



# City of Richmond

## Work Session Minutes

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

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Monday, November 15, 2021

4:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

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### **Councilmembers Present**

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President  
The Honorable Ellen Robertson, Vice President (late arrival)  
The Honorable Andreas Addison  
The Honorable Michael Jones  
The Honorable Katherine Jordan

### **Absent**

The Honorable Kristen Larson  
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert  
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch  
The Honorable Reva Trammell

### **Staff Present**

Haskell Brown, Interim City Attorney  
Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff  
Candice Reid, City Clerk  
Tabrica Rentz, Acting Deputy City Attorney  
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the work session to order at 4:21 p.m. and presided.

### **Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan**

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.

### **Discussion Items**

#### **Council Legislative Priorities and City Charter Amendment Recommendations for the 2022 Virginia General Assembly Session**

Council Lobbyist Ron Jordan provided members with an update regarding Council's legislative agenda for the 2022 General Assembly session, legislative requests by Councilmembers, legislative requests not recommended by Council lobbyists, prior and potential General Assembly action, and recommended amendments to the City Charter. Mr. Jordan informed members that he was able to discuss Council's legislative priorities and recommended City Charter amendments with members of the Richmond City General Assembly delegation, and that he hoped to have concluded discussions with all members of the delegation within the next week. Mr. Jordan further stated that he would have definitive advice on the delegation's position on Council's legislative priorities and recommended City Charter amendments after the conclusion of discussions.

*A copy of the material provided has been filed.*

*President Cynthia Newbille noted that Council would meet again on Thursday, November 18, 2021, for an additional work session to conduct additional review of legislative priorities and recommended City Charter amendments, after Mr. Jordan completed his discussions with the Richmond City General Assembly delegation.*

*Vice President Ellen Robertson arrived at 4:28 p.m. and was seated.*

*Vice President Ellen Robertson inquired why certain Council legislative requests and priorities were recommended for deferral by the Council's lobbyists.*

Mr. Jordan stated that for certain requests, the General Assembly had indicated that action would be taken that would make certain Council legislative requests unnecessary or would require the requests be amended. Mr. Jordan also stated that with the incoming changes to membership of the General Assembly in 2022, certain legislative requests may not be viewed favorably, and he recommended Council defer the requests to a future session.

*Councilor Katherine Jordan inquired about transportation legislative requests and legislation regarding bike lanes.*

Mr. Jordan stated the city could continue to fund additional bike lane conversions in the city.

It was the consensus of Council to move forward with drafting necessary legislation regarding the City of Richmond Legislative Proposals for the Virginia General Assembly 2022 Regular Session.

*Councilor Michael Jones inquired about the directive received from the Richmond City General Assembly delegation, that the city only submit noncontroversial City Charter amendment requests. Councilor Jones also inquired about submitting certain City Charter amendment requests at the upcoming 2022 General Assembly session, and deferring certain requests for a future session.*

Mr. Jordan stated that the directive was a request that the city only submit City Charter amendment requests that received consensus from both Council and city administration.

*Vice President Ellen Robertson stated her concerns about other members of the Virginia General Assembly making amendments to the City Charter once the opportunity for amendments was before the General Assembly. Vice President Robertson also stated that she hoped the Richmond City General Assembly delegation would serve as a gatekeeper regarding the City Charter and potential amendments not requested by the city.*

*President Cynthia Newbille stated a commission would be established to review other City Charter amendment recommendations that had yet to receive consensus and would also review the impact of the recent election of the Virginia General Assembly membership.*

*Councilor Jones requested additional information regarding Item 11 on the list of City Charter amendment recommendations.*

Jeff Gray, Senior Policy Advisor to the Chief Administrative Officer, provided Council with information regarding the amendment recommendation.

Interim Council Chief of Staff Joyce Davis provided Council with information regarding the Governmental Operations Standing Committee's work on obtaining consensus on the 11 amendment recommendations to the City Charter. Ms. Davis also stated that Item 12 regarding city administration's ability to make interdepartmental General Fund transfer, was still lacking consensus, and the item would be subject to additional discussion between Council and city administration.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the work session adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

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CITY CLERK