

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina convened for a Business Meeting on Monday, December 8, 2025, 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, Renee Johnson, Lawana Mayfield, Joi Mayo, James Mitchell, Kimberly Owens, and Victoria Watlington.

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Mayor Lyles said good afternoon, everyone. I still believe it's afternoon; it's just a little bit chilly and a little bit darker than we probably thought it would be today. Thank you all for being here, good evening, and thank you for joining us in person, as well as those who are watching online for our December 8, 2025, Charlotte City Council Business Meeting. So, this is the first meeting with the new Council, so I'd like to give a warm welcome to the new members, and also thank all Council members for their dedication to public service, especially as we begin our new term. I'm looking forward to all we will accomplish for this community. So, let's begin with introductions.

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INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

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

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CONSENT AGENDA

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

Mayor Lyles said the next item on our agenda is our consent agenda, and so I wanted to ask Ms. Marie, if you have any of the remarks or anything that we need to do in addressing our consent agenda?

Marie Harris, Budget Director said thank you, and good evening. I've had a chance to speak to many of you, and I didn't know if there were any other questions at this time?

Councilmember Mazuera Arias said thanks, Marie, thanks for talking to me earlier. I have a question on items 24, 25, 27 and 28, which are all multi-year contracts for CATS (Charlotte Area Transit System). Can you please confirm that these contracts will be transferred over to the new Authority once it is fully established and no longer under the City of Charlotte?

Ms. Harris said yes, sir, and as you stated, they are definitely transferrable. These new ones have assignability clauses in them, so when it's time they will move over to the MPTA (Mecklenburg Public Transit Authority). Right now, CATS is still under your authority, and when it moves out to its own organization, that's when these transitions will occur, but there's contracts that have to be in place now, that's why you're still approving them.

Mr. Mazuera Arias said thank you, and on a related note, Item No. 26, Scaleybark Station drainage repairs, the explanation section states that the project is expected to be completed by the end of December 2025, is that still accurate?

Ms. Harris said no, sir, it's actually March 2026, and that's been corrected on the agenda, thank you.

Mr. Mazuera Arias said thank you, Marie.

Mayor Lyles said alright. Any other questions or comments on the consent agenda?

Councilmember Mayfield said I have questions for Item No. 19 and 34.

Mayor Lyles said 19 and 34.

Ms. Mayfield said yes, Item No. 19, Thermal Hydrolysis Process Design Contract Amendment. Marie, we did have a chance to discuss it earlier, but can you give me an update as to this amendment for the McAlpine Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant?

Ms. Harris said yes, ma'am, and thank you. This amendment was required because once they got into the design phase and really started looking at it, they realized that part of the processing equipment had reached end of life and needed to be replaced, especially since the speed is going to be going up with these new design improvements.

Ms. Mayfield said thank you very much. Also, for Item No. 34, the Airport West Ramp Dual Taxi Lanes Change Order. This is amendment number five on this particular contract, which now creates a grand total of \$23,592,462.22. Help me understand. Mainly, I want to ensure that there is a plan for future projects at the airport, to make sure that we're aligning the actual contract to the work that is going to be needed, so that we can try to reduce multiple amendments.

Ms. Harris said yes, ma'am, and thank you. They definitely do try to work towards that. This particular one was a result of some FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) requirement changes, and they did try to bid this scope out, and they got no bids, probably because it was very specialized work, and that's why they went ahead with this contractor that was already in place that could do the work, but yes, ma'am.

Ms. Mayfield said thank you, because I wanted to make sure that community, if they took the time to read it, they also were aware that this is triggered by some FAA standards that we were not aware of when we initially approved the original contract. Thank you, Madam Mayor.

ITEM NO. 2: CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 12 THROUGH 42 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 Mitchell, and seconded by Councilmember Mayfield to approve the consent agenda as presented with the exception of Item No. 39 and Item No. 42 which were settled and Item No. 40 which was deferred.

Councilmember Mayfield said Mayor, a question. You mentioned Item No. 40 was Item No. 40 settled?

Marie Harris, Budget Director said no, ma'am, that one's deferred until January 2026, so it will come back eventually, unless it's settled by then.

Ms. Mayfield said so, that is a deferral, thank you.

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

The following items were approved:

Item No. 12: Spectrum Center Traffic Control Services

(A) Approve a contract with Parking Unlimited Inc. for Spectrum Center traffic control services in an amount not to exceed \$270,000 for a term of one year, 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 which the contract was approved.

Item No. 13: Bus Park and Ride Lots Grounds Maintenance

(A) Approve a contract with Roundtree Companies, LLC (MBE, SBE) for Charlotte Area Transit System Bus Park and Ride Lots Grounds Maintenance for a term of three years, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to one, two-year term with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 14: Firehouse #22 Additions and Renovations

Approve a contract in the amount of \$1,620,000 to the lowest responsive bidder Elford, Inc. for Charlotte Firehouse #22 Additions and Renovations.

Summary of Bids*

* The complete Summary of Bids is available in the City Clerk's Office.

Item No. 15: Concrete and Asphalt Maintenance Services

(A) Approve contracts for concrete and asphalt maintenance services for a term of three years with the following: Barry's Concrete and Service, Inc., DOT Construction Inc. (SBE), Piedmont Parking Solutions dba Carolina Site, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contracts for up to one, two-year term with possible price adjustments and to amend the contracts consistent with the purpose for which the contracts were approved.

Item No. 16: Freightliner Parts and Service

(A) Approve a contract with Charlotte Truck Center, Inc. dba Excel Truck Group for Freightliner parts and service for a term of three years, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to one, two-year term with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 17: Information Technology Professional Services

(A) Approve the purchase of information technology professional services from a cooperative contract, (B) Approve a unit price contract with Parsons Transportation Group Inc. for the purchase of information technology professional services for a term of two years under GSA Multiple Award Schedule contract #47QRAA19D000A, and (C) Authorize the City Manager to extend the contract for additional terms as long as the cooperative contract is in effect with prices and terms that are the same or more favorable than those offered under the cooperative contract.

Item No. 18: Siphon Cleaning Services

(A) Approve a unit price contract with Duke's Root Control Inc. for siphon cleaning services for a term of two years, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to three, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 19: Thermal Hydrolysis Process Design Contract Amendment

Approve contract amendment #1 for \$1,938,084 to the contract with PC Construction Company for the McAlpine Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Thermal Hydrolysis Process and Biosolids Improvements Project.

Item No. 20: Water and Sanitary Sewer Infrastructure Repair

(A) Approve a unit price contract with the lowest responsive bidder Mainlining America, LLC (WBE) for water and sanitary sewer infrastructure repair for a term of one year, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to four, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 21: Water Treatment Valve Replacement Materials

Approve a contract in the amount of \$1,100,000 to the lowest responsive bidder JASH USA Inc. dba Rodney Hunt for the purchase of rectangular butterfly valves and fabricated slide gates.

Summary of Bids*

* The complete Summary of Bids is available in the City Clerk's Office.

Item No. 22: Hunter Acres Pond Improvements Project

(A) Approve a contract in the amount of \$717,939.42 to the lowest responsive bidder Carolina Wetland Services, Inc. (WBE, SBE) for the Hunter Acres Pond Improvements Project, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Summary of Bids

Carolina Wetland Services, Inc.	\$ 717,939.42
Pressley Site Works, LLC	\$ 744,354.00
OnSite Development, LLC	\$1,521,493.80

Item No. 23: Storm Water Repair and Improvements Projects – E

(A) Approve a contract in the amount of \$1,821,347.72 to the lowest responsive bidder United of Carolinas Inc. for the Storm Water Repair and Improvement FY2026-E projects, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Summary of Bids

United of Carolinas, Inc.	\$1,821,347.72
OnSite Development LLC	\$1,867,641.00
GS Construction Services, Inc.	\$2,783,847.00

Item No. 24: CATS Marketing and Communications Services

(A) Approve a contract with Sherry Matthews Group for marketing and communications services for a term of one year, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to renew the contract for up to three, one-year terms with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved.

Item No. 25: Light Rail Vehicle Train Control and Signaling Systems Parts and Repairs

(A) Approve the purchase of light rail vehicle train control and signaling systems parts by the sole source exemption, (B) Approve a contract with Hitachi Rail STS USA Inc. for the purchase of light rail vehicle train control and signaling systems parts and repairs for a term of three years, and (C) 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. 26: Scaleybark Station Drainage Repairs

Approve a contract in the amount of \$713,487.50 to the lowest responsive bidder Efficient Developments, LLC for the Scaleybark Station Drainage Repairs project.

Summary of Bids

Efficient Developments LLC	\$ 713,487.50
Stacy Witbeck	\$2,184,583.00

Item No. 27: South End Station Construction Manager at Risk Construction Phase

Approve a contract amendment in the amount of \$17,974,487 to Stacy Witbeck for Construction Manager at Risk services for the construction phase of the South End Station Track and Systems package.

Item No. 28: Transit Planning and Scheduling Software

(A) Authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute a contract with GIRO Inc. to upgrade, provide, implement, support, and maintain the Charlotte Area Transit System's HASTUS Scheduling System for a term of four years, (B) Authorize the City Manager to

renew the contract with possible price adjustments and to amend the contract consistent with the purpose for which the contract was approved, and (C) Authorize the City Manager to purchase additional software licenses, services, hardware, maintenance, and support as required to maintain the system for as long as the city uses the system.

Item No. 29: Airport Facility Lease – 4402 Yorkmont Road

(A) Approve a three-year lease with AGI Cargo, LLC for an office and warehouse facility at 4402 Yorkmont Road, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to amend and extend the lease for up to two, one-year terms consistent with the purpose for which the lease was approved.

Item No. 30: Airport Facility Lease – 4818 Express Drive, Suite C

(A) Approve a one-year lease agreement with Ground Services International Inc. dba DNATA for an office and warehouse facility located at 4818 Express Drive, Suite C, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to amend and extend the lease for up to four, one-year terms consistent with the purpose for which the lease was approved.

Item No. 31: Airport Fixed Base Operator North Basin Retrofit Construction

Approve a contract in the amount of \$666,189.70 to the lowest responsive bidder OnSite Development LLC for the Fixed Base Operator North Basin Retrofit project.

Summary of Bids*

* The complete Summary of Bids is available in the City Clerk's Office.

Item No. 32: Airport Overlook Lighting Enhancements

Approve a contract in the amount of \$546,059.36 to the lowest responsive bidder Brooks-Berry-Haynie & Associates, Inc. for the Overlook Lighting Enhancements project.

Summary of Bids*

* The complete Summary of Bids is available in the City Clerk's Office.

Item No. 33: Airport Public Wi-Fi Upgrade

(A) Approve a contract with GC&E Systems Group, LLC to provide, implement, and maintain the CLT Airport Public Wi-Fi System for a term of three years, (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, and (C) Authorize the City Manager to purchase additional software licenses, services, hardware, maintenance, and support as required to maintain the system for as long as the city uses the system.

Item No. 34: Airport West Ramp Dual Taxilanes Change Order

Approve change order #5 for \$657,795.93 to the contract with Zachry Construction Corporation for the West Ramp Dual Taxilanes project.

Item No. 35: Aviation Financial Feasibility Consultant Services Contract Amendment

(A) Approve contract amendment #2 for \$550,000 to the contract with Newton and Associates, Inc. (SBE) for financial feasibility services, and (B) Authorize the City Manager to amend 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 and this amendment were approved.

Item No. 36: Aviation Water Treatment Chemicals

(A) Approve a unit price contract with ChemTreat, Inc. for the purchase of water treatment chemicals 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. 37: Document Management Services

(A) Approve contracts for document management services for a term of three years with the following: Iron Mountain, Inc., Patterson Pope, Inc., Distribution Technology dba Record Storage Systems, 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. 38: Refund on Property Taxes

Adopt a resolution authorizing the refund of property taxes assessed through clerical or assessment error in the amount of \$85,034.24.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 56, at Page(s) 158-159.

PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

Item No. 41: Property Transactions – North Caldwell at 8th Street Traffic Signal, Parcel #1

Resolution of Condemnation of 403 square feet (0.009 acres) sidewalk/utility easement, 197 square feet (0.005 acres) permanent utility easement, and 195 square feet (0.004 acres) temporary construction easement at 400 East 9th Street from Seventh Street Investors, LLC for \$56,625 for North Caldwell at 8th Street Traffic Signal.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book 56, at Page(s) 160.

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AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

ITEM NO. 3: JOHNSON C. SMITH UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL TEAM

Mayor Lyles said now we'll start off with moving to the awards and recognitions portion of our agenda. We have some special guests that we have here this evening.

Councilmember Graham said tonight is a proud moment for the City, and especially for the Beatties Ford Road Corridor that I am honored to represent. It is my privilege to welcome the 2025 CIAA (Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association) Football Champions, the Johnson C. Smith University Golden Bulls, to the chamber, as well as the Luvabulls, our University Cheerleaders. Johnson C. Smith has won this championship for the first time in 56 years.

They say a picture or a video is worth a thousand words, so let's watch a video for about a minute and 47 seconds.

Video plays.

For me this moment is personal. My wife Kim and I are both graduates of Johnson C. Smith University, and I have the honor of serving on the University Board of Visitors, so when the Golden Bulls brought home the championship it lifted, not just the University, but an entire community. The team didn't just win, they made history. CIAA Champions defeated the two-time defending champions, Virginia Union. The score of that game was 45 - 21, their first championship appearance since 1972, a national ranking of the 11th in the Country in Division II, their first national playoff appearance in school history, and the most wins in school history, 10 victories, multiple all CIAA players and several pro prospects, and the stat that really means the most to a lot of people at the University is the GPA (Grade Point Average), a collective team GPA of 3.16 or 3.2. None of this would be possible without the leadership of Coach Maurice Flowers, now a two-time CIAA Coach of the Year, who has rebuilt this program through vision, discipline and belief. Coach, thank you for leading these young men and restoring pride throughout the Golden Bull Nations. Sports have a unique power; they bring communities together. When Johnson C. Smith won, you could feel the joy across Charlotte, through alumni's celebrated, students celebrated, neighborhoods celebrated. Victories like this remind us that unity is one of the greatest strengths, and this championship reinforces something

I've said often, Beatties Ford Road is full of promise, full of progress, and full of hope. What this team achieved reflects the strength, talent and resilience of the entire Historic West End. It shows what is possible when opportunity, leadership, and hard work come together. So, to the players, coaches, and staff, congratulations. You have made your university proud, your alumni proud, and your city proud. Thank you for giving us a moment that will be remembered for generations to come. We have two speakers, Madam Mayor. One, the President of the University, and then we'll invite Coach Maurice Flowers to come down to the podium. Roll the video, please.

Video Playing: **Valerie Kinloch JCSU President** said hi everyone, I am Valerie Kinloch, the 15th President of Johnson C. Smith University right here in Charlotte, North Carolina, and a graduate of the class of 1996. I am so excited that City Council, at the suggestion of Councilman, and alum of the University, Malcolm Graham, invited our football program to participate in this special occasion. I am so sorry that I am unavailable to be there, because right now I'm at a conference in Nashville. I'd rather be there with you. This is what I want to say. We are the 2025 CIAA Football Champions, and we have the two-time Coach of the Year, last year and this year, Maurice Flowers. I am thrilled for so many different reasons, because it's not just about football. It's not just about an athletic program. It is about building the type of culture and climate where our young people can survive and thrive, where they can be nurtured, when they can see success, work towards success, and be successful themselves. So, I want to thank Maurice Flowers, our Head Football Coach, and someone who graduated from this university as well, I want to thank Athletic Director, Denisha Hendricks. I want to thank all the members of City Council, including Malcolm Graham, and our Mayor, Mayor Vi Lyles. Most importantly, I want to thank our students, because in this new era of excellence at JCSU (Johnson C. Smith University), our students are helping to lead the way. Our students are on the football field engaging in powerful athletic competitions, but they are in the classroom with a high GPA for the entire team, over a 3.1. How could I not love that? So, listen, as you know, we are the CIAA Champions, and I've got to put my hat on to the side as I wait for my ring, because of this. We are building a culture, a climate. We are building an entire community of people dedicated to what we're doing here at JCSU, and it starts within and on our campus. I could not be more excited to have Coach Flowers, our Athletic Director. I am excited by this opportunity. I want to thank you for having us, and from me to you, CIAA Champions, so go Golden Bulls. I'll see you when I get back. Take care.

Maurice Flowers, JCSU Athletic Director said it's good to hear from our President by video, because during the game we have to hear from her on the sideline, if you all haven't seen. She's normally very close to us; we love her support. Thank you so much for having us here today. It's an honor and a privilege to be here. I want to thank you for just everything that you all do for the City of Charlotte. I'm very proud, because I speak as a proud Charlottean, Randolph Middle School, East Mecklenburg High School, Johnson C. Smith University, and it's an honor to be here with the coaching staff that we coach with, the young men that we lead, the alumni that we represent.

When we bring young men and families on campus, we get to the football stadium and we say, there's your future, but we're not talking about the football field. If you haven't been to our football field or our stadium, our stadium has the best view of the Charlotte skyline, and that's the future of our young men. We thank you for building this city to be one of the top cities in the United States. If you look at a lot of these young men, they're here because of our City. Our City is what can recruit, help us out recruit many other people, and I want to thank you so much. A special thanks to Councilman Mitchell, Councilman Graham for what you did earlier in the year and what you continue to do in support of our young men and our University. I want to say thank you so much, Mayor, for the MREI (Mayor's Racial Equity Initiative). You look no further than our football program at the benefits, and we thank you. Thank you for your support. I want to thank, again, our young men, because this opportunity to come here and be in front of you, I know it's going to be motivation to them, because we do have some young men that are pursuing some of the same careers that you all are leading right now, and I'll use that as a plug for them. These young men get up early. We practice at 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., so getting to work on time won't be a problem for these young men, and I'm happy to

say that, yes, our combined GPA of a team of 130-plus young men is a 3.16. We're looking forward to the exams, where we'll see where our GPA is now, but I'm so proud of them, I'm so proud of our coaches, and again, it's such a privilege to be the head coach of JCSU to make history, not just for our University, but for our City. Thank you so much, and go Golden Bulls.

Mr. Graham said last comment, Madam Mayor, I just want to take special recognition to thank the Carolina Panthers, and Todd up in the audience with Jet's Pizza on Beatties Ford Road for providing pre-game meals for the team this afternoon. This is a Beatties Ford Road thing, and there's excellence on the corridor, and more is to come. Thank you.

Mayor Lyles said alright. So, now I know that you have a choice of staying here and watching us do things, or you might want to go someplace that's much more fun.

Councilmember Mitchell said Mayor.

Mayor Lyles said yes, please.

Mr. Mitchell said I can't let Councilmember Graham go without hearing the chat. Give me the chat man.

Mr. Graham said ya'll ready for it? JC!

Group said SU!

Mr. Graham said JC!

Group said SU!

Mr. Graham said J C!

Group said S U!

Mr. Mitchell said that's what I'm talking about. Coach, coach, if I may. Is anyone here from the class 1969, the first CIAA Football Champions? So, Mayor and Council, let me just tell you a fun fact. The head cheerleader of the class of 1969, the first CIAA Football Champion, served with us on City Council. Can you name that individual? Carlenia Ivory was the head cheerleader for the 1969 CIAA Football Champion of JCSU.

Mayor Lyles said that is great. Guys remember those finals are coming up tomorrow. Get home and get those books out. Thank you.

Mr. Graham said thank you, coach.

Mayor Lyles said alright, okay. Yes, that was really well done, Mr. Graham.

PUBLIC FORUM

Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Carson Cone, 606 NC Music Factory Boulevard said good evening. I'm here tonight to speak about two issues that I'm grateful to have the opportunity to talk about. I would like to talk about City Council Advisory Board members, current, both nonexistent and deserved, right to freedom of expression. I would also like to talk about the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Regarding City Council Advisory Board members, current code of ethics, which was published last July 2025 by the City of Charlotte. It states essentially, "Advisory board

members should remember that their chief responsibility is to advise and not to advocate, particularly when that position of advocacy is contrary to Council policy.” All I have to say on this for now is that it seems in direct opposition to the right to freedom of expression, which is protected by the U.S. First Amendment.

About the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, for the new Council members, this is a treaty, which is against nuclear weapons. The Treaty is supported by many U.S. cities, including New York, Baltimore, Chapel Hill, Durham and Carrboro, as well as four U.S. states and over the half the world’s countries. To put it simply, nuclear weapons all but guarantee that innocent lives will be taken, and there is simply no excuse for this. Mayor Lyles, I continue to await the decision on the Council on this policy, which you assured me last June 2025, I would receive. Thank you.

Charlotte Regional Business Alliance

Matthew Panik, 330 South Tryon Street said good evening, Mayor Lyles, Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell, members of Council. My name is Matt Panik. I’m the Chief Advocacy Officer of the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance. First, I just want to congratulate all of you on your success and being seated last week, and looking forward to working with you in the year to come. I have worked with many of you over the years, most recently on the Transportation Referendum, that voters approved this past November 2025. From the members of the alliance and the business community at large, I do just want to say thank you. It was a big lift, a big effort from many in the community, many on this dais. So, thank you again for your work there. We are looking forward to the investments to be made in the community throughout the City and throughout the region, and to the new members of Council, Councilmembers Mayo, Mazuera Arias and Kimberly Owens, I’m looking to forward to meeting you and working with you as well.

I don’t really want to take too much time tonight, but I do just want to lay out a few of the priorities of the alliance and of the business community for 2026, and again looking forward to working with you on these shared priorities. Certainly, getting the MPTA up and running is something that we’re looking forward to and the work ahead on transportation and transit; it’s a key priority for the alliance and the business community.

I’m also supporting additional key infrastructure, such as Charlotte Douglas International Airport, which all of you know is the economic engine, not only for the City, but the region and the State as well. Then, collaborating on solutions for housing. We have 157 people moving to the region every single day and that’s not slowing down. So, looking forward to partnering with you on ways to make sure there’s affordable housing available throughout the City.

Advocating for public safety is something that we want to have a focus on as well. Our members throughout the City and the region want to make sure this continues to be a desirable place to live and a safe city for everyone. Then, working on childcare issues. As we think about workforce, childcare continues to be a struggle for many trying to enter the workforce, trying to stay in the workforce. Then, on workforce, making sure we’re supporting our K through 12, and higher ed institutions that really are the key to our talent pipeline.

All these things are achievable. We’ve shown time and again working with the City, working with all of you, we can get all these things done. So, again looking forward to working with you in 2026, and rely on us as a partner and resource. We are here to help, and we have a lot of shared priorities, and we’re looking forward to what’s ahead. Thank you so much.

Housing and Economic Development

Rob Nanfelt, 4127 Wright Avenue said good evening, I’m Rob Nanfelt. I’m the Executive Director of the Real Estate and Building Industry Coalition. For those of you who are not aware, REBIC was founded back in the 1980s, formalized in the 1990s, and we’ve been around ever since. We operate in Mecklenburg, Iredell, Cabarrus,

Gaston and Union counties, and our members are typically realtors, builders, commercial developers, commercial brokers, anybody in the real estate realm. This evening, I just wanted to first of all thank you for taking the leap and running for political office. I know it's difficult, especially these days. We're so polarized. So, thanks for doing that, and congratulations on your re-election or election, in some cases.

Affordable housing is one topic that's near and dear to our hearts. The situation began several years ago when we had intense growth begin here in Charlotte. Over the last six years, if you're not aware, every year the UNC (University of North Carolina) Charlotte does the Real Estate State of Housing study. It came out again in November 2025; it comes out annually. When we started that six years ago, a family of four that was earning roughly \$75,000 a year, could afford the median sales price home. Six years later, that number has doubled. It's almost \$150,000 for a family of four to afford the median sales price home. That is a pretty significant change in a pretty short period of time. So, we would like to explore opportunities to try to help that here in Charlotte and throughout the region. Some things that have been looked at in terms of housing opportunities, ADUs, Accessory Dwelling Units, that's one way to kind of fit it lower-cost housing. We've also talked about perhaps the homestead exemption should be expanded. That is the tax break for folks that've been in their house for a really long time and elderly. Right now, there is an exemption on the books, but maybe that should be expanded, we ought to take a look at that, that also helps with some of the displacement issues we've been challenged with and are frankly going to be talking about over the next few years. So, I just stand here to effectively level set for the year, let you know who I am. I hope to come out and visit with each of you, maybe not this month, maybe next month, we'll give ya'll a little break for the holidays, but appreciate your time, and look forward to being a resource for you. Thank you.

Transit Safety

Zihui Qiu, 9200 University City Boulevard said good evening, Council members. My name is Zihui, and I'm a third-year student at UNC Charlotte. I'm here to today to speak about recent instances of violence in our city and their implications on our community. I am an EMT first responder, and a research assistant in an NIH (National Institutes of Health) funded lab at UNC Charlotte that researches bystander intervention. For some context, I would like to tell you about the murder of Kitty Genovese. While walking home from work, she was stabbed twice and raped by Winston Moseley. This occurred on a public street all while Kitty screamed for help. This case is notable because police later reported that as many as 37 people witnessed this incident and no one came to her aid as she died. This 1964 landmark case led to the creation of the bystander intervention field. I tell you this so that you may understand why, as social psychologists, the recent Light Rail murder of Iryna Zarutskya, where bystanders similarly did not help, are concerning to us. As a first responder, I can't help but wonder whether the outcome of this stabbing could have been different if bystander intervention had occurred.

Researchers at UNC Charlotte's Violence Prevention Center have the expertise and skills to tangibly assist the City and the Charlotte Area Transit System in developing a comprehensive violence prevention program. So, I'm speaking today to request that you use any connections you may have to urge the City's transportation systems to work with us in prioritizing evidence-based violence prevention and bystander intervention programming as part of the City's public safety efforts.

People are wired to freeze in emergency situations, so this isn't a failure of the individual person, it's the City's failure to properly prepare its individuals and build a community that is intolerant of violence. While increasing security presence is a natural start to addressing public safety, it's only a superficial solution, one that has yet to demonstrate efficacy, as just last Friday Charlotte experienced another stabbing on the very same train system that killed Iryna. Evidently, we need a better way to buy the City time, so that we may address the underlying systematic problems of mental health and housing. I see hope for change in a community-centered approach, because videos of people coming to the aid of others, during recent CBP (Customs and Border Protection) operations in Charlotte, prove that we are a community that intensely cares for each

other. We just need the City to meet us there. The burden of violent crimes should not have to fall on bystanders who likely become traumatized by these incidents, but the deafening lack of attention given to Iryna Zarutska, in the released train video, demonstrates a need for action. The burden of violent crimes, therefore, falls on our city's government to support a community that does not normalize violence, so let us help you. Thank you for your time.

Mayor Lyles said thank you very much for coming down today. I really appreciate the passion and the expertise that you're giving us from our university. I want you to know that everyone deserves to feel safe in Charlotte, and that remains to be this Council's priority. We want to improve safety. We've increased police presence. We've strengthened everything, but you have brought us things to think about, experiences that may be able to do something. So, I really want to say that, as much as we've been doing, last week for example, CMPD (Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department), along with multiple local and state law enforcement agencies, launched an operation of Safe Season where people are working together, as you talked about, how do we get to frame that together. So, I really want you to know we're really working hard on it, and while some of these public safety matters fall outside of what we do, we all know that it matters for everyone that lives in our City. So, I hope that you will have an opportunity to meet our new Police Chief, Chief Patterson. He's been actively engaged in, how do we do better and how do we do more? We all understand that. I think sometimes I look at you and I think, you're really smart and you're going to help us along the way. So, as much as possible, stay in touch with us. As we continue this journey, we're going to get over it. We're going to make sure that people in our City understand that they can be here and be safe. So, thank you very much for coming down today. Thank you.

Ms. Qiu said thank you.

Mayor Lyles said I also want to say, would you connect with Shawn, who will get all of the information that helps us stay in touch with you, because that makes a big difference. Thank you very much.

Ms. Qiu said thank you, I appreciate that.

Mayor Lyles said I also want to say to the Council that I've asked CATS to provide an update to Council this week on the Transit Security Plan, as it has enacted over the past several months, so that we can understand where we are, and where everything else is standing. So, we'll look forward to that additional information this week. Alright, thank you very much.

Garland Greene, 7117 Broadford Court said Garland Greene. I live in South Charlotte. Again, congratulations to the Johnson C. Smith community for their tremendous achievement. Also, I want to tell J.D., Joi, and Kimberly, congratulations on being elected. I want you to think about this. You are elected, and this for all of you, to represent your constituency, your people that put you in office think about that. Think about what they want when you're acting for the greater good.

I'm here to talk a little bit of follow-up today, Mayor Lyles, about Light Rail safety. You addressed safety a little bit. You probably answered some of my questions. We've had two heinous crimes in the last 90 days. We had a death. We had a tragic stabbing. I'm anxious to learn what's really being done about all of that, more than just putting more security cameras out there. From my understanding from the media with this last event, the tragic stabbing, there was a confrontation. It was very loud. The person was drunken. He wanted to fight with somebody, and had we had somebody, boots on the ground at that location, that incident probably never would've happened. So, I'm asking you to think about boots on the ground. I know it's going to cost more money, but it will in my opinion resolve a lot of these situations. We have security here. We have security at airport. When you go to the mall, we have security. We have human being security, visible security; I think that makes a lot of difference. If you could help me, and maybe you can provide the information, or you can direct me to the person that can provide the information, where I can follow this a little bit more, I'd be most appreciative.

Mayor Lyles said well, we appreciate that you choose to be a partner with us. I mean, what you've said, you certainly expressed it so well. We all know that we want to keep people safe. I would say to you that it takes a lot of really real work to determine how we can be better and how we can do this. It's been a very difficult time for our City, but I do believe that the people, much like you, who choose to live in Charlotte, you're participating to make it helpful for us, and we will get you that additional information. So, I'm going to ask Liz Babson to take an opportunity to speak with you, so that you can get the additional information that you've asked for, and I think all of us on this Council say thank you for being someone that cares enough to come down here to say we can do it differently and we can do it better, so thank you very much.

Mr. Greene said let's work together to do something about it. I appreciate it.

Mayor Lyles said oh, we promise you, we're going to do as much as we can. Liz, would you join him, so that we can move forward with Mr. Greene.

Trees

Tammy Brock, 1542 Tippah Park Court said thank you for having me. My name is Tammy, and I thank you again like I said for having me. I am here this evening to stand up and speak for a part of our community that can't speak up themselves, the trees. They silently perform so many things, and yet when any development happens there's very little consideration for them. "Oh, we are going to plant new ones," we hear. Well, I have lived at my house for the last nine years, and have been biking and walking past this one block of trees where at least eight very large specimens were there. Trees that gave shade to me and lowered the temperatures in the hot summer. Trees that provided cover for the birds that filled the air with music and allowed me to have a nice walk, or I bike to work everyday. Anyway, these trees that have towered over me and have taken decades to get to that size. They are now gone. They cannot just be replaced, but they have been torn down and ripped apart. I cannot save those trees; it's too late. I'm here to try and prevent other trees from getting cut down. I know that the City of Charlotte has stated that they care about the canopy of the trees that are in the City, but as I was heading to work, and I was seeing these trees being demolished, I stopped and asked a guy that was doing it, and I said, "Why, why was this happening?" He said, "Oh, I was just hired to do this," and pointed me to another person at the construction site, and they said, "Oh, well, across the street, that's where the administration is, maybe they can help you." Then, the man from the field office came to the door, after I pounded on the door for a little while, and said that the City of Charlotte actually caused this to happen. They made the trees come down, because they accepted the plans of the development, and now they were just following those plans. So, I'm coming to you, those that represent the City of Charlotte, to say we need to protect our trees.

Mayor Lyles said thank you very much, you have a three-minute time to speak.

Ms. Brock said oh, no.

Mayor Lyles said but that's okay, I think we got it. I think we completely understand, and I'd like to ask Alyson Craig, who works with us, she would be able to I think assist and continue the dialogue that you're having.

Ms. Brock said okay, thank you.

Mayor Lyles said thank you very much. Thank you, Alyson.

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PUBLIC HEARINGS

ITEM NO. 5: PUBLIC HEARING AND DECISION ON PROPOSED ANNEXATION AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF HARRISBURG

Mayor Lyles declared the hearing open.

There being no speakers, either for or against, a motion was made by Councilmember Mayfield, seconded by Councilmember Watlington, and carried unanimously to close the public hearing.

There being no speakers, either for or against, a motion was made by Councilmember Mayfield, seconded by Councilmember Driggs to adopt Ordinance No. 1058-X approving the proposed annexation agreement between the City of Charlotte and the Town of Harrisburg.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 69, at Page(s) 129-136.

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BUSINESS

ITEM NO. 7: PURCHASE OF PROPERTY ON CATHERINE SIMMONS AVENUE FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Motion was made by Councilmember Mayfield, and seconded by Councilmember Graham to (A) Approve the purchase of property on Catherine Simmons Avenue (parcel identification number 075-025-09), comprising three existing single-family rental units, at a cost of \$465,000, for the purpose of providing affordable housing opportunities, and (B) Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to negotiate and execute any documents necessary to complete this transaction.

Councilmember Graham said I would be remiss to not speak on this item. This is more than just a purchase of property on Catherine Simmons Avenue. This is a part of a City/County collaboration of strategy to begin to address some of the issues of homelessness, substance abuse, mental illness, code enforcement issues on that corridor, on that street specifically. I really want to thank staff. I think we approached the Manager, and I say we, County Commissioner Vilma Leake and I, our management team, back in early summer about some of the issues that we were experiencing on Catherine Simmons. Deronda Metz, the Executive Director of the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, CDC (Community Development Corporation) and others, were really concerned about some of the activities on that particular street. The Mayor certainly was concerned about that as well. We formed an inter-collaboration team between the City and the County to address a wide variety of issues. On that team was represented by CMPD, code enforcement, housing, and a number of other City and County agencies trying to be assertive on our policing and our outreach efforts, not aggressive, but assertive, to try to solve some of the problems.

Two weeks ago, Mecklenburg County Commissioners, under the leadership of Vilma Leake, established an unsheltered response plan for street outreach partners, and a wide variety of mental health services, substance abuse services on the corridors, specifically addressing Catherine Simmons. CMPD has been very active on the corridor within the last six or seven weeks, I can't be very specific, but they are doing their job on the corridor in terms of identifying hotspots, identifying troubled homes, identifying those who are selling drugs on the corridor, and they have been very responsive in terms of their response. In addition, the purchase of these homes is about trying to change the narrative on that street in terms of addressing absentee landowners, those who are not taking care of their property, and for the City, an opportunity to provide some of those homes into affordable housing. So, this is a strategy that's undertaking between the City and County, and I've been one who's been very vocal about collaboration between the City and the County. Both managers, Manager Bryant and Manager Jones, have

exceeded my expectations in reference to their partnership and putting up with me as well as Commissioner Leake, more so Commissioner Leake than me, in terms of pushing the ball forward. So, this is the beginning, not the end, for certain. I think there'll be a lot more that both Commissioner Leake and I will be talking publically about this initiative, but this is extremely important.

I would be remiss if don't thank Shawn and the staff. Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell has been at those meetings with me as well and leaned in when appropriate to ensure that we have the type of cohesive approach necessary for those individuals on the corridor. So, I've always said that we need to make sure that people are part of the change, and not victims of it, and change is needed on Beatties Ford Road for certain. Change is needed on Catherine Simmons, and I think this approach that we're taking, being very proactive and identifying a wholistic collaboration of government, both City and County, is a step in the right direction, and I hope the Council members will approve this line item. Thank you.

Councilmember Johnson said I will be supporting obviously, but I have a question about this. I had the pleasure of being over on Catherine Simmons not too long ago when the new condos were built, those affordable housing. They're going to be \$1,100 mortgage with the downpayment assistance, so that was exciting. I know you've mentioned several times a nuisance property off Beatties Ford, I don't know how close this is. Are we able to have any progress with that, or attack that problem along with this initiative?

Mr. Graham said yes, I had a meeting with our new City Attorney, and we talked about being very assertive in terms of nuisance properties, very assertive and making sure that convenience stores are applying with all the ABC (Alcoholic Beverage Control) licensing and requirements, selling of beer and wine and those types of things. We know where the problems are, and we're being very assertive, not aggressive, but very assertive in ensuring that we protect the quality of life of those in the area. So, yes, we are contacting landlords who live somewhere else and rent property in our community, and I think they need hear from our City Attorney, and if it takes three years to get to where we need to go, the journey of a thousand miles starts with the first step. So, we're being very proactive and assertive, I keep using that word. We simply can't sit back and wait for something to happen.

Same thing with CATS and the bus shelters. The City Manager and the CATS Director, we're going to be removing a bus shelter there, and enhancing others, by shelters where people should be catching the bus, it's not where people should be using the restroom or sleeping or making it inconvenient for other bus riders to use. So, I just want the community to know that things are happening, and I think at some point, Commissioner Leake and I will be talking directly to the community ourselves, and sharing what we're doing and the results that we're getting, and we are getting positive results based on what you just suggested, identifying where the problems are and trying to fix them.

Ms. Johnson said thank you.

Marcus Jones, City Manager said so, Mayor and members of Council, thank you. Typically, I don't jump in, but I will this time. I think it's important to know that this is a strategy. We've talked a lot about Uptown, and then many people said, well, what about the rest of the City? So, the partnership with the County has just been amazing. We did have Beatties Ford Road next, but simultaneously, the things that are going on, whether it's I-85 and Sugar Creek, or West Boulevard, but the concept is, it's not one size fits all, but let's go back and double down in these communities where we can have an opportunity to positively impact the quality of life. So, we continue to work, and so I think what we may have to do team, is talk a little bit to Council in maybe a memo about some of the initial things that are happening in other areas, because as we've talked about Uptown I worried that this body would say what about other places in the community, but the City and the County are collaborating in other places in the community, so thank you.

Mr. Graham said and if I can add one more comment. One of the things that I believe that we're doing correctly is making District issues City priorities. So, if it can work in District Two, it can work in Three, and it can work in Four, and it can work in some of the other corridors where we are experiencing the same problems. So, it's just making sure that there's a wholistic government approach. Again, we get too much credit for when things go right. The folks over there are working really, really hard collaborating with the accompanying teammates to ensure that we get it right, and I acknowledge that participation and cooperation, and I thank you for doing it.

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

Mayor Lyles said thank you so much. I think all of us know how important it is for us to be a part of this kind of restoration for our people and the people that are in the City, so thank you very much. I think the staff really appreciate all of this.

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POLICY

ITEM NO. 6: CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Marcus Jones, City Manager, said so, thank you, Mayor and members of Council. Just one update. So, team, the only thing I'm going to do is the Annual Strategy Meeting. So, just wanted to give you an update. I appreciate Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell, and what he did last week. From my understanding, he reached out to all of the Council members to get your feel for where we would go with our Annual Strategy Meeting. My understanding is that all of you were fine with returning to the Restoration Hotel in Asheville. My understanding also is some of the feedback it's one of the better places that we've been, and you do realize or remember how important it was for us to support our neighbors in Western North Carolina. So, what will happen over the course of the next week is your constituent services staff will help with all the logistics, but maybe what's most important is, we'll send out a short survey to see what's important to you, two big questions, what are the most important topics to discuss during the Annual Strategy Meeting, and number two, is there anything else that you may want to share? So, a short survey. We'll get that back, I believe, by the end of the year, December 31, 2025.

Some of the things we are thinking about, because of all of the discussions we've had over the course of the last year has been quality of life, public safety, mobility, and mobility now that the one cent sales tax is passed. We need to talk about project selection, workforce development, small business scaling up, and absolutely, positively anti-displacement efforts. Of course, we'll talk about the FY (Fiscal Year) 2027 Budget, and we may talk a little bit about the FY2028 Budget too. Those are just some of the things we're thinking about, but again short survey. We really want to start this off in a very collaborative and comprehensive way. I didn't say the dates, it's Monday, January 26, 2026, Tuesday, January 27, 2026, two full days. So, much like last time, traveling that Sunday would definitely be an option, so that we can start Monday morning bright and early. So, that's all we have now, so thank you Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell for getting the ball rolling, and that's all I have for my report.

Councilmember Mayfield said Manager Jones, historically, we have a number of actual Council members that plan the retreat, and that help to guide and identify what the topics of interest are and/or things that we need to follow up on from the previous year. Are you suggesting that instead of having Council members that identify our retreat topics, we're just going to have a survey?

Mr. Jones said no, not all, Councilmember Mayfield. Because we've done a bunch of these, a few things that we've learned is that we need your feedback early on, and we consider this to be early on. There have been a number of ways to have it, it could be referred to a committee, it could be an Ad-Hoc Committee. I believe that's the will of the body. I think one of the things that I'll tell you up front, some of the feedback that we've

gotten is, spend more time with Council being able to address some of the tough issues, and I've heard things like, not too many stickies on the wall, and things like that. So, I've learned over the years, the staff saying less and the Council interacting more allows for a better Annual Strategy Meeting. So, all we're trying to do, and we're in a little strange place, because we are new Council members, this is our first meeting, and the committee structure isn't up yet, so we just didn't want to wait too much longer to at least get some feedback from you, that's it.

Ms. Mayfield said thank you.

Mr. Jones said okay.

Mayor Lyles said alright, thank you.

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ITEM NO, 8: ADDITION OF A REPRESENTATIVE FROM GASTON COUNTY TO THE CHARLOTTE WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell, and seconded by Councilmember Driggs to approve the addition of one representative from Gaston County to the existing Charlotte Water Advisory Committee.
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Councilmember Mayfield said Ms. Charles, I believe you will be able to answer a question for me that I sent over earlier, and as you're making your way up, that is to share why we're extending an opportunity for representation for Gaston County, because I think that is information based on a 20-year plus project that it would be helpful for all, including the community, to know.

Angela Charles, Charlotte Water Director said sure, thank you for the question. Good evening, Mayor, Council, Angela Charles, Director of Charlotte Water. The reason why we want to add someone from Gaston County is that this would be a strategic move, in that Charlotte Water is the sole provider of Wastewater Services for the City of Mount Holly, and soon to be the City of Belmont. The folks in Gaston County don't have any representation, communication. The request is to try to really facilitate two-way communication between Charlotte Water and the residents.

Ms. Mayfield said and for clarification, this is also, and correct me if I'm wrong, the continuation of that 20-plus year discussion where we now provide water to our partners to make sure that they also have a voice.

Ms. Charles said absolutely. So, the Stowe Project is the result of about 20-plus years of planning. The first conversation started in the 1980s. So, in that, there would be a partnership between Charlotte Water, City of Charlotte, the City of Belmont, and the City of Mount Holly, for Wastewater Services. Along the way, EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) came in and developed a, what we're going to call, TMDL, Total Maximum Daily Limit, for nitrogen and phosphorus, which meant that we needed their allocation, I don't want to get too technical, to build the plant, but we needed partnerships with those two entities to build a facility to accommodate the growth on the Mecklenburg County side. So, in doing that, Mount Holly has decommissioned their wastewater treatment plant. Right now, we are providing services to them, and at the end of the day, we will have a cleaner and better Catawba River for our region.

Ms. Mayfield said thank you.

Mayor Lyles said thank you very much.

Ms. Charles said hope I didn't get too technical for you, but understand there's some science behind what we're doing here.

Councilmember Anderson said thank you, Ms. Charles, for being here. What I wanted to say is, well, we approved a lot of Charlotte Water things today on our consent agenda, so the investment in what you're doing, it really is a regional play, and I've been speaking to a couple of residents, and their asking me why certain services they pay for that's covered by Charlotte, and why other services they don't receive, because they live out in the ETJ (Extraterritorial Jurisdiction) and other areas, unincorporated areas. I think it would be really a good move for you to maybe leverage our gov channel to start to educate residents on how your organization is really and truly a regional organization, and maybe break that down for residents, because we have a mix, and folks really don't know what they're paying for with their taxes, and what they're not receiving. So, I think I've had at least three conversations where residents have asked me that, so I think it'd be a great move for you to leverage.

Ms. Charles said that is a wonderful suggestion, because I'm not quite sure everybody understands that we are a regional utility. We serve over 1.2 million people, and it's everybody, it's this County and beyond, and what you have before you is an example of that. What's different here is that we have connections to different counties. We aren't the sole providers, except in this case we are. So, the growth in that town will depend on capacity that they get from the Charlotte Water entity, and so it is, we believe, a good strategic move to at least have a resident as a part of the Citizen Advisory Group, and we're getting that conversation, and we have that advocacy in Gaston County. So, that's what we do, and that's the request.

Councilmember Johnson said thank you, Ms. Charles. My question is probably the obvious question. Does Gaston County, does a portion of their taxes support this project?

Ms. Charles said the services that Mount Holly and Belmont receive, they will be charged for those. So, it's not taxes, but they will be paying a treatment rate, that's where we'll be treating, yes, ma'am.

Ms. Johnson said okay, thank you.

Marcus Jones, City Manager said thank you, Mayor and members of Council. So, Ms. Charles, to put it in perspective, it's the X largest system in the country?

Ms. Charles said 13th.

Mr. Mitchell said wow!

Mayor Lyles said I think regional is the new word right now.

Ms. Charles said it's a regional utility.

Mayor Lyles said yes, for so many things.

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

Ms. Charles said thank you.

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ITEM NO. 9: PROPOSED 2026 CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

Motion was made by Councilmember Mitchell, and seconded by Councilmember Driggs to approve the 2026 City Council Regular and Budget Meeting Schedule.

Councilmember Ajmera said so I was reviewing the proposed schedule, and I noticed that for second Mondays where we have a Business meeting, we do not have public

forum, except for the fourth Mondays of the month, is that correct? So, currently we have public forum on second and fourth Mondays of the month. So, I see Mr. Jones is nodding his head.

Marcus Jones, City Manager said okay I'm hoping that Marie is somewhere still in the building. Okay, thank you, the Clerk's up there, okay. Alright, so some of the philosophy behind the calendar, to answer your question directly, there's only one public forum a month, and it's typically the fourth Monday. It wouldn't be the fourth Monday if by some reason the fourth Monday meeting was canceled. So, I believe by state statute, we need to have a public forum at least once a month, and so that's been consistent for a while. What you have on the second Monday is what we've called the action briefing, and the whole concept there is, and I'll say many Council members have said this to me, no surprises. So, what that would be used for, and we will start at 5:00 p.m. in 267, for anything that came out of committee meetings the previous month, or anything that may be discussed the fourth Monday of the month, so that we would spend that first 90 minutes on the second Monday in 267 to talk about anything that may have come out of committee or anything that may be coming up that fourth Monday. You have a zoning meeting, you get to the fourth Monday, you would come right to the chamber, like today at 5:30 p.m., and many of the things that were discussed at that action briefing on the second Monday could be voted on that night, and you would have the public forum as well as Council comments.

Ms. Ajmera said so, to follow up on that, Mr. Jones, it's good that we are prioritizing what's going to be discussed for that month during second Mondays of the month, during action briefing. I think that's great. So, currently, today is second Monday of the month and we had a public forum, so for this year and the previous years, we had public forums on second and fourth Mondays of the month. So, today we had a public forum.

Mr. Jones said because you don't have a fourth Monday of the month.

Ms. Ajmera said fourth Monday of the month.

Mr. Jones said and you need to have one public forum each month.

Ms. Ajmera said so, that's why when I look at the proposed meeting schedule, I see that we have exceptions in January 2026, March 2026 and December 2026, because the fourth Monday we cannot accommodate a public forum.

Mr. Jones said correct.

Councilmember Watlington said I've got a few questions. The first one is just that I noticed here that the ICMA (International City/County Management Association) Conference is here, but I don't that anyone around the dais, save for maybe the Manager, goes to that. From a Council perspective, I think the conference that would be more relevant to this schedule is the NLC (National League of Cities) City Summit that occurs during that time, so I just wanted to note that.

Ms. Ajmera said what is ICMA?

Ms. Watlington said it's the City Manager and County Manager Annual Conference, but as mentioned, that's really not necessarily a Council item. So, wanted to propose that we make that adjustment on the calendar.

Mr. Jones said I'm sorry, Councilmember Watlington, it's just out there, no meeting is being canceled because of that.

Ms. Watlington said I'm aware, it's fine.

Mr. Jones said oh, you just wanted it off the calendar.

Ms. Watlington said well, I'm saying the more relevant date, I think for the audience for this particular schedule, is the City Summit, because that's the ones that these members would actually be attending, because I see that NLC is up here for the City Vision Conference, and then you've got the Mayor's Annual Meeting, so then the other main conference that is significant at least at it relates to members of this body. So, I'd offer that as an amendment in terms of this adoption.

Then, the other item that I see here that I've got questions, and really want to hear feedback from the group in regards to, is that I notice that the appointed offices, our direct reports evaluations, are in October 2026 and November 2026. Given the history of delay on these items, I'm not comfortable with them falling that late in the calendar year, and I also don't see a mid-year review. We've talked a few times about doing a check-in for that. So, I'd like to understand what the appetite is for making adjustments to those things, more consistent with some of the discussions we've had in the past.

Councilmember Mayfield said so, just for clarification, for the discussion of the mid-year review, does that need to be in the form of a motion for us to make an adjustment, or do you have a time to recommend, because I completely support us doing that, because we have talked about it for a number of years, and we need to actually put it into the calendar. Do you have a recommendation of a time period, Dr. Watlington, for the mid-year?

Ms. Watlington said I think it will depend. That's kind of why I wanted to hear a little bit about if people have preferences. I know we don't meet in July 2026, but we also have our Fiscal Year is July to June.

Ms. Mayfield said but we always end up meeting in July 2025.

Ms. Watlington said we do. So, we could follow along there and do a mid-year maybe in November 2026, December 2026, and then do the final right before the Fiscal Year ends, that's just a suggestion, but I'm open.

Ms. Mayfield said unless there's another suggestion, I support that.

Ms. Ajmera said I know that BGIR (Budget Governance and Intergovernmental Relations Committee) worked on a schedule for evaluations of our three employees, where we had said we will do a year-end evaluation in July 2026 to August 2026 timeframe, and we'll do a mid-year in November 2026, December 2026 timeframe. So, I don't see that being reflected. It's what we had approved as a full Council, so I think that needs to be reflected, but I will let the Manager speak on that in terms of if my understanding is correct of what was adopted.

Mr. Jones said yes, I do believe that a few years ago, the concept was to have a check-in at the Annual Strategy Meeting, and an evaluation over the summer. So, that would be the six months would be the check-in at the Annual Strategy Meeting, and evaluation in the summer, yes.

Ms. Ajmera said yes, okay.

Mayor Lyles said if we continue that, is that sufficient for this Council for the review?

Ms. Mayfield said so, Manager Jones, for clarification, it will be difficult for the check-in to be during the Strategy Session, because we only have two days, which is something that I had mentioned prior to the last few years. Councilmember Mitchell, what did we have, three days, it was like 3½ days. Cutting it down to two days makes it more efficient for people to not be away from work and home, but trying to add that piece in when we're going to have two days to really try to hash out and focus our priorities for the upcoming session and beyond, will be very difficult. Maybe I'm remembering it incorrectly. I was under the impression that that check-in is a separate entity, because we need to have the time to make sure that we're having the discussion with you as a Council, but also give the time for us to actually in writing present to you what our

expectations, or what we're looking for, to give time to make sure, if we identify five objectives, how many of those did you hit prior to your review time, so that we can get this on schedule and keep it on schedule. So, I didn't remember that this was a conversation where we would try to have it during the Strategy Session, when we only have two days, and those two days really need to be focused on our priorities moving forward.

Councilmember Anderson said I do remember, Ms. Ajmera, us having that conversation and the vote in your committee. As Ms. Mayfield just said, we're shrinking the Strategy Session from three days down to two, and honestly at the Strategy Session, everything starts to get expedited and sped up, because people are wanting to leave, and so last year that occurred where we were supposed to have these check-ins. I might offer that we have the check-in, the mid-year check-in, when we come back from the holidays, so maybe the second week in January 2026, or the third week prior to the Strategy Session. I thought that the mid-year was really a conversational check-in rather than a hard document with a review. It was more of a conversational check-in, do you have everything you need, what else can we help you with, etc.? So, I would offer that up as a potential solution, that way at the Strategy Session we can purely focus on what we need to focus on.

Motion was made by Councilmember Watlington, seconded by Councilmember Mayfield, and carried unanimously to defer the approval of the 2026 City Council Regular and Budget Meeting Schedule and bring back before the end of this calendar year.

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ITEM NO. 10: MAYOR AND COUNCIL TOPICS

Councilmember Johnson said I'm just wishing everyone a happy holiday and looking forward to working with the new Council.

Mayor Lyles said well, thank you.

Councilmember Mazuera Arias said yes, just happy holidays. It is a pleasure and an honor to sit alongside all of you as this new Council begins. Congratulations again, Mayor Pro Tem, and thank you, Mayor, for everything you're doing, and all my Council members. I look forward to representing East Charlotte well, and to working alongside everyone to address public safety, affordable housing, as well as economic development, and as I was speaking to Councilmember Graham earlier and Manager Jones, making sure that Eastland Yards is getting the premium gas quality, as Councilmember Graham has stated before. So, thank you.

Councilmember Mayfield said I would also like to wish all of those out there a happy holiday. Keep in mind, we are still working. We will be responding to emails. We'll get a little break during this time, but the work of the City does not end. I am looking forward to seeing what we're able to accomplish in this upcoming term, but I also want to make sure that the community knows that this Council does have a priority on public safety. We all live in this community. All of us have families, whether they're children or elders in our community, that want to take advantage of all the amenities that our City has. It will be very helpful if community also reaches out to our North Carolina General Assembly in order to help guide them to support our courts, to support the funding needed with the Sheriff's Department and through Mecklenburg County, to help fund our Health and Human Services for those who need additional services that have not been able to access them, knowing that our CMPD, as we continue to grow it, is doing a wonderful job, but their job stops at that arrest, and then it is another body that takes control and that is through the magistrates and the court system. It is our General Assembly that has yet to pass a budget that can help fund those resources that we

need. So, keep us in prayer, keep us accountable, but understand that we need help. Thank you.

Councilmember Graham said I just want to give a special shout-out to the Charlotte Sports Commission. They had a tremendous three days last week, starting with the Charlotte Invitational Tennis Tournament that was held at Spectrum Arena, over 13,000 folks were in attendance, and then two days later, they turned around and produced the ACC (Atlantic Coast Conference) Championship in Uptown Charlotte, economic impact for those who work in the service industries, Uber drivers, busboys, waitresses, hotels. The economic impact for sports and entertainment in Charlotte is really, really significant, and the way they executed last week on both on those events, keeping public safety in mind as they did it, was really, really tremendous, and again I can't say much to Will Pitts, the new Executive Director over there, for the job that he's done. Again, thanks for the Council members who attended the tournament as well. I thought it went extremely well, and I got a chance to play with some of the pros and hit some balls with them.

Then, lastly, and probably more importantly, there were a lot of international eyes on the City of Charlotte. The event was televised internationally through the Tennis Channel. A lot of tennis enthusiasts from across the world were in Charlotte last week watching what we were doing, and using a baseball analogy for a tennis tournament, if we build it, they will come. Thank you.

Councilmember Owens said I wanted to just lift up something that I had the great experience of doing on Friday night. I did a ride along on the third shift Eastway Division Police Force, and came away just terrifically impressed with our CMPD, very appreciative of the community engagement that I saw out of these officers. I will remark, obviously, you can't predict what will happen, but they had just taken into custody the gentleman who had stabbed someone on the Light Rail and were interrogating him in an adjacent room. The professionalism that these folks showed in the moment was just really powerful, because I appreciate, as this community and this Council appreciates, that there's a heightened focus, and that we've already had additional national and state level interest in what happens on our Light Rail, and I think that that is not taken lightly.

I will encourage anyone who does have strong feelings, anybody who has got a lot of social media presence and feels the need to comment repeatedly on the state of crime in Charlotte, that they do take a look at this ride along process. Obviously, not everyone can do it. I think you need to meet some background check requirements, but it is a process that does enable you to spend a portion of time with our police officers. Probably during the 10-hour shift, I will say the most impactful thing that I experienced was just some real conversation with humans who are just trying to do that next right thing for our City, and some conversation about the importance of them feeling community support for the work that they are doing, the importance of perhaps reaching out to some of our DAs (District Attorneys) and some of our Sheriff's office folks, who can perhaps tweak some of the ways that they interact with the police to save them some time sitting around and waiting. Just some things that I think are soft things that we can do, that I'd love to work with folks to make a little bit easier on our police. Then, finally, I'll just call out, particularly two different officers who had the great patience to sit with me for 10 hours and answer questions, and I'm going to call out Officers Grant and Griffith, both of whom were about my children's ages and got to, like I said, experience so many questions from me about the good work that they're doing. So, I would commend this opportunity to any of you who have an interest, but again to our community, I would just ask that you lean in and know your resources, and you may well come away with a very different sense of the safety of our great City, having experienced it at the hands of our third-shift police officers. So, thank you.

Councilmember Anderson said first of all, I just want to say I think we have a birthday here at the dais, do we? Happy birthday to one of our newest Council members, Ms. Owens, and to the three of you, our newest Council members, welcome. I also did a ride along with CMPD, and it's quite impactful. I did it several years ago. So, if you

haven't done that, you'll discover a lot of the hurdles that our brave officers deal with on a daily basis.

There's two things I want to talk about, though. One is, our new chief and other law enforcement entities across the State announced our Operation Safe Season just a couple of days ago right here in this room, a couple Council members were here. It's a really great way to leverage law enforcement officers horizontally without having to have a strong increase in budget. Their focus will be Uptown initially, but that's an enclosed learning process, that they will take their learnings and best practices and then expand it out. So, you will see a different presence Uptown across the board in all Four Wards, and I think it's really important, and I've gotten some feedback from community members that they feel really good about that.

Having said that, though, with the issues that just occurred on the Light Rail, yet again we are understanding that public safety is critically important, and it does not simply equal law enforcement officers. We welcome the collaboration, that will help, but that's not going to get us across the finish line. We need a strong plan that emphasizes a variety of different key areas, including mental health, and how we can leverage mental health services with other agencies across the State and the region. So, I hope that as we move forward next year, that we will have a crystalized plan on how we can work intergovernmentally and across other agencies to have a multi-prong approach to public safety. As we continue to be in the national eye, yet and yet again, with these issues and then also with the surge that occurred, there's all eyes on Charlotte, and it's an opportunity for Charlotte to really step up and demonstrate, not only to the region and the State, but the entire Country, that we're a world-class city. So, I put that charge out for us as we walk into the new year, and happy holidays to everyone that celebrates a holiday or a religious faith in the City. Thank you.

Councilmember Mayo said so happy holidays as well, I so agree with that sentiment. Many District Three residents have attended a meeting today, this afternoon, about the 77 South expansion. So, glad that I was able to bring additional comments and concerns, so that residents could talk directly with the consultants and various engineers to understand how the different options, particularly for Map Two, Three and Eight, could impact residents. So, I do recommend, if anyone has not already put that input in for NC-DOT (North Carolina Department of Transportation), that they do that as soon as possible, so that it is on record your opposition or your approval of which Map and why. I think that is imperative that we're thinking through how do different options impact legacy residents and future residents. So, hoping everyone is taking the time to really look through those Maps, and think through how do we ensure that all Charlotteans are part of this progress that we're seeing.

Councilmember Watlington said firstly, also, happy holidays. I hope you all are planning some great festivities with you and your loved ones as we look to the end of the year. A couple of things that I was reminded of just listening around the dais. Number one, you may have, if you are signed up for the neighborhood organization list, received an email from the City regarding the next steps with the Community Area Plans upcoming. We did approve half of the plans, and we've got more work to do on the others. So, this is your opportunity. If you're a resident that wanted to weigh in, there's going to be opportunity to do that. So, just wanted to lift that up. Check your emails, if you haven't already, just to see how you can follow along for next steps as we look forward to Q1 (Quarter One) for that work.

Then, secondly, as we were discussing safety, I wanted to actually ask, as it relates to the work that we began in the Housing, Safety and Community Committee this year, with the strategic interstep model as we were looking at how we interface directly with our intergovernmental partners, we had launched the work, not only for what we were doing within the City, but with the idea that our partners at the County and the State would also be participating. So, I wanted to lift that back up, because I don't want it to be lost in the sauce, because one of the followups from that was actually that we were going to have some sort of joint strategy session. As we talk about our Strategic Planning, I didn't see it on the calendar as listed as something that was specifically joint,

but that was the opportunity that we were looking to, to really get more granular on what we were going to do in terms of a safety response, particularly, how we better support and advocate for the proper mental health services at the State and Federal levels. So, wanted to definitely make sure that as we plan for our strategy retreat, that that work is continued. Thank you.

Councilmember Ajmera said thank you, Councilmember Watlington, for bringing that intergovernmental work. At our last BGIR meeting, Shawn Heath and the team presented all the recommendations that were gathered from our partners, whether that's DA's Office, the County, nonprofit partners, as well as our judicial system, in terms of what we need to help us be successful in addressing crime in our communities. I know the plan is to present that at our retreat, because as we are discussing our State and Federal legislative agenda, we want to make sure we have specific slide just on public safety, with specific ask from our state legislatures. So, some of the items that's part of our agenda, for an example, is requesting more resources for our DA's office, because even with additional positions that were included as part of Iryna's Law, it still puts us at 65 percent to 70 percent capacity, not where we should be at 100 percent capacity, so we do need to discuss this. At some point, the Mayor had suggested us writing a letter, and I think that's a great idea with specific ask on public safety, because I don't see this part is an issue, because we all want a safe city. So, thank you for bringing that up, you will see that as part of our ask at the retreat.

Also, Councilmember Mayo brought up I-77 expansion. Mr. Manager, if you could provide us a memo on what ability we have at the local level to influence the decision through CARPO (Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization). I've heard reports that through CARPO we could influence how that project is expanded. So, we want to make sure that we are addressing community's needs while addressing infrastructure needs, but we want to ensure that we don't make the mistakes, or repeat the mistakes, of the past. So, if you could provide a memo on that, as to what are the alternatives that we are exploring through CARPO, that would be great.

Councilmember Owens brought up ride along. I've done that. It was probably one of the first ones that I did when, I representing District Five in East Charlotte, and it's certainly impactful. It makes you think how officers are put in situations to think within split seconds and make some of the very impactful decisions. It's a great way to really see what officers go through every single day to keep our community safe. I certainly agree, for those who have not done a ride along, I highly recommend it. You come out with a whole new perspective and respect for our officers.

I do want to highlight one item, as we are talking about public safety. I just want to acknowledge the seriousness of another stabbing incident on our Light Rail. Certainly, I've heard from a number of residents who use our Light Rail. They depend on our Light Rail to get to work. It is concerning. There are a number of questions that I have. I know that Mayor mentioned in her remarks earlier that we will have an update on the steps that we are taking. So, if you could include a couple of bullet points. First, I just want to understand security presence. This incident happened during the rush hour, 4:49 p.m., where generally employees get off and ride public transit. So, I would like to understand whether we had a CMPD officer or security guard on the Light Rail when this incident happened? I know there have been significant investments that the Council has made to increase security on Light Rail, as well as fare enforcement. I would like to understand, do we know at this time whether the suspect had a valid ticket to ride this? Also, I'm hearing reports that the suspect may have been previously banned from using CATS, so if you can help us clarify if that is accurate, and if the suspect was indeed previously banned, why was he allowed back on the system, and how are we enforcing those bans? I look forward to having an update on those specific questions. We have seen our ridership has gone down after Iryna Zarutka's stabbing, and there are people that do not feel safe, especially students who ride our public transportation system who do not have an alternative. So, we need to do everything that we can to restore the confidence in our system. So, if you could provide an update on that, that would be great. Lastly, I just want to wish you all happy holidays. Thank you.

Councilmember Mitchell said first of all, let me agree with all my colleagues to say, be safe this holiday and spend time with family and friends, and rejoice and pray for a successful 2026. I think this Council, we've done a lot of work in 2025, and more to come.

On a personal note, if I may, Mayor and Council, December 9, 2025, tomorrow, the third African American female went into space. She spent 13 days at the Space Station to repair the robotic arm. I want to congratulate her, this celebrates her 19th year. Joan Elizabeth Higginbotham, better known as my queen. So, happy anniversary, and ready to go to closed session, Mayor?

Mayor Lyles said well, no, just a minute, I want to do this. James and I had an opportunity to be at the Sarah Stevens Tuesday morning program. I believe, Kimberly, you were there as well, and Malcolm, and at the end of that I was given a four or five-page list of concerns with various communities that you've mostly spoken about. So, I want to make sure that as we're doing this work that we really understand that our people are smart. They know what they want. They know that we can do it. What I've asked the Manager to do is to take those, I think it's four pages, and look at it and see how it fits in for our retreat, and what does it mean when people come to us and say, we have a plan for what we ought to do and we put this plan in motion, or explain why it's not in motion. I think that, again, people are really engaged, and I think through that process it will be helpful. It's like, as you say, the community programs that we have and list, I think that people want to understand what they mean for us, for them [INAUDIBLE] well done. I would hope that we'd be able to put some of that together before we come back from the retreat.

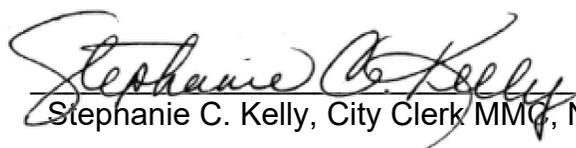
Then, the other thing I would say is, I'm going to take a few days off. James Mitchell is going to have such fun, because I'm going to go visit my grandchildren for their holiday, it's a great opportunity to have. I know several of us have grandchildren, and we love them greatly, two and three, Bishop as well. I wish everyone to take time to enjoy their families, to understand how important you are to our City, and the work that we can do, and start fresh ahead.

Motion was made by Councilmember Ajmera, seconded by Councilmember Johnson, and carried unanimously to go into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3), to consult with the City Attorney to preserve the attorney/client privilege, in the matter of Renda-JBros Joint Venture versus City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County Superior Court, Civil Action No. 25CV032102-590.

The meeting was recessed at 7:18 p.m. to move to CH-14 for a closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m. at the conclusion of the closed session.


Stephanie C. Kelly, City Clerk MMC, NCCMC

Length of Meeting: 1 Hour, 43 Minutes
Minutes completed: January 12, 2026