



City of Richmond

Meeting Minutes

Public Safety Standing Committee

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

12:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor – Virtual Meeting

Committee Members and Staff in Attendance

The Honorable Reva Trammell – Chair
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert – Vice Chair
The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Member (*late arrival, early departure*)
The Honorable Katherine Jordan – Council Member (*late arrival, early departure*)
Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff
Richard Hill, Senior Assistant City Attorney
Jamie Isley, Assistant City Clerk
Pamela Nichols, Senior Assistant City Clerk
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Steven Taylor, Council Policy Analyst
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Chairwoman Reva Trammell called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m., and presided.

Electronic Meeting Announcement

Assistant City Clerk Jamie Isley, 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. Assistant City Clerk Isley stated notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information advisory issued on April 21, 2021, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice. She also stated members of the public were encouraged to provide comments in writing prior to the meeting and all comments received prior to 10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, were provided to committee members. Ms. Isley indicated that members of the public who signed up to speak and provide comment would be called to speak at the appropriate time.

Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Assistant City Clerk Jamie Isley provided the citizen speaker guidelines.

Public Comment Period

Nichole Shuman spoke in opposition of the mandatory overtime for firefighters proposed by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. Ms. Shuman highlighted several negative consequences to public safety and firefighter health and retention if overtime were to be mandated.

Member Ellen Robertson joined the meeting at 12:09 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

There were no amendments or corrections to the meeting minutes of Tuesday, March 24, 2021, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

It was the consensus of the committee to consider board vacancies prior to the staff report.

Presentation

Richmond Fire Department (RFD) Quarterly Report

Fire Chief Melvin Carter and Deputy Fire Chief Elmond Taylor presented information regarding emergency and non-emergency fire incidents, fire response times, fire investigations and inspections, personnel matters, fire facilities and fleet readiness. Fire Chief Taylor informed the committee of the 2021 RFD Public Safety Standing Committee quarterly reporting schedule for the remainder of the year.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert requested a one page document for distribution to the business community regarding fire code violations.

Deputy Fire Chief Taylor discussed RFD processes for handling fire and other code violations in the city. He further discussed the certifications necessary to complete fire safety inspections and stated plans to follow up with the committee regarding code enforcement officer certifications.

Chairwoman Reva Trammell requested 2021 data regarding response times to all fatal fire incidents city wide.

Vice Chair Lambert requested information categorized by district regarding the number of fires that have occurred within the past three years city wide. Vice Chair Lambert also requested information regarding best practices for the prevention of electrical fires.

Fire Chief Carter discussed the best method to compare the RFD metrics due to the differences between the city and surrounding counties. He further discussed recruitment efforts and the RFD's ability to absorb vacancies. Chief Carter spoke in support the Mayor's proposed budget, but stated that he believed the current public safety pay plan is broken.

Member Ellen Robertson requested the RFD to provide recommendations to Council regarding the proposed public safety pay plan study. Member Robertson suggested the committee consider reviewing RFD recommendations and endorse and/or recommend pay plan study parameters to Council.

Vice Chair Lambert requested the RFD to include the locations of each individual fire department along with its assigned number in the previously requested city wide fire report.

Fire Chief Carter discussed plans for the renaming of Richmond fire stations to better reflect the neighborhoods served.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

It was the consensus of the committee to allow the Richmond City Sheriff's Office to present prior to the board vacancy report due to an emergency.

Discussion Items

Richmond Public Safety Pay Plan

William Pantele, Richmond Coalition of Police (RCOP) representative, Brendan Leavy, RCOP president, Carl Scott, RCOP vice president, and Keith Andes, International Association of Fire Fighters Local #995 (I.A.F.F. Local #995) union president, discussed updated information regarding the public safety pay

plan.

Mr. Pantele stated that the RCOP and the I.A.F.F. Local #995 are aware of the decision to postpone the proposed public safety pay plan and are in support of the proposed two step increase delineated in the Mayor's proposed Fiscal Year 2022 (FY 22) budget.

Mr. Leavy expressed the RCOP's disappointment regarding the proposed public safety pay plan postponement, retention issues and the Richmond Police Department's (RPD) FY 22 funding.

Member Ellen Robertson requested the RCOP, the I.A.F.F. Local #995, and the RPD to provide the committee with suggestions regarding the scope of the proposed public safety pay plan study and expectations regarding roles in the process.

Mr. Andes expressed the I.A.F.F. Local #995's disappointment with the postponement of the implementation of the proposed public safety pay plan.

Councilor Katherine Jordan joined the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

Police Chief Gerald Smith informed the committee of the current state of sworn and civilian vacancies within the RPD and the surrounding counties. He also suggested Council consider surveying each individual public safety officer regarding the proposed public safety pay plan during the course of the proposed public safety pay plan study.

Fire Battalion Chief Bailey Martin provided an overview of the process that created the proposed public safety pay plan. Fire Battalion Chief Martin also highlighted issues within the current public safety pay plan and the resulting problems it has caused regarding officer morale and retention.

Richmond Speed Enforcement Measures

Captain Christopher Gleason, Richmond Police Department (RPD) – Special Operations Division, provided an analysis of traffic enforcement operations over the past two and a half years. Captain Gleason also provided information regarding traffic fatalities, calls for service and police officer radar certification data.

Councilor Katherine Jordan exited the meeting at 1:49 p.m.

Member Ellen Robertson exited the meeting at 1:58 p.m.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Presentation

Richmond Sheriff's Office Budget

Richmond City Sherriff Antoinette Irving provided an overview of the Sheriff's Office's general operations to include personnel salary and retention, and educational, mental health and re-entry programming for incarcerated individuals.

Sheriff Antoinette Irving stated that the Sheriff's Office would like to shift incarcerated individuals struggling with mental illness to the alternative sentencing area next to the Richmond City Jail, which would require additional funding via grant opportunities. Sheriff Irving further stated that retention is a concern within the Sheriff's Office, and that experienced officers are leaving to work for the surrounding counties and other correctional institutions that offer higher salaries. Sheriff Irving informed the committee of the Sheriff's Office's budget and stated that she would follow up with the committee regarding operations and funding questions.

A copy of the information provided has been filed.

<u>Board Name</u>	<u>Criteria for Appointment</u>	<u>Applicant Name</u>
		Nathan Sable 1 st District Resident
		Janet VanCuyk 5 th District Resident
	(1 vacancy)	Lawrence West 2nd District Employment

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

<u>Board Name</u>	<u>Criteria for Appointment</u>	<u>Applicant Name</u>
Richmond Ambulance Authority (11 members)	Reside or work in the city	Elizabeth Matish 1 st District Employment (reappointment)
	(2 vacancies)	Dr. Richard Bennett 1 st District Employment (reappointment)

Chairwoman Reva Trammell moved to forward the following appointment applications to the Advisory Board for the Assessment of Towing Fees and the Storage of Vehicles, to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved:

<u>Board Name</u>	<u>Criteria for Appointment</u>	<u>Applicant Name</u>
Advisory Board for the Assessment of Towing Fees and the Storage of Vehicles (7 members)	Towing and Recovery Operator (1 vacancy)	Ronda Lawson 8 th District Employment
	Police Department Representative (2 vacancies)	Major Darrell Goins 2 nd District Employment
		Captain Christopher Gleason 3 rd District Employment

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert moved to forward the following appointment application to the Capital Area Alcohol Safety Action Program (ASAP) Policy Advisory Board, to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved:

<u>Board Name</u>	<u>Criteria for Appointment</u>	<u>Applicant Name</u>
Capital Area Alcohol Safety Action Program (ASAP) Policy Advisory Board (4 members appointed by Council)	Reside or work in the city (1 vacancy)	Janet VanCuyk 5 th District Resident

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Staff Report

Steve Taylor, Council policy analyst, provided the committee with the April staff report.

A copy of the report provided has been filed.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.