



City of Richmond

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

Meeting Minutes Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee

Thursday, November 17, 2022

1:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor – City Hall

Committee Members

The Honorable Michael Jones – Chair
The Honorable Kristen Nye – Vice Chair

Absent

The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Committee Member

Staff and Others in Attendance

Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff
Tori Cotman, Assistant City Attorney
Candice Reid, City Clerk
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Michael Jones called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m., and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Upon the Chair's request, Deputy City Clerk RJ Warren 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 the Thursday, October 20, 2022 committee meeting, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2022.372](#) October 20, 2022 Finance and Economic Development Meeting
Minutes

Papers for Consideration

There were no papers to be considered.

Presentations

Quarterly Report of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Expenditures

Jason May, Budget and Strategic Planning Director, provided the committee with a presentation that provided an update on the city's receipt and allocation of ARPA funds.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

[CD.2022.394](#) ARPA - Quarterly Update Presentation

Vice Chair Kristen Nye discussed the status of certain projects and inquired about the timeline for the construction and renovation of community centers in the city. Vice Chair Nye also stated it was important that the city plan for the necessary staffing of community centers once projects are completed.

Chris Frelke, Parks, Recreation, and Community Facilities Director, addressed the committee, and he discussed how the city estimated anticipated construction costs and the statuses of the community center construction.

Mr. May stated that the city included funding for community center staffing within its five-year budget plan.

Chair Michael Jones stated it was important that community centers provide the city's youth opportunities for extra curricular activities and tutoring. Chair Jones also stated that the opportunities would help deter the city's youth from participating in gang or gun violence.

Interim Council Chief of Staff Joyce Davis confirmed from Mr. May, that city administration would prefer amending the ARPA reporting schedule by delaying the requested reports by one month.

Mr. May stated that the one-month extension would allow city administration to finalize data prior to reporting before Council and standing committees.

Preliminary Five-Year Financial Forecast

Sabrina Joy-Hogg, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (DCAO) for Finance and Administration, provided the committee with a presentation that detailed the city's five-year financial forecast. DCAO Joy-Hogg informed members that the presentation was only preliminary, and that a finalized report would be provided in January, 2023. DCAO Joy-Hogg also addressed the city's philosophy going forward with preparing city budgets based upon the five-year forecast and the potential for an economic recession.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

[CD.2022.390](#) Preliminary Five-Year Financial Forecast

Vice Chair Kristen Nye inquired how the city could address blighted properties in the city's downtown district. Vice Chair Nye stated that she believed if the city could force action on blighted properties, then more economic development could occur downtown, which would provide the city with additional revenue.

Jason May, Budget and Strategic Planning Director, stated that the most the city could do was issue blighted property owners a \$200 fine for code violations. Mr. May suggested that the city lobby the General Assembly of Virginia for more options to address blighted properties in the downtown district.

Chair Michael Jones stated that Council should rely on the Economic Development Authority's ability to promote economic development in the city. Chair Jones also stated that the city needed to better compete against surrounding counties for economic development projects. Chair Jones further stated his concerns that a potential economic recession would impact the city's 8th and 9th Voter Districts more severely than other districts, and he asked that city administration and Council plan accordingly.

Vice Chair Nye requested that city administration provide the committee with updates on prior economic development projects at future committee meetings.

Chair Jones stated that he would prefer Council's standing committees receive more presentations and review less legislation.

DCAO Joy-Hogg stated that Council should support community colleges in the city as a way to preemptively address the job market that may be impacted by a potential recession, and she also suggested that the city fund early childhood education.

Board Vacancies

There were no vacancies for consideration.

Discussion Items

There were no discussion items.

Staff Report

Interim Council Chief Staff Joyce Davis provided the committee with the meeting staff report.

[CD.2022.395](#) November Staff Report

Chair Michael Jones stated that the committee would decide if the December Finance and Economic Development Committee meeting would be necessary once ordinances and resolutions are introduced at the December 12, 2022 Formal Council meeting. Chair Jones also stated that it was his preference that the December meeting be cancelled.

Sabrina Joy-Hogg, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (DCAO) for Finance and Administration, stated that she would follow up with Chair Jones and Council's Interim Chief of Staff to identify requested presentations for future committee meetings.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m.