
Recommendations from May 20 City Council Budget Adjustments

Adjustments included in this packet were recommended for consideration by City Council at the City Council Budget Adjustments Work Session on May 20. The materials from budget workshops, the City Manager's presentation and Proposed FY 2021 Budget, and previously answered Q&As may be found on the Strategy and Budget website: <https://charlottenc.gov/budget/Pages/default.aspx>.

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Adjustment 1: \$70,000 for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission Revolving Fund

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission (CMHLC) is authorized by state enabling legislation and considered to be a component of Mecklenburg County. CMHLC is governed by a 12 member board which consists of six appointees from the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners, and six appointees from the Charlotte Mayor and City Council. CMHLC protects historic properties in Mecklenburg County by:

1. Designating properties as historic landmarks,
2. Buying and selling endangered historic landmarks through a revolving fund,
3. Administering design review of intended alterations of historic landmarks, and
4. Educating the general public about the significance of historic landmarks.

At the May 20, 2020 City Council meeting to consider budget adjustments, \$70,000 was proposed as a contribution to the CMHLC revolving fund described in number two above. If approved, the recommended source of these funds is a reduction in the General Fund undesignated balance as shown in the table below:

Recommended Adjustment to FY 2021 General Fund Budget			
Description	Proposed FY 2021 Budget	Adjustment	Adjusted FY 2021 Budget
Undesignated Balance	\$71,270	(\$70,000)	\$1,270
Contribution to CMHLC Revolving Fund	\$0	\$70,000	\$70,000

Adjustment 2: \$250,000 to help expedite the Unified Development Ordinance

The Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) is a citywide effort aimed at updating the regulations that guide growth and development in Charlotte and is a regulatory tool to implement the vision the city will outline in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. The UDO will consolidate, update, and align all development related ordinances, providing greater clarity for those that are designing projects in the city.

Staff has been working with a consultant on the UDO process since 2016. The consultant has assisted with advancing selected UDO work such as new transit oriented development zoning districts, rewritten sign regulations, and a focused update to the Tree Ordinance. According to the Planning, Design, and Development Department, additional funds to continue to support a consultant will allow the projected timeline of the UDO to be improved.

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If approved, the funds are recommended to be included in the Pay-As-You-Go Fund Budget in FY 2021. To offset the increase, the Enhanced Economic Development Initiatives Program will be correspondingly reduced by \$250,000. After review of the existing balance within the Enhanced Economic Development program, and a projection of spending priorities over the next six months, this adjustment is not anticipated to have a significant impact on Economic Development initiatives in FY 2021.

Recommended Adjustment to FY 2021 Pay-As-You-Go Fund Budget			
Description	Proposed FY 2021 Budget	Adjustment	Adjusted FY 2021 Budget
Enhance Economic Development Programs	\$1,000,000	(\$250,000)	\$750,000
Expedite Unified Development Ordinance	\$0	\$250,000	\$250,000

Question 3: Explore ways that the city can help close the Digital Divide in the community

The Digital Divide refers to uneven access to technology, primarily internet access. The COVID-19 crisis has caused more education and government services to be provided exclusively online. This has exacerbated a divide that already existed. Additionally, with the increased unemployment rate individuals will need expanded access to technology resources and job opportunity tools as the city continues to recover.

Although the Digital Divide is a challenging problem that will require a multi-organization long-term plan, the city can help in FY 2021 in the following ways:

1. Prioritize using a Digital Divide lens while recommending any adjustments, reductions, or enhancements to city services that result from COVID-19.
2. Use existing personnel in Innovation and Technology and other departments to research, analyze, and recommend comprehensive improvements either by using existing resources or recommending actions to take in future budgets.