



City of Richmond

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

Informal Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 10, 2025

4:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Councilmembers Present

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President
The Honorable Katherine Jordan, Vice President
The Honorable Andrew Breton
The Honorable Kenya Gibson
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch
The Honorable Ellen Robertson (late arrival)
The Honorable Reva Trammell

Absent

The Honorable Sarah Abubaker
The Honorable Nicole Jones

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 4:06 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. 2025-014 – to be continued to Monday, March 24, 2025
2. Ord. 2025-025 – to be continued to Monday, April 14, 2025
3. Res. 2024-R040 – retained on Consent Agenda
4. Res. 2025-R010 – to be continued to Monday, April 14, 2025

Regular Agenda:

There were no Regular Agenda items.

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

Other Discussion Item(s)**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College Annual Update**

Dr. Paula Pando, president, J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, provided an update of the college's enrollment, retention and credentials rates, point of pride programs and skilled trades, collaboration with (RPS) Richmond Public Schools' early college academy (ECA) or dual enrollment courses for college credits, and workforce training for city residents. Dr. Pando acknowledged the college's board members in attendance. A copy of the presentation provided has been filed.

[CD.2025.069](#) J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College Presentation

Councilor Ellen Robertson arrived at 4:16 p.m. and was seated.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch stated that she would like to see more RPS students enrolled in the early college academy, and asked whether students are aware of the ECA program.

Councilor Kenya Gibson posed several questions regarding post-graduation metrics and challenges faced by both the college and students, and asked how the city could support.

Dr. Pando informed Council that Virginia's community colleges are the lowest funded among higher educational entities within the Commonwealth, while educating individuals with the highest need and typically requiring wrap-around support services.

Councilor Ellen Robertson thanked Dr. Pando and the college for its dedication and commitment to the community and asked how Council could best aid with lobbying for higher funding.

Councilor Andrew Breton inquired regarding the city's budget allocation to the community college and its measurement of a successful retention rate. Councilor Breton asked that Council be provided the college's metrics of success so that he too could track results.

Paving Plan Update

Bobby Vincent, director of Public Works, provided Council with a paving plan update, which included information regarding the department's mission and overview, fiscal year 2026 paving, infrastructure and traffic calming programs, the history of city sidewalks and maintenance analysis, and other major construction projects. A copy of the presentation provided has been filed.

[CD.2025.070](#) FY26 Paving, Infrastructure and Traffic Calming Program Presentation

Councilor Andrew Breton posed several questions regarding the installation of speed tables, the city's paving schedule, speed management, and sidewalk maintenance.

Councilor Kenya Gibson inquired regarding the installation of ADA-compliant (Americans with Disabilities Act) sidewalks.

Councilor Reva Trammell requested an update regarding a tree in her district whose branches are falling, and roots are damaging the sidewalk.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch requested that encumbered funding for rejected speed table installations be reallocated for other traffic calming measures within her district.

Councilor Ellen Robertson thanked Mr. Vincent and the department for their willingness to assist residents.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

CITY CLERK