



# City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219  
[www.richmondgov.com/cityclerk](http://www.richmondgov.com/cityclerk)

## Minutes

### Governmental Operations Standing Committee

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Wednesday, November 18, 2020

12:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor – Virtual Meeting

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#### **Committee Members and Staff in Attendance**

The Honorable Andreas Addison – Chair  
The Honorable Chris Hilbert – Alternate Member  
Lawrence Anderson, Council Chief of Staff  
Samson Anderson, Council Budget Analyst  
Lisa Braxton, Council Management Analyst  
Haskell Brown, Interim City Attorney  
Meghan Brown, Deputy Council Chief of Staff  
Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst  
Jamie Isley, Assistant City Clerk  
Candice Reid, City Clerk  
Tabrica Rentz, Acting Deputy City Attorney  
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

#### **Absent**

The Honorable Michael Jones – Vice Chair  
The Honorable Cynthia Newbille – Member

#### **Call to Order**

Chair Andreas Addison called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m., and presided.

#### **Citizen Speaker Guidelines**

Upon the Chair's request, Assistant City Clerk Jamie Isley provided the citizen speaker guidelines.

#### **Electronic Meeting Announcement**

Assistant City Clerk Jamie Isley, in accordance with Ordinance No. 2020-093, adopted April 9, 2020, as amended by Ordinance No. 2020-183, adopted August 20, 2020, announced the meeting would be held through electronic communication means. Assistant City Clerk Isley stated notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information advisory issued on November 2, 2020, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice. She also stated members of the public were encouraged to provide comments in writing prior to the meeting and all comments received prior to 10:00 a.m., on Wednesday, November 18, 2020, were provided to committee members. Ms. Isley indicated that members of the public who signed up to speak and provide comment would be called to speak at the appropriate time.

## Public Comment

There were no public comments.

## Approval of Minutes

There were no amendments or corrections to the meeting minutes of Thursday, October 22, 2020, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

## Board Vacancies

There were no board vacancies for review.

## Presentation(s)

There were no presentations.

## Papers for Consideration

**Chair Andreas Addison moved to amend the agenda as follows:**

### RES. 2020-R056

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause the Department of Finance and the Department of Human Resources to conduct a study of the City's telecommuting workforce to determine if cost savings and other benefits have been derived from the telecommuting policies adopted by the City in response to the COVID-19 pandemic for the purpose of potentially continuing or expanding upon such policies after the pandemic.

Patron: Ms. Robertson

**To be continued to the December 16, 2020, Governmental Operations Standing Committee meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**The following ordinance was considered:**

### ORD. 2020-238

To adopt a new Code of the City of Richmond, Virginia; to repeal the Code of the City of Richmond, Virginia, 2015; to prescribe the effect of such repeal; and to provide for the manner of amending the new City Code.

Patron: Vice President Hilbert

*Alternate Member Chris Hilbert introduced ORD. 2020-238, and stated that the purpose of the ordinance is to ensure that the Code of the City of Richmond is consistent with the Code of Virginia. He also stated that there is a list of items attached to the ordinance featuring the changes made to the City Code, and asked the city attorney whether any of the changes should be highlighted.*

*Interim City Attorney Haskell Brown informed the committee that recodification occurs on a quinquennial basis, and that most of the changes listed involve conforming the Code of the City of Richmond to the Code of Virginia.*

*Acting Deputy City Attorney Tabrica Rentz agreed with the summary of substantive changes to the Code of the City of Richmond provided by the Interim City Attorney. Ms. Rentz further stated that the Charter of the City of Richmond mandates the quinquennial process and that the attachments to the ordinance designate efforts to match the Code of the City of Richmond to Virginia State Code, as well as provides*

updates regarding references to state bodies and laws that have changed.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Alternate Member Chris Hilbert moved to forward ORD. 2020-238 to the December 14, 2020, Council meeting with recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**The following resolution was considered:**

RES. 2020-R060

To endorse, for the City of Richmond, legislative proposals set forth within the document entitled “City of Richmond Legislative Proposals for the Virginia General Assembly 2021 Regular Session;” to request the Richmond delegation to the General Assembly of Virginia to take legislative action consistent with and in vigorous support of such recommendations; to support other legislative action recommendations; and to encourage other organizations and individuals to support such recommendations.

Patrons: City Council

*Chair Andreas Addison introduced RES. 2020-R060.*

*Joyce Davis, Council policy analyst, informed the committee that RES. 2020-R060, contains the Council’s legislative agenda which upon adoption, would allow for the Council lobbyist to begin the pre-filing process.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **Alternate Member Chris Hilbert moved to forward RES. 2020-R060 to the December 14, 2020, Council meeting with recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**The following resolution was considered:**

RES. 2020-R061

To request the Richmond delegation to the General Assembly of Virginia to introduce and support the enactment of legislation to amend section 5.05(a) of the Charter of the City of Richmond to provide that the Mayor or the designee thereof may attend any closed meeting of the Council only if permitted by the Council pursuant to § 2.2-3712(F) of the Code of Virginia.

Patrons: City Council

*Chair Andreas Addison introduced RES. 2020-R061.*

*Alternate Member Chris Hilbert expressed concern for what he believed was occasional overreach by the Office of the Mayor regarding closed Council sessions. He requested that the Richmond delegation to the General Assembly of Virginia contemplate the implications of the dilemma and consider carrying the legislation forward. He also expressed hope that the Office of the Mayor would express sentiments regarding RES. 2020-R061, prior to the December Formal Council Meeting.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **Alternate Member Chris Hilbert moved to forward RES. 2020-R061 to the December 14, 2020, Council meeting with recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**Discussion Items**

**Fund Balance Allocation Regarding COVID-19**

Fire Chief Melvin Carter presented information regarding the city’s response to COVID-19 and provided updates concerning the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds. Chief Carter also informed the committee that the city of Richmond’s allocation of CARES Act funds

are not sufficient to satisfy the needs of the city through June 2021.

*Alternate Member Chris Hilbert expressed disappointment regarding the COVID-19 funding response from the U.S. Federal government. He inquired whether the Richmond Symphony contacted donors to cover the cost of the Menuhin Violin Competition.*

*John Wack, Finance director, informed the committee that the items on page ten of the presentation are not currently included within the spending plan, but are additional initiatives that could be covered if funding becomes available. He further stated that the Richmond Symphony is working to avoid employee furloughs while performing at lowered capacity and is using reserve funding to cover operating costs.*

*Alternate Member Hilbert inquired whether organizations who applied for the Paycheck Protection Program received funding for retaining employees. He also stated that the needs listed on page 10 of the presentation are not priorities, and are items to be considered if additional funding were to become available.*

*Fire Chief Carter informed the committee that the initiatives on page ten are included within the \$37,000,000 of unmet need outlined on page nine of the presentation, which is a fluid need.*

*Alternate Member Hilbert asked whether it is known when the additional \$37,000,000 in funding would be allocated.*

*Mr. Wack stated that the status of additional funding allocations is currently unknown.*

*Acting Chief Administrative Officer Lenora Reid informed the committee that the Richmond Flying Squirrels did not receive CARES Act funding and has laid off the majority of its employees. Ms. Reid stated the Richmond Flying Squirrels have reached out to surrounding localities to meet funding needs while waiting on additional contracts. She also stated that the \$37,000,000 in additional funding is estimated based on the COVID-19 pandemic lasting through June 2021. Ms. Reid explained that the general fund balance will not see a deficit of \$37,000,000 if the state does not provide the funding, but that some of the initiatives will be categorized as an unmet need. She further explained that while the city could forgo some line items, others are needed such as personal protective equipment.*

*Chair Andreas Addison reviewed page eleven of the presentation and emphasized that many of the unmet needs and challenges listed pre-date the COVID-19 pandemic and are ongoing issues for many throughout the city. Chair Addison suggested reaching out to the state to assist with funding quasi-state agencies assigned to Richmond such as Richmond Behavioral Health Authority, the Department of Social Services and the Richmond City Health District. He emphasized the importance of focusing on housing support and food insecurity in the city going forward, and suggested Council work towards improving city technologies and self-service processes during budget work sessions.*

*Deputy Council Chief of Staff Meghan Brown informed the committee that the non-departmental budget included \$100,000 for Feed More.*

*Alternate Member Hilbert asked how the resources regarding food insecurity are being communicated to the public.*

*Reggie Gordon, deputy chief administrative officer for Human Services, stated that Human Services created a cabinet in March, which included Feed More, Homeward, Inc., Richmond Public Schools, Richmond Police Department, special needs organizations and other representatives of vulnerable populations in Richmond. He further stated that Doug Pick, Feed More president and chief executive officer, provides weekly updates and forecasts regarding food resources. Mr. Gordon informed the committee that the philanthropic community has supported Feed More financially and that there will likely be an increased need for individuals within the undocumented community and those who have never experienced food insecurity. He further stated that the city continues to circulate messaging into the community regarding food resources and that help1rva.org is the community resource for COVID-19 related assistance.*

*Chair Andreas Addison mentioned that the information discussed will be reviewed by the*

*Organizational Development Standing Committee at its December 7, 2020, meeting.*

*A copy of the material provided has been filed.*

### **December Governmental Operations Standing Committee Meeting**

It was the consensus of the committee to hold the December Governmental Operations Standing Committee meeting on December 16, 2020, at 12:00 p.m.

### **Staff Report**

Joyce Davis, Council policy analyst, provided the committee with the November staff report.

*A copy of the report provided has been filed.*

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.