



City of Richmond

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

Formal Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 10, 2025

6:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Councilmembers Present

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President
The Honorable Katherine Jordan, Vice President
The Honorable Sarah Abubaker (electronic participation) (late arrival)
The Honorable Andrew Breton
The Honorable Kenya Gibson
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch
The Honorable Ellen Robertson
The Honorable Reva Trammell (early departure)
The Honorable Nicole Jones (electronic participation) (late arrival)

Call to Order

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m., and presided.

Spanish Interpretation Announcements

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

Roxana Talavera-Denson, Language Access Coordinator, Office of Immigrant and Refugee Engagement, then provided Spanish interpretation of City Clerk Reid's announcement.

Seminarian Chris A. Hilbert of Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology of Virginia Union University, 1500 N. Lombardy Street, Richmond, Virginia, provided the invocation.

Members of Council and the audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan Announcement and Public Speaker Guidelines

Upon the President's request, Council Management Analyst Pamela Nichols provided information on the appropriate way to evacuate the Council Chamber in an emergency along with public speaker guidelines.

Electronic Participation

Pursuant to Rule III(D)(4)(b) of Council's Rules of Procedure, Councilor Sarah Abubaker and Councilor Nicole Jones made requests to participate in the meeting via Microsoft Teams from the Marriott Marquis Washington, D.C., due to their participation in a National League of Cities Congregational City Conference that prevented their physical attendance. The Council members present were required to adopt a motion to approve Councilor Abubaker's and Councilor Jones's participation in the meeting by electronic communication means if it appeared to the body that their requests complied with Rule III(D) of Council's Rules of Procedure. A motion was solicited from those members physically assembled to approve Councilor Abubaker's and Councilor Jones's participation in the meeting by electronic communication means.

Vice President Katherine Jordan moved to allow Councilor Sarah Abubaker and Councilor Nicole Jones to participate in the meeting by electronic communication means. The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 7, Breton, Gibson, Robertson, Lynch, Trammell, Jordan, Newbille. Noes None. Abubaker and Jones had not yet joined the meeting.

Action on Appointments and Reappointments

There were no appointments or reappointments.

Awards and Presentations

President Cynthia Newbille and Councilor Ellen Robertson, on behalf of City Council, and Interim Chief Administrative Officer Sabrina Joy-Hogg, on behalf of Mayor Danny Avula, honored and recognized AmeriCorps and proclaimed the second full calendar week of March as Richmond AmeriCorps Week.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

[CD.2025.067](#) 20250310 Formal Awards and Recognitions Ceremony Docket

Councilor Nicole Jones joined the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

Councilor Sarah Abubaker joined the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

Public Comment

[CD.2025.068](#) March 10, 2025 Public Comment Period Speakers List

Kasey Miller, New Virginia Majority member, addressed Council and requested that the city dedicate \$9,000,000 from the upcoming fiscal year budget towards the Family Crisis Fund. Ms. Miller informed Council of her concerns regarding rent burdens and housing affordability in the city.

John Gregory addressed Council and stated his support for Ord. 2024-329. Mr. Gregory informed Council that he believed the proposed development would improve walkability in the city, and he requested that Council not act on the fear of residents worried about the loss of street parking.

Agenda Review and Amendments

Vice President Katherine Jordan moved to amend the agenda as follows:

1. [ORD.](#)
[2025-014](#) To authorize the special use of the property known as 3618 Hawthorne Avenue for the purpose of a four-unit multifamily dwelling and six single-family attached dwellings, upon certain terms and conditions. (3rd District)

Patrons: Mayor Avula (By Request)

To be continued to Monday, March 24, 2025

2. [ORD.](#)
[2025-025](#) To authorize the special use of the properties known as 5009 Rear Snead Road, 5015 Snead Road, and 5015 Rear Snead Road for the purpose of up to 180 multifamily dwelling units and a clubhouse, upon certain terms and conditions. (9th District)

Patrons: Mayor Avula (By Request)

To be continued to Monday, April 14, 2025

4. [RES.](#)
[2025-R010](#) To establish the Civilian Review Board's policies and procedures pursuant to Va. Code § 9.1-601(D) and City Code § 2-1202.4(f).

Patrons: Ms. Trammell

To be continued to Monday, April 14, 2025

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

The Consent Agenda

The following resolution was considered:

3. [RES.](#)
[2024-R040](#) To accept and approve the biennial real estate strategies plan entitled "Revised 2024 Biennial Real Estate Strategies Plan for City Owned Surplus Properties." (As Amended)

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

Councilor Kenya Gibson asked for confirmation that Council would have approval over any conveyance of city property that is sold.

Sharon Ebert, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Planning and Economic Development, confirmed that any conveyance would require Council's approval.

There were no further comments or discussions and the Consent Agenda was unanimously adopted.

The Regular Agenda

There were no Regular Agenda items.

Motions

Councilor Ellen Robertson moved to expedite consideration of the following resolution:

5. [RES. 2025-R011](#) To repeal Res. No. 2024-R016, adopted May 13, 2024, which would terminate the services of Gayle Harris as a Council Liaison for the City of Richmond effective Mar. 7, 2025.

Patrons: Ms. Robertson

This resolution was introduced for expedited consideration and adopted.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

There were no comments or discussions and RES. 2025-R011 was unanimously adopted.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

There were no amendments or corrections to the meeting minutes of the Informal and Formal Council Meetings held on Monday, February 24, 2025, at 4:00 p.m., and 6:00 p.m.; the Council Opening Retreat held on Thursday, February 27, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.; the Council Retreat held on Friday, February 28, 2025, at 8:45 a.m.; and Council approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2025.065](#) February 24, 2025 Informal Meeting Minutes

[CD.2025.064](#) February 24, 2025 Formal Meeting Minutes

[CD.2025.071](#) February 27, 2025 Council Retreat Opening Meeting Minutes

[CD.2025.072](#) February 28, 2025 Council Retreat Meeting Minutes

Introduction of Ordinances and Resolutions

[CD.2025.076](#) March 10, 2025 Introduction Papers List

City Council will hold a public hearing on the following ordinances and resolutions on Monday, March 24, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.:

6. [ORD. 2025-041](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant Agreement between the City of Richmond and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the purpose of funding green infrastructure improvements at Whitcomb Community Park.

Patrons: Mayor Avula

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.

7. [ORD. 2025-042](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Grant Agreement between the City of Richmond, 1903 Semmes LLC, and the Economic Development Authority of the City of Richmond for the purpose of facilitating the construction of an affordable housing development located at 1903 Semmes Avenue and 1905 Semmes Avenue. (5th District)

Patrons: Mayor Avula

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee meeting on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

8. [ORD. 2025-043](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Grant Agreement between the City of Richmond, 809 Oliver Hill Way LLC, and the Economic Development Authority of the City of Richmond for the purpose of facilitating the construction of an affordable housing development located at 809 Oliver Hill Way. (6th District)

Patrons: Mayor Avula

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee meeting on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

9. [RES. 2025-R012](#) To designate the property known as 809 Oliver Hill Way as a revitalization area pursuant to Va. Code § 36-55.30:2. (6th District)

Patrons: Mayor Avula

This resolution was introduced and referred to the Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at

3:00 p.m.

10. [RES.](#) To express the concurrence of the Council with the inducement
[2025-R013](#) resolution adopted by the Economic Development Authority of Henrico
County and to approve the issuance of revenue bonds in an amount not
to exceed \$15,000,000 for the benefit of Bon Secours Mercy Health,
Inc. and Richmond Community Hospital.

Patrons: Mayor Avula (By Request)

**This resolution was introduced and referred to the Finance and Economic
Development Standing Committee meeting on Wednesday, March 19, 2025,
at 2:00 p.m.**

**City Council will hold a public hearing on the following ordinances on Monday,
April 14, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.:**

11. [ORD.](#) To vacate, pursuant to Va. Code § 15.2-2272(2), that part of the Oxford
[2025-044](#) Addition, Terrace P subdivision plat that reserved 3700 East Weyburn
Road, upon certain terms and conditions. (4th District)

Patrons: Mayor Avula (By Request)

**This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission
meeting on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.**

12. [ORD.](#) To vacate, pursuant to Va. Code § 15.2-2272(2), those parts of the
[2025-045](#) Oxford Addition, Terrace P subdivision plat that reserved 3601
Sherbrook Road and a portion of 3717 Sherbrook Road, upon certain
terms and conditions. (4th District)

Patrons: Mayor Avula (By Request)

**This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission
meeting on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.**

13. [ORD.](#) To amend Ord. No. 2008-270-261, adopted Nov. 10, 2008, as
[2025-046](#) previously amended by Ord. No. 2003-296-255, adopted Sep. 8, 2003,
which authorized a Community Unit Plan at 1300 Westwood Avenue for
a mixed-use development consisting of a maximum of one hundred
forty residential units, a community center with reception facility and
non-medical office, a preventative healthcare facility, two private
schools, and a fifty unit dormitory, and modified the plan for the fence
required between the subject property and 1409 Palmyra Avenue, to
modify the plan for the development of tennis courts. (3rd District)

Patrons: Mayor Avula (By Request)

**This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission
meeting on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.**

14. [ORD. 2025-047](#) To amend Ord. No. 2021-326, adopted Dec. 13, 2021, which authorized the special use of the property known as 1807 Harwood Street for the purpose of up to three two-family detached dwellings, upon certain terms and conditions, to revise the plans, upon certain terms and conditions. (8th District)
- Patrons:** Mayor Avula (By Request)
- This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.**
15. [ORD. 2025-048](#) To authorize the special use of the property known as 2701 Garland Avenue for the purpose of adult transitional housing, under certain terms and conditions, and to repeal Ord. No. 97-174-190, adopted Jun. 9, 1997, and all amendatory ordinances thereto. (3rd District)
- Patrons:** Mayor Avula (By Request)
- This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.**
16. [ORD. 2025-049](#) To authorize the special use of the property known as 1822 Ingram Avenue for the purpose of up to two single-family detached dwellings. (8th District)
- Patrons:** Mayor Avula (By Request)
- This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.**
17. [ORD. 2025-050](#) To authorize the special use of the property known as 2527 Stuart Avenue for the purpose of a food and beverage service establishment, upon certain terms and conditions. (2nd District)
- Patrons:** Mayor Avula (By Request)
- This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.**
18. [ORD. 2025-051](#) To amend City Code §§ 2-1199, concerning the duties of the Participatory Budgeting Steering Commission, and 2-1200 concerning administration, for the purpose of providing a stipend to Commission members and allowing the Commission to create ad hoc committees.
- Patrons:** President Newbille
- This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Organizational Development Standing Committee meeting on Monday, April 7, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.**

Reports or Announcements by Members of the Council

Members of Council provided reports and announcements regarding respective district meetings and activities.

Councilor Reva Trammell left the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

CITY CLERK