



City of Richmond

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

Meeting Minutes Governmental Operations Standing Committee

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

1:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Committee Members in Attendance

The Honorable Katherine Jordan - Chair
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert - Vice Chair
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch - Member

Council Members in Attendance

The Honorable Andreas Addison - Council Member (late arrival and early departure)

Staff and Others in Attendance

Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst
Laura Drewry, City Attorney
LaTasha Holmes, Council Chief of Staff
Tamiya Lunsford, Council Budget Analyst
Susan McKenney, Senior Assistant City Attorney
Nahdiyah Muhammad, Assistant City Clerk
Candice Reid, City Clerk
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Katherine Jordan called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m., and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Upon the Chair's request, Assistant City Clerk Nahdiyah Muhammad 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.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comment speakers.

Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections or amendments to the meeting minutes of Wednesday, September 27, 2023, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2023.315](#) September 27, 2023 - Governmental Operations Standing Committee Minutes

Attachments: [20230927 Gov Ops Mins - DRAFT](#)

Presentation(s)

RVAH20 Combined Sewer System Program Update

[CD.2023.328](#) October 25, 2023 - RVAH20 Presentation - Gov Ops

Attachments: [20231025 RVAH20 Presentation](#)

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

April Bingham, Senior Director, Department of Public Utilities (DPU), and Grace LeRose, Program and Operations Supervisor, DPU, provided the committee with a presentation regarding the RVAH20 Combined Sewer Program.

Vice Chair Ann Frances-Lambert inquired about why the bacteria removal from Dock Street would be more costly.

Ms. LeRose, stated that the Dock Street project can only be addressed by installing a bigger pipe.

Vice Chair Lambert inquired about the total amount of funding required.

Ms. LeRose stated that the proposed projects and total funding amount will need to be approved by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Vice Chair Lambert inquired if the funding requested for the project will need to be added to Council's legislative agenda, and she also inquired about the timeline for DEQ approving funding.

Ms. LeRose stated that the final report will be submitted in July 2024, and that DPU hopes to begin the projects in July 2025.

Member Stephanie Lynch inquired about the project details for Canoe Run Park, and potential disruptions to the new playground, athletic field and equipment at that location. She also stated that the nearby communities should be notified of the project.

Ms. LeRose stated DPU is required to begin working on the Dock Street project beginning in 2025, and that DPU is going to submit a proposal to DEQ to swap out the Canoe Run Park project with the Dock Street project. Ms. LeRose also stated that the storage tank that will be placed underneath Canoe Run Park will be closest to Riverside Drive, and DPU will begin the process of notifying nearby communities when the project is approved.

Member Lynch inquired about which state agency will be requesting project funding, and if the funding is already incorporated into the state capital budget.

Ms. LeRose stated that DEQ will recommend the funding needed to the Governor.

Vice Chair Lambert inquired about the amount of federal funding for the project.

Ms. LeRose stated that the city has been in contact with both of Virginia's United States Senators regarding funding.

Chair Katherine Jordan inquired about the number of green infrastructure projects within the work plan.

Ms. LeRose stated that green infrastructure is an important component of the RVAH20 project, and DPU have committed to the implementation of green infrastructure.

Suzette Denslow, Intergovernmental Affairs Director, stated an external lobbyist has been working with the Governor's office regarding project funding.

Councilor Andreas Addison joined the meeting virtually at 1:21 p.m.

Paper(s) for Consideration

The following ordinance was considered:

[ORD. 2023-315](#) To amend ch. 2, art. V of the City Code by adding therein a new div. 21, consisting of §§ 2-1202.6-2-1202.8, for the purpose of establishing a Public Utilities and Services Commission.

Patrons: Mr. Addison, Ms. Jordan, Ms. Lynch and Ms. Lambert

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2023-315](#)

Council Member Andreas Addison, provided the committee with an introduction and additional background information regarding the proposed ordinance.

Public Hearing

There were no public hearing speakers.

Vice Chair Ann Frances-Lambert requested to be added as a co-patron of ORD. 2023-315.

There were no further comments or discussions and Member Stephanie Lynch moved to forward ORD. 2023-315 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and was unanimously approved.

Councilor Andreas Addison exited the meeting at 1:33 p.m.

Board Vacancies

Pamela Nichols, Council Management Analyst, reviewed board applications for consideration by the committee.

[CD.2023.326](#) October 25, 2023 - Governmental Operations Board Vacancy Report

Attachments: [20231025 Gov Ops Board Report](#)

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Member Stephanie Lynch moved to forward the following applications for appointment and reappointment to Council with a recommendation to approve:

Audit Committee:

Samuel Bemiss (reappointment)

City Personnel Board:

Betty Burrell

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Discussion Item(s)

City Charter Next Steps

Member Stephanie Lynch provided the committee with an update regarding recommended changes to the City Charter.

Vice Chair Ann Frances-Lambert requested clarity regarding the timeline of the legislation necessary to change the City Charter.

Member Lynch stated that a resolution will need to be approved to meet state code requirements.

The committee had further discussion regarding City Charter next steps.

Review of Assigned Boards & Commissions

Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst, provided the committee with a handout regarding boards and commissions assigned to the Governmental Operations Standing Committee.

[CD.2023.336](#) October 25, 2023 - Gov Ops Handout

Attachments: [20231025 Gov Ops Handout - Review of Boards & Commissions](#)

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Vice Chair Ann Frances-Lambert inquired about the Central Virginia Waste Management Authority Board previously being assigned to the Land use, Housing, and Transportation Standing Committee, and she also inquired about the reporting requirements for the Sister Cities Commission.

Ms. Davis stated that the handout given to the committee consisted of current boards and commissions assigned to the Governmental Operations Committee only.

Chair Katherine Jordan stated that Council will need to continue to work with administration and the Clerk's office to receive feedback regarding the reporting of boards and commissions.

Pamela Nichols, Council Management Analyst, stated that most boards and commissions, including the Sister Cities commission, are required to report annually and that reports are due by the end of the year. Ms. Nichols also stated that all board contacts and chairs are notified regarding annual reporting submission deadlines. Ms. Nichols further stated that included in the annual reports are attendance, meeting history, and requested policy changes.

Staff Report

Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst, provided the committee with the meeting staff report.

[CD.2023.332](#) October 25, 2023 - Gov Ops Staff Report

Attachments: [20231025 Gov Ops Staff Report](#)

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.