



City of Richmond

Special Meeting Minutes

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

Monday, May 3, 2021

3:30 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall
Virtual Meeting

Councilmembers Present

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President
The Honorable Ellen Robertson, Vice President (late arrival)
The Honorable Andreas Addison (late arrival)
The Honorable Michael Jones (late arrival and early departure)
The Honorable Katherine Jordan
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert
The Honorable Kristen Larson (late arrival) didn't capture arrival by phone
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch
The Honorable Reva Trammell

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m., and presided.

ELECTRONIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

City Clerk Candice Reid, in accordance with Ordinance No. 2020-093, adopted April 9, 2020, as most recently amended by Ordinance No. 2020-232, adopted December 14, 2020, announced the meeting would be held through electronic communication means. City Clerk Reid stated notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a revised public information advisory issued on April 30, 2021, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice. She also stated there would be no opportunities for public comment and no public hearings during the meeting.

Councilor Michael Jones joined the meeting at 3:34 p.m.

MOTION TO CONTINUE

Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert moved that the following budget-related ordinances be continued to Monday, May 10, 2021:

ORD. 2021-040

To adopt the General Fund Budget for the fiscal year commencing Jul. 1, 2021, and ending Jun. 30, 2022, and to appropriate the estimated revenues for such fiscal year for the objects and purposes stated in such budget.

ORD. 2021-041

To adopt the Special Fund Budgets for the fiscal year commencing Jul. 1, 2021, and ending Jun. 30, 2022, and to appropriate the estimated receipts of the Special Revenue funds for the said fiscal year.

ORD. 2021-042

To accept a program of proposed Capital Improvement Projects for the fiscal year beginning Jul. 1, 2021, and for the four fiscal years thereafter; to adopt a Capital Budget for the fiscal year beginning Jul. 1, 2021; and to determine the means of financing the same.

ORD. 2021-043

To appropriate and to provide funds for financing the school budget for the fiscal year commencing Jul. 1, 2021, and ending Jun. 30, 2022.

ORD. 2021-044

To adopt the Debt Service Fund Budget for the fiscal year commencing Jul. 1, 2021, and ending Jun. 30, 2022, and to appropriate the estimated expenditures from the Debt Service Fund for the said fiscal year.

ORD. 2021-045

To adopt the Internal Service Fund Budgets for the fiscal year commencing Jul. 1, 2021, and ending Jun. 30, 2022, and to appropriate the estimated receipts of the Internal Service funds for the said fiscal year.

ORD. 2021-046

To adopt the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities' Richmond Cemeteries Budget for the fiscal year commencing Jul. 1, 2021, and ending Jun. 30, 2022, and to appropriate the estimated receipts of the Richmond Cemeteries for the said fiscal year for the operation and management of the facilities.

ORD. 2021-047

To adopt the Department of Public Works' Parking Enterprise Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022, and to appropriate the estimated receipts of the Department of Public Works' Parking Enterprise Fund for the said fiscal year for the operation and management of parking facilities.

ORD. 2021-048

To adopt the Electric Utility Budget for the fiscal year commencing Jul. 1, 2021, and ending Jun. 30, 2022; to appropriate the estimated receipts of the Electric Utility for the said fiscal year; and to make appropriations from the Electric Utility Renewal Fund or Operating Fund for renewing, rebuilding or extending the plant and distribution system of the Electric Utility and for the purchase of vehicles.

ORD. 2021-049

To adopt the Gas Utility Budget for the fiscal year commencing Jul. 1, 2021, and ending Jun. 30, 2022; to appropriate the estimated receipts of the Gas Utility for the said fiscal year; and to make appropriations from the Gas Utility Renewal Fund or Operating Fund for renewing, rebuilding or extending the plant and distribution system of the Gas Utility and for the purchase of vehicles.

ORD. 2021-050

To adopt the Department of Public Utilities' Stores Internal Service Fund Budgets for the fiscal year commencing Jul. 1, 2021, and ending Jun. 30, 2022, and to appropriate the estimated receipts of the Department of Public Utilities' Stores Internal Service Funds for the said fiscal year.

ORD. 2021-051

To adopt the Stormwater Utility Budget for the fiscal year commencing Jul. 1, 2021, and ending Jun. 30, 2022; to appropriate the estimated receipts of the Stormwater Utility for the said fiscal year; and to make appropriations from the Stormwater Utility Renewal Fund or Operating Fund for renewing, rebuilding or extending the stormwater utility and for the purchase of vehicles.

ORD. 2021-052

To adopt the Wastewater Utility Budget for the fiscal year commencing Jul. 1, 2021, and ending Jun. 30, 2022; to appropriate the estimated receipts of the Wastewater Utility for the said fiscal year; and to make appropriations from the Wastewater Utility Renewal Fund or Operating Fund for renewing, rebuilding or extending the plant and distribution system of the Wastewater Utility and for the purchase of vehicles.

ORD. 2021-053

To adopt the Water Utility Budget for the fiscal year commencing Jul. 1, 2021, and ending Jun. 30, 2022; to appropriate the estimated receipts of the Water Utility for the said fiscal year; and to make appropriations from the Water Utility Renewal Fund or Operating Fund for renewing, rebuilding or extending the plant and distribution system of the Water Utility and for the purchase of vehicles.

ORD. 2021-054

To amend the schedule of classifications and assigned ranges incorporated into section I of the Pay Plan for the purpose of revising the wording of certain classification titles and changing the pay ranges of certain classification titles; to amend section II of the Pay Plan by adding therein a new subsection (C) for the purpose of implementing the recommendations of a study completed in 2018 that found significant compression in the lower end of the pay ranges and pay bands for non-sworn employees and recommended pay increases to move those employees toward the midpoint of their pay ranges or pay bands; and to amend sections III(B)(11), providing for salary supplements for the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney, III(B)(12), providing for salary supplements for the Office of the Sheriff, III(B)(25)(e), suspending the education incentive for sworn fire and police employees, III(B)(36), to increase the hourly living wage for City employees from \$12.07 to \$13.00, and III(B)(40), to provide for the full implementation of the step-based pay plan for sworn fire and police employees, of the Pay Plan.

ORD. 2021-055

To amend the fees set forth in the City Code for sections 7-6 (concerning fees for interments, disinterments, reinterments and entombments), 7-15 (concerning fees for installation of foundation for monuments or grave markers), and 7-92 (concerning fees for burial spaces and lots) of the City Code, to establish revised charges for certain cemeteries services.

ORD. 2021-056

To amend City Code §§ 28-191, 28-192, 28-194, 28-195, 28-196, 28-198, 28-199, 28-200, 28-201, 28-202, 28-203, and 28-204, concerning gas service, for the purpose of changing the measurement of natural gas from quantities per thousand cubic feet to quantities per hundred cubic feet, and to amend and reordain City Code §§ 28-191(2) and 28-191(3) (concerning fees for residential gas service), 28-192(2) (concerning fees for residential gas peaking service), 28-193(2) (concerning fees for general gas service), 28-193(3) (concerning fees for small commercial gas sales), 28-194(2) (concerning fees for large volume gas service), 28-195(f) and 28-196(f) (concerning fees for transportation service), 28-198(2) and 28-198(3) (concerning fees for municipal gas service), 28-199(c), 28-199(d), and 28-199(g)(2), (concerning flexibly priced interruptible gas service), 28-200(2), 28-200(3) and 28-200(4) (concerning unmetered gaslight service), 28-201(c) (concerning gas air conditioning service), 28-202(c) (concerning fees for large volume gas sales service), 28-203(c) (concerning fees for large volume, high load factor, gas sales service), and 28-204(b) and 28-204(c) (concerning fees for natural gas vehicle gas service) of the City Code, effective as of the date of rendering bills for Cycle I in July 2021, to establish revised charges for such services.

ORD. 2021-057

To amend the fees set forth in the City Code for sections 28-923 (concerning fees for residential stormwater service) and 28-924 (concerning fees for developed residential properties stormwater service) of the City Code, effective as of the date of rendering bills for Cycle I in July, 2021, to establish revised charges for the stormwater utility's services.

ORD. 2021-058

To amend the fees set forth in sections 28-650 (concerning fees for residential wastewater service), 28-651 (concerning fees for commercial wastewater service), 28-652 (concerning fees for disposal of industrial sewage and wastewater), 28-653 (concerning fees for disposal of state and federal sewage and wastewater), and 28-654 (concerning fees for disposal of municipal sewage and wastewater) of the City Code, effective as of the date of rendering bills for Cycle I in July, 2021, to establish revised charges for the wastewater utility's services.

ORD. 2021-059

To amend and reordain City Code §§ 28-326 (concerning fees for residential water service), 28-327 (concerning fees for commercial water service), 28-328 (concerning fees for industrial water service), 28-329 (concerning fees for municipal water service), 28-330 (concerning fees for state and federal water service), 28-458 (concerning fees for water for fire protection) and 28-549 (concerning fees for water use during conservation periods) of the City Code, effective as of the date of rendering bills for Cycle I in July, 2021, to establish revised charges for such services.

ORD. 2021-060

To authorize the issuance of general obligation public improvement bonds of the City of Richmond in the maximum principal amount of \$27,500,000 to finance the cost of school projects and general capital improvement projects of the City for the following purposes and uses: construction, reconstruction, improvements and equipment for public schools; construction, reconstruction, improvement and equipment for various infrastructure needs, including traffic control facilities, streets, sidewalks and other public ways, bridges, storm sewers, drains and culverts, and refuse disposal facilities; participation in redevelopment, conservation and community development programs, including the construction, reconstruction, improvement and equipment for targeted public facilities included in these programs; construction, reconstruction, improvements and equipment for public institutional, operational, cultural, educational and entertainment buildings and facilities, including but not limited to the theaters, parks, playgrounds, cemeteries, libraries and museums; acquisition of real property therefor as appropriate; and the making of appropriations to the City's Economic Development Authority ("EDA") to be used by the EDA to finance capital expenditures or to make loans or grants to finance capital expenditures for the purposes of promoting economic development; to authorize the Director of Finance, with the approval of the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City, to sell such bonds for such capital improvement projects, to provide for the form, details and payment of such bonds; to authorize the issuance of notes of the City in anticipation of the issuance of such bonds; and to authorize the issuance of taxable bonds, for the same purposes and uses, in the same maximum principal amount and payable over the same period as such general obligation public improvement bonds.

ORD. 2021-061

To authorize the issuance of general obligation public improvement bonds of the City of Richmond in the maximum principal amount of \$7,987,280 to finance the cost of capital improvement projects of the stormwater utility of the City for the following purposes and uses: replacement of and upgrades to the stormwater facilities, including but not limited to, construction, reconstruction, improvements, rehabilitation and upgrades of stormwater sewers and associated facilities; new and replacement infrastructure of the storm sewer system, drainage structures, catch basins, ditches, storm sewer pipes, culverts, green infrastructure; acquisition of real property therefor as appropriate; and equipment for various infrastructure needs; and authorizes the Director of Finance, with the approval of the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City, to sell such bonds for such capital improvement projects, to provide for the form, details and payment of such bonds and to authorize the issuance of notes of the City in anticipation of the issuance of such bonds, and to authorize the issuance of taxable bonds, for the same purposes and uses, in the same maximum principal amount and payable over the same period as such general obligation public improvement bonds.

ORD. 2021-062

To authorize the issuance of public utility revenue bonds of the City of Richmond in the maximum principal amount of \$60,185,560 to finance the cost of capital improvement projects of the gas, water and wastewater utilities and public utilities buildings and facilities for the following purposes and uses: enlargement, extension, repair, replacement, improvement and equipping of the gas plant and transmission lines; enlargement, extension, repair, replacement, improvement and equipping of the waterworks plant and transmission lines; enlargement, extension, repair, replacement, improvement and equipping of the wastewater plant and intercepting lines; construction, reconstruction, repair, replacement, and improvement of sanitary and storm water sewers, pumping stations, drains and culverts; construction, reconstruction, repair, replacement, improvement and equipping of public utility buildings and facilities therefor, including but not limited to the stores division; and acquisition of real property and real property rights (including without limitation easements and rights-of-way)

therefor as appropriate; to authorize the Director of Finance, with the approval of the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City, to sell such bonds for such capital improvement projects; to provide for the form, details and payment of such bonds; to approve the form of supplemental indenture of trust; to authorize the issuance of notes of the City in anticipation of the issuance of such bonds; and to authorize the issuance of taxable bonds, for the same purposes and uses, in the same maximum principal amount and payable over the same period as such public utility revenue bonds.

ORD. 2021-063

To authorize the issuance of general obligation equipment notes of the City of Richmond in the maximum principal amount of \$7,100,000 to finance the cost of equipment for the following purposes and uses: acquisition of computer, radio, office, solid waste collection, office furniture and miscellaneous equipment and vehicles for the various departments, bureaus and agencies of the City, and equipment for City schools; and to authorize the Director of Finance, with the approval of the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City, to sell equipment notes to finance the acquisition of such equipment, and to authorize the issuance of taxable notes, for the same purposes and uses, in the same maximum principal amount and payable over the same period as such general obligation equipment notes.

The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 6, Jordan, Lambert, Lynch, Trammell, Jones, Newbille. Noes None. Addison, Larson and Robertson had not yet arrived.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Bill Echelberger, Council Budget Analyst, provided an overview of proposed amendments for the FY2021-2022 budget proposal requested by members. Mr. Echelberger provided a detailed review of the proposed amendments across all city agencies and departments.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Councilor Kristen Larson joined the meeting at 3:36 p.m.

Vice President Ellen Robertson joined the meeting at 3:39 p.m.

It was the consensus of Council to proceed with the proposed funding increase amendments related to Council agencies.

Mr. Echelberger reviewed recently agreed upon amendments for a 3.25% salary increase for general employee compensation and for implementation of phase two of the Gallagher Study.

It was the consensus of Council to proceed with the proposed employee compensation amendments reviewed by Mr. Echelberger.

Mr. Echelberger provided information regarding the proposed two-step salary increase for Richmond Police Department (RPD) and Richmond Fire sworn officers, in addition to a \$100,000 allocation to fund a study of the proposed replacement public safety officer pay plan requested by the Richmond Coalition of Police (RCOP) and the International Association of Fire Fighters Local #995 (IAFF).

Councilwoman Reva Trammell stated her concerns with the proposed pay plan study.

President Cynthia Newbille informed members that staff was inquiring with surrounding localities that had conducted similar studies to obtain information on study cost and effectiveness. President Newbille indicated the final cost of the study could require less than the allocated \$100,000.

Interim Council Chief of Staff Joyce Davis informed Council she would inquire with the Chesterfield County Human Resources Office regarding the county's study of its public safety officer pay plan. Ms. Davis stated that the city's Human Resources Office identified \$100,000 as an estimate needed for the procurement of a study.

Interim City Attorney Haskell Brown informed Council that Chesterfield County's review of its public safety officer pay plan costed an estimated \$45,000.

Councilor Andreas Addison joined the meeting at 3:52 p.m.

Acting Chief Administrative Officer Lincoln Saunders stated that the proposed \$100,000 cost was a best estimate provided by city administration based on the scope of the pay plan review.

Councilor Kristen Larson informed members she would prefer refraining from implementation of the two-step salary increase based on the current public safety officer pay plan, until after the procured study of the new pay plan was completed.

Councilor Michael Jones left the meeting.

Councilor Andreas Addison stated that the pay plan study was necessary, but he was uncomfortable with not proceeding with the currently scheduled two-step salary increase.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell stated immediate action was necessary to provide support for RPD officers and Richmond firefighters. Councilwoman Trammell informed members she did not believe a study of the proposed pay plan was necessary.

Vice President Ellen Robertson informed members of her support for the two-step salary increase and for the proposed pay plan study.

It was the consensus of Council to proceed with the scheduled two-step salary increase for RPD officers and Richmond firefighters and to procure a study of the proposed pay plan put forth by RCOP and IAFF.

Councilor Larson again noted her request to not proceed with the proposed two-step increase until after the study was completed.

Bill Echelberger, Council Budget Analyst, provided information regarding an agreed upon amount for the city to supplement the salaries for employees of the Richmond Public Defender's Office in the amount of \$572,469.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch stated her appreciation for members agreeing to the amount for salary supplements referenced in the proposed amendment.

Councilor Andreas Addison stated his support for the proposed salary supplement for the Richmond Public Defender's Office, and he also stated he would prefer the Commonwealth of Virginia provide the same salary supplementation it offers prosecution offices throughout the state.

Vice President Ellen Robertson stated her concerns with what she believed was the city taking on the state's responsibility to fairly compensate public defenders. Vice President Robertson also stated she was concerned it would be difficult to have the state implement any supplements if the city began fulfilling the pay equity obligations.

Councilor Katherine Jordan stated her support of the proposed amendment to supplement the salaries of the Richmond Public Defender's Office, and she informed Council that other localities throughout the state have taken similar steps to compensate public defenders.

It was the consensus of Council to proceed with the proposed amendment to supplement the salaries of the Richmond Public Defender's Office.

It was the consensus of Council to proceed with a proposed amendment to fund an actuarial study to calculate costs of transitioning certain city employees to the Virginia Retirement System.

It was the consensus of Council to proceed with a proposed amendment to fund the city's Civilian Review Board in the amount of \$204,199.

Bill Echelberger, Council Budget Analyst, provided information regarding proposed amendments and funding related to affordable housing and eviction diversion. Mr. Echelberger informed members that all the funding requests for affordable housing and eviction diversion proposed by members, would be eligible to be fulfilled by the forth coming funds the city would receive from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP).

Councilor Kristen Larson stated she supported distributing ARP funds towards affordable housing issues, but expressed her concerns with allocating ARP funds to individual issues, rather than reviewing the distribution of the ARP funds in its entirety.

It was the consensus of Council to proceed with drafting a resolution indicating Council's desire that future funds from the ARP be allocated to fund the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and the Eviction Diversion Program.

It was the consensus of Council to proceed with proposed amendments to provide funding for other city services, which included providing funds to the city's Participatory Budgeting Steering Commission, additional funding for Sister Cities, a funding increase for recreation for youth, to provide necessary funding to unfreeze staff positions within the Department of Planning and Development Review, to providing funding for the Hull Street Business Association's litter clean-up efforts, and to provide funding to Girls for Change. It was also the consensus of Council to direct that ARP funds be used to fund consultant services to re-write the city's zoning ordinance in accordance with the adopted Richmond 300 City Master Plan, and to establish photo speed ticketing equipment at Richmond Public Schools zones.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

CITY CLERK