



City of Richmond

Informal Meeting Minutes

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

Monday, October 11, 2021

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 (late arrival)
The Honorable Michael Jones (late arrival)
The Honorable Katherine Jordan
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert
The Honorable Kristen Larson
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch
The Honorable Reva Trammell (early departure)

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

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and presided.

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.

Docket Review

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

Consent Agenda:

1. Ord. 2021-189 – to be continued to Monday, November 8, 2021
2. Ord. 2021-237 – retained on the Consent Agenda
3. Ord. 2021-250 – retained on the Consent Agenda
4. Ord. 2021-252 – retained on the Consent Agenda
5. Ord. 2021-253 – retained on the Consent Agenda
6. Ord. 2021-254 – retained on the Consent Agenda
7. Ord. 2021-255 – retained on the Consent Agenda
8. Ord. 2021-256 – retained on the Consent Agenda
9. Ord. 2021-257 – retained on the Consent Agenda

10. Ord. 2021-258 – retained on the Consent Agenda
11. Ord. 2021-259 – retained on the Consent Agenda
12. Ord. 2021-260 – retained on the Consent Agenda
13. Ord. 2021-261 – to be amended and continued to Monday, November 8, 2021
14. Ord. 2021-262 – retained on the Consent Agenda
15. Ord. 2021-263 – retained on the Consent Agenda
16. Ord. 2021-264 – retained on the Consent Agenda
17. Ord. 2021-265 – to be continued to Monday, November 8, 2021

Matthew Ebinger, Planning and Development Review planning supervisor, provided an introduction of Ord. 2021-265 and the suggested amendment.

18. Ord. 2021-266 – retained on the Consent Agenda
19. Ord. 2021-267 – retained on the Consent Agenda
20. Ord. 2021-269 – retained on the Consent Agenda
21. Ord. 2021-270 – to be continued to Monday, November 8, 2021
22. Ord. 2021-271 – retained on the Consent Agenda

M. Khara, Public Works deputy director, provided an introduction of Ord. 2021-271.

23. Res. 2021-R073 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Regular Agenda:

24. Ord. 2021-208 – to be continued to Monday, November 8, 2021
25. Ord. 2021-251 – to be continued to Monday, December 13, 2021
26. Ord. 2021-268 – retained on the Regular Agenda
27. Res. 2021-R067 – retained on the Regular Agenda

Councilor Andreas Addison arrived at 4:09 p.m. and was seated.

Councilor Katherine Jordan inquired regarding the preservation of green space in the 2nd District as a result of the proposed sale of the property referenced in Ord. 2021-267.

Sheila White, Finance director, presented a revenue impact analysis of Ord. 2021-189, which addressed city administration's concerns regarding the proposed adoption of the alternative business, professional and occupational license (BPOL) taxation legislation. A copy of the presentation provided has been filed.

Councilor Michael Jones arrived at 4:18 p.m. and was seated.

Councilor Andreas Addison presented his BPOL reduction strategy. A copy of the information provided has been filed.

Leonard Sledge, Economic Development director, addressed Council regarding Ord. 2021-189 and advised of a strategy to raise the BPOL tax floor as an alternative to the proposed legislation.

Acting Chief Administrative Officer Lincoln Saunders requested an opportunity to discuss other ways to provide relief to city businesses and suggested a meeting with the city's financial advisor, Davenport and Company, prior to the November 8, 2021 Formal Session of Council.

Councilor Michael Jones acknowledged his skepticism regarding the intended outcome of Ord. 2021-189 and questioned the factors which drive an owner's decision involving business location.

Councilor Katherine Jordan stated that she would like to hear from the business community in order to make an informed decision regarding Ord. 2021-189.

Vice President Ellen Robertson suggested the proposed legislation be continued to allow for further dialogue.

Councilor Addison commented on challenges to obtain information related to active business licenses and newly applied building permits, which he cited would better assist Council with making informed budgetary decisions regarding BPOL taxation.

There were no further comments or discussions concerning Consent and Regular Agenda items reviewed.

Redistricting Briefing

J. Gerald (Gerry) Hebert, Campaign Legal Center (CLC) senior consultant, presented Council with recommendations pertaining to the 2021 decennial redistricting of Council and School Board election districts. Mr. Herbert advised that with the current uncertainty of state legislative mapping and anticipated voting precinct changes, Council is under no pressure to redraw district lines since the next election is not until 2024. A copy of the information provided has been filed.

President Cynthia Newbille suggested scheduling a future work session to discuss the presented recommendations after allowing Council an opportunity to review options.

Closed Session

At 5:03 p.m., Councilor Stephanie Lynch moved that the City Council hold a closed meeting pursuant to subdivision (A)(29) of section 2.2-3711 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to discuss terms and scope of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds for an efficiency and fiscal review to be solicited where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the City.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell departed at 5:45 p.m.

Councilor Michael Jones motioned to exit closed session. The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 6, Addison, Jordan, Lynch, Jones, Robertson, Newbille. Noes None. Lambert and Larson were excused.

Councilors reconvened in open session at 5:55 p.m.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

October 11, 2021

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
Ellen F. Robertson, Vice President
Andreas D. Addison
Katherine L. Jordan
Ann-Frances Lambert
Kristen N. Larson (excused)
Stephanie A. Lynch
Reva M. Trammell (early departure)
Michael J. Jones

DECLINING TO CERTIFY:

Other Discussion

Acting Chief Administrative Officer Lincoln Saunders informed Council of legislation scheduled to be introduced later that evening at the Formal Session of Council, authorizing the acceptance of the first tranche of American Rescue Plan Act funds from the United States Department of the Treasury and the inclusion of a \$1 million grant appropriation to the stormwater utility budget. Mr. Saunders suggested the proposed legislation be considered at a special meeting of Council on Monday, October 25, 2021.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

CITY CLERK