



City of Richmond

Informal Meeting Minutes

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

Monday, February 22, 2021

4:00 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
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch (late arrival)
The Honorable Reva Trammell

Staff Present

Lisa Braxton, Council Management Analyst
Haskell Brown, Interim City Attorney
Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Tabrica Rentz, Acting Deputy City Attorney
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and presided.

ELECTRONIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Council Management Analyst Lisa Braxton, in accordance with Ordinance No. 2020-093, adopted April 9, 2020, as most recently amended by Ordinance No. 2020-232, adopted December 14, 2020, announced the meeting would be held through electronic communication means, and stated that notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information advisory issued on February 12, 2021, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice. She also stated there would be no opportunities for public comment and no public hearings during the meeting.

Docket Review

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

Consent Agenda:

1. Ord. 2019-275 – to be continued to Monday, March 22, 2021
2. Ord. 2019-276 – to be continued to Monday, March 22, 2021
3. Ord. 2020-257 – to be continued to Monday, March 8, 2021

Councilor Andreas Addison joined the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

Upon Councilor Katherine Jordan's request, it was the consensus of Council to continue Ord. 2020-257 to allow an opportunity for the introduction of an amendment stipulating affordable housing for the proposed project.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch joined the meeting at 4:11 p.m.

4. Ord. 2020-261 – to be continued to Monday, March 8, 2021

Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert requested Ord. 2020-261 be continued to allow an opportunity for additional community engagement regarding the proposed legislation.

Councilor Michael Jones joined the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch and Vice President Ellen Robertson requested to be added as co-patrons of Ord. 2020-261.

Acting Chief Administrative Officer Lincoln Saunders, Sharon Ebert, deputy chief administrative officer – Economic Development, and Kevin Vonck, Planning and Development Review interim director, were available to answer questions concerning Ord. 2020-261.

Councilor Lynch requested information presented during community engagement meetings involving proposed Ord. 2020-261.

After the discussion, it was the consensus of Council to continue Ord. 2020-261.

5. Ord. 2020-275 – to be continued to Monday, March 22, 2021
6. Ord. 2021-016 – retained on the Consent Agenda
7. Ord. 2021-017 – retained on the Consent Agenda
8. Ord. 2021-018 – retained on the Consent Agenda
9. Ord. 2021-019 – retained on the Consent Agenda
10. Ord. 2021-020 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Due to the cancellation of the February Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee meeting and the time sensitivity of the proposed legislation, Acting Chief Administrative Officer Lincoln Saunders asked that the committee referral of Ord. 2021-020 be waived.

John Wack, Finance director, provided an introduction and was available to answer questions regarding Ord. 2021-020.

It was the consensus of Council to waive the committee referral of Ord. 2021-020 and consider the proposed legislation later that evening at the Formal Session of Council.

11. Ord. 2021-021 – retained on the Consent Agenda
12. Ord. 2021-022 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Fire Chief Melvin Carter provided a presentation regarding the city's COVID-19 response and updates for federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds. A copy of the presentation has been filed.

Jay Brown, Budget and Strategic Planning director, provided an introduction of Ord. 2021-022 and stated due to projected budgetary shortfalls, it is necessary to expedite a second quarter reappropriation of funds for city departments and agencies.

Councilor Kristen Larson stressed the importance of certain legislation being vetted by the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee.

13. Ord. 2021-023 – to be continued to Monday, March 22, 2021

14. Res. 2021-R015 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Regular Agenda:

15. Ord. 2018-236 – to be stricken

Councilor Kristen Larson emphasized the need for an additional real estate tax deferral program to assist residents.

Councilor Andreas Addison stated he agreed with Councilor Larson and would spearhead a conversation at the next Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting for possible introduction of legislation.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch stated she envisions an income-based real estate tax deferral program, which would require the approval of the Virginia General Assembly, and that she is willing to assist in the endeavor.

Vice President Ellen Robertson stated she supports the striking of Ord. 2018-236 until a comprehensive plan to address issues of gentrification and the raising assessment of real estate has been explored.

It was the consensus of Council to strike Ord. 2018-236 later that evening at the Formal Session of Council.

16. Ord. 2021-024 – to be continued to Monday, March 1, 2021

17. Ord. 2021-025 – to be continued to Monday, March 1, 2021

18. Ord. 2021-026 – to be continued to Monday, March 1, 2021

President Cynthia Newbille suggested Ords. 2021-024, 2021-025 and 2021-026 be continued to a special meeting to allow an opportunity for additional dialog regarding the proposed legislation.

Councilor Kristen Larson requested clarification regarding potential amendments to the redevelopment agreement for the public safety building project.

Interim City Attorney Haskell Brown stated that any changes to the development agreement after adoption would require Council's approval.

After further discussion, it was the consensus of Council to forgo the committee referral of Ords. 2021-024, 2021-025 and 2021-026 to the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee and to forward the papers to a special meeting of Council on March 1, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

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

PlanRVA Charter Revisions

Interim City Attorney Haskell Brown provided an update regarding additional proposed amendments to PlanRVA's (formerly known as Richmond Regional Planning District Commission) charter agreement. Mr. Brown informed Council that the previously proposed controversial change, which provided for increased voting representation for the Counties of Henrico and Chesterfield, has been removed. Mr. Brown stated that Council and other jurisdictions are required to approve changes to the charter agreement via a resolution, and that there was a sense of urgency for PlanRVA, since the adoption would provide options for new office space. A copy of the information has been filed.

After further discussion, it was the consensus of Council to proceed with the introduction of a resolution supporting the proposed changes to PlanRVA's charter agreement.

Other Discussion

Interim Council Chief of Staff Joyce Davis informed Council that day 2 of the Council retreat has been rescheduled to March 1, 2021, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., and a summary of the SWOT analysis from day 1 will be forthcoming. Ms. Davis requested any additional Council revisions to the masterplan be forwarded prior to the city attorney's February 26th deadline for inclusion.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

CITY CLERK