



# City of Richmond

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

## Informal Meeting Minutes

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Monday, November 14, 2022

4:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

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### **Councilmembers Present**

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

### **Staff Present**

Lisa Braxton, Council Management Analyst  
Haskell Brown, City Attorney  
Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff  
Candice Reid, City Clerk  
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

### **Call to Order**

Council President Cynthia Newbille 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.

### **Docket Review**

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

Consent Agenda:

1. Ord. 2022-191 – to be continued to Monday, January 9, 2023
2. Ord. 2022-205 – to be continued to Monday, December 12, 2022

3. Ord. 2022-214 – retained on the Consent Agenda
4. Ord. 2022-219 – retained on the Consent Agenda
5. Ord. 2022-232 – to be amended and continued to Monday, December 12, 2022
6. Ord. 2022-262 – to be continued to Monday, February 13, 2023
7. Ord. 2022-266 – retained on the Consent Agenda
8. Ord. 2022-268 – to be continued to Monday, December 12, 2022
9. Ord. 2022-275 – retained on the Consent Agenda
10. Ord. 2022-277 – retained on the Consent Agenda
11. Ord. 2022-279 – retained on the Consent Agenda
12. Ord. 2022-280 – retained on the Consent Agenda
13. Ord. 2022-281 – retained on the Consent Agenda
14. Ord. 2022-282 – retained on the Consent Agenda
15. Ord. 2022-283 – retained on the Consent Agenda
16. Ord. 2022-284 – retained on the Consent Agenda
17. Ord. 2022-285 – retained on the Consent Agenda
18. Ord. 2022-286 – retained on the Consent Agenda
19. Ord. 2022-287 – retained on the Consent Agenda

*Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert arrived at 4:10 p.m. and was seated.*

20. Ord. 2022-288 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Chief Administrative Officer Lincoln Saunders introduced Ord. 2022-284.

Councilor Kristen Nye expressed support for Ord. 2022-284, however, she stated the American Rescue Plan Acts (ARPA) dollars should fund short-term needs and suggested the proposed legislation be continued to allow an opportunity for further dialog.

*Councilor Stephanie Lynch arrived at 4:14 p.m. and was seated.*

Jason May, Budget and Strategic Planning director, was also available to answer questions pertaining to Ord. 2022-284 and stated the continuance would delay the expending of project funding referenced in the proposed legislation.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch voiced her concern regarding the allocation of ARPA funding and also requested Ord. 2022-284 be continued to allow for additional discussion.

Mr. Saunders informed Council of the scheduled quarterly update regarding ARPA funding during the November Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee meeting, and suggested Ord. 2022-284 be continued and considered during a potential special meeting.

Councilor Lynch expressed her willingness to move forward with consideration of Ord. 2022-284, since a special meeting is not currently scheduled and the delay would impact the timeline for implementation of recovery procurement efforts.

*Vice President Ellen Robertson arrived at 4:21 p.m. and was seated.*

After further discussion, it was the consensus of Council that Ord. 2022-284 remain on that evening's Formal Session of Council agenda for consideration.

- 21. Ord. 2022-289 – retained on the Consent Agenda
- 22. Ord. 2022-290 – retained on the Consent Agenda
- 23. Ord. 2022-292 – retained on the Consent Agenda
- 24. Ord. 2022-293 – retained on the Consent Agenda
- 25. Ord. 2022-294 – retained on the Consent Agenda
- 26. Ord. 2022-295 – to be amended and continued to Monday, December 12, 2022
- 27. Ord. 2022-296 – retained on the Consent Agenda
- 28. Ord. 2022-297 – retained on the Consent Agenda
- 29. Ord. 2022-298 – retained on the Consent Agenda
- 30. Ord. 2022-302 – retained on the Consent Agenda
- 31. Res. 2022-R068 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Robert "Bob" Steidel, deputy chief administrative officer – Operations, informed Council that the committee referral waiver request for Ord. 2022-302 was due to the limited timeframe by

which the city could participate in the Virginia Low Income Household Water Assistance program.

Councilor Kristen Nye asked that Council be notified in advance of committee referral waiver requests for time-sensitive legislation.

32. Res. 2022-R070 – moved to Regular Agenda

Regular Agenda:

33. Ord. 2022-270 – retained on the Regular Agenda

34. Ord. 2022-271 – retained on the Regular Agenda

35. Ord. 2022-278 – retained on the Regular Agenda

Reginald Gordon, deputy chief administrative officer – Human Services, introduced and answered questions regarding Ord. 2022-280.

Councilor Kristen Nye suggested the real estate tax rate ordinances be called out of agenda order due to the potential amount of public comment regarding Ords. 2022-271 and 2022-278 expected during this evening Formal Session of Council.

President Cynthia Newbille explained that the public hearing for Ords. 2022-270, 2022-271 and 2022-278 would occur simultaneously during the Formal Session of Council.

*Councilor Andreas Addison arrived at 4:36 p.m. and was seated.*

Councilwoman Reva Trammell objected to the simultaneous public hearing, based on past consideration of real estate tax legislation, and requested a separate public hearing for each item and called in ascending order of the proposed rate amount.

City Clerk Candice Reid and City Attorney Haskell Brown clarified Council's Rules of Procedure regarding the consideration of competing legislative agenda items.

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

## **Other Discussion Item(s)**

### **Consideration of Richmond Retirement Board Appointment Applications**

Pamela Nichols, council management analyst, reviewed Richmond Retirement System (RRS) board applications for consideration by Council. A copy of the material provided has been filed.

[CD.2022.384](#) Board Vacancy Report Packet

Leo Griffin, Richmond Retirement System executive director, addressed Council and expressed his support for the appointment to the RRS Board of Faith Flippo, the first female uniformed officer in the history of the board, if appointed.

After comments of support, Councilor Katherine Jordan moved to forward the Richmond Retirement System board application of Faith A. Flippo to that evening's Formal Session of Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

### **Permitting Update**

Kevin Vonck, Leo Mantey and David Alley, Planning and Development Review director, deputy director and commissioner of buildings, provided an update regarding the city's permitting process, which included permit intake, plan review and inspection statistics along with personnel, technology, and policy improvement performance objectives. A copy of the presentation provided has been filed.

[CD.2022.377](#) Permitting Update Presentation

Councilor Andreas Addison requested another update regarding the permitting progression during the first quarter of 2023.

Councilor Michael Jones informed city administration of an incident pertaining to the public disclosure of individuals reporting city code violations and demanded a review of the matter.

Chief Administrative Officer Lincoln Saunders emphasized his commitment to investigate the matter.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell requested a future closed session to discuss councilors' safety and/or security concerns.

*Councilwoman Reva Trammell departed the meeting at 5:41 p.m.*

### **Review of the City of Richmond 2023 General Assembly Legislative Agenda**

Kathy Burcher, Advantus Strategies government relations senior director, presented Council with a draft of the city's General Assembly 2023 legislative priorities and policy statements, which reflected the inclusion of an early childhood care and education policy statement from city administration, as well as policy statements regarding equitable support services for children in foster care, and motion picture opportunity and tax credit fund patroned by Councilors Lynch and Lambert, respectively. A copy of the information provided has been filed.

[CD.2022.382](#) CoR VA General Assembly Legislative Priorities Handout

*Councilor Stephanie Lynch departed the meeting at 5:43 p.m.*

Councilor Michael Jones requested an analysis of the payment in lieu of taxes program.

It was the consensus of Council to approve the presented draft of the city's legislative priorities for the 2023 General Assembly session.

### **Follow-up to Retreat Items**

Interim Council Chief of Staff Joyce Davis reported that as a follow-up to the Council retreat topic of time management and efficient meetings, an amendment to Council's Rules of Procedure will be introduced encouraging the setting of meeting agendas seven (7) days prior to the meeting, with exception of critical matters. Ms. Davis emphasized Council's current rule, Section IV(B)(4), regarding the failure to submit presentation material to the city clerk at least three (3) working days prior to a meeting, which will cause the rescheduling of the presentation to the next appropriate meeting.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.