



City of Richmond

Informal Meeting Minutes

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
www.richmondgov.com/cityclerk

Tuesday, May 28, 2019

4:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Councilmembers Present

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President
The Honorable Chris Hilbert, Vice President
The Honorable Andreas Addison
The Honorable Parker Agelasto (late arrival)
The Honorable Kim Gray
The Honorable Michael Jones
The Honorable Kristen Larson
The Honorable Ellen Robertson
The Honorable Reva Trammell

Staff Present

Lisa Braxton, Assistant City Clerk
Meghan Brown, Interim Council Chief of Staff
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Tabrica Rentz, Senior Assistant City Attorney
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. and presided.

Upon the President's request, Assistant City Clerk Lisa Braxton provided information on the appropriate manner in which the Council Chamber is to be evacuated in the event of an emergency.

Docket Review

Assistant City Clerk Lisa Braxton reviewed the following agenda items as indicated:

Consent Agenda:

1. Ord. 2017-242 – retained on the Consent Agenda
2. Ord. 2018-289 – to be continued to Monday, June 24, 2019
3. Ord. 2019-118 – to be continued to Monday, July 22, 2019
4. Ord. 2019-119 – to be amended and continued to Monday, June 10, 2019
5. Ord. 2019-120 – retained on the Consent Agenda
6. Ord. 2019-121 – to be amended and continued to Monday, June 24, 2019
7. Ord. 2019-122 – retained on the Consent Agenda
8. Ord. 2019-126 – retained on the Consent Agenda
9. Ord. 2019-127 – retained on the Consent Agenda

10. Ord. 2019-128 – retained on the Consent Agenda
11. Ord. 2019-129 – to be continued to Monday, June 24, 2019
12. Ord. 2019-131 – retained on the Consent Agenda
13. Ord. 2019-132 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Regular Agenda:

14. Ord. 2018-231 – to be continued to Monday, June 24, 2019
15. Ord. 2019-125 – to be considered on the Regular Agenda

Vice President Chris Hilbert moved to suspend Rules VI(C) and VI(D) of Council's Rules of Procedure to allow for consideration of Ord. 2019-125 later that evening at the Formal Session of Council.

The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 8, Jones, Robertson, Larson, Gray, Trammell, Addison, Hilbert, Newbille. Noes None. Agelasto had not yet arrived.

President Cynthia Newbille requested that city administration work with the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee to refine the review/briefing process for future third quarter re-appropriations.

Councilor Parker Agelasto arrived at 4:12 p.m. and was seated.

Councilor Ellen Robertson asked that Council entertain discussion relating to proposed Ord. 2019-125 during the Informal Session of Council instead of later that evening at the Formal Session.

Councilor Kim Gray voiced concern regarding the discussion of Ord. 2019-125 and stated that, since the proposed legislation was previously slated to be continued, the discussion surrounding the paper should occur later that evening at the Formal Session of Council for transparency reasons.

Councilor Parker Agelasto requested that Council receive an update to questions raised during the May Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee meeting regarding proposed Ord. 2019-125.

Jay Brown, Budget and Strategic Planning director, introduced and answered questions concerning Ord. 2019-125; he stated that the projected budgetary shortfall of approximately \$1.6 million for fiscal year 2019 was due to lower than anticipated general fund revenue.

John Wack, Finance director, was also available to answer questions regarding proposed Ord. 2019-125 and stated that \$5.3 million within the assigned fund balance is earmarked to cover accumulated deficits of two special funds, Legal Services and Delinquent Tax Sale, within the City Attorney's Office.

Councilor Gray requested an explanation for the long-standing deficits of the two City Attorney's Office special funds.

Councilor Robertson asked for future dialog concerning the increased recycling cost incurred by the Department of Public Works' program.

Councilor Kristen Larson questioned the timeliness of the re-appropriation for the Sheriff's and City Attorney's Offices, since the projected deficits were known as of November 2018.

Councilor Agelasto raised concern that the proposed utilization of the city's Budget and Revenue Stabilization Contingency Revenue fund for the projected general fund obligation shortfall is not authorized according to his interpretation of the adopted policy.

Bobby Vincent, Public Works director, also answered questions related to proposed Ord. 2019-125 and provided additional information regarding the city's recycling program contract.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell requested the presence of the city auditor to answer questions extending from the discussion of proposed Ord. 2019-125.

Mark Olinger, Planning and Development Review director, provided Council with departmental staffing information for the Permits and Inspections division.

Richmond City Sheriff Antionette Irving informed Council that the proposed adoption of Ord. 2019-125 would allow for continued funding of contracts fundamental to the operation of her department through fiscal year 2019.

Senior Assistant City Attorney Tabrica Rentz informed Council that she is unable to provide responses on behalf of City Attorney Allen Jackson to questions raised during the discussion of proposed Ord. 2019-125.

Fire Chief Melvin Carter was also available to answer questions regarding the proposed third quarter re-appropriation legislation and stated that his department's budgetary shortfall was due to overtime.

There were no further comments or discussions concerning Consent and Regular Agenda items reviewed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

CITY CLERK