



City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
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Meeting Minutes Organizational Development Standing Committee

Monday, May 1, 2023

4:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Members Present

The Honorable Kristen Nye – Vice Chair
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch – Member (late arrival)
The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Member
The Honorable Cynthia Newbille – Member
The Honorable Reva Trammell – Member

Absent

The Honorable Michael Jones – Chair
The Honorable Andreas Addison – Member
The Honorable Katherine Jordan – Member
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert – Member

Others in Attendance

Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst
Laura Drewry, City Attorney
Paul Van Lenten, Council Budget Analyst
Rachael Paul, Assistant City Clerk
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Tabrica Rentz, Deputy City Attorney
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Vice Chair Kristen Nye called the meeting to order at 4:11 p.m., and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Upon the Chair's request, Assistant City Clerk Rachael Paul 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.

Reports from City Administration, Council Staff and Other Parties

There were no reports.

Reports of Standing Committees

Finance and Economic Development

Member Cynthia Newbille provided an update regarding the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee. Ms. Newbille informed members that the committee discussed with city administration a resolution regarding budget surplus, retiree bonus pay and other post-employment benefits (OPEB) that will be presented to Council.

Public Safety

Member Reva Trammell updated members on the last Public Safety Standing Committee meeting. Ms. Trammell thanked city administration, Council staff, and other meeting attendees.

Land Use, Housing and Transportation

There was no report provided for the Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee.

Consideration of Appointments to Boards, Commissions and Similar Entities

There were no appointments for consideration.

Discussion Item(s)

Fund Balance Policy Revision

Member Cynthia Newbille provided information regarding proposed revisions to the city's fund balance surplus policy, and advised that the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee will be working with city administration to establish a list of recommendations to bring back to Council.

Lincoln Saunders, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), stated that city administration is looking forward to collaborating with the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee on the revisions.

Vice Chair Kristen Nye confirmed it was the goal to finalize revisions before the completion of the current fiscal year.

Member Stephanie Lynch arrived at 4:18 p.m., and was seated.

Legislative and Budget Updates

Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst, provided the committee information regarding legislative and budget updates. Ms. Davis stated that Council staff will start work on a legislative agenda by reviewing accomplishments by the city lobbyists from the past year, and staff will establish a request for proposal process regarding the next city lobbyist contract. She also stated that Council will have a legislative summit in September. Ms. Davis also provided an update regarding the budget and advised that the budget would be established by May 31, 2023, if not sooner.

Member Cynthia Newbille stated she wanted to make sure the city is on target with establishing a casino in the city.

Member Stephanie Lynch requested to have the Richmond Public Schools (RPS) Superintendent provide the final RPS budget breakdown for the public.

Agenda Amendment

Vice Chair Kristen Nye informed the committee that a request was made to continue the following resolution to the June 5, 2023 Organizational Development Standing Committee meeting:

2. [RES. 2023-R024](#) To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause the preparation of a study to identify a location in the Shockoe Bottom area of the city of Richmond for the National Slavery Museum.

Patrons: Ms. Newbille and Ms. Lambert

Attachments: [Res. No. 2023-R024](#)

Member Cynthia Newbille moved to continue Res. 2023-R024 to the June 5, 2023 Organizational Development Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and approved: Ayes 5, Robertson, Lynch, Trammell, Newbille, and Nye. Noes None.

Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections or amendments to the minutes of the Monday, April 3, 2023 Organizational Development Standing Committee meeting, at 4:00 p.m., and the minutes were approved as presented.

[CD.2023.148](#) April 3, 2023 Organizational Development Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [20230403 -O.D. Minutes](#)

Reports of Standing Committees Continued

Education and Human Services

Member Stephanie Lynch updated committee members on items from the Education and Human Services Standing Committee. Ms. Lynch informed the committee that topics discussed during the previous meeting included the inclement weather shelter and the shelter's closing date.

Member Cynthia Newbille provided information regarding the Head Start program and discussed universal pre-K, which would be included in the early Head Start program.

Governmental Operations

Member Stephanie Lynch provided members information regarding the last Governmental Operations Standing Committee meeting. Ms. Lynch stated there were three items discussed during the meeting regarding a participatory budgeting presentation, a City Charter Review Commission update, and a Public Art Commission update. She also stated that the committee will have a meeting for boards and commissions realignment with city administration, Council staff, and the Clerk's office. Ms. Lynch requested that Council staff provide Council members the appointee performance evaluation handout that was presented during the meeting.

Paper(s) for Consideration

The following ordinance was considered:

1. [ORD. 2023-134](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute the Diamond District Redevelopment Project Development Agreement between the City of Richmond, Virginia, RVA Diamond Partners LLC, and the Economic Development Authority of the City of Richmond for the purpose of providing for the financing, construction, maintenance, and operation of public improvements and private development within an area generally known as the Diamond District along North Arthur Ashe Boulevard and Hermitage Road.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney and City Council

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2023-134](#)
[20230501 DD Development Agreement Presentation](#)
[20230501 DD Fiscal and Economic Impact Statement & Related Analysis - After Item](#)

Leonard Sledge, Director of Economic Development, provided the committee a presentation regarding the Diamond District Development Agreement updates referenced in Ord. 2023-134.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Member Cynthia Newbille asked about the impact of the 9 month delay of stadium construction and inquired about the \$25 million that will be invested in the Sports Backers Stadium. Member Newbille also requested information regarding the debt being shared with Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU).

Mr. Sledge stated that the city has stayed in communication with the Flying Squirrels baseball team regarding any delays, and that the city continues to make commitments to with the team. He also stated that the city has an upcoming meeting with Major League Baseball (MLB) to discuss the Diamond District Project. Mr. Sledge informed the committee that the city will use revenues from the project to assist with the debt service and advised that VCU will be paying certain expenses directly.

Lincoln Saunders, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), provided additional information regarding the city working with MLB and VCU.

Member Reva Trammell asked if the Flying Squirrels would be able to continue to practice and play games while the new stadium is being built.

Mr. Sledge advised the committee that the Flying Squirrels current stadium will remain open until the new stadium is complete.

Member Ellen Robertson asked for the total value of the Diamond District Project.

Mr. Sledge informed the committee the projected total for the stadium bonds is \$118 million and the infrastructure bonds is \$57 million.

David Rose, Davenport & Company, LLC, Senior Vice President and Manager of Public Finance, addressed revenue projections the city could receive from the development project.

Member Robertson had further discussion with Leonard Sledge and David Rose regarding debt and revenue. Ms. Robertson requested more information for the Organizational Development Standing Committee or Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee regarding the city's overall debt and revenues.

Vice Chair Kristen Nye asked about the traffic and growth the Diamond District Project would bring to the surrounding area and how the city would address traffic congestion.

Mr. Sledge advised the committee that a traffic impact study is required in the project agreement.

Jason Guillot, Thalhimer Realty Partners, Inc. Principal, informed the committee that a traffic impact study must be completed within 60 days of the development agreement being signed. Mr. Guillot stated that the traffic impact study will be done in four phases across the entire 67 acres.

Vice Chair Kristen Nye and Jason Guillot had further discussion regarding the impact the Diamond District Project will have on travel and neighborhoods.

Member Stephanie Lynch asked if the creation of the Community Development Authority (CDA) would require an ordinance to be considered by Council.

John O'Neill, Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP Partner, stated that the CDA would require an ordinance and that Council would appoint CDA members.

Vice Chair Nye requested a draft timeline for the ordinance and CDA appointments be provided at the next Informal Council meeting.

Member Ellen Robertson requested to be added as a co-patron to Ord. 2023-134.

Member Ellen Robertson moved to forward Ord. 2023-134 to Council with a recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved: Ayes 5, Robertson, Lynch, Trammell, Newbille, and Nye. Noes None.

Member Reva Trammell informed the committee she had a casino report provided by Council staff. Ms. Trammell stated that she would send the committee a copy of the report.

Staff Report

[CD.2023.172](#) 20230501 Organizational Development Staff Report - After Item

Attachments: [20230501 Staff Report](#)

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.