



City of Richmond

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

Meeting Minutes Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

3:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Committee and Other Council Members in Attendance

The Honorable Andreas Addison – Chair

The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Vice Chair

The Honorable Stephanie Lynch – Councilmember (late arrival and early departure)

Absent

The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert – Committee Member

Call to Order

Chair Andreas Addison called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m., and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Deputy City Clerk RJ Warren provided information on the appropriate manner in which the Council Chamber is to be evacuated in the event of an emergency along with citizen speaker guidelines.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comment speakers.

Approval of Minutes

There were no amendments or corrections to the meeting minutes of October 17, 2023, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2023.330](#) October 17, 2023 Land Use, Housing and Transportation Meeting Minutes

Papers for Consideration

The following ordinance was considered:

1. [ORD. 2023-286](#) To amend City Code § 23-45, concerning refuse collection at a point other than a curb or alley for the elderly and persons with disabilities, for the purpose of authorizing the collection service for as many refuse receptacles as provided by the City.

Patrons: Vice President Nye and Ms. Lynch

Chair Andreas Addison stated that the chief patrons had requested that consideration of ORD. 2023-286 be continued for 90 days.

There were no further comments or discussions and Chair Andreas Addison moved continue ORD. 2023-286 to the February 20, 2024 Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and approved: Ayes 2, Robertson, Addison. Noes None.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch arrived at 3:14, and was seated.

The following ordinance was considered:

2. [ORD. 2023-291](#) To install one speed table in the 1400 block of Drewry Street. (6th District)

Patrons: Ms. Robertson

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson provided an introduction of ORD. 2023-291.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2023-291 to Council with recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved: Ayes 2, Robertson, Addison. Noes None.

The following ordinance was considered:

3. [ORD. 2023-333](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute an Agreement between the City of Richmond, the Virginia Department of Transportation, and CSX Transportation, Inc., for the purpose of constructing a concrete surface crossing at the crossing for CSX Transportation, Inc.'s railroad tracks on Hopkins Road.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

M Khara, Department of Public Works Deputy Director and City Engineer, provided an introduction and additional background information regarding the proposed ordinance.

Chair Andreas Addison confirmed that the ordinance did not require that any funding be provided by the city.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2023-333 to Council with recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved: Ayes 2, Robertson, Addison. Noes None.

The following ordinances and resolutions were considered:

4. [ORD.](#) To designate the 2900 block of Northumberland Avenue in honor of the late Eleanor Redd Binford. (3rd District)
[2023-334](#)
Patrons: Ms. Lambert, President Jones, Mr. Addison, Ms. Jordan, Vice President Nye, Ms. Robertson, Ms. Newbille and Ms. Trammell

5. [ORD.](#) To designate the 400 block of East Ladies Mile Road in honor of the late Melvin L. Davis, Sr. (3rd District)
[2023-335](#)
Patrons: Ms. Lambert, President Jones, Mr. Addison, Ms. Jordan, Vice President Nye, Ms. Robertson, Ms. Newbille and Ms. Trammell

6. [ORD.](#) To designate the corner of West 12th Street and Hull Street in honor of the late August Moon. (6th District)
[2023-336](#)
Patrons: Ms. Robertson, Mayor Stoney, Ms. Lambert, President Jones, Mr. Addison, Ms. Jordan, Vice President Nye, Ms. Newbille and Ms. Trammell

7. [RES.](#) To name the alley located in the block bounded by the Downtown Expressway, South Stafford Avenue, Parkwood Avenue, and South Addison Street as “Apple Alley.”
[2023-R055](#)
Patrons: Mayor Stoney (By Request)

8. [RES.](#) To name the alley located in the block bounded by Stuart Avenue, North Nansemond Street, Kensington Avenue, and Roseneath Road as “Rose Pedal Alley.”
[2023-R056](#)
Patrons: Mayor Stoney (By Request)

Public Hearing

Dr. Adelaide D. Flamer spoke in favor of ORD. 2023-335, and stated that Melvin L. Davis, Sr., was her father. Dr. Flamer also stated her appreciation for the street designation and provided additional information regarding the legacy of Melvin L. Davis, Sr.

Enjoli Moon spoke in support of ORD. 2023-336, and stated her appreciation for the street designation in honor of her father, August Moon. Ms. Moon provided additional information regarding the life and impact of August Moon.

Dr. Sessa Joi Moon spoke in support of ORD. 2023-336, and stated her appreciation for the street designation in honor of her father, August Moon.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson noted her appreciation for the work of August Moon.

Chair Andreas Addison stated his support for the honorary street designations referenced in the proposed legislation.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2023-334, ORD. 2023-335, ORD. 2023-336, RES. 2023-R055, and RES. 2023-R056 to Council with recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved: Ayes 2, Robertson, Addison. Noes None.

The following ordinance was considered:

9. [ORD. 2023-337](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to accept a donation of a sculpture to be installed in the 4900 block of Government Road, a road mural to be installed at the intersection of National Street and Government Road, and maintenance and removal services, all valued at the total amount of approximately \$65,000.00, from the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay Inc. for the purpose of supporting the Greening Greater Fulton project. (7th District)

Patrons: Mayor Stoney and Ms. Newbille

Kevin Vonck, Department of Planning and Development Review Director, provided an introduction and additional background information regarding the proposed ordinance.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2023-337 to Council with recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved: Ayes 2, Robertson, Addison. Noes None.

The following ordinance was considered:

10. [ORD. 2023-338](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a First Amendment to Grant Contract between the City of Richmond and the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority for the purpose of granting \$52,000.00 to the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority to facilitate the installation of public art as part of the playground renovation at Hillside Court Apartments.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney, Ms. Robertson and Mr. Addison

Kevin Vonck, Department of Planning and Development Review Director, provided an introduction and additional background information regarding the proposed ordinance.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson stated her support for the project referenced in the proposed ordinance.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson and Chair Andreas Addison requested to be added as co-patrons of ORD. 2023-338.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2023-338 to Council with recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved: Ayes 2, Robertson, Addison. Noes None.

Board Vacancies

Pamela Nichols, Council Management Analyst, reviewed board applications for consideration by the committee.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

[CD.2023.350](#) November 21, 2023 - Land Use, Housing and Transportation Board Vacancy Report

Chair Andreas Addison moved to forward the following board reappointment applications to Council with a recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved: Ayes 2, Robertson, Addison. Noes None:

Board of Commissioners of the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority
Michael Barrett Hardiman (reappointment)
Charlene Pitchford (reappointment)

Presentations

Rental Inspection Program Timeline

Kevin Vonck, Department of Planning and Development Review Director, provided the committee with a presentation regarding the Residential Rental Inspection Program (RRIP) timeline. Director Vonck also addressed potential issues and concerns regarding the program. Director Vonck also provided his recommendations regarding the RRIP.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

[CD.2023.353](#) Rental Inspection Program Presentation

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson stated it was important for the city to ensure safe living conditions for city residents, but the city needed to create a program that produced productive results and did not harm the city's affordable housing inventory. Vice Chair Robertson also addressed the relationship between a tenant and renter that might be impacted by establishing a RRIP. Vice Chair Robertson further stated her concerns about a RRIP leading to more evictions in the city.

Chair Andreas Addison inquired if the Department of Planning and Development Review would require additional staffing to administer a RRIP.

Director Vonck stated that no additional staffing was requested for the RRIP.

Vice Chair Robertson again stated her concerns about a RRIP impacting the availability of affordable housing rental units in the city.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch left the meeting at 4:02 p.m.

Safe and Healthy Streets Commission Presentation

Louise Lockett Gordon, Safe and Healthy Streets Commission Chair, provided the committee with a presentation that addressed transit and pedestrian infrastructure improvements in the city, commission recommendations for increased safety, and upcoming meetings of the Safe and Healthy Streets Commission.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

[CD.2023.355](#) Safe and Healthy Streets Commission Presentation

Chair Andreas Addison stated his appreciation for the update presentation provided by Louise Lockett Gordon.

Richmond Connects Update

Dironna Moore Clarke, Office of Equitable Transit and Mobility Administrator, and Kelli Nash Rowan, Department of Public Works Transit, Planning & Mobility Program Management Consultant, provided the committee with an update presentation regarding the city's Richmond Connects action and strategic plans, and additional information regarding scenario planning and public engagement.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

[CD.2023.356](#) Richmond Connects Update Presentation

Chair Andreas Addison stated his support for the Richmond Connects Project. Chair Addison also stated his support for reviewing and addressing methods to increase transit mobility in the city's Southside.

Performance Grant Agreement Process

Sherrill Hampton, Department of Housing and Community Development Director provided the committee with a presentation that addressed the city's performance grants process and requirements.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

[CD.2023.361](#) Performance Grants Presentation

Chair Andreas Addison addressed rebates and tax incentives used in the city's grant process for affordable housing construction, and he stated that he believed the method saved the city money by incentivizing other entities to lead the construction and development of affordable housing units in the city.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson addressed tax abatement programs in the city, and she stated that the programs are beneficial tools if used correctly, but must avoid disenfranchisement of minority populations in the city.

Director Hampton provided the committee with additional information that detailed how the Department of Housing and Community Development collaborates with other city departments to increase affordable housing production and preservation.

Chair Addison requested that Director Hampton provide the committee with a future presentation that addressed affordable housing development not dependent on the city's grant process.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson also requested a future presentation that provided specific details regarding the city's \$50,000,000 bond financing program for affordable housing development and the consequences of the increased debt.

Discussion Item(s)

There were no discussion items.

Staff Report

Steve Taylor, Council Policy Analyst, provided the committee with the November staff report.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

[CD.2023.358](#) November 21, 2023 Staff Report

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.