



## City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219  
[www.richmondgov.com/cityclerk](http://www.richmondgov.com/cityclerk)

### Minutes

#### Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee

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Tuesday, February 19, 2019

3:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

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#### Committee Members and Staff in Attendance

The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Chair  
The Honorable Kim Gray – Vice Chair  
The Honorable Michael Jones – Committee member  
The Honorable Parker Agelasto – Council member (*late arrival*)  
Bonnie Ashley, Deputy City Attorney  
Lisa Braxton, Interim Deputy City Clerk  
Bill Echelberger Jr., Council Budget Analyst  
Pamela Nichols, Assistant City Clerk  
Steve Taylor, Council Policy Analyst

#### Call to Order

Chair Ellen Robertson called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

#### Evacuation Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Pamela Nichols, assistant city clerk, provided information on the appropriate manner in which the Council Chamber is to be evacuated in the event of an emergency along with citizen speaker guidelines.

#### Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

#### Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Kim Gray moved to approve the meeting minutes of Tuesday, January 22, 2019, at 1:00 p.m., which was seconded and unanimously approved.

#### Board Vacancies

There were no board applications for review.

#### Presentations

There were no presentations.

## Paper(s) for Consideration

**Vice Chair Gray moved to amend the agenda as follows:**

### ORD. 2018-153

To reserve the easternmost southbound lane of North Belvidere Street on the north side of North Belvidere Street's intersection with West Broad Street for vehicular traffic making a left turn from southbound North Belvidere Street onto eastbound West Broad Street.

**Patron:** Ms. Gray

### **Withdrawn**

### ORD. 2018-289

To amend ch. 24, art. I of the City Code by adding therein a new § 24-4 for the purpose of requiring the Department of Public Works to conduct a study of the conditions of all streets, roads, and bridges in the city and to provide a report to City Council by no later than Feb. 1, 2019, and by no later than Feb. 1 each year thereafter.

**Patron:** Ms. Larson

### **To be continued to March 19, 2019 Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting**

### ORD. 2018-231

To amend and reordain City Code §§ 26-397, concerning definitions, 26-399, concerning the eligibility criteria for partial exemption of rehabilitated residential and multifamily structures or other improvements from real estate taxation, and 26-401, concerning the amount of exemption for rehabilitated residential and multifamily qualified structures, and to amend ch. 26, art. V, div. 3 by adding therein new §§ 26-398.1, concerning the evaluation of such program, and 26-401.1, concerning affordable housing certification, for the purpose of revising the City's partial tax exemption program for residential and multifamily structures by defining certain terms and modifying the qualification requirements for the receipt and duration of partial exemption from real estate taxation.

**Patron:** Ms. Robertson

### **To be continued to March 19, 2019 Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting**

**The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.**

### **The following ordinance was considered:**

### RES. 2018-R092

To declare a public necessity to amend the City's zoning ordinance and to initiate an amendment to the City's zoning ordinance to require that certificates of zoning compliance and letters of zoning confirmation be reviewed by the City Attorney prior to issuance.

**Patron:** Mr. Agelasto

*Mark Olinger, Planning and Development Review Director, stated that the zoning administrator consults with the city attorney on a regular basis concerning requests that may be considered "never before decided", and that city administration was concerned that RES. 2018-R092 will hinder the department's efforts to streamline its current review process.*

*Bonnie Ashley, deputy city attorney, explained that it was difficult to determine the physical impact the proposed resolution will have on the Office of the City Attorney. Ms. Ashley clarified that the City Attorney's Office does provide legal advice regarding zoning matters; however, it is the responsibility of the zoning administrator to make final zoning determinations.*

*Vice Chair Kim Gray advised Mr. Olinger that she would like to discuss a matter which she explained that a letter of zoning confirmation was sent in error.*

*Councilor Parker Agelasto arrived and was seated.*

*Councilor Agelasto introduced RES. 2018-R092 and explained that his goal is to reduce possible discrepancies between the zoning administrator's and the city attorney's interpretation of zoning language. Mr. Agelasto emphasized the need to make the zoning process clearer and easier to interpret rather than relying on vague language or the interpretation of the zoning administrator, which could be challenged.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Gray moved to forward RES. 2018-R092 to Council with no recommendation, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

### **Discussion Item(s)**

There were no discussion items.

### **Staff Report**

Steve Taylor, council policy analyst, and Bill Echelberger, council budget analyst, provided the committee with the February staff report.

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

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.