



City of Richmond

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

Minutes

Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee

Tuesday, December 21, 2021

3:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Committee Members and Others in Attendance

The Honorable Andreas Addison – Chair
The Honorable Michael Jones – Committee Member
Bonnie Ashley, Deputy City Attorney
Samson Anderson, Council Budget Analyst
Debra Bowles, Assistant City Clerk
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Steve Taylor, Council Policy Analyst
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Absent

The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Vice Chair

Call to Order

Chair Andreas Addison called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m., and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

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 Tuesday, November 16, 2021, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

Presentation

There were no presentations.

Staff Report

Steve Taylor, council policy analyst, and Samson Anderson, council budget analyst, provided the committee with the December staff report.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Paper(s) for Consideration

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2021-333

To install (i) at least four speed tables along Whitehead Road from its intersection with Elkhardt Road to its intersection with Warwick Road; (ii) at least three speed tables along Winter Road from its intersection with McDowell Road to its intersection with Sanborn Drive and along Kaki Drive from its intersection with Sanborn Drive to its intersection with Warwick Road; (iii) at least two speed tables along Clarkson Road from its intersection with Catalina Drive to its intersection with Clarkson Court; (iv) at least three speed tables along Hey Road between its intersection with Hull Street and its intersection with Pocosham Drive; (v) at least three speed tables along Bryce Lane from its intersection with Broad Rock Boulevard to its intersection with Powell Road; and (vi) at least two speed tables along Covington Road from its intersection with Media Road to its intersection with Rockland Road.

Patron: Mr. Jones

Member Michael Jones introduced ORD. 2021-333 and explained the intent of the proposed legislation is to address speeding and traffic hazards in areas of the 9th Voter District. Member Jones stated he was aware of costs associated with the installation of the speed tables; however, the cost of public safety for area residents far exceeded the fiscal impacts to the city.

Bobby Vincent, Department of Public Works director, reported that city administration supports the installation of speed tables on many of the roads included in ORD. 2021-333, but does not support the request for Whitehead Road and Hey Road. Mr. Vincent explained the speed limits for Whitehead Road and Hey Road were 35 miles per hour (mph) and that speed tables could create additional traffic hazards.

Member Jones stated he was willing to work with city administration on viable options but still wanted to pursue a speed reduction to 25 mph.

Mr. Vincent reported that planned capital improvement projects (CIP) for Hey Road and Whitehead Road, scheduled for the spring of 2022, will help change the visual characteristics of the roads, which will be instrumental in reducing speeding.

Travis Bridewell, Department of Public Works operations manager, explained that the posted speed limit for Hey Road and Whitehead Road complied with standards set forth in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

Member Jones stated that speed control should be regulated by city administration and not City Council; however, the requests resulted from delays in projects for Hey Road and Whitehead Road. Member Jones also stated he was willing to continue consideration of ORD. 2021-333 to allow for the completion of transportation CIPs planned for areas of concern.

Chair Andreas Addison stated he would like the city to consider alternatives to addressing speeding in the city, such as the installation of speed monitoring devices.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Michael Jones moved to continue ORD. 2021-333 to the June 21, 2022, Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

Mr. Bridewell agreed to provide the committee with data regarding vehicle speeds on Whitehead Road and Hey Road, and to address issues with the school flashing lights on Whitehead Road.

The following ordinances were considered:

ORD. 2021-354

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Standard Project Administration Agreement between the City of Richmond and the Virginia Department of Transportation to provide funding for the milling, resurfacing, and construction of Americans with Disabilities Act upgrades for Arthur Ashe Boulevard from its intersection with Grant Street to its intersection with Idlewood Avenue. (5th District).

Patron: Mayor Stoney

ORD. 2021-355

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Standard Project Administration Agreement between the City of Richmond and the Virginia Department of Transportation to provide funding for the milling, resurfacing, and construction of Americans with Disabilities Act upgrades for Richmond Highway from its intersection with Hopkins Road to its intersection with Atwell Drive. (8th District)

Patrons: Mayor Stoney

Kenny Horak, Department of Public Works senior capital project manager, introduced ORD. 2021-354 and ORD. 2021-355.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Michael Jones moved to forward ORD. 2021-354 and ORD. 2021-355 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2021-R065

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause the Department of Public Works to develop a process for City residents to request traffic studies of the residential areas within their neighborhoods for the purpose of assessing the appropriateness of instituting a 15 mile per hour speed limit in such areas to increase traffic safety.

Patron: Ms. Lynch, Ms. Jordan, Ms. Lambert and Ms. Larson

Travis Bridewell, Department of Public Works operations manager, reported that city administration does not support the proposed legislation because residents have the ability to request traffic studies through the city's online citizen customer service and response system, RVA 311, and a new process would be a duplication of that process. Mr. Bridewell further reported that city administration anticipates completion of an updated neighborhood traffic plan in January 2022.

Chair Andreas Addison requested a presentation on the new neighborhood traffic plan at the January 18, 2022 committee meeting.

Amy Robins, 5th District liaison, stated that the chief patron was considering amendments to RES. 2021-R065, and therefore asked the committee to continue the proposed legislation to its January 18, 2022 meeting.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Michael Jones moved to continue RES. 2021-R065 to the January 18, 2022, Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2021-356

To amend City Code §§ 28-72, concerning the duty of building owners to make City water and sewer service connections and the duty of owner or tenant to apply for water service, 28-388, concerning duties of owners and tenants for water service connections, and 28-710, concerning duties of owners and tenants for wastewater service connections, for the purpose of clarifying the methods for calculating and estimating non-City water volume for billing purposes.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

Robert Steidel, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer of Operations, asked the committee to continue ORD. 2021-356 to its January 18, 2022 to allow city administration time to provide an overview of the proposed legislation.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Chair Andreas Addison moved to continue ORD. 2021-356 to the January 18, 2022, Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2021-R087

To designate the property known as 2209 Ruffin Road as a revitalization area pursuant to Va. Code § 36-55.30:2. (8th District)

Patron: Mayor Stoney (By Request)

Sherrill Hampton, Housing and Community Development director, introduced RES. 2021-R087 and acknowledged that Freddie Fletcher, project developer with the Lawson Company, was participating in the meeting virtually.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Michael Jones moved to forward RES. 2021-R087 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2021-R088

To designate the property known as 700 West 44th Street as a revitalization area pursuant to Va. Code § 36-55.30:2. (5th District)

Patron: Mayor Stoney (By Request)

Sherrill Hampton, Housing and Community Development director, introduced RES. 2021-R088.

Amy Robins, 5th District liaison, asked the committee to consider a continuance of RES. 2021-R088 to allow for additional discussions.

Ms. Hampton noted that a delay in Council's consideration of the proposed request could impact the submission of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) application. Ms. Hampton reported that the Plan of Development (POD) associated with the proposed project, was amended to address concerns expressed by area residents, and was being reviewed by the Department of Planning and Development Review.

Ms. Robins stated that Councilor Stephanie Lynch would like to review amendments to the POD prior to Council's consideration of RES. 2021-R088.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Michael Jones moved to forward RES. 2021-R088 to Council with no recommendation, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2021-R089

To declare surplus, and to authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to seek proposals for, the City-owned property located at 3101 North Arthur Ashe Boulevard for the purpose of facilitating development of the area in the vicinity of such property. (2nd District)

Patron: Mayor Stoney

Sharon Ebert, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer of Planning, Community and Economic Development, introduced RES. 2021-R089.

Chair Andreas Addison asked city administration to explore future uses for the athletic field located at Thomas Jefferson High School as part of any new development.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Michael Jones moved to forward RES. 2021-R089 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

Discussion Items

Land Use, Housing and Transportation Strategic Plan and Priorities for FY 2023

Chair Andreas Addison reviewed the draft strategic goals to be considered by the Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee. Chair Addison stated that the intersection of land use, housing and transportation is the future of the city, and that transportation goals should be addressed with a holistic citywide approach. Chair Addison expressed the importance of the committee's support of timelines for the implementation of the Richmond 300 Master Plan.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Department of Mobility and Multi-Modal Transportation

Chair Andreas Addison provided an outline for the proposed creation of a city Department of Mobility and Multimodal Transportation, and stated he would like the city to consider becoming a member of the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO). Chair Addison further stated that the transportation needs of the city is a major priority.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Bobby Vincent, Department of Public Works director, addressed the committee regarding the proposal for a new city department to address transportation needs. Mr. Vincent stated the Department of Public Works has made great improvements to address many transportation concerns similar to those expressed during the meeting. Mr. Vincent also stated the department is committed to improving transportation needs within the city's authority.

Board Vacancies

There were no board vacancies for review.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.