



City of Richmond

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

Draft Meeting Minutes Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

3:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Committee Members

The Honorable Andreas Addison – Chair
The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Vice Chair
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert – Committee Member

Others in Attendance

Andrew Gore, Assistant City Attorney
Tamiya Lunsford, Council Budget Analyst
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Steve Taylor, Council Policy Analyst
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Andreas Addison called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m., and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Deputy City Clerk RJ Warren 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.

Electronic Participation

Pursuant to Rule III(D)(4)(b) of Council's Rules of Procedure, Member Ann-Frances Lambert made a request to participate in the meeting via Microsoft Teams from Washington, D.C., due to her attendance at a South Africa - American Diaspora Investment Summit. The committee members present were required to adopt a motion to approve Member Lambert's participation in the meeting by electronic communication means if it appeared to the body that her request complied with Rule III(D) of Council's Rules of Procedure. A motion was solicited from those members physically assembled to approve Member Lambert's participation in the meeting by electronic communication means.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to allow Member Ann-Frances Lambert to participate in the meeting by electronic communication means. The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 2, Robertson, Addison. Noes None.

Public Comment Period

Martin Wegbreit, Central Virginia Legal Aid Society Director of Litigation, addressed the committee regarding eviction judicial proceedings. Mr. Wegbreit advocated for ensuring a right to counsel for tenants involved in eviction proceedings, and he stated that counsel's involvement increases the likelihood for an amenable solution between tenants and landlords.

Chair Andreas Addison stated his appreciation to Mr. Wegbreit for his comments, and he noted that the committee would address a right to counsel in eviction proceedings later in the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

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

[CD.2023.308](#) September 19, 2023 Land Use, Housing and Transportation Minutes

Presentation(s)

There were no presentations.

Paper(s) for Consideration

The following ordinance was considered:

1. [ORD. 2023-286](#) To amend City Code § 23-45, concerning refuse collection at a point other than a curb or alley for the elderly and persons with disabilities, for the purpose of authorizing the collection service for as many refuse receptacles as provided by the City.

Patrons: Vice President Nye and Ms. Lynch

Continued to the November 21, 2023 Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting

There were no comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved continue ORD. 2023-286 to the November 21, 2023 Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

The following ordinance was considered:

2. [ORD. 2023-287](#) To provide for the granting by the City of Richmond to the person, firm or corporation to be ascertained in the manner prescribed by law of an

easement upon, over, under, and across certain property located at 1 Hull Street, 101 Hull Street, and 2 Decatur Street for the relocation, construction, maintenance, and operation of improvements and associated appurtenances of communication systems and facilities in accordance with a certain Deed of Easement. (6th District)

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

Chris Nizamis, Department of Economic Development Real Estate Strategist, provided an introduction and additional background information regarding the proposed ordinance.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2023-287 to Council with recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

The following ordinances were considered:

3. [ORD. 2023-304](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Standard Project Administration Agreement between the City of Richmond and the Virginia Department of Transportation for the purpose of providing funding for the installation of left turn hardening measures at approximately ten stop controlled intersections.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

4. [ORD. 2023-305](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Standard Project Administration Agreement between the City of Richmond and the Virginia Department of Transportation for the purpose of providing funding for the installation of flashing yellow arrow signal heads, high visibility signal backplates, and high visibility crosswalks at signal controlled intersections.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

5. [ORD. 2023-306](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Standard Project Administration Agreement between the City of Richmond and the Virginia Department of Transportation for the purpose of providing funding for the replacement of regulatory and warning signs and pavement markings at approximately 200 stop controlled intersections.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

6. [ORD. 2023-307](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Standard Project Administration Agreement between the City of Richmond and the Virginia Department of Transportation to provide funding for the resurfacing of Richmond Highway from Yorktown Avenue to Chesterman Avenue, from Bells Road to Yorktown Avenue, and from Atwell Drive to Alexander Avenue.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

M Khara, Department of Public Works Deputy Director and City Engineer, provided an introduction and additional background information regarding the proposed ordinances.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson inquired about the criteria used to select the project locations referenced in the proposed ordinances.

Mike Sawyer, City Transportation Engineer, informed the committee that the city's grant applications included locations with needed maintenance and high crash rates.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2023-304, ORD. 2023-305, ORD. 2023-306, and ORD. 2023-307 to Council with recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

The following ordinance was considered:

7. [ORD. 2023-290](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Landowner Concurrence Form to Install Structural or Vegetative Conservation Activities between the City of Richmond and The Happily Natural Day for the purpose of funding community garden improvements to the Sankofa Community Orchard located at 309 Covington Road. (9th District)

Patrons: President Jones and Ms. Lambert

Council Policy Analyst Steve Taylor provided an introduction regarding the proposed ordinance.

Member Ann-Frances Lambert stated her appreciation for the proposed ordinance, and she requested to be added as a co-patron.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2023-290 to Council with recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Board Vacancies

Pamela Nichols, Council Management Analyst, reviewed board applications for consideration by the committee.

[CD.2023.313](#) October 17, 2023 - Land Use, Housing and Transportation Board
Vacancy Report

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson stated her preference to speak with Mario Haskett, Sr., regarding his application for appointment to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Supervisory Board, before recommending his appointment.

Chair Andreas Addison requested that Mario Haskett, Sr.'s Affordable Housing Trust Fund Supervisory Board application be included with the Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee appointment and reappointment recommendations, pending Mr. Haskett's meeting with Vice Chair Robertson.

Member Ann-Frances Lambert moved to forward the following board appointment and reappointment applications to Council with a recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Affordable Housing Trust Fund Supervisory Board:
Nancy Kunkel

Community Transportation Advisory Committee:
Andrew Bunn (reappointment)

PlanRVA:
Jacob Giovia (reappointment)

Safe and Healthy Streets Commission:
Cassi Patterson (reappointment)

Urban Design Committee:
Eva Clarke (reappointment)
Justin Doyle (reappointment)
Keith Van Inwegen
Samuel Young, Jr.

Discussion Item(s)

Future Transportation Work Sessions for LUHT

Chair Andreas Addison discussed creating working groups associated with the Land Use, Housing and Transportation Committee and related parties. Chair Addison stated the working groups would better inform committee members about relevant information related to the committee.

Member Ann-Frances Lambert suggested the committee working groups review prior economic development projects that failed.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson stated her concerns with committee members establishing subcommittees or working groups that addressed specific interests of certain members without the involvement of the other committee members.

Chair Addison stated he believed establishing working groups would help the committee be more proactively involved on projects without the need for information briefings at committee meetings.

Vice Chair Robertson stated she was concerned about committee working groups taking committee action without the full participation of committee members, and she suggested the committee establish committee working group guidelines and procedures.

Right to Counsel for Eviction

Chair Andreas Addison referenced Martin Wegbreit's earlier public comment, and he addressed a memorandum that Mr. Wegbreit drafted regarding the right to counsel in eviction proceedings. Chair Addison stated he was working with the Office of the City Attorney to determine action and funding necessary to establish a right to eviction counsel in the city.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

[CD.2023.322](#) Right to Counsel for Eviction Information Document

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson stated her concerns about homelessness and affordable housing availability in the city. Vice Chair Robertson also stated her concerns about the impact of race on certain aspects of housing in the city. Vice Chair Robertson further stated her concerns with city administration taking action on Council appointee budget requests.

Member Ann-Frances Lambert stated her support for more committee work sessions.

Staff Report

Council staff provided the committee with the October staff report.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

[CD.2023.324](#) October LUHT Staff Report

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.