



City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
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Minutes

Organizational Development Standing Committee

Monday, December 2, 2019

5:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Committee Members and Others in Attendance

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille – Chair
The Honorable Chris Hilbert – Vice Chair (early departure)
The Honorable Andreas Addison – Member
The Honorable Kim Gray – Member
The Honorable Michael Jones – Member
The Honorable Kristen Larson – Member
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch – Member
The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Member
Haskell Brown, Interim City Attorney
Lawrence Anderson, Council Chief of Staff
Candice Reid, City Clerk
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Absent

The Honorable Reva Trammell – Member

Call to Order

Chair Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m., and presided.

Approval of the Minutes

There were no corrections or amendments to the minutes of the Monday, November 4, 2019, Organizational Development Standing Committee meeting at 5:00 p.m., and the minutes were approved as presented.

Reports from City Administration, Council Staff and Other Parties

Navy Hill Development Advisory Commission (NHDAC) Progress Report

Pierce Homer, NHDAC chair, and John Gerner, NHDAC vice chair, provided the committee a progress report regarding the commission's review of the proposed Navy Hill Development project.

Chair Cynthia Newbille confirmed the NHDAC would present a final report at the January Organizational Development Committee meeting.

Chair Homer informed the committee the final report would address proposed ordinances, costs and benefits, and the overall project.

Advisory Task Force for the Economic Development of South Richmond – Final Report and Recommendations

Bruce Tyler, Advisory Task Force for the Economic Development of South Richmond chair, provided the committee with a presentation regarding the task force's final report.

Mr. Tyler suggested the city first address improving commercial vehicle access to the Port of Richmond before other recommendations are implemented. Mr. Tyler also recommended the Department of Utilities service be improved to handle future economic development and potential new businesses in South Richmond.

Chair Cynthia Newbille acknowledged Members Reva Trammell and Michael Jones for their leadership and involvement with the Advisory Task Force for the Economic Development of South Richmond.

Council Priority – Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities

Chris Frelke, Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities director, provided the committee with a presentation regarding capital improvement opportunities, current inventory and challenges of the Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities department.

Member Kim Gray expressed her concern with young people being forced to walk through dangerous neighborhoods and walk long distances in extreme weather to reach facilities. Member Gray requested the department and Council examine how to better protect and serve youth.

Council Priority – Permits, Inspections and Code Enforcement

Vice Chair Chris Hilbert exited the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Jason Carangelo, Department of Planning & Development Review commissioner of buildings, provided the committee with a presentation regarding an overview of permitting and inspections, budget priorities, growth in the city and department challenges.

Member Andreas Addison inquired if the proposed Navy Hill Development project was approved, would the city have sufficient staff to address permitting and inspections for both the project and standard city business.

Leonard Sledge, Department of Economic Development director, informed the committee the city would hire additional staff to address permits and inspections if the proposed Navy Hill Development project was approved.

Mr. Carangelo stated the Department of Planning & Development Review would hire additional non-inspector staff to help alleviate current delays in requesters seeking permit and inspection approvals.

Member Kim Gray noted that the department received its Fiscal Year 2020 funding from the city's general fund, and inquired if a budget amendment was required to satisfy a recently approved Commonwealth of Virginia regulation that required the department receive funding from inspection fees.

Sharon Ebert, Economic Development deputy chief administrative officer, informed the committee the department's Fiscal Year 2020 budget that provided funding from the city's general fund was adopted prior to the implementation of the state regulation, and the city was not required to satisfy the requirement until the next fiscal year.

John Wack, Department of Finance director, and Lenora Reid, acting chief administrative officer, provided the committee additional information regarding state requirements and department funding.

Council Priority – RVA311 Reporting

Peter Breil, Citizen Service and Response director, provided the committee with a presentation regarding RVA311 first quarter citizen requests.

Member Kristen Larson inquired if recommendations from the Gallagher Benefit Services study were implemented to address competitive salaries for city staff.

Mr. Breil stated portions of the Gallagher study recommendations were still being implemented.

Member Larson suggested an update be provided to Council prior to budget deliberations regarding long-term plans for recruitment and retention of employees. Member Larson noted the presentation provided statistics on short-term citizen requests addressed by city departments, and requested accessible public information be provided by departments regarding information on long-term capital improvement projects.

Bobby Vincent, Department of Public Works director, was available to address questions and provide additional information regarding Mr. Breil's presentation.

Member Kim Gray inquired about the timeframe to complete pothole repair requests submitted by citizens.

Mr. Breil stated repairs were completed usually within 14 days, and that all requests were satisfied as of September 2, 2019. Mr. Breil noted requests would increase significantly during the upcoming winter months.

Discussion Item

Update on Comprehensive Security Plan and Assessment

Bobby Vincent, Department of Public Works director, discussed with members security measures identified to provide a more secure city hall for staff and visitors.

Member Andreas Addison expressed his belief that all city business involving visitors to City Hall should be handled only on the first floor, and that no visitor should be required to visit additional floors. Mr. Addison stated this would increase safety by limiting access to other floors.

Mr. Vincent stated the proposal would be difficult to implement due to the inability of City Hall to expand the width of the building.

Member Kim Gray stated that city court buildings needed improved security measures and confirmed from Mr. Vincent that the improvements would be addressed in the Fiscal Year 2021 budget.

Reports of Standing Committees

Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee Recommendation on use of Capital Maintenance Reserve

Member Kristen Larson informed the committee that the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee recommended the use of the capital maintenance reserve surplus to refund original appropriations to Richmond Public School's (RPS) Capital Projects Fund for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Member Larson stated the original appropriated funds were established by a federal court decision that involved an ADA complaint regarding RPS.

Member Kim Gray informed the committee that replenished funds would address future ADA related projects and maintenance for previously implemented projects.

It was the consensus of the committee that a resolution be drafted to approve the allocation of capital maintenance reserve surplus to refund original appropriations.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.