



City of Richmond

Informal Meeting Minutes

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
www.richmondgov.com/cityclerk

Monday, July 27, 2020

4:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall
Virtual Meeting

Councilmembers Present

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President
The Honorable Chris Hilbert, Vice President (late arrival)
The Honorable Andreas Addison
The Honorable Kim Gray
The Honorable Michael Jones (late arrival)
The Honorable Kristen Larson
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch
The Honorable Ellen Robertson (late arrival)
The Honorable Reva Trammell

Staff Present

Lawrence Anderson, Council Chief of Staff
Lisa Braxton, Council Management Analyst
Haskell Brown, Interim City Attorney
Meghan Brown, Deputy Council Chief of Staff
Candice Reid, City Clerk
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. and presided.

ELECTRONIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Council Management Analyst Lisa Braxton, in accordance with Ordinance No. 2020-093, adopted April 9, 2020, 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 advisory issued on June 24, 2020, 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. 2018-324 – to be continued to Monday, September 14, 2020
2. Ord. 2018-325 – to be continued to Monday, September 14, 2020
3. Ord. 2019-275 – to be continued to Monday, September 28, 2020
4. Ord. 2019-276 – to be continued to Monday, September 28, 2020
5. Ord. 2020-103 – to be continued to Monday, September 14, 2020

6. Ord. 2020-104 – to be continued to Monday, September 14, 2020
7. Ord. 2020-105 – to be continued to Monday, September 14, 2020
8. Ord. 2020-107 – retained on the Consent Agenda
9. Ord. 2020-117 – to be continued to Monday, September 28, 2020
10. Ord. 2020-140 – retained on the Consent Agenda
11. Ord. 2020-141 – retained on the Consent Agenda
12. Ord. 2020-142 – retained on the Consent Agenda
13. Ord. 2020-143 – retained on the Consent Agenda
14. Ord. 2020-144 – retained on the Consent Agenda
15. Ord. 2020-147 – withdrawn
16. Ord. 2020-148 – to be amended and continued to Monday, September 14, 2020
17. Ord. 2020-149 – retained on the Consent Agenda
18. Ord. 2020-150 – retained on the Consent Agenda
19. Ord. 2020-151 – retained on the Consent Agenda
20. Ord. 2020-152 – retained on the Consent Agenda
21. Res. 2020-R013 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Councilor Ellen Robertson joined the meeting at 4:07 p.m.

22. Res. 2020-R039 – moved to the Regular Agenda

Councilors Kristen Larson and Kim Gray requested that proposed Res. 2020-R039 be moved to the Regular Agenda to allow for additional discussion.

Councilor Michael Jones joined the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Councilor Ellen Robertson introduced Res. 2020-R039 and stated she did not object to the proposed legislation being placed on the Regular Agenda.

Councilor Michael Jones also expressed the desire to further discuss Res. 2020-R039 later that evening at the Formal Session of Council.

It was the consensus of Council to move Res. 2020-R039 to the Regular Agenda

Interim City Attorney Haskell Brown informed Council that Res. 2020-R039 did not address the order by which the proposed request would be prioritized.

23. Res. 2020-R044 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Regular Agenda:

24. Ord. 2018-236 – to be continued to Monday, September 14, 2020
25. Ord. 2019-320 – retained on the Regular Agenda

Councilor Andreas Addison introduced Ord. 2019-320.

26. Ord. 2020-041 – retained on the Regular Agenda

Council Management Analyst Lisa Braxton informed Council that after allowing an opportunity for a public hearing later that evening at the Formal Session of Council, the Planning Commission recommended the proposed legislation be denied.

27. Ord. 2020-145 – retained on the Regular Agenda

28. Ord. 2020-146 – retained on the Regular Agenda

29. Ord. 2020-153 – to be continued to Monday, September 28, 2020

30. Ord. 2020-155 – retained on the Regular Agenda

31. Res. 2019-R057 – to be continued to Monday, November 9, 2020

32. Res. 2020-R045 – retained on the Regular Agenda

33. Res. 2020-R046 – to be continued to Monday, August 10, 2020

Commonwealth Attorney Colette McEachin provided information regarding Res. 2020-R046, and she asked that the proposed legislation be amended eliminating the request for quarterly reporting of certain special funds associated with her office.

Councilor Michael Jones clarified the intent of Res. 2020-R046 and suggested that the proposed legislation remain as written.

Vice President Chris Hilbert joined the meeting at 4:27 p.m.

Interim City Attorney Haskell Brown was available to answer questions regarding Res. 2020-R046 and stated that the proposed legislation requests a report containing relevant data of certain special funds be prepared only by city administration.

Councilor Kristen Larson asked that Res. 2020-R046 be continued to allow an opportunity to possibly amend the proposed legislation.

Councilor Jones stated his objection to the suggested continuance.

Acting Chief Administrative Officer Lenora Reid informed Council that since the Commonwealth Attorney state and federal asset forfeiture special funds are reported annually, additional reporting would be required with the adoption of Res. 2020-R046.

Interim City Attorney Brown stated that his office would not be able to draft an amendment to Res. 2020-R046 for consideration later that evening at the Formal Session of Council.

It was the consensus of Council to continue Res. 2020-R046 to the August 10, 2020 Special Meeting of Council.

34. Res. 2020-R047 – retained on the Regular Agenda

35. Res. 2020-R049 – withdrawn

Councilors Stephanie Lynch and Ellen Robertson requested to be added as co-patrons of Res. 2020-R044.

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

Homelessness Strategy Update

Kelly King Horne, Homeward executive director, provided Council with an update regarding the city's homeless strategic plan, which included an overview of the plan and regional efforts, goals, metrics and key challenges, and collaborative pandemic response of engagement efforts. A copy of the presentation provided has been filed.

Eviction Diversion Program Report

Monica Jefferson, Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Virginia, vice president and chief operating officer, provided Council with information pertaining to the city's eviction diversion program, including accomplishments, performance measures progress and data sets. A copy of the information provided has been filed.

Closed Session Motion

At 5:24 p.m., Councilor Kristen Larson moved that the City Council hold a closed meeting pursuant to Sections 2.2-3711(A)(7) of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to consult with legal counsel pertaining to actual litigation commenced against city officials concerning the removal of Confederate monuments in the city.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Councilor Michael Jones motioned to exit closed session. The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 8, Jones, Robertson, Larson, Gray, Trammell, Addison, Hilbert, Newbille. Noes None. Lynch excused.

Councilors reconvened in open session at 5:54 p.m.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

July 27, 2020

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
Christopher A. Hilbert, Vice President

DECLINING TO CERTIFY:

Andreas D. Addison
Kimberly B. Gray
Kristen N. Larson
Stephanie A. Lynch (excused)
Ellen F. Robertson
Reva M. Trammell
Michael J. Jones

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

CITY CLERK

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