



City of Richmond

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

Meeting Minutes Governmental Operations Standing Committee

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

1:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Committee Members and Others in Attendance

The Honorable Katherine Jordan – Chair
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert – Vice Chair (late arrival)
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch – Member (early departure)

LaTanja Davenport, Council Budget Analyst
Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst
LaTasha Holmes, Council Chief of Staff
Paul Van Lenten, Council Budget Analyst
Susan McKenney, Assistant City Attorney
Rachael Paul, Assistant City Clerk
Candice Reid, City Clerk
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Katherine Jordan called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m., and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Upon the Chair's request, Assistant City Clerk Rachael Paul 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

Lee Williams, Sierra Club Falls of the James Group Member, Electrify RVA Member, commended Chair Katherine Jordan for her attempts to secure green fleet funding in the city's FY 2024 budget.

Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections or amendments to the meeting minutes of Wednesday, March 22, 2023, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2023.129](#) March 22, 2023 - Governmental Operations Services Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [20230322 Gov Ops Mins](#)

Presentation(s)

Participatory Budgeting Steering Commission Report

Matthew Slaats, Participatory Budgeting Consultant, provided the committee a presentation regarding Council's Participatory Budgeting Steering Commission.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert arrived at 1:14 p.m., and was seated.

Chair Katherine Jordan asked how they ensure that residents, that do not usually participate in the city's budgeting process, are included in participatory budgeting.

Mr. Slaats stated the commission will spend extra time and effort going door to door, hosting events, and engaging with people. He also stated that the commission plans to do cultural organizing to help build trust with the community.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert asked what the \$3 million Capital Improvement Program (CIP) would fund.

Mr. Slaats explained the process of the commission collecting CIP ideas from the community, creating proposals based on those ideas, gauging the impact of the proposals, and aligning them with the work of the Office of Budget and Strategic Planning.

The committee had further discussion with Matthew Slaats regarding participatory budgeting.

[CD.2023.156](#) Participatory Budgeting Steering Commission Report

Attachments: [20230426 Participatory Budgeting Steering Commission Report](#)

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Paper(s) for Consideration

Chair Katherine Jordan informed the committee that a request was made to continue Res. 2023-R011 to the May 24, 2023 Governmental Operations Standing Committee meeting.

1. [RES. 2023-R011](#) To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities to consult with the Office of the City Attorney concerning the development of a plan and the preparation of necessary documents to acquire, preferably by gift, the properties known as Evergreen Cemetery and East End Cemetery and to present such a plan and documents to the Council.

Patrons: Ms. Newbille and Ms. Lambert

Attachments: [Res. No. 2023-R011](#)

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert moved to continue Res. 2023-R011 to the May 24, 2023 Governmental Operations Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

The following ordinances were considered:

2. [ORD. 2023-129](#) To repeal City Code § 4-53, concerning supervision and control of the animal shelter and impoundment and release procedures, to repeal City Code § 4-275, concerning impoundment and violation notice and the fee for board and care, to amend ch. 4, art. II, div. 1 of the City Code by adding therein new §§ 4-53.1 and 4-275.1, and to amend City Code §§ 4-1, concerning definitions, 4-55, concerning hindering, molesting or interfering with an officer, 4-243, concerning prohibition on dogs running at large and penalty, 4-244, concerning care and control of animals and penalties, and 4-372, concerning reporting of bites, for the purpose of modifying the policies and procedures for animal care and control in the city of Richmond.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney and Ms. Lambert

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2023-129](#)

3. [ORD. 2023-130](#) To amend ch. 4, art. IV, div. 3 of the City Code by adding therein a new section 4-401, concerning exotic and wild animals. (As Amended)

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2023-130 - Amended 20230522](#)
[20230522 Amendment of Ord. No. 2023-130](#)

Christie Peters, Animal Care and Control Director, provided information regarding Ord. 2023-129 and Ord. 2023-130, and explained how each ordinance would assist Richmond Animal Care and Control.

Member Stephanie Lynch asked if Ord. 2023-130 would eliminate the ability to have an exotic pet or would the ordinance create a permitting process for an exotic pet.

Ms. Peters stated that Ord. 2023-130 would eliminate the right for a citizen to own an exotic animal. She also stated that she would be open to amending the ordinance to address venomous snakes.

Vice Chair Lambert asked for clarification regarding the hindering, molesting or interfering with an Animal Control officer.

Ms. Peters explained that some citizens have released dogs on Animal Control employees on purpose or will block the area for officers to reach and help an animal from certain situations. She stated that the repeal of the applicable code sections would help Animal Care and Control officers safely do their job.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert requested to be added as a co-patron to Ord. 2023-129.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert moved to forward Ord. 2023-129 and Ord. 2023-130 to Council with a recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Board Vacancies

Council Management Analyst Pamela Nichols reviewed board applications for the committee's consideration.

[CD.2023.153](#) Quarterly Board Vacancy Report - Governmental Operations Standing Committee

Attachments: [20230426 Gov Ops Board Report](#)

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert moved to forward the following applications for reappointment to Council with a recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved:

City Personnel Board:
Linda Jackson-Shaw (reappointment)

Richmond Public Library Board:
Emily Altman (reappointment)
Christine Peterson (reappointment)
Janet Woody (reappointment)

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert moved to forward the following application for reappointment to Council with a recommendation to approve, and to continue consideration of the remaining vacancies of the Sister Cities Commission to the May 24, 2023, Governmental Operations Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and unanimously approved:

Sister Cities Commission:
Patricia Cummins (reappointment)

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Discussion Item(s)

Public Art Commission Formal Establishment and Ordinance Development

Susan Glasser, Public Art Commission Secretary, provided information regarding a new ordinance that would officially recognize and establish the Public Art Commission. Ms. Glasser updated the committee on the commission's activities.

Chair Katherine Jordan inquired as to when Council would be able to review a draft of the ordinance.

Ms. Glasser stated that after the commission's next meeting, there may be a final draft to share. She also stated the commission has a few more topics to consider before the ordinance's release.

Member Lynch stated that the committee would be happy to support the commission with obtaining funding from outside entities.

Ms. Glasser thanked Member Lynch and informed the committee that the Public Art Commission received a grant last year from the Bloomberg Foundation to paint a road mural, and has another application out to receive another million dollar grant for a project.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert asked if all murals in the city are handled by the Public Art Commission.

Ms. Glasser explained to the committee that the Public Art Commission only works on public property.

Vice Chair Lambert requested information regarding the Public Art Master Plan and all public art projects the commission addressed by each Council district.

Chair Jordan requested information regarding closing out completed city contracts related to public art.

Member Stephanie Lynch left the meeting at 1:57 p.m.

Charter Review Commission

Rachael Deane, Charter Review Commission Vice Chair, provided an update regarding the commission's review of the City Charter. Ms. Deane stated that the commission has reviewed the City Charter, prior City Charter review processes, looked at some historical background and context on prior amendments to the City Charter, and has also conducted extensive stakeholder interviews.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert asked about the community outreach surveys and what else the commission is providing to engage citizens that are not online.

Ms. Deane informed the committee that the commission has discussed having more meetings in the various Council districts to ensure geographical representation across the city.

Performance Evaluations for Council Appointees and Offices

LaTasha Holmes, Council Chief of Staff, provided information and a handout regarding performance evaluations for Council appointees and offices.

[CD.2023.187](#) 20230426 Performance Evaluations for Council Appointees and Offices Handout - After Item

Attachments: [20230426 Performance Evaluations for Council Appointees and Offices Handout - After Item](#)

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Chair Katherine Jordan asked for an update regarding boards and commissions realignment.

Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst, provided an update regarding the boards and commissions and explained that there is a plan to have a meeting with the administration and the City Attorney's office to continue the review process.

Chair Jordan stated she would like to finalize the realignment by the end of May so Council can vote on potential legislation in June.

Staff Report

[CD.2023.165](#) Governmental Operations Standing Committee Staff Report - April 26, 2023

Attachments: [20230426 Gov Ops Staff Report](#)

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:14 p.m.