



City of Richmond Special Meeting Minutes

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

Monday, February 3, 2020

3:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Councilmembers Present

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President
The Honorable Chris Hilbert, Vice President
The Honorable Kim Gray
The Honorable Michael Jones (late arrival)
The Honorable Kristen Larson (late arrival)
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch
The Honorable Ellen Robertson (late arrival)
The Honorable Reva Trammell

Absent

The Honorable Andreas Addison

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 3:12 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 ITEM

Council's position on pending and proposed state legislation regarding casino gaming and games of skill machines in the city

Ron Jordan, council lobbyist, Advantus Strategies, engaged in a discussion with Council regarding casino gambling and games of skill legislation pending in the General Assembly (GA) of Virginia. Mr. Jordan inquired if Council supported the idea of a casino in the city.

Councilor Michael Jones arrived at 3:17 p.m. and was seated.

Councilor Kristen Larson arrived at 3:17 p.m. and was seated.

Councilor Kim Gray expressed her concern with the amount of information available regarding a casino in the city.

Ron Jordan stated he was only seeking Council's consensus on general concepts of casino gambling.

Councilor Ellen Robertson arrived at 3:25 p.m. and was seated.

Councilor Kristen Larson inquired if a city-wide referendum was necessary to approve a casino in the city.

Ron Jordan confirmed that a referendum, as well as approval by Council, would be required before casino gambling could occur in the city. Mr. Jordan stated that the ballot date for any referendum was still subject to finalization of an adopted bill in the GA.

Councilor Kim Gray again expressed her concern with a lack of specific details available regarding a casino in the city.

Ron Jordan requested Council's preference of a GA bill that allowed the city to choose its casino operator or a GA bill that has a state-level request for proposal process for a casino where the state issues licenses and collects taxes.

It was the consensus of Council to approve the general idea of a casino in the city and for a GA bill that allowed the city to choose its own casino operator.

Ron Jordan inquired Council's position on games of skill legislation pending in the GA. Mr. Jordan stated pending bills before the GA would either designate games of skill machines illegal, or declare the machines legal and available to taxation by the local government.

Laura Bateman, council lobbyist, Advantus Strategies, was available to address questions regarding pending legislation in the GA.

Councilor Ellen Robertson expressed her preference that games of skill machines be illegal and stated she was unsure if the city would get a fair share of any created revenue.

Councilor Gray inquired if any of the bills addressed regulations on location and inventory.

Mr. Jordan stated of the three remaining bills before the GA, two would designate the machines as illegal and the third bill would declare the machines legal with regulations.

It was the consensus of Council to support the ability to tax games of skill machines with revenue streamed towards local government, in the event that the machines are declared legal by the GA.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

CITY CLERK