



Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

Office of the Council Chief of Staff

Finance & Economic Development Standing Committee

July 16, 2025

Prep Document for Committee Members

Previous Meeting: June 18, 2025

Next Meeting: September 17, 2025

Agenda Overview:

- Five papers for consideration:
 1. [Ord. 2025-100](#) (require publication of side-by-side comparison of agency-level budget requests and the Mayor's proposed budget)
 2. [Ord. 2025-158](#) (first of two in a block; authorize CAO to accept \$15.7 million in funds from USDOT Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration and amend FY26 gas utility budget for repairs, rehab, and replacement of natural gas pipelines and related equipment)
 3. [Ord. 2025-159](#) (second of two in a block; authorize CAO to accept \$39.16 million in funds from USDOT Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration and amend FY26 gas utility budget for repairs, rehab, and replacement of natural gas pipelines and related equipment)
 4. [Ord. 2025-160](#) (authorize CAO to execute performance agreement with VPM for new headquarters at 13 E Broad St)
 5. [Ord. 2025-164](#) (authorize CAO to accept certain funds from USHUD, amend relevant portions of adopted budgets for FY25 and FY26, allocate \$31,145 from ESG Undesignated Reserve, create new project line item in ESG funding called "St. Joseph's Villa," and appropriate \$83,930 to new St. Joseph's Villa line item to fund rapid rehousing programming and case management)
- One presentation:
 - Department of Finance Director Sheila White providing an update on the Division of Revenue Administration

Ordinances & Resolutions for Consideration

1. Ordinance No. 2025-100

Patrons CMs Lynch, Breton, Jordan, Gibson, Jones, and Abubaker

Title: To amend City Code § 12-12, concerning the form of the budget submitted to Council, to require publication of a side-by-side comparison with the mayor's proposed budget submission with agency-level budget request documents and to amend ch. 12, art. I of the City Code by adding therein a new section 12-25, concerning publication of agency-level budget requests, for the purpose of requiring submission of agency-level budget request documents.

Council Staff Notes (i.e., not included in Administration memo):

- Equivalent documents submitted by state agencies each fall are available and searchable by biennium and agency on the DPB website here: <https://reports.dpb.virginia.gov/mc161>

Council Staff Questions:

- Where specifically on the city's budget website should the agency budget submissions be housed to maximize transparency and accessibility to the public? (The "Budget Documents" [page](#) seems appropriate.)

2. Ordinance No. 2025-158

Patron Mayor Avula

Title: To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to accept funds in the amount of \$15,733,481.00 from the United States Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration, and to amend the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Gas Utility Budget, which appropriated the estimated receipts of the gas utility, by increasing estimated receipts and the amount appropriated for expenditures of the gas utility by \$15,733,481.00, for the purpose of providing funding to repair, rehabilitate, and replace natural gas pipelines and related equipment.

Council Staff Notes (i.e., not included in Administration memo):

- Richmond Gas Works staff indicated that as long as the agreement is signed, the funds are not at risk even in light of the federal budget environment. However, as noted in the O&R transmittal, the underlying grant program (Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization) is funded through the Biden-era Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (also referred to as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law), which has been a target of funding cuts in the second Trump administration. It may be important to conduct additional risk analysis of funding in this grant program and any others considered signatures of the Biden administration.

Council Staff Questions:

- What is the relationship between these grant funds and planned rate increases? Is there room to modify planned rate increases in light of this federal funding?

3. Ordinance No. 2025-159

Patron Mayor Avula

Title: To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to accept funds in the amount of \$39,158,844.00 from the United States Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration, and to amend the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Gas Utility Budget, which appropriated the estimated receipts of the gas utility, by increasing estimated receipts and the amount appropriated for expenditures of the gas utility by \$39,158,844.00, for the purpose of providing funding for the repair, replacement, and rehabilitation of natural gas pipelines and related equipment.

Council Staff Notes (i.e., not included in Administration memo):

- See notes for Ord. 2025-158.

Council Staff Questions:

- See question for Ord. 2025-158.

4. Ordinance No. 2025-160

Patron Mayor Avula

Title: To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Performance Agreement between the City of Richmond, VPM Media Corporation, and the Economic Development Authority of the City of Richmond for the purpose of providing performance grants to VPM Media Corporation to establish, equip, and operate a new headquarters located at 13 East Broad Street in the city of Richmond. (2nd District)

Council Staff Notes (i.e., not included in Administration memos):

- June 2023 press release from EDA about the project:
<https://www.richmondeda.com/vpm-to-move-downtown/>
- August 2024 VPM story about groundbreaking on the project:
<https://www.vpm.org/news/2024-08-09/vpm-media-corporation-monroe-ward-downtown-richmond-jayme-swain>

Council Staff Questions:

- How much time is the project expected to take before the new headquarters and retail space are fully operational?
- Could you provide more detail about the estimated \$2.5 million in real estate tax revenues over the first 10 years?
 - What are the underlying assumptions?
 - How much of that is attributable to the “retail-like space” on Grace Street?
- Is there an existing template for the annual performance report to be submitted by VPM in order to qualify for the benefit outlined in the agreement?
 - If not, how soon will the annual performance report template for this agreement be available for review?
- Will there be specific goals or metrics for the good-faith efforts to “identify and encourage qualified Minority Business Enterprises and Emerging Small Businesses” to participate in the facility’s development?

5. Ordinance No. 2025-164

Patron Mayor Avula

Title: To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to accept funds in the amount of \$2,119.00 from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development; to amend the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget adopted by Ord. No. 2024-184, adopted Jul. 22, 2024, for CDBG, HOME, ESG and HOPWA funds received from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development by recapturing Emergency Solutions Grant funds in the total amount of \$50,666.00; and to amend the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget adopted by Ord. No. 2025-063, adopted May 12, 2025, for CDBG, HOME, ESG and HOPWA funds received from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development by (i) allocating funds in the total amount of \$31,145.00 from the ESG Undesignated Reserve; (ii) creating a new project line item in the ESG funding called "St. Joseph's Villa"; and (iii) appropriating funds in the total amount of \$83,930.00 to the new "St. Joseph's Villa" line item for the purpose of providing funding for rapid rehousing programming.

Council Staff Notes (i.e., not included in Administration memo):

- None.

Council Staff Questions:

- What are the dates of this two-year performance period?
- Why was the HUD award greater than anticipated?
 - How often does this happen?
- Are there specific rapid rehousing case management standards that are followed by St. Joseph's Villa?
 - How will the effectiveness of this program be evaluated?