



City of Richmond

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

Meeting Minutes Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee

Thursday, February 16, 2023

1:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor – City Hall

Committee Members

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille – Chair
The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Vice Chair
The Honorable Katherine Jordan – Committee Member

Staff and Others in Attendance

Lisa Braxton, Council Management Analyst
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Nahdiyah Muhammad, Assistant City Clerk
Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst
Paul Van Lenten, Council Budget Analyst

Call to Order

Chair Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m., and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Upon the Chair's request, Assistant City Clerk Nahdiyah Muhammad 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

There were no public comment speakers.

Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections or amendments to the meeting minutes of the Thursday, January 19, 2023 committee meeting, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2023.037](#) January 19, 2023 Finance and Economic Development Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [20230119 Finance Minutes](#)

Paper(s) for Consideration

The following ordinance was considered:

1. [ORD. 2023-051](#) To amend City Code § 8-284, concerning meeting fees and exceptions for the use of public grounds, parks, playfields, and playgrounds, for the purpose of prescribing the conditions under which certain organizations may use park houses, recreation centers, or other facilities at no cost to the organization.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney, Ms. Newbille, President Jones, Ms. Robertson, Ms. Jordan, Ms. Lambert, Vice President Nye and Ms. Lynch

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2023-051](#)

Debra Morton, Deputy Director for Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities, provided an introduction and additional background information regarding the proposed ordinance.

Public Hearing

Michelle Brown-Harris, President of the Battery Park Civic Association, expressed support regarding the proposed ordinance. Ms. Brown-Harris stated that funds secured from membership fees and dues are used for park grounds up-keep and additional community resources.

Johnathan Davis spoke in support of the proposed ordinance and he stated that the city of Richmond has extensive history working with civic associations. Mr. Davis also stated that the city should continue to work with civic associations without the associations being required to pay a fee to meet within the community they serve.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson requested to be added as a patron of ORD. 2023-051.

Vice Chair Robertson inquired if all civic associations would have to be registered with the city. Vice Chair Robertson also inquired if the proposed ordinance would only be limited to civic associations. She further inquired if the civic associations are still required to pay fees, if that association meets more than once per month.

Debra Morton stated that the current ordinance does state that civic associations have to pay fees if meeting more than once per month. Ms. Morton also stated that Council can change that requirement but most civic associations would only meet once per month.

Vice Chair Robertson inquired if there are any protocols in place for organizations that meet within the communities that are not civic associations.

Debra Morton stated that the proposed ordinance would be limited to only registered civic associations, and that the Department of Planning and Development Review holds the list of all registered civic associations.

Vice Chair Robertson inquired if political organizations would be allowed to meet in the same designated spaces.

Debra Morton stated that other organizations are allowed to meet in the same designated spaces if the appropriate fees are paid.

Member Jordan requested to be added as a patron of ORD. 2023-051.

Member Jordan inquired about other groups not receiving the same fee exemption as civic associations.

Debra Morton stated the city will work with each group on a case by case basis, depending on the meeting needs.

Sabrina Joy-Hogg, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Finance and Administration, stated that there will be revenue loss from the proposed civic association exemption, and that for other groups to be added there would need to be a financial impact analysis for potential revenue losses.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2023-051 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and was unanimously approved.

The following ordinance was considered:

2. [ORD. 2023-052](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Lease Amendment No. 4 to a U.S. Government Lease for Real Property (Short Form) with Lease Number GS-03P-LVA00156 between the City of Richmond and the Government of the United States of America, for the purpose of prohibiting certain telecommunications and surveillance equipment within a City-owned parking facility located at 501 North 7th Street. (6th District)

Patrons: Mayor Stoney and Ms. Robertson

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2023-052](#)

Lynne Lancaster, Deputy Director for the Department of Public Works, stated the purpose of the proposed ordinance is to authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to execute a lease amendment concerning a technical change that was introduced to the lease by the federal government.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2023-052 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and was unanimously approved.

The following resolution was considered:

3. [RES. 2023-R009](#) To set the rate of personal property tax relief for qualifying vehicles for the 2023 tax year pursuant to City Code §§ 26-495-26-497.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney and Ms. Lambert

Attachments: [Res. No. 2023-R009](#)

Sheila White, Director of Finance, stated the purpose of the proposed ordinance is to set the personal property tax relief rate for Fiscal Year 2023.

Chair Newbille requested more information about the personal property tax rate set for Fiscal Year 2023.

Sheila White stated each year the state of Virginia provides the city with funds to disperse relief for personal property taxes and that the proposed rate was calculated to be 22.9%.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward RES. 2023-R009 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and was unanimously approved.

The following resolution was considered:

4. [RES. 2023-R010](#) To approve of the City's participation in the proposed settlement of opioid-related claims against Teva, Allergan, Walmart, Walgreens, CVS, and their related corporate entities, and to direct the City Attorney to execute the documents necessary to effectuate the City's participation in the settlements, including the required release of claims against the settling entities.

Patrons: President Jones, Ms. Robertson, Ms. Newbille, Ms. Lambert and Ms. Lynch

Attachments: [Res. No. 2023-R010](#)

Haskell Brown, City Attorney, stated at the end of 2021, a resolution was proposed to participate in settlements with Mckesson, Cardinal Health, Amerisource Bergen, and Janssen Pharmaceuticals. Mr. Brown also stated that current settlements total around 20 billion dollars. Mr. Brown informed the committee that 1 million dollars has been received but not yet appropriated. Mr. Brown further stated that administration will be looking to recommend appropriations to align with opioid abatement purposes set forth in the statute, to maximize the amount of funds given over time.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson inquired about the settlement amount referenced in the proposed resolution.

Haskell Brown stated the amount in the nationwide settlement is to be split across multiple states and localities that are participating in the settlement.

Vice Chair Robertson stated that the opioid crisis is nationwide and has caused numerous deaths. She inquired if information can be provided about the number of deaths thus far and what are the demographics of the opioid related deaths. She also inquired how will the funds received would be used across the city.

Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst, stated she will contact Dr. Melissa Viray, Director of the Richmond City Health District, regarding the information requested.

Chair Cynthia Newbille stated that the requested data be provided to all members of Council for review.

There were no further comments or discussions and Member Katherine Jordan moved to forward RES. 2023-R010 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and was unanimously approved.

Presentation(s)

None

Board Vacancies

None

Discussion Item(s)

Review of Boards and Commissions Reassignment Document for Feedback to Governmental Operations Standing Committee

Chair Cynthia Newbille discussed boards and commissions reassignments with committee members.

Member Katherine Jordan recommended the Participatory Budgeting Steering Commission and the Richmond Retirement System Board of Trustees be moved from Governmental Operations Standing Committee to Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee.

Staff Report

A copy of the staff report has been filed.

Council Budget Analyst Paul Van Lenten provided the committee with the meeting staff report.

[CD.2023.060](#) February Finance Staff Report

Attachments: [February 16 2023 Finance Report](#)

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.