



City of Richmond

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

City Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 21, 2022

1:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Council Budget Work Session #3

Councilmembers Present

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President
The Honorable Ellen Robertson, Vice President
The Honorable Katherine Jordan
The Honorable Ann Frances Lambert
The Honorable Kristen Nye
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch
The Honorable Reva Trammell (late arrival)

Absent

The Honorable Andreas Addison
The Honorable Michael Jones

Staff Present

Samson Anderson, Council Budget Analyst
Myrtle Brown, Council Budget Analyst
Jerry Carchedi, Council Budget Analyst
Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Debra Shaw, Council Management Analyst
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 1:23 p.m., and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan Announcement

Upon the President's request, Deputy City Clerk RJ Warren provided information on the appropriate manner in which the Council Chamber is to be evacuated in the event of an emergency.

Analysis of Mayor's Proposed Operating Budget

Interim Council Chief of Staff Joyce Davis provided an overview of objectives to be addressed during the budget work session. Ms. Davis also provided information regarding the steps to be taken to incorporate Councilmember priorities into the city budget.

Jerry Carchedi, Council Budget Analyst, provided Council with a presentation that outlined the Mayor's proposed operating budget for FY 2023.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

[CD.2022.124](#) Analysis of the Proposed FY23 Operating Budget

Vice President Ellen Robertson requested additional information regarding the decrease in state funding for Richmond Public Schools due to the Composite Index of Local Ability to Pay.

Councilor Katherine Jordan stated her concerns with the location of the General Registrar's Office, and inquired if the city could identify a more accessible location prior to committing to a long-term rental lease.

Councilor Kristen Nye requested additional information regarding the \$2,000,000.00 increase in funding for the Sheriff's Office in the proposed FY 2023 budget.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell arrived at 1:42 p.m., and was seated.

Mr. Carchedi provided Council with additional information and data regarding city departmental funding.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell requested additional information regarding the cost to train Richmond Police Department (RPD) recruits.

Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Lincoln Saunders informed Council that the majority of the \$2,000,000.00 increase to the Sheriff's Office was provided by state funding.

Vice President Robertson stated that a joint presentation by city administration and Council staff would be beneficial for additional clarity regarding city departmental funding.

Interim Council Chief of Staff Joyce Davis informed Council that Council staff would provide members with answers to questions raised. Ms. Davis stated that if staff were not able to provide the information immediately in the work session, then the information would be provided after the work session.

Councilwoman Trammell stated that she believed it was still important that Council staff provide Council with an independent review of the proposed budget.

Councilor Katherine Jordan requested additional information regarding how the public safety office pay plan addressed years of service for employee compensation.

Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert requested additional information regarding the allocation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to the city's Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities Department.

President Cynthia Newbille informed members that any additional questions regarding Council staff's overview of the proposed FY 2023 budget should be forwarded to Interim Council Chief of Staff Joyce Davis.

Ms. Davis informed Council about the process for members submitting proposed budget amendments, and she provided additional information regarding how Council staff would work with city administration to implement any requested amendments.

Debt Capacity and Affordability Briefing

City financial advisors David Rose, Davenport & Co. Senior Vice President and Manager of Public Finance, and Ronald Kooch, Jr., Davenport & Co. Senior Vice President, provided the committee with a presentation regarding the city's debt capacity and debt affordability. Mr. Rose provided additional information regarding the city's efforts to remain in compliance with its debt management policies.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

[CD.2022.122](#) Debt Capacity and Affordability Briefing

Councilwoman Reva Trammell inquired if the city would need to increase the real estate tax rate in the future to satisfy debt service requirements.

Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Lincoln Saunders stated he did not believe that would be necessary, so long as future economic developments were successful at generating new city revenue.

Councilor Katherine Jordan inquired if the city could work to pay off certain debt requirements sooner to relieve the city's debt service.

CAO Saunders stated that if future economic developments do not provide enough revenue to cover the city's debt service, then the city could look at reducing city services or projects prior to initiating a real estate tax rate increase.

Mr. Rose also provided information regarding Davenport & Co.'s recommendation that over the next few years, the city should work to ensure 1.5% of cash from the General Fund be allocated for CIPs and that the number increase to 3% in the future.

Sabrina Joy-Hogg, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (DCAO) for Finance and Administration, was available to provide additional information regarding the city's finances.

Interim Council Chief of Staff Joyce Davis provided Council with information regarding forthcoming Council budget work sessions.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell stated she wanted Council to take a closer look at non-departmental entities that receive city funds for services.

Councilor Jordan requested information and a presentation regarding the city's stormwater and gas utilities fees.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

CITY CLERK