



City of Richmond

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

Formal Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 25, 2023

6:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Councilmembers Present

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

Call to Order

Council President Michael Jones called the meeting to order at 6:13 p.m. and presided.

Spanish Interpretation Announcement

City Clerk Candice Reid stated that Spanish interpretation service was available in the Council Chamber and that attendees should speak with a representative to receive the appropriate equipment. City Clerk Reid also stated that Spanish interpretation service was available virtually through Microsoft Teams.

Roxana Talavera-Denson, Language Access Coordinator, Office of Immigrant and Refugee Engagement, then provided Spanish interpretation of City Clerk Candice Reid's announcement.

Invocation was offered by Reverend Wayne Marker of Monument Heights Baptist Church, 5716 Monument Avenue, Richmond, Virginia.

Members of Council and the audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Upon the President's request, Council Management Analyst Lisa Braxton 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.

Action on Appointments and Reappointments

There were no appointment/reappointment items for consideration.

Awards and Presentations

Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert on behalf of City Council, recognized and proclaimed the month of September to be known as Richmond African Diaspora Heritage Month.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

[CD.2023.299](#) 20230925 Formal Awards and Recognitions Ceremony Docket

Citizen Comment

There were no citizen comment speakers.

Agenda Review and Amendments

Councilor Stephanie Lynch moved to waive committee referral and consider for adoption the following ordinance on the Consent Agenda:

3. [ORD. 2023-237](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute The Salvation Army Grant Contract between the City of Richmond and The Salvation Army for the purpose of funding the implementation of a financial literacy program.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch moved to amend the agenda as follows:

1. [ORD. 2022-191](#) To repeal ch. 16, art. II (§§ 16-19-16-31) of the City Code; to amend ch. 30, art. VI, div. 10.1 by adding therein a new section 30-691.1:1, concerning definitions for the Affordable Dwelling Unit Density Program; and to amend City Code §§ 30-691, 30-691.1, 30-691.2, 30-691.3, 30-691.4, 30-691.6, 30-691.7, 30-691.8, 30-691.9, 30-691.11, for the purpose of revising the Affordable Housing Dwelling Unit Density Program as authorized by Va. Code § 15.2-2305.1.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

To be continued to Monday, December 11, 2023

2. [ORD. 2022-205](#) To amend Ord. No. 2000-410-2001-10, adopted Jan. 8, 2001, as previously amended by Ord. No. 2001-220-231, adopted Jul. 23, 2001, and Ord. No. 2017-242, adopted May 29, 2019, which approved the “Shops at Stratford Hills Community Unit Plan,” for the purpose of increasing the area subject to the community unit plan by 2.85 acres to 67.4± acres and modifying the development standards, under certain terms and conditions. (4th District)

Patrons: Mayor Stoney (By Request)

To be continued to Monday, November 13, 2023

22. [ORD. 2023-257](#) To repeal City Code § 2-1209, concerning the homeownership incentive program, and to amend ch. 2, art. VI, div. 1 by adding therein a new section numbered 2-1213, concerning the employee first-time homebuyer’s assistance program.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

To be continued to Tuesday, October 10, 2023

23. [ORD. 2023-258](#) To amend Ord. No. 2022-284, adopted Nov. 14, 2022, which accepted the second tranche of American Rescue Plan Act funds and appropriated such funds to the General Fund Budget for certain agencies and contingencies, by changing the description and purpose of a priority area in the City’s American Rescue Plan Act spending plan from “Covid-19 Administrative Response Reserve” to “Employee First-Time Homebuyer’s Assistance Program” for the purpose of providing funding for the implementation of an Employee First-Time Homebuyer’s Assistance program instead of for a COVID-19 reserve.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

To be continued to Tuesday, October 10, 2023

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

The Consent Agenda

The following ordinances and resolutions were considered:

3. [ORD. 2023-237](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute The Salvation Army Grant Contract between the City of Richmond and The Salvation Army for the purpose of funding the implementation of a financial literacy program.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was adopted.

4. [ORD. 2023-238](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Standard Project Administration Agreement between the City of Richmond and the Virginia Department of Transportation to provide funding for the Hull Street Improvements Phase III - Warwick Road to Arizona Drive project for the purpose of the construction and installation of improvements including two lanes in each direction, turn lanes, medians, storage length at intersections, major traffic generators, and median crossovers.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was adopted.

5. [ORD. 2023-239](#) To amend City Code § 12-15, concerning contracts for non-departmental appropriations, for the purpose of removing the requirement that the Greater Richmond Transit Company enter into grant contracts with the City in order to receive City funds.

Patrons: Ms. Robertson

This ordinance was adopted.

6. [ORD. 2023-240](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Maintenance Agreement for N. 7th Street Pedestrian Bridge Crossing I-95 between the City of Richmond, the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System Authority, and the Virginia Department of Transportation to set forth the responsibilities of the parties for the inspection and maintenance of a proposed North 7th Street pedestrian bridge over I-95.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was adopted.

7. [ORD. 2023-241](#) To designate the north side of the 300 block of West Main Street in honor of the late Shawn Joseph Soares. (2nd District)

Patrons: Ms. Jordan, Ms. Lynch, Ms. Lambert and Ms. Robertson

This ordinance was adopted.

8. [ORD. 2023-242](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to accept a donation of a SnapSports mini pitch surface system with goal and lighting installation valued at approximately \$100,000.00 from the United States Soccer Foundation, Inc. and in connection therewith, to execute a Mini Pitch Program Donation Agreement - Fiscal Year 2024 between the City of Richmond and the United States Soccer Foundation, Inc., for the purpose of constructing a SnapSports mini pitch surface system with goal and lighting installation at Oak Grove Playground located at 2207 Halifax Avenue in the city of Richmond. (8th District)

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was adopted.

9. [ORD. 2023-243](#) To authorize the special use of the property known as 2200 Ingram Avenue for the purpose of a residential development, upon certain terms and conditions. (8th District)

Patrons: Mayor Stoney (By Request)

This ordinance was adopted.

10. [ORD. 2023-244](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to accept funds in the amount of \$10,000.00 from the Urban Sustainability Directors Network, to amend the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Special Fund Budget by creating a new special fund for the Office of Sustainability called the Sustainability and Resilience Grants Special Fund, and to appropriate the increase to the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Special Fund Budget by increasing estimated revenues and the amount appropriated to the Office of Sustainability's Sustainability and Resilience Grants Special Fund by \$10,000.00, for the purpose of funding technical assistance and consulting services for the City to identify climate justice projects and grant funding opportunities.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was adopted.

11. [ORD. 2023-245](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to accept funds in the amount of \$20,000.00 from the Virginia Department of Fire Programs, and to appropriate the increase to the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Special Fund Budget by increasing estimated revenues and the amount appropriated to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services' State Fire Programs Special Fund by \$20,000.00, for the purpose of funding conference speaker fees, travel, and lodging, and funding training materials for the 2023 Virginia Fire Equity and Diversity Conference.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was adopted.

12. [ORD. 2023-246](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to accept funds in the amount of \$70,000.00 from the National Recreation and Park Association, Incorporated, to amend the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Special Fund Budget by creating a new special fund for the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities called the Grant - Mentoring Opportunities for Youth Initiative, and to appropriate the increase to the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Special Fund Budget by increasing estimated revenues and the amount appropriated

to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities' Grant - Mentoring Opportunities for Youth Initiative by \$70,000.00, for the purpose of providing services to youth impacted by and at risk for substance misuse.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was adopted.

13. [ORD. 2023-247](#) To amend Ord. No. 2023-071, adopted May 8, 2023, which adopted the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 General Fund Budget and made appropriations pursuant thereto, to (i) transfer \$250,000.00 from the Non-Departmental agency Reserve for Richmond Outdoor and Prosperity Fund line item (ii) create a new line item entitled "The Community Foundation, Inc." in the Non-Departmental agency, and (iii) appropriate such \$250,000.00 to such new line item in the Non-Departmental agency, for the purpose of administering funds for outdoor projects within the city of Richmond.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney and Ms. Lynch

This ordinance was adopted.

14. [ORD. 2023-248](#) To amend Ord. No. 2022-002, adopted Jan. 24, 2022, which appropriated certain American Recovery Plan Act of 2021 funds to the Department of Finance, by transferring \$2,200,000.00 from the Department of Finance's Healthy Homes (ARPA) program and to amend Ord. No. 2023-071, adopted May 8, 2023, which adopted the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 General Fund Budget and made appropriations pursuant thereto, by creating a new line item entitled "ElderHomes Corporation (project:HOMES) Healthy Homes (ARPA)" in the Non-Departmental agency and by appropriating such \$2,200,000.00 to such new line item in the Non-Departmental agency, all for the purpose of funding the implementation of an emergency substantial housing rehabilitation program.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was adopted.

15. [ORD. 2023-249](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to accept funds in the total amount of \$1,488,000.00 from the Virginia Department of Transportation, to amend Ord. No. 2023-073, adopted May 8, 2023, which accepted a program of proposed Capital Improvement Projects for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and the four fiscal years thereafter, adopted a Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, and determined a means of financing the same, by (i) establishing a new project for the Department of Public Works in the Transportation category called the "Automated Traffic Signal Performance Measures" project and (ii) increasing estimated revenues

from the funds received from the Virginia Department of Transportation and the amount appropriated to the new Department of Public Works' Automated Traffic Signal Performance Measures project in the Transportation category by \$1,488,000.00, all for the purpose of funding the implementation of an Automated Traffic Signal Performance Measures project to provide traffic data collection devices at certain signalized intersections.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was adopted.

16. [ORD. 2023-250](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to accept funds in the total amount of \$270,994.00 from the Virginia Department of Transportation, to amend Ord. No. 2023-073, adopted May 8, 2023, which accepted a program of proposed Capital Improvement Projects for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and the four fiscal years thereafter, adopted a Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, and determined a means of financing the same, to appropriate the increase to the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Capital Budget by increasing estimated revenues and the amount appropriated to the Department of Public Works' Complete Streets Project in the Transportation - G.O. Bonds category by \$270,994.00, for the purpose of providing funding for the Arthur Ashe Boulevard and Richmond Highway resurfacing projects.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was adopted.

17. [ORD. 2023-251](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Standard Project Administration Agreement between the City of Richmond and the Virginia Department of Transportation for the purpose of providing funding for the Scott's Addition Green Space project to establish a multimodal path along a portion of Patton Avenue, south of the CSX rail line, between Roseneath Road and North Arthur Ashe Boulevard.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was adopted.

18. [ORD. 2023-252](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Standard Project Administration Agreement between the City of Richmond and the Virginia Department of Transportation for the purpose of providing funding for the Automated Traffic Signal Performance Measures project for the installation of traffic data collection devices at certain signalized intersections.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was adopted.

19. [ORD. 2023-253](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Lease Extension Agreement between Northbrook Properties, Inc., as lessor and the City of Richmond as lessee for the purpose of providing office and storage space for the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities at 1209 Admiral Street. (3rd District)

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was adopted.

20. [ORD. 2023-255](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Deed of Quitclaim of Utility Easement between the City of Richmond and Roane Street, LLC, for the purpose of vacating by quitclaim deed a certain easement on the property known as 2021 Roane Street, for nominal consideration, to Roane Street, LLC. (3rd District)

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was adopted.

21. [ORD. 2023-256](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Memorandum of Understanding for Richmond's Community Climate Funding Table between the City of Richmond and the Urban Sustainability Directors Network for the purpose of funding technical assistance and consulting services for the City to identify climate justice projects and grant funding opportunities.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was adopted.

24. [RES. 2023-R048](#) To express the Mayor's and City Council's support, should the voters of Richmond approve a referendum for the development and operation of a destination resort and casino in the city of Richmond, for the dedication of gaming tax revenue received from such destination resort and casino to the establishment and funding of a Child Care and Education Trust Fund, and to appropriate funding of approximately \$14,000,000.00 for the construction of new early childhood care centers at T. B. Smith Community Center and Southside Community Center, \$8,000,000.00 for Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Facilities projects across the city, and an immediate investment of \$4,500,000.00 into the Child Care and Education Trust Fund to expand access to affordable early childhood care and education programs across the City, totaling \$26,000,000.00, as soon as Fall, 2024.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney, Ms. Trammell, Ms. Newbille, President Jones, Vice President Nye,

Ms. Lambert and Ms. Robertson

This resolution was adopted.

25. [RES. 2023-R049](#) To approve the Mayor's appointment of Marilyn West as a member of the Board of Directors of the Richmond Metropolitan Transportation Authority for a term commencing on Sept. 25, 2023, and expiring Sept. 25, 2027.

Patrons: City Council

This resolution was adopted.

Public Hearing

Barbara Starkey-Goode, Oak Grove Civic Association President, spoke in opposition of ORD. 2023-243, and requested that Council continue consideration of the proposed ordinance.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Frank Wilson, Oak Grove Civic Association member, spoke in opposition of ORD. 2023-243, but he informed Council that he hoped the city would support future developments located near the proposed development referenced in ORD. 2023-243.

Charles Willis, Richmond Highway Neighborhood Civic Association President, spoke in support of ORD. 2023-243, and stated the redevelopment of the former school located at 2200 Ingram Avenue would improve safety in the surrounding area.

Bishop Ernest Moore, Jr., Destiny Community Church, spoke in support of ORD. 2023-243, and stated the Oak Grove community needed the additional housing referenced in the proposed ordinance.

Robert Bolling, ChildSavers Chief Executive Officer, spoke in support of RES. 2023-R048, and stated the Child Care and Education Trust Fund referenced in the proposed resolution would help address the need for affordable child care in the city.

Dorothy Billups spoke in support of RES. 2023-R048, and stated the funds referenced in the resolution would help establish regulated child care facilities for families in the city.

Charles Snellings, Oak Grove Neighborhood Association President, spoke in support of ORD. 2023-243. Mr. Snellings stated that the majority of surrounding residents supported the redevelopment of the property located at 2200 Ingram Avenue.

Grace Washington spoke in support of ORD. 2023-243, and stated that the proposed development will help create wealth in the surrounding neighborhood.

Sandra Antoine spoke in support of RES. 2023-R048, and stated that Council should not block the opportunity to provide child care assistance to city residents.

Sarah Eicher, Children's Funding Project Research Associate, spoke in support of RES. 2023-R048, and stated that the cost of high quality child care was unaffordable for many city residents. Ms. Eicher also stated that she believed the trust fund referenced in the proposed resolution would provide needed affordability assistance.

Elliot Haspel spoke in support of RES. 2023-R048, and stated that affordable child care was difficult to obtain for many city residents. Mr. Haspel also stated that high quality child care provided parents the ability to work while their children experienced developmental opportunities.

Councilors Katherine Jordan and Stephanie Lynch stated their support for continuing consideration of ORD. 2023-258, previously addressed during review of agenda amendments.

Vice President Kristen Nye stated her support for ORD. 2023-243 and the redevelopment of the vacant school property located at 2200 Ingram Avenue.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch requested to be added as a co-patron of ORD. 2023-247, and she requested that the city ensure the community is made aware of the funding referenced in the ordinance.

Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert requested that Council Chief of Staff LaTasha Holmes follow up with city administration regarding outreach for the funds referenced in ORD. 2023-247.

There were no further comments or discussions and the Consent Agenda was unanimously adopted.

The Regular Agenda

The following ordinance was considered:

27. [ORD. 2023-235](#) To repeal City Code § 30-697.3, concerning short-term rentals located in certain other zoning districts, and to amend City Code §§ 30-414.2, concerning permitted accessory uses and structures, 30-424.1, concerning permitted principal uses, 30-432.1, concerning permitted principal uses, 30-449.2, concerning permitted principal and accessory uses, 30-697.1, concerning short-term rental regulations, 30-697.2, concerning short-term rentals located in certain residential zoning districts, 30-1020.4, concerning the fees for filing an application for a certificate of zoning compliance, and 30-1220.98:2, concerning the definition for short-term rental operator.
(As Amended)

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

Kevin Vonck, Department of Planning and Development Review Director, provided an introduction and additional background information regarding the proposed ordinance. Director Vonck stated that city administration recommends that Council approve ORD. 2023-235.

Public Hearing

Terricinia St. Clair spoke in opposition of ORD. 2023-235, and stated the short-term rental restrictions would limit her ability to earn income on her property in the city.

Thomas Courtney spoke in opposition of ORD. 2023-235, and he addressed taxes related to short-term rentals in the city.

Tim Pfohl, Bellevue Civic Association President, spoke in support of ORD. 2023-235, and stated that his neighbors support the residency requirement referenced in the ordinance.

Susan Rebillot, Ginter Park Residents Association President, spoke in support of ORD. 2023-235, and she stated her appreciation for city staff that worked on the proposed ordinance.

Robin Levey spoke in support of ORD. 2023-235, and stated the country was experiencing a housing crisis. Ms. Levey also stated her support for the primary residency requirement referenced in the ordinance.

Thomas Innes spoke in support of ORD. 2023-235, and stated that the city made an adequate concession in allowing non-primary residency short-term rentals in non-residential districts.

Amy Guzulaitis, Partnership for Smarter Growth Policy Coordinator, spoke in support of ORD. 2023-235, and stated the primary residency requirement will prohibit corporations from purchasing potential short-term rental properties in the city.

Jonathan Marcus spoke in support of ORD. 2023-235, and stated the ordinance would allow short-term rental operators to continue short-term rental businesses in non-residential zones.

Martha Warthen spoke in support of ORD. 2023-235, and requested that Council adopt the ordinance as presented.

Melissa Savenko, Fan District Association Code Enforcement and Zoning Committee Chair, stated that the Fan District Association supported the primary residency requirement referenced in the ordinance.

Councilor Andreas Addison stated he believed ORD. 2023-235 and the primary residency requirement will help improve home purchase availability in the city.

Councilor Katherine Jordan stated her support for the primary residency requirement in residential districts, and she noted her appreciation for city staff that helped draft ORD. 2023-235.

Vice President Kristen Nye stated her support for the primary residency requirement to operate a short-term rental in residential zoning districts.

President Michael Jones stated his support for the primary residency requirement and its impact on residential neighborhoods.

**There were no further comments or discussions and ORD. 2023-235 was adopted:
Ayes 8, Addison, Jordan, Robertson, Lynch, Trammell, Newbille, Nye, Jones.
Noes None. Lambert was excused.**

The following ordinance was considered:

26. [ORD. 2023-196](#) To amend and reordain City Code §§ 30-402.2, 30-411.3, 30-412.2, 30-413.3, 30-413.13, 30-414.2, 30-416.2, 30-418.2, 30-419.4, 30-420.2, and 30-426.2, all concerning permitted accessory uses and structures in certain zoning districts, and § 30-1040.3, concerning additional exceptions granted by the Board of Zoning Appeals; and to amend ch. 30, art. XII of the City Code by adding therein a new § 30-1220.31:1, concerning certain definitions.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

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

Public Hearing

Joh Gehlbach, Richmond Association of Realtors Vice President of Government Affairs, spoke in support of ORD. 2023-196, and stated the Richmond Association of Realtors also supports the ordinance.

Charles Yang, RVA YIMBY member, spoke in support of ORD. 2023-196, and stated the ordinance would allow families to remain in the city as they grow and change lifestyle requirements.

Will Wilson, RVA YIMBY member, spoke in support Ord. 2023-196, and he informed Council of other locations that used accessory dwelling units to address housing shortages.

Andrew Bryant, RVA YIMBY member, spoke in support of ORD. 2023-196, and stated the ordinance would help create more housing stock in the city.

Nelson Parker spoke in support of ORD. 2023-196, and stated that he supported the use of accessory dwelling units by right. Mr. Parker also stated accessory dwelling units would help provide affordable housing for residents.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch stated her appreciation for city staff's work regarding the proposed ordinance.

Councilor Andreas Addison stated his support for ORD. 2023-196. Councilor Addison stated that the construction of accessory dwelling units was not an easy project and that residents should not fear a large increase in units in their neighborhoods.

Councilor Katherine Jordan stated her appreciation for city staff that worked on the proposed ordinance, and she also stated her appreciation for residents that supported the permitting of accessory dwelling units by right.

There were no further comments or discussions and ORD. 2023-196 was adopted: Ayes 8, Addison, Jordan, Robertson, Lynch, Trammell, Newbille, Nye, Jones. Noes None. Lambert was excused.

The following resolution was considered:

28. [RES. 2023-R050](#) To support, subject to the approval of the Virginia Retirement System Board of Trustees, the election of the City of Richmond to join the Virginia Retirement System and to provide retirement benefits for its eligible employees beginning the first day of January 2024.

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

Chief Administrative Officer Lincoln Saunders provided an introduction and additional background information regarding the proposed resolution.

Public Hearing

Stacy Rogers, Richmond Police Department Sergeant, spoke in opposition of RES. 2023-R050, and he stated his concerns about the impact on his current retirement program with the Richmond Retirement System (RRS). Mr. Rogers also stated a switch to the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) would negatively impact the city's ability to hire police officers.

Rick Edwards, Richmond Police Chief, spoke in support of RES. 2023-R050, and stated the switch to VRS would not harm the city's ability to hire and retain police officers.

Bob Steidel, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Operations, spoke in support of RES. 2023-R050, and he stated the transition to VRS would help hire and retain city staff.

Diveda Palmer, Department of Human Resources Training and Development Division Chief, spoke in support of RES. 2023-R050, and stated that she believed VRS was a better retirement option for employees.

Rachel Berry, Department of Human Resources Leadership and Development Specialist, spoke in support of RES. 2023-R050, and stated that the transition to VRS would improve the financial future of city employees.

David Summers, Department of Information Technology (DIT) Deputy Director of Operations, spoke in support of RES. 2023-R050, and stated the transition would help DIT recruit employees.

Bambi Walser, Department of Human Resources, Leadership and Development Trainer, spoke in support of RES. 2023-R050, and stated that the transition to VRS was an important aspect of recruiting and retaining city staff.

Charles Todd, Department of Information Technology Director, spoke in support of RES. 2023-R050, and stated he believed the city's transition to VRS would be a wise decision by Council.

Robin Redmond, Department of Human Resources Deputy Director, Senior, spoke in support of RES. 2023-R050. Ms. Redmond stated that the majority of local governments in Virginia participate in VRS, and that the city's transition would help hire and retain potential employees from other localities.

Darryl Rivers, Department of Public Utilities (DPU) Program and Operations Supervisor, on behalf of DPU Director April Bingham, spoke in support of RES. 2023-R050, and stated that city residents would receive improved city services if the city is able to recruit and retain talented staff due to the transition to VRS.

Rick Bishop, 8th District City Council Liaison, spoke in support of RES. 2023-R050, and stated that VRS was a better retirement program because it would provide retired city employees with a guaranteed cost of living increase.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

James Ratliff, Office of Strategic Communications Management Analyst, spoke in support of RES. 2023-R050, and the guaranteed cost of living adjustment that VRS would provide.

Josette Fairwell, Department of Finance Administrative Technician, Senior, spoke in support of RES. 2023-R050, and stated a transition to VRS would give her piece of mind regarding her future after retirement.

Cynthia Osborne, Department of Finance Executive Assistant, Senior, spoke in support of RES. 2023-R050, and stated VRS would allow her to retire comfortably in the city.

Donetta Alexandria McQueen, Department of Emergency Communications Executive Assistant to the Director, spoke in support of RES. 2023-R050, and stated the transition to VRS would provide a substantial improvement for her retirement planning.

Meiling Qu, Department of Finance, spoke in support of RES. 2023-R050, and addressed her prior experiences with VRS.

Fire Chief Melvin Carter spoke in support of RES. 2023-R050, and stated the transition to VRS would help recruit and retain city employees.

Jessica Singer, Department of Finance Senior Policy Analyst, spoke in support of RES. 2023-R050, and stated that the transition to VRS would help retain public service employees.

Shaletha Dyson, Department of Human Resources Deputy Director, Senior, spoke in support of RES. 2023-R050, and stated the transition to VRS would help with employee recruitment.

Rene Almaraz, Department of Procurement Services Director, spoke in support of RES. 2023-R050, and stated the transition to VRS would help attract and retain employees to the city.

Sharon Ebert, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (DCAO) for Planning and Economic Development, spoke in support of RES. 2023-R050, and stated the resolution would allow current employees the choice to remain with RRS or transition to VRS. DCAO Ebert also stated the VRS program would help recruit and retain city employees.

Caprichia Spellman, Office of Community Wealth Building Director, spoke in support of RES. 2023-R050, and stated she believed VRS would provide new opportunities to city employees.

Bobby Vincent, Department of Public Works Director, spoke in support of RES. 2023-R050, and he stated VRS would bring improved retirement benefits to city employees.

Louisa Meyer, Office of the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Finance and Administration Senior Policy Advisor, Research and Policy Analysis, spoke in support of RES. 2023-R050, and stated VRS would help improve the city's employee recruitment efforts.

Shelia White, Department of Finance Director, spoke in support of RES. 2023-R050, and stated the transition to VRS would help the Department of Finance recruit and retain employees.

Kevin Vonck, Department of Planning and Development Review Director, spoke in support of RES. 2023-R050, and stated the transition to VRS would help the Department of Planning and Development Review hire skilled employees from surrounding localities.

Tyrome Alexander, Department of Human Resources Director, spoke in support of RES. 2023-R050, and stated the transition to VRS would help the city recruit and retain mid-level employees.

Leonard Sledge, Director of Economic Development, spoke in support of RES. 2023-R050, and stated the transition to VRS would help attract potential employees from other localities.

Dawn Barber, Department of Justice Services Director, spoke in support of RES. 2023-R050, and stated the transition to VRS would help recruit and retain city employees.

Sherrill Hampton, Department of Housing and Community Development Director, spoke in support of RES. 2023-R050, and stated the transition to VRS would help address recruitment issues.

Megan Field, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer Senior Policy Advisor, spoke in support of RES. 2023-R050, and stated the transition to VRS would attract potential employees that specifically want to work for the city.

Jeffrey Crawford, Department of Finance Programs and Operations Manager, spoke in support of RES. 2023-R050, and stated the transition to VRS would help retain talented city employees.

Councilor Andreas Addison stated his support for RES. 2023-R050, and he noted his belief that VRS would increase employee participation in retirement planning. Councilor Addison also stated that he believed the VRS option would help prevent employees leaving to work in other localities.

Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert stated her appreciation for city employees that provided feedback regarding employee retirement plan options.

Councilor Ellen Robertson stated consideration of RES. 2023-R050 provided Council an opportunity to make a positive impact on city employees. Councilor Robertson also stated she believed employees would appreciate the guaranteed cost of living adjustment VRS will provide.

Councilor Cynthia Newbille stated she believed the transition to VRS and potential for a guaranteed cost of living adjustment would be a positive investment for city employees.

Councilor Reva Trammell stated her appreciation for city employees that provided her feedback regarding RES. 2023-R050. Councilor Trammell also stated she hoped city administration would address the retirement concerns raised by the city's public safety employees.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch stated Council was aware of retirement concerns raised by public safety employees. Councilor Lynch also stated Council should work on drafting a resolution to affirm the city's commitment to RRS if RES. 2023-R050 is adopted.

Vice President Kristen Nye stated her concerns with the amount of time provided to Council to review RES. 2023-R050. Vice President Nye also stated she would vote to adopt RES. 2023-R050, but noted she wanted to ensure future meetings with city administration to address her and city employee concerns and questions regarding the transition to VRS.

President Michael Jones stated his appreciation for city employees that provided comment regarding RES. 2023-R050. President Jones also stated he believed the option of VRS would allow the city to recruit and retain city employees.

There were no further comments or discussions and RES. 2023-R050 was unanimously adopted.

Motions

Councilor Cynthia Newbille moved to expedite consideration of the following resolution:

29. [RES. 2023-R051](#) To appoint Tamiya R. Lunsford to the position of Council Budget Analyst.

Patrons: President Jones

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Council Chief of Staff LaTasha Holmes provided an introduction and additional background information regarding the proposed resolution.

There were no further comments or discussions and RES. 2023-R051 was unanimously adopted.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

There were no amendments or corrections to the meeting minutes of the Special Meeting held on Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.; Informal and Formal Council Sessions held on Monday, September 11, 2023, at 4:00 p.m., and 6:00 p.m., respectively; and Council approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2023.297](#) September 5, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes

[CD.2023.291](#) September 11, 2023 Informal Meeting Minutes

[CD.2023.295](#) September 11, 2023 Formal Meeting Minutes

Introduction of Ordinances and Resolutions

[CD.2023.303](#) September 25, 2023 Introduction Papers List

City Council will hold a public hearing on the following ordinances and resolutions on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.:

30. [ORD. 2023-273](#) To amend Ord. No. 2023-071, adopted May 8, 2023, which adopted the annual budget, which includes all of the separate current expense budgets for the general operation of the City government and for each utility as defined in ch. 13 of the City Charter, for the fiscal year commencing Jul. 1, 2023, and ending Jun. 30, 2024, and to appropriate the estimated revenues for such fiscal year for the objects and purposes stated in such budget, to now adopt the Fiscal Year 2024 Council District Funds budgets.

Patrons: President Jones

This ordinance was introduced and committee referral waived pursuant to Rule VI(B)(3)(c).

31. [ORD. 2023-274](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to accept funds in the amount of \$460,674.00 from the Virginia Department of Social Services, to amend the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Special Fund Budget by creating a new special fund for the Office of Community Wealth Building called the RVA Health Corps AmeriCorps Special Fund, and to appropriate the increase to the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Special Fund Budget by increasing estimated revenues and the amount appropriated to the Office of Community Wealth Building's RVA Health Corps AmeriCorps Special Fund by \$460,674.00, for the purpose of providing funding for 16 specially-trained community health workers for underserved neighborhoods in the city.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was introduced and committee referral waived pursuant to Rule VI(B)(3)(c).

32. [ORD. 2023-275](#) To amend Ord. No. 2023-071, adopted May 8, 2023, which adopted the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Internal Service Fund Budgets, by re-appropriating \$9,586,631.81 from the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Information Technology fund balance to the Department of Information Technology Internal Service Fund to fund necessary equipment replacement expenses.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was introduced and committee referral waived pursuant to Rule VI(B)(3)(c).

33. [ORD. 2023-276](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute an ARPA Grant Agreement - Highland Grove Development Area between the City of Richmond and the Better Housing Coalition, for the purpose of facilitating the completion of infrastructure for the Highland Grove Redevelopment Phase I project.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Organizational Development Standing Committee meeting on Monday, October 2, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

34. [ORD. 2023-277](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Grant Agreement between the City of Richmond, Walmsley Gardens, LLC, and the Economic Development Authority of the City of Richmond for the purpose of facilitating the construction of an affordable residential development located at 4818, 4824, 4830, 4838, 4850 and 4890 Walmsley Boulevard. (9th District)

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Organizational Development Standing Committee meeting on Monday, October 2, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

35. [ORD. 2023-278](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Grant Agreement between the City of Richmond, The View at Belle Isle Apartments, LP, and the Economic Development Authority of the City of Richmond for the purpose of facilitating the construction of an affordable residential development located at 812 Hull Street, 811 Decatur Street, 813 Decatur Street, and 6 East 9th Street. (6th District)

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Organizational Development Standing Committee meeting on Monday, October 2, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

36. [ORD. 2023-279](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Grant Agreement between the City of Richmond, Oak Grove Multifamily, LLC, and the Economic Development Authority of the City of Richmond for the purpose of facilitating the construction of an affordable residential development located at 2200 Ingram Avenue. (8th District)

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Organizational Development Standing Committee meeting on Monday, October 2, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

37. [ORD. 2023-280](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Grant Agreement between the City of Richmond,

700 West 44, LP, and the Economic Development Authority of the City of Richmond for the purpose of facilitating the construction of an affordable residential development located at 700 West 44th Street. (5th District)

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Organizational Development Standing Committee meeting on Monday, October 2, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

38. [RES. 2023-R052](#) To approve the Richmond Behavioral Health Authority's performance contract for Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025.

Patrons: Ms. Newbille

This resolution was introduced and referred to the Governmental Operations Standing Committee meeting on Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

39. [RES. 2023-R053](#) To designate the property known as 2200 Ingram Avenue as a revitalization area pursuant to Va. Code § 36-55.30:2.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

This resolution was introduced and referred to the Organizational Development Standing Committee meeting on Monday, October 2, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

City Council will hold a public hearing on the following ordinances on Monday, November 13, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.:

40. [ORD. 2023-281](#) To approve an amendment to the Master Plan for the City of Richmond, adopted by the City Planning Commission on Oct. 5, 2020, and approved by the City Council by Ord. No. 2020-236, adopted Dec. 14, 2020, to incorporate the Priority Neighborhoods Master Plan Amendment designating Creighton Court, Fairfield Court, Hillside Court, Mosby Court North, Mosby Court South, and Whitcomb Court as priority growth neighborhoods.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Monday, October 16, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.

41. [ORD. 2023-282](#) To amend Ord. No. 2006-194-200, adopted Jul. 24, 2006, and last amended by Ord. No. 2013-197-186, adopted Oct. 14, 2013, which authorized the special use of the property known as 900 West Franklin Street for the purpose of the expansion of a nonconforming retail bookstore, additional signage, and an increase in the radius within which required parking must be provided, to authorize uses permitted in the B-5 Central Business District and to waive parking requirements for those uses, upon certain terms and conditions. (2nd District)

Patrons: Mayor Stoney (By Request)

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Monday, October 16, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.

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42. [ORD. 2023-283](#) To authorize the special use of the property known as 615 Maple Avenue for the purpose of an accessory building to a single-family detached dwelling, upon certain terms and conditions. (1st District)
- Patrons:** Mayor Stoney (By Request)
- This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Monday, October 16, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.**
43. [ORD. 2023-284](#) To authorize the special use of the property known as 6426 Three Chopt Road for the purpose of an accessory building, upon certain terms and conditions. (1st District)
- Patrons:** Mayor Stoney (By Request)
- This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Monday, October 16, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.**
44. [ORD. 2023-285](#) To authorize the special use of the property known as 4400 Warwick Road for the purpose of a single-family detached dwelling with an accessory garage, upon certain terms and conditions. (8th District)
- Patrons:** Mayor Stoney (By Request)
- This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Monday, October 16, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.**
45. [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
- This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.**
46. [ORD. 2023-287](#) To provide for the granting by the City of Richmond to the person, firm or corporation to be ascertained in the manner prescribed by law of an easement upon, over, under, and across certain property located at 1 Hull Street, 101 Hull Street, and 2 Decatur Street for the relocation, construction, maintenance, and operation of improvements and associated appurtenances of communication systems and facilities in accordance with a certain Deed of Easement. (6th District)
- Patrons:** Mayor Stoney
- This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.**
47. [ORD. 2023-288](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a First Amendment to Lease between the City of Richmond, as lessor, and Capital Area Health Network, doing business as

Vernon J. Harris East End Community Health Center, as lessee, for the purpose of providing health center office space for the Vernon J. Harris East End Community Health Center at 719 North 25th Street. (7th District)

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee meeting on Thursday, October 19, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

48. [ORD. 2023-289](#) To amend and reordain City Code § 26-355, concerning the levy of tax on real estate, to establish a tax rate of \$1.20 for the tax year beginning Jan. 1, 2024, pursuant to Va. Code § 58.1-3321(b), and increasing such rate from the Rolled Back Tax Rate of \$1.125 as computed in accordance with Va. Code § 58.1-3321(a).

Patrons: President Jones

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee meeting on Thursday, October 19, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

49. [ORD. 2023-290](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Landowner Concurrence Form to Install Structural or Vegetative Conservation Activities between the City of Richmond and The Happily Natural Day for the purpose of funding community garden improvements to the Sankofa Community Orchard located at 309 Covington Road. (9th District)

Patrons: President Jones

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

City Council will hold a public hearing on the following ordinance on Monday, December 11, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.:

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

Patrons: Ms. Robertson

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting on Tuesday, November 21, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

Reports or Announcements by Members of the Council

Members of Council provided reports and announcements regarding respective district meetings and activities.

Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert left the meeting at 8:59 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

CITY CLERK