



City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
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Minutes

Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee

Tuesday, November 21, 2017

1:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Committee Members and Staff in Attendance

The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Chair
The Honorable Kim Gray – Vice Chair
The Honorable Kristen Larson – Committee member
Lou Brown Ali, Council Chief of Staff
Bonnie Ashley, Deputy City Attorney
Lisa Braxton, Interim Deputy City Clerk
Meghan Brown, Deputy Council Chief of Staff
Pamela Nichols, Assistant City Clerk
Alexander Rawles, Boards and Commissions Administrator
Steve Taylor, Council Policy Analyst

Call to Order

Chair Ellen Robertson called the meeting to order at 1:09 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, October 17, 2017, at 1:00 p.m., which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Board Vacancies

Alexander Rawles, boards and commissions administrator, reviewed board applications for consideration by the committee.

Member Kristen Larson moved to forward the board application of Darlene Mallory for the Clean City Commission to Council with the recommendation to approve, and to continue consideration of the Clean City Commission's 7th District qualified voter vacancy, to the December Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

The committee asked Mr. Rawles to contact Council Vice President Cynthia Newbille to discuss the Clean City Commission's 7th District qualified voter reappointment.

| Board Name | Criteria for Appointment | Applicant Name |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| Clean City Commission (15 members) | 7 th District qualified voter (1 vacancy) | Nancy J. Lampert (reappointment) |
| | Director of Public Works or the designee thereof (1 vacancy) | Darlene Mallory (reappointment) |

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Presentations

There were no presentations.

Paper(s) for Consideration

The following ordinances were considered:

ORD. 2017-210

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Standard Project Administration Agreement between the City of Richmond and the Virginia Department of Transportation to provide funding for the Downtown Traffic Signal Retiming project.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

ORD. 2017-211

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Standard Project Administration Agreement between the City of Richmond and the Virginia Department of Transportation to provide funding for the Richmond Signal System (West - North - East) project.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

M. Khara, deputy director and city engineer – Department of Public Works, introduced ORD. 2017-210 and ORD. 2017-211.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Kim Gray moved to forward ORD. 2017-210 and ORD. 2017-211 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following ordinances were considered:

ORD. 2017-212

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Standard Project Administration Agreement between the City of Richmond and the Virginia Department of Transportation to provide funding for the resurfacing of the westbound lane of North Huguenot Road between its intersection with Waxford Road and its intersection with the City's boundary with Chesterfield County to the south.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

ORD. 2017-213

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Standard Project Administration Agreement between the City of Richmond and the Virginia Department of Transportation to provide funding for the resurfacing of the eastbound lane of West Laburnum Avenue between its intersection with Brook Road and its intersection with Saunders Avenue.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

Kenneth Horak, senior capital projects manager – Department of Public Works, introduced ORD. 2017-212 and ORD. 2017-213.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Kristen Larson moved to forward ORD. 2017-212 and ORD. 2017-213 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2017-R086

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer establish and implement a policy and methodology to require that any residential development agreement to which the City is a party or involving City financial incentives mandate that a minimum percentage of the new residential development's total units be designated as affordable housing.

Patron: Ms. Robertson

Chair Ellen Robertson requested that RES. 2017-R086 be continued to allow for preparation of a possible amendment.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Kim Gray moved to continue RES. 2017-R086 to the December 19, 2017 Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2017-227

To amend and reordain Ord. No. 75-309-302, adopted Dec. 15, 1975, as most recently amended by Ord. No. 2015-23-40, adopted Feb 23, 2015, pertaining to the "Stony Point Community Unit Plan," for the purpose of amending the development standards, as they pertain to Map Sections A and D of the Southern Portion of the Plan, to allow for additional signage.

Patron: Mayor Stoney (By Request)

Mark Olinger, director – Department of Planning and Development Review, introduced ORD. 2017-227.

Member Kristen Larson reported that area residents supported the request and agreed the signs will improve visibility of the businesses in the shopping center.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Kristen Larson moved to forward ORD. 2017-227 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2017-209

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to execute a First Amendment to Amended Water Contract between the City of Richmond and the County of Chesterfield for the purpose of providing for the sale of additional water to the County of Chesterfield and for the construction, operation, and maintenance of new water capacity facilities by the County of Chesterfield on a portion of Lewis G. Larus Park located at 8850 West Huguenot Road in the city of Richmond.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

Rosemary Green, interim director – Department of Public Utilities, along with George Hayes, director of utilities for Chesterfield County, introduced ORD. 2017-209 and provided an overview of the proposed request. Ms. Green stated that the overall project will have operational benefits to the city, as it will enhance reliability of the existing ground storage tank and establish fire protection to area residents. Ms. Green stated that she anticipates the introduction of companion legislation at the December Formal Meeting of Council.

Vice Chair Kim Gray requested a cost synopsis of the entire project.

Opposition

Turk Sties spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that the request, along with all other components of the project, should be vetted through the proper channels before Council's consideration. Mr. Sties asked the committee to request a finalized redlined version of the original water contract.

Charles Poole spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that the request does not comply with the City Code and deed restrictions for the property. Mr. Poole questioned the site selection process, and expressed concern that the amended contract requires the city to purchase and maintain the new water capacity facilities, in the event Chesterfield County decides not to renew its lease.

Andrea Steegmayer spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that all components of the project should be combined for consideration and not segmented.

Member Kristen Larson reported that a series of community meetings were held and the original ordinance was revised to address residents' concerns. She stated there were still details about the project to be discussed and asked that ORD. 2017-209 be forwarded to Council with no recommendation. Member Larson requested city administration to provide Council with a presentation of the entire project prior to Council's consideration of the proposed legislation.

Vice Chair Kim Gray asked whether or not there was a restricted covenant for the proposed property and if approval of the proposed ordinance would set a precedent for future development in designated green spaces.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Kristen Larson moved to forward ORD. 2017-209 to Council with no recommendation, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2017-R075

To express the sense of the City Council that the General Assembly of Virginia should grant the City

Council the authority to cause the removal of memorials and monuments such as the statues commemorating J.E.B. Stuart, Robert E. Lee, Jefferson Davis, Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson, and Matthew Fontaine Maury located on Monument Avenue between its intersections with Belmont Avenue and Lombardy Street so that the City Council may take such action as may be necessary to cause these statues to be removed.

Patron: Mr. Jones

Chair Robertson reported that the patron had asked that RES. 2017-R075 be continued and considered by a full committee of Council. Chair Robertson stated the patron was advised that the request to continue would be taken into consideration and the committee will decide whether or not to hold a public hearing based on the number of citizens in attendance.

Opposition

Helen Marie Taylor, past president of the Monument Avenue Preservation Society, spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that removing the monuments will destroy the Monument Avenue community and the city’s historical treasures.

Ron Moore spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that removing the statues will implode the city into a state of unrest. Mr. Moore further stated that the statues were erected to honor the men who fought during one of America’s greatest struggles.

H. V. Traywick, Jr. spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that the controversy surrounding the monuments was based on demagoguery, identity politics and a colossal untruth known as the “myth of American history.” Mr. Traywick urged the city to maintain the monuments.

Teresa Roane spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that removing the statues will impact tourism dollars, and the city should focus its attention on more pressing issues such as education, deteriorating infrastructure, homelessness, mental health and crime.

Bill Gallasch, president of the Monument Avenue Preservation Society, spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that people elect to visit and purchase homes on Monument Avenue because of the mystique of the entire street, and their removal would negatively impact property values in the area.

Ned Ruffin spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that the controversy surrounding the statues could create opportunities for growth and education.

G. Williams Thomas acknowledged those at the meeting who opposed the proposed legislation. Mr. Thomas stated that the statues will be a valuable tool to help future generations to rediscover history. Mr. Thomas further stated that the statues were a part of the city’s history, culture and historic landscape and removing the statues will impact tourism in the city.

Mark Dray spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that it would not be fiscally responsible for the city to remove the statues.

Molly Dellinger-Wray spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that the monuments were aesthetically pleasing for the neighborhood and urged the committee to oppose the request. Ms. Dellinger-Way questioned whether or not the recommendation to add context to the statues were still being considered.

James S. Haymes spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that city should focus its attention and resources on issues other than the statues.

Eric Richardson spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that the monuments were a source of inspiration.

Mary Horton spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that people travel from around the world to study the Civil War and the city's history, and removing the statues will destroy that history.

Vice Chair Gray expressed concerned about the impact the proposed legislation has had on the residents on Monument Avenue. She stated that the Monument Avenue Commission has been gathering input from the community and other interested groups, and the commission should be allowed to bring forth its recommendation before other actions are considered.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Kim Gray moved to forward RES. 2017-R075 to Council with no recommendation, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

Discussion Item(s)

It was the consensus of the committee to wait to consider a possible cancellation of its December meeting.

Staff Report

Steve Taylor, council policy analyst, provided the committee with the November staff report.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m.