



City of Richmond

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

Informal Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 12, 2023

4:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Councilmembers Present

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

Staff Present

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

Call to Order

Council President Michael Jones 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 manner in which the Council Chamber is to be evacuated in the event of an emergency.

Docket Review

Consent Agenda:

1. Ord. 2022-205 – to be continued to Monday, July 24, 2023
2. Ord. 2022-375 – retained on the Consent Agenda

3. Ord. 2023-090 – to be amended and continued to Monday, June 26, 2023
4. Ord. 2023-106 – retained on the Consent Agenda
5. Ord. 2023-114 – retained on the Consent Agenda
6. Ord. 2023-119 – retained on the Consent Agenda
7. Ord. 2023-121 – to be amended and continued to Monday, June 26, 2023
8. Ord. 2023-130 – retained on the Consent Agenda
9. Ord. 2023-136 – to be continued to Monday, July 24, 2023
10. Ord. 2023-144 – retained on the Consent Agenda
11. Ord. 2023-149 – retained on the Consent Agenda
12. Ord. 2023-152 – to be continued to Monday, June 26, 2023
13. Ord. 2023-153 – retained on the Consent Agenda
14. Ord. 2023-154 – retained on the Consent Agenda
15. Ord. 2023-155 – retained on the Consent Agenda
16. Ord. 2023-156 – retained on the Consent Agenda
17. Ord. 2023-157 – to be amended and continued to Monday, June 26, 2023
18. Ord. 2023-158 – retained on the Consent Agenda
19. Ord. 2023-159 – retained on the Consent Agenda
20. Ord. 2023-160 – retained on the Consent Agenda
21. Ord. 2023-161 – retained on the Consent Agenda
22. Ord. 2023-162 – retained on the Consent Agenda
23. Ord. 2023-163 – retained on the Regular Agenda
24. Ord. 2023-164 – retained on the Consent Agenda

25. Ord. 2023-165 – retained on the Consent Agenda

26. Ord. 2023-166 – retained on the Consent Agenda

27. Ord. 2023-167 – retained on the Consent Agenda

28. Ord. 2023-168 – retained on the Consent Agenda

29. Ord. 2023-169 – retained on the Consent Agenda

30. Ord. 2023-170 – retained on the Consent Agenda

31. Ord. 2023-171 – retained on the Consent Agenda

32. Ord. 2023-172 – retained on the Consent Agenda

33. Res. 2023-R011 – to be continued to Monday, September 11, 2023

Councilor Stephanie Lynch arrived at 4:07 p.m. and was seated.

34. Res. 2023-R024 – to be continued to Monday, July 24, 2023

35. Res. 2023-R026 – retained on the Consent Agenda

36. Res. 2023-R027 – retained on the Consent Agenda

37. Res. 2023-R028 – retained on the Consent Agenda

38. Res. 2023-R029 – to be continued to Monday, June 26, 2023

Regular Agenda:

There were no Regular Agenda items.

Councilor Andreas Addison arrived at 4:08 p.m. and was seated.

Sharon Ebert, deputy chief administrative officer – Planning and Economic Development, was available to answer questions pertaining to the introduction of legislation accepting the second tranche of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.

Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert arrived at 4:10 p.m. and was seated.

Cordell Hayes, legislative and policy management analyst, informed Council of an impending press conference, highlighting a certain housing development project, which was funded with the first tranche of ARPA dollars, and revealing selected awardees of the second tranche of ARPA funding, along with recommendations for affordable housing projects in the city.

President Michael Jones asked that Council receive more than a 24-hour notice regarding mayoral press conferences.

Vice President Kristen Nye requested an ARPA update.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch requested standing committee review of several budget-related items, scheduled to be introduced later that evening during the Formal Session of Council.

Tabrica Rentz, deputy city attorney, advised Council of its Rule of Procedure VI(B)(3)(c), which committee referral waives budget-related legislation upon introduction; however, she stated that Council may move to refer items to a standing committee for recommendation prior to introduction.

President Jones asked his colleagues of their preference regarding the review of all future legislation by a standing committee.

Councilor Andreas Addison voiced his support of future standing committee review, excluding time-sensitive legislation with prior Council briefing.

After further inquiry, City Attorney Laura Drewry reiterated the committee waiving of legislation pursuant to Council's Rule VI(B)(3)(c); however, she indicated that the rule can be amended.

Ms. Rentz informed Council that Rule VI(B)(3)(c) was enacted several years prior in order to facilitate a more efficient process for reviewing budget-related legislation.

After further discussion, President Jones advised his colleagues that he will review discussed legislation for standing committee referral prior to introduction later that evening during the Formal Session of Council.

Sharon Ebert, deputy chief administrative officer – Planning and Economic Development, introduced and answered questions regarding Ord. 2023-156.

Robert "Bob" Steidel, deputy chief administrative officer – Operations, introduced and answered questions regarding Res. 2023-R029.

Councilor Ellen Robertson, requesting that she be informed regarding redevelopment in her district prior to the introduction of legislation, asked that Res. 2023-R029 be continued to allow her an opportunity for further dialogue and review with city administration.

After further discussion, it was the consensus of Council to continue Res. 2023-R029 to the June 26, 2023 Council meeting.

Councilor Katherine Jordan informed Council that proposed Ord. 2023-144 will take effect prior to the June 20, 2023 primary elections, if adopted.

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

Other Discussion Item(s)

President Michael Jones, along with all members of Council, recognized and commended Steven Skinner, Council senior public information manager, and Steven Taylor, Council principal management analyst, for their fifteen years of dedicated service to the city.

Mr. Skinner and Mr. Taylor thanked Council for the recognition.

Closed Session

At 5:03 p.m., Councilor Cynthia Newbille moved that the City Council go into a closed meeting pursuant to subdivision (A)(1) of section 2.2-3711 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to discuss and consider the assignment, performance, and salaries of certain Council liaisons.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Councilor Cynthia Newbille motioned to exit closed session. The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 6, Jordan, Lambert, Trammell, Newbille, Nye, Jones. Noes None. Addison, Robertson and Lynch had departed the meeting.

Councilors reconvened in open session at 5:51 p.m.

Councilor Ellen Robertson rejoined the meeting at 5:52 p.m. and was seated.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

June 12, 2023

WHEREAS, the Council has convened in closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law:

NOW, THEREFORE,
BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Council hereby certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge (i) only public matters lawfully exempt from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certifying resolution applies; and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Council.

WITNESS the following vote of Council members, as recorded by Candice D. Reid, City Clerk:

CERTIFYING:

Michael J. Jones, President
Kristen Nye, Vice President
Andreas D. Addison (early departure)
Katherine Jordan
Ann-Frances Lambert
Cynthia I. Newbille
Stephanie A. Lynch (early departure)
Ellen F. Robertson
Reva M. Trammell

DECLINING TO CERTIFY:

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

CITY CLERK