



City of Richmond

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

Informal Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 12, 2026

4:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Council Members Present

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President
The Honorable Katherine Jordan, Vice President
The Honorable Sarah Abubaker
The Honorable Andrew Breton
The Honorable Kenya Gibson
The Honorable Nicole Jones (late arrival)
The Honorable Ellen Robertson
The Honorable Reva Trammell

Absent

The Honorable Stephanie Lynch

Staff Present

Lisa Braxton, Council Management Analyst, Principal
Laura Drewry, City Attorney
Kiley Kesecker, Deputy 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 4:02 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. 2025-150 – to be continued to Monday, January 26, 2026
2. Ord. 2025-258 – to be continued to Monday, February 9, 2026
3. Ord. 2025-259 – to be continued to Monday, February 9, 2026
4. Ord. 2025-262 – retained on Consent Agenda
5. Ord. 2025-263 – retained on Consent Agenda
6. Ord. 2025-264 – retained on Consent Agenda
7. Ord. 2025-265 – retained on Consent Agenda
8. Ord. 2025-267 – retained on Consent Agenda
9. Ord. 2025-268 – retained on Consent Agenda
10. Ord. 2025-269 – retained on Consent Agenda
11. Ord. 2025-270 – to be continued to Monday, February 9, 2026
12. Ord. 2025-271 – retained on Consent Agenda
13. Ord. 2025-272 – retained on Consent Agenda
14. Ord. 2025-273 – retained on Consent Agenda
15. Ord. 2025-274 – retained on Consent Agenda
16. Ord. 2025-275 – retained on Consent Agenda
17. Ord. 2025-276 – to be continued to Monday, February 23, 2026
18. Ord. 2025-277 – retained on Consent Agenda
19. Res. 2025-R043 – to be amended and considered

Regular Agenda:

20. Ord. 2025-215 – retained on Regular Agenda
21. Ord. 2025-231 – to be continued to Monday, February 23, 2026

22. Res. 2025-R050 – retained on Regular Agenda

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

Councilor Nicole Jones arrived at 4:06 p.m. and was seated.

Other Discussion Item(s)

Janitorial and Security Contract Analysis

Chief Administrative Officer Odie Donald provided an analysis of the existing janitorial and security contracts that explore the fiscal impact of paying the city's internal minimum wages to contract staff. A copy of the presentation and analysis provided has been filed.

[CD.2026.005](#) Janitorial and Security Contract Analysis Presentation and Memo

Councilor Kenya Gibson stated that the analysis lacked current wage data for contracted employees and questioned whether the city's living wage policy was being met, noting that contractor costs may exceed in-housing employment costs.

CAO Donald informed Council that the city contracts for services rather than individuals and does not control contractor wage rates, and that flexibility and risk management affect costs. Mr. Donald stated that additional analysis could be provided with Council guidance.

Councilor Ellen Robertson expressed concern that contracted services contribute to low wages and lack of benefits for lower-paid city residents. Ms. Robertson requested clearer data on contractor wages, costs, and the scope of contracted services, and suggested a committee review of the matter.

Councilor Reva Trammell raised concern about rising taxes, utility costs, and retiree benefits.

After further discussion surrounding the exploration of in-house services for janitorial and security contracts, President Cynthia Newbille directed the chief of staff to coordinate with Council members to compile additional information clarifying an intended outcome of the analysis.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

CITY CLERK