



Richmond City Council

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

DRAFT Informal Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

4:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Council Members Present

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President
The Honorable Katherine Jordan, Vice President
The Honorable Sarah Abubaker (early departure)
The Honorable Andrew Breton
The Honorable Kenya Gibson (late arrival)
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch (late arrival)
The Honorable Ellen Robertson
The Honorable Reva Trammell (early departure)

Absent

The Honorable Nicole Jones

Staff Present

Lisa Braxton, Council Management Analyst, Principal
Laura Drewry, City Attorney
Kiley Kesecker, Deputy City Clerk
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Tabrica Rentz, Deputy City Attorney
RJ Warren, Council Chief of Staff

Call to Order

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 4:03 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.

Docket Review

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

Consent Agenda:

1. Ord. 2026-098 – retained on Consent Agenda
2. Ord. 2026-099 – retained on Consent Agenda
3. Ord. 2026-100 – retained on Consent Agenda
4. Ord. 2026-101 – retained on Consent Agenda
5. Ord. 2026-102 – to be continued to Monday, June 8, 2026

At the request of Councilor Andrew Breton, it was the consensus of Council to continue Ord. 2026-102 to the June 8th Formal Session of Council.

6. Ord. 2026-103 – to be continued to Monday, June 8, 2026
7. Ord. 2026-104 – retained on Consent Agenda
8. Ord. 2026-105 – retained on Consent Agenda
9. Ord. 2026-106 – retained on Consent Agenda
10. Ord. 2026-107 – retained on Consent Agenda
11. Ord. 2026-108 – retained on Consent Agenda
12. Ord. 2026-109 – retained on Consent Agenda
13. Ord. 2026-110 – retained on Consent Agenda
14. Ord. 2026-111 – retained on Consent Agenda
15. Ord. 2026-112 – retained on Consent Agenda
16. Ord. 2026-113 – retained on Consent Agenda
17. Ord. 2026-114 – retained on Consent Agenda
18. Ord. 2026-115 – retained on Consent Agenda
19. Res. 2026-R020 – retained on Consent Agenda
20. Res. 2026-R021 – retained on Consent Agenda
21. Res. 2026-R022 – retained on Consent Agenda

Kevin Vonck, Planning and Development Review director, provided an introduction of Ord. 2026-103.

Councilor Reva Trammell informed Council of community concerns regarding the proposed special use and asked that Ord. 2026-103 be continued.

It was the consensus of Council to continue Ord. 2026-103 to the June 8th Formal Session of Council.

Councilor Trammell also informed city administration of parking issues around city hall during council meetings.

Regular Agenda:

22. Ord. 2025-231 – to be continued to Monday, June 8, 2026

23. Ord. 2025-282 – to be amended and continued to Monday, June 8, 2026

24. Ord. 2026-081 – to be continued to Monday, June 8, 2026

25. Ord. 2026-090 – to be continued to Monday, June 8, 2026

26. Res. 2026-R019 – to be continued to Monday, June 22, 2026

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

Closed Session

At 4:16 p.m., Vice President Katherine Jordan moved that the Council go into a closed meeting pursuant to subdivision (A)(7) of section 2.2-3711 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to consult with legal counsel pertaining to actual litigation where such consultation in an open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the City and subdivision (A)(19) of section 2.2-3711 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to discuss plans to protect the public safety related to the security of City Hall and the safety of persons using City Hall.

The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 6, Breton, Robertson, Trammell, Abubaker, Jordan, Newbille. Noes None. Gibson and Lynch had not yet arrived.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch arrived at 4:23 p.m. and joined the closed session.

Councilor Kenya Gibson arrived at 4:26 p.m. and joined the closed session.

Councilors Sarah Abubaker and Reva Trammell departed the closed session and did not rejoin the meeting.

Vice President Katherine Jordan motioned to exit closed session. The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 6, Breton, Gibson, Robertson, Lynch, Jordan, Newbille. Noes None.

Councilors reconvened in open session at 5:51 p.m.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

May 26, 2026

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
- Sarah M.A. Abubaker (early departure)
- Stephanie A. Lynch
- Ellen F. Robertson
- Reva M. Trammell (early departure)
- Nicole Jones (absent)

DECLINING TO CERTIFY:

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

CITY CLERK