



City of Richmond

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

Informal Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 9, 2022

4:00 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
The Honorable Katherine Jordan (electronic participation)
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch
The Honorable Kristen Nye
The Honorable Reva Trammell

Staff Present

Lisa Braxton, Council Management Analyst
Haskell Brown, Interim City Attorney
Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Tabrica Rentz, Acting Deputy City Attorney
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Announcement

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

President Cynthia Newbille announced that, pursuant to Rule III (D)(4)(b) of Council's Rules of Procedure, Councilor Katherine Jordan requested to participate in the meeting via Microsoft Teams from her home as she is quarantining due to a known exposure to COVID-19.

Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert moved to allow Councilor Jordan to participate in the meeting by electronic communication means. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Councilor Jordan joined the meeting via Microsoft Teams.

Docket Review

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

Consent Agenda:

1. Ord. 2022-054 – to be continued to Monday, June 13, 2022
2. Ord. 2022-100 – retained on the Consent Agenda
3. Ord. 2022-105 – to be amended and continued to Monday, July 25, 2022
4. Ord. 2022-120 – retained on the Consent Agenda
5. Ord. 2022-121 – to be continued to Monday, June 13, 2022
6. Ord. 2022-122 – to be continued to Monday, June 13, 2022
7. Ord. 2022-123 – retained on the Consent Agenda
8. Ord. 2022-124 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Councilwoman Reva Trammell expressed concern regarding the dissemination of misinformation pertaining to the special use permit referred to in Ord. 2022-121 and mentioned her effort to correctly inform residents during a district meeting.

Councilor Michael Jones suggested business entities reach out to the community prior to initiating development plans within the 8th and 9th Districts.

9. Res. 2022-R025 – to be continued to Monday, June 13, 2022

Regular Agenda:

10. Ord. 2021-345 – to be continued to Monday, May 23, 2022
11. Ord. 2021-346 – to be continued to Monday, May 23, 2022
12. Ord. 2022-091 – to be continued to Monday, June 13, 2022
13. Ord. 2022-114 – to be amended and continued to Monday, May 23, 2022
14. Ord. 2022-115 – to be amended and continued to Monday, May 23, 2022
15. Ord. 2022-119 – to be continued to Monday, June 13, 2022; referred to Organizational Development Standing Committee

It was the consensus of Council to forward Ord. 2022-119 instead to the June 6th Organizational Development Standing Committee meeting for recommendation, given no objection from the chief patron of the proposed legislation.

Budget-Related Papers:

16. Ord. 2022-055 – retained on the Regular Agenda
17. Ord. 2022-056 – retained on the Regular Agenda
18. Ord. 2022-057 – retained on the Regular Agenda
19. Ord. 2022-058 – retained on the Regular Agenda
20. Ord. 2022-059 – retained on the Regular Agenda
21. Ord. 2022-060 – retained on the Regular Agenda
22. Ord. 2022-061 – retained on the Regular Agenda
23. Ord. 2022-062 – retained on the Regular Agenda
24. Ord. 2022-063 – retained on the Regular Agenda
25. Ord. 2022-064 – retained on the Regular Agenda
26. Ord. 2022-065 – retained on the Regular Agenda
27. Ord. 2022-066 – retained on the Regular Agenda
28. Ord. 2022-067 – retained on the Regular Agenda
29. Ord. 2022-068 – retained on the Regular Agenda
30. Ord. 2022-069 – retained on the Regular Agenda
31. Ord. 2022-070 – retained on the Regular Agenda
32. Ord. 2022-071 – retained on the Regular Agenda
33. Ord. 2022-072 – retained on the Regular Agenda
34. Ord. 2022-073 – retained on the Regular Agenda
35. Ord. 2022-074 – retained on the Regular Agenda

- 36. Ord. 2022-075 – retained on the Regular Agenda
- 37. Ord. 2022-076 – retained on the Regular Agenda
- 38. Ord. 2022-077 – retained on the Regular Agenda
- 39. Ord. 2022-078 – retained on the Regular Agenda
- 40. Ord. 2022-079 – retained on the Regular Agenda
- 41. Ord. 2022-080 – retained on the Regular Agenda
- 42. Ord. 2022-081 – retained on the Regular Agenda
- 43. Ord. 2022-082 – retained on the Regular Agenda

There were no further comments or discussions concerning Consent, Regular and Budget-Related Agenda items reviewed.

Other Discussion Item(s)

Diamond District Update

Maritza Pechin, Planning and Development Review deputy director, provided Council with an update regarding the proposed Diamond District redevelopment, which included information regarding the process for requests for interest, additional information and offers, RFAI respondents, project goals, evaluation criteria and panel, and upcoming key dates. A copy of the presentation provided has been filed.

[CD.2022.202](#) Diamond District Update Presentation

Councilor Andreas Addison inquired regarding the development of surrounding areas to the proposed Diamond District and asked city administration to maximize opportunities.

Vice President Ellen Robertson inquired regarding the cultivation of community benefit agreements for potential development projects and the city's role with promoting the Diamond District project once a vendor is selected.

Sharon Ebert, deputy chief administrative officer – Economic Development, was available to answer questions concerning the Diamond District project.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch questioned whether Council will be given an opportunity to weigh in on project incentives for the Diamond District proposal.

Councilor Kristen Nye inquired regarding a planned tour of the National Harbor and Potomac Yard development sites scheduled later in the week.

Ms. Pechin informed Council of her intent to meet with them individually to discuss the proposed request for offers pertaining to the Diamond District redevelopment.

Councilor Michael Jones expressed enthusiasm regarding the proposed development and challenged adjacent business owners to do more for their community.

Councilor Addison commented on a boilerplate approach for community benefit agreements.

Leonard Sledge, Economic Development director, provided a brief update regarding the One Casino + Resort redevelopment proposal scheduled for a second referendum in November.

Other Discussion

Chief Administrative Officer Lincoln Saunders informed Council of proposed legislation scheduled to be introduced for expedited consideration later that evening at the Formal Session of Council, determining and directing the final disposition of the General A. P. Hill monument removed by the City to be donated to the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia, Inc., upon certain terms and conditions, and providing for the respectful disinterment from the site, the remains of General A. P. Hill.

After an inquiry regarding the expedited consideration of the proposed legislation, Mr. Saunders explained the intent would allow city administration to begin legal proceedings for the disposition of the monument as well as eliminate safety concerns at the intersection. However, Mr. Saunders stated expedited consideration is not essential.

Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert expressed appreciation for the expedited consideration of the proposed legislation and asked for her colleagues' support.

Councilor Katherine Jordan also expressed support for the proposed expedited consideration of the legislation and requested to be added as a co-patron.

Councilor Kristen Nye requested an update regarding the pay plan study report and efforts to reimagine Monument Avenue during a future meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

CITY CLERK

