



City of Richmond

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

Draft Meeting Minutes Governmental Operations Standing Committee

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

1:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Committee and Other Council Members in Attendance

The Honorable Katherine Jordan - Chair

The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert - Vice Chair (late arrival)

The Honorable Andreas Addison - Council Member (late arrival and early departure via Microsoft Teams)

Absent

The Honorable Stephanie Lynch - Committee Member

Staff and Others in Attendance

LaTanja Davenport, Council Budget Analyst

Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst

Laura Drewry, City Attorney

Susan McKenney, Senior Assistant City Attorney

Kimberly Morris, Assistant City Clerk

Pamela Nichols, Council Management Analyst

Candice Reid, City Clerk

RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Katherine Jordan called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan Announcement and Public Speaker Guidelines

Upon the Chair'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

Public Comment Period

J. Maurice Hopkins addressed the committee regarding support of honorary street designations for Oliver White Hill and Spottswood Robinson.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert arrived at 1:04 p.m. and was seated.

Chair Katherine Jordan suggested that Mr. Hopkin's request be communicated to the History and Culture Commission.

Approval of Minutes

[CD.2024.245](#) June 26, 2024 Governmental Operations Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [20240626 Gov Ops Mins](#)

There were no amendments or corrections to the meeting minutes of June 26, 2024, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

Presentation(s)

Sustainable Design Standards for City Facilities Update

[CD.2024.254](#) Sustainable Design Standards

Attachments: [OOS_SDS Presentation_Gov Ops_July 2024](#)

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Laura Thomas, Office of Sustainability Director, provided a presentation regarding sustainable design standards.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert inquired why the code rewrite is not every three years, instead of every five years.

Ms. Thomas stated it was settled on five years to learn how well the process is going and if it is technology neutral.

Vice Chair Lambert inquired if collective bargaining and workforce compensation were considered in the sustainable design standards.

Ms. Thomas stated workforce compensation would be integrated into future conversations.

Vice Chair Lambert requested that Council be made aware of any state regulations that need to be addressed as Council establishes its legislative agenda.

Ms. Thomas stated there is a short list of policies but no specific regulations.

Chair Katherine Jordan inquired as to when the standards will be applied and how were the thresholds were established.

Ms. Thomas stated two half-day sessions were held to determine the thresholds, and that city administration is going to have another internal conversation about being uniformed on standards.

Chair Jordan asked what other localities are doing and what thresholds they have adopted.

Ms. Thomas stated that few Virginia localities are using sustainable design standards and thresholds.

Chair Jordan stated she would like to know what percentage of project dollars the sustainable design standard will capture.

Ms. Thomas stated she will provide the information.

Paper(s) for Consideration

The following ordinance was considered:

1. [ORD. 2024-094](#) To amend City Code § 11-36, concerning exemptions to sound control, for the purpose of modifying the hours during which [the City's] refuse collection and sanitation services shall be exempted from the requirements of the City's sound control provisions. (As Amended)

Patrons: Ms. Jordan and Ms. Lynch

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2024-094 - Amended 20240722](#)
[20240722 Amendment of Ord. No. 2024-094](#)

Forwarded to the September 9, 2024 Council meeting with recommendation to approve

Chair Katherine Jordan provided an introduction and additional background information regarding the proposed ordinance.

Public Hearing

There were no public speakers.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert inquired about the start time for refuse collection.

Adam Hohl, Senior Policy Advisor for the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Operations, stated the administration is appreciative of the amendment, however, there are specific elements that still need to be considered.

Bobby Vincent, Department of Public Works Director, stated his department and the industry are still questioning why the hours will need to be modified in reference to the noise concerning solid waste collection.

Chair Jordan stated the goal of the ordinance is to go back to the policy of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) granting exceptions.

Mr. Vincent stated the way to proceed will be to make a request to administration to sign a waiver for city staff, as well as for private firms, that will adhere to the noise ordinance.

Robert Stiedel, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer of Operations (DCAO), stated administration will be going back to a blanket approval, and the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and the private sector will meet about approved schedules. DCAO Stiedel also stated that the CAO has the ability to provide written waiver of the 7:00 a.m. start time for safety and health purposes.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert moved to forward ORD. 2024-094 to Council with a recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved: Ayes 2, Lambert, Jordan. Noes None.

The following resolution was considered:

2. [RES. 2024-R025](#) To authorize the utilization of the construction management procurement method for the construction of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Main Pump Station Improvement projects.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

Attachments: [Res. No. 2024-R025](#)

Forwarded to the September 9, 2024 Council meeting with recommendation to approve

Bob Stone, Deputy Director of Public Utilities, provided an introduction and additional background information regarding the proposed resolution.

Councilor Andreas Addison joined the meeting at 1:33 p.m.

Public Hearing

There were no public speakers.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert inquired what will be the fiscal impact of the resolution if it is not approved.

Mr. Stone stated the fiscal impact will be that the project must be funded by a Department of Public Utilities bond or a revolving loan instead of grants.

Vice Chair Lambert stated she wanted to be clear because American Rescue Plan Act funds are being used.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert moved to forward RES. 2024-R025 to Council with a recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved: Ayes 2, Lambert, Jordan. Noes None.

The following resolution was considered:

3. [RES. 2024-R026](#) To declare that equal access to high-speed gigabit internet access in every home; educational and training facility; and business of the City is a public necessity for all residents and to request that the Chief Administrative Officer develop and implement a “Digital Equity Assessment and Plan” to provide access to high-speed gigabit internet access to all residents.

Patrons: Mr. Addison

Attachments: [Res. No. 2024-R026](#)

Forwarded to the September 9, 2024 Council meeting with recommendation to approve with amendment

Councilor Andreas Addison provided an introduction and additional background information regarding the proposed resolution.

Public Hearing

There were no public speakers.

Robert Steidel, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer of Operations (DCAO), stated that Council adopted Res. No. 2021-R068, and that the Mayor's Equity Agenda imbeds the issue of affordable and equitable broadband access to all citizens, including all community centers and public spaces. He also stated the ecommerce gap analysis report has been provided to Council staff.

Councilor Addison inquired what is the best way to work with internet providers, and how does the city leverage internet equability city-wide. He also stated that the challenge is that broadband access does not have enough capacity to support all citizens.

DCAO Steidel stated Councilor Addison is correct about Richmond not having city-wide internet access and that the city needs to work with internet providers to obtain their support.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert inquired if city parks are internet ready.

DCAO Steidel stated he is confident all city parks can access city of Richmond wireless internet, and that the importance should be focused on getting internet into homes.

Vice Chair Lambert asked if the paper could be amended to address gaps identified in the ecommerce study.

Chair Katherine Jordan inquired about the ecommerce study results.

Mr. Steidel stated using data that was available, they were able to see where holes are in coverage. Mr. Steidel also stated the city plans to work with developers and interested parties to increase coverage through economic development projects.

Councilor Addison suggested possibly amending the Digital Equity Assessment Plan to a Digital Equity Implementation Plan. He also stated it is important libraries, public housing and other public entities be considered in the implementation.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert moved to forward RES. 2024-R026 to Council with a recommendation to approve with amendment, which was seconded and approved: Ayes 2, Lambert, Jordan. Noes None.

Councilor Andreas Addison left the meeting at 1:55 p.m.

Board Vacancies

Pamela Nichols, Council Management Analyst, was available to review board applications for consideration by the committee.

[CD.2024.250](#) Board Vacancy Report-Governmental Operations

Attachments: [20240724 Gov Ops Board Vacancy Report](#)

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert moved to forward the following board appointment and reappointment applications to Council with a recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved: Ayes 2, Lambert, Jordan. Noes None.

Central Virginia Waste Management Authority:

Elizabeth Hall (reappointment)

Robert McMillen

City Personnel Board:

Patrice Carpenter

Sister Cities Commission:

Nicolai Shuman (reappointment)

Linda Freeman

Catherine Nexsen

Discussion Item(s)

Council's Honorary Street Sign Policies Update and Next Steps

Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst, provided the committee with options and recommendations about Council's Honorary Sign Policy. Ms. Davis suggested that a fair and equitable process should include an application process, cultural and historical significance of the nominee and their contribution to the community.

Chair Katherine Jordan inquired if the History and Culture Commission are currently meeting.

Ms. Davis stated she will confirm with her contact and report the information to Chair Jordan.

August Committee Meeting

It was the consensus of the committee to cancel the August Governmental Operations Standing Committee meeting.

Staff Report

There was no staff report.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:16 p.m.