



City of Richmond
Navy Hill Development Proposal
Public Hearing Minutes

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
www.richmondgov.com/cityclerk

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

6:00 PM

Binford Middle School, Auditorium
1701 Floyd Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23220

Councilmembers Present

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President
The Honorable Andreas Addison (late arrival)
The Honorable Kim Gray (late arrival)
The Honorable Kristen Larson (late arrival)
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch (late arrival)
The Honorable Ellen Robertson (late arrival)

Absent

The Honorable Chris Hilbert, Vice President
The Honorable Michael Jones
The Honorable Reva Trammell

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., and presided.

Upon the President's request, Deputy City Clerk RJ Warren provided citizen speaker guidelines regarding public hearings.

PROPOSED NAVY HILL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (NHDP) PUBLIC HEARING

(Associated Ordinances and Resolution: ORD. 2019-211, ORD. 2019-212, ORD. 2019-213, ORD. 2019-214, ORD. 2019-215, ORD. 2019-216, ORD. 2019-217, ORD. 2019-218, ORD. 2019-219, RES. 2019-R044)

The following individuals provided comment regarding the proposed Navy Hill Development project:

Opposition

Charles Pool spoke in opposition to the Navy Hill Development (NHD) proposal, and expressed his concern that no appraisal was obtained of the city owned land associated with the proposed development.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Councilor Kristen Larson arrived at 6:05 p.m. and was seated.

Councilor Kim Gray arrived at 6:10 p.m. and was seated.

Councilor Andreas Addison arrived at 6:11 p.m. and was seated.

Councilor Ellen Robertson arrived at 6:13 p.m. and was seated.

Charles Schmidt spoke in opposition to the NHD proposal, and referenced prior development projects in the city that he believed were unsuccessful. Mr. Schmidt stated that the project was unnecessary to attract people to visit and live in the city.

Michael Bell spoke in opposition to the NHD proposal. Mr. Bell stated he liked the idea of the project, but suggested more improvements to the Greater Richmond Transit Center (GRTC) were necessary for the project to be a success.

Turk Sties spoke in opposition to the NHD proposal and stated the city should address other city needs instead of a development project. Mr. Sties expressed his concern that increased real estate taxes would be necessary to offset any potential loss of city revenue due to the proposed development.

Christopher Goad spoke in opposition to the NHD proposal, and stated he didn't believe construction of a new arena was necessary.

Kyle Kennedy stated he did not oppose the entire project, but expressed his concern with the size of the proposed tax increment financing (TIF) zone. Mr. Kennedy inquired why TIF zones were not established to help finance schools or public housing. Mr. Kennedy stated developers should be required to bare the risks of the NHD proposal and not the city.

Support

Steven VanVoorhees stated he was hopeful the proposed NHD project would be successful, but shared his concern that the documentation associated with the proposal was confusing to understand. Mr. VanVoorhees also stated the financial aspects of the proposal should be more clearly defined for citizens to comprehend.

Kasiem Lewis spoke in support of the NHD proposal, but expressed his concern with the project's proposed TIF zone.

Kenneth Jones spoke in support of the NHD proposal. Mr. Jones stated he owned a construction company and wanted the opportunity to hire city residents to train and work on the potential development.

Thomas Stewart spoke in support of the NHD proposal. Mr. Stewart stated he worked at the Richmond Coliseum in his youth and wanted the same opportunity for his children and grandchildren.

Jerome Legions spoke in support of the NHD proposal and stated prior development projects that failed should not hold the NHD proposal hostage. He expressed his belief that other local businesses could benefit from the proposed arena.

Al Bowers spoke in support of the NHD proposal, and expressed his belief that the project should address poverty within the city.

Matthew Meadows spoke in support of the NHD proposal and stated the proposed arena would attract more performing artists to the city. Mr. Meadows expressed his belief that the NHD proposal could lead to increased growth within the city.

James Bailey spoke in support of the NHD proposal. Mr. Bailey stated the proposed NHD project could add to the appeal of the city to nonresidents.

KC Funk spoke in support of the NHD proposal, and expressed his concern with the growth of Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) and the city's inability to tax VCU property. Mr. Funk stated a new arena would create more spending within the city by nonresidents.

Nate Harris, Spectra assistant general manager and director of marketing, informed Council of his history as a Spectra employee and stated Spectra was excited about working with the city on the proposed NHD project.

Beverly Fox spoke in support of the NHD proposal, and stated she was a business owner in the entertainment industry. Ms. Fox expressed her frustration with directing her clients to venues in other localities and stated she would rather have her clients perform in the city.

Lacy Williams spoke in support of the NHD proposal and stated the proposed development would create increased housing opportunities for people to live in the city.

Todd Waldo spoke in support of the NHD proposal. Mr. Waldo requested that Council improve the NHD proposal, but stated Council must take advantage of the economic development opportunity.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch arrived at 6:54 p.m.

President Cynthia Newbille provided information regarding the remaining public hearings and addressed Council's timeline for review of the NHD proposal.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

CITY CLERK