



City of Richmond

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

Minutes

Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee

Thursday, November 18, 2021

1:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor – City Hall

Committee Members and Others in Attendance

The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Committee Member
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch – Alternate Member
The Honorable Cynthia Newbille – Council President

Absent

The Honorable Michael Jones – Chair
The Honorable Kristen Larson – Vice Chair

Staff Present

Samson Anderson, Council Budget Analyst
Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Tabrica Rentz, Acting Deputy City Attorney
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Member Ellen Robertson called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m., and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Upon Member Ellen Robertson's request, Deputy City Clerk RJ Warren 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, October 21, 2021 committee meeting, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

Presentation

Richmond Redevelopment & Housing Authority Update

Member Ellen Robertson stated that the scheduled presentation from the Richmond Redevelopment & Housing Authority would be rescheduled.

Agenda Amendments

President Cynthia Newbille moved to amend the agenda as follows:

ORD. 2021-189

To provide for the crediting of receipts of business, professional, and occupational taxes in excess of \$32,713,958.00 during Fiscal Year 2021-2022 to a special reserve assigned to support the reduction of business, professional, and occupational taxes applicable to certain businesses.

Patron: Mr. Addison

To be continued to the December 16, 2021 Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee meeting

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Papers for Consideration

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2021-318

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute an Assignment, Assumption and Amendment of Main Street Station License Agreement between the Richmond Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the City of Richmond, Virginia, and Variant Events, LLC for the purpose of assigning to the City of Richmond the Richmond Metropolitan Transportation Authority's license agreement with Variant Events, LLC for Variant Events, LLC's continued use of Main Street Station at 1500 East Main Street in the city of Richmond.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

Jeff Gray, Senior Policy Advisor to the Chief Administrative Officer, provided an introduction and background information regarding ORD. 2021-318.

Lynne Lancaster, Department of Public Works Parking and Shared Mobility Deputy Director, stated that the action referenced in the proposed ordinance was to correct an oversight regarding the continuation of the license agreement.

Samson Anderson, Council Budget Analyst, provided the committee with additional information regarding Variant Events, LLC and the use of the Main Street Station.

There were no further comments or discussions and President Cynthia Newbille moved to forward ORD. 2021-318 to Council with a recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2021-319

To amend and reordain City Code § 27-282, concerning the special parking districts program and permitted expenditures from the fund, to enable funds to be used equitably by neighborhood associations within their boundaries for the maintenance of clean and safe neighborhood environments.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

Alternate Member Stephanie Lynch requested to be added as a co-patron of ORD. 2021-319.

Lynne Lancaster, Department of Public Works Parking and Shared Mobility Deputy Director, provided an introduction and background information regarding ORD. 2021-319. Ms. Lancaster stated that the ordinance would help address acts of graffiti in the city.

Alternate Member Stephanie Lynch stated her appreciation for city administration's efforts regarding ORD. 2021-319.

President Cynthia Newbille requested to be added as a co-patron of ORD. 2021-319.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Alternate Member Stephanie Lynch moved to forward ORD. 2021-319 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2021-R078

To approve of the City's participation in the proposed settlement of opioid-related claims against McKesson, Cardinal Health, AmerisourceBergen, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, and their related corporate entities, and to direct the City Attorney to execute the documents necessary to effectuate the City's participation in the settlements, including the required release of claims against the settling entities.

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

President Cynthia Newbille provided an introduction regarding RES. 2021-R078.

There were no further comments or discussions and **President Cynthia Newbille moved to forward RES. 2021-R078 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2021-R079

To request that the Council Chief of Staff cause the preparation of a study to specifically identify the amendments to the Constitution of Virginia and the General Assembly of Virginia actions necessary to authorize the City to implement a homestead tax exemption and a real property tax cap that provides a 25 percent reduction in the real estate taxes imposed upon real property owners in the city of Richmond meeting certain income and residency requirements.

Patron: Vice President Robertson

Vice President Ellen Robertson provided an introduction and background information regarding RES. 2021-R079.

City Assessor Richie McKeithen stated that he believed the city needed to establish a program to provide assistance to longtime city residents impacted by rising real estate assessments. Mr. McKeithen also stated his support for the proposed resolution.

Alternate Member Stephanie Lynch inquired if the Office of the Council Chief of Staff had the necessary staff and resources to initiate the study requested in RES. 2021-R079.

Mr. McKeithen stated that he believed the Council Chief of Staff would establish a steering committee to carry out the study requested in RES. 2021-R079. Mr. McKeithen also stated that he would be included as a member of the steering committee.

Alternate Member Stephanie Lynch and President Cynthia Newbille requested to be added as co-patrons of RES. 2021-R079.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Alternate Member Stephanie Lynch moved to forward RES. 2021-R079 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2021-R080

To request that the Council Chief of Staff cause the preparation of a study and recommendations for real property tax relief for persons who are not eligible for such relief under current programs authorized under state law for the elderly taxpayers.

Patron: Mr. Jones

Dominique Thaxton, 9th District liaison, provided an introduction and background information regarding RES. 2021-R080.

Alternate Member Stephanie Lynch inquired about the correlation of the two studies requested in RES. 2021-R079 and RES. 2021-R080.

City Assessor Richie McKeithen stated that the study requested in RES. 2021-R080 had similar goals of the study requested in RES. 2021-R079.

Interim Council Chief of Staff Joyce Davis stated that a steering committee would be established to identify resources necessary to initiate the requests referenced in RES. 2021-R079 and RES. 2021-R080.

President Cynthia Newbille stated that RES. 2021-R079 provided one tool necessary to identify real property tax relief for longtime residents, and that she believed RES. 2021-R080 provided the option to identify several tools necessary to provide real property tax relief. President Newbille also stated that any overlapping of the requests could be beneficial.

Member Ellen Robertson stated that she believed RES. 2021-R080 specifically addressed the city's longtime elderly population, and that RES. 2021-R079 was more inclusive. Member Robertson also stated that she would work with Chair Michael Jones to ensure that the Office of the Council Chief of Staff only initiates one study that includes the requested actions in both RES. 2021-R079 and RES. 2021-R080.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Alternate Member Stephanie Lynch moved to forward RES. 2021-R080 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2021-R081

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer provide the Council with a quarterly report on the expenditure of all funds received by the City, whether from the United States government, the Commonwealth of Virginia, or otherwise, provided pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Patron: Mr. Jones

Dominique Thaxton, 9th District liaison, provided an introduction and background information regarding RES. 2021-R081.

Jason May, Budget and Strategic Planning Director, informed the committee that the city was required to provide the United States Department of the Treasury with quarterly reports regarding the expenditure of funds received from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Mr. May stated that the requested report would be included with the upcoming quarterly submission of city budget related reports scheduled to be provided to Council in January 2022.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Alternate Member Stephanie Lynch moved to forward RES. 2021-R081 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

Board Vacancies

There were no board vacancies.

Discussion Item(s)

There were no discussion items.

Staff Report

Samson Anderson, Council Budget Analyst, provided the committee with the November staff report.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Member Ellen Robertson requested that Council staff meet with Chair Michael Jones to review the recommendations listed in the Standing Committee Crossover Report.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:46 p.m.