



City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
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City Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 18, 2022

1:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Council Budget Amendment Work Session #1

Councilmembers Present

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President
The Honorable Ellen Robertson, Vice President (early departure)
The Honorable Andreas Addison (early departure)
The Honorable Michael Jones (early departure)
The Honorable Katherine Jordan
The Honorable Kristen Nye (early departure)
The Honorable Reva Trammell (early departure)

Absent

The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch

Staff Present

Samson Anderson, Council Budget Analyst
Myrtle Brown, Council Budget Analyst
Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff
Bill Echelberger, Office of the Council Chief of Staff
Pamela Nichols, Senior Assistant City Clerk
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Debra Shaw, Council Management Analyst
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m., and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan Announcement

Upon the President's request, Senior Assistant City Clerk Pamela Nichols provided information on the appropriate manner in which the Council Chamber is to be evacuated in the event of an emergency.

Discussion Item**Council Budget Amendments - Scenario for Potential Amendment Increase and Decreases**

Joyce Davis, Interim Council of Chief of Staff (CCOS), advised Council that Bill Echelberger, former Council Budget Analyst and Samson Anderson, Council Budget Analyst, will be reviewing the scenario summaries of Council's potential budget amendment increases and decreases to the proposed FY 2023 budget.

Bill Echelberger, Office of the Council Chief of Staff, began an overview of Council's proposed increases and decreases to the FY 2023 General Fund Budget.

Council President Cynthia Newbille explained goals for the budget amendment work session were review of Council's proposed budget increases and decreases, and have city administration or Council staff provide clarification on particular items, with the anticipation that Council would approve or disapprove increases and/or decreases at its next work session.

Councilor Michael Jones expressed his preference for Council not to delay its deliberations of the proposed amendments until Wednesday, which he stated would be the best use of Council's time.

Councilor Michael Jones exited the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell commented that it would be better for Council to discuss proposed increases and decreases during the current meeting. Councilwoman Trammell also requested a comprehensive list of non-profit organizations' budgets and expenditures.

Lincoln Saunders, Chief Administrative Officer, reported that information regarding non-profit organizations was distributed to Council during the week prior to the day's meeting.

Councilor Andreas Addison questioned whether the budget amendment work session format was the best use option for Council, and he expressed his support for Council to begin discussing proposed amendments.

Mr. Echelberger explained the deadlines for Council to adopt the Richmond Public Schools budget and to establish the city's upcoming budget. Mr. Echelberger continued his review of proposed decreases and potential revenues.

Councilor Addison remarked that proposed reductions to the Business, Professional and Occupational License (BPOL) tax rate would offset the surplus in BPOL revenues.

Councilwoman Trammell inquired about the scope for proposed Spanish language translation services from Richmond Police Department and the proposed implementation of an efficiency study.

Councilor Jordan requested information on expanding the affordable housing strategy to include housing vouchers.

Dominique Thaxton, 9th District Council Liaison, was present to provide an explanation for the proposed increases for the differential pay for the Richmond Police Department (RPD) and expanded services for Richmond Public Library (RPL) branches.

Mr. Saunders informed Council that city administration would like to review options for a citywide pay differential for multilingual employees.

Councilor Jordan requested an update from city administration regarding an urban forester position.

Amy Robins, 5th District Council Liaison, was present to provide an explanation for proposed increases for playground equipment, gun violence prevention and the addition of one full time employee for the Office of Aging and Disability Services.

Mr. Echelberger reviewed potential amendment decreases.

Vice President Ellen Robertson requested additional information regarding proposed budget decreases for the Office of Community Wealth Building, and asked city administration to provide an update relative to funding for the city's strategic plan to end homelessness and the Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF).

Samson Anderson, Council Budget Analyst, provided an overview of the FY 2023 proposed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) amendments. Mr. Anderson stated he will distribute additional information regarding Council's proposed decreases to the CIP budget following the meeting.

Sabrina Joy-Hogg, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (DCAO) for Finance and Administration, was present to provide guidance for the proposed CIP amendment to reduce the city's greenhouse gas emissions.

Interim CCOS Joyce Davis discussed the upcoming budget work session schedule and potential dates for additional meetings if needed.

Jason May, Budget and Strategic Planning Director, expressed concern that city administration may not be able to finalize responses to Council's proposed amendments in time for the work session scheduled for April 20th.

Council discussed cancelling the meeting scheduled for April 20th, to allow city administration time to prepare responses.

Councilwoman Trammell suggested that Council extend its scheduled meeting time for April 26th.

Councilor Addison expressed concern that the remaining schedule may not provide Council the ability to finalize amendments to the proposed budget, and expressed the need for Council to develop a strategic plan for its priorities.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell left the meeting at 4:03 p.m.

Mr. Echelberger reminded Council of statutory deadlines regarding its adoption of the budget.

Councilor Kristen Nye exited the meeting at 4:13 p.m.

Mr. Echelberger advised Council that its amendments to the FY 2023 General Fund must be decided by Friday, April 22nd, and amendments to the CIP budget by Monday, April 25th.

Vice President Robertson emphasized that it is not the responsibility of city administration to identify budget cuts to accommodate Council's budget amendments, and she directed Ms. Davis to notify Council of the budget deadlines.

President Newbille expressed the importance for Council staff and city administration to begin developing a budget process for consideration of the FY 2024 budget. President Newbille directed city administration to provide the necessary information to Council in time for its next budget amendment work session.

Vice President Ellen Robertson exited the meeting at 4:22 p.m.

Councilor Andreas Addison exited the meeting at 4:26 p.m.

A copy of the material provided has been filed and can be accessed below.

[CD.2022.175](#) FY 23 - Budget Amendments

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

CITY CLERK