



City of Richmond

Meeting Minutes

Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee

Thursday, January 16, 2020

1:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor – City Hall

Committee Members and Others in Attendance

The Honorable Michael Jones – Chair
The Honorable Ellen F. Robertson – Member
Samson Anderson, Council Budget Analyst
Meghan Brown, Deputy Council Chief of Staff
Bill Echelberger, Council Budget Analyst
Allison Miessler, Boards and Commissions Administrator
Pamela Nichols, Assistant City Clerk
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Tabrica Rentz, Acting Deputy City Attorney
Dominique Thaxton, Assistant City Clerk
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Absent

The Honorable Kristen Larson – Vice Chair

Call to Order

Chair Michael Jones called the meeting to order at 1:09 p.m., and presided.

Evacuation Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Dominique J. Thaxton, assistant city clerk, 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 corrections or amendments to the meeting minutes of Thursday, November 21, 2019, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

Board Vacancies

Allison Miessler, boards and commissions administrator, reviewed board applications for consideration by the committee.

Member Ellen Robertson moved to forward the following board appointment applications to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved:

Board Name	Criteria for Appointment	Applicant Name
Minority Business Enterprise & Emerging Small Business Advisory Board (7 directors)	Representatives of a minority business enterprise* (2 vacancies)	Jonette Meade Barley (4 th District Resident) (reappointment) Morris Cephas (2 nd District Employment)

** Applicants must either reside or work in the city.*

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Presentation(s)

A Comparison of the Retiree Healthcare Benefits, Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)

Robin Redmond, Department of Human Resources division chief, presented the committee with an overview of the city of Richmond post-employment plans as compared to other localities. Ms. Redmond provided the committee members with information regarding the retirement funds, life insurance and healthcare options currently offered as post-employment benefits.

Member Ellen Robertson requested a meeting with Ms. Redmond so that all questions regarding the presentation can be addressed. Member Ellen Robertson further asked if it is the intent to request an assessment of the current benefits.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Navy Hill Development Project Update

Leonard Sledge, Department of Economic Development director, presented the committee with an update on the proposed Navy Hill Development (NHD) project. Mr. Sledge stated that an important development in the NHD proposal is the potential reduction in the Increment Financing Area (IFA). The IFA reduction would be made possible through the proposed General Assembly of Virginia House Bill 1345, which would allow for the application of additional state sales and use tax revenues to the city prior to the project's completion.

Member Ellen Robertson inquired if the reduction in IFA would still secure the city with a non-recourse bond. Ms. Robertson also asked if this new process of funding would affect the school funding and if not, asked that administration add an amendment to codify this understanding.

Leonard Sledge stated the underwriters along with the developers have reviewed the new model and have found that the interest rate assumptions and non-recourse bond have not changed.

Lincoln Saunders, Mayor's Office chief of staff, expanded that the administration would be willing to include an amendment to the aforementioned point.

Chair Michael Jones expressed the importance of transparency with the dissemination of information on the NHD proposal.

The committee expressed interest in a work session to present information of the proposed financial changes of NHD proposal in a public forum.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Paper(s) for Consideration

Member Ellen Robertson moved to amend the agenda as follows:

ORD. 2019-275

To amend ch. 6 of the City Code by adding therein a new art. XII (§§ 6-596-6-602) to establish a technology zone program in accordance with Va. Code § 58.1-3850, for the purpose of facilitating the development and location of technology businesses in the city of Richmond, capital investment, and job creation.

Patron: Mr. Addison

To be continued to the February 20, 2020 Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee meeting

ORD. 2019-276

To amend City Code §§ 26-872, concerning definitions related to license taxes, and 26-989, concerning licenses taxes for personal services businesses, and to amend ch. 26, art. XV, div. 2 of the City Code by adding therein a new section numbered 26-1003.1, concerning the license tax for technology businesses, for the purpose of creating a new business, profession, and occupation license category called "technology business" and imposing a new license tax on such businesses.

Patron: Mr. Addison

To be continued to the February 20, 2020 Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee meeting

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2019-331

To amend Ord. No. 2019-044, adopted May 13, 2019, as previously amended by Ord. No. 2019-190, adopted Jul. 22, 2019, which appropriated and provided funds for financing the school budget for the fiscal year commencing Jul. 1, 2019, and ending Jun. 30, 2020, to make transfers from the contingency reserves major classification to other major classifications to facilitate the implementation of the School Board's strategic plan.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

Jason Kamras, Richmond Public Schools superintendent, provided an overview of ORD. 2019-331. Mr. Kamras also stated that he sent a report to Council detailing the request.

Member Ellen Robertson asked that the item be added to the next education compact meeting held so that there can be an overview of the request process.

Meghan Brown, deputy council chief of staff, explained that information regarding the budget transfer was provided to Council via email.

Chair Michael Jones expressed his gratitude to Mr. Kamras for his willingness to work with city administration and Council regarding the funding needs for schools.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2019-331 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2019-339

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to accept in-kind goods and services in the form of a facility upgrade, supplies, installation services, and additional equipment valued at \$142,803.35 from the Commonwealth of Virginia 9-1-1 Services Board, for the purpose of funding costs for improvements to the 9-1-1 call handling equipment within the City's emergency communications network.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

Jackie Crotts, Department of Emergency Communications deputy director of technology, provided an overview of ORD. 2019-339.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2019-339 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2019-340

To amend ch. 12, art. IV of the City Code, concerning fees for City services, by adding therein a new § 12-123, concerning fees for employees of the City's Department of Police who provide law enforcement services at special events, and to amend Appendix A of the City Code by adding therein new fees for City Code § 12-123, for the purpose of establishing the fees to be charged for employees of the City's Department of Police who provide law enforcement services at special events.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

William Friday, Richmond Police Department deputy chief of business services, provided an overview of ORD. 2019-340.

Member Ellen Robertson inquired what the fee structure would be changing to under this request and if they are prepared for organizations not to be able to afford the new fee. Member Robertson stated that there will be inquiry on the additional costs associated with passing this onto the

venders of the events and the frequency of the events.

The committee requested a listing of events in which the police department provides security.

Mr. Friday explained the new fee schedule would calculate the hourly rate for the officers at the time and a half and that the organizers of the events would be responsible for costs. He furthered by stating that the city would be assessing each request on a case-by-case basis.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2019-340 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2019-342

To establish the Citizens' Capital Improvement Plan Commission to advise the Council and the Mayor on matters involving funding priorities within the Capital Improvement Plan established by Ord. No. 2019-043, adopted May 13, 2019.

Patron: Vice President Hilbert

Bill Echelberger, council budget analyst, provided an overview of ORD. 2019-342.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Ellen Robertson moved to continue ORD. 2019-342 to the March 19, 2020 Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2020-006

To amend ch. 26, art. XVIII of the City Code, concerning cigarette taxes, by adding therein a new § 26-1279.1, concerning the establishment of a four percent cigarette tax discount on the sale of heat-applied City cigarette tax stamps, for the purpose of reducing the administrative costs for retailers.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

John Wack, Department of Finance director, provided an overview of ORD. 2020-006.

Member Ellen Robertson inquired about the fiscal impact the proposed legislation would have on projected tax revenues.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2020-006 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2020-007

To amend City Code § 26-967, concerning retail merchants, for the purpose of revising the business license requirements for manufacturers acting as retail merchants.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

John Wack, Department of Finance director, provided an overview of ORD. 2020-007.

Member Ellen Robertson questioned whether the revision to the business license requirement would have a financial impact for such businesses.

Mr. Wack offered that the proposed legislation will not change the operation of businesses; he explained the intent of ORD. 2020-007 is to clarify specific language.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2020-007 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2020-008

To amend and reordain certain fees set forth in Appendix A of the City Code for section 8-545 (concerning fees for the temporary use of Main Street Station) for the purpose of revising the schedule of fees for the temporary use of Main Street Station.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

Lynne Lancaster, Department of Public Works deputy director of parking and mobility, provided an overview of ORD. 2020-008.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2020-008 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2020-009

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Virginia Brownfields Restoration and Economic Redevelopment Assistance Fund Program Site Assessment and Planning Grant Performance Agreement between the City of Richmond, Virginia, and the Virginia Economic Development Partnership Authority for the purpose of enabling the Authority to provide a grant of \$50,000 to the City to assist in the assessment and evaluation of the potential redevelopment and reuse of the former Railroad Club located at 2908 P Street in the city of Richmond.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

Douglas Dunlap, Housing and Community Development director, provided an overview of ORD. 2020-009.

Member Ellen Robertson inquired as to the source of the revenue of the grant.

Mr. Dunlap stated that the grant is being provided by the Virginia Economic Development Partnership Authority.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2020-009 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2020-R002

To authorize the issuance of public utility revenue refunding taxable bonds of the City of Richmond, Virginia in the maximum principal amount of up to \$180,000,000 to refund portions of certain public utility revenue and refunding bonds previously issued by the City, and to authorize the Director of Finance, with the approval of the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City, to sell such refunding bonds for such purposes, providing for the form, details and payment of the such bonds and approving the form of the supplemental indenture of trust.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

James "Jim" Duval, Department of Finance investment and debt portfolio manager, provided an overview of RES. 2020-R002.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Ellen Robertson moved to forward RES. 2020-R002 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2020-R003

To request that the Mayor recommend, and express the Council's intent to support, an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Capital Budget to appropriate \$2,702,003.00 from the Capital Maintenance Reserve to the School ADA Compliance project in the Education category assigned to the School Board of the City of Richmond, Virginia.

Patron: City Council

Bill Echelberger, council budget analyst, provided an overview of RES. 2020-R003.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Ellen Robertson moved to forward RES. 2020-R003 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2020-R004

To approve the issuance by the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority of its multifamily housing revenue bonds in an amount up to \$10,000,000.00 for the acquisition, construction, renovation, rehabilitation and equipping of an approximately 143-unit multifamily residential rental housing project to be known as Bellevue Apartments located at 4203 Chamberlayne Avenue and 4210 Old Brook Road in the city of Richmond.

Patron: Vice President Hilbert

Mike Graff, McGuireWoods partner and Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority's (RRHA) bond counsel, provided an overview of RES. 2020-R004.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Ellen Robertson moved to forward RES. 2020-R004 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

Discussion Item(s)

There were no discussion items.

Staff Report

Bill Echelberger and Samson Anderson, council budget analysts, provided the committee with the January staff report.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:46 p.m.