



City of Richmond

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

Draft Meeting Minutes Governmental Operations Standing Committee

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

1:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Committee and Other Council Members in Attendance

The Honorable Katherine Jordan - Chair
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert - Vice Chair
The Honorable Nicole Jones - Alternate Member
The Honorable Reva Trammell - Council Member (early departure)

Absent

The Honorable Stephanie Lynch

Staff and Others in Attendance

Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst
Tamia Lunsford, Council Budget Analyst
Kimberly Morris, Assistant City Clerk
Candice Reid, City Clerk
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk
Caitlin Weston, Assistant City Attorney

Call to Order

Chair Katherine Jordan called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan Announcement and Public Speaker Guidelines

Upon the Chair's request, Assistant City Clerk Kimberly Morris provided information on the appropriate manner in which the Council Chamber is to be evacuated in the event of an emergency along with public speaker guidelines

Public Comment Period

There were no public comment speakers.

Approval of Minutes

[CD.2024.162](#) February 28, 2024 Governmental Operations Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [20240228 Gov Ops Mins - DRAFT](#)

[CD.2024.170](#) April 24, 2024 Governmental Operations Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [20240424 Gov Ops Mins - DRAFT](#)

There were no corrections or amendments to the meeting minutes of Wednesday, February 28, 2024 and Wednesday, April 24, 2024, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

Paper(s) for Consideration

The following ordinance was considered:

5. [ORD. 2024-137](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer and the Director of Procurement Services, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Goods and Services Contract between the City and Manchester Marketing, Inc. T/A Seibert's Towing for towing-related services and tow lot operation.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2024-137](#)

Forwarded to the May 28, 2024 Council meeting with recommendation to approve

Lynne Lancaster, Department of Public Works, Deputy Director, provided an introduction and additional background information regarding the proposed ordinance.

Public Hearing

There were no public hearing speakers.

Council Member Reva Trammell stated she supports the ordinance.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert moved to forward ORD. 2024-137 to Council with a recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Presentations

Cannabis in the Commonwealth

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

[CD.2024.163](#) Cannabis in the Commonwealth

Attachments: [5.22.2024 RVA Gov Ops- Marijuana Justice 2](#)

Jeremy Preiss, Acting Head and Chief Officer of Regulatory, Policy and External Affairs of the Cannabis Control Authority, provided a presentation regarding legalities, policy and education of cannabis use in Virginia.

Council Member Reva Trammell left the meeting at 1:26 p.m.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert inquired if licenses will be distributed to any entity other than the medical field for retail cannabis.

Mr. Preiss stated there are no licenses for cultivating, processing, dispensing, retail, delivery or distribution of cannabis and that details of who can become eligible for licensing will be determined by potential legislation that will become law. He also stated the medical program has limited licensing that is either spoken for or subject to ongoing competition.

Alternate Member Nicole Jones asked how the organization collaborates with the community to address the needs and questions related to marijuana.

Mr. Preiss stated the organization prides itself on being collaborative and transparent. He also stated the organization is willing to have a town hall meeting and is available for outreach.

Chair Katherine Jordan inquired if Mr. Preiss was politically appointed.

Mr. Preiss stated that he was not, and that he answers to a board of directors.

Small Business Inclusion and Justice Disparities

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

[CD.2024.164](#) RVA Considerations for Regulating Adult-Use Cannabis

Attachments: [RVA Gov Ops- Marijuana Justice](#)

Chelsea Higgs-Wise, Co-founder and Executive Director of Marijuana Justice Virginia, provided a presentation discussing the current status and predictions of cannabis in Virginia and considerations for City Council.

Chair Katherine Jordan stated her appreciation that the presentation included what other localities are doing to ensure best practices for implementation.

Alternate Member Nicole Jones stated she is looking forward to collaborating and having conversations about educating citizens and schools concerning marijuana laws.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert stated the committee is in support of discussions of cannabis laws in the Commonwealth and that she would like to see focus on schools having a tool kit to help with the over consumption of edibles. She also stated she would like to have more information on cannabis lounges and consumption spaces and would like to see revenue from cannabis help with affordable housing.

Ms. Higgs-Wise stated consumption spaces are an important piece of equitability and can be used for non-profit education. She also stated medical dispensaries are in Richmond and have potential for generating revenue.

Paper(s) for Consideration

The following ordinance was considered:

1. [ORD. 2024-094](#) To amend City Code § 11-36, concerning exemptions to sound control, for the purpose of modifying the hours during which the City's refuse collection and sanitation services shall be exempted from the requirements of the City's sound control provisions.

Patrons: Ms. Jordan and Ms. Lynch

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2024-094](#)

Continued to the June 26, 2024 Governmental Operations Standing
Committee meeting

There were no comments or discussions and Chair Katherine Jordan moved to continue ORD. 2024-094 to the June 26, 2024 Governmental Operations Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and was unanimously approved.

The following ordinance was considered:

2. [ORD. 2024-126](#) To amend and reordain City Code § 9-58, which assigns polling places in the city, to relocate the polling place for Precinct 603.

Patrons: Ms. Robertson

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2024-126 - Withdrawn 20240523](#)

Forwarded to the June 10, 2024 Council meeting with no recommendation

Keith Balmer, General Registrar, stated his concerns about voting Precinct 603 being a small fire station with limited parking for citizens. He also stated the election officers have some discomfort with the location, and that he and the fire chief conversed about moving the polling place. Mr. Balmer further stated that the ordinance may need to be withdrawn due to the need to relocate Precinct 606.

Public Hearing

There were no public hearing speakers.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert moved to forward ORD. 2024-126 to Council with no recommendation, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

The following ordinance was considered:

3. [ORD. 2024-127](#) To amend and reordain City Code § 9-58, which assigns polling places in the city, to relocate the polling [places] place for [Precinct 909 and] Precinct 910. (As Amended)

Patrons: Ms. Jones (By Request)

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2024-127 - Amended 20240610](#)
[20240610 Amendment of Ord. No. 2024-127](#)
[Public Comments](#)

Forwarded to the June 10, 2024 Council meeting with recommendation to approve with amendment

Keith Balmer, General Registrar, stated the move for polling Precinct 909 from Elizabeth Redd Elementary School to Liberation Church will not happen because Liberation Church withdrew its intent to serve as a polling location. Mr. Balmer also stated he would like to leave Redd Elementary School as a polling place, and he would like to proceed with moving polling Precinct 910 from G. H. Reid Elementary School to River City Middle School because of ample parking and space.

Public Hearing

There were no public hearing speakers.

Alternate Member Nicole Jones stated River City Middle School will provide a better voting experience for voters, and she would like to have conversations about how to better communicate to voters about redistricting.

Chair Katherine Jordan stated communication between the Registrar's office and city government is important to fully inform citizens of changes to polling locations.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert inquired what is the Registrar's office doing to notify voters of redistricting.

Mr. Balmer stated that notices went out to all voters to alert them of redistricting and any changes to voting precincts.

There were no further comments or discussions and Alternate Member Nicole Jones moved to forward ORD. 2024-127 to Council with a recommendation to approve with amendment, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

The following ordinance was considered:

4. [ORD. 2024-136](#) To amend City Code §§ 2-1336, concerning definitions related to webpages for development and capital improvements projects, 2-1337, concerning general requirements, and 2-1339, concerning exclusions, and to repeal § 2-1338, concerning project webpage requirements.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2024-136](#)

Forwarded to the May 28, 2024 Council meeting with recommendation to approve

Adam Hohl, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Operations Senior Policy Advisor, provided an introduction and additional background information regarding the proposed ordinance.

Public Hearing

There were no public hearing speakers.

Chair Katherine Jordan inquired if the dashboard can track the funding for the Public Arts Commission.

Mr. Hohl stated they are restricted to what the ordinance is asking, however, the request may be possible to fulfill.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert moved to forward ORD. 2024-136 to Council with a recommendation to approve with amendment, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Board Vacancies

There were no board vacancies.

Discussion Item(s)

There were no discussion items.

Staff Report

Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst, provided the committee with the May Governmental Operations Standing Committee staff report.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

[CD.2024.176](#) May Staff Report

Attachments: [Governmental Operations Staff Report May 2024](#)

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:19 p.m.