



## City of Richmond

### Minutes

#### Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee

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Thursday, August 20, 2020

1:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor – Virtual Meeting

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#### Committee Members and Others in Attendance

The Honorable Michael Jones – Chair  
The Honorable Kristen Larson – Vice Chair  
The Honorable Ellen F. Robertson – Committee Member  
Lawrence Anderson, Council Chief of Staff  
Samson Anderson, Council Budget Analyst  
Meghan Brown, Deputy Council Chief of Staff  
Bill Echelberger, Council Budget Analyst  
Candice Reid, City Clerk  
Tabrica Rentz, Acting Deputy City Attorney  
Dominique Thaxton, Assistant City Clerk

#### Electronic Meeting Announcement

Assistant City Clerk Dominique J. Thaxton, in accordance with Ordinance No. 2020-093, adopted April 9, 2020, as amended by Ordinance No. 2020-183, adopted August 20, 2020, announced the meeting would be held through electronic communication means. Assistant City Clerk Thaxton stated notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information advisory issued on August 13, 2020, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice. She also stated members of the public were encouraged to provide comments in writing prior to the meeting and all comments received prior to 10:00 a.m., on Thursday, August 20, 2020, were provided to committee members. Ms. Thaxton indicated that members of the public who signed up to speak and provide comment would be called to speak at the appropriate time.

#### Call to Order

Chair Michael Jones called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m., and presided.

#### Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Upon the Chair's request, Assistant City Clerk Dominique J. Thaxton provided citizen speaker guidelines.

#### Public Comment Period

There were no public comment speakers.

#### Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections or amendments to the meeting minutes of the Thursday, July 16, 2020

committee meeting, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

## Presentation

### **Office of Minority Business Overview and Opportunities - Patricia Foster, Director, Office of Minority Business Development (OMBD)**

Patricia Foster, Office of Minority Business Development director, presented the committee with an overview of opportunities for increasing minority businesses in the city. Ms. Foster underscored the success of the collaborative efforts between the OMBD and the Department of Procurement Services in creating greater efficiency, goal setting and solicitation of vendors. Ms. Foster highlighted that the OMBD and the Department of Procurement Services are in the process of conducting a comprehensive disparity study of the city to be used as a tool for effective goal implementation.

*Member Ellen Robertson inquired about the OMBD minimum vendor scoring requirements. Member Robertson also inquired if there is an average goal across city departments for minority participation. Member Robertson asked for clarification on which definitional use of "minority business" the OMBD employs and if women business enterprises are included.*

Ms. Foster stated that the minimum vendor scoring is a tool used to measure potential vendor's efforts in participation with minority businesses. Ms. Foster also stated that presently, there is no average participation goal applied across all city departments, but that a new objective is to track each department's individual spending as a tool of measuring minority participation. Ms. Foster explained that the OMBD abides by the federal definition of a minority business, which outlines the protected classes. Ms. Foster informed the committee that women-owned business enterprises are not included as a protected class.

*Chair Michael Jones expressed his thanks to Ms. Foster and the work the OMBD is doing to build minority businesses. Chair Jones also stated the importance of holding the vendors of the city accountable for inclusion and equity. Chair Jones expressed the significance of all businesses having the same access to opportunity in the city.*

*A copy of the material provided has been filed.*

## Papers for Consideration

**The following ordinance was considered:**

### **ORD. 2020-173**

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Governor's Agriculture & Forestry Industries Development Fund Performance Agreement between the City of Richmond, Virginia, the Economic Development Authority of the City of Richmond, Virginia, and River City Cider, LLC, doing business as Bryant's Small Batch Cider, for the purpose of enabling the Authority to provide an economic development grant to River City Cider, LLC, doing business as Bryant's Small Batch Cider, as an incentive to construct and improve a Virginia agricultural products processing facility in the city of Richmond.

**Patrons:** Mayor Stoney

Leonard Sledge, Department of Economic Development director, provided an overview of ORD. 2020-173.

**There were no further comments or discussions and Member Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2020-173 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

*Vice Chair Kristen Larson inquired if budget updates, analysis and recommendations would be presented to the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee.*

John Wack, Department of Finance director, stated that the updates would be referred to the full body of Council along with an unaudited fourth quarter budget report.

Meghan Brown, deputy council chief of staff, stated that there is a forthcoming fund balance report to the committee's September meeting that would provide a more comprehensive analysis and will be reviewed with the Department of Budget and Strategic Planning. Ms. Brown also stated that updates would be provided to the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee but that the full reports would be provided to all members of Council.

### **Staff Report**

Meghan Brown, deputy council chief of staff, provided the committee with the August staff report.

*A copy of the material provided has been filed.*

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:44 p.m.