



City of Richmond

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

Special Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 6, 2023

3:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Special Meeting

Councilmembers Present

The Honorable Michael Jones, President
The Honorable Kristen Nye, Vice President
The Honorable Andreas Addison
The Honorable Katherine Jordan
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert
The Honorable Cynthia Newbille
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch
The Honorable Reva Trammell

Absent

The Honorable Ellen Robertson

Call to Order

Council President Michael Jones called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m., and presided.

Spanish Interpretation Announcement

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

Karla Almendarez-Ramos then provided Spanish interpretation of City Clerk Candice Reid's announcement.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Upon the President's request, Deputy City Clerk RJ Warren 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.

Formal Budget Presentation

Mayor Levar M. Stoney presented the proposed Fiscal Plan for Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24), and the city's Capital Improvement Plan for 2024-2028, which included, but were not limited to, the following highlights:

- Total General Fund revenues projected at \$949 million for FY24
- A local contribution of \$21.1 million in funding for Richmond Public Schools' FY24 budget
- \$200 million of funding for school construction and \$15 million for Fox Elementary School repair and renovations.
- \$50 million in funding to build new affordable housing over the next five years
- An investment of \$800,000 into the city's Eviction Diversion program
- \$21 million in funding for traffic calming, sidewalks, and Complete Streets investments
- Investments of \$7 million for city-wide park improvements, \$800,000 to expand Richmond Public Library hours, and \$250,000 for neighborhood signs
- An 8% salary increase for all non-sworn city employees
- \$5.7 million for a step increase and 3% step plan adjustment for sworn officers
- \$1.4 million for employee first time homebuyers assistance
- The establishment of an Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
- An increase in the water rate of 4.0%, wastewater rate of 6.5%, stormwater rates of 10.5% and natural gas rate of 3.75% for all single family residential customers (meaning the average residential customer will see a combined estimated increase of \$10.06 per month in their bill)

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

[CD.2023.089](#) FY 24 Budget Priorities Handout

Introduction of Legislation

[CD.2023.088](#) March 6, 2023 Introduction Papers List

City Council will hold a public hearing on the following ordinances on Monday, March 27, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.:

2. [ORD. 2023-071](#) To adopt the annual budget, which includes all of the separate current expense budgets for the general operation of the City government and for each utility as defined in ch. 13 of the City Charter, for the fiscal year commencing Jul.1. 2023, and ending Jun. 30, 2024, and to appropriate the estimated revenues for such fiscal year for the objects and purposes stated in such budget.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was introduced and committee referral waived pursuant to Rule VI(B)(2).

3. [ORD. 2023-072](#) To appropriate and to provide funds for financing the school budget for the fiscal year commencing Jul. 1, 2023, and ending Jun. 30, 2024.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was introduced and committee referral waived pursuant to Rule VI(B)(2).

4. [ORD. 2023-073](#) To accept a program of proposed Capital Improvement Projects for the fiscal year beginning Jul. 1, 2023, and for the four fiscal years thereafter; to adopt a Capital Budget for the fiscal year beginning Jul. 1, 2023; and to determine the means of financing the same.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was introduced and committee referral waived pursuant to Rule VI(B)(2).

5. [ORD. 2023-074](#) To adopt a new pay plan for the City for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and to repeal Ord. No. 2018-319, adopted Jan. 14, 2019, and all amendatory ordinances thereto.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was introduced and committee referral waived pursuant to Rule VI(B)(2).

6. [ORD. 2023-075](#) To repeal City Code § 2-1265, concerning personnel rules; to amend City Code §§ 1-4, concerning miscellaneous ordinances not affected by the City Code, 2-927, concerning general powers and duties of the Personnel Board, 2-1210, concerning publication of certain hiring policies, 2-1264, concerning the creation of the personnel system, 2-1289, concerning classified service, 2-1293, concerning prohibited practices, 2-1295, concerning prohibited working relationships between family members, 2-1301.2, concerning definitions, and 26-103, concerning the general powers and assistants for the City Assessor; and to repeal Ord. No. 2013-10-98, concerning personnel rules for the classified service.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was introduced and committee referral waived pursuant to Rule

VI(B)(2).

7. [ORD. 2023-076](#) To amend ch. 2, art. IV of the City Code by adding therein a new div. 25, consisting of §§ 2-763-2-765, concerning the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, and to amend City Code § 22-317, concerning additional retirement allowances for certain City officials.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was introduced and committee referral waived pursuant to Rule VI(B)(2).

8. [ORD. 2023-077](#) To authorize the issuance of general obligation public improvement bonds of the City of Richmond in the maximum principal amount of \$285,000,000 to finance the cost of school projects and general capital improvement projects of the City for the following purposes and uses: construction, reconstruction, improvements and equipment for public schools; construction, reconstruction, improvement and equipment for various infrastructure needs, including traffic control facilities, streets, sidewalks and other public ways, bridges, storm sewers, drains and culverts, and refuse disposal facilities; to make grants or loans to assist in financing capital expenditures for the purposes of promoting the development of housing projects for the benefit of persons with low or moderate incomes; participation in redevelopment, conservation and community development programs, including the construction, reconstruction, improvement and equipment for targeted public facilities included in these programs; construction, reconstruction, improvements and equipment for public institutional, operational, cultural, educational and entertainment buildings and facilities, including but not limited to the theaters, parks, playgrounds, cemeteries, libraries and museums; acquisition of real property therefor as appropriate; and the making of appropriations to the City's Economic Development Authority and the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority to be used to finance capital expenditures or to make loans or grants to finance capital expenditures for the purposes of promoting economic development or promoting the development of housing projects for the benefit of persons with low or moderate incomes; to authorize the Director of Finance, with the approval of the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City, to sell such bonds for such capital improvement projects, to provide for the form, details and payment of such bonds; to authorize the issuance of notes of the City in anticipation of the issuance of such bonds; and to authorize the issuance of taxable bonds, for the same purposes and uses, in the same maximum principal amount and payable over the same period as such general obligation public improvement bonds.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was introduced and committee referral waived pursuant to Rule VI(B)(2).

9. [ORD. 2023-078](#) To authorize the issuance of general obligation public improvement bonds of the City of Richmond in the maximum principal amount of \$27,555,000 to finance the cost of capital improvement projects of the stormwater utility of the City for the following purposes and uses: replacement of and upgrades to the stormwater facilities, including but not limited to, construction, reconstruction, improvements, rehabilitation and upgrades of stormwater sewers and associated facilities; new and replacement infrastructure of the storm sewer system, drainage structures, catch basins, ditches, storm sewer pipes, culverts, green infrastructure; acquisition of real property therefor as appropriate; and equipment for various infrastructure needs; and authorizes the Director of Finance, with the approval of the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City, to sell such bonds for such capital improvement projects, to provide for the form, details and payment of such bonds and to authorize the issuance of notes of the City in anticipation of the issuance of such bonds, and to authorize the issuance of taxable bonds, for the same purposes and uses, in the same maximum principal amount and payable over the same period as such general obligation public improvement bonds.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was introduced and committee referral waived pursuant to Rule VI(B)(2).

10. [ORD. 2023-079](#) To authorize the issuance of public utility revenue bonds of the City of Richmond in the maximum principal amount of \$206,032,820 to finance the cost of capital improvement projects of the gas, water and wastewater utilities and public utilities buildings and facilities for the following purposes and uses: enlargement, extension, repair, replacement, improvement and equipping of the gas plant and transmission lines; enlargement, extension, repair, replacement, improvement and equipping of the waterworks plant and transmission lines; enlargement, extension, repair, replacement, improvement and equipping of the wastewater plant and intercepting lines; construction, reconstruction, repair, replacement, and improvement of sanitary and storm water sewers, pumping stations, drains and culverts; construction, reconstruction, repair, replacement, improvement and equipping of public utility buildings and facilities therefor, including but not limited to the stores division; and acquisition of real property and real property rights (including without limitation easements and rights-of-way) therefor as appropriate; to authorize the Director of Finance, with the approval of the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City, to sell such bonds for such capital improvement projects; to provide for the form, details and payment of such bonds; to approve the form of supplemental indenture of trust; to authorize the issuance of notes of the City in anticipation of the issuance of such bonds; and to authorize the issuance of taxable bonds, for the same purposes and uses, in the same maximum principal amount and payable over the same period as

such public utility revenue bonds.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was introduced and committee referral waived pursuant to Rule VI(B)(2).

Motion to Suspend the Rules

Councilor Cynthia Newbille moved to suspend Rule Six of Council's Rules of Procedure for all budget-related ordinances, introduced that day, so that those ordinances are not referred to or reviewed by a standing committee but are instead reviewed during a budget review process developed by the Council and the council chief of staff and heard during the budget public hearing scheduled for Monday, March 27, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 8, Addison, Jordan, Lambert, Lynch, Trammell, Newbille, Nye, Jones. Noes None.

Introduction and Expedited Consideration

Councilwoman Reva Trammell moved to expedite consideration of the following resolution:

1. [RES. 2023-R015](#) To authorize the utilization of the construction management procurement method for the construction of the Thomas B. Smith Community Center and the Lucks Field Community Center projects.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

This resolution was introduced for expedited consideration and adopted.

The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 8, Addison, Jordan, Lambert, Lynch, Trammell, Newbille, Nye, Jones. Noes None.

Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Lincoln Saunders provided an introduction and additional information regarding the proposed resolution.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell stated her appreciation for the work of city administration and informed members of her support for RES. 2023-R015.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch noted the need for a fiscal analysis of the construction projects and inquired about the estimated funds needed if the construction was completed over the amount budgeted. Councilor Lynch also inquired about how close the Lucks Field Community Center would be with surrounding schools.

CAO Saunders informed Council that construction costs and funding were still being reviewed. CAO Saunders also stated that development plans would incorporate available resources.

Bobby Vincent, Department of Public Works Director, stated that Lucks Field Community Center would be within a ten-minute walk to surrounding schools.

Councilor Cynthia Newbille stated that the Lucks Field Community Center was necessary because surrounding schools would not have the same available amenities as the community center.

Councilwoman Trammell requested that the city expedite community center construction to avoid rising costs for completion.

CAO Saunders stated that city administration requested expedited consideration of the proposed resolution to avoid delay.

There were no further comments or discussions and RES. 2023-R015 was adopted: Ayes 8, Addison, Jordan, Lambert, Lynch, Trammell, Newbille, Nye, Jones. Noes None.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

CITY CLERK