



# City of Richmond

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

## Informal Meeting Minutes

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Monday, February 28, 2022

4:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall  
**Virtual Meeting**

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### **Councilmembers Present**

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

### **Call to Order**

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. and presided.

### **Electronic Meeting Announcement**

Council Management Analyst Lisa Braxton, pursuant to the current ongoing declaration of a local emergency concerning the COVID-19 pandemic confirmed by Resolution No. 2020-R025, adopted March 16, 2020, and as permitted by section 2.2-3708.2(A)(3) of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, 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 email issued on February 17, 2022, 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. 2021-359 – to be amended and continued to Monday, March 14, 2022
2. Ord. 2021-363 – retained on the Consent Agenda
3. Ord. 2021-368 – to be continued to Monday, March 14, 2022
4. Ord. 2021-369 – to be continued to Monday, March 28, 2022
5. Ord. 2022-013 – to be continued to Monday, April 25, 2022
6. Ord. 2022-021 – retained on the Consent Agenda
7. Ord. 2022-022 – retained on the Consent Agenda
8. Ord. 2022-023 – retained on the Consent Agenda
9. Ord. 2022-024 – to be amended and continued to Monday, March 14, 2022
10. Ord. 2022-025 – retained on the Consent Agenda
11. Ord. 2022-026 – retained on the Consent Agenda
12. Ord. 2022-027 – retained on the Consent Agenda
13. Ord. 2022-028 – retained on the Consent Agenda
14. Ord. 2022-031 – retained on the Consent Agenda
15. Ord. 2022-032 – retained on the Consent Agenda
16. Ord. 2022-033 – retained on the Consent Agenda
17. Ord. 2022-034 – retained on the Consent Agenda
18. Ord. 2022-035 – retained on the Consent Agenda
19. Ord. 2022-037 – retained on the Consent Agenda
20. Ord. 2022-038 – retained on the Consent Agenda

*Councilor Andreas Addison joined the meeting at 4:07 p.m.*

21. Res. 2021-R086 – to be continued to Monday, March 28, 2022

Lynn Lancaster, Public Works deputy director, introduced Ord. 2022-037.

Councilor Andreas Addison commented on Ord. 2022-037 and assured his colleagues that the project procurement would be transferrable, if a new stadium was constructed.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell commented on challenges 8th District residents face and the utilization of the funds proposed in Ord. 2022-037.

*Councilor Stephanie Lynch joined the meeting at 4:14 p.m.*

Councilor Michael Jones expressed his support for Ord. 2022-037 and acknowledged community outreach efforts of the major league baseball organization.

Councilor Kristen Nye requested assurance that the allocated funds proposed with the adoption of Ord. 2022-037 would be wisely spent.

22. Res. 2021-R090 – to be continued to Monday, March 28, 2022

23. Res. 2022-R004 – to be continued to Monday, April 25, 2022

24. Res. 2022-R007 – to be continued to Monday, March 28, 2022

25. Res. 2022-R008 – retained on the Consent Agenda

26. Res. 2022-R009 – retained on the Consent Agenda

27. Res. 2022-R010 – retained on the Consent Agenda

28. Res. 2022-R011 – retained on the Consent Agenda

29. Res. 2022-R012 – retained on the Consent Agenda

30. Res. 2022-R013 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Regular Agenda:

31. Ord. 2019-275 – retained on the Regular Agenda

32. Ord. 2019-276 – to be continued to Monday, March 14, 2022

33. Ord. 2021-097 – to be continued to Monday, March 28, 2022

34. Ord. 2021-308 – to be continued to Monday, March 28, 2022

President Cynthia Newbille stated that with the failed attempt to schedule a joint meeting of Council and Richmond School Board, she requested Ord. 2021-308 remain on the agenda for consideration later that evening at the Formal Session of Council.

Vice President Ellen Robertson requested Ord. 2021-308 be continued to allow Council an opportunity to work with the School Board regarding the future construction of a new George Wythe High School.

Councilor Kristen Nye, disapproving of the requested continuance of Ord. 2021-308, expressed her support for the proposed legislation and suggested Council move forward with its consideration since the School Board is ultimately responsible for the construction of the proposed school.

Councilor Michael Jones expressed his disapproval of the proposed construction plan for the new George Wythe High School due to its proposed capacity level and cited Council's budgetary responsibility for the requested continuance of Ord 2021-308. Mr. Jones invited his colleagues to visit area middle schools in the 9th District in order to visualize the unintended consequences of the proposal.

*Councilor Katherine Jordan joined the meeting at 4:32 p.m.*

Councilor Stephanie Lynch requested Ord. 2021-308 remain on the agenda to allow her an opportunity to persuade members of the School Board to join the Formal Session of Council later that evening for a discussion.

Councilor Andreas Addison also expressed his support for a continuance of Ord. 2021-308

After further discussion, it was the consensus of Council to continue Ord. 2021-308 for thirty days, in order to provide an opportunity for Council and the Richmond School Board to schedule a joint special meeting to discuss matters concerning the proposed legislation.

*Councilor Andreas Addison exited the meeting at 4:49 p.m.*

35. Ord. 2021-347 – to be amended and continued to Monday, March 14, 2022

36. Res. 2019-R057 – to be continued to Monday, April 25, 2022

37. Res. 2021-R026 – to be continued to Monday, March 14, 2022

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

**Other Discussion Item(s)****Civilian Review Board Overview**

Dr. William Pelfrey, Jr., professor and acting associate dean of faculty affairs, Virginia Commonwealth University Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, provided Council with an overview of the report on the composition of a civilian review board submitted to the mayor and city administration which included a review of scholarly studies on CRBs, an analysis of Richmond Police Department data, CRB case studies, observations of the Task Force to Establish a Civilian Review Board report and recommendations for a CRB in the city. A copy of the presentation provided has been filed.

[CD.2022.085](#) Police Civilian Review Board Recommendations Presentation and Report

Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert inquired regarding the proposed adoption of a collective bargaining policy by the city and how, if any, would the policy effect the formation of a CRB.

Councilor Katherine Jordan inquired regarding the legitimacy of CRBs if they only examined internal affairs investigation matters. Ms. Jordan questioned the excluding of individuals with felonies on CRBs.

President Cynthia Newbille explained that there will be a collaborative effort with city administration to stand up the city's CRB, and timeframe information will be forthcoming.

Councilor Lambert also inquired regarding possible compensation for members of a CRB.

**Council Consideration of Return to In-person Meetings**

Dr. Melissa Viray, Richmond and Henrico Health District acting director, provided Council with a COVID-19 update, whereas she advised on holding in-person meetings and the wearing of facial masks given the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's revised guidelines. Dr. Viray endorsed a return to in-person meetings with the decrease in COVID cases and hospitalizations; however, she cautioned regarding the need to utilize virtual means, if there is a spike in future cases.

City Clerk Candice Reid advised that sessions of Council returning to in person would need to occur after March 14, 2022 due to public hearing advertising requirements; however, she stated there was nothing preventing Council's standing committees from resuming immediately.

After further discussion, it was the consensus of Council to return to in-person meetings starting after March 14, 2022.

**Redistricting Update**

J. Gerald (Gerry) Hebert, Campaign Legal Center (CLC) senior consultant, along with Kristen Lango and Brian Fraher, National Committee for an Effective Congress mapping experts, provided Council with an update regarding the 2021/2022 Richmond Decennial Voter District Redistricting plan for Council and the Richmond School Board. Mr. Hebert advised that after review of the recommended voter map (Map 2), there was a deviation in equal population for the 5th District. Mr. Hebert presented a revised map (Map 2A) which reflected changes to the 2nd and 6th Districts, offsetting the population difference of 5th District. Mr. Hebert further advised that no additional changes were made to any of the other election districts.

Vice President Ellen Robertson inquired regarding voter turnout data of election districts and information pertaining to inmate voting jurisdictions at the Justice Center in her district.

*Councilor Andreas Addison re-joined the meeting at 6:12 p.m.*

After an inquiry and suggestion regarding Voter Map 2A from Vice President Robertson, Councilor Katherine Jordan agreed to the suggested change to the map, which would provide a more symmetric border to a portion of the recommended 2nd and 6th election districts.

After discussion, it was the consensus of Council to only propose the modified Voter Map 2A (2B) for public comment of the 2021/2022 Decennial Voter Redistricting Plan for Council the Richmond School Board.

Interim City Attorney Haskell Brown informed Council that a special meeting was needed to introduce the recommended change to the proposed redistricting plan.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

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CITY CLERK