



City of Richmond

Special Meeting Minutes

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

Monday, December 6, 2021

5:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Councilmembers Present

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President
The Honorable Ellen Robertson, Vice President
The Honorable Andreas Addison
The Honorable Michael Jones (late arrival)
The Honorable Katherine Jordan
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert
The Honorable Kristen Larson
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch
The Honorable Reva Trammell

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 5:11 p.m., and presided.

CHAMBER EMERGENCY EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT

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.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW LEGISLATION

The following ordinances and resolution were introduced for public hearing on Monday, December 13, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.:

ORD. 2021-334

To amend Ord. No. 2021-040, adopted May 24, 2021, which adopted the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 General Fund Budget and made appropriations pursuant thereto, to (i) create a new line item in the Non-Departmental agency entitled "Public Safety Employee COVID-19 Hazard Bonuses," (ii) transfer \$5,000,000.00 from the "Reserve for Contingencies - First Responder Hazard Pay (ARPA)" line item in the Non-Departmental agency, and (iii) appropriate such \$5,000,000.00 to the new "Public Safety Employee COVID-19 Hazard Bonuses" line item in the Non-Departmental agency, all for the purpose of providing funds for the payment of one-time bonuses to certain eligible City employees who perform public safety functions.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

This ordinance was introduced and committee referral waived pursuant to Rule VI(B)(3)(c).

ORD. 2021-335

To amend section II of the Pay Plan by adding therein a new subsection (D) providing for the payment of one-time bonuses to certain eligible City employees who perform public safety functions.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

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

RES. 2021-R083

To endorse, for the City of Richmond, legislative proposals set forth within the document entitled "City of Richmond Legislative Proposals for the Virginia General Assembly 2022 Regular Session;" to request the Richmond delegation to the General Assembly of Virginia to take legislative action consistent with and in vigorous support of such recommendations; to support other legislative action recommendations; and to encourage other organizations and individuals to support such recommendations.

Patrons: City Council

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

Councilor Stephanie Lynch inquired why the ordinances regarding public safety employee bonuses were not introduced for consideration earlier.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell stated she was concerned with the timing of the introduction of legislation, and she requested that expedited action be taken regarding the ordinances.

Jeff Gray, Senior Policy Advisor to the Chief Administrative Officer, stated that the funds received from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 were placed in a contingency fund, and that the proposed legislation would allow administration to appropriate the necessary funds for public safety employee bonuses.

President Cynthia Newbille inquired about the timeline for providing bonuses to general employees of the city.

Mr. Gray stated that city administration was waiting for additional revenues to be certified by the City Assessor before taking action on general employee bonuses.

Councilor Lynch inquired if there would be a delay with allocating anticipated funding for the city's Family Crisis Fund and gun violence prevention programs.

Jason May, Budget and Strategic Planning Director, stated that ARPA funds received by the city were placed in a non-departmental contingency fund, because additional work and review were necessary regarding the process of spending the received ARPA funds. Mr. May also stated that due to potential audits of the city's action regarding ARPA funds, city administration wanted to ensure proper action was taken regarding appropriation and process. Mr. May informed Council that the delay of the public safety employee bonuses was due to the city's efforts to coincide the bonuses with general employee bonuses, which was unable to occur, due to the requirement of waiting for the certification of additional revenue. Mr. May further stated that once city administration was aware that general employee bonuses would not occur until January 2022, city administration began to take action to provide public safety employee bonuses as soon possible. Mr. May confirmed that Richmond Ambulance Authority employees would receive bonuses with the city's general employees in 2022.

Councilor Andreas Addison stated his concerns with the impact the delay of public safety employee bonuses would have on employee morale and retention.

Councilor Michael Jones arrived at 5:23 p.m. and was seated.

Vice President Ellen Robertson requested a detailed timeline of action taken by city administration regarding the appropriation of ARPA funds for public safety employee bonuses.

President Cynthia Newbille requested that city administration provide Council with information regarding next steps for the allocation of all ARPA funds.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch requested a report regarding the city's Family Crisis Fund be provided at the December 9, 2021 Education and Human Services Standing Committee meeting. Councilor Lynch stated her concerns with the inability to provide funds to families in need prior to the Christmas holiday.

Mr. Gray stated that city administration would provide the requested information to Council and that city administration was willing to take any action necessary to expedite allocation of ARPA funds.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell stated her concerns with Richmond Police Department (RPD) staffing, and she informed members that she believed the delay in bonuses would negatively impact staffing and retention.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

CITY CLERK