



# Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

## Office of the Council Chief of Staff

### Finance & Economic Development Standing Committee

May 16, 2024

### Legislative Summary

**Previous Meeting:** April 18, 2024

**Next Meeting:** June 20, 2024

#### Paper(s) for Consideration

##### 1. ORD. 2024-129

**Patron:** President Nye, Mr. Addison

To amend City Code § 2-1224, concerning compensation and expenses of the members of Council and President of the Council, to provide for salary increases authorized by Va. Code §§ 15.2-1414.5 and 15.2-1414.6.

#### **Key Points:**

- A. The 2024 Regular Session of the Virginia General Assembly passed House Bill 456, that amended § 15.2-1414.6 of the Code of Virginia relating to city council salaries.
- B. The 2024 General Assembly session increased the annual salary cap for Council to a \$20,000 increase from the former salary of \$25,000 for an annual salary of \$45,000. For the Council President, the salary cap is \$47,000.
- C. The increased annual salary of elected councilmembers shall not take effect until July 1, 2025, and will apply to those members starting their four-year term, January 1, 2025.

Fiscal Impact: ☒ None. ☒ Yes. The estimated unfunded increase of \$180,000 (not including benefits) relating to personnel costs associated with City Council FY2025 Operating Budget.

##### 2. ORD. 2024-130

**Patron:** Mayor Stoney

To amend and reordain City Code §§ 2-1128, concerning applications for equalization of real estate assessments, 26-101, concerning the creation and purpose of the Office of Assessor of Real Estate, 26-104, concerning the duties, 26-122, concerning the time of making and entering assessment and notice of increases, and 26-147, concerning land books generally, to be effective for real estate tax assessments that are used to calculate real estate taxes for the tax years beginning on Jan. 1, 2026, and Jan. 1, 2027;



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to amend and reordain City Code §§ 26-104, concerning the duties, 26-105, concerning the assessment of new buildings substantially completed or fit for use and occupancy, and abatement of levies, 26-122, concerning time of making and entering an assessment and notice of increase, 26-147, concerning land books generally, 26-203, concerning the effective date of assessments, 26-230, concerning application to the Assessor for administrative reviews, 26-231, concerning notice of administrative reviews, 26-232, concerning action after hearing and rule of evidence, 26-233, concerning the delegation of hearings to assistant and the summary of evidence, and 26-262, concerning notice to the Assessor of new or remodeled buildings and assessment, to be effective for real estate tax assessments that are used to calculate real estate taxes for the tax years beginning on January 1, 2028, and later; and to amend ch. 26, art. III, div. 1 by adding therein a new section numbered 26-49, concerning the effective date of assessments, all for the purpose of transitioning the City Assessor's annual real estate assessment cycle from a calendar year to a fiscal year.

### Key Points:

- A. The current assessment cycle operates on a calendar year as governed by Chapter 26, Article III - Assessment of Property for Taxation of the Code of Richmond. The proposed legislation will adjust the assessment cycle to a fiscal year aligning with the City's budget process.
- B. The conversion from calendar year to fiscal year will require the usage of the January 2026 assessment values for billing and collection for years 2026 and 2027. Any revenue adjustments required based upon the billings in 2026/2027 will occur with the 2028 tax bills.

Fiscal Impact: ☐ None ☒ Yes. Revenue increase in FY2027 will be delayed until FY2028

### 3. ORD. 2024-131

**Patron:** Mayor Stoney

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to accept grant funds in the amount of \$50,000,000.00 from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and to appropriate the increase to the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Capital Budget by increasing estimated revenues and the amount appropriated to the Department of Public Utilities' Combined Sewer Overflow project in the Utilities category by \$50,000,000.00 for the purpose of funding the Combined Sewer Overflow project



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### Key Points:

- A. Provides \$50,000,000.00 from the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Environmental Quality for the Combined Sewer Overflow project.
- B. The \$50,000,000.00 grant amount is subject to a 100% match requirement. The grant amount will be reimbursed in full, at a rate of 50% of eligible expenses until the entire grant amount is expended.

Fiscal Impact: ☐ None ☒ Yes. Amends the FY2024-2028 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Budget within the Wastewater Utility category for the Combined Sewer Overflow Project.

### Committee Follow-up

#### **Fiscal Activities Calendar Items for May 2024:**

- Final Amendments Introduced
- Public Hearing of Mayor's Proposed Amended Budget
- Process District Fund Budgets
- Adoption of RPS and City of Richmond Budgets
- Monthly Reporting: Financial Synopsis
- Monthly Reporting: HR Vacancy and OT Report
- ARPA Quarterly Reporting (adjusted to June)

#### **Requests from Prior Standing Committee Meeting – February 2024:**

- Economic Development Performance Grant Update—Leonard Sledge
  - Information regarding BPOL exemption:
    - Number of small businesses associated with the exemption
    - Number of small businesses opened in the past year
- ARPA Presentation—Sabrina Joy-Hogg
  - Date associated with the obligation of ARPA funds (final date all funds should be obligated)

#### **Requests from Prior Standing Committee Meeting – March 2024:**

#### **Requests from Prior Standing Committee Meeting – April 2024:**

None



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### Proposed Timeline for submittal of legislation relating to Richmond City Code – Article V-Fund Balance

Proposed Timeline	City Council Meeting	Finance & Economic Development Standing Committee Meeting
	Introduce – June 10, 2024	June 20, 2024
Present to Council for Vote	June 24, 2024	