



City of Richmond

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

Budget Work Session Minutes

Monday, March 13, 2023

12:30 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Budget Work Session

Members Present

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

Others in Attendance

Myrtle Brown, Council Budget Analyst
LaTanja Davenport, Council Budget Analyst
Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst
LaTasha Holmes, Council Chief of Staff
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Tabrica Rentz, Deputy City Attorney
Debra Shaw, Council Management Analyst
Paul Van Lenten, Council Budget Analyst
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

President Michael Jones called the meeting to order at 12:41 p.m., and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan Announcement

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.

Overview of Mayor's Proposed Budget

FY 2024 Proposed Revenue Budget

Lincoln Saunders, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), provided Council with a presentation regarding an overview of the Mayor's proposed FY 2024 budget. Specifically, CAO Saunders highlighted the proposed \$3.0 billion revenue budget investments for the 2024 FY and the focal points city administration used to help design the proposed budget.

Councilor Katherine Jordan requested the status of a master gas plan and to discuss the city's utility pricing.

CAO Saunders agreed to discuss the utility pricing and adjustments in detail at a future work session.

Vice President Kristen Nye asked for clarification on the real estate tax process outlined in the City Charter.

Tabrica Rentz, Deputy City Attorney, stated the Office of the City Attorney would review the City Charter to find the information requested.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch arrived at 12:57 p.m., and was seated.

Councilor Ellen Robertson arrived at 1:07 p.m., and was seated.

President Michael Jones requested information regarding the state funding received by the city that would be included in the proposed FY 2024 budget and suggested finding ways to negotiate for more state investment in the city's budget.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch suggested ways in which the city could help generate more state funding, and also requested to develop ways to negotiate with the state for budget funding options.

Building for the Future Proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Budget

Lincoln Saunders, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), provided the Council with a presentation regarding the focal points of the proposed FY 2024 budget. Specifically, CAO Saunders gave a breakdown of major budget items and budget drivers.

Councilor Andreas Addison arrived at 1:22 p.m., and was seated.

Councilor Reva Trammell arrived at 1:37 p.m., and was seated.

Councilor Cynthia Newbille and Councilor Ellen Robertson requested information regarding the proposed budget's impact on current and retired city employee benefits.

CAO Saunders agreed to provide more information to Council regarding the impact of the budget on employee benefits and elaborated on city administration's reasoning for the changes in the proposed FY 2024 budget.

Councilor Andreas Addison requested more resources regarding the budget that could be used to help inform the public. Councilor Addison also requested an opportunity to discuss ways to grow revenue for the next fiscal year's budget.

Councilors requested to work with city administration and other groups in order to address gun violence in the city.

Councilor Robertson requested to find ways to invest more into the city's parks, community services, and affordable housing.

Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert requested the possibility to discuss city employee retirement benefits, and requested an update on city administration's on negotiations with the Commonwealth of Virginia and the transition to the Virginia Retirement System (VRS).

CAO Saunders elaborated on the current progress of negotiations with the VRS and stated that more information would be available at a future date.

President Michael Jones recessed the meeting at 2:37 p.m.

President Jones reconvened the meeting at 2:56 p.m.

FY 2024 - FY 2028 Capital Improvement Plan Overview

Lincoln Saunders, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), provided Council with a presentation regarding the five year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). CAO Saunders shared information on the focal points of the CIP including the importance of quality of life, public safety, children and families, economic development, and the city's local communities. CAO Saunders also provided details on the specific investment projects included in the CIP and elaborated on the sources of the funding for the projects.

Councilor Katherine Jordan requested an update on the city's green fleet. Councilor Jordan also requested city administration include a plan to purchase vehicles for the city's green fleet.

CAO Saunders confirmed city administration would provide an update on the city's green fleet investments.

President Michael Jones shared that Council would be creating opportunities for Councilors to ask more detailed questions regarding Council priorities outside of the budget work session in order to maintain a timely work session schedule.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

[CD.2023.094](#) Budget Related Presentations

LaTasha Holmes, Chief of Council Staff, provided information on the upcoming budget work session on March 20.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

CITY CLERK