



City of Richmond

Informal Meeting Minutes

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

Monday, January 25, 2021

4:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall
Virtual Meeting

Councilmembers Present

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

Staff Present

Lisa Braxton, Council Management Analyst
Haskell Brown, Interim City Attorney
Meghan Brown, Interim Council Chief of Staff
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Tabrica Rentz, Acting Deputy City Attorney
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. and presided.

ELECTRONIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Council Management Analyst Lisa Braxton, in accordance with Ordinance No. 2020-093, adopted April 9, 2020, as most recently amended by Ordinance No. 2020-232, adopted December 14, 2020, announced the meeting would be held through electronic communication means, and stated that notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information advisory issued on January 13, 2021, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice. She also stated there would be no opportunities for public comment and no public hearings during the meeting.

President Cynthia Newbille informed Council of the passing of former Councilor Chris Hilbert's wife, Sheila Mandt, and requested a moment of silence in memory.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch joined the meeting at 4:03 p.m.

Docket Review

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

Consent Agenda:

1. Ord. 2019-275 – to be continued to Monday, February 22, 2021

2. Ord. 2019-276 – to be continued to Monday, February 22, 2021

Councilor Andreas Addison joined the meeting at 4:04 p.m.

3. Ord. 2020-249 – retained on the Consent Agenda
4. Ord. 2020-256 – to be amended and continued to Monday, February 8, 2021
5. Ord. 2020-257 – to be continued to Monday, February 22, 2021

Councilor Katherine Jordan requested Ord. 2020-257 be continued for thirty days to allow an opportunity for additional community outreach regarding the proposed project.

6. Ord. 2020-258 – retained on the Consent Agenda
7. Ord. 2020-259 – retained on the Consent Agenda
8. Ord. 2020-260 – retained on the Consent Agenda
9. Ord. 2021-001 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Councilor Kristen Larson requested to be added as a co-patron of Ord. 2021-001 and asked that information concerning the tax amnesty program be drafted for distribution to residents.

Members of Council, currently not a patron of Ord. 2021-001, also requested to be added as co-patrons of Ord. 2021-001.

Councilor Anne-Frances Lambert asked to be added as a co-patron of Ord. 2020-256.

Acting Chief Administrative Officer Lincoln Saunders was available to answer questions concerning Ord. 2021-001.

John Wack, Finance director, was also available to answer questions concerning Ord. 2021-001 and recommended residents await the anticipated adoption of the proposed legislation in order to take advantage of the penalties and interests waiver in the month of March.

Councilor Michael Jones also requested to be added as a co-patron of Ord. 2020-256.

Councilor Larson asked that communication pertaining to the tax amnesty program be disseminated on all Council-controlled media sites.

Councilor Lambert expressed her willingness to support Ord. 2020-249; however, she stated that she is a proponent of planned zoning and objected to spot development.

10. Ord. 2021-002 – retained on the Consent Agenda
11. Ord. 2021-003 – to be continued to Monday, February 8, 2021
12. Ord. 2021-004 – to be continued to Monday, February 8, 2021
13. Ord. 2021-005 – to be continued to Monday, February 8, 2021
14. Ord. 2021-006 – to be continued to Monday, March 22, 2021
15. Ord. 2021-007 – retained on the Consent Agenda
16. Res. 2020-R071 – retained on the Consent Agenda

17. Res. 2021-R010 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Regular Agenda:

There were no Regular Agenda items.

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

FY2022-26 Revenue and Expenditure Plan

Jay Brown, Budget and Strategic Planning director, presented Council, as required by City Code Section 12-15.1, with a five-year forecast of the city's estimated revenues and expenditures. Mr. Brown, reflecting on the impact of COVID-19, highlighted moderate growth in revenue in local taxes for real estate along with decreases in lodging and permits and licenses, and underlined expenditure assumptions for certain personnel and operating costs. A copy of the presentation has been filed.

Acting Chief Administrative Officer Lincoln Saunders was available to answer questions concerning Richmond Public Schools' fiscal year 2022 budgetary request.

Councilor Kristen Larson requested an analysis of the city's permits and licenses, an update on the OPEB (other post-employment benefits) Trust fund and a possible comparative analysis of current and prior economic downturns.

John Wack, Finance director, was also available to answer questions concerning the OPEB Trust fund.

President Cynthia Newbille asked members of Council to forward additional questions regarding the city's multi-year forecast to the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer for response.

Mr. Brown informed Council that the second quarter projections for fiscal year 2021 is currently being completed, and city administration plans to introduce reappropriation legislation to offset any current departmental deficits in February.

Homelessness Update

Sharon Ebert, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer – Economic Development, provided a status update concerning the implementation of the strategic plan to end homelessness as well as information concerning the Greater Richmond Continuum of Care, access to homeless assistance, pandemic shelter and safety net systems and eviction protections. A copy of the presentation has been filed.

Councilor Michael Jones requested a demographic analysis of the city's eviction data provided and information regarding efforts towards a regional approach for homelessness.

Councilor Kristen Larson requested an array of additional information involving the city's homeless efforts.

Acting Chief Administrative Officer Lincoln Saunders advised Council that his office would be the point of contact regarding responses to additional questions.

Councilor Anne-Frances Lambert stated that she is also interested in obtaining the requested eviction demographic analysis.

Richmond Health Department COVID-19 Vaccination Update

Amy Popovich and Dr. Melissa Viray, Richmond and Henrico Health Districts department manager and deputy director, provided an update regarding the city's COVID-19 vaccination efforts. A copy of the presentation has been filed.

President Cynthia Newbille requested Council receive periodic vaccination updates and information for dissemination throughout communities regarding group prioritized vaccine distribution.

Other Discussion

President Cynthia Newbille mentioned Council's extensive work schedule for 2021 and asked councilors to be prepared to discuss an array of topics at the February Organizational Development Standing Committee meeting, especially logistics involving a proposed Council retreat at the Richmond Convention Center.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

CITY CLERK