



City of Richmond

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee

Thursday, June 16, 2022

1:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor – City Hall

Committee Members

The Honorable Michael Jones – Chair
The Honorable Kristen Nye – Vice Chair

Staff Present

Samson Anderson, Council Budget Analyst
Debra Bowles, Assistant City Clerk
Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Tabrica Rentz, Acting Deputy City Attorney

Absent

The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Member

Call to Order

Chair Michael Jones called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m., and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Upon the Chair's request, Assistant City Clerk Debra Bowles 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 the Thursday, May 19, 2022 committee meeting, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2022.226](#) May 19, 2022 Finance & Economic Development Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [20220519 Finance Minutes - DRAFT](#)

Papers for Consideration

The following resolution was considered:

RES.
2022-R032 To approve the City's strategic plan for equitable economic development for the fiscal years commencing Jul. 1, 2021, and ending Jun. 30, 2026, for the establishment of a strategic framework for equitable economic development, including job creation, capital investment, and revenue generation, in the city of Richmond pursuant to City Code § 2-1373.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney, Mr. Jones, Ms. Lambert, President Newbille, Vice President Robertson and Ms. Jordan

Attachments: [Res. No. 2022-R032](#)

Sharon Ebert, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (DCAO) for Planning and Economic Development, provided a summary on the Strategic Plan for Equitable Economic Development (SPEED). DCAO Ebert quoted that the top priority of SPEED is to erase racial disparities in education, poverty, housing, and health. Ms. Ebert also stated the plan's initiative is designed to build an equitable, inclusive, and sustainable economy for Richmond. DCAO Ebert reviewed the five smart goals outlined within the report, and further stated that the Planning and Economic Development portfolio will be working on SPEED and with DCAO for Human Services Reginald Gordon who has ties to community wealth building office.

Public Hearing

Teresa Caviness, representing Richmond Together, expressed support for RES. 2022-R032 stating that Council had received a document via email that provided detailed information regarding recommendations from Richmond Together.

Vice Chair Kristen Nye inquired on receiving a report for SPEED for tracking purposes.

Council Budget Analyst Samson Anderson stated that SPEED could be added to Council's annual report listing.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Kristen Nye moved to forward RES. 2022-R032 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD.
2022-178 To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to enter into the Twenty-Fifth Commercial Area Revitalization Effort Program Cooperation Agreement between the City

of Richmond, Virginia, and the Economic Development Authority of the City of Richmond for the purpose of providing for the operation of the Commercial Area Revitalization Effort ("CARE") Program.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney and Ms. Lambert

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2022-178](#)

Director of Economic Development Leonard Sledge introduced ORD. 2022-178 stating that the proposed legislation is regarding the continuation of the annual cooperation agreement between the Economic Development Authority and the city. Mr. Sledge stated that Council has funded the Commercial Area Revitalization Effort (CARE) for the past three years and requests continuation for funding as CARE is beneficial to small businesses. Mr. Sledge further stated that twenty-one applications have been received and eighteen applicants have received funding for a total of \$310,595.81.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Kristen Nye moved to forward ORD. 2022-178 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD.
2022-179

To amend City Code §§ 21-50, concerning bid bonds on construction contracts, and 21-68, concerning contracting for professional services by competitive negotiation, for the purpose of reflecting amendments to state law that Va. Code § 2.2-4343(A)(12) requires the City to follow.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2022-179](#)

[20220616 Procurement Bonds Presentation](#)

Senior Deputy Director Rene Almaraz introduced ORD. 2022-179. Mr. Almaraz provided a brief presentation and stated that the proposed ordinance will update City Code § 21-50 to conform with Virginia Code § 2.2-4336 and City Code § 21-68 to conform with Virginia Code § 2.2-4303.1. Mr. Almaraz also stated that there is no cost impact to the city.

A copy of the presentation has been filed.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Kristen Nye moved to forward ORD. 2022-179 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD.
2022-180

To approve the Work Plan and Budget for the fiscal year ending Jun. 30, 2023, for the provision of services in the Downtown Richmond Special Service and Assessment Districts.

Patrons: President Newbille

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2022-180](#)

Council Budget Analyst Samson Anderson introduced ORD. 2022-180 stating that the proposed ordinance is regarding an annual agreement with Venture Richmond.

Lucy Meade, Director of Economic Development and Community Relations for Venture Richmond, provided a brief statement regarding the enhanced services offered by Venture Richmond. Ms. Meade stated that beautification services can be seen with the planting of flowers along the Broad Street corridor and riverfront. Ms. Meade also stated that the Clean and Safe program of Venture Richmond is in the process of expanding to the Manchester area of the city and will be working with larger property owners then smaller property owners. Ms. Meade further stated that outreach meetings will occur to inform property owners of Venture Richmond's interest in expansion to the Manchester area. Ms. Meade informed committee members that a report will be provided to Council within six months.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Kristen Nye moved to forward ORD. 2022-180 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Presentations

There were no presentations.

Board Vacancies

There were no board vacancies.

Discussion Items

Debriefing on the FY23 Budget Process and a Path Forward

Sabrina Joy-Hogg, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (DCAO) for Finance and Administration, provided insight regarding the budget process. DCAO Joy-Hogg stated that Council and administration need trust to be successful.

Vice Chair Kristen Nye stated that she had participated in a positive conference call with administration to discuss items within the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) budget. Ms. Nye further stated that budget updates need to be incorporated within committee meetings for further discussion and for committee members to be educated on the request and its purpose. Ms. Nye also stated that Council staff needs to review the budget and report to Council as a body or to individual committees. Ms. Nye commented that the budget needs to be reviewed and discussed on a consistent basis and not just during the budget process.

DCAO Joy-Hogg stated that she is willing to meet with individuals or the entire Council regarding the budget, and that the meetings would allow for a timeline of stages to complete the budget process. DCAO Joy-Hogg also stated that this process would allow Council and administration to voice concerns; therefore, the budget discussion would be primarily on financial need and not on departmental presentations. Ms. Joy-Hogg further stated that the discussion would help Council and administration to understand the priorities of both entities and would minimize the need for budget amendments during the current fiscal year. Ms. Joy-Hogg commented that papers for consideration should not drive committee agendas but policy decisions should drive an agenda with the paper being the result of discussion within a committee.

Chair Michael Jones agreed that priorities for consideration should come out of committee discussions and that the process should be the best practice to adopt and move forward. Chair Jones stated that staff does not need to read items or have presentations for Council that do not relate to budget needs. Mr. Jones also stated that the Governmental Operations Standing Committee has started the practice of policy discussion for consideration, and the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee will be moving in the same direction.

Staff Report

A copy of the staff report has been filed.

[CD.2022.244](#) June 16, 2022 Finance and Economic Development Staff Report

Attachments: [After Item - June Staff Report](#)

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:39 p.m.