



City of Richmond

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

Formal Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 27, 2025

6:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

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 (electronic participation) (early departure)
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 6:00 p.m., and presided.

Spanish Interpretation Announcements

City Clerk Candice Reid stated that Spanish interpretation service was available in the Council Chamber and that attendees should speak with a representative to receive the appropriate equipment. City Clerk Reid also stated that Spanish interpretation service was available virtually through Microsoft Teams.

Roxana Talavera-Denson, Language Access Coordinator, Office of Immigrant and Refugee Engagement, then provided Spanish interpretation of City Clerk Reid's announcement.

Pastor Michael R. Lomax of Westwood Baptist Church, 915 Glenburnie Road, Richmond, Virginia, provided the invocation.

Members of Council and the audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Cynthia Newbille requested a moment of silence in remembrance of former City Councilmember and Mayor, Henry L. Marsh III.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan Announcement and Public Speaker Guidelines

Upon the President's request, Assistant City Clerk Kimberly Morris provided information on the appropriate manner in which the Council Chamber is to be evacuated in the event of an emergency along with public speaker guidelines.

Electronic Participation

Pursuant to Rule III(D)(4)(b) of Council's Rules of Procedure, Councilor Stephanie Lynch made a request to participate in the meeting via Microsoft Teams from her home, due to a medical condition that prevented her physical attendance. The Council members present were required to adopt a motion to approve Councilor Lynch's participation in the meeting by electronic communication means if it appeared to the body that her request complied with Rule III(D) of Council's Rules of Procedure. A motion was solicited from those members physically assembled to approve Councilor Lynch's participation in the meeting by electronic communication means.

Councilor Ellen Robertson moved to allow Councilor Stephanie Lynch to participate in the meeting by electronic communication means. The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 8, Breton, Gibson, Jones, Robertson, Trammell, Abubaker, Jordan, Newbille. Noes None. Lynch was awaiting approval to participate through electronic communication means.

At the request of Council, Interim Chief Administrative Officer Sabrina Joy-Hogg introduced Scott Morris, Interim Director of the Department of Public Utilities, and she provided additional information regarding his qualifications and experience.

Interim Director of the Department of Public Utilities Scott Morris addressed Council and discussed his recent appointment.

Action on Appointments and Reappointments

There were no appointments or reappointments.

Awards and Presentations

There were no awards or presentations.

Public Comment

[CD.2025.018](#) January 27, 2025 Public Comment Period Speakers List

Paige Pruett addressed Council and requested that Council revoke the special use permit authorized by ORD. 2023-283, adopted November 13, 2023. Ms. Pruett provided Council with documentation and information that she believed proved that the structure located at 615 Maple Avenue was not in compliance and should not have been permitted to remain constructed.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Thomas Courtney addressed and stated his concerns about the construction of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts' (VMFA) proposed art storage warehouse. Mr. Courtney also stated that he did not believe the proposed warehouse adhered to the prior special use permits approved for the location. Mr. Courtney further stated his concerns about the VMFA Foundation's recent purchases of residential property near the museum.

Toni Johnson addressed Council and stated her concerns about the conditions experienced by unhoused individuals in the city. Ms. Johnson also stated that the city should prioritize funding to help individuals experiencing homelessness.

Monchelle Hicks-Whitaker addressed Council and stated her desire that the city remediate certain land to allow for more affordable housing construction.

Agenda Review and Amendments

Vice President Katherine Jordan moved to amend the agenda as follows:

1. [ORD. 2024-312](#) To authorize the special use of the property known as 7100 Jahnke Road for the purpose of a mixed-use building containing up to 14 dwelling units, with off-street parking, upon certain terms and conditions. (4th District)

Patrons: Mayor Stoney (By Request)

To be continued to Monday, February 24, 2025

14. [RES. 2024-R041](#) To express support for the study and installation of photo speed monitoring devices in high-risk intersection segments, including the 600 and 700 blocks of South Belvidere Street and certain other locations, pursuant to Va. Code § 46.2-882.1 and through the City of Richmond's Department of Police "Safety Camera Program" and to request that the Chief Administrative Officer consider identifying additional locations for the installation of photo speed monitoring devices and increasing the number of photo speed monitoring devices deployed by the City. (5th District)

Patrons: Ms. Lynch, Ms. Jordan and Ms. Robertson

To be continued to Monday, March 24, 2025

16. [RES. 2025-R008](#) To express City Council's support for the City's participation in the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity funding program for a Mayo Bridge replacement project.

To be amended and considered

Patrons: Mayor Avula and Ms. Robertson

The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 8, Breton, Gibson, Jones, Robertson, Trammell, Abubaker, Jordan, Newbille. Noes None. Lynch was excused.

The Consent Agenda

The following ordinances and resolution were considered:

2. [ORD. 2024-317](#) To amend and reordain City Code § 27-132, concerning the use of photo speed monitoring devices in highway work zones and school crossing zones and penalties, for the purpose of adding high-risk intersection segments authorized by Va. Code § 46.2-882.1.

Patrons: Ms. Lynch, Ms. Jordan, Mr. Breton and Ms. Gibson

This ordinance was adopted.

3. [ORD. 2025-001](#) To amend Ord. No. 2024-099, adopted May 13, 2024, which adopted the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 General Fund Budget and made appropriations pursuant thereto, to (i) transfer \$500,000.00 from the Non-Departmental agency Right to Counsel for Evictions, (ii) create a new line item in the Non-Departmental agency called the "Right to Counsel for Evictions Program - Central Virginia Legal Aid Society," and (iii) appropriate such \$500,000.00 to such new line item in the Non-Departmental agency for the purpose of providing funding for a right to counsel for evictions program.

Patrons: Mayor Avula, Ms. Lynch, Ms. Robertson, Vice President Jordan, President Newbille, Ms. Jones, Mr. Breton and Ms. Gibson

This ordinance was adopted.

4. [ORD. 2025-002](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to accept funds in the amount of \$1,850,287.27 from the National Opioid Settlement Fund, resulting from settlement agreements with Settling Distributors, Janssen, Allergan, Teva, Walmart, CVS, Walgreens, and McKinsey, and to amend Ord. No. 2024-099, adopted May 13, 2024, which adopted the Special Fund

Budget for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and made appropriations thereto, by increasing the revenues and the amount appropriated to the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services' National Opioid Settlement Special Fund by \$1,850,287.27, for the purpose of funding opioid abatement and remediation strategies to combat the opioid crisis.

Patrons: Mayor Avula, Ms. Robertson, President Newbille and Ms. Jones

This ordinance was adopted.

5. [ORD. 2025-003](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to accept funds in the amount of \$2,377,500.00 from the Virginia Resources Authority, and to amend the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Water Utility Budget which appropriated the estimated receipts of the water utility, by increasing estimated receipts and the amount appropriated for the water utility by \$2,377,500.00, for the purpose of funding the City's lead water service line replacement and water service line inventory programs.

Patrons: Mayor Avula, Ms. Robertson, Vice President Jordan and President Newbille

This ordinance was adopted.

6. [ORD. 2025-004](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Financing Agreement between the City of Richmond and the Virginia Resources Authority for the purpose of funding the City's lead water service line replacement and water service line inventory programs.

Patrons: Mayor Avula and Ms. Robertson

This ordinance was adopted.

7. [ORD. 2025-005](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to accept funds in the amount of \$262,500.00 from the United States Department of Energy, and to amend the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Special Fund Budget by (i) creating a new special fund for the Office of Sustainability called the "Grant - EECBG Home Energy Audits, Energy Savings for Richmond's Workforce Housing Project Special Fund," (ii) appropriating the increase to the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Special Fund Budget by increasing estimated revenues and the amount appropriated to the Office of Sustainability's "Grant - EECBG Home Energy Audits, Energy Savings for Richmond's Workforce Housing Project Special Fund" by \$262,500.00, and (iii) appropriating \$250,000.00 of such funds to Viridiant, all for the purpose of providing funding for energy efficiency assistance for low-income residents.

Patrons: Mayor Avula, Ms. Robertson, Vice President Jordan, President Newbille and Ms. Jones

This ordinance was adopted.

8. [ORD. 2025-006](#) To amend Ord. No. 2022-244, adopted Sept. 23, 2022, which authorizes the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Vehicle Lease Agreement between the City of Richmond, as lessor, and the Richmond Ambulance Authority, as lessee, for the purpose of leasing to the Richmond Ambulance Authority certain ambulances owned by the City, for the purpose of adding six “chase” vehicles to the Vehicle Lease Agreement and leasing certain City-owned personal property to the Richmond Ambulance Authority.

Patrons: Mayor Avula and Ms. Robertson

This ordinance was adopted.

9. [ORD. 2025-007](#) To amend Ord. No. 2024-100, adopted May 13, 2024, which accepted a program of proposed Capital Improvement Projects for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and the four fiscal years thereafter, adopted a Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025, and determined a means of financing the same, by increasing estimated revenues from the JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A. line of credit borrowings, authorized by Ord. No. 2023-077, adopted May 8, 2023, by \$977,721.00 and appropriating such \$977,721.00 to the Vehicle Replacement project in the Capital Vehicle and Equipment category for the purpose of purchasing six “chase” vehicles to be leased by the City to the Richmond Ambulance Authority.

Patrons: Mayor Avula and Ms. Robertson

This ordinance was adopted.

10. [ORD. 2025-008](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Grant Agreement between the City of Richmond, 2811 Rady, LLC, and the Economic Development Authority of the City of Richmond for the purpose of facilitating the construction of an affordable residential development located at 2811 Rady Street. (6th District)

Patrons: Mayor Avula and Ms. Robertson

This ordinance was adopted.

11. [ORD. 2025-009](#) To accept a quitclaim deed from the School Board conveying a portion of 1211 Jahnke Road and commonly known as Westover Park to the City and to authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to act on behalf of the City in executing such deed. (4th District)

Patrons: Mayor Avula and Ms. Abubaker

This ordinance was adopted.

12. [ORD. 2025-010](#) To designate the 900 block of Decatur Street in honor of Reverend Robert A. Winfree. (6th District)
- Patrons:** Ms. Robertson, Ms. Lynch, Ms. Trammell, President Newbille, Ms. Jones and Vice President Jordan
- This ordinance was adopted.**
13. [ORD. 2025-011](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Right of Entry agreement between the City of Richmond and the Virginia Department of General Services for the purpose of permitting the City access to and use of the parking garage located at 311 North 7th Street to make certain repairs to the City owned property located at 730 East Broad Street. (6th District)
- Patrons:** Mayor Avula
- This ordinance was adopted.**
15. [RES. 2025-R007](#) To direct the City Planning Commission, as a part of its required review of the Master Plan in 2025, to prepare, submit to public hearing, and consider an amendment to the Master Plan that identifies the area generally bounded by Riverside Drive, Cowardin Avenue, Hull Street, and West 24th Street as a Neighborhood Node and to request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause the Department of Planning and Development Review, the Department of Public Works, the Department of Economic Development, and the Department of Housing and Community Development to collectively work with the City Planning Commission to prepare such amendment to the Master Plan. (5th District)
- Patrons:** Ms. Lynch
- This resolution was adopted.**

Public Hearing

Martin Wegbreit, pro bono attorney and former Director of Litigation for the Central Virginia Legal Aid Society, spoke in support of ORD. 2025-001, and stated that the appropriated \$500,000 to the Right to Counsel for Evictions Program, will provide much needed legal assistance to city residents. Mr. Wegbreit also stated that he would invite Council and the mayor to attend and witness future Richmond Circuit Court eviction proceedings.

Charles Willis spoke in support of ORD. 2025-010, and stated his appreciation for the efforts of Reverend Robert A. Winfree to improve the Richmond community.

Councilor Reva Trammell stated her appreciation for Reverend Robert A. Winfree, and she requested to be added as a co-patron of ORD. 2025-010.

President Cynthia Newbille, Councilor Nicole Jones, and Vice President Katherine Jordan requested to be added as co-patrons of ORD. 2025-010.

Councilor Kenya Gibson stated her support for ORD. 2025-001, and she requested that involved parties provide the city feedback about the program, so that Council can be made aware if more assistance is needed. Councilor Gibson also stated her concerns about the data collected from speed cameras referenced in ORD. 2024-317, and she requested that Council seek more information about the duration of storage and for what purposes the data will be used.

Councilor Ellen Robertson stated her appreciation for Reverend Robert Winfree, and she thanked Council for considering ORD. 2025-010. Councilor Robertson requested to be added as a co-patron of ORD. 2025-001, ORD. 2025-002, ORD. 2025-003, ORD. 2025-004, ORD. 2025-005, ORD. 2025-006, ORD. 2025-007, and RES. 2024-041.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch stated her appreciation for Reverend Robert Winfree and his impact on the community. Councilor Lynch also stated her support for ORD. 2025-001 and the Right to Counsel for Evictions Program.

Vice President Katherine Jordan requested to be added as a co-patron of ORD. 2025-001 and ORD. 2025-005.

President Cynthia Newbille requested to be added as a co-patron of ORD. 2025-001, ORD. 2025-002, ORD. 2025-003, and ORD. 2025-005. President Newbille also stated that she would ensure that city administration provide information to address Councilor Gibson's data-related questions relating to ORD. 2024-317.

Councilor Nicole Jones requested to be added as a co-patron of ORD. 2025-001, ORD. 2025-002, and ORD. 2025-005.

Councilor Ellen Robertson requested to be added as a co-patron of ORD. 2025-008.

Councilor Andrew Breton requested to be added as a co-patron of ORD. 2024-317 and ORD. 2025-001.

Councilor Kenya Gibson requested additional information about how the city selected Viridiant to conduct home energy audits referenced in ORD. 2025-005.

Laura Thomas, Director of Sustainability, provided information regarding why the city decided to partner with Viridiant.

Councilor Kenya Gibson requested to be added as a co-patron of ORD. 2024-317 and ORD. 2025-001.

There were no further discussions and the Consent Agenda was unanimously adopted.

The Regular Agenda

There were no Regular Agenda items.

Motions

Councilor Andrew Breton moved that the resolution entitled:

16. [RES. 2025-R008](#) To express City Council's support for the City's participation in the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity funding program for a Mayo Bridge replacement project.

Patrons: Mayor Avula and Ms. Robertson

be amended to change the name of the funding program to "Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development" in accordance with a new federal classification.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

The following resolution was considered:

16. [RES. 2025-R008](#) To express City Council's support for the City's participation in the United States Department of Transportation's [Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity] Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development funding program for a Mayo Bridge replacement project. (As Amended)

Patrons: Mayor Avula and Ms. Robertson

Dironna Moore Clarke, Department of Public Works (DPW) Deputy Director of the Office of Equitable Transit and Mobility, provided information about why the resolution was amended and additional background information regarding RES. 2025-R008.

There were no further comments or discussions and RES. 2025-R008 was unanimously adopted.

Councilor Ellen Robertson requested to be added as a co-patron of RES. 2025-R008.

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

17. [RES. 2025-R009](#) To remove Andreas D. Addison and J. E. Lincoln Saunders from the Board of Directors of the Greater Richmond Transit Company and to provide for the appointment of Nicole Jones and Sharon Ebert as two of the City of Richmond's three Directors of the Greater Richmond Transit Company for the period commencing upon such appointment and terminating on the date of the 2025 annual meeting of shareholders

upon the election and qualification of the successors to these Directors.

Patrons: President Newbille

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

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

There were no comments or discussions and RES. 2025-R009 was unanimously adopted.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

There were no amendments or corrections to the meeting minutes of the Special Organizational Council Meeting held on January 2, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.; the Informal and Formal Council Meetings held on Tuesday, January 13, 2025, at 4:00 p.m., and 6:00 p.m.; and Council approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2025.011](#) January 2, 2025 Special Organizational Meeting Minutes

[CD.2025.009](#) January 13, 2025 Informal Meeting Minutes

[CD.2025.019](#) January 13, 2025 Formal Meeting Minutes

Introduction of Ordinances and Resolutions

[CD.2025.023](#) January 27, 2025 Introduction Papers List

City Council will hold a public hearing on the following ordinances and resolution on Monday, February 10, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.:

18. [ORD. 2025-020](#) To declare a public necessity for and to authorize the acquisition of the parcels of real property owned by the Capital Region Land Conservancy, Inc., located at 1401 Brander Street and 1421 Brander Street for the purpose of maintaining such properties as public greenspace and enhancing connectivity for the Richmond Slave Trail within the James River Park System. (6th District)

Patrons: Mayor Avula

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

19. [ORD. 2025-021](#) To grant a conservation and open-space easement on the property known as 1401 Brander Street and 1421 Brander Street to the Capital Region Land Conservancy, Inc. and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. (6th District)

Patrons: Mayor Avula

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

20. [RES.](#) To establish the Civilian Review Board's policies and procedures pursuant to Va. Code § 9.1-601(D) and City Code § 2-1202.4(f).
[2025-R010](#)

Patrons: Ms. Trammell

This resolution was introduced and referred to the Organizational Development Standing Committee meeting on Monday, February 3, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

City Council will hold a public hearing on the following ordinances on Monday, February 24, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.:

21. [ORD.](#) To authorize the special use of the property known as 1001 Barlen Drive for the purpose of up to two single-family detached dwellings, upon certain terms and conditions. (9th District)
[2025-022](#)

Patrons: Mayor Avula (By Request)

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

22. [ORD.](#) To authorize the special use of the property known as 3310 Q Street for the purpose of up to two two-family detached dwellings with two accessory dwelling units, upon certain terms and conditions. (7th District)
[2025-023](#)

Patrons: Mayor Avula (By Request)

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

23. [ORD.](#) To authorize the special use of the property known as 2811 Rady Street for the purpose of four multifamily dwellings containing an aggregate of up to 352 dwelling units, upon certain terms and conditions. (6th District)
[2025-024](#)

Patrons: Mayor Avula (By Request)

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

24. [ORD.](#) To authorize the special use of the properties known as 5009 Rear Snead Road, 5015 Snead Road, and 5015 Rear Snead Road for the purpose of up to 180 multifamily dwelling units and a clubhouse, upon certain terms and conditions. (9th District)
[2025-025](#)

Patrons: Mayor Avula (By Request)

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

25. [ORD. 2025-026](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to accept funds in the amount of \$1,495,548.00 from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and to amend Ord. No. 2024-099, adopted May 13, 2024, which adopted the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Stormwater Utility Budget and appropriated the estimated receipts of the stormwater utility, by increasing estimated revenues and the amount appropriated to the stormwater utility by \$1,495,548.00 for the purpose of funding the modernization of the City's stormwater asset inventory.

Patrons: Mayor Avula

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee meeting on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

26. [ORD. 2025-027](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to accept funds in the amount of \$371,232.00 from the Virginia Transit Association and to appropriate the increase to the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Special Fund Budget by increasing estimated revenues and the amount appropriated to the Department of Public Works' Shared Mobility Special fund by \$371,232.00 for the purpose of funding a Free Rides to Work program.

Patrons: Mayor Avula

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee meeting on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

27. [ORD. 2025-028](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Cooperation Agreement between the City of Richmond and the Virginia Transit Association for the purpose of funding a Free Rides to Work program.

Patrons: Mayor Avula

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee meeting on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

28. [ORD. 2025-029](#) To amend Ord. No. 2021-079, adopted Apr. 12, 2021, which authorized the Chief Administrative Officer to accept funds in the amount of \$150,000.00 from the Virginia Outdoors Foundation; amended the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Special Fund Budget by creating a new special fund for the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities called the Bellemeade Park Outdoor Educational Classroom Facility Special Fund; and appropriated the grant funds received to the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Special Fund Budget by increasing estimated revenues and the amount appropriated to the new Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities' Bellemeade Park Outdoor Educational Classroom Facility

Special Fund by \$150,000.00 for the purpose of funding the design, permitting, and construction of an outdoor classroom at Bellemeade Park located at 1800 Krouse Street in the city of Richmond, to change the permitted use of the grant funds and modify the name of the special fund to which the grant funds are appropriated.

Patrons: Mayor Avula

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee meeting on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

Reports or Announcements by Members of the Council

Members of Council provided reports and announcements regarding respective district meetings and activities.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch left the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

CITY CLERK