



City of Richmond

Minutes

Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

1:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Committee Members and Staff in Attendance

The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Chair
The Honorable Kim Gray – Vice Chair
The Honorable Kristen Larson – Committee member
Lou Brown Ali, Council Chief of Staff
Bonnie Ashley, Deputy City Attorney
Lisa Braxton, Interim Deputy City Clerk
Bill Echelberger Jr., Council Budget Analyst
Pamela Nichols, Assistant City Clerk
Steve Taylor, Council Policy Analyst

Call to Order

Chair Ellen Robertson called the meeting to order at 1:12 p.m.

Evacuation Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Pamela Nichols, 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.

Paper(s) for Consideration

Member Kristen Larson moved to amend the agenda as follows:

RES. 2018-R092

To declare a public necessity to amend the City's zoning ordinance and to initiate an amendment to the City's zoning ordinance to require that certificates of zoning compliance and letters of zoning confirmation be reviewed by the City Attorney prior to issuance.

Patron: Mr. Agelasto

To be continued to November 20, 2018 Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting

ORD. 2018-194

To prohibit, on Brook Road between Brook Road's intersection with Azalea Avenue and Brook Road's intersection with West Charity Street, new travel lanes from being designated to accommodate bicycle travel and lanes currently designated for motor vehicle travel from being converted to accommodate bicycle travel.

Patrons: Ms. Gray and President Hilbert

To be continued to November 20, 2018 Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting

ORD. 2018-228

To rename the Boulevard from its northerly terminus at its intersection with Brookland Parkway and Westwood Avenue to its southerly terminus at Byrd Park as “Arthur Ashe Boulevard.”

Patron: Ms. Gray

To be continued to December 18, 2018 Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting

Vice Chair Kim Gray reported that she was continuing ORD. 2018-228 to the December 18th Committee meeting, to allow time for the Department of Public Works to conduct its review of the request.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Public Comment Period

Betty Booker addressed the committee regarding the desire of residents and business owners in the Historic Boulevard neighborhood to meet with Councilor Kim Gray to discuss the renaming of a portion of the Boulevard.

Approval of Minutes

The committee unanimously agreed to approve the meeting minutes of Tuesday, September 18, 2018.

Presentations

There were no presentations.

Board Vacancies

Pamela Nichols, assistant city clerk, reviewed board applications for consideration by the committee.

Vice Chair Kim Gray moved to forward the following appointment and reappointment board applications to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved:

<u>Board Name</u>	<u>Criteria for Appointment</u>	<u>Applicant Name</u>
Board of Directors of the Central Virginia Waste Management Authority (3 directors and 3 alternates appointed by the city)	Alternate * (3 vacancies)	C. Darlene Mallory
City Planning Commission (9 members)	Qualified voter (1 vacancy)	Elizabeth H. Greenfield (reappointment)
Clean City Commission (15 members)	5 th District qualified voter (1 vacancy)	Mark P. Hickman
	8 th District qualified voter (1 vacancy)	Christopher J Woody Sr.
Slave Trail Commission (17 members)	* Citizen Representative (6 vacancies)	Riqia E. Taylor
Urban Design Committee (10 members)	Member of the City Planning Commission * (1 vacancy)	David Johannas (reappointment)

<u>Board Name</u>	<u>Criteria for Appointment</u>	<u>Applicant Name</u>
Technical Advisory Committee (1 member & 1 alternate appointed by the city)	Technical expert *	Dironna Clarke

* Applicants must either reside or work in the city.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Paper(s) for Consideration

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2018-R083

To establish a policy of the Council that the Council will not consider any ordinance authorizing the execution of any agreement facilitating a development or project that includes a residential component and that involves the conveyance of an interest in City-owned real estate, the expenditure of City funds, in-kind donations from the City, or a tax credit or exemption without a contractual obligation that a minimum [percentage] of 15 percent of the development's or project's total residential units be reserved for affordable housing. (As Amended)

Patron: Ms. Robertson

Chair Ellen Robertson provided an overview of RES. 2018-R083.

Member Kristen Larson and Vice Chair Kim Gray asked about the impact RES. 2018-R083 would have on the city's existing tax abatement program and residential structures currently being rehabilitated under the tax abatement program.

Meghan Brown, deputy council chief of staff, reported that RES. 2018-R083 only applies to residential development agreements that receive city incentives and would not impact the citywide rehabilitation program.

Vice Chair Kim Gray stated that she would like to explore ways to incentivize the inclusion of affordable housing without negatively impacting economic growth in the city.

Member Larson requested information on the types of previously approved residential development agreements that could have been impacted as a result of RES. 2018-R083.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Larson moved to forward RES. 2018-R083 to Council with no recommendation, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2018-262

To amend ch. 24, art. II of the City Code by adding therein a new div. 4.1 (§ § 24-125-24-130), to amend City Code § 27-197, concerning parking prohibited in specified places, and to amend Appendix A of the City Code by adding therein new fees for § 24-128, concerning permit applications for the parking of certain vehicles, for the purpose of establishing a permit program for parking certain vehicles on sidewalks.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

Lynne Lancaster, interim deputy director – Department of Public Works, introduced ORD. 2018-262 and reported on an extensive amendment to the proposed legislation. Ms. Lancaster

explained that city administration could not provide copies of the suggested amendment to the committee for review.

The committee expressed concern that they were being asked to modify ORD. 2018-262 without having the opportunity to actually review the proposed amendment.

Speakers

Benjamin McMenkin stated that a cap on the number of scooters a company can deploy will financially impact the small businesses involved in servicing the scooters.

Maggie Gendron, director of strategic development at Lime, opposed the proposed limit on the total number of scooter a company can deploy and the proposed fee structure. Ms. Gendron stated that the city's proposed fees per scooter were significantly higher than other localities. Ms. Gendron further stated that the Lime Company would like to work with city leaders to develop a successful pilot program.

Vice Chair Kim Gray asked a series of questions regarding ORD. 2018-262, which included maintenance, safety inspection, hours of operation, safety equipment, indemnification requirements, maximum operable speed and area of operation for electric scooters.

M. Khara, deputy director – Department of Public Works, explained that the proposed amendment to ORD. 2018-262 addresses the operation of the scooters and rider safety. Mr. Khara responded to questions regarding the potential impact to the city's bike share program and the proposed fee structure.

The committee requested an update on the RVA Bike Share program at its November meeting.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Larson moved to continue ORD. 2018-262 to the November 20, 2018 Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2018-265

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 upgrading of the handicap ramps on and the milling and resurfacing of the eastbound lanes of Semmes Avenue between West 9th Street and West 20th Street, the southbound lanes of Jefferson Davis Highway between Hull Street and North Hopkins Road, and the northbound lanes of Jefferson Davis Highway between Stockton Street and Chesterman Avenue, as part of the Department of Public Works' Semmes Avenue and Jefferson Davis Highway State of Good Repair Paving Projects program.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

Kenneth Horak, senior capital projects manager – Department of Public Works, introduced ORD. 2018-265.

M. Khara, deputy director – Department of Public Works, reported that the budget amendment for the proposed paving program has been approved by the City Planning Commission.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Gray moved to forward ORD. 2018-265 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2018-263

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 certain easements upon, over, under, and across certain property located in the athletic field adjacent to the Hickory Hill Community Center at 3000 East Belt Boulevard for the relocation of communication lines and associated appurtenances in accordance with a certain Deed of Easement.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

Heywood Harrison, parks planner – Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities, introduced ORD. 2018-263.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Larson moved to forward ORD. 2018-263 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2018-264

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Lease Agreement between Cellco Partnership, doing business as Verizon Wireless, as Lessee, and the City of Richmond, as Lessor, to allow Cellco Partnership, doing business as Verizon Wireless, to construct, maintain, and operate telecommunications equipment at 101 East Franklin Street.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

Stephen Willoughby, director – Emergency Communications, introduced ORD. 2018-264.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Gray moved to forward ORD. 2018-264 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2018-230

To amend and reordain City Code § 26-369, concerning sale of real estate for delinquent taxes, for the purpose of requiring that sales of all qualifying real estate be pursuant to development agreements.

Patron: Ms. Robertson

Chair Ellen Robertson provided an overview of ORD. 2018-230.

Vice Chair Gray requested that ORD. 2018-230 be forwarded to full Council for further discussion regarding potential impacts of the proposed ordinance.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Gray moved to forward ORD. 2018-230 to Council with no recommendation, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2018-231

To amend and reordain City Code §§ 26-397, concerning definitions, 26-399, concerning the eligibility criteria for partial exemption of rehabilitated residential and multifamily structures or other improvements from real estate taxation, and 26-401, concerning the amount of exemption for rehabilitated residential and multifamily qualified structures, and to amend ch. 26, art. V, div. 3 by adding therein new §§ 26-398.1, concerning the evaluation of such program, and 26-401.1, concerning affordable housing certification, for the purpose of revising the City's partial tax exemption program for residential and multifamily structures by defining certain terms and modifying the qualification requirements for the receipt and duration of partial exemption from real estate taxation.

Patron: Ms. Robertson

Chair Ellen Robertson introduced ORD. 2018-231 and explained that the proposed ordinance would require a significant change to the existing tax abatement program. Chair Robertson asked that the city assessor be present during City Council's consideration of the request.

Vice Chair Kim Gray and Member Kristen Larson stated that they were not comfortable with considering ORD. 2018-231 before the study on the city's tax abatement program has been completed.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Larson moved to continue ORD. 2018-231 to the November 20, 2018 Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2018-R084

To express the City Council's intent to include in its legislative proposals for the 2019 session of the General Assembly a request that the General Assembly amend Va. Code § 58.1-3219.4 to authorize localities to provide for a partial exemption from real estate taxation of new residential construction and improvements on vacant land.

Patron: Ms. Robertson

Chair Ellen Robertson introduced RES. 2018-R084.

Vice Chair Kim Gray stated that it was premature to consider matters related to the tax abatement program without knowing the results of the tax abatement study.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Gray moved to continue RES. 2018-R084 to the November 20, 2018 Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

Chair Ellen Robertson asked the City Assessor's office to provide an update on the city's tax abatement program at the committee's November meeting.

Discussion Item(s)

Draft Request for Proposals (RFP) or 2901 Bainbridge Street

Chair Ellen Robertson reported that Councilor Parker Agelasto had asked the committee to continue review of the scoring and evaluation factors for the draft RFP to the November committee meeting.

Update on the Urban Forestry Commission

Bill Echelberger, council budget analyst, informed the committee that Council staff met with city staff to discuss the Department of Public Works' interest in continuing the Urban Forestry Commission; however, to date, no additional actions have been taken.

Member Kristen Larson stated that she was disappointed that city administration had not made more progress to activate the Urban Forestry Commission.

Chair Robertson asked Council staff to contact the Green City Commission to discuss the Commission's availability to provide assistance to the Urban Forestry Commission once they become active.

Staff Report

Steve Taylor, council policy analyst, and Bill Echelberger, council budget analyst, provided the committee with the October staff report.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.