



City of Richmond

Minutes

Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

1:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall
(Virtual Meeting)

Committee Members and Others in Attendance

The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Chair
The Honorable Michael Jones – Committee member
The Honorable Andreas Addison – Council member (late arrival and early departure)
The Honorable Kristen Larson – Council member
Lawrence Anderson, Council Chief of Staff
Bonnie Ashley, Deputy City Attorney
Meghan Brown, Deputy Council Chief of Staff
Bill Echelberger, Council Budget Analyst
Pamela Nichols, Assistant City Clerk
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Steve Taylor, Council Policy Analyst
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Absent

The Honorable Kim Gray – Vice Chair

Call to Order

Chair Ellen Robertson called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m., and presided.

Electronic Participation

Assistant City Clerk Pamela Nichols, in accordance with Ordinance No. 2020-093, adopted April 9, 2020, as amended by Ordinance No. 2020-183, adopted August 20, 2020, announced the meeting would be held through electronic communication means. Assistant City Clerk Nichols stated notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information advisory issued on September 15, 2020, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice. She also stated members of the public were encouraged to provide comments in writing prior to the meeting and all comments received prior to 10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, September 22, 2020, were provided to committee members. Mrs. Nichols indicated that members of the public who signed up to speak and provide comment would be called to speak at the appropriate time.

Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Pamela Nichols, assistant city clerk, provided citizen speaker guidelines.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comment speakers.

Councilor Andreas Addison joined the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections or amendments to the meeting minutes of Tuesday, July 21, 2020; and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

Board Vacancies

There were no board vacancies for review.

Presentation(s)

There were no presentations.

Paper(s) for Consideration

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2020-153

To rename that portion of U.S. Route 1, known as Jefferson Davis Highway and located within the corporate boundaries of the City, from its northerly terminus at its intersection with Hull Street to its southerly terminus at the corporate limits of the City near its intersection with Walmsley Boulevard, as "Richmond Highway."

Patrons: Ms. Trammell, Vice President Hilbert and Mayor Stoney

Member Michael Jones stated he supported ORD. 2020-153; however, he would like public input prior to forwarding the proposed legislation to Council for consideration. Mr. Jones asked city administration to coordinate such process through the History and Culture Commission.

Travis Bridewell, operations manager with the Department of Public Works, stated that city administration had no objection to the proposed legislation.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Michael Jones moved to continue ORD. 2020-153 to the November 17, 2020 Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2020-200

To designate the 900 block of St. James Street in honor of James Russell Stallings, Sr.

Patron: Vice President Hilbert

Bill Echelberger, council budget analyst, explained the designation of the street block was honorary and would not replace the existing name of the street.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Michael Jones moved to forward ORD. 2020-200 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2019-R068

To express the Council's support for certain goals in alignment with the Vision Zero traffic safety program that promote sustainability and equity in access to safe transportation.

Patron: Mr. Addison

Councilor Andreas Addison introduced RES. 2019-R068.

Member Michael Jones and Chair Ellen Robertson asked to be added as co-patrons.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Michael Jones moved to forward RES. 2019-R068 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

Councilor Andreas Addison exited the meeting.

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2020-R051

To impose enhanced speeding penalties pursuant to City Code § 27-163 and to authorize the placement of signs giving notice thereof on the portion of South Harrison Street located between Idlewood Avenue and Randolph Street and the portion of Colorado Avenue located between Randolph Street and South Allen Avenue.

Patron: Ms. Lynch

Chair Ellen Robertson provided an overview of RES. 2020-R051.

Travis Bridewell, operations manager with the Department of Public Works, explained the proposed request met criteria outlined in the City Code regarding enhanced speeding penalties; he stated such requests were considered on a case by case basis.

Amy Robins, 5th district liaison, reported the proposed request would reduce traffic hazards for cyclists and pedestrians within the subject area. Ms. Robins stated that the Randolph Neighborhood Association and Maymont Civic League supported RES. 2020-R051.

Member Michael Jones stated that speeding was a problem throughout the city and should not be addressed on a case by case basis.

Chair Ellen Robertson stated speeding was an issue throughout the city; however, enhanced speeding penalties have been previously approved.

Member Jones stated he would like city administration to provide a comprehensive approach to address speeding throughout the city and moved to continue RES. 2020-R051 to allow time for such report.

Chair Robertson stated she was not supportive of delaying action on RES. 2020-R051 until the completion of a comprehensive citywide study.

Mr. Bridewell explained it would require at least six months to collect data and prepare a citywide traffic study.

The motion failed for lack of a second.

Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward RES. 2020-R051 to Council with the recommendation to approve.

The motion failed for lack of a second.

Bonnie Ashley, deputy city attorney, explained the committee was required to take action on RES. 2020-R051.

Chair Robertson stated due to the requirement to take action, she would second the motion to continue RES. 2020-R051.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Michael Jones' motion to continue RES. 2020-R051 to the October 20, 2020 Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting, was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2020-172

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Deed of Quitclaim of Utility Easement Portion between the City of Richmond and the Capital Region Airport Commission, for the purpose of releasing a portion of a utility easement to the Capital Region Airport Commission.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

Jason Pauley, senior deputy director with the Department of Public Works, introduced ORD. 2020-172.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Michael Jones moved to forward ORD. 2020-172 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2020-195

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Lease Agreement between the City of Richmond as lessor and Challenge Discovery Projects, Inc. as lessee for the purpose of leasing to Challenge Discovery Projects, Inc. a certain portion of the City-owned property located at 2405 Jefferson Avenue.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

Paul McClellan, economic development programs administrator, introduced ORD. 2020-195 and reported the lease would be for a term of five (5) years. He further reported the lessee was a nonprofit corporation currently operating at the subject property through a memorandum of understanding with the current tenant.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Michael Jones moved to forward ORD. 2020-195 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2020-R055

To declare surplus, and to authorize and request the Chief Administrative Officer to seek offers, bids, or proposals by solicitation or auction for City-owned properties located at 809 West 44th Street, 811 Rear West 44th Street, and 4306 Rear Reedy Avenue for the purpose of facilitating the purchase and development of such parcels.

Patron: Ms. Larson

Public Hearing

Lelia Pendleton, adjoining property owner, spoke in support of RES. 2020-R055 and explained, she and husband Stuart Halloran would like to purchase the city-owned properties they have been maintaining since moving into their home in 1979. Ms. Pendleton reported, along with expanding their back yard, the parcels would be used to maintain a garden.

Councilor Kristen Larson provided an overview of RES. 2020-R055.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Michael Jones moved to forward RES. 2020-R055 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2020-196

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Lease between the City of Richmond and T-Mobile USA Tower LLC for the purpose of permitting T-Mobile USA Tower LLC to operate existing telecommunications equipment at 4827 Old Warwick Road.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

There were no comments or discussions and **Member Michael Jones moved to forward ORD. 2020-196 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following ordinances were considered:

ORD. 2020-197

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a City of Richmond Grant Contract between the City of Richmond and Friends of the James River Park for the purpose of restoring a section of riparian buffer and performing related environmental activities along the James River at Pony Pasture Rapids Park and the Wetlands Park in the city of Richmond.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

ORD. 2020-198

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Pony Pasture Rapids Park and the Wetlands Park Right-of-Entry Agreement between the City of Richmond and Friends of the James River Park for the purpose of restoring a section of riparian buffer and performing related environmental activities along the James River at Pony Pasture Rapids Park and the Wetlands Park in the city of Richmond.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

Chris Frelke, director of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities, expressed support on behalf of city administration for ORD. 2020-197 and ORD. 2020-198.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Michael Jones moved to forward ORD. 2020-197 and ORD. 2020-198 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

Discussion Item

There were no discussion items.

Staff Report

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

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m.