



City of Richmond

Meeting Minutes

Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee

Thursday, July 18, 2019

1:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor – City Hall

Committee Members and Others in Attendance

The Honorable Michael Jones – Chair
The Honorable Kristen Larson – Vice Chair
The Honorable Parker Agelasto – Member
Bill Echelberger, Jr., Council Budget Analyst
Jamie Isley, Assistant City Clerk
Tabrica Rentz, Deputy City Attorney
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Michael Jones called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m., and presided.

Evacuation Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Jamie Isley, 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 comment speakers.

Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections or amendments to the meeting minutes of Thursday, June 20, 2019, and the Committee unanimously approved the minutes as presented.

Board Vacancies

RJ Warren, deputy city clerk, reviewed board applications for consideration by the Committee.

Mr. Warren advised the Committee of the Minority Business Enterprise and Emerging Small Business Advisory Board's preference for the vacancy to be filled by an individual with a background in construction. He explained that the current applicants meet the criteria for appointment, which does not require a background in construction.

Vice Chair Kristen Larson asked that the board appointment application, not selected by the committee for the Minority Business Enterprise and Emerging Small Business Advisory Board, be forwarded to the Office of the Mayor as a possible appointee for the mayoral vacancy.

Chair Michael Jones inquired about recruitment efforts to attract qualified applicants to fill the vacancies.

Member Parker Agelasto stated that he would like verification that Jonette Meade, current city employee and minority business owner, received written approval to engage in outside employment before consideration of her appointment application for the Minority Business Enterprise and Emerging Small Business Advisory Board.

Vice Chair Larson moved forward the following board appointment application to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved: Ayes 2, Larson, Jones. Noes, 0. Abstentions 1, Agelasto.

<u>Board Name</u>	<u>Criteria for Appointment</u>	<u>Applicant Name</u>
Minority Business Enterprise and Emerging Small Business Advisory Board (9 members)	Representative of a minority business enterprise * (1 vacancy)	Jonette Meade

* Applicants must either reside or work in the city.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Paper(s) for Consideration

Member Parker Agelasto moved to amend the agenda as follows:

ORD. 2018-236

To amend ch. 26, art. V, div. 2 of the City Code by adding therein new sections 26-370-26-374, concerning a real estate tax deferral program for real estate owned and occupied as a sole dwelling, for the purpose of establishing a new real estate tax deferral program for real estate owned and occupied as a sole dwelling.

Patron: Ms. Gray

To be continued to September 19, 2019 Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee meeting

ORD. 2019-118

To amend City Code ch. 2, art. IV, div. 1 by adding therein a new § 2-239, concerning value engineering, for the purpose of requiring value engineering for projects costing more than \$5,000,000.00.

Patron: Ms. Gray

To be continued to September 19, 2019 Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee meeting

ORD. 2019-189

To amend City Code §§ 26-401, concerning the amount of exemption for rehabilitated residential or multifamily qualified structures, and 26-404, concerning that amount of exemption for rehabilitated commercial or industrial qualified structures, for the purpose of reducing the exemption period for rehabilitated residential and multifamily qualified structures from ten years to five years; reducing the exemption period for rehabilitated commercial and industrial qualified structures outside of an Enterprise Zone from seven years to three years; reducing the exemption period for rehabilitated commercial and industrial qualified structures within an Enterprise Zone

from ten years to five years; and removing the provision allowing a partial tax exemption for renovated residential or multifamily real estate exceeding the square footage limitations set forth in City Code §26-399.

Patron: Mr. Jones

To be continued to September 19, 2019 Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee meeting

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Presentation(s)

Business, Professional and Occupational License (BPOL) Taxes

Valerie Weatherless, operations manager – Finance Department, presented an overview of the issuance of business licenses, limitations on business licenses, BPOL taxes and the fiscal impact of eliminating the BPOL payment installment plan.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Lenora Reid, deputy chief administrative officer – Finance and Administration, and John Wack, director – Finance, were present to respond to questions and agreed to provide the Committee with additional information regarding the city's efforts to collect delinquent BPOL taxes, the amount of revenue to be collected from businesses with delinquent taxes, and actual delinquent taxes without a statutory assessment.

Paper(s) for Consideration

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2019-188

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to submit a Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as an application for the receipt of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) funds, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) funds; to accept funds from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in the total amount of \$7,480,634.00; and to appropriate \$7,480,634.00 for various projects.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

Douglas Dunlap, director – Housing and Community Development, introduced ORD. 2019-188.

Member Parker Agelasto inquired about the impact to the emergency shelter program due to the reallocation of funds, increased funding for the Metropolitan Business League programs, and requested information on the goals and objectives for the Affordable Housing Pilot Program. Member Agelasto expressed concerns regarding the allocation of additional funds for the new residential subdivision named the Hollands project. He requested a full analysis of the project.

Vice Chair Kristen Larson inquired about the Jackson Ward senior apartment project.

Mr. Dunlap agreed to provide written responses to the information requested by the Committee.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Kristen Larson moved to forward ORD. 2019-188 to Council with no recommendation, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following ordinances were considered:

ORD. 2019-191

To amend and reordain the fees set forth in Appendix A of the City Code for sections 28-193(3), 28-194(2) (concerning fees for large volume general gas service), 28-199(d) (concerning flexibly priced interruptible gas service), and 28-200(4) (concerning unmetered gaslight service), to establish revised charges for such services.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

ORD. 2019-192

To amend and reordain certain fees set forth in Appendix A of the City Code for sections 28-650 (concerning fees for residential wastewater service), 28-651 (concerning fees for commercial wastewater service), 28-652 (concerning fees for industrial wastewater service), 28-653 (concerning fees for state and federal wastewater service), and 28-654 (concerning fees for municipal wastewater service), to establish revised charges for such services.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

Wayne Lassiter, deputy director – Department of Public Utilities, introduced ORD. 2019-191 and ORD. 2019-192.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Kristen Larson moved to forward ORD. 2019-191 and ORD. 2019-192 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2019-R026

To request that the Mayor would participate in a meeting with the Council with the objective of identifying and discussing the appropriate priorities of the City and that the Council Chief of Staff coordinate with the Office of the Mayor and the Department of Budget and Strategic Planning to schedule this meeting to occur in the month of September.

Patron: Mr. Jones

Chair Michael Jones introduced RES. 2019-R026 and explained that the intent of the proposed legislation was to establish a process by which Council and the mayor collectively establish priorities for the city on an annual basis.

Jay Brown, director – Budget and Strategic Planning, remarked that city administration believes they have developed a good working relationship with Council and therefore, the proposed legislation was unnecessary.

Vice Chair Kristen Larson expressed support of RES. 2019-R026 and suggested the use of a facilitator for the meeting of the appropriate parties.

Member Parker Agelasto expressed support of RES. 2019-R026.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Kristen Larson moved to forward RES. 2019-R026 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

Discussion Item(s)

It was the consensus of the Committee to cancel its August meeting.

Staff Report

Bill Echelberger, council budget analyst, provided the Committee with the July staff report, the economic development projects and city grants, a listing of city residents employed with Owens and Minor, financial data and rental fees for Main Street Station, an administrative impact statement for ORD. 2019-189.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Member Parker Agelasto questioned the allocation of grant funding for the Fulton Hill/Artisan Hill Studio before the terms of the performance agreement were satisfied. Member Agelasto asked Council staff to follow-up with city administration regarding his inquiry. Member Agelasto requested information on the total packaged barrels produced by Stone Brewery for the last two years.

Betty-Ann Teter, programs administrator business attraction and retention – Department of Economic Development, was present to respond to questions and agreed to provide a response to information requested by the Committee.

Chair Michael Jones inquired about an approximate timeline for the distribution of information regarding the East End project included in the performance agreement for the Washington Redskins/Bon Secours Training Facility.

Leonard Sledge, director – Economic Development, and Betty-Ann Teter engaged in a discussion with the committee and provided updates on several city projects which included the recent announcement regarding the new Amazon facility which will add approximately 150 new jobs. Mr. Sledge expressed appreciation to all key players involved in the project.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.