



# City of Richmond

## Informal Meeting Minutes

900 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219  
[www.richmondgov.com/cityclerk](http://www.richmondgov.com/cityclerk)

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Monday, January 27, 2020

3:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

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### **Councilmembers Present**

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President  
The Honorable Chris Hilbert, Vice President  
The Honorable Andreas Addison (late arrival)  
The Honorable Kim Gray (late arrival)  
The Honorable Michael Jones (late arrival)  
The Honorable Kristen Larson  
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch  
The Honorable Ellen Robertson  
The Honorable Reva Trammell (late arrival)

### **Staff Present**

Lawrence Anderson, Council Chief of Staff  
Lisa Braxton, Council Management Analyst  
Haskell Brown, Interim City Attorney  
Candice Reid, City Clerk  
Tabrica Rentz, Acting Deputy City Attorney  
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. and presided.

Upon the President's request, Council Management Analyst Lisa Braxton provided information on the appropriate manner in which the Council Chamber is to be evacuated in the event of an emergency.

### **Docket Review**

Council Management Analyst Lisa Braxton reviewed the following agenda items as indicated:

#### Consent Agenda:

1. Ord. 2018-324 – to be continued to Monday, March 9, 2020
2. Ord. 2018-325 – to be continued to Monday, March 9, 2020
3. Ord. 2019-257 – retained on the Consent Agenda
4. Ord. 2019-275 – to be continued to Monday, February 24, 2020
5. Ord. 2019-276 – to be continued to Monday, February 24, 2020
6. Ord. 2019-294 – to be continued to Monday, February 10, 2020
7. Ord. 2019-324 – retained on the Consent Agenda
8. Ord. 2019-328 – moved to the Regular Agenda
9. Ord. 2019-330 – retained on the Consent Agenda

*Councilor Michael Jones arrived at 3:08 p.m. and was seated.*

10. Ord. 2019-331 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Councilor Ellen Robertson, on behalf of the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee, informed Council on the committee's decision to recommend approving Ord. 2019-331.

*Councilor Kim Gray arrived at 3:09 p.m. and was seated.*

Jay Brown, Budget and Strategic Planning director, was available to answer questions regarding proposed Ord. 2019-331.

After discussion concerning the committee referral waiving of Ord. 2019-331, President Cynthia Newbille indicated that a review of the process will be initiated by the Council Chief of Staff Office.

Councilor Kim Gray acknowledged her support for Richmond Public Schools' educators and their need for additional funding; however, she expressed concern with the closing of the school system to allow teachers to attend a lobbying rally in Capital Square, in lieu of providing critical instructional time to students in preparation of impending aptitude testing.

Councilor Ellen Robertson requested that the school closing matter be added to the upcoming Education Compact Meeting agenda for discussion.

11. Ord. 2019-334 – retained on the Consent Agenda
12. Ord. 2019-335 – retained on the Consent Agenda
13. Ord. 2019-336 – retained on the Consent Agenda
14. Ord. 2019-337 – retained on the Consent Agenda
15. Ord. 2019-338 – retained on the Consent Agenda
16. Ord. 2019-339 – retained on the Consent Agenda
17. Ord. 2019-340 – retained on the Consent Agenda
18. Ord. 2019-342 – to be continued to Monday, March 23, 2020
19. Ord. 2020-001 – retained on the Consent Agenda
20. Ord. 2020-002 – retained on the Consent Agenda
21. Ord. 2020-003 – retained on the Consent Agenda
22. Ord. 2020-004 – retained on the Consent Agenda
23. Ord. 2020-005 – retained on the Consent Agenda
24. Ord. 2020-006 – retained on the Consent Agenda
25. Ord. 2020-007 – retained on the Consent Agenda
26. Ord. 2020-008 – retained on the Consent Agenda
27. Ord. 2020-009 – retained on the Consent Agenda

*Councilor Andreas Addison arrived at 3:20 p.m. and was seated.*

28. Ord. 2020-010 – to be continued to Monday, February 24, 2020
29. Ord. 2020-011 – to be continued to Monday, February 10, 2020
30. Ord. 2020-012 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Christie Peters, Animal Care and Control director, introduced Ord. 2020-012 and was available to answer questions.

31. Ord. 2020-013 – retained on the Consent Agenda
32. Ord. 2020-014 – retained on the Consent Agenda
33. Res. 2019-R050 – to be continued to Monday, February 24, 2020
34. Res. 2019-R068 – to be continued to Monday, February 24, 2020
35. Res. 2019-R069 – to be amended and considered
36. Res. 2019-R070 – retained on the Consent Agenda
37. Res. 2020-R002 – retained on the Consent Agenda
38. Res. 2020-R003 – retained on the Consent Agenda
39. Res. 2020-R004 – retained on the Consent Agenda
40. Res. 2020-R005 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Robert “Bob” Steidel, deputy chief administrative officer – Operations, introduced Res. 2020-R005 and was available to answer questions.

41. Res. 2020-R006 – retained on the Consent Agenda
42. Res. 2020-R007 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Regular Agenda:

43. Ord. 2018-236 – to be continued to Monday, February 10, 2020
44. Res. 2019-R057 – to be continued to Monday, March 23, 2020

There were no further comments or discussions concerning Consent and Regular Agenda items reviewed.

**FY2021-25 Revenue and Expenditure Plan**

Jay Brown, Budget and Strategic Planning director, presented Council, as required by City Code, Section 12-15.1, with a five-year forecast of the city’s estimated revenues and expenditures. Mr. Brown highlighted possible revenue increases in local taxes for real estate, lodging and permits and licenses, and underlined expenditure assumptions for certain personnel and operating costs. A copy of the presentation has been filed.

*Councilwoman Reva Trammell arrived at 3:29 p.m. and was seated.*

John Wack, Finance director, and Acting Chief Administrative Officer Lenora Reid were available to answer questions.

Councilor Michael Jones requested an analysis of the tax abatement program for rehabilitated structures.

### **General Assembly (GA) Update**

Ron Jordan, council lobbyist, Advantus Strategies, provided Council with a presentation concerning legislation progressing through the Senate and House of Delegates during the 2020 General Assembly session. A copy of the presentation provided has been filed.

Mr. Jordan advised Council of its need to make a decision regarding a position on the (JLARC) Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission's casino gaming laws study enacted by SB 1126.

President Cynthia Newbille requested that the JLARC casino gaming study and related GA bills be redistributed to Council for review.

After discussion regarding decision options, it was the consensus of Council to schedule a special meeting, prior to the February Organizational Development Standing Committee meeting, to further discuss and decide on Council's positioning for communication to the GA.

Councilor Kristen Larson requested information pertaining to a casino gaming referendum process at the special meeting.

### **Navy Hill Development Proposal Update**

Leonard Sledge, Economic Development director, provided Council with a presentation regarding the proposed Navy Hill Development (NHD) project, which highlighted updates to the project's proposed increment financing areas (IFA) if HB 1345, a bill by Delegate Jeffrey Bourne to create a special tax zone, was enacted. A copy of the presentation provided has been filed.

Nathan Mateer, Capital City Partners, Incorporated, and Arthur Anderson, McGuireWoods LLP, continued the presentation and provided information regarding Municap's iteration of projections based on the newly suggested IFA along with correlating revenue.

Mr. Sledge advised Council that there are other financing tools and/or mechanisms that can be utilized for the NHD project if HB 1345 is not ratified.

President Cynthia Newbille directed councilors to forward any additional recommendations for negotiation involving the NHD project to the Council Chief of Staff Office for inclusion.

Mr. Sledge recommended awaiting the completion of the review by the external consultant, C. H. Johnson Consulting, Incorporated, prior to deliberating on additional amendments to the NHD project.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

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CITY CLERK