



City of Richmond

Informal Meeting Minutes

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

Monday, February 8, 2021

4:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall
Virtual Meeting

Councilmembers Present

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President
The Honorable Ellen Robertson, Vice President
The Honorable Andreas Addison (late arrival)
The Honorable Michael Jones (late arrival)
The Honorable Katherine Jordan
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert
The Honorable Kristen Larson
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch (late arrival)
The Honorable Reva Trammell

Staff Present

Lisa Braxton, Council Management Analyst
Haskell Brown, Interim City Attorney
Joyce Davis, Interim 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 4:00 p.m. and presided.

ELECTRONIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Council Management Analyst Lisa Braxton, 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, and stated that notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information advisory issued on January 28, 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.

Docket Review

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

Consent Agenda:

1. Ord. 2020-256 – retained on the Consent Agenda
2. Ord. 2020-261 – to be amended and continued to Monday, February 22, 2021
3. Ord. 2020-264 – retained on the Consent Agenda
4. Ord. 2020-265 – to be amended and continued to Monday, March 8, 2021

5. Ord. 2020-266 – to be continued to Monday, March 8, 2021
6. Ord. 2020-270 – retained on the Consent Agenda
7. Ord. 2020-272 – retained on the Consent Agenda
8. Ord. 2020-273 – retained on the Consent Agenda
9. Ord. 2020-274 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Councilor Stephanie Lynch joined the meeting at 4:04 p.m.

10. Ord. 2021-003 – retained on the Consent Agenda
11. Ord. 2021-004 – retained on the Consent Agenda
12. Ord. 2021-005 – retained on the Consent Agenda
13. Ord. 2021-008 – retained on the Consent Agenda
14. Ord. 2021-009 – retained on the Consent Agenda
15. Ord. 2021-010 – retained on the Consent Agenda
16. Ord. 2021-011 – retained on the Consent Agenda
17. Ord. 2021-012 – retained on the Consent Agenda
18. Ord. 2021-013 – retained on the Consent Agenda
19. Ord. 2021-014 – retained on the Consent Agenda
20. Ord. 2021-015 – retained on the Consent Agenda
21. Res. 2020-R056 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Councilor Anne-Frances Lambert asked to be added as a co-patron of Res. 2020-R056.

Vice President Ellen Robertson and President Cynthia Newbille requested to be added as co-patrons of Ord. 2020-256.

Regular Agenda:

22. Ord. 2020-117 – retained on the Regular Agenda

Police Chief Gerald Smith and Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Police Chief John Venuti introduced Ord. 2020-117, stating the proposed legislation would allow the VCU Police Department to become an operational user of the Department of Police's new records management system.

Councilor Michael Jones joined the meeting at 4:09 p.m.

Councilor Anne-Frances Lambert addressed concerns of mistrust surrounding the city's police department and stated she would abstain from voting on Ord. 2020-117, since the time sensitivity of the proposed legislation does not allow an opportunity for community dialog. However, Ms. Lambert stated she would hold the police chief accountable, if there was evidence the new records management system was being utilized in a discriminatory manner.

Councilor Andreas Addison joined the meeting at 4:17 p.m.

Police Chief Smith addressed concerns of inappropriate use and access of the new records management system.

Councilor Andreas Addison acknowledged views of mistrust with both police departments; however, he stated he would support Ord. 2020-117 since its proposed adoption would assist with leveraging resources to keep citizens safe.

Vice President Ellen Robertson also expressed her support for Ord. 2020-117.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell inquired regarding other record sharing management agreements with surrounding localities and stated she will support the proposed legislation.

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

Richmond Health Department COVID-19 Vaccination Update

Amy Popovich and Jackie Lawrence, Richmond and Henrico Health Districts (RHHD) department manager and health equity director, provided an update regarding the city's COVID-19 vaccination progress, RHHD's equity framework, and mass vaccination events and partnerships. A copy of the presentation has been filed.

Ms. Popovich stated Council will be provided information to better assist citizens to navigate Richmond Health District's COVID-19 information center and she is willing to participate in district townhall meetings to aid in educating their constituents.

Councilor Michael Jones commented on the disparity of vaccination locations and opportunities for citizens of color to be vaccinated.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch expressed concern regarding the partnership with CVS Pharmacy and the pertinence of inequitable vaccination distribution.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell requested COVID-19 fatality statistics.

Vice President Ellen Robertson requested information surrounding the safe reopening of schools as well as the continued opioid crisis.

Public Safety Building Redevelopment Project Update

Leonard Sledge, Economic Development director, presented information in anticipation of the introduction of legislation, later that evening at the Formal Session of Council, for the proposed sale and redevelopment of the public safety building to Capital City Partners, LLC, with the potential to generate more than \$55 million in revenue during its first 25 years after completion. A copy of the presentation has been filed.

President Cynthia Newbille requested Mr. Sledge follow-up with councilors regarding questions concerning the proposed redevelopment project prior to its consideration.

Other Discussion

Interim Council Chief of Staff Joyce Davis stated the Council retreat is scheduled to be held on February 17, 2021, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and February 18, 2021, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Ms. Davis informed of plans to finalize the retreat facilitator by the end of the week and asked councilors to expect a communication regarding potential agenda items.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

CITY CLERK