



# City of Richmond

## Informal Meeting Minutes

900 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219  
[www.rva.gov/office-city-clerk](http://www.rva.gov/office-city-clerk)

Monday, March 8, 2021

4:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall  
Virtual Meeting

### **Councilmembers Present**

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President  
The Honorable Ellen Robertson, Vice President  
The Honorable Andreas Addison (late arrival)  
The Honorable Michael Jones (late arrival)  
The Honorable Katherine Jordan  
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert  
The Honorable Kristen Larson (late arrival)  
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch (late arrival)  
The Honorable Reva Trammell

### **Staff Present**

Lisa Braxton, Council Management Analyst  
Haskell Brown, Interim City Attorney  
Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff  
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 4:00 p.m. and presided.

### **ELECTRONIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

Council Management Analyst Lisa Braxton, in accordance with Ordinance No. 2020-093, adopted April 9, 2020, as most recently amended by Ordinance No. 2020-232, adopted December 14, 2020, announced the meeting would be held through electronic communication means, and stated that notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information advisory issued on February 23, 2021, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice. She also stated there would be no opportunities for public comment and no public hearings during the meeting.

### **Docket Review**

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

#### **Consent Agenda:**

1. Ord. 2020-257 – to be amended and continued to Monday, March 22, 2021
2. Ord. 2020-261 – retained on the Consent Agenda
3. Ord. 2020-265 – retained on the Consent Agenda

*Councilor Kristen Larson joined the meeting at 4:03 p.m.*

4. Ord. 2020-266 – retained on the Consent Agenda
5. Ord. 2021-027 – to be continued to Monday, March 22, 2021
6. Ord. 2021-028 – retained on the Consent Agenda
7. Ord. 2021-029 – retained on the Consent Agenda
8. Ord. 2021-030 – retained on the Consent Agenda
9. Ord. 2021-031 – retained on the Consent Agenda
10. Ord. 2021-032 – retained on the Consent Agenda
11. Ord. 2021-033 – retained on the Consent Agenda
12. Ord. 2021-034 – retained on the Consent Agenda
13. Ord. 2021-035 – to be continued to Monday, April 12, 2021
14. Ord. 2021-036 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Regular Agenda:

There were no Regular Agenda items.

Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert requested to be added as a co-patron of Ord. 2020-261.

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

*Councilors Stephanie Lynch and Michael Jones joined the meeting at 4:06 p.m.*

**COR Draft Equity Agenda**

Mayor Levar Stoney provided Council with an overview of the city's draft equity agenda, a foundational guide that will serve as the roadmap towards a more equitable and inclusive city. Mayor Stoney, along with Maggie Anderson, interim chief of staff – Office of the Mayor, presented and navigated the city's equity agenda website, [www.rva.gov/rvaequity](http://www.rva.gov/rvaequity), exploring the ten guiding principles that contain more detailed plans for the city's future formation. The mayor asked Council to provide feedback regarding the draft equity agenda, to ensure it reflects the vision of all citizens prior to the introduction of legislation. Mayor Stoney attested to the capturing of community input on the city's website through April 18, 2021.

*Councilor Andreas Addison joined the meeting at 4:10 p.m.*

Ms. Anderson indicated communication toolboxes containing equity agenda material will be provided to members of Council to assist with engaging their constituents.

**COR Casino Market Analysis**

Leonard Sledge, Economic Development director, and Suzanne Leckert and Scott Fisher, Convergence Strategy Group, presented Council with a market analysis of the city's proposed resort casino request for qualification and proposal, to assist with the selection of a casino operator and location. A copy of the presentation has been filed.

Mr. Sledge informed Council that there will be several civic engagement opportunities concerning the proposed resort casino, beginning with a virtual meeting scheduled for March 9, 2021 as well as through access of an online platform, Konveio, to assist with sharing information of community benefits, mitigation of potential negative impacts and utilization of revenue. Mr. Sledge stated he is also willing to participate in Council district meetings to assist with answering questions.

President Cynthia Newbille requested the casino community engagement schedule and information be forwarded to members of Council.

Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert requested notices regarding future community engagement meetings be forwarded as least a week prior to their occurrence.

After further discussion, President Newbille asked that information related to studies of problem gambling also be forwarded to members of Council.

### **Public Utilities Update**

Calvin Farr, Public Utilities director, provided Council with an update to preamble the planned budgetary public utilities fee increase for stormwater, which he stated is due to regulatory compliance and impending improvements of aging infrastructure. A copy of the presentation has been filed.

President Cynthia Newbille asked councilors to maintain their questions regarding the presentation until the deliberation of the proposed fiscal year 2022 budget.

### **Other Discussion**

Interim Council Chief of Staff Joyce Davis provided updates on the following subject matters:

- City Charter amendment process
- Disposition of monuments
- City attorney recruitment process
- Consultant request for proposal regarding the Council Chief of Staff executive search and office restructuring

Councilor Kristen Larson agreed to have a discussion regarding proposed city charter amendments at the next Governmental Operations Standing Committee meeting.

Council Management Analyst Lisa Braxton reported a change to the docket reviewed earlier in the meeting and informed Council that Ord. 2021-027 will be continued to the next Formal Session of Council.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

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CITY CLERK