



# City of Richmond

## Informal Meeting Minutes

900 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219  
[www.rva.gov/office-city-clerk](http://www.rva.gov/office-city-clerk)

Monday, May 24, 2021

4:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall  
Virtual Meeting

### **Councilmembers Present**

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

### **Staff Present**

Lisa Braxton, Council Management Analyst  
Haskell Brown, Interim City Attorney  
Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff  
Candice Reid, City Clerk  
Tabrica Rentz, Acting Deputy City Attorney  
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. and presided.

### **ELECTRONIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

Council Management Analyst Lisa Braxton, 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, and stated that notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information advisory issued on May 12, 2021, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice. She also stated there would be no opportunities for public comment and no public hearings during the meeting.

### **Docket Review**

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

#### **Consent Agenda:**

1. Ord. 2021-084 – retained on the Consent Agenda
2. Ord. 2021-085 – to be amended and continued to Monday, June 14, 2021
3. Ord. 2021-095 – retained on the Consent Agenda
4. Ord. 2021-098 – retained on the Consent Agenda
5. Ord. 2021-106 – retained on the Consent Agenda

*Councilor Katherine Jordan joined the meeting at 4:05 p.m.*

6. Ord. 2021-108 – retained on the Consent Agenda
7. Ord. 2021-109 – retained on the Consent Agenda
8. Ord. 2021-110 – retained on the Consent Agenda
9. Ord. 2021-111 – to be continued to Monday, June 14, 2021
10. Ord. 2021-112 – retained on the Consent Agenda
11. Ord. 2021-113 – retained on the Consent Agenda
12. Ord. 2021-114 – retained on the Consent Agenda
13. Ord. 2021-115 – to be continued to Monday, June 7, 2021
14. Ord. 2021-116 – retained on the Consent Agenda
15. Ord. 2021-117 – retained on the Consent Agenda
16. Ord. 2021-118 – retained on the Consent Agenda
17. Ord. 2021-119 – retained on the Consent Agenda
18. Ord. 2021-120 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Interim City Attorney Haskell Brown provided an introduction of Ords. 2021-120 and 2021-127.

19. Ord. 2021-122 – retained on the Consent Agenda
20. Ord. 2021-123 – retained on the Consent Agenda
21. Ord. 2021-124 – retained on the Consent Agenda
22. Ord. 2021-125 – retained on the Consent Agenda
23. Ord. 2021-126 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Councilor Katherine Jordan requested to added as a co-patron of Ord. 2021-125

Shundra Giles, Social Services director, provided an introduction of Ord. 2021-126.

President Cynthia Newbille requested to be added as a co-patron of Ords. 2021-122, 2021-123, 2021-124 and 2021-125.

24. Ord. 2021-127 – retained on the Consent Agenda
25. Res. 2021-R023 – retained on the Consent Agenda

*Councilor Andreas Addison joined the meeting at 4:13 p.m.*

Regular Agenda:

26. Res. 2021-R026 – to be continued to Monday, June 28, 2021

27. Res. 2021-R027 – retained on the Regular Agenda

Councilor Kristen Larson expressed concern regarding Res. 2021-R027, citing the proposed legislation does not specify the inclusion of community outreach involving the elimination of parking space minimums throughout the city, if adopted.

Councilor Andreas Addison introduced Res. 2021-R027 and stated that the proposed legislation only initiates the process regarding the elimination of parking space minimums, which would require community engagement as well as the adoption of additional legislation before enactment.

Councilor Katherine Jordan also expressed reservation regarding the wording of Res. 2021-R027.

Councilor Larson stated that she supports the intention of Res. 2021-R027; however, she asked if the proposed legislation could be amended to delineate a community outreach component of the zoning process.

Kevin Vonck, Planning and Development Review interim director, affirmed the intent of Res. 2021-R027 and stated that adoption of the proposed legislation, as currently written, is sufficient for addressing cited concerns.

Councilor Michael Jones expressed support for Res. 2021-R027.

Interim City Attorney Haskell Brown was available to answer questions regarding Res. 2021-R027.

28. Res. 2021-R028 – to be continued to Monday, June 14, 2021

Councilor Katherine Jordan requested to be added as a co-patron of Res. 2021-R028.

President Cynthia Newbille explained that legislation regarding the American Rescue Plan Act would be introduced for expedited consideration later that evening at the Formal Session of Council, which if adopted, would supersede proposed Res. 2021-R028.

Budget-Related Papers:

- 29. Ord. 2021-040 – retained on the Regular Agenda
- 30. Ord. 2021-041 – retained on the Regular Agenda
- 31. Ord. 2021-045 – retained on the Regular Agenda
- 32. Ord. 2021-054 – retained on the Regular Agenda
- 33. Ord. 2021-121 – retained on the Regular Agenda
- 34. Ord. 2021-042 – retained on the Regular Agenda
- 35. Ord. 2021-044 – retained on the Regular Agenda
- 36. Ord. 2021-046 – retained on the Regular Agenda
- 37. Ord. 2021-047 – retained on the Regular Agenda
- 38. Ord. 2021-048 – retained on the Regular Agenda

39. Ord. 2021-049 – retained on the Regular Agenda
40. Ord. 2021-050 – retained on the Regular Agenda
41. Ord. 2021-051 – retained on the Regular Agenda
42. Ord. 2021-052 – retained on the Regular Agenda
43. Ord. 2021-053 – retained on the Regular Agenda
44. Ord. 2021-055 – retained on the Regular Agenda
45. Ord. 2021-056 – retained on the Regular Agenda
46. Ord. 2021-057 – retained on the Regular Agenda
47. Ord. 2021-058 – retained on the Regular Agenda
48. Ord. 2021-059 – retained on the Regular Agenda
49. Ord. 2021-060 – retained on the Regular Agenda
50. Ord. 2021-061 – retained on the Regular Agenda
51. Ord. 2021-062 – retained on the Regular Agenda
52. Ord. 2021-063 – retained on the Regular Agenda

Given the number of individuals requesting to provide comment during the public hearing for Ords. 2021-040, 2021-041, 2021-045, 2021-054 and 2021-121, later that evening at the Formal Session, President Cynthia Newbille sought the consensus of Council to adjust the allotted time limit of speakers.

Councilor Andreas Addison reiterated a previous request that Council consider changing its Rules of Procedure to automatically adjust speakers' time limit during public hearings when there is significant citizen participation.

It was the consensus of Council to only allow a duration of up to two minutes per speaker during the public hearing for Ords. 2021-040, 2021-041, 2021-045, 2021-054 and 2021-121.

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

*Councilor Stephanie Lynch joined the meeting at 4:40 p.m.*

### **CoR Equity Agenda Update**

Mayor Levar Stoney presented Council with an overview of the city's revised equity agenda and informed of the introduction of legislation requesting Council's support, later that evening at the Formal Session of Council. A copy of the presentation and additional information provided has been filed.

## **Continuity of Government Update**

Interim City Attorney Haskell Brown informed Council of the impending expiration of the continuity of government ordinance, which currently allows public meetings to be held by means of electronic participation through June 30, 2021.

President Cynthia Newbille explained that with the lifting of COVID restrictions within the upcoming weeks, she deemed it necessary for Council to decision on when to initiate holding meetings in person.

City Clerk Candice Reid and Michael Winborne, Public Works principal management analyst, apprised Council of preparation measures being explored for reopening the Council Chamber to the public.

Vice President Ellen Robertson inquired regarding air cleaning and ventilation improvements in the Council Chamber and requested a copy of the reopening measures and maintenance action plan.

After discussion regarding Council Chamber reopening measures and logistics, it was the consensus of Council to introduce legislation to extend the continuity of government legislation through December 31, 2021.

## **Other Discussion**

Councilor Katherine Jordan requested that Council continue earlier discussion concerning the possible allocation of American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act funding, after having an opportunity to review legislation intended for expedited consideration later that evening at the Formal Session of Council.

President Cynthia Newbille explained that the proposed resolution was drafted to reflect Council's consensus to utilize impending ARP funding for capital improvement amendments not funded in fiscal year 2022 budget deliberations.

Councilor Kristen Larson and Ann-Frances Lambert questioned approving legislation without further discussion by Council and the inclusion of additional ARP priorities.

Interim Council Chief of Staff Joyce Davis informed Council that members of the committee tasked with prioritizing ARP allocations have yet to be selected.

Vice President Ellen Robertson recollected the prior consensus and voiced her concern with the reluctance to consider the drafted legislation.

After further discussion, President Newbille explained the proposed legislation for expedited consideration does not preclude the funding of additional projects from ARP funding, and she stated final approval of all allocations will be derived from Council once ARP spending guidelines are clarified.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch expressed reservations concerning the expedited consideration of the proposed legislation since there was a misunderstanding surrounding the process.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

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CITY CLERK