



City of Richmond

Special Meeting Minutes

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
www.richmondgov.com/cityclerk

Friday, August 11, 2017

12:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Councilmembers Present

The Honorable Chris Hilbert, President
The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, Vice President
The Honorable Andreas Addison
The Honorable Parker Agelasto (early departure)
The Honorable Kim Gray
The Honorable Michael Jones
The Honorable Kristen Larson (early departure)
The Honorable Ellen Robertson (early departure)
The Honorable Reva Trammell

CHAMBER EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN AND CITIZEN SPEAKER GUIDELINES

Council President Chris Hilbert called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m. and presided. Upon the president's request, Deputy City Clerk Candice Reid provided information on the appropriate manner in which to evacuate the Council Chamber in the event of an emergency along with citizen speaker guidelines.

PAPER FOR EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION

Councilor Ellen Robertson moved to expedite consideration of the following resolution, which was seconded:

RES. 2017-R055

To appoint Amarelis M. Hernandez as the Interim City Auditor.

Patrons: President Hilbert and Vice President Newbille

Councilor Parker Agelasto requested that Council hold a closed session regarding the appointment of an interim city auditor before voting on the motion to expedite RES. 2017-R055.

Councilor Kim Gray called a point of order so Council could debate the motion to expedite consideration of the proposed legislation.

After several members voiced concerns and questions regarding the body's failure to adhere to Robert's Rules of Order during the meeting, and the absence of Council discussion relative to the process of hiring an auditor prior to the drafting of RES.2017-R055, Councilor Robertson withdrew her motion to expedite consideration of the proposed resolution.

CLOSED SESSION

At 12:39 p.m., Councilor Kim Gray moved that the City Council hold a closed meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, for the purpose of discussion and consideration of all or any of the performance, demotion, disciplining, or resignation of the City Auditor, an appointee of City Council.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Councilor Robertson exited the meeting.

Councilor Parker Agelasto exited the meeting at the conclusion of the closed session.

At 1:23 p.m., Councilor Kristen Larson moved to exit the closed session. The motion was seconded and approved by the following vote: 7 Ayes – Jones, Larson, Gray, Trammell, Addison, Newbille and Hilbert; Noes – None.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

August 11, 2017

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 Committee.

WITNESS the following vote of Council members, as recorded by Jean V. Capel, City Clerk:

CERTIFYING:

Christopher A. Hilbert, President
Cynthia I. Newbille, Vice President
Andreas D. Addison
Kimberly B. Gray
Kristen N. Larson
Reva M. Trammell
Michael J. Jones

DECLINING TO CERTIFY:

Councilor Kristen Larson moved to expedite consideration of RES. 2017-R055, which was seconded.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell stated that she does not support the proposed legislation and expressed concerns with prematurely appointing an interim auditor.

The motion failed by the following vote: 5 Ayes – Larson, Gray, Addison, Newbille and Hilbert; 1 No – Trammell; 1 Abstention – Jones.

City Clerk Jean Capel stated that RES. 2017-R055 will be considered at the September 11, 2017 formal Council meeting and clarified that committee referral of the proposed resolution is waived.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Hiring Process for Permanent City Auditor

Councilor Kristen Larson stated that it is imperative for Council to appoint a city auditor as soon as possible and requested that the position be advertised immediately. Councilor Larson also asked how Council can go about separating the functions of the inspector general from those of the auditor.

City Attorney Allen Jackson responded that it will be difficult for two separate offices to both have the authority to compel the production of evidence and only one should do so. Mr. Jackson recommended that Council inform the successful candidate of its plans to separate the roles and establish a base salary for a permanent auditor position and an additional salary adjustment for the performance of both roles temporarily.

Councilor Larson suggested that the auditor job description include that the temporary role of inspector general may be required.

Councilor Gray requested that an item changing the city charter to grant both positions subpoena power, be added to Council's 2018 legislative agenda.

Council Chief of Staff Lou Ali stated that an ad for the position can be placed once the budget department approves any necessary salary adjustments.

Councilor Andreas Addison asked that a national search for the position be conducted.

Councilor Larson exited the meeting.

Councilor Michael Jones questioned why the city auditor's office has a larger staff than that of other municipalities.

Chief Administrative Officer Selena Cuffee-Glenn stated that city administration is not certain of why staffing levels are comparatively higher since the agency is under the control of Council.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

CITY CLERK