



Richmond City Council

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

Informal Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

4:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Council Members Present

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President
The Honorable Katherine Jordan, Vice President
The Honorable Sarah Abubaker
The Honorable Andrew Breton
The Honorable Kenya Gibson (late arrival)
The Honorable Nicole Jones
The Honorable Ellen Robertson
The Honorable Reva Trammell

Absent

The Honorable Stephanie Lynch

Staff Present

Lisa Braxton, Council Management Analyst, Principal
Laura Drewry, City Attorney
Kiley Kesecker, Deputy City Clerk
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Tabrica Rentz, Deputy City Attorney
RJ Warren, Council Chief of Staff

Call to Order

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

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Announcement

Upon the President's request, Council Management Analyst Lisa Braxton provided information on the appropriate way to evacuate the Council Chamber in an emergency.

Docket Review

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

Consent Agenda:

1. Ord. 2025-014 – to be continued to Monday, November 10, 2025
2. Ord. 2025-079 – retained on Consent Agenda
3. Ord. 2025-081 – retained on Consent Agenda
4. Ord. 2025-113 – to be continued to Monday, November 10, 2025
5. Ord. 2025-150 – to be continued to Monday, November 10, 2025
6. Ord. 2025-174 – to be amended and continued to Monday, November 10, 2025
7. Ord. 2025-209 – to be continued to Monday, November 10, 2025
8. Ord. 2025-210 – to be amended and continued to Monday, November 10, 2025
9. Ord. 2025-211 – to be amended and continued to Monday, November 10, 2025
10. Ord. 2025-212 – retained on Consent Agenda
11. Ord. 2025-213 – retained on Consent Agenda
12. Ord. 2025-214 – to be amended and continued to Monday, November 10, 2025
13. Ord. 2025-215 – to be continued to Monday, November 10, 2025
14. Ord. 2025-216 – retained on Consent Agenda
15. Ord. 2025-217 – retained on Consent Agenda
16. Ord. 2025-218 – retained on Consent Agenda
17. Ord. 2025-219 – retained on Consent Agenda
18. Ord. 2025-220 – retained on Consent Agenda
19. Ord. 2025-221 – retained on Consent Agenda
20. Ord. 2025-222 – to be continued to Monday, November 10, 2025; Referred to the October 28, 2025 Public Safety Standing Committee meeting

Per a prior request from Councilor Reva Trammell, it was the consensus of Council to refer Ord. 2025-222 to the October 28, 2025 Public Safety Standing Committee meeting for recommendation and the November 10, 2025 Council meeting for consideration.

Councilor Kenya Gibson arrived at 4:05 p.m. and was seated.

- 21. Ord. 2025-223 – retained on Consent Agenda
- 22. Ord. 2025-224 – retained on Consent Agenda
- 23. Ord. 2025-226 – retained on Consent Agenda
- 24. Res. 2025-R041 – to be continued to Monday, December 8, 2025

Regular Agenda:

- 25. Ord. 2025-161 – to be amended and continued to Monday, November 10, 2025
- 26. Ord. 2025-184 – retained on Regular Agenda
- 27. Ord. 2025-185 – retained on Regular Agenda
- 28. Ord. 2025-186 – retained on Regular Agenda
- 29. Ord. 2025-190 – to be continued to Monday, November 10, 2025
- 30. Ord. 2025-191 – retained on Regular Agenda
- 31. Ord. 2025-207 – retained on Regular Agenda
- 32. Ord. 2025-208 – retained on Regular Agenda

Councilor Kenya Gibson, mentioning the need to receive information regarding fiscal year 2025 surplus, moved to continue Ords. 2025-207 and 2025-208 to the November 10, 2025 Council meeting. The motion failed for lack of a second.

President Cynthia Newbille mentioned Rule IV(K) of Council's Rules of Procedure regarding the maximum time allowed by each member to speak to an agenda item following its public hearing. In anticipation of a significant number of individuals participating in the public hearing for Ords. 2025-207 and 2025-208 later that evening during the Formal Session of Council, President Newbille also mentioned reducing the time limit for each public hearing speaker from three to two minutes.

There were no further comments or discussions concerning Consent and Regular Agenda items reviewed.

Other Discussion Item(s)**Office of Community Wealth Building (OCWB) Annual Impact Report - FY 2025**

Mayor Danny Avula provided a presentation regarding the Office of Community Wealth Building's FY 2025 annual impact report, which included poverty reduction goals, OCWB's contributions and programs, highlighted FY 2025 outcomes, and the city's future strategies for a path forward to help eliminate poverty. A copy of the presentation and report provided have been filed.

[CD.2025.315](#) Office of Community Wealth Building Annual Impact Report - FY 2025 Presentation and Report

Councilor Ellen Robertson acknowledged OCWB staff, ambassadors, and members of the Maggie L. Walker Initiative Citizens Advisory Board for their hard work. Councilor Robertson thanked Thad Williamson, senior policy advisor to the Mayor's Office, for his prior contributions towards the inception of the Office of Community Wealth Building. Ms. Robertson requested an opportunity to discuss the impact that federal government changes are having on families of poverty with city administration.

Councilor Kenya Gibson, commenting on the city's poverty rate, asked if the analysis defined the percentage of individuals voluntarily leaving the city verses those being financially forced out.

Councilor Nicole Jones requested information concerning the strategy to coordinate city-wide efforts to reduce poverty after it was noted that several other city departments also provide resources towards the effort.

Caprichia Spellman, OCWB director, was also available to answer questions regarding OCWB's annual impact report.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

CITY CLERK