



City of Richmond

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

Informal Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 25, 2022

4:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Councilmembers Present

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President
The Honorable Ellen Robertson, Vice President
The Honorable Andreas Addison (late arrival)
The Honorable Michael Jones (late arrival)
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch
The Honorable Kristen Nye (late arrival)
The Honorable Reva Trammell

Absent

The Honorable Katherine Jordan

Staff Present

Lisa Braxton, Council Management Analyst
Haskell Brown, Interim City Attorney
Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff
Candice Reid, City Clerk
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m. and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Announcement

Upon the President's request, Council Management Analyst 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

Council Management Analyst Lisa Braxton reviewed the following agenda items as indicated:

Consent Agenda:

1. Ord. 2022-054 – retained on the Consent Agenda
2. Ord. 2022-105 – retained on the Consent Agenda
3. Ord. 2022-159 – retained on the Consent Agenda
4. Ord. 2022-161 – retained on the Consent Agenda
5. Ord. 2022-163 – retained on the Consent Agenda
6. Ord. 2022-184 – retained on the Consent Agenda
7. Ord. 2022-185 – retained on the Consent Agenda
8. Ord. 2022-189 – retained on the Consent Agenda
9. Ord. 2022-190 – retained on the Consent Agenda
10. Ord. 2022-191 – to be continued to Monday, September 12, 2022
11. Ord. 2022-192 – retained on the Consent Agenda
12. Ord. 2022-193 – retained on the Consent Agenda
13. Ord. 2022-194 – retained on the Consent Agenda
14. Ord. 2022-195 – retained on the Consent Agenda
15. Ord. 2022-196 – retained on the Consent Agenda
16. Ord. 2022-197 – retained on the Consent Agenda
17. Ord. 2022-198 – retained on the Consent Agenda
18. Ord. 2022-199 – retained on the Consent Agenda
19. Ord. 2022-200 – retained on the Consent Agenda
20. Ord. 2022-201 – retained on the Consent Agenda
- Councilor Michael Jones arrived at 4:10 p.m. and was seated.*
21. Ord. 2022-202 – retained on the Consent Agenda

- 22. Ord. 2022-203 – retained on the Consent Agenda
- 23. Ord. 2022-204 – retained on the Consent Agenda
- 24. Ord. 2022-205 – to be continued to Monday, September 12, 2022
- 25. Ord. 2022-206 – to be amended and continued to Monday, September 12, 2022
- 26. Ord. 2022-207 – retained on the Consent Agenda
- 27. Ord. 2022-208 – retained on the Consent Agenda
- 28. Ord. 2022-209 – retained on the Consent Agenda
- 29. Ord. 2022-210 – retained on the Consent Agenda
- 30. Ord. 2022-211 – retained on the Consent Agenda
- 31. Ord. 2022-212 – retained on the Consent Agenda
- 32. Ord. 2022-213 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Councilor Andreas Addison arrived at 4:12 p.m. and was seated.

- 33. Ord. 2022-214 – to be continued to Monday, September 12, 2022
- 34. Ord. 2022-215 – retained on the Consent Agenda
- 35. Ord. 2022-216 – retained on the Consent Agenda
- 36. Ord. 2022-218 – retained on the Consent Agenda
- 37. Res. 2022-R043 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Regular Agenda:

- 38. Ord. 2021-097 – to be continued to Monday, September 26, 2022
- 39. Ord. 2022-217 – retained on the Regular Agenda
- 40. Ord. 2022-221 – retained on the Regular Agenda
- 41. Res. 2022-R007 – to be continued to Monday, September 12, 2022

42. Res. 2022-R014 – to be continued to Monday, September 12, 2022

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

Other Discussion Item(s)

Introduction of Richmond Henrico Health District (RHHD) Director Dr. Elaine Perry

Ruth Morrison, RHHD policy director, introduced newly appointed Richmond Henrico Health District director, Dr. Elaine Perry to members of Council, who expressed her appreciation for the opportunity and her RHHD team.

Councilor Kristen Nye arrived at 4:15 p.m. and was seated.

President Cynthia Newbille welcomed and thanked Dr. Perry for her service and stated Council looked forward to working with her regarding public health matters.

New Handicapped Accessible Voting Machines Demonstration

General Registrar Keith Balmer provided Council with a demonstration of the new handicapped accessible voting machines, Express Vote, which will be utilized only for in-person absentee voting. General Registrar Balmer explained VA Senate Bill 3 requires the reporting of absentee results by precinct, and the Express Vote machines will allow for compliance along with providing for the printing of on-demand ballots with unique ballot styles at election precincts. Mr. Balmer stated he will work to inform the public regarding the use of the Express Vote machines prior to the start of this year's early voting.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell voiced her uncertainty surrounding the new Express Vote machine and stated it was poor timing to implement their use since early voting starts September 23, 2022.

Virginia General Assembly 2023 Session Kickoff and 2022 Session Update

Ron Jordan, council lobbyist, Advantus Strategies (AS), presented Council with the final report regarding the Virginia General Assembly (GA) 2022 session, which included outcomes of city legislative program bills, impacts of the adopted state budget, Richmond Public Schools key funding drivers for the 2022-2024 biennial budget and adopted bills of interest. Mr. Jordan introduced new AS staffer, Government Relations Senior Director Kathy Burcher, who will be assisting Council with the city's legislative proposal for the GA 2023 session. A copy of the information provided has been filed.

[CD.2022.284](#) Virginia General Assembly 2023 Session Kickoff Presentation and 2022 Session Update Handout

Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert encouraged her colleagues to introduce few legislative items during the GA 2023 session in an effort to yield positive outcomes.

Diamond District Update

Maritza Pechin, Planning and Development Review deputy director, and Leonard Sledge, Economic Development director, provided Council with an update regarding the proposed Diamond District redevelopment, which included information regarding the project goals, evaluation panel, criteria and status, process for requests for interest, additional information and offers, RFAI respondents, typical financing tools and next steps. Ms. Pechin informed Council of a forthcoming announcement regarding the selection of the preferred development teams for the proposed Diamond District. A copy of the presentation provided has been filed.

[CD.2022.285](#) Diamond District Update Presentation

Councilor Michael Jones reminded Council of missed redevelopment opportunities for areas of downtown and southside.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell expressed her concern regarding the failed casino referendum.

Councilor Kristen Nye inquired regarding a timeline for the proposed Diamond District next steps.

Closed Session

At 5:15 p.m., Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert move that the City Council go into a closed meeting pursuant to subdivision (A)(1) of section 2.2-3711 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to discuss and consider the appointment and salary of a new City Attorney and pursuant to subdivision (A)(7) of section 2.2-3711 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to receive a briefing from and to consult with the Interim City Attorney pertaining to probable litigation regarding a proposed development project in the city where such briefing and consultation in open meeting would adversely affect the City's negotiating or litigating posture.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Councilor Andreas Addison motioned to exit closed session. The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 5, Addison, Nye, Jones, Robertson, Newbille. Noes None. Lambert, Lynch and Trammell were excused.

Councilors reconvened in open session at 6:15 p.m.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

July 25, 2022

WHEREAS, the Council has convened in closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law:

NOW, THEREFORE,
BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Council hereby certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge (i) only public matters lawfully exempt from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certifying resolution applies; and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Council.

WITNESS the following vote of Council members, as recorded by Candice D. Reid, City Clerk:

CERTIFYING:

Cynthia I. Newbille, President
Ellen F. Robertson, Vice President
Andreas D. Addison
Ann-Frances Lambert (excused)
Stephanie A. Lynch (excused)
Kristen Nye
Reva M. Trammell (excused)
Michael J. Jones

DECLINING TO CERTIFY:

President Cynthia Newbille informed her colleagues of an impending meeting in the month of August for the introduction of time-sensitive legislation and possibly an additional update regarding the proposed Diamond District redevelopment project.

Councilors Ann-Frances Lambert and Stephanie Lynch re-entered the meeting at 6:16 p.m.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell re-entered the meeting at 6:17 p.m.

President Newbille advised her colleagues of a request for a joint meeting with certain members of Council and Richmond School Board regarding a prior legal opinion provided by Interim City Attorney Haskell Brown. Ms. Newbille stated discussion concerning the recruitment for the Council Chief of Staff position will also occur at a future meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

CITY CLERK