



## City of Richmond

### Minutes

#### Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee

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Tuesday, November 19, 2019

1:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

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#### Committee Members and Others in Attendance

The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Chair  
The Honorable Kim Gray – Vice Chair  
The Honorable Michael Jones – Committee member  
The Honorable Andreas Addison – Council member (*late arrival*)  
The Honorable Kristen Larson – Council member (*early departure*)  
Bonnie Ashley, Deputy City Attorney  
Bill Echelberger, Council Budget Analyst  
Pamela Nichols, Assistant City Clerk  
Candice Reid, City Clerk  
Dominique Thaxton, Assistant City Clerk  
Steve Taylor, Council Policy Analyst  
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

#### Call to Order

Chair Ellen Robertson called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m., and presided.

#### Evacuation Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Pamela Nichols, assistant city clerk, provided information on the appropriate manner in which the Council Chamber is to be evacuated in the event of an emergency along with citizen speaker guidelines.

#### Public Comment Period

There were no public comment speakers.

#### Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections or amendments to the meeting minutes of Tuesday, October 22, 2019, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

#### Board Vacancies

There were no board applications for review.

## Presentation

Sarah Shaughnessy, Richmond City Health Department community health planner, presented a summary of the city's Vision Zero scorecard. Ms. Shaughnessy explained the city was evaluated on five categories and assigned a grade based on the degree to which action items had been completed. She reported the scorecard compiled by the Complete Streets Richmond Coalition, revealed the city made progress to improve road safety. Ms. Shaughnessy further reported most traffic related injuries and fatalities occurred in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Council Districts.

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

Vice Chair Kim Gray stated that she was still awaiting a response from the Department of Public Works regarding her previous requests for a traffic study for the Northside corridors.

## Paper(s) for Consideration

**Member Michael Jones moved to amend the agenda as follows:**

### ORD. 2018-231

To amend and reordain City Code §§ 26-397, concerning definitions, 26-399, concerning the eligibility criteria for partial exemption of rehabilitated residential and multifamily structures or other improvements from real estate taxation, and 26-401, concerning the amount of exemption for rehabilitated residential and multifamily qualified structures, and to amend ch. 26, art. V, div. 3 by adding therein new §§ 26-398.1, concerning the evaluation of such program, and 26-401.1, concerning affordable housing certification, for the purpose of revising the City's partial tax exemption program for residential and multifamily structures by defining certain terms and modifying the qualification requirements for the receipt and duration of partial exemption from real estate taxation.

**Patron:** Ms. Robertson and Mr. Jones

**To be continued to January 21, 2020 Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting**

**The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**The following ordinance was considered:**

### ORD. 2019-247

To amend ch. 8, art. II of the City Code by adding therein a new § 8-34, concerning [unsolicited] offers to give or dedicate fee simple interests in real estate to the City, for the purpose of imposing certain reporting requirements when the City receives an [unsolicited] offer to give or dedicate fee simple interests in real estate to the City.

**Patron:** Ms. Larson

*Councilor Kristen Larson introduced ORD. 2019-247 and advised the committee she would like to amend the proposed legislation to specify a timeframe in which the chief administrative officer would be required to notify the director of Economic Development of offers.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Gray moved to forward ORD. 2019-247 to Council with the recommendation to approve with amendment, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

*Councilor Kristen Larson exited the meeting at 1:39 p.m.*

**The following resolution was considered:**

RES. 2019-R025

To declare a public necessity to amend City Code § 30-800.3 and to initiate an amendment to the City's zoning ordinance to require a minimum lot area of 750 square feet per dwelling unit when a nonconforming use is changed to a multifamily dwelling within certain residential zoning districts.

**Patron:** Ms. Gray

*Vice Chair Kim Gray remarked that RES. 2019-R025, which was continued from the committee's October meeting was supported by city administration.*

**Support**

***Jonathan Marcus, representative of West Grace Street Association,** spoke in support of RES. 2019-R025 and stated the proposed requirement would create boundaries to address growth within established neighborhoods.*

***Janis Allen, president of the Historic Jackson Ward Association,** spoke in support of RES. 2019-R025 on behalf of the Historic Jackson Ward Association. Ms. Allen stated the proposed legislation would help maintain the character of neighborhoods.*

***Charlene Baylor, board member of Carver Area Civic Improvement League,** spoke in support of RES. 2019-R025 and stated the proposed legislation would help maintain the integrity of existing neighborhoods.*

***Preston Lloyd,** spoke in support of RES. 2019-R025 and stated the proposed legislation would expand a property owner's ability to create new dwelling units in areas of the city where such options were not currently available.*

*Mark Olinger, director of the Department of Planning and Development Review, provided the committee with a listing of nonconforming properties in R-1 through R-8 single-family residential districts. Mr. Olinger reiterated the proposed legislation would only apply to the conversion of existing nonconforming structures to another nonconforming development.*

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

*Councilor Andreas Addison arrived at 1:48 p.m.*

*Chair Ellen Robertson stated she would support the proposed minimum lot area of 750 square feet; however, she would prefer an even smaller minimum lot area. Chair Robertson asked about the impact the proposed legislation would have on a proposed residential development which has been the center of previous discussions.*

*Member Michael Jones expressed concerned about impacts to future renovation efforts.*

*The committee requested a discussion on the proposed legislation at the Formal meeting of Council.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Gray moved to forward RES. 2019-R025 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved:** Ayes 2, Gray, Robertson. Noes 0. Abstentions 1, Jones.

**The following ordinance was considered:**

ORD. 2019-312

To provide for the granting by the City of Richmond to the person, firm or corporation to be ascertained in the manner prescribed by law of certain easements upon, over, under, and across certain property located at 1201½ North 38<sup>th</sup> Street for the construction, installation, operation, maintenance, inspection, repair, replacement, and removal of electrical lines and associated appurtenances in accordance with a certain Right of Way Agreement.

**Patron:** Mayor Stoney

*Steve Taylor, council policy analyst, provided an overview of ORD. 2019-312.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Jones moved to forward ORD. 2019-312 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**The following ordinance was considered:**

ORD. 2019-316

To designate the 1700 block of Fairfax Avenue in honor of Rosa Jones.

**Patron:** Ms. Trammell

*Chair Ellen Robertson introduced ORD. 2019-316 and asked to be added as a co-patron.*

*Vice Chair Kim Gray asked to be added as a co-patron.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Jones moved to forward ORD. 2019-316 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**The following ordinance was considered:**

ORD. 2019-313

To amend City Code § 2-428, concerning traffic control, for the purpose of establishing a process for the installation of all-way stop signs.

**Patron:** Mr. Addison

*Councilor Andreas Addison provided an overview of ORD. 2019-313.*

*Travis Bridewell, operations manager – Department of Public Works, provided administrative impact statements and asked that ORD. 2019-313 be continued to the next committee meeting to allow time for city administration to discuss standards for the installation of all-way stop signs with the Safe and Healthy Streets Commission.*

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

**Support**

**Louise Lockett Gordon, Bike Walk RVA director, spoke in support of ORD. 2019-313 and all related legislation and stated the legislation would provide the city with the necessary tools to create safer streets. Ms. Lockett Gordon stated the proposed ordinances would provide standards in addition to those outlined in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.**

**Max Hepp-Buchanan, member of Safe and Healthy Streets Commission**, reported that the commission supported ORD. 2019-314, ORD. 2019-315, RES. 2019-R065, RES. 2019-R066 and RES. 2019-R067.

Councilor Addison explained ORD. 2019-313 would assist the city in creating data points to determine whether all-way stop signs would be appropriate in high traffic areas. He stated he was comfortable continuing the proposed legislation to allow time for city administration to present the request to the Safe and Healthy Streets Commission.

Vice Chair Kim Gray expressed concern about the impact the installation of all-way stop signs would have on emergency response vehicles.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Gray moved to continue ORD. 2019-313 to the January 21, 2020, Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**The following ordinance was considered:**

ORD. 2019-314

To amend City Code §§ 24-523, concerning the obligation to maintain, repair or reconstruct the site of an excavation, and 24-551, concerning the obligation to comply with excavation requirements in public rights-of-way, for the purpose of imposing a time period within which an excavation site shall be maintained, repaired, or reconstructed and prescribing new penalties for violations of ch. 24, art. VII of the City Code.

**Patron:** Mr. Addison

Chair Ellen Robertson advised the committee of city administration's request to amend ORD. 2019-314.

Councilor Andreas Addison agreed to the proposed amendment.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Jones moved to forward ORD. 2019-314 to Council with the recommendation to approve with amendment, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**The following ordinance was considered:**

ORD. 2019-315

To amend City Code §§ 27-197, concerning parking prohibitions in specified places, and 27-219, concerning parking violations, written notices, issuance of warrants or summons, and penalty for noncompliance, for the purpose of adding therein a new prohibition against parking within a bicycle lane and prescribing a fine for the violation of such prohibition.

**Patron:** Mr. Addison

Councilor Andreas Addison provided an overview ORD. 2019-315.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Jones moved to forward ORD. 2019-315 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**The following resolution was considered:**

RES. 2019-R065

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause the City's Administration to develop and implement a comprehensive plan to make certain improvements to the City's infrastructure for pedestrian safety.

**Patron:** Mr. Addison

*M. Khara, deputy director – Department of Public Works (DPW), explained that city administration supported RES. 2019-R065, but asked that the proposed legislation be amended to exclude items already covered by existing ordinances or city policies.*

*Mickel Johnson, program and operations manager – Department of Public Utilities (DPU), stated DPU would like RES. 2019-R065 to be continued to allow time for the department to complete updates to the city's existing street light policy.*

*Councilor Andreas Addison provided a brief explanation of RES. 2019-R065.*

*Vice Chair Kim Gray stated she would like for the patron to discuss concerns expressed by city administration before the item is forwarded to Council for consideration.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Jones moved to forward RES. 2019-R065 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**The following resolutions were considered:**

RES. 2019-R066

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause the Director of Public Works to develop and implement a comprehensive plan for the collection and analysis of certain data to be used in the formulation of strategies and actions to support the City's Vision Zero traffic safety program goal to reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries in road traffic.

**Patron:** Mr. Addison

RES. 2019-R067

To request that the Mayor propose a Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Budget, Special Fund Budget, and a Capital Improvement Program that provides for certain enhancements to and personnel for the City's Vision Zero traffic safety program.

**Patron:** Mr. Addison

There were no comments or discussions and **Member Jones moved to forward RES. 2019-R066 and RES. 2019-R067 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**The following resolution was considered:**

RES. 2019-R068

To express the Council's support for certain goals in alignment with the Vision Zero traffic safety program that promote sustainability and equity in access to safe transportation.

**Patron:** Mr. Addison

*Dironna Moore Clarke, multimodal transportation manager – Department of Public Works, stated that city administration supported RES. 2019-R068; however, she asked that the proposed resolution be continued to allow time for the information to be shared with the Greater Richmond Transit Company Board of Directors at its December meeting.*

*Councilor Andreas Addison supported the continuance of RES. 2019-R068 to the January committee meeting.*

*Vice Chair Kim Gray requested information regarding accessibility for persons with disabilities at GRTC bus stops.*

**There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Gray moved to continue RES. 2019-R068 to the January 21, 2020 Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

#### **The following resolution was considered:**

##### RES. 2019-R069

To request the Richmond delegation to the General Assembly of Virginia to introduce and support the enactment of legislation authorizing the City to (i) establish designated no turns on red zones in City streets and (ii) allow bicyclists to treat a stop sign as a yield sign and a red light traffic signal as a stop sign, for the purpose of supporting certain goals in alignment with the Vision Zero traffic safety program that promote sustainability and equity in access to safe transportation.

**Patron:** Mr. Addison

*Councilor Andreas Addison provided a brief overview of RES. 2019-R069 and agreed to the continuance of RES. 2019-R069 as recommended by city administration.*

**There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Gray moved to continue RES. 2019-R069 to the January 21, 2020 Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

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

*There were no discussion items.*

#### **Staff Report**

Steve Taylor, council policy analyst, and Bill Echelberger, council budget analyst, provided the committee with the November staff report.

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

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.