



# City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219  
[www.rva.gov/office-city-clerk](http://www.rva.gov/office-city-clerk)

## Informal Meeting Minutes

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Monday, April 14, 2025

4:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

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### **Councilmembers Present**

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President  
The Honorable Katherine Jordan, Vice President  
The Honorable Sarah Abubaker  
The Honorable Andrew Breton  
The Honorable Kenya Gibson  
The Honorable Nicole Jones  
The Honorable Ellen Robertson  
The Honorable Reva Trammell

### **Absent**

The Honorable Stephanie Lynch

### **Staff Present**

Lisa Braxton, Council Management Analyst, Principal  
Laura Drewry, City Attorney  
Candice Reid, City Clerk  
Tabrica Rentz, Deputy City Attorney  
Matthew Slaats, Interim Council Chief of Staff  
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

### **Call to Order**

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. and presided.

### **Chamber Emergency Evacuation Announcement**

Upon the President's request, Council Management Analyst Lisa Braxton provided information on the appropriate way to evacuate the Council Chamber in an emergency.

### **Docket Review**

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

## Consent Agenda:

1. Ord. 2024-312 – to be continued to Monday, May 12, 2025
2. Ord. 2025-025 – to be continued to Monday, April 28, 2025
3. Ord. 2025-044 – to be continued to Monday, May 12, 2025; referred back to the Planning Commission
4. Ord. 2025-045 – to be continued to Monday, May 12, 2025; referred back to the Planning Commission

Per Councilor Sarah Abubaker's request, it was the consensus of Council to continue Ords. 2025-044 and 2025-045 to the May 12, 2025 Council meeting and refer the proposed legislation to the May 6, 2025 Planning Commission meeting for further deliberation.

5. Ord. 2025-046 – to be continued to Monday, April 28, 2025
6. Ord. 2025-047 – retained on Consent Agenda
7. Ord. 2025-048 – to be continued to Monday, April 28, 2025
8. Ord. 2025-049 – retained on Consent Agenda
9. Ord. 2025-050 – retained on Consent Agenda
10. Ord. 2025-051 – retained on Consent Agenda

## Regular Agenda:

There were no Regular Agenda items.

## Budget-Related Papers:

11. Ord. 2025-057 – to be continued to Monday, April 28, 2025
12. Ord. 2025-058 – to be continued to Monday, April 28, 2025
13. Ord. 2025-059 – to be continued to Monday, April 28, 2025
14. Ord. 2025-060 – to be continued to Monday, April 28, 2025
15. Ord. 2025-061 – to be continued to Monday, April 28, 2025
16. Ord. 2025-062 – to be continued to Monday, April 28, 2025
17. Ord. 2025-063 – to be continued to Monday, April 28, 2025

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

### **Other Discussion Item(s)**

#### **Richmond Region Tourism (RRT) Annual Update**

Katherine O'Donnell and Danielle Fitz-Hugh, RRT, president/chief executive officer and vice president of community relations, presented the organization's annual update, which included information regarding visitors' demographics and spending, and RRT's social media outreach, community engagement, partnerships, tourism sectors, master plan, advertisement campaign and foundation. A copy of the presentation provided has been filed.

[CD.2025.116](#) Richmond Region Tourism Annual Update Presentation

Councilor Andrew Breton inquired regarding the capacity of a headquarter hotel for the proposed City Center development.

Sharon Ebert, deputy chief administrative officer, Planning and Economic Development, was available to answer questions regarding the City Center development proposal.

Councilor Ellen Robertson thanked Ms. O'Donnell and Ms. Fitz-Hugh for RRT's dedication and commitment to the community.

### **Closed Session**

At 4:29 p.m., Councilor Andrew Breton moved that the City Council go into a closed meeting pursuant to subdivision (A)(1) of section 2.2-3711 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to discuss and consider prospective candidates for employment as the Council Chief of Staff.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Councilor Kenya Gibson motioned to exit closed session. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Councilors reconvened in open session at 5:09 p.m.

#### **CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING**

April 14, 2025

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  
Katherine L. Jordan, Vice President  
Andrew S. Breton  
Kenya J. Gibson  
Sarah M.A. Abubaker  
Stephanie A. Lynch (absent)  
Ellen F. Robertson  
Reva M. Trammell  
Nicole Jones

**DECLINING TO CERTIFY:**

**Adjournment**

In anticipation of a significant number of individuals participating in the budget public hearing later that evening during the Formal Session of Council, President Cynthia Newbille requested the time limit be reduced to two minutes for all public speakers.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

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CITY CLERK