



City of Richmond

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

Meeting Minutes Organizational Development Standing Committee

Monday, February 2, 2026

5:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Members Present

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, Chair
The Honorable Katherine Jordan, Vice Chair
The Honorable Andrew Breton, Member (remote participant) (early departure)
The Honorable Kenya Gibson, Member
The Honorable Nicole Jones, Member (early departure)
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch, Member
The Honorable Ellen Robertson, Member

Absent

The Honorable Sarah Abubaker, Member
The Honorable Reva Trammell, Member

Others in Attendance

Tori Cotman, Assistant City Attorney
Laura Drewry, City Attorney
Kiley Kesecker, Deputy City Clerk
Candice Reid, City Clerk
RJ Warren, Council Chief of Staff

Call to Order

Chair Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan Announcement and Public Speaker Guidelines

Upon the Chair's request, Deputy City Clerk Kiley Kesecker provided information on the appropriate way to evacuate the Council Chamber in the event of an emergency along with public speaker guidelines.

Electronic Participation

Pursuant to Rule III(D)(4)(b) of Council's Rules of Procedure, Member Andrew Breton made a request to participate in the meeting via Microsoft Teams from 1001 West Buena Vista Drive, Lake Buena Vista, Florida, due to his participation in a work conference at the Coronado Springs Resort. The members present were required to adopt a motion to approve Member Breton's participation in the meeting by electronic communication means, if it appeared to the body that his request complied with Rule III(D) of Council's Rules of Procedure. A motion was solicited from those members physically assembled to approve Member Breton's participation in the meeting by electronic communication means.

Member Kenya Gibson moved to allow Member Andrew Breton to participate in the meeting by electronic communication means. The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 6, Gibson, Jones, Robertson, Lynch, Jordan, Newbille. Noes None.

Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections or amendments to the minutes of the Monday, January 5, 2026, Organizational Development Standing Committee meeting at 4:00 p.m., and the minutes were approved as presented.

[CD.2026.030](#) January 5, 2026 - Organizational Development Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

Reports from City Administration, Council Staff, and Other Parties

1. Non-Department Annual Impact Report and Overview of New Non-Departmental Process ~ Amy Popovich, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Human Services

[CD.2026.034](#) Outside Agency Grants Program FY 2025 Annual Impact Report

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Dominic Barrett, Human Services Senior Policy Advisor, highlighted the following items related to the impact of the Outside Agency Grants Program:

- FY 2025 timeline
- Summary of FY 2025 investment areas: children/youth, education, arts, and culture
- FY 2026 process improvements and enhancements

Amy Popovich, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Health and Human Services, presented information on the FY 2027 process including allocations and quasi-government grants.

Member Kenya Gibson requested that the spreadsheet summarizing FY 2025 investments and outcomes be made available to the public, and asked how targets related to costs and program metrics were established.

Mr. Barrett stated that they can make that information available and they can certainly obligate their grantmakers to provide broader contextual information related to previous years' targets and actual numbers moving forward. He then briefly outlined the process for establishing grant targets and contracts.

Paper(s) for Consideration

The following ordinances were considered:

1. [ORD. 2026-001](#) To repeal City Code § 12-46, concerning the disposition of revenues derived from expiration of partial exemptions from real estate taxation and from certain sales of tax delinquent properties; to amend City Code § 16-114, concerning regulations for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund; and to amend ch. 12, art. I of the City Code by adding therein a new section numbered 12-14, concerning appropriations to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, all for the purpose of providing for the disposition and evaluation of certain revenues for affordable housing initiatives.

Patrons: Mayor Avula

2. [ORD. 2026-018](#) To repeal City Code § 12-46, concerning the disposition of revenues derived from the expiration of partial exemptions from real estate taxation and from certain sales of tax delinquent properties, and to amend ch. 12, art. II, of the City Code by adding therein a new section 12-48, concerning disposition of certain real estate tax revenue, for the purpose of providing for the disposition and evaluation of certain revenues for affordable housing initiatives.

Patrons: Ms. Robertson, Ms. Gibson and President Newbille

Mayor Danny Avula gave a presentation outlining ORD. 2026-001 and the city's overall housing plan, including the Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF).

Maria Garnett, Council Policy Analyst presented information on ORD. 2026-018, highlighting its differences and similarities to ORD. 2026-001.

Member Ellen Robertson outlined the intended purpose of the AHTF and the history of its implementation.

Public Hearing

Gretta Harris stated that City Council and City Administration should work together on affordable housing initiatives.

Justin Ferguson, local real estate broker, stated that there is a developer gap in the process of affordable housing construction that can be narrowed through the reinvestment of tax revenue.

Pastor Gilliam, RISC, spoke in support of ORD. 2026-018, stating that it lays out a clean, predictable, dedicated funding stream for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, whereas ORD. 2026-001 ties funding to revenue growth in a less predictable way.

Alex Krieger, RISC, spoke in support of ORD. 2026-018, stating that ORD. 2026-001 could potentially eliminate funding for the AHTF.

Brenda Hawkins, RISC, spoke in support of ORD. 2026-018, stating that ORD. 2026-001 prioritizes flexibility over commitment.

Drew Wilson, RISC, spoke in support of ORD. 2026-018, stating that it would provide a more consistent, dedicated stream of funding.

Ralph Hodge, RISC Vice President, spoke in support of ORD. 2026-018, stating that ORD. 2026-001 is too flimsy in its commitment to affordable housing.

Tom FitzPatrick, Executive Director, Housing Opportunities Made Equal, stated that the AHTF is for the construction of new housing, but not for services and support, which are also important in addressing affordable housing holistically.

Member Kenya Gibson asked for more information on ORD. 2026-001, which was provided by Mayor Avula's Chief of Staff Lawson Wijesooriya.

There was no further discussion and Vice Chair Katherine Jordan moved to forward ORD. 2026-001 and ORD. 2026-018 to Council with no recommendation. The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 6, Breton, Gibson, Jones, Lynch, Jordan, Newbille. Noes 1, Robertson.

Member Andrew Breton left the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

Reports of Standing Committees

Chair Newbille stated that City Council standing committee updates were provided by submitted documentation prepared by Council staff.

Member Nicole Jones left the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Discussion Item(s)

There were no discussion items, however, Member Kenya Gibson requested information from city administration regarding the response to the recent ice storm.

Chief Administrative Officer Odie Donald II stated that additional information would be forthcoming.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.