



City of Richmond

Work Session Minutes

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

Tuesday, September 7, 2021

2:30 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall
Virtual Meeting

Councilmembers Present

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President
The Honorable Ellen Robertson, Vice President
The Honorable Andreas Addison (late arrival)
The Honorable Michael Jones (late arrival)
The Honorable Katherine Jordan
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert
The Honorable Kristen Larson

Absent

The Honorable Stephanie Lynch
The Honorable Reva Trammell

Staff Present

Haskell Brown, Interim City Attorney
Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff
Samson Anderson, Council Budget Analyst
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Tabrica Rentz, Acting Deputy City Attorney
Steve Taylor, Council Policy Analyst
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the work session to order at 2:36 p.m. and presided.

ELECTRONIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

City Clerk Candice Reid, in accordance with Ordinance No. 2020-093, adopted April 9, 2020, as most recently amended by Ordinance No. 2021-181, adopted June 28, 2021, announced the work session would be held through electronic communication means, and stated that notice of the session was provided to the public through a public information advisory issued on August 30, 2021, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice. She also stated there would be no opportunities for public comment during the session.

Discussion Items

Finalization of Plans for American Rescue Plan Act Funding

Interim Council Chief of Staff Joyce Davis provided members with an overview of Council's composite list of priorities and goals to be discussed amongst members during the work session.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Martha Marshall, Work Session Facilitator, led members through a review of Council's composite list of priorities to be addressed by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, which were broken down into eight categories. The categories with projected projects and estimated costs were as follows:

- Other/Miscellaneous
- Recovery of Revenue Loss
- Health
- Economic Instability
- Housing
- Education and Information Technology Infrastructure
- Infrastructure
- Parks and Community Centers

Councilor Kristen Larson informed members that she withdrew her proposed public safety hazard pay request, and instead joined Councilor Andreas Addison's request for a 10% bonus for public safety frontline employees.

President Cynthia Newbille stated she requested premium pay be provided to public safety officers, as well as additional frontline employees.

Councilor Katherine Jordan stated her support for the frontline employee premium pay.

Councilor Andreas Addison joined the session at 2:52 p.m.

President Newbille confirmed that Council considered it a priority that ARPA funds be used to address affordable childcare in the city.

Councilor Michael Jones joined the session at 3:01 p.m.

Councilor Michael Jones provided additional information regarding his request to fund and implement strategies to address the high heat index in certain areas of the city, by planting trees and adding green spaces. Councilor Jones also stated it was a priority to help citizens with the weatherization of homes.

Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert stated she agreed with Councilor Jones and requested that all Council districts be considered for improvements to address the heat index.

Vice President Ellen Robertson provided additional information regarding her request that \$16,000,000 of ARPA funds be used to address city revenues lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Vice President Robertson stated the proposed amount was to include premium pay for frontline employees.

President Cynthia Newbille provided an overview of her request that ARPA funds be used to address health equity in the city. President Newbille stated that steps taken to address health equity with ARPA funds would be in partnership with the Richmond Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA).

Vice President Robertson provided additional information regarding her request that \$10,000,000 of ARPA funds be used to address the need of providing healthy and natural foods to citizens in certain areas of the city. Vice President Robertson also addressed her request for \$5,000,000 of ARPA funds be used to provide COVID employee disability liability insurance for citizens that are unable to work due to COVID.

Councilor Andreas Addison stated he believed it was a priority to provide the Regional Housing Framework with ARPA funding, to assist with the need for more affordable housing in the city.

President Newbille provided background information regarding the transformation phases of the redevelopment of Creighton Court. President Newbille addressed her request to allocate \$10,000,000 in ARPA funds towards the transformation.

Vice President Robertson provided information on her requests for ARPA funds to be allocated towards the Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF). Vice President Robertson stated the AHTF was in need of funds to help address the issue of evictions taking place in the city, due to increased rental rates.

Interim Council Chief of Staff Joyce Davis informed members that Council would address the remaining categories of Infrastructure, Parks and Community Centers at a future meeting of Council. Ms. Davis also provided members with information regarding next steps necessary to address ARPA funding and allocation.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the work session adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

CITY CLERK