



City of Richmond

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

Informal Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 8, 2023

4:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Councilmembers Present

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

Staff Present

Lisa Braxton, Council Management Analyst, Principal
Laura Drewry, City Attorney
LaTasha Holmes, Council Chief of Staff
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Tabrica Rentz, Deputy City Attorney
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Council President Michael Jones called the meeting to order at 4:05 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. 2022-375 – to be continued to Monday, June 12, 2023
2. Ord. 2023-046 – retained on the Consent Agenda

3. Ord. 2023-068 – retained on the Consent Agenda

4. Ord. 2023-092 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Councilor Andreas Addison arrived at 4:07 p.m. and was seated.

5. Ord. 2023-111 – retained on the Consent Agenda

6. Ord. 2023-112 – retained on the Consent Agenda

7. Ord. 2023-115 – retained on the Consent Agenda

8. Ord. 2023-116 – retained on the Consent Agenda

9. Ord. 2023-117 – retained on the Consent Agenda

10. Ord. 2023-118 – retained on the Consent Agenda

11. Ord. 2023-119 – to be amended and continued to Monday, May 22, 2023

12. Ord. 2023-120 – retained on the Consent Agenda

13. Ord. 2023-121 – to be continued to Monday, June 12, 2023

14. Ord. 2023-122 – retained on the Consent Agenda

15. Ord. 2023-125 – retained on the Consent Agenda

16. Ord. 2023-126 – retained on the Consent Agenda

17. Ord. 2023-127 – retained on the Consent Agenda

18. Ord. 2023-128 – retained on the Consent Agenda

19. Ord. 2023-129 – retained on the Consent Agenda

20. Ord. 2023-130 – retained on the Consent Agenda

21. Ord. 2023-131 – retained on the Consent Agenda

22. Ord. 2023-132 – retained on the Consent Agenda

23. Res. 2023-R011 – to be continued to Monday, June 12, 2023

24. Res. 2023-R021 – retained on the Consent Agenda

25. Res. 2023-R022 – retained on the Consent Agenda

26. Res. 2023-R024 – to be continued to Monday, June 12, 2023

Regular Agenda:

27. Ord. 2023-133 – retained on the Regular Agenda

28. Ord. 2023-134 – retained on the Regular Agenda

Chief Administrative Officer Lincoln Saunders and Leonard Sledge, Economic Development director and Economic Development Authority executive director, assured Council that in the event the Diamond District redevelopment project failed, the properties referenced in Ord. 2023-133 would be conveyed back to the city by way of an agreed to cooperation agreement.

City Attorney Laura Drewry concurred with the suggested cooperation agreement as a method to reacquire the Diamond District properties referenced in Ord. 2023-133 if the redevelopment project was unsuccessful.

Councilors Ann-Frances Lambert and Stephanie Lynch arrived at 4:12 p.m. and were seated.

29. Res. 2023-R023 – retained on the Regular Agenda

Budget-Related Papers:

30. Ord. 2023-071 – retained on the Regular Agenda

31. Ord. 2023-073 – retained on the Regular Agenda

32. Ord. 2023-072 – retained on the Regular Agenda

33. Ord. 2023-074 – retained on the Regular Agenda

34. Ord. 2023-075 – retained on the Regular Agenda

35. Ord. 2023-076 – retained on the Regular Agenda

36. Ord. 2023-077 – retained on the Regular Agenda

37. Ord. 2023-078 – retained on the Regular Agenda

38. Ord. 2023-079 – retained on the Regular Agenda

There were no further comments or discussions concerning Consent, Regular and Budget-Related Agenda items reviewed.

Other Discussion Item(s)**Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Traffic Safety Concerns**

President Michael Jones, acknowledging the passing of VCU student Shawn Soares during a traffic accident near the campus, informed his colleagues and city administration that the item was added to the agenda as an opportunity to begin the discussion regarding campus safety.

Chief Administrative Officer Lincoln Saunders offered his condolences to Mr. Soares' family and stated that city administration is looking to implementing several pedestrian and multi-modal safety improvements measures near and around the campus.

President Jones mentioned the projected completion of a VCU traffic study by July 1, 2023, of which city administration is participating in its review.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch suggested that councilmembers be given an opportunity to also participate in meetings involving potential safety improvements that affect their districts. Ms. Lynch mentioned the traffic fatality of a Huguenot High School student, Josie Cox, which occurred in her district, and stated that there also needs to be a global conversation to advance Complete Streets and Vision Zero initiatives throughout the city.

Councilor Katherine Jordan stated that the Virginia Department of Transportation also needs to be involved in safety improvement conversations and suggested rethinking current speed limits on certain corridors.

Councilor Cynthia Newbille requested that the VCU assessment be a comprehensive campus-wide traffic and safety review with next steps to include the entire city.

Councilor Andreas Addison mentioned policy changes, technology solutions, enforcement and traffic calming measures that will advocate safety.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell agreed with her colleagues and commented on speeding within her district.

Councilor Ellen Robertson discussed the advancement of technology used by the Department of Police and cited it as a solution to address traffic safety concerns.

Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert stated she concurs with her colleagues and welcomed conversations regarding traffic safety.

Vice President Kristen Nye stated that public messaging and/or information regarding road sharing is an area where the city can be proactive.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell departed the meeting at 4:46 p.m.

President Jones asked the Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee to review the possible implementation of speed light cameras throughout the city.

Councilor Cynthia Newbille requested the timeline regarding the VCU traffic safety discussions and an update on implementation measures.

President Jones requested city administration to invite Councilors Andreas Addison and Katherine Jordan, Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee chair and 2nd Council District representative, to all discussions regarding the traffic safety study.

Adjournment

Prior to adjourning the meeting, President Michael Jones informed his colleagues of the extensive Formal meeting agenda and requested the public hearing time limit be reduced to 90 seconds in order to accommodate all discussion.

Vice President Kristen Nye mentioned the number of honorary street naming designations on the Formal Agenda for consideration later that evening, and requested the Governmental Operations Standing Committee to review the matter in order to standardize a process for the designations.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

CITY CLERK