



City of Richmond

Special Meeting Minutes

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
www.richmondgov.com/cityclerk

Monday, June 1, 2020

5:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall
Virtual Meeting

Councilmembers Present

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

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m., and presided.

ELECTRONIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

City Clerk Candice Reid, in accordance with Ordinance No. 2020-093, adopted April 9, 2020, announced the meeting would be held through electronic communication means. City Clerk Reid stated notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information advisory issued on May 29, 2020, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice. She also stated members of the public were encouraged to provide comments in writing prior to the meeting and all comments received prior to 10:00 a.m., on Monday, June 1, 2020, were provided to Council members. Ms. Reid indicated that members of the public who signed up to speak and provide comment would be called to speak at the appropriate time.

CITIZEN SPEAKER GUIDELINES

Upon the President's request, Deputy City Clerk RJ Warren provided citizen speaker guidelines.

MOTION TO EXPEDITE CONSIDERATION

Councilor Kristen Larson moved to expedite consideration of the following resolution, which was seconded and approved: Ayes 8, Jones, Robertson, Larson, Gray, Trammell, Addison, Hilbert, Newbille. Noes None. Lynch had not yet arrived.

RES. 2020-R040

To request that the Mayor introduce such budget amendments and propose other such legislation as may be necessary to establish a grant program to be administered by the Economic Development Authority of the City of Richmond for restaurants within the city of Richmond affected by the spread of COVID-19.

Patron: Ms. Gray

Councilor Kim Gray provided an introduction of the proposed resolution.

Leonard Sledge, Department of Economic Development director, informed Council that other businesses aside from restaurants were suffering as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and should also be included in any grant program established by the city.

Councilor Ellen Robertson addressed the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic and social unrest within the city had on small businesses, and inquired about city administration providing Council with an economic recovery strategy to better assist affected businesses.

Mr. Sledge referenced the city's first responders' meals program and small business disaster loan program as methods taken by the city to assist businesses. Mr. Sledge stated the Department of Economic Development would provide a presentation regarding programs to assist businesses to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, at the upcoming Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee meeting, on June 18, 2020.

Councilor Michael Jones stated he believed assistance and grant programs should be provided for other businesses within the city. Councilor Jones informed members he believed it was premature to vote on the proposed resolution until the Department of Economic Development was able to present information at the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee meeting.

Councilor Gray stated the city relies on the tax revenue collected from the city's meal's tax and restrictions placed on restaurants due to the COVID-19 pandemic, affected the city's ability to collect tax revenue. Councilor Gray informed members the proposed resolution would assist restaurants in reopening.

Councilor Kristen Larson expressed her support of Res. 2020-R040 and stated the grant program would help restaurants reopen to provide tax revenue for the city.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch joined the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell expressed her support of Res. 2020-R040 and addressed the loss of employment for many citizens who work at restaurants. Councilwoman Trammell stated the grant program would allow citizens to return to work.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch expressed her support of Res. 2020-R040, but stated additional small businesses should be included with restaurants in receiving grant funds.

Lincoln Saunders, Office of the Mayor chief of staff, provided information regarding the city receiving federal funding provided by the CARES Act federal stimulus package.

Councilor Andreas Addison expressed his belief that the city should assist small businesses with reopening safely, and suggested the use of CARES Act funding to assist in the process.

Mr. Sledge informed members that use of funds from the CARES Act must be in response to the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on the city, and cannot be used to address results of civil unrest in the city. Mr. Sledge stated the Department of Economic Development was actively receiving input from citizens and consultants on how to best address the issues facing the city during the pandemic. Mr. Sledge added these suggestions would be included in the Department of Economic Development's strategic plan that will be submitted to Council for review.

President Cynthia Newbille suggested that city administration examine any possible funding available from the state that could assist small businesses within the city. President Newbille requested Council be provided a timeline for when the economic strategic plan would be drafted and provided to Council.

There were no further comments or discussions and **RES. 2020-R040 was unanimously adopted.**

MOTION TO AMEND AND CONTINUE

Councilor Kim Gray moved that the following ordinance:

ORD. 2020-125

To amend and reordain City Code § 9-58, which assigns polling places in the city, to relocate and establish a new polling place for Precinct 206.

be amended and continued to Monday, June 8, 2020, as follows:

Page 1, Line 5

After the text "Precinct 206", insert the text "and Precinct 702"

Page 3, Line 28

After the number "702", strike the location "Fairmount Place" and insert the location "East End Branch Library"

After the inserted location "East End Branch Library", strike the address "1501 N. 21st Street", and insert the address "1200 North 25th Street"

Page 4, Line 7

After the text "Precinct 206", insert the text "and Precinct 702"

Page 4, Line 9

At the beginning of the line, insert the text "and Precinct 702"

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

The following ordinance was introduced for public hearing on Monday, June 8, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.:

ORD. 2020-132

To amend Ord. No. 2019-041, adopted May 13, 2019, which adopted the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 General Fund Budget and made appropriations pursuant thereto, by reducing total appropriations by \$11,377,891, transferring funds from various agencies and non-departmental programs and the Budget and Revenue Stabilization Contingency Reserve, and appropriating the transferred funds to various agencies and non-departmental programs; and to amend Ord. No. 2019-042, which adopted the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Special Fund Budget and made appropriations thereto, by increasing estimated revenues and the amount appropriated to the Department of Housing and Community Development's Affordable Housing - Non CDBG Areas special fund by \$1,000,000.00 to provide for affordable housing initiatives.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

Committee referral waived {Rule VI(B)(2)}

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

CITY CLERK