



City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
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Minutes

Organizational Development Standing Committee

Monday, November 2, 2020

5:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall
(Virtual Meeting)

Committee Members

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille – Chair
The Honorable Chris Hilbert – Vice Chair (late arrival)
The Honorable Andreas Addison – Member
The Honorable Michael Jones – Member
The Honorable Kristen Larson – Member

Absent

The Honorable Kim Gray – Member
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch – Member
The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Member
The Honorable Reva Trammell – Member

Others in Attendance

Lawrence Anderson, Council Chief of Staff
Haskell Brown, Interim City Attorney
Meghan Brown, Deputy Council Chief of Staff
Candice Reid, City Clerk
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 5:12 p.m., and presided.

Electronic Meeting Announcement

Deputy City Clerk RJ Warren, in accordance with Ordinance No. 2020-093, adopted April 9, 2020, as amended by Ordinance No. 2020-183, adopted August 20, 2020, announced the meeting would be held through electronic communication means. Mr. Warren stated notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information advisory issued on October 26, 2020, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice. He also stated there would be no opportunities for public comment at the meeting.

Consideration of Appointments to Boards, Commissions and Similar Entities

There were no appointment/reappointment items for consideration.

Reports from City Administration, Council Staff and Other Parties

There were no reports or presentations.

Reports of Standing Committees

There were no reports of standing committees.

Paper(s) for Consideration

There were no papers for consideration.

Discussion Item

General Assembly Legislative Agenda Update

Ron Jordan, council lobbyist, Advantus Strategies, and Laura Bateman, council lobbyist, Advantus Strategies, provided the committee with an update regarding the Virginia General Assembly special session. Mr. Jordan and Ms. Bateman also discussed with members a review of Council's updated legislative agenda for the 2021 Virginia General Assembly.

Chair Cynthia Newbille confirmed it was the consensus of members to move forward with including legislative recommendations from the Vision Zero Action Plan in Council's legislative agenda for the 2021 Virginia General Assembly, with the exception of the recommendation that seat belt enforcement be moved from a secondary driving offense to a primary offense.

Member Michael Jones offered support for the recommendations, but he questioned how locations for potential speed radar enabled cameras throughout the city would be decided.

Member Andreas Addison stated he believed speed radar enabled cameras should be established in residential neighborhoods on streets that have a 25 miles per hour speed limit.

Member Kristen Larson offered support for adding the legislative requests recommended to address speeding in residential neighborhoods and stated it would help increase safety without impacting Richmond Police Department resources.

Chair Newbille inquired about the removal of the request for the Transformation of Public Housing Fund appropriation to be a dollar for dollar match from the Commonwealth to aid local jurisdictions that have public housing stock. Chair Newbille stated she believed the additional funds were necessary to address transformation of the city's collection of public housing stock.

Laura Bateman informed members that there was no Transformation of Public Housing Fund and that Vice Chair Chris Hilbert believed a low-income housing tax credit enacted by the state was a better method to assist with low-income housing.

Vice Chair Chris Hilbert joined the meeting at 5:38 p.m.

Ron Jordan informed members that the Virginia Housing Commission was currently examining ways to fund the transformation of public housing stock in the state.

Vice Chair Chris Hilbert stated he decided to remove the request after understanding that the request would penalize local jurisdictions rather than assist with obtaining additional funding for the transformation of public housing.

Mr. Jordan addressed Council's legislative request for the exclusion of the mayor's designees from attending closed sessions of Council, and he reminded members that the Richmond General Assembly delegation prefers consensus between Council and the mayor, prior to moving forward with City Charter changes. Mr. Jordan stated the mayor opposed the exclusion request in the past. Mr. Jordan also stated he would contact the mayor's office to inquire a position on the current exclusion request.

Vice Chair Hilbert requested that the exclusion request be included in Council's legislative agenda regardless of the mayor's position.

Member Kristen Larson agreed with Vice Chair Hilbert that the exclusion request should be included in Council's legislative agenda regardless of the mayor's position. Member Larson stated she believed the exclusion request was an exception to the Richmond General Assembly delegation's preference for consensus between Council and the mayor regarding requests to change the City Charter.

Chair Cynthia Newbille stated she would also inquire with the mayor regarding a position on the exclusion request.

Member Larson inquired about the placement and oversight of gray machines used for gaming, in the city. Member Larson stated she was concerned about the negative effects the machines had in low-income areas of the city.

Ron Jordan advised Council that the legal use of gray machines was set to expire on June 30, 2021. Mr. Jordan confirmed that Council's request for localities to have more oversight and control over the gaming machines would be included in Council's legislative agenda.

Chair Cynthia Newbille confirmed consensus amongst members to amend and finalize Council's legislative agenda based on discussions held that evening.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Approval of the Minutes

There were no corrections or amendments to the minutes of the Monday, October 5, 2020, Organizational Development Standing Committee meeting, at 5:00 p.m., and the minutes were approved as presented.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.