



City of Richmond

Informal Meeting Minutes

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
www.richmondgov.com/cityclerk

Monday, October 14, 2019

4:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Councilmembers Present

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President
The Honorable Chris Hilbert, Vice President
The Honorable Andreas Addison
The Honorable Parker Agelasto
The Honorable Kim Gray (late arrival)
The Honorable Michael Jones (late arrival)
The Honorable Kristen Larson (late arrival)
The Honorable Ellen Robertson
The Honorable Reva Trammell

Staff Present

Lisa Braxton, Assistant City Clerk
Haskell Brown, Deputy City Attorney
Meghan Brown, Interim Council Chief of Staff
Allen Jackson, City Attorney
Candice Reid, City Clerk
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 4:11 p.m. and presided.

Upon the President's request, Assistant City Clerk Lisa Braxton provided information on the appropriate manner in which the Council Chamber is to be evacuated in the event of an emergency.

Docket Review

Assistant City Clerk Lisa Braxton reviewed the following agenda items as indicated:

Consent Agenda:

1. Ord. 2019-245 – retained on the Consent Agenda
2. Ord. 2019-255 – retained on the Consent Agenda
3. Ord. 2019-256 – retained on the Consent Agenda
4. Ord. 2019-257 – retained on the Consent Agenda
5. Ord. 2019-258 – retained on the Consent Agenda
6. Ord. 2019-259 – retained on the Consent Agenda
7. Ord. 2019-260 – to be amended and continued to Tuesday, November 12, 2019
8. Ord. 2019-261 – retained on the Consent Agenda
9. Ord. 2019-262 – retained on the Consent Agenda

10. Ord. 2019-263 – to be continued to Tuesday, November 12, 2019
11. Ord. 2019-264 – to be amended and continued to Tuesday, November 12, 2019
12. Ord. 2019-265 – retained on the Consent Agenda
13. Ord. 2019-266 – retained on the Consent Agenda
14. Ord. 2019-267 – retained on the Consent Agenda
15. Res. 2019-R052 – retained on the Consent Agenda
16. Res. 2019-R056 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Regular Agenda:

There were no Regular Agenda items.

Councilor Parker Agelasto informed Council that he will abstain from voting on Ord. 2019-262 due to a conflict of interest.

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

Other Discussion

Mike Graff, McGuireWoods partner and Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority's (RRHA) bond counsel, explained that previously adopted legislation, Res. 2019-R054 and Res. 2019-R055, approving the issuance of multifamily housing revenue bonds for two residential rental housing projects, did not contain the correct summary of comments offered during RRHA's public hearing. Mr Graff asked that a corrected version be accepted to correct the public record.

Councilor Kim Gray arrived at 4:15 p.m. and was seated.

Deputy City Attorney Haskell Brown informed Council that the acceptance of the corrected summary of statements would not change the substance of adopted Res. 2019-R054 and Res. 2019-R055.

Councilor Kristen Larson arrived at 4:19 p.m. and was seated.

Councilor Michael Jones arrived at 4:20 p.m. and was seated.

Councilor Parker Agelasto voiced concerns regarding expedited consideration of legislation in general and cited the process' inability to allow for advance notice of public hearings.

Councilor Ellen Robertson moved to allow the city clerk to accept a revised Exhibit B - Summary of Statements for inclusion to adopted Res. 2019-R054 and Res. 2019-R055, which was seconded and approved: Ayes 8, Jones, Robertson, Larson, Gray, Trammell, Addison, Hilbert, Newbille. Noes None. Abstention 1, Agelasto.

General Assembly (GA) Legislative Proposals

Ron Jordan, council lobbyist, Advantus Strategies, reviewed an updated draft of recommended legislative proposals for the 2020 General Assembly session. A copy of the information provided has been filed.

Joyce Davis, council policy analyst, presented Council with a number of shared proposed legislative requests pertaining to children and education for the 2020 GA session and recommended

that Richmond Public Schools, Mayor and Council's staff participate in an annual legislative summit event to develop future collaborative legislative priorities. A copy of the information provided has been filed.

Mr. Jordan advised Council to await a report from the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission regarding its review of casino gaming laws in other states prior to formulating an opinion on the matter.

Interim Council Chief of Staff Meghan Brown addressed Council regarding suggested city charter changes and stated that the Mayor's office and city administration are not in support of the current drafted proposals.

President Cynthia Newbille stated that Councilors Ellen Robertson and Andreas Addison have agreed to work with city administration to draft compromising city charter recommendations for inclusion to the 2020 GA legislative packet.

Deputy City Attorney Haskell Brown and Ron Jordan clarified the process for amending the city charter.

Councilor Kristen Larson requested that the city attorney provide Council with a legal opinion pertaining to city administration's participation in closed meetings of Council.

Councilor Kim Gray requested additional information regarding the Dreams4RPS education priorities included in the drafted legislative proposal.

FY 2019 Year-end Surplus

Interim Council Chief of Staff Meghan Brown reviewed allocation recommendations for fiscal year 2019 year-end surplus. A copy of the information provided has been filed.

Acting Chief Administrative Officer Lenora Reid was available to answer questions regarding the suggested year-end surplus allocations; she indicated that funding for a special purpose reserve for a violin competition had not been assigned.

After discussion, it was the consensus of Council to exclude funding for the violin competition at this time.

Ms. Reid explained that GASB (Governmental Accounting Standards Board) Statement No. 75 requires localities to report post-employment benefits other than pensions (OPEB) and noted that the current unfunded liability of the OPEB trust is approximately \$80 million.

Councilor Kim Gray requested an analysis of all city-owned properties listed as part of debt services.

Ms. Brown informed Council that the Richmond Retirement System will present its annual report, which will also include the voluntary retirement incentive program's (VRIP) impact on the pension liability at the November Organizational Development Standing Committee meeting.

Ms. Gray also requested information pertaining to VRIP's deferment period for employees classified as essential personnel.

After further discussion regarding the proposed allocation of approximately \$1.1 million, Councilor Parker Agelasto moved to allocate \$250,000 to the OPEB trust and the remaining balance of \$846,256 to the Retirement Unfunded Liability fund, which was seconded and approved: Ayes 8, Robertson, Larson, Agelasto, Gray, Trammell, Addison, Hilbert, Newbille. Noes None. Jones excused.

Ms. Brown specified that the intended appropriation of \$1.3 million as referenced in adopted Res. 2019-R016 for capital maintenance reserve along with any additional special reserve fund requests, will require the introduction of a budget amendment, which she plans to facilitate.

Councilor Kristen Larson asked that the use of the remainder capital maintenance reserve be discussed at the October Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee meeting for recommendations.

President Cynthia Newbille reaffirmed the continued support of Res. 2019-R016.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

CITY CLERK