



City of Richmond

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

Informal Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 11, 2023

3:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Councilmembers Present

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

Staff Present

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

Call to Order

Council President Michael Jones called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Announcement

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.

Docket Review

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

Consent Agenda:

1. Ord. 2022-191 – to be continued to Monday, January 8, 2024
2. Ord. 2022-205 – to be continued to Monday, January 8, 2024

3. Ord. 2023-286 – to be continued to Monday, February 26, 2024
4. Ord. 2023-291 – retained on the Consent Agenda
5. Ord. 2023-292 – retained on the Consent Agenda
6. Ord. 2023-293 – retained on the Consent Agenda
7. Ord. 2023-295 – retained on the Consent Agenda
8. Ord. 2023-296 – retained on the Consent Agenda
9. Ord. 2023-326 – retained on the Consent Agenda
10. Ord. 2023-327 – retained on the Consent Agenda
11. Ord. 2023-328 – retained on the Consent Agenda
12. Ord. 2023-329 – retained on the Consent Agenda
13. Ord. 2023-330 – retained on the Consent Agenda
14. Ord. 2023-331 – retained on the Consent Agenda
15. Ord. 2023-332 – retained on the Consent Agenda
16. Ord. 2023-333 – retained on the Consent Agenda
17. Ord. 2023-334 – retained on the Consent Agenda
18. Ord. 2023-335 – retained on the Consent Agenda
19. Ord. 2023-336 – retained on the Consent Agenda
20. Ord. 2023-337 – retained on the Consent Agenda
21. Ord. 2023-338 – retained on the Consent Agenda
22. Ord. 2023-339 – to be continued to Monday, March 11, 2024
23. Ord. 2023-340 – to be continued to Monday, January 8, 2024
24. Ord. 2023-341 – retained on the Consent Agenda
25. Ord. 2023-342 – retained on the Consent Agenda
26. Ord. 2023-343 – retained on the Consent Agenda

27. Ord. 2023-344 – retained on the Consent Agenda
28. Ord. 2023-345 – retained on the Consent Agenda
29. Ord. 2023-346 – to be continued to Monday, January 8, 2024
30. Ord. 2023-347 – to be amended and continued to Monday, January 8, 2024
31. Ord. 2023-348 – retained on the Consent Agenda
32. Ord. 2023-349 – retained on the Consent Agenda
33. Ord. 2023-350 – retained on the Consent Agenda
34. Ord. 2023-351 – retained on the Consent Agenda
35. Ord. 2023-352 – retained on the Consent Agenda
36. Res. 2023-R011 – to be continued to Monday, February 12, 2024
37. Res. 2023-R024 – to be continued to Monday, January 8, 2024
38. Res. 2023-R055 – retained on the Consent Agenda
39. Res. 2023-R056 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Regular Agenda:

40. Res. 2023-R057 – retained on the Regular Agenda

Councilor Cynthia Newbille requested to be added as a co-patron of Res. 2023-R057, however, she asked that there be a delineated process for vetting future changes to the City Charter, which are inclusive and agreed upon by all members of Council prior to introduction of the legislation.

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

Other Discussion Item(s)

Equitable Affordable Housing Bond Program Follow-Up

Sabrina Joy-Hogg, deputy chief administrative officer – Finance and Administration, provided Council with an update regarding the equitable affordable housing bond program and stated that additional information will be presented in February during the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee meeting and an affordable housing strategies work session.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch arrived at 3:13 p.m. and was seated.

Vice President Kristen Nye stated that city administration will also provide Council with an update regarding the city's debt capacity during the January Organizational Development Standing Committee meeting.

2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) Update

Chief Administrative Officer Lincoln Saunders informed Council that the 2023 annual comprehensive financial report update will be presented in January.

Closed Session

At 3:18 p.m., Councilor Cynthia Newbille moved that the Council go into a closed meeting (i) pursuant to subdivision (A)(1) of section 2.2-3711 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to discuss and consider the assignment, performance, and salaries of certain Council liaisons, (ii) pursuant to subdivision (A)(8) of section 2.2-3711 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to consult with legal counsel retained by the public body regarding collective bargaining requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel, and (iii) pursuant to subdivision (A)(29) of section 2.2-3711 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to discuss the terms and scope of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds regarding the Diamond District development project in the city where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the City.

The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 7, Jordan, Lambert, Lynch, Trammell, Newbille, Nye, Jones. Noes None. Addison and Robertson had not yet arrived.

Councilor Andreas Addison arrived at 4:10 p.m. and joined the closed session.

Councilor Ellen Robertson arrived at 5:07 p.m. and joined the closed session.

Councilor Katherine Jordan motioned to exit closed session. The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 8, Addison, Jordan, Lambert, Lynch, Trammell, Newbille, Nye, Jones. Noes None. Robertson had departed the meeting.

Councilors reconvened in open session at 5:22 p.m.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING December 11, 2023

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:

Michael J. Jones, President
Kristen Nye, Vice President
Andreas D. Addison
Katherine Jordan
Ann-Frances Lambert
Cynthia I. Newbille
Stephanie A. Lynch
Ellen F. Robertson (early departure)
Reva M. Trammell

DECLINING TO CERTIFY:

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

CITY CLERK