



# City of Richmond

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

## Informal Meeting Minutes

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Monday, June 9, 2025

4:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

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### **Councilmembers Present**

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President  
The Honorable Katherine Jordan, Vice President  
The Honorable Sarah Abubaker  
The Honorable Kenya Gibson  
The Honorable Nicole Jones  
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch (late arrival)  
The Honorable Ellen Robertson (early departure)  
The Honorable Reva Trammell

### **Absent**

The Honorable Andrew Breton

### **Staff Present**

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

### **Call to Order**

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. and presided.

### **Chamber Emergency Evacuation Announcement**

Upon the President's request, Council Management Analyst Lisa Braxton provided information on the appropriate way to evacuate the Council Chamber in an emergency.

### **Docket Review**

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

## Consent Agenda:

1. Ord. 2025-025 – to be amended and continued to Monday, July 28, 2025
2. Ord. 2025-046 – to be amended and continued to Monday, June 23, 2025
3. Ord. 2025-052 – to be continued to Monday, September 22, 2025
4. Ord. 2025-079 – to be continued to Monday, June 23, 2025
5. Ord. 2025-080 – to be continued to Monday, June 23, 2025

*Prior to the start of the meeting, it was the request of the special use applicant that Ord. 2025-080 be continued to the next Council meeting.*

6. Ord. 2025-081 – to be continued to Monday, June 23, 2025
7. Ord. 2025-112 – retained on Consent Agenda
8. Ord. 2025-113 – to be continued to Monday, June 23, 2025
9. Ord. 2025-114 – retained on Consent Agenda
10. Ord. 2025-115 – retained on Consent Agenda
11. Ord. 2025-116 – retained on Consent Agenda
12. Ord. 2025-117 – retained on Consent Agenda
13. Ord. 2025-118 – retained on Consent Agenda
14. Ord. 2025-119 – retained on Consent Agendat
15. Ord. 2025-120 – to be continued to Monday, June 23, 2025
16. Res. 2025-R020 – to be continued to Monday, July 28, 2025

## Regular Agenda:

17. Ord. 2024-187 – to be continued to Monday, July 28, 2025
18. Res. 2024-R041 – to be continued to Monday, June 23, 2025

After reviewing the proposed amendment to Res. 2024-R041, Councilor Ellen Robertson requested an opportunity to include additional changes and asked that the legislation be continued.

*Councilor Stephanie Lynch arrived at 4:08 p.m. and was seated.*

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

### **Other Discussion Item(s)**

#### **Code Refresh Update**

Marianne Pitts, Planning and Development Review deputy director, presented the Richmond 300: Code Refresh update, which is the citywide update to the zoning ordinance. Ms. Pitts shared that the zoning code will be revised in three separate modules, along with providing several opportunities for detailed review and discussion by the Zoning Advisory Council and community engagement. A copy of the presentation provided has been filed.

[CD.2025.203](#) Richmond 300: Code Refresh Presentation

Councilor Kenya Gibson mentioned the importance of concurrently comparing the draft zoning map and having discussions around historic preservation. Ms. Gibson also mentioned the need to invest in infrastructure to support increased density.

Ms. Pitts informed Council that she would be available to hold additional open house meetings within Council districts if needed.

### **Closed Session**

At 4:19 p.m., Vice President Katherine Jordan moved that the City Council go into a closed meeting pursuant to subdivision (A)(3) and (A)(29) of section 2.2-3711 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to discuss (i) the disposition of publicly held real property for the purpose of the City Center development project and (ii) the award of a contract or contracts involving the expenditure of public funds relating to such City Center development project and the terms and scope of such contract or contracts, because discussion in open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the City.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

*Councilor Ellen Robertson departed the closed session and did not return to the meeting.*

Councilor Kenya Gibson motioned to exit closed session. The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 7, Gibson, Jones, Lynch, Trammell, Abubaker, Jordan, Newbille. Noes None.

Councilors reconvened in open session at 5:24 p.m.

## CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

June 9, 2025

WHEREAS, the Council has convened in closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law:

NOW, THEREFORE,  
BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Council hereby certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge (i) only public matters lawfully exempt from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certifying resolution applies; and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Council.

WITNESS the following vote of Council members, as recorded by Candice D. Reid, City Clerk:

## CERTIFYING:

Cynthia I. Newbille, President  
Katherine L. Jordan, Vice President  
Andrew S. Breton (absent)  
Kenya J. Gibson  
Sarah M.A. Abubaker  
Stephanie A. Lynch  
Ellen F. Robertson (early departure)  
Reva M. Trammell  
Nicole Jones

## DECLINING TO CERTIFY:

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

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CITY CLERK