



City of Richmond

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

Informal Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 28, 2025

4:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Councilmembers Present

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President
The Honorable Katherine Jordan, Vice President
The Honorable Sarah Abubaker
The Honorable Andrew Breton
The Honorable Kenya Gibson (electronic participation and early departure)
The Honorable Nicole Jones
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch (early departure)
The Honorable Ellen Robertson
The Honorable Reva Trammell

Staff Present

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

Call to Order

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 4:37 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.

President Newbille announced that, pursuant to Rule III (D)(4)(b) of Council's Rules of Procedure, Councilor Kenya Gibson requested to participate in the meeting via Microsoft Teams from her home due to a medical condition preventing her physical attendance.

Councilor Nicole Jones moved to allow Councilor Gibson to participate in the meeting by electronic communication means. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Councilor Gibson joined the meeting via Microsoft Teams.

Docket Review

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

Consent Agenda:

1. Ord. 2025-014 – to be continued to Tuesday, May 27, 2025
2. Ord. 2025-025 – to be continued to Monday, May 12, 2025
3. Ord. 2025-032 – to be continued to Tuesday, May 27, 2025
4. Ord. 2025-046 – to be amended and continued to Monday, May 12, 2025
5. Ord. 2025-052 – to be continued to Monday, May 12, 2025
6. Ord. 2025-053 – to be continued to Monday, May 12, 2025

At the request of Councilor Nicole Jones, it was the consensus of Council to continue Ord. 2025-053 to the May 12, 2025 Council meeting.

7. Ord. 2025-054 – retained on Consent Agenda
8. Ord. 2025-056 – retained on Consent Agenda
9. Ord. 2025-064 – retained on Consent Agenda
10. Ord. 2025-065 – retained on Consent Agenda
11. Ord. 2025-066 – retained on Consent Agenda
12. Ord. 2025-067 – retained on Consent Agenda
13. Ord. 2025-069 – retained on Consent Agenda
14. Ord. 2025-070 – retained on Consent Agenda
15. Ord. 2025-071 – retained on Consent Agenda
16. Ord. 2025-072 – retained on Consent Agenda
17. Res. 2024-R041 – to be continued to Tuesday, May 27, 2025
18. Res. 2025-R015 – retained on Consent Agenda
19. Res. 2025-R016 – retained on Consent Agenda

Regular Agenda:

- 20. Ord. 2024-187 – to be continued to Monday, June 9, 2025
- 21. Ord. 2024-329 – to be amended and continued to Monday, May 12, 2025
- 22. Ord. 2025-048 – retained on Regular Agenda
- 23. Ord. 2025-055 – retained on Regular Agenda

Council Management Analyst Lisa Braxton informed Council that after allowing an opportunity for public comment later that evening at the Formal Session of Council, the Planning Commission recommended Ords. 2025-048 and 2025-055 be denied.

- 24. Ord. 2025-068 – retained on Regular Agenda

Budget-Related Papers:

- 25. Ord. 2025-057 – to be amended and continued to Monday, May 12, 2025
- 26. Ord. 2025-058 – to be amended and continued to Monday, May 12, 2025
- 27. Ord. 2025-059 – to be continued to Monday, May 12, 2025
- 28. Ord. 2025-060 – to be continued to Monday, May 12, 2025
- 29. Ord. 2025-061 – to be continued to Monday, May 12, 2025
- 30. Ord. 2025-062 – to be continued to Monday, May 12, 2025
- 31. Ord. 2025-063 – to be continued to Monday, May 12, 2025

There were no further comments or discussions concerning Consent, Regular and Budget-Related Agenda items reviewed.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch departed the meeting at 4:44 p.m.

Interim Chief Administrative Officer Sabrina Joy-Hogg provided a brief update regarding issues with the dissemination of the city's real estate tax rebate checks.

Closed Session

At 4:46 p.m., Vice President Katherine Jordan moved that the City Council go into a closed meeting pursuant to subdivision (A)(1) of section 2.2-3711 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to discuss the performance of a Council appointee.

The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 8, Breton, Gibson, Jones, Robertson, Trammell, Abubaker, Jordan, Newbille. Noes None. Lynch had departed the meeting.

Councilor Kenya Gibson departed the closed session at 6:00 p.m. and did not rejoin the meeting via Microsoft Teams.

Vice President Katherine Jordan motioned to exit closed session. The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 7, Breton, Jones, Robertson, Trammell, Abubaker, Jordan, Newbille. Noes None. Lynch and Gibson had departed the meeting.

Councilors reconvened in open session at 6:03 p.m.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

April 28, 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
Kenya J. Gibson (early departure)
Sarah M.A. Abubaker
Stephanie A. Lynch (early departure)
Ellen F. Robertson
Reva M. Trammell
Nicole Jones

DECLINING TO CERTIFY:

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

CITY CLERK