



# City of Richmond

## Informal Meeting Minutes

900 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219  
www.richmondgov.com/cityclerk

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Monday, January 14, 2019

4:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

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### **Councilmembers Present**

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President  
The Honorable Andreas Addison (late arrival)  
The Honorable Parker Agelasto  
The Honorable Kim Gray (late arrival)  
The Honorable Michael Jones  
The Honorable Kristen Larson  
The Honorable Ellen Robertson  
The Honorable Reva Trammell (late arrival)

### **Reported Absent**

The Honorable Chris Hilbert, Vice President

### **Staff Present**

Lisa Braxton, Interim Deputy City Clerk  
Haskell Brown, Deputy City Attorney  
Meghan Brown, Interim Council Chief of Staff  
Allen Jackson, City Attorney  
Candice Reid, City Clerk

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

Upon the President's request, Interim Deputy City Clerk 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**

Interim Deputy City Clerk Lisa Braxton reviewed the following agenda items as indicated:

#### **Consent Agenda:**

1. Ord. 2017-242 – to be continued to Monday, January 28, 2019

Councilor Kristen Larson explained that Ord. 2017-242 is being continued awaiting an amendment to the proposed legislation.

2. Ord. 2018-300 – retained on the Consent Agenda
3. Ord. 2018-306 – retained on the Consent Agenda
4. Ord. 2018-307 – to be continued to Monday, January 28, 2019
5. Ord. 2018-308 – to be continued to Monday, January 28, 2019
6. Ord. 2018-311 – to be continued to Monday, January 28, 2019

*Councilor Kim Gray arrived at 4:04 p.m. and was seated.*

7. Ord. 2018-313 – retained on the Consent Agenda
8. Ord. 2018-314 – retained on the Consent Agenda
9. Ord. 2018-315 – retained on the Consent Agenda

John Wack, Finance director, introduced Ords. 2018-313, 2018-314 and 2018-315.

10. Ord. 2018-316 – retained on the Consent Agenda
11. Ord. 2018-317 – retained on the Consent Agenda
12. Ord. 2018-318 – retained on the Consent Agenda
13. Ord. 2018-319 – retained on the Consent Agenda
14. Ord. 2018-320 – retained on the Consent Agenda
15. Ord. 2018-321 – retained on the Consent Agenda
16. Ord. 2018-322 – retained on the Consent Agenda
17. Ord. 2018-323 – retained on the Consent Agenda
18. Ord. 2018-324 – to be continued to Monday, July 22, 2019
19. Ord. 2018-325 – to be continued to Monday, July 22, 2019
20. Ord. 2018-326 – retained on the Consent Agenda
21. Ord. 2018-327 – retained on the Consent Agenda
22. Ord. 2018-328 – retained on the Consent Agenda
23. Ord. 2018-329 – retained on the Consent Agenda
24. Res. 2018-R082 – to be continued to Monday, January 28, 2019

Councilor Ellen Robertson requested the withdrawal of Res. 2018-R082.

Regular Agenda:

25. Ord. 2018-228 – to be continued to Monday, February 11, 2019
26. Ord. 2018-233 – to be continued to Monday, January 28, 2019
27. Ord. 2018-243 – to be continued to Monday, February 11, 2019
28. Ord. 2018-245 – to be continued to Monday, February 11, 2019
29. Ord. 2018-288 – to be amended and continued to Monday, January 28, 2019
30. Ord. 2018-304 – retained on the Regular Agenda

Matthew Ebinger, Planning and Development Review principal planner, introduced Ord. 2018-304.

Councilor Kristen Larson clarified misinformation surrounding proposed Ord. 2018-304.

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

### **General Assembly (GA) Update**

Robert Crockett, Advantus Strategies president and managing director, provided Council with a preamble of the 2019 General Assembly session and introduced Laura Bateman, who presented an update regarding the city's legislative agenda proposal for this year's GA session. A copy of the information provided has been filed.

Ms. Bateman reported that Council's support is requested for several fair housing and housing commission eviction bills introduced during the 2019 GA session.

*Councilor Andreas Addison arrived at 4:26 p.m. and was seated.*

Councilor Parker Agelasto requested additional clarification regarding HB 1647, which prohibits any locality from discriminating (i) in the application of local land use ordinances and guidelines; (ii) in the permitting of housing developments on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, elderliness, familial status, or handicap; or (iii) in the permitting of housing developments containing or expecting to contain affordable housing units occupied or intended for occupancy by families or individuals with incomes at or below 80 percent of the median income of the area where the housing development is located or proposed to be located.

Councilor Kim Gray stated that she agrees with Councilor Agelasto and is hesitant to support HB 1647 without knowing the possible implications surrounding discrimination and affordable housing aspect.

Michael Jones commented that Council should have a process for receiving information regarding GA legislation prior to endorsement.

Councilor Ellen Robertson moved that the City Council express support for HB 1645 (Virginia Fair Housing Law; unlawful discriminatory housing practices) and HB 1923 (Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act; noncompliance with rental agreement; tenant's right to reasonable attorney fees).

The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 6, Robertson, Larson, Agelasto, Gray, Addison, Newbille. Noes None. Abstentions 1, Jones. Trammell had not yet arrived.

Councilor Ellen Robertson moved that the City Council express support for several bills introduced out of the Virginia Housing Commission's Evictions Task Force designed to accomplish the following objectives:

- HB 2054 - Require landlords to provide tenants with written leases; and in the absence of written leases, mandate 12 months rental terms with rent payments in monthly installments
- HB 2007 - Stipulate that a writ of eviction not executed within 30 days of issuance be vacated.
- HB 1445 - Extend the time period that a tenant can pay outstanding payments to avoid eviction
- HB 2655 - Create an eviction diversion program

The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 6, Robertson, Larson, Agelasto, Gray, Addison, Newbille. Noes None. Abstentions 1, Jones. Trammell had not yet arrived.

President Cynthia Newbille requested that Council receive information regarding GA legislation as soon as possible to ensure a conducive review and deliberation process, so that Council could better advocate for regulations that address the interest of the city.

Councilors Kristen Larson and Kim Gray had questions surrounding HB 1921, which will permit any school board to finance capital projects with any funds appropriated to it by the local governing body that are unexpended in any year.

*Councilwoman Reva Trammell arrived at 4:55 p.m. and was seated.*

Councilor Ellen Robertson requested the GA update presentations prior to the next Informal and Organizational Development Standing Committee meetings as well as information regarding Richmond Public Schools' GA legislative request.

### **Other Discussion**

City Attorney Allen Jackson stated that Council's approval is required to authorize the modification of employment contracts, which would allow Council appointees to receive a 1 percent salary increase on January 25, 2019, as that of general employees.

Councilor Ellen Robertson moved that the City Council authorize the modification of employment contracts for all appointees of the City Council for granting a 1 percent salary increase.

The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 7, Robertson, Larson, Agelasto, Gray, Trammell, Addison, Newbille. Noes None. Abstentions 1, Jones.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

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CITY CLERK