



City of Richmond

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

City Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

1:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Council Budget Amendment Work Session #3

Councilmembers Present

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President
The Honorable Ellen Robertson, Vice President
The Honorable Andreas Addison (early departure)
The Honorable Michael Jones
The Honorable Katherine Jordan
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert
The Honorable Kristen Nye
The Honorable Reva Trammell

Absent

The Honorable Stephanie Lynch

Staff Present

Samson Anderson, Council Budget Analyst
Myrtle Brown, Council Budget Analyst
Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff
Bill Echelberger, Council Chief of Staff
Pamela Nichols, Senior Assistant City Clerk
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Debra Shaw, Council Management Analyst
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m., and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan Announcement

Upon the President's request, Senior Assistant City Clerk Pamela Nichols provided information on the appropriate manner in which the Council Chamber is to be evacuated in the event of an emergency.

Discussion Item

Bill Echelberger, Office of the Council Chief of Staff, reviewed the updated potential amendment increases to the FY 2023 General Fund Budget, and advised Council of options to consider regarding the budget for Richmond Public Schools (RPS).

Joyce Davis, Interim Council of Chief of Staff, informed Council that she was awaiting receipt of RPS' budget.

Councilor Michael Jones asked that funding from a proposed decrease to the potential amendment increases for collective bargaining be used to expand services and hours for Richmond Public Library (RPL) branches.

Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert suggested allocating funds from a reduction to the amendment increase for the Office of Aging and Disability Services to support services for RPL.

Councilor Jones emphasized that the city needed to appropriate funds to expand opportunities for city residents to utilize services provided by RPL.

Scott Firestine, Richmond Public Library (RPL) Director, advised Council that the proposed FY 2023 budget afforded RPL the ability to extend hours of operations for all branches to 8:00 p.m., two days a week, but stated that he needed to work with city administration to compute a budget for Council's request to expand hours of operation for the Ginter Park Branch, Main Library and Broad Rock Branch libraries on Sundays.

Lincoln Saunders, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), agreed to provide Council with cost estimates to extend hours of operation for three RPL branches on Sundays.

Mr. Echelberger advised Council that additional decreases to potential amendment increases was necessary in order to balance the budget.

President Cynthia Newbille recessed the meeting at 2:25 p.m.

President Cynthia Newbille reconvened the meeting at 3:21 p.m.

President Newbille advised Mr. Echelberger of additional reductions to Council's potential increases to FY 2023 General Fund Budget, and an increase of \$100,000.00 to initiate a pilot program to extend hours of operation for Broad Rock Branch Library to include Sundays.

Councilor Kristen Nye suggested that Council reduce allocations to non-departmental services, in order to fund extended services for RPL.

After further discussion, it was the consensus of Council to accept the proposed amendments to the FY 2023 General Fund Budget.

Mr. Saunders responded to Councilor Nye's request regarding logistics for the replacement of vehicles for the Richmond Ambulance Authority (RAA).

President Cynthia Newbille recessed the meeting at 3:44 p.m.

President Cynthia Newbille reconvened the meeting at 3:52 p.m.

Samson Anderson, Council Budget Analyst, reviewed Council's proposed increases to the FY 2023 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), and city administration's responses to the amendments.

Councilor Andreas Addison exited the meeting at 3:53 p.m.

Jason May, Budget and Strategic Planning Director, was present to respond to questions regarding vehicle replacement for the Richmond Police Department (RPD).

Councilwoman Reva Trammell requested additional information relative to RPD's receipt of grant funds for FY 2023.

Vice President Ellen Robertson directed Council staff to provide Council with periodic updates on the brownfield to greenspace renovation projects.

Councilor Katherine Jordan inquired about green fleet replacement for RPD, and the integration of a citywide greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction policy for future CIP projects beginning FY 2023.

Robert Steidel, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (DCAO) of Operations, was available to respond to questions.

Councilor Kristen Nye noted her concerns that funding for infrastructure planning for Bliley Road was not considered a priority.

Mr. Saunders responded to the concerns expressed by Councilor Nye, and provided a copy of the city administration's written response regarding Bliley Road.

President Newbille asked city administration to be prepared to discuss upcoming and active CIP and transportation projects at a future standing committee meeting.

It was a consensus of Council not to amend the FY 2023 CIP Budget as proposed.

A copy of the materials provided has been filed and can be accessed below.

[CD.2022.233](#) Council Budget Amendments

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

CITY CLERK