



City of Richmond

Meeting Minutes

Public Safety Standing Committee

Tuesday, June 25, 2019

12:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor – City Hall

Committee Members and Staff in Attendance

The Honorable Reva Trammell – Chair
The Honorable Kim Gray – Vice Chair
The Honorable Parker Agelasto – Alternate Member (early departure)
The Honorable Michael Jones – Council Member (late arrival, early departure)
Richard Hill, Assistant City Attorney
Jamie Isley, Assistant City Clerk
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Steven Taylor, Council Policy Analyst
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Absent

The Honorable Chris Hilbert – Committee Member

Call to Order

Chairwoman Reva Trammell called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m., and presided.

Evacuation Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Upon the Chair's request, Assistant City Clerk Jamie Isley 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

Barbara Brown addressed the Committee regarding crime, and expressed support for the Richmond Police Department.

Charles Willis, United Communities Against Crime executive director, requested the Committee to consider drafting legislation regarding abuses of the Second Amendment.

Ya'nina Alessandra Gonzalez expressed support for the Richmond Police Department and shared several personal experiences with officers.

Yasmine Soledad Gonzalez expressed support for the Richmond Police Department and shared several personal experiences with officers.

Edwuan Whitehead, Richmond Transparency and Accountability Project (RTAP) member, requested thirty-minutes for RTAP to present data analysis, findings and information regarding the future of policing to the full Council at the July 23, 2019, Public Safety Standing Committee Meeting.

Juliette Dixon addressed the Committee regarding a communication discrepancy within the Department of Planning and Development Review (PDR) that caused significant hardship. Ms. Dixon stated that her case was not referred from Code Enforcement to Zoning Administration, which prompted a judge's ruling to terminate her lease for lack of documentation.

Monica Powell, Richmond Police Department environmental police officer, stated that she is familiar with the location and that an inspector cited the landlord in the past.

Vice Chair Kim Gray requested additional information regarding the communication lapse between divisions and plans to prevent similar cases in the future.

Mark Olinger, PDR director, stated that the department will work to resolve coordination discrepancies between the Zoning Administration and Code Enforcement Divisions and connect Ms. Dixon with resources.

Councilor Michael Jones expressed concern for Ms. Dixon and requested city administration to follow up with him to verify that she secures housing.

Alternate Member Parker Agelasto inquired if the city could file an injunction on Ms. Dixon's behalf.

Richard Hill, assistant city attorney, advised that there is a statutory provision that allows for the city to file an injunction depending on the circumstance.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Shannon Gonzalez addressed the Committee regarding Ms. Dixon's hardship and asked that Council ensure departmental efficiency is upheld city-wide.

Approval of Minutes

There were no minutes to be approved.

Presentation(s)

There were no presentations.

Paper(s) for Consideration

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2019-164

To amend ch. 12, art. IV of the City Code by adding therein a new § 12-123, concerning fees for Fire and Emergency Services training events, and to amend Appendix A of the City Code by adding therein a new fee for § 12-123.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

*Fire Chief Melvin Carter introduced **ORD. 2019-164**, stating that the purpose of the paper is to offset the cost of training external regional members.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **Alternate Member Parker Agelasto moved to forward ORD. 2019-164 to the July 22, 2019, Council meeting with recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2019-R022

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause the Director of Public Works to present to the Council security measures providing for the installation and use of metal detectors at City Hall and providing, to the extent permitted by the U.S. and Va. Constitutions and applicable law, for procedures governing the search of persons entering City Hall for weapons.

Patron: Mr. Jones

Councilor Michael Jones introduced RES. 2019-R022, stating that it allows for the implementation of the planning process for additional security measures at City Hall.

Bobby Vincent, Department of Public Works director, advised that city administration is working with a third-party architectural firm and the Richmond Police Department to create a full assessment of the additional security measures for City Hall.

Vice Chair Kim Gray requested the updated comprehensive security plan for city-wide properties to include the fiscal impact to the city.

Alternate Member Parker Agelasto requested a review of the contract between the city and Allied Universal, Inc. to verify their ability to manage security screenings and for a closed session of Council to identify the appropriate security level for City Hall.

Support

Charles Willis, United Communities Against Crime executive director, spoke in support of **RES. 2019-R022** and of Council's authority to consider matters regarding security.

Opposition

Barbara Brown spoke in opposition of **RES. 2019-R022** due to funding concerns.

Alternate Member Parker Agelasto suggested that RES. 2019-R022 be amended to include a plan and cost estimates for additional security measures.

Councilor Michael Jones requested that city administration provide a recurring report to the Public Safety Standing Committee concerning safety measures in municipal buildings.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Alternate Member Parker Agelasto moved to forward RES. 2019-R022 to the July 22, 2019, Council meeting with recommendation to amend, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2019-R024

To impose enhanced speeding penalties pursuant to City Code § 27-163 and to authorize the placement of signs giving notice thereof on the portion of Evansway Lane located between Whitehorse Road and Westgate Drive, the portion of Cedar Grove Road located between Westgate Drive and Pondera Road, and the portion of Croatan Road located between Pondera Road and Apache Road.

Patron: Ms. Larson

There were no comments or discussions and **Alternate Member Parker Agelasto moved to forward RES. 2019-R024 to the July 22, 2019, Council meeting with recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

Board Vacancies

There were no board vacancies for consideration.

Discussion Item(s)

Code Enforcement, Zoning Enforcement and Building Code Matters

Mark Olinger, Department of Planning and Development Review (PDR) director, informed the Committee that the Code Enforcement and Zoning Administration Divisions will begin cross-training once all vacant positions are filled. He also explained the types of issues handled by the Department of Public Works or PDR.

Interim Police Chief William Smith advised the Committee of the processes followed by the Community Assisted Public Safety team in referring matters to PDR.

Chairwoman Trammell and Vice Chair Gray expressed that citizens are frustrated with services received from the Richmond 311 Call Center.

Alternate Member Agelasto exited the meeting at 1:47 p.m.

Mr. Olinger advised that PDR is working with Tyler Technologies, Inc. to utilize EnerGov software for seamless communication with the RVA311 platform.

Interim Police Chief William Smith provided an update on crime statistics and records management.

Staff Report

Steve Taylor, Council policy analyst, provided the Committee with the June staff report.

A copy of the report provided has been filed.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.