



City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
www.rva.gov/office-city-clerk

Meeting Minutes Education and Human Services Standing Committee

Thursday, March 14, 2024

2:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Committee and Other Council Members in Attendance

The Honorable Stephanie Lynch - Chair
The Honorable Cynthia Newbille - Vice Chair
The Honorable Ellen Robertson - Council Member

Absent

The Honorable Nicole Jones - Member

Staff and Others in Attendance

Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst
Greg Lukanuski, Deputy City Attorney
Kim Morris, Assistant City Clerk
Adam Poser, Deputy Council Chief of Staff
Candice Reid, City Clerk
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Stephanie Lynch called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m., and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Upon the Chair's request, Kim Morris, Assistant City Clerk provided information on the appropriate manner in which the Council Chamber is to be evacuated in the event of an emergency along with citizen speaker guidelines.

Public Comment Period

Makayla Ross addressed the committee, and stated her concerns regarding Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority (RRHA) evictions due to miscalculated resident rental contributions.

Brian Bills addressed the committee, and stated his concerns regarding residents of RRHA experiencing evictions due to miscalculated rent.

Paper(s) for Consideration

The following ordinance was considered:

1. [ORD. 2024-047](#) To amend City Code § 2-744, concerning the duty of the Mayor to submit reports on City's comprehensive poverty reduction initiative, for the purpose of modifying reporting requirements.

Patrons: Ms. Robertson and Ms. Lynch

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2024-047](#)

Public Hearing

There were no public hearing speakers.

Councilor Ellen Robertson provided the committee with an introduction regarding ORD. 2024-047.

Vice Chair Cynthia Newbille inquired if reports will still be made and provided before Council.

Councilor Robertson stated that the presentation will still be made before the full body during Council's formal meeting.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Newbille moved to forward ORD. 2024-047 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved: Ayes 2, Newbille, Lynch. Noes 0.

The following ordinance was considered:

2. [ORD. 2024-054](#) To amend City Code § 2-850 for the purpose of revising the membership composition of the Future of Workforce Commission to include representatives from businesses located without the corporate City limits that serve the residents of the city of Richmond.

Patrons: Mr. Addison, Ms. Lynch and Vice President Lambert

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2024-054](#)

Public Hearing

There were no public hearing speakers.

Vice Chair Cynthia Newbille inquired if the adoption of the proposed ordinance will allow expansion to business representatives outside of city limits.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Newbille moved to forward ORD. 2024-054 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved: Ayes 2, Newbille, Lynch. Noes 0.

The following resolution was considered:

3. [RES. 2024-R008](#) To express support for the City's acquisition, designation, and establishment of a portion of the property located at 405 West 6th Street and commonly known as Manchester Green as an official City park.
(6th District)

Patrons: Ms. Robertson, Ms. Lynch, Ms. Newbille and Ms. Trammell

Attachments: [Res. No. 2024-R008](#)

Public Hearing

There were no public hearing speakers.

Councilor Ellen Robertson provided the committee with an introduction regarding RES. 2024-R008.

Traci DeShazor, DCAO for Human Services, stated that the Department of Human Services is still reviewing the proposed resolution and will continue to work with Councilor Robertson regarding the resolution.

Vice Chair Cynthia Newbille inquired if the property stated in the proposed resolution is currently abandoned.

Councilor Robertson stated that the property is currently vacant. Ms. Robertson also stated that the project will be beneficial to the area's development.

Vice Chair Newbille inquired if the property listed in the proposed resolution is owned by CSX Transportation. Vice Chair Newbille stated that there may be an opportunity for collaboration with CSX Transportation.

Councilor Robertson stated that they are open to the conversation of possible partnerships with CSX Transportation.

Chair Stephanie Lynch stated that the proposed resolution is thoughtful in providing green spaces.

Committee members had continued discussion regarding the proposed resolution.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Cynthia Newbille moved to forward RES. 2024-R008 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved: Ayes 2, Newbille, Lynch. Noes 0.

Presentation(s)

There were no presentations.

Discussion Item(s)

Richmond Public Schools (RPS) and Richmond School Board Updates

Jason Kamras, Richmond Public Schools Superintendent, provided the committee with an update regarding Richmond Public Schools (RPS).

Vice Chair Cynthia Newbille expressed appreciation to RPS for their continued work and progress.

Chair Stephanie Lynch inquired about when RPS will deliver their budget for the fiscal year, 2025.

Superintendent Kamras stated RPS will present their budget to Council at the appropriate time.

Update from the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (DCAO) for Human Services

Traci DeShazor, DCAO for Human Services, provided the committee with an update regarding Human Services.

DCAO DeShazor introduced Jacqueline (Jackie) Hale as the new Early Childhood Specialist for the Office of Children and Families.

Members stated they look forward to working with Ms. Hale in her new role with the Office of Children and Families.

Chair Stephanie Lynch inquired about previous requests to establish advisory councils.

DCAO DeShazor stated that there are opportunities for individuals and organizations to come together for the needs of the community. DCAO DeShazor also stated that there is no group in place to facilitate and provide services that are needed in the community.

The committee had continued discussion with DCAO DeShazor regarding Human Services update.

Recertification of Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority (RRHA) Families and Evictions

Steven Nesmith, RRHA Chief Executive Officer, and Kenyatta Green, RRHA Senior Vice President of Affordable Housing, provided the committee with an update regarding RRHA operations.

Councilor Ellen Robertson left the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Chair Stephanie Lynch inquired about the minimum monthly rent requirements for RRHA public housing. Chair Lynch also inquired about the average family monthly income.

Ms. Green stated that the monthly rent requirements differ based on household income. Ms. Green also stated that the monthly rent can range from \$50-\$1,700 per month, with the highest average income of \$90,000 per year.

Chair Lynch inquired about the action needed to bring down the balances of owed rent.

Ms. Green stated that 30% of individuals that go into a payment agreement usually default. She also stated that when a family is placed into a payment agreement, the factors of income are still considered.

The committee had continued discussion with Mr. Nesmith and Ms. Green regarding recertification of RRHA families.

[CD.2024.079](#) RRHA - Handout

Attachments: [20240314 EHS RRHA Handout](#)

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Board Vacancies

There were no board vacancies.

Approval of Minutes

There were no minutes to be approved.

Staff Report

Council staff provided the committee with the March Education and Human Services staff report.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

[CD.2024.078](#) March 2024 Staff Report

Attachments: [20240314 EHS Staff Report](#)

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.