



City of Richmond

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

Meeting Minutes - Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee

Thursday, July 21, 2022

1:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor – City Hall

Committee Members and Others in Attendance

The Honorable Michael Jones – Chair
The Honorable Kristen Nye – Vice Chair
The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Member (Late arrival)
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch – Council Member

Staff Present

Samson Anderson, Council Budget Analyst
Debra Bowles, Assistant City Clerk
Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff
Candic Reid, City Clerk
Tabrica Rentz, Acting Deputy City Attorney

Call to Order

Chair Michael Jones called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m., and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Upon the Chair's request, Assistant City Clerk Debra Bowles 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 the Thursday, June 16, 2022 committee meeting, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2022.259](#) June 16, 2022 Finance and Economic Development Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [20220616 Finance Minutes - DRAFT](#)

Papers for Consideration

The following ordinance was considered:

1. [ORD. 2022-218](#) To amend City Code §§ 26-364, concerning tax relief for elderly persons, and 26-365, concerning tax relief for qualified permanently and totally disabled persons, for the purpose of extending the deadline to file an application for tax relief from March 31 of the taxable year to December 31 of the taxable year.

Patrons: City Council

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2022-218](#)

Council Member Stephanie Lynch introduced ORD. 2022-218 stating that the proposed ordinance is a culmination of two years of work that was prompted by Senate Bill (SB) 648, which passed in the 2022 Session of the Virginia General Assembly. Ms. Lynch stated that SB648 allows localities to extend the eligibility period to apply for tax relief. Ms. Lynch also stated that the tax relief program allows seniors and citizens with disabilities that may not complete the application process within the short period of January to April, the extended time to apply by December 31 of the taxable year. Ms. Lynch further stated that the extended time will allow more citizens to enroll in the tax relief program.

David Rekas, Deputy Director of Finance, introduced the presentation.

Valerie Weatherless, Program and Operations Manager and Commissioner of Revenue, provided a presentation regarding the benefits of tax relief for senior and disabled citizens. Ms. Weatherless stated that the city currently allows for 25 to 100 percent tax relief for citizens that meet specified criteria. Ms. Weatherless also stated that the monthly credit allows relief for solid waste and recycling fees on city utility bills. Ms. Weatherless reviewed the changes to the tax relief program should proposed ORD. 2022-218 be adopted. The changes would allow for application through December 31 of the current year, as opposed to the current date of March 31st, notifications for non-payments would be July 15 as opposed to July 1, and execution of rescinds would be July 31 as opposed to July 15. Ms. Weatherless stated further that outreach to program enrollees that have not submitted the required documentation would occur during the months of April, July and October, as opposed to currently having no outreach. Ms. Weatherless stated that future program components include a three-year cycle before having to reapply, combined financial net worth cannot exceed \$350,000.00, and payments must be paid January 14 and June 14 of each year. Ms. Weatherless concluded the presentation by stating that there is no change in the application criteria.

[CD.2022.272](#) Ord. 2022-218 Presentation

Attachments: [20220721 Finance Overview](#)

Member Ellen Robertson arrived at 1:18 p.m. and was seated.

Chair Michael Jones thanked Ms. Weatherless for providing specific details regarding the updates to the tax relief program and requested to be added as a co-patron to ORD. 2022-218.

Vice Chair Kristen Nye stated that she appreciated the workshops that were provided throughout the city regarding the tax relief program and stated that extending the application deadline will be a benefit to citizens. Ms. Nye also thanked Council Member Stephanie Lynch for bringing the proposed ordinance forward and requested to be added as a co-patron to ORD. 2022-218.

Member Ellen Robertson thanked Ms. Weatherless for providing insight of the program and for the Department of Finance team that met with citizens to help in the application process. Ms. Robertson also requested to be added as a co-patron to ORD. 2022-218.

There were no further comments or discussions and Member Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2022-218 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Presentations

There were no presentations.

Board Vacancies

Assistant City Clerk Debra Bowles reviewed board applications for consideration by the committee.

Member Ellen Robertson moved to forward the following board appointments to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Board of Directors of the Economic Development Authority:

Jeron Crooks

Minority Business Enterprise and Emerging Small Business Advisory Board:

Gracetta Washington, Mayoral Nominee

A copy of the following report has been filed.

[CD.2022.269](#) July 21, 2022 Quarterly Board Vacancy Report - Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee

Attachments: [July 21, 2022 Finance and Econ Development Quarterly Vacancy Report](#)

Discussion Items

There were no discussion items.

Staff Report

Council Budget Analyst Samson Anderson provided a copy of the July staff report.

A copy of the staff report has been filed.

[CD.2022.280](#) July 21, 2022 Finance and Economic Development Staff Report

Attachments: [After Item - July Finance Staff Report](#)

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:34 p.m.