



City of Richmond

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

Minutes

Governmental Operations Standing Committee

Wednesday, January 26, 2022

2:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor – Virtual Meeting

Committee Members and Staff in Attendance

The Honorable Kristen Nye - Chair
The Honorable Katherine Jordan – Vice Chair
The Honorable Michael Jones – Member
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert - Alternate Member

Debra Bowles, Assistant City Clerk
Haskell Brown, Interim City Attorney
Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff
Bill Echelberger, Council Budget Analyst
Jamie Isley, Boards and Commissions Administrator
Candice Reid, City Clerk
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Kristin Nye called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. and presided.

Electronic Meeting Announcement

Assistant City Clerk Debra Bowles, in accordance with Ordinance No. 2020-093, adopted April 9, 2020, as most recently amended by Ordinance No. 2020-232, adopted December 14, 2020, announced the meeting would be held through electronic communication means. Assistant City Clerk Bowles stated notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information email issued on January 20, 2022, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice. She also stated members of the public were encouraged to provide comments in writing prior to the meeting and all comments received prior to 10:00 a.m., on Wednesday, January 26, 2022, were provided to committee members. Ms. Bowles indicated that members of the public who signed up to speak and provide comment would be called to speak at the appropriate time.

Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Upon the Chair's request, Assistant City Clerk Debra Bowles provided the citizen speaker guidelines.

Public Comment

Wynnfield Ryan, Historic West Grace Street Association representative, addressed the committee virtually regarding noise and reckless driving issues within the West Grace Street area.

Citizens were provided an opportunity to offer comments in writing prior to the Governmental

Operations Standing Committee meeting. All written citizen comments received by the Office of the City Clerk were provided to members of the committee prior to the meeting, and are included as an attachment to the January 26, 2022 Governmental Operations Standing Committee meeting minutes, which can be accessed at <https://richmondva.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5446025&GUID=B19DED78-4C45-4E1C-A953-F81D9BDD12C9&Options=&Search=>.

Approval of Minutes

There were no amendments or corrections to the meeting minutes of Wednesday, September 22, 2021, and the meeting minutes of Wednesday, December 15, 2021, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

Presentation(s)

Review of the Fleet Unity Plan

Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (DCAO) for Operations, Robert Steidel stated that the presentation would be provided by Management Analyst, Senior, for Operations, Adam Hohl.

Management Analyst, Senior, Adam Hohl, reviewed the presentation with committee members and stated that the fleet unity plan is in the implementation stage. Mr. Hohl also stated that a goal of the unity plan is to achieve the correct number and type of vehicle being assigned to appropriate functional areas while continuing to enhance delivery in critical areas of the city. Mr. Hohl further stated that the implementation of an electric vehicle fleet will be in alignment with other city goals and initiatives, such as RVA Green 2050 and the installation of charging stations. Analyst Hohl stated that strategic financing plans will be implemented as the plan progresses.

DCAO Steidel spoke on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), which emphasizes the use of all electric vehicle fleets. Mr. Steidel stated that the IIJA will offer federal funding opportunities to implement the electric fleet program. Mr. Steidel also explained that the radio shop receives 10 cents of every dollar spent on a vehicle for outfitting vehicles with municipal technology. DCAO Steidel further stated that the city will be applying for \$250,000 through the IIJA. Mr. Steidel extended an invitation to members of the committee and Council to visit the fleet maintenance facility and the radio shop.

A copy of the presentation has been filed.

Alternate Member Ann-Frances Lambert joined the meeting at 2:26 p.m.

Paper(s) for Consideration

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2021-347

To establish the 2022 City Charter Review Commission to conduct a comprehensive review of the City Charter with the objective of making recommendations for appropriate revisions thereto.

Patrons: President Newbille, Vice President Robertson and Ms. Lambert

Interim Council Chief of Staff (CCOS) Joyce Davis spoke on ORD. 2021-347 and reviewed the timeline regarding the creation and organization of the commission, stating that the earliest the proposed commission would begin is May or June, 2022. Ms. Davis clarified specific dates for Council reports and submission of charter amendments to the General Assembly of Virginia for approval. Interim CCOS Davis also stated that the review of the City Charter would be done in two phases with phase one being a review of previous recommendations by the Governmental Operations Standing Committee in 2021.

Member Michael Jones expressed his concern regarding the proposed commission's review of the recommendations and work that had previously been done by the standing committee. Mr. Jones also questioned if Council members would be allowed to provide input or recommendations to the proposed commission for its consideration.

Vice Chair Katherine Jordan stated that the standing committee had spent much time working and reviewing non-controversial items to be forwarded to the General Assembly. Ms. Jordan also stated that larger items, such as the form of government, could warrant more conversation within the committee or an additional entity. Vice Chair Jordan stated further that the standing committee did not take the final step to determine the need for an outside commission prior to the proposed ordinance being introduced.

Member Michael Jones moved to continue ORD. 2021-347 to the February 23, 2022, Governmental Operations Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Member Jones requested a copy of the recommendations provided by the 2008 City Charter Review Commission.

Vice Chair Jordan requested that Interim CCOS Davis make contact with Council's lobbyist for an update on Council's requests.

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2022-R005

To amend Res. No. 2021-R084, adopted Dec. 21, 2021, which adopts redistricting criteria and a redistricting schedule for the 2021 decennial redistricting of Council and School Board election districts, to revise dates on the redistricting schedule.

Patron: City Council

Chair Kristen Nye introduced RES. 2022-R005 stating that the proposed resolution is an update of the redistricting schedule.

Vice Chair Katherine Jordan moved to forward RES. 2022-R005 to the February 14, 2022, Council meeting with recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2022-R006

To express the Council's support for procuring the translation into Spanish of all Council meetings and any related agendas, documents, and materials, and for such Spanish translations to be simulcast on internet and television transmissions of Council meetings.

Member Michael Jones introduced RES. 2022-R006 stating that City Council needs to be proactive in allowing all citizens the ability to participate in local government without having to face communication barriers. Mr. Jones stated that City Council has expressed interest to close the communication barrier by providing meetings and documents in Spanish.

Vice Chair Katherine Jordan requested to be added as a patron to RES. 2022-R006. Ms. Jordan stated that Richmond is moving in a more inclusive direction, especially Richmond Public Schools (RPS), with the offering of teaching materials in English and Spanish. Ms. Jordan also stated that City Council should be moving in the same direction.

Chair Kristen Nye requested to be added as a patron to RES. 2022-R006. Ms. Nye requested an update on funding resources to meet this request.

Interim Council Chief of Staff (CCOS) Joyce Davis stated that analysts are currently checking resources regarding Spanish translation services. Ms. Davis also stated that her office has talked with RPS, administration and the Office of Multicultural Affairs under Human Services, to determine costs and availability. Ms. Davis also stated that additional information regarding the proposed resolution is forthcoming.

Mr. Jones stated that he would be willing to provide a budget amendment based upon the estimated cost when provided.

Vice Chair Katherine Jordan moved to forward RES. 2022-R006 to the February 14, 2022, Council meeting with recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Alternate Member Ann-Frances Lambert left the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Board Vacancies

Boards and Commissions Administrator Jamie Isley reviewed board vacancies for consideration by the committee.

Member Michael Jones moved to forward the following board appointment to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved:

<u>Board Name</u>	<u>Criteria for Appointment</u>	<u>Applicant Name</u>
Sister Cities Commission (13 members)	Live or work in the City (2 vacancies)	Aisha Bullard 2 nd District Resident

Member Jones expressed his concern of boards and commissions holding interviews prior to Council reviewing applications and questioned the ability of an applicant to serve on more than one board or commission.

Vice Chair Katherine Jordan stated that many of the boards and commissions have needs of a diverse skill set and the interaction of the boards and commissions with applicants can be helpful in filling specific vacancies.

City Clerk Candice Reid stated that Council’s policy allows volunteers to serve on a maximum of two boards or commissions simultaneously.

Chair Kristen Nye stated that the standing committee could have a discussion item placed on a future agenda regarding issues of concern with boards and commissions.

A copy of the report has been filed.

Discussion Item(s)

Update on Existing Programs Regarding Chapter 11, Article II. – Sound Control

Richmond Police Department (RPD) Civilian Deputy Chief Victoria Pearson provided an update regarding noise pollution within the city. Deputy Pearson stated that Richmond drafted the current ordinance approximately ten years ago and that the ordinance is based upon a decibel level reading. Ms. Pearson also stated that revisions to the thresholds of sensitive areas needs to be reviewed as the current statutes can be difficult to enforce as written. Deputy Pearson further stated that a review of buffer or quiet zones within other localities are being considered and that a committee will be reviewing items to present to City Council based upon recent concerns and issues.

Chair Kristen Nye inquired on a timeline for presenting recommendations to City Council and

requested that Deputy Pearson return with an update in May if legislation has not been introduced to City Council.

Deputy Pearson stated that she foresees a realistic timeline to be within three months.

Vice Chair Katherine Jordan stated that Broad Street is a major factor with the noise and traffic issues within the city and asked for clarification regarding amplified sound and on what specific information is being tracked regarding noise within the city.

Deputy Pearson responded by stating that amplified sound is allowed within the current city ordinance. Ms. Pearson also stated that the number of calls and specific locations or areas are being factored into consideration of effectiveness.

Member Jones stated that an increase of staff is needed to police specific areas of the city regarding noise pollution.

Chair Kristen Nye requested that Interim CCOS Joyce Davis note the following items:

- 1. Provide information requested and have discussions with each committee member regarding City Charter changes;*
- 2. Request RPD Civilian Deputy Chief Victoria Pearson attend the May meeting to provide an update on noise pollution; and*
- 3. Place the boards and commissions appointment process on the February agenda.*

Staff Report

Council Budget Analyst Bill Echelberger, provided the committee with the January staff report.

Committee members offered thanks and congratulations to analyst Echelberger upon his retirement.

A copy of the report has been filed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m.