



City of Richmond

Informal Meeting Minutes

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

Monday, January 13, 2020

4:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Councilmembers Present

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President
The Honorable Chris Hilbert, Vice President
The Honorable Andreas Addison
The Honorable Kim Gray
The Honorable Michael Jones
The Honorable Kristen Larson
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch (late arrival)
The Honorable Ellen Robertson
The Honorable Reva Trammell

Staff Present

Lawrence Anderson, Council Chief of Staff
Lisa Braxton, Council Management Analyst
Haskell Brown, Interim City Attorney
Meghan Brown, Deputy Council Chief of Staff
Candice Reid, City Clerk
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. and presided.

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

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

Consent Agenda:

1. Ord. 2019-247 – retained on the Consent Agenda
2. Ord. 2019-263 – to be continued to Monday, April 13, 2020

Councilor Ellen Robertson requested a continuance of Ord. 2019-263 to allow an opportunity to introduce an amendment to the proposed legislation.

3. Ord. 2019-302 – to be continued to Monday, February 10, 2020
4. Ord. 2019-314 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Councilor Andreas Addison introduced Ord. 2019-314.

5. Ord. 2019-318 – retained on the Consent Agenda
6. Ord. 2019-319 – to be continued to Monday, February 10, 2020

7. Ord. 2019-320 – to be continued to Monday, February 10, 2020
8. Ord. 2019-324 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Matthew Ebinger, Planning and Development Review principal planner, provided an introduction of Ord. 2019-324.

9. Ord. 2019-328 – to be amended and continued to Monday, January 27, 2020
10. Ord. 2019-329 – retained on the Consent Agenda
11. Ord. 2019-330 – to be continued to Monday, January 27, 2020
12. Ord. 2019-331 – to be continued to Monday, January 27, 2020; referred to the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee for recommendation

Jay Brown, Budget and Strategic Planning director, provided an introduction and answered questions regarding Ord. 2019-331.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch arrived at 4:21 p.m. and was seated.

Vice President Chris Hilbert expressed concern with the committee referral waiving of Ord. 2019-331 and the lack of prior notification of the forthcoming budget transfer request; he suggested that the proposed legislation be reviewed by the Education and Human Services Standing Committee. However, it was the consensus of Council to continue Ord. 2019-331 to the next Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee meeting for review and recommendation.

Jay Brown, Budget and Strategic Planning director, provided an introduction of Ord. 2019-329.

13. Ord. 2019-332 – retained on the Consent Agenda
14. Ord. 2019-333 – retained on the Consent Agenda
15. Ord. 2019-334 – to be continued to Monday, January 27, 2020
16. Ord. 2019-335 – to be continued to Monday, January 27, 2020
17. Ord. 2019-336 – to be continued to Monday, January 27, 2020
18. Ord. 2019-337 – to be continued to Monday, January 27, 2020
19. Ord. 2019-338 – to be continued to Monday, January 27, 2020
20. Ord. 2019-339 – to be continued to Monday, January 27, 2020
21. Ord. 2019-340 – to be continued to Monday, January 27, 2020
22. Ord. 2019-341 – to be continued to Monday, January 27, 2020
23. Ord. 2019-342 – to be continued to Monday, January 27, 2020
24. Ord. 2019-344 – retained on the Consent Agenda
25. Ord. 2019-345 – retained on the Consent Agenda
26. Ord. 2019-346 – retained on the Consent Agenda

27. Ord. 2019-347 – retained on the Consent Agenda
28. Ord. 2019-348 – retained on the Consent Agenda
29. Ord. 2019-349 – retained on the Consent Agenda
30. Ord. 2019-350 – retained on the Consent Agenda
31. Ord. 2019-351 – retained on the Consent Agenda
32. Ord. 2019-352 – moved to the Regular Agenda
33. Res. 2019-R050 – to be continued to Monday, January 27, 2020
34. Res. 2019-R070 – to be continued to Monday, January 27, 2020

Regular Agenda:

35. Ord. 2018-236 – to be continued to Monday, January 27, 2020
36. Ord. 2019-211 – to be continued to Monday, February 10, 2020
37. Ord. 2019-212 – to be continued to Monday, February 10, 2020
38. Ord. 2019-213 – to be continued to Monday, February 10, 2020
39. Ord. 2019-214 – to be continued to Monday, February 10, 2020
40. Ord. 2019-215 – to be continued to Monday, February 10, 2020
41. Ord. 2019-216 – to be continued to Monday, February 10, 2020
42. Ord. 2019-217 – to be continued to Monday, February 10, 2020
43. Ord. 2019-218 – to be continued to Monday, February 10, 2020
44. Ord. 2019-219 – to be continued to Monday, February 10, 2020
45. Ord. 2019-343 – to be amended and continued to Monday, January 27, 2020

Mark Olinger, Planning and Development Review director, was available to answer questions regarding Ord. 2019-343 and stated that the city's website will be updated with additional information pertaining to short-term rentals.

46. Res. 2019-R044 – to be continued to Monday, February 10, 2020

Councilor Kim Gray introduced Ord. 2019-352.

Councilor Ellen Robertson stated that she will support Ord. 2019-352; however, she requested that there is community awareness regarding the proposed legislation once adopted.

Mark Olinger, Planning and Development Review director, was available to answer questions regarding Ord. 2019-352.

Richmond Public Schools (RPS) Superintendent Jason Kamras addressed Council regarding Ord. 2019-331 and stated that the proposed legislation would enable RPS to staff and implement programs and processes needed to execute the Dreams4RPS strategic plan.

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

General Assembly (GA) Update

Ron Jordan, council lobbyist, Advantus Strategies, provided Council with a presentation regarding regional transportation funding issues and HB 1541 being considered during the 2020 General Assembly session. A copy of the presentation provided has been filed.

Mr. Jordan advised Council that the enactment of HB 1541 would provide the city with additional funding for transportation through the creation of the Central Virginia Transportation Authority, which will administer funding generated through the imposition of an additional 0.7 percent retail sales and use tax and a 2.1 percent wholesale gas tax.

Councilor Kim Gray suggested that HB 1541 be vetted by the Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Laura Bateman, council lobbyist, Advantus Strategies, provided Council with an update on gaming bills being considered during the 2020 General Assembly session. A copy of the information provided has been filed.

President Cynthia Newbille requested further discussion regarding the city's impact from a casino and "grey machines" (unregulated electronic gaming machines) at a future meeting, and she asked that Council be provided a matrix of current GA bills.

Closed Session Motion

Prior to entertaining a motion to enter into a closed meeting, President Cynthia Newbille and Interim City Attorney Haskell Brown clarified the intent of the potential motion.

After further discussion, Councilor Michael Jones moved that the City Council go into a closed meeting pursuant to Sections 2.2-3711(A)(3) and 2.2-3711(A)(29) of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to discuss the disposition of publicly held real property as part of the proposed Navy Hill development and the terms and scope of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds for the proposed Navy Hill development where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the City Council.

The motion was seconded and failed: Ayes 3, Jones, Addison, Newbille. Noes 5, Larson, Lynch, Gray, Trammell, Hilbert. Robertson was excused.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch summarized her constituents' apprehensions regarding the proposed Navy Hill Development (NHD) project, which she cited as three major concerns, (i) the process by which the project was developed, (ii) skepticism of the TIF (tax increment financing) and (iii) determining the types of development to be included.

Councilor Kristen Larson shared that her constituents have also stressed concerns regarding financing of the NHD project. Ms. Larson questioned city administration only having the authority to approve and/or waive certain contract conditions if Council approves the development proposal, and the introduction of a bill by Delegate Jeffrey Bourne to create a special tax zone in favor of the project.

President Cynthia Newbille delineated the following shared comments and benefits of the NHD project:

- An increase in affordable housing by at least 15 percent and an acceptance of housing vouchers of 50 percent within the project
- A reduction in the TIF development area

- An increase of minority business enterprise participation of 35 percent for the entirety of the project
- A commitment to hiring city residents and businesses, offering a living wage and benefits, and extending internships and employment opportunities to Richmond Public Schools students
- Location and construction finalization of a bus transfer plaza
- Assistance with the relocation of city service departments such as Social Services
- Coordination of citywide outreach within several city departments

Councilor Kim Gray questioned Council's ability to discuss possible negotiation efforts when there are still unknown factors surrounding the NHD project.

President Newbille reiterated the timeline for evaluating the proposed Navy Hill Development project.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

CITY CLERK