by rushing to judgment on a moratorium. So, I personally would like to understand more on May 11, 2026, but I do appreciate the leadership that's been expressed by Councilmember

Ajmera. I personally need more information before I would be comfortable even hearing from an entire packed room full of people because I feel as though there are some folks who are anti-AI, who are using data centers as a means to try to shut down AI and I don't think that we're there, but I also do agree that we need to be good stewards of our resources, particularly our water while we're in the middle of a drought. So, I've got a whole lot of thoughts swirling that do not put me in a situation regardless of what I hear on May 11, 2026 that I'm going to be comfortable voting on a moratorium. Thank you.

Councilmember Mayfield said Manager Jones, if this calendar that I'm looking at is correct, on May 4, 2026 is when we're going to have the budget discussion, which means on the Council Action Review on May 11, 2026, isn't that when we're supposed to have our Budget Hearing?

Marcus Jones, City Manager said yes.

Ms. Mayfield said okay, there is no possible way that with the Budget Hearing discussion, the way that goes, that we're going to have these major conversations on the same date. So, I just want to make sure that we remember the calendar and that the community knows May 11, 2026 is our budget hearing. That is not a 30-minute conversation. This is not a 30-minute conversation. So, even though I support Councilmember Ajmera's recommendation mainly because we have received notice from Charlotte Water to reduce our water intake, we are seeing the impacts of the environment and we don't have very specific language regarding cooling, internal cooling on data centers as well as an internal recycling system on data centers and the impact that that would have when we just signed a contract with our neighbors in Gastonia to expand our water. We just recently signed a contract with our neighboring towns to have access to the water. We need to have the opportunity to have a real conversation of what this looks like.

So, if there's support for a moratorium, that would at least give us enough of a pause so that we don't have a lot of applications coming in to identify industrial manufacturing space not anywhere near residential because there are physical impacts. There are challenges within our SEAP (Strategic Energy Action Plan) program. There are other challenges that have been identified through science, data and science magazines regarding the impact of data centers, but we need the opportunity to have that conversation. As Councilmember Ajmera mentioned, this isn't a new conversation. I mentioned this back in 2023. Us slow walking, is what now is putting us in the position where we feel like we need to do something now or it never happens. That was a year and a half plus where we had the opportunity to put energy into this conversation that we chose to kick the ball down the road, but if we're talking about May 11, 2026, I want us to be very realistic. We're doing budget review. That is not fair to the community, it's not fair to this Council. Thank you Madam Mayor.

Ms. Ajmera said Councilmember Mayfield, that's a great catch. You're right. I don't want us to have this conversation and steal the Manager's thunder after he presents his budget. So, Madam Attorney, would May 18, 2026, the Zoning, be something that we could add to the agenda?

Ms. Leslie-Fite said you could.

Ms. Ajmera said okay. So, I hear what Councilmember Owens concerns are around getting additional information. This gives us an opportunity to have it at the Committee because there is a Committee meeting.

Councilmember Mitchell said May 4, 2026.

Ms. Ajmera said May 4, 2026, right? Then that gives us two weeks, which is May 18, 2026. To Councilmember Driggs' concern, this gives the Committee some time to review it before it comes up in front of us on May 18, 2026 for a hearing. That also satisfies the legal requirement that the attorney had mentioned earlier.

Mr. Driggs said so, I want to understand what you're suggesting. Are you proposing for May 4, 2026?

Ms. Ajmera said no. No, I'm saying May 18, 2026, but that gives your Committee an opportunity to discuss it on May 4, 2026.

Mr. Driggs said that's what I'm saying.

Ms. Ajmera said right.

Mr. Driggs said we have a hugely overloaded agenda already for May 4, 2026, which will include addressing I-77 issues. So, as a practical matter it would be very hard to make room for another topic.

Ms. Ajmera said on May 4, 2026?

Mr. Driggs said I mean, we've already over scheduled that meeting and some new things have come in to the conversation. It's going to be very hard for us to do that with the work that we already have ahead of us that day.

Ms. Ajmera said yes. You know, this work is very important, and it requires a sense of urgency. I just talked about how our current UDO allows by-right in so many of our zonings unlike other cities and municipalities. With our Unified Development Ordinance, we allow by-right data centers in so many zoning districts that other municipalities do not. So, this does require that Council take an action and at least prioritize it at the Transporting Committee meeting. Not override the I-77 discussion, but it could be a second item on the agenda.

Mr. Driggs said it's an important topic. There's no way we can do justice to it on such short notice at a Committee meeting on May 4, 2026. It does take advanced work, it takes staff work in order to position that meeting and frankly, I agree with you entirely on the importance. The urgency is something that I have a harder time with. I agree with Ms. Mayfield. This has been out there for a long time. It is critical that we do something. It's not critical that we do something in the next couple of weeks. I think we can give ourselves a little more time than that and be deliberate. There are a lot of things, as Ms. Anderson pointed out, that we all need to learn. I wouldn't want to sit in a hearing and not have educated myself and be listening to people talking on this subject. It's absolutely important. I appreciate the initiative, I just think that that particular level of urgency is not called for.

Mayor Lyles said I think all of us appreciate this. So, Mr. Jones do you have a suggestion?

Mr. Jones said I'll try to be helpful about May 11, 2026. So, what we do is on the second Monday, we have the agenda preview, which really tries to set us up for success for the fourth Monday, a lot of action items. So, then the last meeting, when we put too much on the agenda, it wasn't a great result. So, we would start at 5:00 p.m. typically and that would be the agenda preview, and whatever time is allotted there could be for whatever topic you want. Six thirty, we come here and the budget hearing is just like any other hearing you would have. It would be on the agenda, but it would be after you convene your 6:30 p.m. So, I just want to lay out what May 11, 2026 looks like and whether or not you'd like to come in early or things like that, but I don't think we have anything populated for agenda preview that could not be altered.

Liz Babson, Deputy City Manager said MPTA update.

Mr. Jones said MPTA updates is what we have.

Ms. Ajmera said okay.

Ms. Owens said I just want to speak very intentionally because I had been one of the people that complained probably the most [inaudible] with respect to the long meeting that we had. Part of that was not so much borne of me not wanting to be in a meeting, it was us showing up hours late for the people who were sitting in this chamber. So, I just want to be very intentional that I'm not trying to say I don't like long meetings. I'm not trying to say I don't want to do the work. What I'm trying to say is that our action preview needs to be very thoughtfully limited to the amount of time that we've told people because we cannot have people sitting here for two hours waiting for us. So, however you use that time, I personally, on the data center issue, would very much prefer that this be heard by Committee first, be that Committee in May 2026, if that can happen. If it can't, then in June 2026 and then that it come to us so that we're more fully informed for a public hearing.

Mr. Graham said I agree wholeheartedly. Committee, Council and then maybe a public hearing. I think those are the action steps because I'm very supportive of what you're trying to do, but I don't see, as Councilmember Driggs said, the need to not follow the Mayor's lead which is have that initial conversation on May 11, 2026, kick this thing and get started.

Ms. Ajmera said I just want to amend my motion. I wanted to amend my motion.

Mr. Graham said the intention was three minutes.

Ms. Watlington said that's nowhere in the policy. We've been talking about voting on it forever, we just never did.

Ms. Ajmera said yes, we never did vote. So, I just wanted to make sure. Based on Councilmember Owens' feedback and the attorney's timeline, I think June 8, 2026 would be the next one. So, that aligns with the timeline that Councilmember Owens just suggested.

Mr. Graham said that's if we want to do a hearing, right? We have to get to that point that we want to actually do it.

Mr. Driggs said we should talk on May 11, 2026.

Mr. Graham said we should talk on May 11, 2026.

Ms. Ajmera said that gives the public an opportunity to come down and speak.

Ms. Anderson said so, Madam Mayor, just a point of information.

Ms. Anderson said this is an important conversation, but we've spent well over 20 minutes on it and we have a motion on the floor.

Mr. Mitchell said that's for sure.

Mayor Lyles said alright. So, we're going to call the question.

Ms. Leslie-Fite said I believe the motion is being amended. Councilmember Ajmera is changing it from May 11, 2026 to June 8, 2026.

Ms. Ajmera said the next Business Meeting. That allows more time to Councilmember Owens' concern.

Ms. Watlington said this is a public hearing and a staff review?

Mayor Lyles said alright, we have a motion on the floor for a June 8, 2026 meeting that would have the actual work for talking about data centers.

Ms. Anderson said point of clarity. This is for a public hearing.

pti:mt

Ms. Leslie-Fite said public hearing, yes.

Ms. Anderson said we're about to vote on that. I think this motion is for a public hearing to be held on data centers.

Mr. Mitchell said right, June 8, 2026.

Substitute motion was made by Councilmember Ajmera, and seconded by Councilmember Mayfield to change the public hearing from May 11, 2026 to June 8, 2026.

The vote was taken on the substitute motion and recorded as follows:

YEAS: Councilmembers Ajmera, Mazuela Arias, Mayo, Mayfield, and Watlington

NAYS: Councilmembers Anderson, Driggs, Graham, Mitchell, and Owens

Mayor Lyles said I am going to support the idea that we continue as it is. So, I really do believe that this is important, but I don't believe that we ought to have a public hearing and to do something without more understanding. I just don't feel comfortable talking about something without having some research and some information around it.

Ms. Mayfield said so, you're a no?

Mayor Lyles said I am a no.

Ms. Ajmera said it's still on the agenda on May 11, 2026?

Mr. Mitchell said that hasn't changed.

Ms. Ajmera said that hasn't changed. So, we'll still have a discussion.

Mayor Lyles said honestly I hope that we'll utilize the people in this community to do this and do it well because that's who is going to live with it. So, we ought to be doing our very best and getting some information about it.

Ms. Watlington said so, I think this last conversation we just had is a good example. I think that data centers are one arm. I think the overarching theme, which is probably the most important topic of our generation really, is smart growth and how we're going to grow as a City. Whether it's housing, whether it's data centers, whether its economic development, whether it's transportation. We've got to grapple with this and I agree that there is a sense of urgency, and I think that people generally understand that. I think where we end up with a gap is that we always seem to allow our process to be the hindrance, and I feel like we've got to develop better ways of working such that our own internal processes are not shortchanging the outcomes for the people. There's no way we should be talking about data centers for a year and a half and then be nickel and diming a week or this week or how many minutes on an agenda. At some point, we've got to be responsive. It's not enough to know. We've got to do. So, I just think about we saw what happened when we waited for six months on the UDO when we knew Policy 2.1 was going to lead to a potential overgrowth and overdevelopment in particular areas. When we got ready to do something about it, it was too late.

So, we've got to figure out how to accelerate our gains while also doing quality work and given that we're right here in budget season, if that means that we need to talk about what our staff needs to look like to deliver better analysis more quickly, then we've got to have those conversations, but we cannot continue down this path of talking about things and not taking action because we don't have enough information. We've got to go get it. So, how do we that in the spirit of that as it relates to transportation specifically? Many of you know that I'm working on a partnership with our University in

regards to how do we execute analysis and how do we update our transportation and our land use modeling so that we can decide, based on what's important to our community and understanding the impacts, we can make choices about what we want to invest in so we're not having alternative-focused conversations. So, anyway, I say that to say more to come, but I just caution us in light of the conversation that we just had, inaction is action. So, we've got to steward that differently. That's all for me.

Ms. Mayo said just kind of echoing what Victoria and Dimple just really talked about. Excited to share that we've been working hard on a resolution regarding 77 South expansion. So, we have been working on a draft that we've shared with Council members hoping to continue that conversation, either in a Committee meeting, but I know you also have referred that to May 11, 2026. I think as a whole, we need to really come up with how do we think about smart growth, but how do we also protect community as well. So, hoping that this is a good first step as we're thinking through how do we move people, but how do we do so responsibly. So, excited to continue to have those conversations with you all and glad that so many of us have worked to collaborate on this for quite a few weeks and hoping that this is something that the community will back as we're thinking through measures to ensure that we're being respectful and responsible for our residents. So, thank you all for continuing your patience, as I'm new and just kind of figuring things out and thinking through how do I make sure that District Three and all of the City is receiving the support that they need. So, thank you.

Ms. Anderson said thank you Ms. Mayo and I'm looking forward to the conversations that we'll have on the resolution. However, I just wanted to share two quick things. One is on April 18, 2026, we had our fourth annual East Side Intergovernmental Summit and it was at the Eastway Regional Recreation Center and it was amazing. We had the big five there, we had this gentleman sitting next to me as well as the County manager, the superintendent of CMS (Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools), the sheriff and the chief of police. They had the opportunity to answer questions directly from East Side residents around what was top of mind and what they're concerned about. So, phenomenal facility, the Eastway Regional Recreation Center. Just thank you, that was a phenomenal discussion. We got really, really good feedback.

Secondly, I just wanted to highlight something going on in the community last weekend. The Realtors Association had a realtor's day and they were in community all throughout the City of Charlotte, but in particular had the opportunity to go to an elder who's aging in place in the Hidden Valley Community and they did a full day of dedication work, fixing her deck, fixing other things all in one day and it was amazing. It really and truly helped her stay in a house that she received from her parents, and she had already said that she's going to pass it down to her son. So, this would be a third generational asset in a historically African-American community in the City of Charlotte. So, I was really proud to see that and happy that the Realtors Association was able to bring that work to her. Thank you Madam Mayor.

Mr. Mitchell said you all should have a vanilla folder at your table. At the dais, we heard earlier from several speakers about noise cameras. So, probably since January 2026, I've been meeting with the hotels located in Center City and I'm glad they came down here and voiced their concern about noise cameras. So, Madam Mayor, I would like if you could refer this to the Public Safety Committee so we can decide what policy we think would fit having a noise camera for our Center City.

Ms. Owens said so, if I could just very briefly piggyback on what was just said. I would like to expand that Mayor and ask that that be considered more broadly than just Center City. District Six has had a number of corridors and that is a repeated question that I get, "Where is the enforcement with respect to these car muffler situations?" I haven't heard it from the hotels. So, I want to prioritize the hotel district. I think that is exceptionally important, but I would hope that we also could look at it more broadly. I do want to park just very briefly on the comments that I had raised, or hope to raise tonight. I'm appreciative of the Mayor putting on our May 11, 2026 discussion agenda the resolution that some of us have been working on behind the scenes, and I appreciate

the good grace that's been given us by our colleagues as we bring them into the fold. In the month of April 2026, I've been very intentional in doing a listening a tour with my residents in District Six who shared their thoughts about I-77 South. Those who have spoken to me have fallen into two buckets. Either they don't trust the I-77 South project, or they really don't trust the I-77 South project.

So, the first camp [inaudible] me that they've looked at the math and they don't have confidence that what they're getting is worth the 50 years of toll revenue that they're going to be paying. They question whether this is worth the exposure to scammers that we're going to be granting with a toll system and pay by mail uncertainties. I think we've already seen that with some of our toll roads. They also query whether the project as it's currently modeled addresses congestion at all. Something that still needs to be proven to them, and if it does, how long does it address that congestion? Is it worth the cost? Those who really don't trust it have expressed they have all of those concerns and then layer on the concern that communities, especially historically undervalued communities, are going to be displaced again, and I hear most often, "Didn't we stop doing that in the 1950s and 1960s?" So, I just want to put that into the room that this is the concern that I'm hearing from District Six. I am told repeatedly personally that this is the most expensive project in North Carolina history and that folks have been working on it for decades and for me, that motivates me to ensure that we get it right. I want to know how this displacement will cause that grade or elevated, how does it compare to other takings that we've experienced in the State and what levers do we have at our disposal to make sure that these efforts are really showing some innovation in design as well as community-focused offsets, and perhaps there's more money that we need to be requesting from the state beyond \$100 million bonus allocation to address displacement.

So, to my colleagues I say let us explore how we got here with the knowledge that we have now, explore a path that works best. I am not in favor of rescinding this until we have done a really deep dive, and I'm hopeful that the resolution provides us that opportunity. I appreciate the Mayor's leadership in putting it on the agenda for May 11, 2026. So, thank you.

Mr. Graham said I have two items and I'll be very quick. Over the last 30 days, the West Charlotte Beatties Ford Road community has received two major announcements. One, Wells Fargo has donated \$8 million to various nonprofit organizations that are serving Beatties Ford Road and the West Charlotte community. They made that announcement at Johnson C. Smith University about two weeks ago. About four weeks ago the CVS Foundation made a similar pledge of \$2.5 million to support nonprofit organizations working on the Beatties Ford Road Corridor as well as West Charlotte. This is yet another example of our Corridors of Opportunity out working which is a combination of both public and private investments to ensure that these Corridors that we're working on are adequately funded both from the public perspective and private donations to nonprofit organizations, actually doing the work, having boots on the ground, providing services related to healthcare, food deserts and community development. In addition, there was a great reception last week to help fill the final gaps with the Historic Associates Club in District Two. So, as you know, the City and the County have combined a \$3 million investment. They worked last week to close the gaps. I'm really excited about the Excelsior Club coming online sooner than later restoring the tradition, the legacy of entrepreneurship on the Beatties Ford Road Corridor.

Lastly, and probably more importantly, there was a great job fair over the weekend hosted by the Charlotte Douglas Airport. Over 1,800 job seekers and 17 employers were at the BOplex looking for job opportunities at the airport. People want to go work at the airport. The Aviation Department also this week will hold a resource fair available to the 22,000 badged individuals who work at the airport for issues related to housing, finance, healthcare, etc. Again, outward mobility. Folks get jobs and try to climb the ladder to get better jobs at the airport, and/or outside of the airport. So, I'm really excited about that and that doesn't include all the construction workers who are working at the airport each and every day. I just wanted to lift that up because that's great economic development news, job news, workforce development news and also continue to invest

from the private perspective what's happening in our Corridors of Opportunity, in general and specifically in the Beatties Ford Road Corridor.

Mr. Driggs said colleagues, good evening. We've heard about I-77 a couple of times already. I think you kind of know where I stand on this. You have in front of you a document. It's called *Facts, Myths, and Consequences*. I hope you all read it carefully. I'm not going to recite from it tonight, but it just reiterates the reason this project is important. It tries to respond to some misconceptions that have fueled a lot of the opposition. I know also that there is a lot of pressure from groups on all of us frankly, me too, to move towards a rescission, and I want to tell you that we share their concerns. We all do, including me, and I want to emphasize I'm old enough. I remember when Dr. King was assassinated. I remember the Civil Rights Movement, I saw Whites only signs. It was a tragedy for our Country and painful to behold. So, we all have that motivation and share the concern of some of the protestors, but that doesn't mean we have to do their bidding. So, what I'm asking is that we read this document and we keep an open mind, and we just stay focused on getting the best outcome we can. Any action right now that tries to get the CRPTO (Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization) to intervene or to shut it down denies us the opportunity to see what is possible and what we might be able to get. I believe the resolution that I appreciate is a powerful statement of our concern for our constituents and our values and it will be a foundation for future conversations, but we must have those conversations. At some point, there is still every opportunity that we have now in the future to make a move to shut it down if we really get to the point where we feel that's what we have to do.

So, rather than take precipitous actions to shut it down right away, let's roll with this a bit. Let's pass our resolution, let's make clear where we stand, hold NCDOT accountable. I know that one of the reasons we're in this predicament is because the NCDOT didn't really handle this very well. They started this process. They did not recognize the sensitivity of those neighborhoods and the historical context and now we're trying to recover from that frankly, and I've been trying to recover from that. I didn't recognize it either to be honest. No one sort of said, you know, "Hey, be careful over there." Let's see if we can steer towards an outcome that solves the problems on I-77 and also is very respectful of those neighborhoods and puts them in a better position than they are now, in the future. So, that's what I'll say about that. Now, I'm supportive of the resolution. I hope we can work together to get that passed. Thank you.

Ms. Mayfield said I would say that I'm happy to hear about the airport job fair this past weekend. I'm hoping that they are continuing what we started when I created the District Three airport job fair that ran for seven years. One of the commitments that I had even back in 2012 that started is that it was jobs that were ready to hire, immediately, because they identified the openings. Even in 2012, those positions committed to a minimum of \$15.00 an hour back then. So, we would think that it would be increased today. It was disheartening to hear from a number of our employees that are both our fire employees and our employees at the airport who are in positions where they are having to make serious choices and are underpaid without access to insurance. That is something that we need to figure out, how to identify partners that recognize the value in paying their employees. If you cannot afford to live in our City, which is a concern that I have had for years, which is why [inaudible] comment regarding housing was disappointing as far as I'm concerned because if our employees cannot afford to live here, we are going to see the mass exodus from Charlotte that we have seen that has migrated to Charlotte.

Yet, for our residents that live here, Mayor I would like to request a follow up referral to Housing Committee to explore the potential of amending our minimum housing code to mandate working air conditioning equipment during the summer months. We've had this conversation for a number of years. As part of the minimal housing code referral to the Housing Committee, actually back in 2025, the Committee directed the staff to evaluate the viability of amending the minimal housing code to require air conditioning equipment in all dwellings. The City has made tremendous efforts, and I want to acknowledge our team because they have done some great work with our 2025 window unit distribution as well as the HVAC pilot program and stay colder engagement. As we continue to see

environmental impacts, with record heat over 100 degrees. If it's 100 degrees outside, you're looking at 115 plus inside of a home that doesn't have air conditioning. Window units are not necessarily the best or the most efficient type of unit, so this will be a part of the conversation for our minimal housing code so either six votes on Council if it needs to be in the form of a motion or Mayor you have, of course, the ability to refer it to Committee. I would like to ask for you to refer it to Committee, and I have already talked to my outgoing chair, which I'm still not happy about, but I have talked to my outgoing Executive Director of Housing, to have the conversation to see if we can. We are probably looking at, and Attorney Leslie-Fite correct me if I say this incorrectly, we were looking at like September 2026 to give enough time, because we have a number of major conversations happening but would love to get that referral to Housing and Neighborhood Services Committee.

Mr. Mazuera Arias said I want to start off by inviting everyone to my first inaugural Town Hall in District Five, this Thursday, April 30, 2026, at One Church Charlotte off of Albermarle Road from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. We'll have Miss DiDi's Haitian Caribbean Kitchen catered, so it will be a good time, and we'll have a lot of our staffing experts here.

Alright, so my topic, and I do really like working with all of my colleagues, and I deeply respect my colleagues, but this Council has me deeply, deeply frustrated. It seems like we want to, "roll" with every problem that faces the working people of this City, every single time. I think we have to show up differently as a Council, as elected leaders. How many more conversations do we need to have about something before action is made on it? Especially conversations that we have been discussing for years. We knew I-77 was coming, and it hit us like a deer in headlights. I think I'm just frustrated of lack of action on any pressing, urgent issue that is facing our community. I think I'm also frustrated at the inconsistency that we sometimes show as a Council. Dr. Victoria Watlington, a Council member, suggested earlier this evening to bring the Housing Trust Fund recommended projects back to Committee, and that was not approved or not spoken about, but yet with data centers, we want to bring it back to Committee. There is inconsistency there, and I think sometimes, oftentimes, we have outside relationships that might influence the way we vote. I think the weight of decisions that we have as a Council impact our neighborhoods. The weight of expectations from a city of nearly a million people, the weight of knowing that sometimes, even when we want to act, the tools in front of us feel very limited. For example, how do we come up with a resolution? What are the legal avenues? How do we put something on the agenda? I really do, and maybe it's because I'm 27 and impatient, but we are also a generation that lived through a pandemic, that are facing an affordable housing crisis, that are facing layoffs, a healthcare crisis. I really do not think we are here as public elected officials to serve the system, to serve access. I think we are here to serve people. People who don't have lobbyists, people who don't have direct lines to us, and people who trust that when they're not in the room, we're lifting their voices up, and so too the voices that are not always centered in the conversations. The residents who wonder what these decisions mean for their livelihoods, their commute, their neighborhood, the workers who show up every day to keep this City running, and still struggle to make ends meet. I think about the airport service workers who's labor keeps our City moving yet those working conditions often remain invisible, and those workers who speak up, and when they organize like SEIU32BJ, who are helping to elevate the voices of those workers and we should pause to listen to those voices and not pause to question their legitimacy but to listen more closely to them. Because, I feel like if we begin to doubt the lived experiences of the most vulnerable among us, then we risk losing sight of why we are here in the first place. I think our role is to balance, and I'll be honest, as somebody new to this body, someone who is young, I've had to navigate what it means to hold that balance, to understand the access that we get. Who has it, who expects it, and how we as a Council engage with it, because access to us should never feel like a given which brings me to something that I hope this Council can explore together, the hard ask which is asking ourselves whether our processes make it just as easy to just elevate the concerns of working families as it is to advance the priorities of developers, to examine whether we have internal barriers, bureaucratic gatekeeping, limitations on agenda setting that are preventing us from even having the conversations our constituents are

asking us to have, and to ensure that when a Council member wants to bring forward an idea rooted in community need that there is a clear and fair path to do so. So, how do we strengthen our ability as a Council, to act on behalf of the people? How do we ensure that when a Council member sees a need in their District, that we listen to what Councilmember Graham tells us about the affordable housing projects that are coming to his District. That we listen to Councilmember Ajmera when she thinks there is an urgency for data centers. How do we look at our own processes and ask whether they empower us to lead or to unintentionally hold us back from having any action. I think we all have a belief, a purpose, a commitment to serve, and if we can hold on to that, if we can let that guide us, even in moments where the tools feel limited, our impact does not have to be. Because I really do think that ultimately public service at its core, it's not about what is easiest, it's about what is right to do even when it seems hard.

Mayor Lyles said I just wanted to say that I know many of you know Aisha Dew who is on our delegation, her mother passed this weekend. Ruth Dew was someone that came along and brought people with her. She was particularly the person that you would go to, to create places where children that were brown children or black children had an opportunity to learn art and to learn music and to learn so many other things. So, I just wanted to mention that to you so you know, and Aisha is, I believe, at home, and so that's my suggestion for the end of this meeting.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mayo, and seconded by Councilmember Ajmera to vote on a resolution at the May 11, 2026 Business Meeting regarding I-77 South.

Mr. Driggs said you can make that motion based on the fact that it's on the agenda. It is open for you to make the motion on May 11, 2026.

Ms. Leslie-Fite said so once it's placed on the agenda, the requested action would be to vote on the item. So, for clarification, that would be the purpose on May 11, 2026. I just want to be clear with Mr. Manager, that the requested action would be to consider voting on the [inaudible].

Mayor Lyles said we have one closed session planned.

Ms. Leslie-Fite said before we move to the motion for closed session, there was a motion on the floor from Councilmember Mayo. Based on the new information, Councilmember Mayo, would you like to withdraw your motion?

Ms. Mayo said yes, I would like to withdraw my motion.

Ms. Leslie-Fite said thank you.

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ITEM NO. 22: CLOSED SESSION (AS NECESSARY)

Motion was made by Councilmember Mazuera Arias, seconded by Councilmember Driggs, and carried unanimously to go into closed session to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industry or other businesses in the area served by the public body including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives, that may be offered by the public body in negotiations pursuant to NCGS 143-138.11 (a)(4).

The meeting was recessed at 8:51 p.m. to move to CH-14 for a closed session.

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m. at the conclusion of the closed session.

Billie Tynes, Deputy City Clerk

Length of Meeting: 3 Hours, 16 Minutes
Minutes completed: June 1, 2026