

Committee Members: MPT James Mitchell (Chair), Dante Anderson, J.D. Mazuera Arias, LaWana Mayfield, Victoria Watlington.

Meeting Summary: August 3, 2026

What follows is a high-level summary. Verbatim comments, specific questions and answers may be found by viewing the [City's YouTube page](#). All meeting materials are available on the [Charlotte Legistar Site](#).

1. Capital Facility Investment Priorities

Staff presented recommended priorities for capital facility investment requests, building on the affordability modeling and horizon projects overview provided at the June 1 meeting. Requests were organized into three categories intended to guide Committee decision-making: city-owned facilities, city partnership opportunities, and unique opportunities.

Councilmember Mayfield questioned the benefit of committing \$4.5 million in city funds where state and private dollars have already been allocated, and asked staff to model how pushing certain commitments to 2027 would affect available capacity. She noted the Mint Museum is 90 years old and asked that staff bring forward a location and long-term facility plan before any further dollar request is made, given the scale of roof and HVAC needs. She observed the Convention Center funding bucket has more flexibility given its tourism and hospitality nexus and recommended relying more heavily on those dollars where possible. She supported phasing investment at Bojangles Coliseum, citing the parking lot as an underutilized asset given its proximity to the growing Eastland Yards development, and reiterated concerns about the level of public investment proposed for Truist Field (\$26.67 million), asking that the ownership group bring more private dollars to the table.

A committee member (transcribed as “Watlington” — please confirm against the recording) asked for a percentage breakdown of the World Military Games’ total cost that is publicly funded — the state’s \$25 million, the city’s \$4.5 million, and up to \$12 million in in-kind support — and requested clarity on the anticipated local public tourism-fund revenue, as distinct from overall visitor spend, that the games would generate, in order to better evaluate the return on public dollars. Staff confirmed that debt is used only to finance capital assets the city will own, never to pay for events; the Eastland Sports Complex, for example, is being funded on a cash basis because it involves site improvements rather than a vertical asset.

Councilmember Anderson had no immediate questions but emphasized wanting a phased, annual view of affordability if the city takes no action this year, urging a deliberate and modest approach to this year’s commitments. Councilmember JD Mazuera Arias had no questions on this item.

Visiting Councilmembers Graham and Owens joined the discussion on the World Military Games.

Councilmember Graham flagged that planned development by Park Ministry near Bojangles Coliseum will affect parking there, and asked whether the federal government would participate financially in the games and whether public safety equipment purchased for the event (as with the 2020 DNC) would remain with the city afterward. World Military Games Local Organizing Committee representatives Jeremiah Shirk (COO) and Towers Middendorf responded that the games’ federal security event rating is under review for an upgrade to a CR-1 or CR-2 designation, with the full North Carolina and South Carolina congressional delegations having sent a letter to the Department of Homeland Security on July 24 requesting an expedited decision; a detailed public safety plan, cost breakdown, and post-event equipment disposition plan will follow once that rating is set. Councilmember Owens asked to hear from CMPD about its experience with equipment retained from past national conventions, and flagged public sensitivity around surveillance technologies such as license-plate-reading cameras and drones, as well as how any more militarized equipment might affect community policing efforts going forward.

Visiting Councilmember Mullins raised the Science Center/aquarium facility, noting recent leadership changes there and asking for an update on whether the city is considering separating the aquarium from the Science Center — potentially relocating it elsewhere in the city, such as District 5, to help drive tourism — before committing additional dollars to incremental facility upfits at the current uptown location.

A visiting councilmember (transcribed as “Brown” — please confirm) recommended that future discussions include the Hospitality & Tourism Alliance and related partner organizations, and flagged the need to begin conversations now with the General Assembly about extending the sunset on the city’s second hospitality tax (currently set for 2039), noting the city successfully extended the sunset on the first tax two years ago. Councilmember Mayfield asked staff to clarify what exactly the Committee was being asked to approve, noting the three-bucket framework did not include dollar estimates, project-level detail, or a clear prioritization given the number of open questions raised. Councilmember Anderson asked whether projects within each bucket were listed in priority order; staff confirmed they were not, explaining that bucket order reflects a general focus — starting with city-owned facilities — rather than a strict project-by-project ranking. Councilmember Mayfield stated that buckets one and two (city-owned facilities and partnership opportunities) should take priority over bucket three, and asked staff to provide a rough dollar estimate (“t-shirt size”: small, medium, large, or extra-large) for each project before the framework advances out of committee. A visiting councilmember (transcribed as “Graham”) agreed, adding that each project’s stage of development should also factor into prioritization.

ACTION: The Committee did not advance a recommendation on capital facility investment priorities. Staff will return in September/October with additional financial detail, project-level dollar estimates (“t-shirt sizing”), and answers to the Committee’s outstanding questions before a prioritization recommendation is brought back for consideration.

Next Meeting:

The next Economic Development & Workforce Committee meeting is scheduled to take place at 11:00 a.m. on September 8th, 2026, in Room CH-14.