



# City of Richmond

## Meeting Minutes

### Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee

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Thursday, June 20, 2019

1:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor – City Hall

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#### Committee Members and Others in Attendance

The Honorable Michael Jones – Chair  
The Honorable Kristen Larson – Vice Chair (*late arrival*)  
The Honorable Parker Agelasto – Member  
The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Alternate Member  
Haskell Brown, Deputy City Attorney  
Bill Echelberger, Jr., Council Budget Analyst  
Charles Jackson, Council Budget Analyst  
Pamela Nichols, Assistant City Clerk  
Candice Reid, City Clerk  
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

#### Call to Order

Chair Michael Jones called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m., and presided.

#### 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 comment speakers.

#### Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections or amendments to the meeting minutes of Thursday, May 16, 2019, and the committee approved the minutes as presented: Ayes, Robertson, Agelasto, Jones. Larson had not yet arrived.

#### Board Vacancies

There were no board applications for review.

## **Presentations**

There were no presentations.

## **Paper(s) for Consideration**

**Member Parker Agelasto moved to amend the agenda as follows:**

### ORD. 2018-236

To amend ch. 26, art. V, div. 2 of the City Code by adding therein new sections 26-370-26-374, concerning a real estate tax deferral program for real estate owned and occupied as a sole dwelling, for the purpose of establishing a new real estate tax deferral program for real estate owned and occupied as a sole dwelling.

**Patron:** Ms. Gray

## **To be continued to the July 18, 2019 Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee meeting**

**The motion was seconded and approved:** Ayes 3, Robertson, Agelasto, Jones. Larson had not yet arrived.

**The following ordinances were considered:**

### ORD. 2018-254

To amend Ord. No. 2018-057, adopted May 14, 2018, which adopted the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 General Fund Budget and made appropriations pursuant thereto, by transferring funds in the amount of \$30,000.00 from the Office of Community Wealth Building's Workforce Development program and re-appropriating these transferred funds to a new line item in the Non-Departmental agency called the "Owens & Minor Medical, Inc. On the Job Training Grant through the EDA" line item for the purpose of making a grant to Owens & Minor Medical, Inc., to subsidize certain job training activities by Owens & Minor Medical, Inc.

**Patron:** Mayor Stoney

### ORD. 2019-152

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Workforce Development Grant Performance Agreement between the City of Richmond, Owens & Minor Medical, Inc., and the Economic Development Authority of the City of Richmond, Virginia, for the purpose of providing Owens & Minor, Medical, Inc., with incentives to assist Owens & Minor Medical, Inc., with the hiring and workforce development for the employees at the customer engagement center in the city of Richmond.

**Patron:** Mayor Stoney

*Vice Chair Kristen Larson entered the meeting at 1:09 p.m.*

*Jane Ferrara, deputy director – Economic Development, introduced ORD. 2018-254 and ORD. 2019-152, and explained that the city committed to grant funding as a component of the local match requirement, which required appropriation of funds from the FY 2019 and FY 2020 budgets.*

*Boyd Headley, business service representative – Office of Community Wealth Building (OCWB), reported that the OCWB partnered with Owens & Minor to assist with recruitment efforts and training for qualified residents enrolled in the OCWB employment program.*

*Member Parker Agelasto expressed concern that the performance agreement did not include a requirement to ensure city funds would be used for the hiring of city residents, and he inquired about the number of city residents hired by Owens & Minor through the city's job placement program.*

*Mike Armour, program management director – Owens & Minor, reported that the company had exceeded its employment and capital investment benchmarks, and approximately 36% of the company's workforce were city residents. Mr. Armour stated that he was aware of at least one city resident hired through the city's job placement program.*

*Haskell Brown, deputy city attorney, stated that the city could discuss a mutual agreement with Owens & Minor to try to ensure the funding will be used for city residents only; however, he was not certain of a method by which the city could monitor such requirement.*

*Mr. Headley agreed to provide the committee with information regarding the number of city residents employed with Owens & Minor through the city's job placement program.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Kristen Larson moved to forward ORD. 2018-254 and ORD. 2019-152 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved:** Ayes 2, Larson, Jones. Noes 1, Agelasto.

*Member Agelasto asked Ms. Ferrara to provide a status update of the city's economic development performance agreements.*

**The following ordinance was considered:**

ORD. 2019-129

To approve the Work Plan and Budget for the fiscal year ending Jun. 30, 2020, for the provision of services in the Downtown Richmond Special Service and Assessment Districts.

**Patron:** President Newbille

*Bill Echelberger, council budget analyst, introduced ORD. 2019-129.*

*Lisa Sims, executive director – Venture Richmond, was present to respond to questions.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Larson moved to forward ORD. 2019-129 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**The following ordinances were considered:**

ORD. 2019-153

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute an Assignment and Assumption of License Agreements between the City of Richmond and the Richmond Metropolitan Transportation Authority for the purpose of transferring license agreements for certain events held at Main Street Station from the Richmond Metropolitan Transportation Authority to the City.

**Patron:** Mayor Stoney

ORD. 2019-154

To amend ch. 8 of the City Code by adding therein a new art. XIII, consisting of § 8-545, concerning the establishment of fees for licenses to temporarily use Main Street Station or portions thereof, and to amend Appendix A of the City Code by adding therein new fees for § 8-545, for the purpose of establishing a schedule of fees for the temporary use of Main Street Station.

**Patron:** Mayor Stoney

*Lynne Lancaster, deputy director of Parking and Shared Mobility – Department of Public Works, introduced ORD. 2019-153 and ORD. 2019-154.*

*Member Parker Agelasto requested a copy of Richmond Metropolitan Transportation Authority's previous fee schedule for use of Main Street Station, and an update on the year-to-date financial performance of the train shed prior to the upcoming Council meeting.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Larson moved to forward ORD. 2019-153 and ORD. 2019-154 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved:** Ayes 2, Larson, Jones. Abstentions 1, Agelasto.

**The following ordinances were considered:**

ORD. 2019-155

To amend City Code § 26-518, concerning the tax exemption for certified pollution control equipment, for the purpose of reflecting amendments to Va. Code § 58.1-3660.

**Patron:** Mayor Stoney

ORD. 2019-156

To amend City Code § 26-983, concerning pawnbrokers and pawnshops, for the purpose of reflecting amendments to Va. Code § 54.1-4000.

**Patron:** Mayor Stoney

*John Wack, director – Finance, introduced ORD. 2019-155 and ORD. 2019-156. Mr. Wack explained that both ordinances would be effective July 1, 2019, and that pawnbrokers will have up to one year to update licenses to comply with the state code.*

*Member Parker Agelasto asked city administration to notify pawnbrokers and pawnshops owners of the change to the state code, prior to the license renewal process.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Parker Agelasto moved to forward ORD. 2019-155 and ORD. 2019-156 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**The following ordinance was considered:**

ORD. 2019-157

To amend City Code § 12-18, concerning requirements for strategic action plans, for the purpose of modifying the annual date on which plans are to be submitted and imposing the requirement to submit strategic action plans on the Richmond Retirement System.

**Patron:** Ms. Robertson

*Alternate Member Ellen Robertson introduced ORD. 2019-157 and explained that, if approved, the proposed legislation would change the submission deadline for strategic action plans to September 1, of each year.*

*Member Parker Agelasto asked whether or not the scope of the reporting requirements could be expanded to incorporate other city agencies or subsections of the city such as Richmond Behavioral Health and the Greater Richmond Transit Company.*

*Charles Jackson, council budget analyst, was present to respond to questions relative to consideration of imposing the reporting requirements on other non-city agencies.*

*Haskell Brown, deputy city attorney, explained that the proposed reporting requirements cannot be imposed on state agencies such as the Richmond City Health District.*

*Meghan Brown, interim council chief of staff, agreed to follow-up with the committee regarding the ability to add other agencies of the city to the reporting requirements.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Parker Agelasto moved to forward ORD. 2019-157 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**The following ordinance and resolution were considered:**

**ORD. 2019-158**

To create a new reservation of fund balance called the 2019 Capital Projects Replenishment Reserve intended to be categorized as a committed fund balance and used to restore funding to certain capital projects for which funding was reduced in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 capital budget.

**Patron:** Ms. Larson

**RES. 2019-R016**

To express the City Council's intent to appropriate the first \$1,352,558 of any amount assigned from the calculated general fund surplus to the Capital Maintenance Reserve pursuant to City Code § 12-252 for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 to certain capital projects.

**Patron:** Ms. Larson

*Vice Chair Kristen Larson introduced ORD. 2019-158 and RES. 2019-R016 and explained that funding will be used for four specific capital projects, and that the proposed ordinance does not conflict with the city's fund balance policy. Vice Chair Larson further explained that surplus funds will be allocated based on priorities.*

**Support**

**Sally Wetzler, member and treasurer of the James River Outdoor Coalition**, spoke in support of ORD. 2019-158 stating that the universal access at Huguenot Flatwater will provide needed access for all residents.

**Justin Doyle, community conservation manager - James River Association**, spoke in support of ORD. 2019-158 stating that the two projects, Universal Access at Huguenot Flatwater and the Brown's Island Accessibility Project, were partially funded in the FY 2020 capital improvement plan and the proposed funds would fully fund the projects.

**Chip Decker, chief executive officer of Richmond Ambulance Authority**, spoke in support of ORD. 2019-158 stating that the proposed funds would be used to complete renovations to the Ambulance Authority's buildings built in 1998.

**Deborah Morton, deputy director – Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities**, spoke in support of ORD. 2019-158 stating that many of the community centers were in need of repairs and the proposed funding will help the department to systematically renovate those structures.

*John Wack, director – Finance Department, stated that city administration supports RES. 2019-R016, but does not support ORD. 2019-158 because of the impact the proposed ordinance may have on the city's ability to restore the "rainy day fund" reserve to the level of policy guidelines.*

*Member Parker Agelasto asked Mr. Wack questions relative to the estimated general fund surplus for FY 2019, and a previous request by city administration to utilize Revenue Stabilization Funds for the third-quarter re-appropriations.*

*Chair Michael Jones stated that Council needs to create a list of priorities to address the needs of the city, to include basic service, accessibility and safe neighborhoods.*

*Member Agelasto requested data on the city's capital improvement efforts in response to the settlement agreement regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act.*

*Alternate Member Ellen Robertson agreed that Council needs to establish priorities for the use of fund balances and to address the needs of the city.*

*Bill Echelberger, council budget analyst, reported that ORD. 2019-158 and RES. 2019-R016 were consistent with the city's fund balance policy and require a budget amendment from the mayor.*

*Member Agelasto reported that he would be abstaining from the vote because one of the projects involves his employer.*

*Vice Chair. Larson asked the committee for its support ORD. 2019-158 and indicated her intent to withdraw RES. 2019-R016.*

*The committee supported withdrawal consideration of RES. 2019-R016.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Kristen Larson moved to forward ORD. 2019-158 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved:** Ayes 2, Larson, Jones. Abstentions 1, Agelasto.

**The following resolution was considered:**

**RES. 2019-R020**

To approve the Richmond Metropolitan Transportation Authority's bond issue as required by Va. Code § 33.2-2902(16).

**Patron:** Mayor Stoney

John Wack, director – Finance, introduced RES. 2019-R020.

Joi Taylor Dean, chief executive officer - Richmond Metropolitan Transportation Authority provided an overview of the change to the Virginia Code.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Parker Agelasto moved to forward RES. 2019-R020 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**The following resolution was considered:**

RES. 2019-R021

To express the Council's support for a joint effort by the City and the School Board of the City of Richmond to develop energy-efficient improvements to the City's public schools pursuant to the authority granted by amendments to state law for the modernization of public school buildings and facilities.

**Patrons:** Ms. Larson and Mr. Agelasto

*Vice Chair Kristen Larson introduced RES. 2019-R021.*

*Member Parker Agelasto stated that he would like city administration to take a more aggressive approach to address the needs of city schools and facilities.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Parker Agelasto moved to forward RES. 2019-R021 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**Discussion Item(s)**

There were no discussion items.

**Staff Report**

Bill Echelberger and Charles Jackson, council budget analysts, provided the June staff report.

*A copy of the material provided has been filed.*

Vice Chair Kristen Larson clarified that it was her intent to continue RES. 2019-R016 until after Council's consideration of ORD. 2019-158, and **moved to continue RES. 2019-R016 to the July 19, 2019 Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and approved:** Ayes 2, Larson, Jones. Abstentions 1, Agelasto.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:44 p.m.