



City of Richmond

Special Meeting Minutes

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

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

5:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

Rescheduled Special Meeting

Councilmembers Present

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President
The Honorable Katherine Jordan, Vice President
The Honorable Sarah Abubaker
The Honorable Andrew Breton
The Honorable Kenya Gibson
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch (late arrival)
The Honorable Ellen Robertson
The Honorable Reva Trammell
The Honorable Nicole Jones

Call to Order

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., and presided.

Electronic Meeting Announcement

City Clerk Candice Reid, announced that the meeting was being held by electronic communications means using the Microsoft Teams meeting application in accordance with section 2.2-3708.2 of the Code of Virginia due to the state of emergency declared by Governor Youngkin on January 3, 2025, and the local state of emergency declared by Mayor Avula on January 5, 2025. City Clerk Reid also stated that notice of the meeting was provided to the public by means of a public information advisory issued on January 7, 2025, and on the city's website in keeping with usual practice.

Public Speaker Guidelines

Upon the President's request, Deputy City Clerk RJ Warren provided public speaker guidelines.

Expedited Consideration

[CD.2025.003](#) January 8, 2025 Introduction Papers List

Councilor Nicole Jones moved to expedite consideration of the following resolution:

1. [RES. 2025-R002](#) To consent to the Director of Emergency Management's declaration that a local emergency exists in the city of Richmond beginning on January 5, 2025, due to the effects of a winter storm.

Patrons: Mayor Avula

The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 8, Breton, Gibson, Jones, Robertson, Trammell, Abubaker, Jordan, Newbille. Noes None. Lynch had not yet arrived.

Stephen Willoughby, Director of Emergency Communications, Preparedness and Response, provided an introduction and additional information regarding the proposed resolution.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch joined the meeting at 5:07 p.m.

Councilor Kenya Gibson stated her appreciation to city employees for their efforts to restore the city's water service. Councilor Gibson also stated once water service is fully restored, that Council should take action necessary to ensure that no such incident involving the city's water supply occurs again.

President Cynthia Newbille stated that Council will work with Mayor Danny Avula to ensure an investigation takes place regarding the city's loss of water service.

There were no further comments or discussions and RES. 2025-R002 was unanimously adopted.

Vice President Katherine Jordan moved to expedite consideration of the following resolution:

2. [RES. 2025-R003](#) To consent to the Mayor's designation of Sabrina Joy-Hogg as Interim Chief Administrative Officer.

Patrons: Mayor Avula

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Mayor Danny Avula provided an introduction and additional background information regarding the proposed resolution.

Councilor Sarah Abubaker stated that she supported the interim appointment of Sabrina Joy-Hogg as Interim Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), but noted her desire for a nationwide search for a new CAO.

Councilor Kenya Gibson stated that she supported the interim appointment of Sabrina Joy-Hogg as Interim CAO, so long as the city work to appoint a new permanent CAO with no prior involvement with Richmond City government.

Councilor Nicole Jones informed members that she provided feedback to the Robert Bobb Group regarding its search for a new CAO, and she recommended that members schedule interviews with the Robert Bobb Group to provide their own feedback.

President Cynthia Newbille stated her appreciation to Sabrina Joy-Hogg for her work and involvement regarding the mayoral administration transition.

There were no further comments or discussions and RES. 2025-R003 was unanimously adopted.

Councilor Ellen Robertson moved to expedite consideration of the following resolution:

3. [RES. 2025-R004](#) To designate which Council members shall serve on the Council's Standing Committees and the various boards, commissions, and other collegial bodies on which Council members serve.

Patrons: President Newbille

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

President Cynthia Newbille provided an introduction and additional background information regarding the proposed resolution.

Councilor Reva Trammell confirmed that the resolution would appoint her to the Richmond Ambulance Authority Board of Directors.

There were no further comments or discussions and RES. 2025-R004 was unanimously adopted.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

CITY CLERK