



City of Richmond

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

Informal Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 27, 2023

4:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Councilmembers Present

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

Absent

The Honorable Andreas Addison

Staff Present

Lisa Braxton, Council Management Analyst, Principal
Tori Cotman, Assistant City Attorney
LaTasha Holmes, Council Chief of Staff
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Tabrica Rentz, Deputy City Attorney
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Council President Michael Jones called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Announcement

Upon the President's request, Council Management Analyst Lisa Braxton provided information on the appropriate manner in which the Council Chamber is to be evacuated in the event of an emergency.

Docket Review

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

Consent Agenda:

1. Ord. 2022-191 – to be continued to Monday, May 22, 2023
2. Ord. 2023-046 – to be continued to Monday, May 8, 2023
3. Ord. 2023-057 – to be continued to Monday, April 24, 2023

Councilor Stephanie Lynch arrived at 4:06 p.m. and was seated.

4. Ord. 2023-060 – retained on the Consent Agenda
5. Ord. 2023-061 – retained on the Consent Agenda
6. Ord. 2023-062 – retained on the Consent Agenda
7. Ord. 2023-063 – retained on the Consent Agenda
8. Ord. 2023-064 – retained on the Consent Agenda
9. Ord. 2023-065 – retained on the Consent Agenda
10. Ord. 2023-066 – retained on the Consent Agenda
11. Ord. 2023-067 – to be continued to Monday, April 10, 2023
12. Ord. 2023-068 – to be continued to Monday, April 10, 2023
13. Ord. 2023-069 – retained on the Consent Agenda
14. Ord. 2023-070 – retained on the Consent Agenda
15. Ord. 2023-080 – to be continued to Monday, April 10, 2023; referred to the April 3, 2023 Organizational Development Standing Committee meeting for recommendation.
16. Ord. 2023-081 – retained on the Consent Agenda
17. Ord. 2023-082 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Vice President Kristen Nye requested information regarding proposed Ord. 2023-080, which allocates funding for the implementation of the Pathways program.

Councilor Ellen Robertson inquired regarding the fiscal year 2022 fund balance.

Deputy City Attorney Tabrica Rentz advised Council of its rules of procedure, which allows for the committee referral waiving of budget appropriation legislation other than to the capital budget.

Vice President Nye suggested Ord. 2023-080 be continued to the Education and Human Services Standing committee for discussion and recommendation.

Maggie Anderson, Mayor's Office chief of staff, provided an introduction of Ord. 2023-080.

Councilor Katherine Jordan inquired regarding the overall strategy of Council's priorities with regards to all program allocations.

Councilor Robertson recommended revisiting Rule VI(B)((3)(c) of Council's Rules of Procedure for possible changes, and a competitive process for allocating funding to organizations while offering her support for the continuance of Ord. 2023-080.

After further discussion, it was the consensus of Council to continue and forward Ord. 2023-080 to April 13th Education and Human Services Standing Committee meeting for recommendation.

18. Ord. 2023-083 – retained on the Consent Agenda

19. Ord. 2023-084 – retained on the Consent Agenda

20. Ord. 2023-085 – retained on the Consent Agenda

21. Ord. 2023-086 – retained on the Consent Agenda

22. Ord. 2023-087 – retained on the Consent Agenda

23. Ord. 2023-088 – retained on the Consent Agenda

24. Ord. 2023-089 – retained on the Consent Agenda

25. Res. 2023-R018 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Regular Agenda:

There were no Regular Agenda items.

Sharon Ebert, deputy chief administrative officer – Planning and Economic Development, and Maggie Anderson, Mayor's Office chief of staff, provided an introduction of Ord. 2023-085.

Councilor Cynthia Newbille encouraged representation from the Enslaved African Heritage Campus as part of the newly proposed composition of the History and Culture Commission.

Budget-Related Papers:

26. Ord. 2023-071 – after public hearing, to be continued to Monday, April 24, 2023

27. Ord. 2023-072 – after public hearing, to be continued to Monday, April 24, 2023

28. Ord. 2023-073 – after public hearing, to be continued to Monday, April 24, 2023
29. Ord. 2023-074 – after public hearing, to be continued to Monday, April 24, 2023
30. Ord. 2023-075 – after public hearing, to be continued to Monday, April 24, 2023
31. Ord. 2023-076 – after public hearing, to be continued to Monday, April 24, 2023
32. Ord. 2023-077 – after public hearing, to be continued to Monday, April 24, 2023
33. Ord. 2023-078 – after public hearing, to be continued to Monday, April 24, 2023
34. Ord. 2023-079 – after public hearing, to be continued to Monday, April 24, 2023

Other Discussion Item(s)

Mobile Home Replacement Program Update

Sharon Ebert, deputy chief administrative officer – Planning and Economic Development, provided Council with an update regarding the mobile home replacement program, and stated that city administration will partner with Project Homes, a non-profit organization with subject-matter experience, to renovate and repair mobile homes in the 8th District. Ms. Ebert also stated that, after discussion with Councilwoman Reva Trammell, city administration agreed to take a comprehensive approach to the program by meeting with mobile homeowners and tenants regarding their needs as well as seeking assistance from a 3rd party entity with outreach and community engagement. Ms. Ebert reported that where extensive repairs are required, city administration is proposing a revolving loan program as an alternative to replace current mobile homes with manufactured homes instead of investing funding into assets of less value.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell expressed her concern with the proposed revolving loan program for the purchase and financing of manufactured homes due to increasing interest rates.

Sherrill Hampton, Housing and Community Development director, addressed Council regarding the need for critical repairs within the mobile home parks and recommended the immediate use of housing rehabilitation funds.

President Michael Jones inquired regarding the estimated time frame for completing critical repairs to mobile home units and the number of individuals currently on the repair wait list. President Jones expressed Council's concern with the delayed expenditure of funds for the mobile home replacement program.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch communicated the challenges mobile home tenants will face when trying to secure financing and questioned the basis of the proposed loan program.

After dialogue regarding the program framework, Councilwoman Trammell suggested utilizing the proposed expenditure of current funding for the mobile home parks in need of the most extensive repair.

After additional discussion, it was the consensus of Council to immediately expend fiscal year 2023 funding to Project Homes for the repair of mobile units in Rudd's Trailer Park and Fitzgerald Mobile Home Court.

Docket Review Revisited

Revisiting discussion regarding Ord. 2023-080 at Councilor Cynthia Newbille's request, it was the consensus of Council to forward the proposed legislation instead to the April 3rd Organizational Development Standing Committee meeting for recommendation.

There were no further comments or discussions concerning Consent and Budget-Related Agenda items reviewed.

Closed Session

At 5:15 p.m., Councilor Cynthia Newbille moved that the City Council go into a closed meeting pursuant to subdivision (A)(3) of section 2.2-3711 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to discuss the acquisition of real property, commonly known as Mayo Island, for the public purpose of open space use, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the City and pursuant to subdivision (A)(29) of section 2.2-3711 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to discuss the terms or scope of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds regarding a proposed development project in the city where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the City.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Councilor Katherine Jordan motioned to exit closed session. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Councilors reconvened in open session at 6:07 p.m.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

March 27, 2023

WHEREAS, the Council has convened in closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law:

NOW, THEREFORE,
BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Council hereby certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge (i) only public matters lawfully exempt from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certifying resolution applies; and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Council.

WITNESS the following vote of Council members, as recorded by Candice D. Reid, City Clerk:

CERTIFYING:

Michael J. Jones, President
Kristen Nye, Vice President
Katherine Jordan
Ann-Frances Lambert
Cynthia I. Newbille
Stephanie A. Lynch
Ellen F. Robertson
Reva M. Trammell

DECLINING TO CERTIFY:

Adjournment

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

CITY CLERK