



City of Richmond

Informal Meeting Minutes

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

Monday, December 14, 2020

4:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall
Virtual Meeting

Councilmembers Present

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President
The Honorable Chris Hilbert, Vice President (late arrival and early departure)
The Honorable Andreas Addison
The Honorable Kim Gray (early departure)
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
Tabrica Rentz, Acting Deputy City Attorney
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

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

ELECTRONIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Council Management Analyst Lisa Braxton, 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, and stated that notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information advisory issued on November 13, 2020, 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.

Docket Review

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

Consent Agenda:

1. Ord. 2019-275 – to be continued to Monday, January 11, 2021
2. Ord. 2019-276 – to be continued to Monday, January 11, 2021
3. Ord. 2020-227 – to be continued to Monday, January 11, 2021

4. Ord. 2020-228 – to be continued to Monday, January 11, 2021
5. Ord. 2020-232 – retained on the Consent Agenda
6. Ord. 2020-233 – retained on the Consent Agenda
7. Ord. 2020-234 – retained on the Consent Agenda
8. Ord. 2020-235 – retained on the Consent Agenda
9. Ord. 2020-237 – retained on the Consent Agenda
10. Ord. 2020-239 – to be continued to Monday, January 11, 2021
11. Ord. 2020-240 – retained on the Consent Agenda
12. Ord. 2020-241 – to be amended and continued to Monday, January 11, 2021
13. Ord. 2020-242 – retained on the Consent Agenda
14. Ord. 2020-243 – retained on the Consent Agenda
15. Ord. 2020-244 – retained on the Consent Agenda
16. Ord. 2020-245 – retained on the Consent Agenda
17. Ord. 2020-246 – retained on the Consent Agenda
18. Ord. 2020-247 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Councilor Kristen Larson provided an introduction and expressed support for Ord. 2020-247.

19. Ord. 2020-248 – retained on the Consent Agenda
20. Ord. 2020-249 – to be continued to Monday, January 11, 2021
21. Ord. 2020-250 – retained on the Consent Agenda
22. Res. 2020-R056 – to be continued to Monday, January 11, 2021
23. Res. 2020-R060 – to be amended and considered
24. Res. 2020-R062 – to be continued to Monday, January 11, 2021
25. Res. 2020-R063 – to be continued to Monday, January 11, 2021
26. Res. 2020-R064 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Regular Agenda:

27. Ord. 2018-236 – to be continued to Monday, January 11, 2021
28. Ord. 2020-153 – retained on the Regular Agenda
29. Ord. 2020-177 – retained on the Regular Agenda

Council Management Analyst Lisa Braxton informed Council that after allowing an opportunity for public comment later that evening at the Formal Session of Council, the Planning Commission recommended Ord. 2020-177 be denied.

30. Ord. 2020-217 – to be amended and continued to Monday, January 11, 2021
31. Ord. 2020-226 – retained on the Regular Agenda
32. Ord. 2020-236 – retained on the Regular Agenda
33. Ord. 2020-238 – retained on the Regular Agenda
34. Res. 2020-R061 – retained on the Regular Agenda

Mark Olinger, Planning and Development Review director, provided Council with the Richmond 300: A Guide for Growth presentation, which is the final draft of the city's updated master plan, and was available to answer questions pertaining to Ord. 2020-236. A copy of the presentation has been filed.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch joined the meeting at 4:12 p.m.

Vice President Chris Hilbert joined the meeting at 4:16 p.m.

Maritza Pechin, Planning and Development Review project manager, was also available to answer questions pertaining to Ord. 2020-236.

Vice President Chris Hilbert commented on the Richmond 300 master plan as it pertains to public housing and public art.

Councilor Ellen Robertson commended staff of the Department of Planning and Development Review and citizens that participated in the development of the updated master plan.

President Cynthia Newbille requested that councilors submit amendment recommendations related to Richmond 300 to the Council Chief of Staff Office for inclusion to a proposed resolution scheduled to be introduced in January 2021.

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

Closed Session

At 5:01 p.m., Councilor Michael Jones moved that the City Council hold a closed meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to discuss and consider the appointment of a candidate as Council Chief of Staff or Interim Council Chief of Staff.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Vice President Chris Hilbert and Councilor Kim Gray left the meeting.

Councilor Michael Jones motioned to exit closed session. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Councilors reconvened in open session at 5:43 p.m.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

December 14, 2020

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 Council.

WITNESS the following vote of Council members, as recorded by Candice D. Reid, City Clerk:

CERTIFYING:

Cynthia I. Newbille, President
Andreas D. Addison
Kristen N. Larson
Stephanie A. Lynch
Ellen F. Robertson
Reva M. Trammell
Michael J. Jones

DECLINING TO CERTIFY:

Given the number of individuals requesting to provide comment during the public hearing for Ords. 2020-217 and 2020-236 later that evening at the Formal Session, it was the consensus of Council to allow only a duration of up to two minutes per speaker.

President Cynthia Newbille requested Council discuss the mayor's formation of a homeless advisory council and receive an update on the city attorney recruitment process at the January Organizational Development Standing Committee meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

CITY CLERK