



City of Richmond

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

City Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 14, 2022

1:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall
Virtual Meeting

Council Budget Work Session #2

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 (late arrival)
The Honorable Reva Trammell

Absent

The Honorable Andreas Addison
The Honorable Michael Jones

Staff Present

Samson Anderson, Council Budget Analyst
Debra Bowles, Assistant City Clerk
Haskell Brown, Interim City Attorney
Myrtle Brown, Council Budget Analyst
Jerry Carchedi, Council Budget Analyst
Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Debora Shaw, Council Management Analyst

Call to Order

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m., and presided.

Electronic Meeting Announcement

Assistant City Clerk Debra Bowles, in accordance with the current ongoing declaration of a local emergency concerning the COVID-19 pandemic confirmed by Res. No. 2020-R025, adopted March 16, 2020, and as permitted by section 2.2-3708.2(A)(3) of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, announced the meeting would be held through electronic

communication means. Assistant City Clerk Bowles stated notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information advisory email issued on March 8, 2022, 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 session.

Mayor's Proposed Budget Overview

Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Lincoln Saunders reviewed the proposed Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) budget funding for Richmond Public Schools (RPS). CAO Saunders stated that the FY23 proposal was based on the FY22 RPS budget, plus an additional \$15,000,000.00 in new funding pending RPS's submission of its proposed budget to administration and City Council. CAO Saunders also stated that the \$15,000,000.00 is in reserve as non-departmental funding and that the city continues to maintain a capital investment in schools.

CAO Saunders provided additional information on the proposed FY23 budget and stated that investing in information technology in the workplace and city infrastructure are the main factors for upgrades to city automation, and continuing to create economic incentive programs and development deals would make Richmond a more business friendly city. Mr. Saunders also stated that comprehensive compensation reform and an employee focused program are important to maintain market competitiveness for new employees and to retain of current employees. CAO Saunders further stated that many of the budget proposals are based upon data driven decisions specific to rates and fees being comparable to similar cities. Mr. Saunders responded to questions and concerns of Council members.

President Cynthia Newbille requested that additional questions and concerns be forwarded to Mr. Saunders, and requested that Mr. Saunders respond in writing so that information could be shared with all of Council.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch joined the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

A copy of the following presentation has been filed.

[CD.2022.114](#) Mayor's Proposed FY23 Budget

Richmond Public Schools Budget Overview

Superintendent of Richmond Public Schools (RPS) Jason Kamras provided information regarding the proposed budget submitted to the Richmond City School Board. Mr. Kamras stated that the proposed school budget had a requested increase of \$22,000,000.00 for proposed new expenses and a 5% salary increase for all employees of RPS. Mr. Kamras also shared that the School Board approved \$16,000,000.00; however, the city administration offered \$15,000,000.00 in new money, leaving RPS \$7,000,000.00 short of the proposed budget request. Mr. Kamras stated further that the \$15,000,000.00 proposed by the city administration secures the 5% and step increases of school employees.

Superintendent Kamras responded to questions of Council members and stated that a written response would be provided regarding the reading incentive. Mr. Kamras stated that after completion of approved budget cuts by the School Board, information would be provided regarding specifics of the RPS budget.

President Cynthia Newbille requested that city administration provide information regarding the funding of the RPS budget based upon the agreed formula between RPS, city administration and Council.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

CITY CLERK