



ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Finance & Economic Development Standing Committee

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

Committee Notes

1. [Ordinance No. 2025-100](#)

Patron(s): Council Member Lynch, Council Member Breton, Vice President Jordan, Council Member Gibson, and Council Member Jones

Summary: To require transmission and publication of a copy of each city agency's final funding request documents (operating and capital), along with a comparison chart showing side-by-side instances where the mayor's proposed budget deviates (positively or negatively) from each agency's final funding request.

Key Points:

- This paper will amend section 12-12 of the Code of City of Richmond (2020) (pursuant to section 6.04 of the City Charter) to require 15 bound copies of the budget be delivered to City Council and will include the following information: one additional copy of the budget in spreadsheet form that can be manipulated by the recipient; a side-by-side comparison chart showing instances where the mayor's proposed operating and capital budgets deviate from estimates provided by city agencies.
- This paper will also change the publication date of agency-level budget requests to no later than January 15 of each year.

Fiscal Impact: None.

Administration Recommendation: Continuance of this ordinance for additional discussion.

2. [Ordinance No. 2025-158](#)

Patron(s): Mayor Avula

Administration Point of Contact: Daniel Rifenburgh, Director of Richmond Gas Works; John "Billy" Vaughan, Deputy Director of Public Utilities; Christian Chirico, Deputy Director of Richmond Gas Works

Summary: To accept \$15,733,481.00 from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration ("PHMSA") through the Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant program, and to appropriate the funds received to the Department of Public Utilities' Gas Utility enterprise funds for the Richmond Gas Works Cast Iron Renewal Program.

Key Points:

- This grant will fund projects to replace legacy cast and ductile iron pipelines.
- Replacing these lines will reduce methane emissions and significantly improve the gas system's reliability and resiliency.

Fiscal Impact: Increase of \$15,733,481.00 to FY 2026 budget.



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Administration Recommendation: Adoption of this ordinance.

3. [Ordinance No. 2025-159](#)

Patron(s): Mayor Avula

Administration Point of Contact: Daniel Rifenburg, Director of Richmond Gas Works; John “Billy” Vaughan, Deputy Director of Public Utilities; Christian Chirico, Deputy Director of Richmond Gas Works

Summary: To accept \$39,158,844.00 from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (“PHMSA”) through the Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant program, and to appropriate the funds received to the Department of Public Utilities’ Gas Utility enterprise funds for the Richmond Gas Works Cast Iron Renewal Program.

Key Points:

- This grant will fund projects to replace legacy cast and ductile iron pipelines.
- Replacing these lines will reduce methane emissions and significantly improve the gas system’s reliability and resiliency.

Fiscal Impact: Increase of \$39,158,844.00 to FY 2026 budget.

Administration Recommendation: Adoption of this ordinance.

4. [Ordinance No. 2025-160](#)

Patron(s): Mayor Avula

Administration Point of Contact: Katie McConnell, Deputy Director, Department of Economic Development

Summary: To execute a Performance Agreement between the City of Richmond, VPM Media Corporation, and the Economic Development Authority of the City of Richmond to establish, equip, and operate a new headquarters for VPM.

Key Points:

- Create at least 70 new jobs.
- Involve at least \$65 million in capital investment to build the five-story, 53,700 square feet headquarters on a parcel that was formerly a surface parking lot.
- Feature a state-of-the-art, street-level studio and new storefront-style space fronting Grace Street that will provide street-level activation and placemaking benefits along a key commercial corridor.
- Serve as a venue for cultural, historical, and educational events in the City in cooperation with city-based organizations. Include pertinent background.

Fiscal Impact: The incentive leverages a portion of new, incremental taxes and does not involve any existing city revenue. The actual grant payment is dependent on the company’s annual business tangible personal property taxes. The first-year grant is estimated to be between \$270,000-\$300,000



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and is anticipated to be disbursed in FY27. After considering grant disbursements, the project is projected to generate an estimated \$2.5 million in net new direct revenue over 10 years.

Administration Recommendation: Adoption of this ordinance.

5. [Ordinance No. 2025-164](#)

Patron(s): Mayor Avula

Administration Point of Contact: Merrick Malone, Director, Department of Housing and Community Development

Summary: To appropriate \$83,930 in Emergency Solutions Grant funding to St. Joseph's Villa for their Rapid Re-Housing project.

Key Points:

- Emergency Shelter Inc dba HomeAgain notified the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) staff that it needed to de-obligate \$50,666 of its original \$145,406 PY24/FY25 Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) award as noted in Ordinance #2024184 due to a change in organization operations. The funds of \$50,666 were recaptured.
- To rearward the funds, HCD staff released a Call for Applications for Rapid Re-Housing Programs to award the recaptured \$50,666 amount from PY24/FY25 along with \$31,145 from the PY25/FY26 ESG Undesignated Reserve line, for a total amount available of \$81,811.
- On May 14, 2025, HCD received notification of HUD award amount for ESG funds for FY26, which was \$2,119 more than anticipated. HCD staff have decided to add these funds to the recommended award, bringing the total to \$83,930.
- ESG funds have a two-year performance period.

Fiscal Impact: None.

Administration Recommendation: Adoption of this ordinance.

Presentation(s):

None

Board Vacancies:

[CD.2025.227](#) - July 16, 2025 - Finance and Economic Development Board Vacancy Report

Discussion Item(s):

None

Staff Report: