



City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
www.richmondgov.com/cityclerk

Minutes

Governmental Operations Standing Committee

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

12:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - Virtual Meeting

Committee Members and Staff in Attendance

The Honorable Andreas Addison – Chair
The Honorable Cynthia Newbille – Member
The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Council member (*late arrival*)
Lawrence Anderson, Council Chief of Staff
Samson Anderson, Council Budget Analyst
Lisa Braxton, Council Management Analyst
Haskell Brown, Interim City Attorney
Meghan Brown, Deputy Council Chief of Staff
Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst
Jamie Isley, Assistant City Clerk
Pamela Nichols, Assistant City Clerk
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Absent

The Honorable Michael Jones – Vice Chair

Call to Order

Chair Andreas Addison called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m., and presided.

Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Upon the Chair's request, Assistant City Clerk Jamie Isley provided the citizen speaker guidelines.

Electronic Meeting Announcement

Assistant City Clerk Jamie Isley, in accordance with Ordinance No. 2020-093, adopted April 9, 2020, as most recently amended by Ordinance No. 2020-232, adopted December 14, 2020, announced the meeting would be held through electronic communication means. Assistant City Clerk Isley stated notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information advisory issued on November 19, 2020, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice. She also stated members of the public were encouraged to provide comments in writing prior to the meeting and all comments received prior to 10:00 a.m., on Wednesday, December 16, 2020, were provided to committee members. Ms. Isley indicated that members of the public who signed up to speak and provide comment would be called to speak at the appropriate time.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes

There were no amendments or corrections to the meeting minutes of Wednesday, November 18, 2020, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

Board Vacancies

Assistant City Clerk Pamela Nichols reviewed board applications for consideration by the committee.

Member Cynthia Newbille suggested the committee maintain consistency with Commonwealth of Virginia law-enforcement civilian oversight body composition requirements. She also voiced consideration of concerns shared with Council regarding appointment endorsements made during the December Organizational Development Standing Committee meeting. She further proposed replacing the following Task Force on the Establishment of a Civilian Review Board (CRB) applicants previously recommended by the Public Safety Standing Committee, John I. Dixon, III, John Gerner and Charlene L. Hinton with Dr. Erik Nielson, Jewel Gatling and Sylvia Wood.

Member Newbille moved to forward the following appointment applications to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded:

Board Name	Criteria for Appointment	Applicant Name
Task Force on the Establishment of a Civilian Review Board (9 members)	Residents of the city who possess a broad range of experience with expertise in policy development, legal, racial, and social justice advocacy, criminal justice education, or human resources.	Dr. Erik Nielson 1 st District Resident
		Edward Miller 4 th District Resident
		Sylvia Wood 4 th District Resident
		Dr. Eli Coston 6 th District Resident
		Jewel Gatling 7 th District Resident
		Angela Fontaine 9 th District Resident
	Person with a disability* (1 vacancy)	Keith Anthony Turner 7 th District Resident
Youth age 18 or younger* (1 vacancy)	Oliver Parker Hale 4 th District Resident	

*Applicants must either reside or work in the city

Chair Andreas Addison stated he agreed with Member Newbille’s proposition, and encouraged the applicants not recommended for appointment to remain involved in the CRB process due to several applicants meeting CRB membership qualifications.

Member Newbille requested Joyce Davis to further explain Commonwealth of Virginia requirements regarding law-enforcement oversight body composition.

Joyce Davis, Council policy analyst, informed the committee that Virginia State Code § 9.1-601(E), states that any person currently employed as a law-enforcement officer is ineligible to serve on a law-enforcement civilian oversight body. Ms. Davis stated that retired law-enforcement officers may serve as an advisory, nonvoting, ex officio member if there is no history of employment by a law enforcement agency within the boundaries of the CRB locality of interest. Ms. Davis further informed

the committee of guidelines requiring retired law-enforcement officers to have been employed as law-enforcement officers within localities similar to that of the CRB locality of interest.

There were no further comments or discussions and the motion was unanimously approved.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Presentation(s)

There were no presentations.

Papers for Consideration

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2020-117

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Records Management System User Agreement between the City of Richmond and Virginia Commonwealth University for the purpose of contracting for the use of equipment and materials as allowed by Va. Code § 15.2-1736 by allowing the Virginia Commonwealth University Police Department to become an operational user of the Department of Police's records management system for the input, retrieval, and storage of records and facilitating interoperability between the Department of Police and the Virginia Commonwealth University Police Department.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

Victoria Pearson, Richmond Police Department (RPD) deputy department director senior, introduced ORD. 2020-117, and informed the committee that the proposed ordinance would allow the Virginia Commonwealth University Police Department (VCUPD) access to the new RPD records management system. Ms. Pearson highlighted that RPD and VCU have shared records management systems since 2012, and that VCU uses the system as a primary data repository.

Member Cynthia Newbille inquired whether the records management system user agreement outlined in ORD. 2020-117, is a new agreement or an update.

Ms. Pearson informed the committee that agreement terms between the RPD and the VCUPD have existed since February 2012, and that the old records management system required an upgrade. She further stated that a new agreement is necessary to grant the VCUPD access to the new records management system.

Chair Andreas Addison inquired whether the information sharing between the two police departments would be hindered if ORD. 2020-117 were continued in committee.

Ms. Pearson stated that records information is currently being stored in two locations while backups for the prior records management system are underway.

Member Newbille requested additional information regarding when the system will no longer operate in a dual capacity. She suggested the full Council have the opportunity to discuss ORD. 2020-117, at the January 11, 2021, Formal Council meeting.

There were no further comments or discussions and Member Cynthia Newbille moved to forward ORD. 2020-117 to the January 11, 2021, Council meeting with no recommendation, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2020-R067

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer consult with the Office of the City Attorney concerning the preparation of an amendment to a conservation and open-space easement on the property generally known as Bandy Field Park to the Friends of Bandy Field, Inc., for the purpose of adding the Capital Region Land Conservancy as a grantee to the Bandy Field conservation and open-space easement, and requesting that the Chief Administrative Officer to cause the planned, but not constructed streets that are currently excluded from the conservation easement to be extinguished, and incorporate these vacated rights-of-way into Bandy Field Park.

Patron: Mr. Addison

Chair Andreas Addison introduced RES. 2020-R067.

Support

Parker Agelasto, Capital Region Land Conservancy executive director, spoke in support of RES. 2020-R067. Mr. Agelasto informed the committee that the purpose of the proposed legislation is to add the Capital Region Land Conservancy as a co-holder for the conservation easement. He also mentioned that there is a street which flows through the property that would be absorbed into the nature park formally upon the adoption of RES. 2020-R067.

Chris Frelke, Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities director, spoke in support of RES. 2020-R067.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Cynthia Newbille moved to forward RES. 2020-R067 to the January 11, 2021, Council meeting with recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2020-R056

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause the Department of Finance and the Department of Human Resources to conduct a study of the City's telecommuting workforce to determine if cost savings and other benefits have been derived from the telecommuting policies adopted by the City in response to the COVID-19 pandemic for the purpose of potentially continuing or expanding upon such policies after the pandemic.

Patron: Ms. Robertson

Joyce Davis, Council policy analyst, introduced RES. 2020-R056. She stated her belief that Councilor Ellen Robertson wished to continue the legislation to the January Governmental Operations Standing Committee meeting.

John Wack, Finance director, expressed concerns regarding the analysis of items he believes cannot be practically quantified. He also stated that the administrative impact statement attached to the proposed resolution outlines city administration's opposition to RES. 2020-R056.

Member Cynthia Newbille suggested continuing RES. 2020-R056 to the January 28, 2021, Governmental Operations Standing Committee meeting.

Mona Adkins-Easley, Department of Human Resources interim director, informed the committee that previous discussions with Councilor Robertson and Acting Chief Administrative Officer Lenora Reid yielded some consensus regarding the proposed legislation. She further stated that the administration's understanding of the city's telecommuting workforce should improve upon receipt of telework agreements mandated by the recently revised and distributed telework policy and training component.

Councilor Ellen Robertson entered the meeting at 12:33 p.m.

Councilor Ellen Robertson expressed support for the proposed resolution and stated that she would be amenable to the committee recommending RES. 2020-R056 be continued.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Cynthia Newbille moved to continue RES. 2020-R056 to the January 28, 2021, Governmental Operations Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

Discussion Item(s)

There were no items for discussion.

Staff Report

Joyce Davis, Council policy analyst, provided the committee with the December staff report.

A copy of the report provided has been filed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:37 p.m.