



City of Richmond

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

Informal Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 28, 2022

4:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Councilmembers Present

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President
The Honorable Andreas Addison
The Honorable Katherine Jordan
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch (late arrival)
The Honorable Kristen Nye (late arrival)
The Honorable Reva Trammell

Absent

The Honorable Ellen Robertson, Vice President
The Honorable Michael Jones

Staff Present

Lisa Braxton, Council Management Analyst
Haskell Brown, Interim City Attorney
Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff
Candice Reid, City Clerk
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m. and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Announcement

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. 2021-368 – retained on the Consent Agenda

2. Ord. 2022-020 – to be continued to Monday, April 11, 2022
3. Ord. 2022-036 – retained on the Consent Agenda
4. Ord. 2022-047 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Councilor Kristen Nye arrived at 4:10 p.m. and was seated.

5. Ord. 2022-048 – retained on the Consent Agenda
6. Ord. 2022-049 – retained on the Consent Agenda
7. Ord. 2022-050 – retained on the Consent Agenda
8. Ord. 2022-051 – retained on the Consent Agenda
9. Ord. 2022-052 – retained on the Consent Agenda
10. Ord. 2022-053 – retained on the Consent Agenda
11. Ord. 2022-054 – to be continued to Monday, May 9, 2022
12. Ord. 2022-083 – retained on the Consent Agenda
13. Ord. 2022-084 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Dr. Danny Avula, Richmond and Henrico Public Health Foundation chair, and Ruth Morrison, Virginia Department of Health, Richmond District, policy and COVID-19 vaccine coordination director, provided an introduction and answered questions regarding Ord. 2022-084. A copy of the presentation provided has been filed.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch arrived at 4:13 p.m. and was seated.

Ms. Morrison explained that Council had previously set focus priorities for proposed Ord. 2022-084 with the adoption of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) spending plan, which emphasized COVID-19, opioid and substance abuse, and behavioral health as some of the known areas of health disparities.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch inquired regarding programmatic intervention and cash assistance services.

President Cynthia Newbille, acknowledging health disparities as an ongoing problem, inquired regarding the opportunity to leverage ARPA funds with philanthropic donations in order to continue long-term community outreach.

Eva Colen, Human Services senior policy advisor, introduced Barbara Sipe, NextUp RVA president and chief executive officer, who provided an introduction of Ord. 2022-083 along with an overview and results of NextUp RVA programs. A copy of the presentation and information provided have been filed.

14. Ord. 2022-085 – retained on the Consent Agenda

15. Ord. 2022-086 – retained on the Consent Agenda

16. Ord. 2022-087 – retained on the Consent Agenda

17. Ord. 2022-088 – retained on the Consent Agenda

City Registrar Keith Balmer provided an introduction and answered questions regarding Ord. 2022-088.

Councilor Katherine Jordan expressed a concern regarding the accessibility of the location referenced in Ord. 2022-088 given the installation of a roundabout.

Councilor Andreas Addison inquired regarding early voting opportunities and accessibility for other methods of transportation.

President Cynthia Newbille inquired concerning the continued use of transportation service assistance for voters during future elections.

After further discussion, it was the consensus of Council to approve Ord. 2022-088 later that evening during the Formal Session of Council.

18. Ord. 2022-089 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Sharon Ebert, deputy chief administrative officer – Economic Development, and Shunda Giles, Social Services director, provided an introduction and answered questions regarding Ord. 2022-089.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell expressed a concern regarding criminal activities in the vicinity of the Southside Community Services Center.

President Cynthia Newbille requested the hours of operation be posted and staff assistance for Spanish-speaking citizens at the Southside Community Services Center.

Chief Administrative Officer Lincoln Saunders, addressing security concerns, stated that city administration will investigate the matter and if possible, provide additional monitoring.

19. Ord. 2022-090 – retained on the Consent Agenda

20. Res. 2021-R086 – to be continued to Monday, April 25, 2022

21. Res. 2021-R092 – retained on the Consent Agenda

22. Res. 2022-R015 – retained on the Consent Agenda

23. Res. 2022-R019 – retained on the Consent Agenda

24. Res. 2022-R020 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Regular Agenda:

25. Ord. 2021-097 – to be continued to Monday, June 13, 2022

26. Ord. 2021-308 – retained on the Regular Agenda

Chief Administrative Officer Lincoln Saunders provided Council with an update regarding Ord. 2021-308 and reported the suggested compromise offered by Vice President Ellen Robertson during last week's special meeting of Council with the Richmond School Board, which would allow for the construction of a new George Wythe High School with a capacity for 1800 students, was rejected by the Board.

Interim City Attorney Haskell Brown informed Council that six affirmative votes is required to adopt Ord. 2021-308, since it is a budget amendment.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell informed Council of a continuance request for Ord. 2021-308 and emphasized the need for a larger capacity school due to the abundance of redevelopment occurring in the 8th and 9th Districts.

Councilor Kristen Nye expressed her support to consider Ord. 2021-308 later that evening at the Formal Session of Council.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch mentioned the possible rezoning of students with the current construction plan for the new George Wythe High School and the need for an additional joint meeting of Council and the School Board after the anticipated adoption of Ord. 2021-308.

After further discussion, Councilor Andreas Addison moved that Council continue Ord. 2021-308 to the April 11th Council meeting later that evening during the Formal Session of Council, to allow an opportunity for absent councilors to consider the proposed legislation. The motion was seconded and failed: Ayes 4, Addison, Lambert, Trammell, Newbille. Noes 3, Jordan, Nye, Lynch.

27. Ord. 2022-091 – to be continued to Monday, May 9, 2022

28. Res. 2022-R007 – to be continued to Monday, April 25, 2022

29. Res. 2022-R014 – to be continued to Monday, April 25, 2022

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

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

CITY CLERK