



City of Richmond

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

Informal Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

4:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Councilmembers Present

The Honorable Kristen Nye, President
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert, Vice President (electronic participation)
The Honorable Nicole Jones
The Honorable Katherine Jordan
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch
The Honorable Cynthia Newbille
The Honorable Ellen Robertson
The Honorable Reva Trammell

Absent

The Honorable Andreas Addison

Staff Present

Lisa Braxton, Council Management Analyst, Principal
Laura Drewry, City Attorney
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Tabrica Rentz, Deputy City Attorney
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Council President Kristen Nye called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m. and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Announcement

Upon the President's request, Council Management Analyst Lisa Braxton provided information on the appropriate manner in which the Council Chamber is to be evacuated in the event of an emergency.

President Nye announced that, pursuant to Rule III (D)(4)(b) of Council's Rules of Procedure, Vice President Ann-Frances Lambert requested to participate in the meeting via Microsoft

Teams from the Courtyard by Marriott, 102 East Cass Street, Tampa, FL 33602, as she was attending the National League of Cities Conference.

Councilor Katherine Jordan moved to allow Councilor Lambert to participate in the meeting by electronic communication means. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Vice President Lambert joined the meeting via Microsoft Teams.

Docket Review

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

Consent Agenda:

1. Ord. 2024-198 – retained on the Consent Agenda
2. Ord. 2024-244 – retained on the Consent Agenda
3. Ord. 2024-256 – retained on the Consent Agenda
4. Ord. 2024-257 – to be continued to Monday, December 9, 2024
5. Ord. 2024-258 – retained on the Consent Agenda
6. Ord. 2024-259 – retained on the Consent Agenda
7. Ord. 2024-260 – retained on the Consent Agenda
8. Ord. 2024-261 – retained on the Consent Agenda
9. Ord. 2024-264 – retained on the Consent Agenda
10. Ord. 2024-265 – retained on the Consent Agenda
11. Ord. 2024-267 – retained on the Consent Agenda
12. Ord. 2024-268 – retained on the Consent Agenda
13. Ord. 2024-269 – retained on the Consent Agenda
14. Ord. 2024-270 – retained on the Consent Agenda
15. Ord. 2024-271 – retained on the Consent Agenda
16. Ord. 2024-278 – retained on the Consent Agenda

- 17. Ord. 2024-279 – retained on the Consent Agenda
- 18. Ord. 2024-280 – retained on the Consent Agenda
- 19. Ord. 2024-281 – retained on the Consent Agenda
- 20. Ord. 2024-282 – to be continued to Monday, December 9, 2024
- 21. Ord. 2024-283 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Regular Agenda:

- 22. Ord. 2024-187 – to be continued to Monday, December 9, 2024
- 23. Ord. 2024-217 – retained on the Regular Agenda
- 24. Ord. 2024-222 – retained on the Regular Agenda
- 25. Ord. 2024-223 – retained on the Regular Agenda
- 26. Ord. 2024-251 – retained on the Regular Agenda
- 27. Ord. 2024-252 – retained on the Regular Agenda

Christie Peters, Richmond Animal Care and Control (RACC) director, provided an introduction of Ords. 2024-251 and 2024-252, which would allow for the expansion of RACC's operation at an additional site in the city.

Chief Administrative Officer Lincoln Saunders was also available to answer questions regarding Ords. 2024-251 and 2024-252.

Councilor Cynthia Newbille inquired regarding the cost for acquiring, retrofitting and annual operations of the proposed RACC adoption center, as well as the cost to expand the current RACC facility.

Ms. Peters informed Council that due to space constraints, it is not possible to expand at the current RACC location.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch clarified that she was in opposition to Ords. 2024-251 and 2024-252 prior to introduction, and she had requested that city administration bring forth a proposal that combatted alternate needs within the 5th district, especially the sheltering of homeless individuals. Councilor Lynch commented that the proposed RACC adoption center project did not follow the normal capital improvement project (CIP) process.

M. S. Khara, Public Works deputy director, explained that funds from a prior allocated Public Works project (Commerce Road Improvement project) was no longer needed due to the city

receiving federal and state funding, which will now allow it to be reallocated to the proposed RACC adoption center.

Councilor Ellen Robertson expressed concern regarding the prioritizing of the proposed RACC project over other budgeted CIP projects, and she stated that city administration needs to be consistent with its allocation of funding and requested a list of current CIP projects awaiting appropriation. Due to the inconsistency, Councilor Robertson further stated that she cannot support Ords. 2024-251 and 2024-252.

Councilor Nicole Jones inquired about other city-owned properties that could potentially be utilized for the proposed RACC adoption center.

Councilor Newbille mentioned the need for additional space after visiting the current RACC facility, however, she echoed her colleagues' sentiments regarding the consideration of a list of priorities.

Ms. Peters advised that the city would expend more in the future for a facility if Ords. 2024-251 and 2024-252 were not adopted, and the current proposal is cost-effective and would solve their capacity limitation for the next ten to twenty years.

President Kristen Nye, spoke in support of Ords. 2024-251 and 2024-252 and stated that she would be disappointed if Ords. 2024-251 and 2024-252 were not adopted later that evening during the Formal Session of Council, given the outstanding need for the potential facility.

CAO Saunders informed Council that the use of a prior CIP allocation that involved the failed casino proposal could not be utilized for the RACC adoption center since it does not meet the Southside economic development mission.

28. Ord. 2024-266 – retained on the Regular Agenda

29. Ord. 2024-272 – retained on the Regular Agenda

30. Ord. 2024-273 – retained on the Regular Agenda

31. Ord. 2024-274 – retained on the Regular Agenda

32. Ord. 2024-275 – retained on the Regular Agenda

33. Ord. 2024-276 – retained on the Regular Agenda

34. Ord. 2024-277 – retained on the Regular Agenda

Prior to the motion to enter a close meeting, President Nye explained the order the Regular Agenda items would be called for consideration later that evening during the Formal Session of Council.

In anticipation of a significant number of individuals participating in the public hearings later that evening during the Formal Session of Council, Councilor Stephanie Lynch requested the time limit be reduced to accommodate all discussion.

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

Closed Session

At 4:50 p.m., Councilor Cynthia Newbille moved that the Council go into a closed meeting pursuant to (i) subdivision (A)(8) of section 2.2-3711 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to consult with legal counsel employed by the public body regarding collective bargaining requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel and (ii) subdivision (A)(19) of section 2.2-3711 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to discuss plans to protect the public safety related to the security of City Hall and the safety of persons using City Hall.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Councilor Cynthia Newbille motioned to exit closed session. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Councilors reconvened in open session at 5:32 p.m.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

November 12, 2024

WHEREAS, the Council has convened in closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law:

NOW, THEREFORE,
BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Council hereby certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge (i) only public matters lawfully exempt from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certifying resolution applies; and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Council.

WITNESS the following vote of Council members, as recorded by Candice D. Reid, City Clerk:

CERTIFYING:

Kristen Nye, President
Ann-Frances Lambert, Vice President
Andreas D. Addison (absent)
Katherine Jordan
Nicole Jones
Cynthia I. Newbille
Stephanie A. Lynch
Ellen F. Robertson
Reva M. Trammell

DECLINING TO CERTIFY:

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

CITY CLERK