



City of Richmond

Informal Meeting Minutes

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

Monday, January 11, 2021

4:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall
Virtual Meeting

Councilmembers Present

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

Staff Present

Lisa Braxton, Council Management Analyst
Haskell Brown, Interim City Attorney
Meghan Brown, 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 meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and presided.

ELECTRONIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Council Management Analyst Lisa Braxton, in accordance with Ordinance No. 2020-093, adopted April 9, 2020, as most recently amended by Ordinance No. 2020-232, adopted December 14, 2020, announced the meeting would be held through electronic communication means, and stated that notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information advisory issued on December 16, 2020, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice. She also stated there would be no opportunities for public comment and no public hearings during the meeting.

Docket Review

Council Management Analyst Lisa Braxton reviewed the following agenda items as indicated:

Consent Agenda:

1. Ord. 2019-275 – to be continued to Monday, January 25, 2021
2. Ord. 2019-276 – to be continued to Monday, January 25, 2021
3. Ord. 2020-214 – retained on the Consent Agenda
4. Ord. 2020-227 – retained on the Consent Agenda

5. Ord. 2020-228 – retained on the Consent Agenda
6. Ord. 2020-239 – retained on the Consent Agenda
7. Ord. 2020-241 – retained on the Consent Agenda
8. Ord. 2020-249 – to be continued to Monday, January 25, 2021
9. Ord. 2020-251 – moved to Regular Agenda
10. Ord. 2020-252 – retained on the Consent Agenda
11. Ord. 2020-253 – retained on the Consent Agenda
12. Ord. 2020-254 – retained on the Consent Agenda
13. Ord. 2020-255 – retained on the Consent Agenda
14. Ord. 2020-256 – to be continued to Monday, January 25, 2021
15. Ord. 2020-257 – to be continued to Monday, January 25, 2021
16. Ord. 2020-258 – to be continued to Monday, January 25, 2021
17. Ord. 2020-259 – to be continued to Monday, January 25, 2021
18. Ord. 2020-260 – to be continued to Monday, January 25, 2021

Councilor Stephanie Lynch joined the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

19. Ord. 2020-261 – to be continued to Monday, February 8, 2021
20. Ord. 2020-262 – retained on the Consent Agenda
21. Ord. 2020-263 – retained on the Consent Agenda
22. Ord. 2020-264 – to be continued to Monday, February 8, 2021
23. Ord. 2020-265 – to be continued to Monday, February 8, 2021
24. Ord. 2020-266 – to be continued to Monday, February 8, 2021
25. Ord. 2020-267 – retained on the Consent Agenda
26. Ord. 2020-268 – retained on the Consent Agenda
27. Ord. 2020-269 – retained on the Consent Agenda
28. Ord. 2020-270 – to be continued to Monday, February 8, 2021
29. Ord. 2020-271 – retained on the Consent Agenda
30. Res. 2020-R056 – to be continued to Monday, February 8, 2021
31. Res. 2020-R062 – retained on the Consent Agenda
32. Res. 2020-R067 – retained on the Consent Agenda

- 33. Res. 2020-R069 – retained on the Consent Agenda
- 34. Res. 2020-R070 – retained on the Consent Agenda
- 35. Res. 2020-R071 – to be continued to Monday, January 25, 2021
- 36. Res. 2020-R072 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Regular Agenda:

- 37. Ord. 2018-236 – to be continued to Monday, February 22, 2021
- 38. Ord. 2020-117 – retained on the Regular Agenda
- 39. Ord. 2020-217 – to be stricken

Councilor Katherine Jordan requested Ord. 2020-217 be stricken in light of Governor Ralph Northam's proposed historic justice initiatives, which include funding to support an unified approach to transforming Monument Avenue.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch requested Ord. 2020-251 be placed on the Regular Agenda to allow an opportunity for in depth discussion later that evening during the Formal Session of Council.

Chris Frelke, Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities director, stated that city administration is not opposed to the striking of Ord. 2020-217 and supports a collaborative initiative for reimagining Monument Avenue.

Councilor Kristen Larson raised concerns regarding the striking of Ord. 2020-217 while awaiting finalization of the governor's proposal.

It was the consensus of Council to strike Ord. 2020-217 later that evening during the Formal Session of Council.

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

Richmond Resort Casino Development Request for Qualifications and Proposal (RFQ/P) Update

Leonard Sledge, Economic Development director, presented Council with an update regarding the city's resort casino development request for qualifications and proposals, which included information concerning the history of the Commonwealth's casino act, Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission study, RFQ/P timeline, survey results and community engaging. A copy of the presentation has been filed.

Interim City Attorney Haskell Brown asked for an opportunity to examine state laws in order to best advise Council concerning certain casino solicitations.

Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert requested to participate on the casino RFQ/P's evaluation and selection committee.

Vice President Ellen Robertson requested a revised RFQ/P timeline to include Council approval dates for specific required actions involving the proposed casino.

President Cynthia Newbille asked to be contacted if any other members of Council were interested in serving on the casino RFQ/P evaluation and selection committee.

Tax Amnesty Program Proposal

John Wack, Finance director, presented information concerning a proposed 2021 tax amnesty program for real estate, and admission, lodging and meals taxes scheduled to be introduced later that evening at the Formal Session of Council. A copy of the presentation has been filed.

Acting Chief Administrative Officer Lincoln Saunders was available to answer questions pertaining to the proposed tax amnesty program.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell expressed concern regarding the accessibility of applying to participate in the tax amnesty program for citizens.

Councilor Kristen Larson notified city administration of issues regarding the dissemination of real estate tax bills.

Councilor Andreas Addison suggested city real estate tax bills be available online.

City Attorney Recruitment Process

Interim Council Chief of Staff Meghan Brown provided an update regarding the city attorney recruitment process.

President Cynthia Newbille stated that the next step would be the formation of an interview panel.

Councilor Andreas Addison suggested different marketing strategies for the city attorney recruitment process as a result of minimal interest and in an effort to widen the candidate pool.

Closed Session

At 5:23 p.m., Councilor Michael Jones moved that the City Council hold a closed meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to discuss and consider the appointment of a candidate to succeed the current Interim Council Chief of Staff as Interim Council Chief of Staff.

The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 8, Addison, Jordan, Lambert, Lynch, Trammell, Jones, Robertson, Newbille. Noes None. Larson excused.

Councilor Michael Jones motioned to exit closed session. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Councilors reconvened in open session at 5:44 p.m.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

January 11, 2021

WHEREAS, the Council has convened in closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law:

NOW, THEREFORE,
BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Council hereby certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge (i) only public matters lawfully exempt from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certifying resolution applies; and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Council.

WITNESS the following vote of Council members, as recorded by Candice D. Reid, City Clerk:

CERTIFYING:

Cynthia I. Newbille, President
Ellen F. Robertson, Vice President
Andreas D. Addison
Katherine L. Jordan
Ann-Frances Lambert
Kristen N. Larson
Stephanie A. Lynch (excused)
Reva M. Trammell
Michael J. Jones

DECLINING TO CERTIFY:

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

CITY CLERK