



City of Richmond

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

Informal Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 23, 2026

4:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Council Members Present

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President
The Honorable Katherine Jordan, Vice President
The Honorable Sarah Abubaker (late arrival)
The Honorable Andrew Breton
The Honorable Kenya Gibson
The Honorable Nicole Jones
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch (late arrival)
The Honorable Ellen Robertson
The Honorable Reva Trammell

Staff Present

Lisa Braxton, Council Management Analyst, Principal
Laura Drewry, City Attorney
Kiley Kesecker, Deputy City Clerk
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Tabrica Rentz, Deputy City Attorney
RJ Warren, Council Chief of Staff

Call to Order

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Announcement

Upon the President's request, Council Management Analyst Lisa Braxton provided information on the appropriate way to evacuate the Council Chamber in an emergency.

Docket Review

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

Consent Agenda:

1. Ord. 2025-259 – retained on Consent Agenda

2. Ord. 2025-270 – to be amended and continued to Tuesday, March 10, 2026
3. Ord. 2025-276 – to be continued to Tuesday, March 10, 2026
4. Ord. 2026-003 – to be continued to Tuesday, March 10, 2026
5. Ord. 2026-019 – to be amended and continued to Tuesday, March 10, 2026
6. Ord. 2026-024 – retained on Consent Agenda
7. Ord. 2026-026 – retained on Consent Agenda
8. Ord. 2026-034 – retained on Consent Agenda
9. Ord. 2026-035 – retained on Consent Agenda
10. Ord. 2026-036 – retained on Consent Agenda
11. Ord. 2026-037 – retained on Consent Agenda
12. Ord. 2026-038 – retained on Consent Agenda
13. Ord. 2026-039 – retained on Consent Agenda
14. Ord. 2026-040 – retained on Consent Agenda
15. Ord. 2026-041 – moved to Regular Agenda
16. Ord. 2026-045 – retained on Consent Agenda
17. Res. 2026-R003 – to be continued to Monday, March 23, 2026
18. Res. 2026-R008 – retained on Consent Agenda
19. Res. 2026-R009 – retained on Consent Agenda
20. Res. 2026-R010 – retained on Consent Agenda
21. Res. 2026-R011 – retained on Consent Agenda
22. Res. 2026-R012 – retained on Consent Agenda

Regular Agenda:

23. Ord. 2025-215 – to be continued to Monday, March 23, 2026

24. Ord. 2025-231 – to be continued to Tuesday, March 10, 2026

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

Other Discussion Item(s)

City Response to January 2026 Winter Weather Events

Chief Administrative Officer Odie Donald provided an interim update on the city's response to the January winter storms, including the timing of emergency declarations, interdepartmental coordination, resource deployment, material usage, contractor support, and preliminary fiscal impacts. CAO Donald advised that a comprehensive after-action report, including detailed expenditures and operational analysis, will be submitted by March 2nd in accordance with City Code requirements.

Councilor Reva Trammell expressed concerns about untreated residential streets, impacts on elderly and vulnerable residents, sidewalk violation notices, and constituent communication during and after the storms.

Councilor Sarah Abubaker arrived at 4:25 p.m. and was seated.

Bobby Vincent, Public Works director, outlined the city's snow and ice removal strategy, explaining roadway prioritization based on federal classifications and traffic volume, and described operational challenges caused by prolonged ice conditions. Mr. Vincent reported on brine and salt application totals, residential street treatment efforts, pothole response protocols, post-storm street cleaning plans, and the issuance of sidewalk snow removal notices.

Councilor Kenya Gibson requested information on storm-related infrastructure damage, including pothole trends and repair timelines, and asked how recommendations from the prior emergency communications audit were implemented during this event.

Vice President Katherine Jordan sought clarification on sidewalk notice-of-violation enforcement procedures and suggested reviewing the policy to ensure fairness and consistency.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch arrived at 5:06 p.m. and was seated.

Councilor Sarah Abubaker inquired about post-storm street cleaning schedules and the city's coordination efforts to assist residents with urgent needs, including heating fuel access and prescription retrieval.

President Cynthia Newbille acknowledged improvements in storm response, noted lessons learned, and thanked staff and emergency personnel for their service, expressing anticipation of the forthcoming comprehensive report.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

CITY CLERK