



# City of Richmond

## Council Budget Amendment

### Work Session 5 Minutes

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

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Tuesday, May 4, 2021

3:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall  
Virtual Meeting

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#### **Councilmembers Present**

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

#### **Staff Present**

Haskell Brown, Interim City Attorney  
Joyce Davis, Interim Chief of Staff  
Bill Echelberger, Council Budget Analyst  
Samson Anderson, Council Budget Analyst  
Candice Reid, City Clerk  
Steve Taylor, Council Policy Analyst  
Dominique J. Thaxton, Assistant City Clerk  
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. and presided.

#### **ELECTRONIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

Deputy City Clerk RJ Warren, 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 work session would be held through electronic communication means, and stated that notice of the session was provided to the public through a revised public information advisory issued on April 30, 2021, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice. He also stated there would be no opportunities for public comment and no public hearings during the session.

*Councilor Stephanie Lynch joined the meeting at 3:05 p.m.*

#### **Discussion of Proposed Amendments**

Bill Echelberger, Council Budget Analyst, provided an overview of Council's proposed amendments to the FY2021-2022 budget proposal. Mr. Echelberger provided information on the various categories of Council's proposed amendments to fund priority items by Council. Mr. Echelberger discussed a proposed \$1,000,000 decrease for vehicle replacement in the fleet management internal service fund requested by Council, and noted a request by members to use potential American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act resources to fund the addition of green fleet vehicles.

*A copy of the material provided has been filed.*

*Councilor Andreas Addison joined the meeting at 3:10 p.m.*

*Councilor Kristen Larson joined the meeting at 3:11 p.m.*

*Councilor Andreas Addison stated his concerns with the \$1,000,000 decrease, and stated he did not believe the decrease would lead to increased purchasing of green fleet vehicles.*

*Councilor Stephanie Lynch informed members of her request that Council allocate \$500,000 from the proposed \$1,000,000 fleet management decrease, to supplement public safety programs in the city.*

*Councilwoman Trammell inquired if the \$1,000,000 decrease would negatively impact the ability of the Richmond Police Department (RPD) and the Richmond Fire Department (RFD) to maintain vehicles.*

Jay Brown, Department of Budget and Strategic Planning director, provided Council with additional information and clarification regarding the proposed decrease's impact on the city's operating budget. Mr. Brown informed members that the proposed decrease would be from funding within the vehicle replacement fund that would be dedicated to pay for debt service on vehicles previously purchased or replaced.

Interim City Attorney Haskell Brown informed Council that the City Charter does not allow Council to cut or decrease debt service funding proposed by city administration.

*Councilor Andreas Addison left the meeting.*

*It was the consensus of Council that the proposed \$1,000,000 decrease would not be implemented due to the debt service designation. It was also the consensus of Council to put the remaining surplus of \$133,898 towards gun violence prevention programs.*

*President Cynthia Newbille requested that members review potential decreases in the proposed budget to ensure additional funding for gun violence prevention programs.*

Bill Echelberger, Council Budget Analyst, provided an overview of Council's proposed text amendments put forward by members of Council. Mr. Echelberger also discussed a proposed resolution that would direct the use of American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds for specific purposes by Council.

*A copy of the material provided has been filed.*

*Councilor Kristen Larson stated her support of the proposed resolution referenced by Mr. Echelberger.*

*Vice President Ellen Robertson stated her desire that affordable housing be identified as a priority of ARP fund use.*

*It was consensus of Council to move forward with the proposed text amendments as presented.*

Mr. Echelberger provided additional information regarding the need to amend proposed ORD. 2021-041, to incorporate additional federal grant funds for the Department of Housing and Community Development.

*A copy of the material provided has been filed.*

*It was consensus of Council to move forward with the proposed amendment to ORD. 2021-041.*

Samson Anderson, Council Budget Analyst, provided Council with an overview of Council's proposed amendments of funding decreases and increases to the proposed Capital Improvement Projects budget to address the city's transportation and park systems.

*A copy of the material provided has been filed.*

*Vice President Ellen Robertson requested that members review all the requests put forward by members of Council.*

*Councilor Stephanie Lynch left the meeting at 4:46 p.m.*

*President Cynthia Newbille informed members that she was agreeable to delaying funding for the Creighton Court Transformation project, so the transformation could be funded by the American Rescue Plans (ARP) Act.*

*Councilor Kristen Larson left the meeting at 5:12 p.m.*

Mr. Anderson provided Council with additional information regarding the proposed Complete Streets program for transportation improvements and safety upgrades citywide. Mr. Anderson stated Council staff was still awaiting specific details of the exact projects to be included in the Complete Streets program.

Acting Chief Administrative Officer Lincoln Saunders informed Council that city administration was available to provide additional information regarding the Complete Streets program.

Bobby Vincent, Department of Public Works director, provided Council with information regarding traffic calming measures and infrastructure improvements. Mr. Vincent requested that members work with city administration to strategically plan for the implementation of improvements throughout the city, as many would be time consuming and require detailed planning.

*Councilor Michael Jones stated his desire that the city's Southside receive its fair share of investments for capital improvements.*

*Councilwoman Reva Trammell stated that the city should be entitled to state funding to address improvements in the city's Southside.*

Mr. Vincent stated the city's Complete Streets program would work to implement improvements in an equitable fashion.

*President Cynthia Newbille requested that additional information referenced by members be provided prior to the next Council budget amendment work session.*

Chris Frelke, Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities, informed members that proposed improvements to city parks by members of Council were not covered in the proposed Capital Improvement Projects budget proposed by city administration, with the exception of improvements to the Carter Jones/Fonticello Park.

*President Newbille requested that members be prepared to complete the review of proposed amendments to the city's Capital Improvement Projects budget at the next work session on Thursday, May 6, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.*

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

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CITY CLERK