



# City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219  
[www.rva.gov/office-city-clerk](http://www.rva.gov/office-city-clerk)

## Special Meeting Minutes

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Monday, November 7, 2022

5:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

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### Special Meeting

#### Councilmembers Present

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President  
The Honorable Ellen Robertson, Vice President  
The Honorable Andreas Addison  
The Honorable Michael Jones  
The Honorable Katherine Jordan  
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert  
The Honorable Kristen Nye  
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch (late arrival)  
The Honorable Reva Trammell

#### Call to Order

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 5:14 p.m., and presided.

#### Electronic Participation

Pursuant to Rule III(D)(4)(b) of Council's Rules of Procedure, Vice President Ellen Robertson made a request to participate in the meeting via Microsoft Teams from her home, due to a medical condition that prevented her physical attendance at the meeting. The Councilmembers present were required to adopt a motion to approve Vice President Robertson's participation in the meeting by electronic communication means if it appeared to the body that her request complied with Rule III(D) of Council's Rules of Procedure. A motion was solicited from those members physically assembled to approve Vice President Robertson's participation in this meeting by electronic communication means.

**Councilor Katherine Jordan moved to allow Vice President Ellen Robertson to participate in the meeting by electronic communication means. The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 5, Jordan, Lambert, Nye, Trammell, Newbille. Noes None. Addison and Jones were excused. Lynch had not yet arrived.**

*Vice President Ellen Robertson joined the meeting via Microsoft Teams at 5:16 p.m.*

## Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Upon the President's request, Deputy City Clerk RJ Warren provided information on the appropriate manner in which the Council Chamber is to be evacuated in the event of an emergency along with citizen speaker guidelines.

## Introduction of Legislation

[CD.2022.376](#) November 7, 2022 Introduction Papers List

**City Council will hold a public hearing on the following ordinance on Monday, November 14, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.:**

3. [ORD. 2022-302](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Water Provider Participation Agreement between the Virginia Department of Social Services, Promise Network Inc., and the City of Richmond, for the purpose of providing water bill payments to assist low-income residential households with water and wastewater arrearages, reconnection, and ongoing services.

**Patrons:** Mayor Stoney and Ms. Lambert

**This ordinance was introduced and committee referral waived pursuant to Rule VI(B)(2).**

## Papers for Consideration

**The following ordinances were considered:**

1. [ORD. 2022-300](#) To amend Ord. No. 2019-188, adopted Jul. 22, 2019, as previously amended by Ord. No. 2020-094, adopted May 11, 2020, and Ord. No. 2021-268, adopted Oct. 11, 2021, and to amend Ord. No. 2020-164, adopted Aug. 10, 2020, as previously amended by Ord. No. 2020-191, adopted Sept. 28, 2020, Ord. No. 2021-089, adopted Apr. 26, 2021, Ord. No. 2021-184, adopted Jul. 26, 2021, and Ord. No. 2021-268, adopted Oct. 11, 2021, which authorized the Chief Administrative Officer to submit original and amended Fiscal Year 2020 Consolidated Annual Action Plans to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as an application for the receipt of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) funds, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) funds; accepted funds from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in the total amount of \$15,027,206.00 and appropriated \$16,854,300.00 for various projects, to re-appropriate \$485,689.00 for public facilities projects in CDBG funds and re-appropriate

\$229,698.00 in CDBG-CV funds, for the purpose of an inclement weather shelter project.

**Patrons:** Mayor Stoney

2. [ORD. 2022-301](#) To amend Ord. No. 2022-055, adopted May 9, 2022, which adopted the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 General Fund Budget and made appropriations pursuant thereto, to (i) create a new line item entitled "ARPA - HCD - Commonwealth Catholic Charities - Inclement Weather Shelter Operations" in the Non-Departmental agency, (ii) transfer \$615,000.00 from the Department of Housing and Community Development, and (iii) appropriate such \$615,000.00 to such new line items in the Non-Departmental agency, for the purpose of providing a grant to Commonwealth Catholic Charities to operate an inclement weather shelter located at 1900 Chamberlayne Parkway.

**Patrons:** Mayor Stoney

*Councilor Stephanie Lynch arrived and was seated at 5:19 p.m.*

Sherrill Hampton, Department of Housing and Community Development Director, provided an introduction and additional background information regarding ORD. 2022-300 and ORD. 2022-301.

*Councilor Katherine Jordan inquired about the length of the agreement between the city and entities providing emergency shelter. Councilor Jordan stated that she was concerned about the amount of money allocated compared to the length of the agreement.*

Ms. Hampton stated the inclement weather shelters would begin providing services by January 1, 2023, and conclude April 15, 2023. Ms. Hampton also stated that city administration was preparing to provide two immediate temporary emergency shelters until the proposed permanent shelters were operational. Ms. Hampton further stated that the city hoped to partner with the entities providing shelter again next year.

*Councilor Stephanie Lynch stated that displaced families should not be housed in congregate shelters, and she inquired about the city's plans to provide emergency shelter to families.*

Ms. Hampton stated that the city dedicated one of the proposed emergency shelter sites to provide non-congregate shelter to displaced women with children. Ms. Hampton also stated that the city was monitoring pending eviction proceedings to plan for needed shelter space.

*Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert requested additional information regarding the agreement between Commonwealth Catholic Charities and the Salvation Army referenced in ORD. 2022-301.*

Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Lincoln Saunders addressed Council and provided additional information regarding complications that prevented the city from previously establishing a permanent inclement weather shelter on Oliver Hill Way. CAO Saunders also stated that the establishment of several inclement weather shelter sites throughout the city, would allow the city to provide more assistance to residents experiencing homelessness.

*Councilwoman Reva Trammell confirmed that the inclement weather shelters proposed in ORD. 2022-300 and ORD. 2022-301 would require less funding than the city's previous practice of using hotels to provide emergency shelter.*

*Councilor Kristen Nye stated her concerns that the city was using too much resources and funding for shelters that would only be available for four months.*

Ms. Hampton informed Council that the city anticipated agreeing to an additional contract with the shelter operators for the following year. Ms. Hampton also stated that the shelters could be used after April 2023 for emergency weather situations.

*Councilor Andreas Addison stated that the city and surrounding localities needed to reviewing affordable housing and evictions to better address the homelessness issue in the city.*

*Councilor Michael Jones stated he was concerned that the city decided to partner with Commonwealth Catholic Charities (CCC). Councilor Jones referenced the city's previous attempt to partner with CCC to establish a permanent inclement weather shelter on Oliver Hill Way, and he questioned why the city was going to provide funding and partner with CCC again.*

Ms. Hampton informed Council about the application process for the city selecting partners to provide shelter throughout the city, and she stated that the city viewed CCC favorably as a partner because CCC required less construction improvements than other applicants.

*Councilor Stephanie Lynch stated that she would request city administration to provide a homelessness update at the December 8, 2022 Education and Human Services Standing Committee meeting. Councilor Lynch invited members to provide questions to be addressed at the upcoming meeting.*

*Vice President Ellen Robertson stated it was important that the city include funding for emergency and inclement weather shelters in the city's budget, and not rely on budget amendments throughout the fiscal year. Vice President Robertson also stated that dedicated funding would prevent panicked action by the city once winter weather begins.*

*President Cynthia Newbille stated her appreciation for the support city administration provided individuals and families in need of shelter.*

Jay Brown, Commonwealth Catholic Charities Chief Executive Officer, addressed Council and provided information regarding the proposed partnership between the city and CCC to provide emergency and inclement weather shelter.

**There were no comments or discussions and ORD. 2022-300 and ORD. 2022-301 were adopted: Ayes 8, Jordan, Lambert, Nye, Lynch, Trammell, Jones, Robertson, Newbille. Noes None. Addison was excused.**

**Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

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CITY CLERK