



City of Richmond

Informal Meeting Minutes

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

Monday, January 10, 2022

3:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Councilmembers Present

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President
The Honorable Ellen Robertson, Vice President
The Honorable Andreas Addison (late arrival)
The Honorable Michael Jones (late arrival)
The Honorable Katherine Jordan (electronic participation)
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert
The Honorable Kristen Larson
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch (late arrival)
The Honorable Reva Trammell

Staff Present

Lisa Braxton, Council Management Analyst
Haskell Brown, Interim City Attorney
Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Tabrica Rentz, Acting Deputy City Attorney
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 3:12 p.m. and presided.

Upon the President's request, Council Management Analyst Lisa Braxton provided information on the appropriate manner in which the Council Chamber is to be evacuated in the event of an emergency.

Vice President Ellen Robertson announced that, pursuant to Rule III (D)(4)(b) of Council's Rules of Procedure, Councilor Katherine Jordan requested to participate in the meeting via Microsoft Teams while in her vehicle traveling from her home to her minor child's school due to the need to pick up her minor child.

Councilor Kristen Larson moved to allow Councilor Jordan to participate in the meeting by electronic communication means. The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 5, Lambert, Larson, Trammell, Robertson and Newbille. Noes None. Addison, Lynch and Jones had not yet arrived.

Councilor Jordan joined the meeting via Microsoft Teams.

Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority (RRHA) Lease Enforcement Update

Stacey Daniels-Fayson, RRHA interim chief executive officer, provided Council with an update regarding RRHA resuming lease enforcement efforts with the lifting of the federal eviction moratorium. Ms. Daniels-Fayson emphasized on RRHA's "Come Current" campaign, which is an undertaking staff and partners to assist public housing families with rental assistance and services available to them for becoming current on their rent. A copy of the presentation and brochure provided has been filed.

Councilor Michael Jones arrived at 3:22 p.m. and was seated.

Councilor Michael Jones requested the average rental amount outstanding by RRHA tenants and an analysis of residents currently facing eviction compared to 2019.

Ms. Daniels-Fayson explained how the rent relief and financial assistance program works and RRHA's efforts to auto-enroll qualifying tenants.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch arrived at 3:37 p.m. and was seated.

Councilor Kristen Larson requested the lease enforcement timeline, and city administration's response to impending evictions.

Councilor Katherine Jordan requested a cost analysis for providing assistance and city services to displaced residents.

Sharon Ebert, deputy chief administrative officer – Economic Development, addressed Council regarding the potential evictions of RRHA residents and stressed the city's commitment to assist the Authority to systematically support residents to retain their housing.

Vice President Ellen Robertson inquired regarding funding availability for the rent relief program.

Tourism Update

Jack Berry and Katherine O'Donnell, Richmond Region Tourism (RRT) president and chief executive officer, and executive vice president, provided a brief review of Richmond Region Tourism, which included analyses of current and future tourism compared to pre-pandemic travel, tourism master plan priorities and an introduction of the tourism foundation. A copy of the presentation provided has been filed.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch highlighted RRT tourism efforts surrounding the James River Park system.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell inquired regarding tourism efforts south of the James River and she encouraged endeavors to support inclusion of all citizens.

COVID-19 Update

Dr. Danny Avula and Dr. Melissa Viray, Richmond and Henrico Health Districts, provided Council with a COVID-19 update and information concerning local testing events. Dr. Avula and Dr. Viray advised on holding in-person meetings and recommended Council utilize virtual means given the current surge in COVID cases and hospitalizations due to the omicron variant. A copy of the presentation provided has been filed.

Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert inquired regarding continued masking in spite of vaccination status.

Councilor Katherine Jordan arrived at 4:27 p.m. and was seated.

Dr. Viray suggested Council visit RHHD website for additional information regarding vaccination walk-up and by appointment events for minors.

Councilor Andreas Addison arrived at 4:32 p.m. and was seated.

Councilor Michael Jones moved that the City Council hold all meetings pursuant to the current ongoing declaration of a local emergency concerning the COVID-19 pandemic confirmed by Res. No. 2020-R025 adopted March 16, 2020, and as permitted by section 2.2-3708.2(A)(3) of the

Virginia Freedom of Information Act, by electronic communication means starting January 13, 2022 through the month of February 2022.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Reimagining Council Agencies to Improve City Government

Dr. Jim Burke, Virginia Commonwealth University Performance Management Group, introduced his team and provided Council with an update regarding next steps to reimagining Council agencies to improve city government and conducting the executive job search for the council chief of staff position. A copy of the presentation provided has been filed.

Docket Review

Council Management Analyst Lisa Braxton reviewed the following agenda items as indicated:

Consent Agenda:

1. Ord. 2021-270 – retained on the Consent Agenda
2. Ord. 2021-328 – to be amended and continued to Monday, January 24, 2022
3. Ord. 2021-333 – to be continued to Monday, June 27, 2022
4. Ord. 2021-336 – retained on the Consent Agenda
5. Ord. 2021-337 – retained on the Consent Agenda
6. Ord. 2021-338 – retained on the Consent Agenda
7. Ord. 2021-339 – retained on the Consent Agenda
8. Ord. 2021-340 – retained on the Consent Agenda
9. Ord. 2021-341 – retained on the Consent Agenda
10. Ord. 2021-342 – retained on the Consent Agenda
11. Ord. 2021-343 – retained on the Consent Agenda
12. Ord. 2021-344 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Chris Frelke, Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities director, informed Council of the community gardening compost program sites related to Ord. 2021-341.

13. Ord. 2021-348 – retained on the Consent Agenda
14. Ord. 2021-349 – retained on the Consent Agenda
15. Ord. 2021-350 – retained on the Consent Agenda
16. Ord. 2021-352 – retained on the Consent Agenda
17. Ord. 2021-353 – retained on the Consent Agenda
18. Ord. 2021-354 – retained on the Consent Agenda

19. Ord. 2021-355 – retained on the Consent Agenda
20. Ord. 2021-356 – to be continued to Monday, January 24, 2022
21. Ord. 2021-357 – to be continued to Monday, January 24, 2022
22. Ord. 2021-358 – to be continued to Monday, January 24, 2022
23. Ord. 2021-359 – to be continued to Monday, January 24, 2022
24. Ord. 2021-360 – to be continued to Monday, January 24, 2022
25. Ord. 2021-361 – to be continued to Monday, January 24, 2022
26. Ord. 2021-362 – to be continued to Monday, January 24, 2022
27. Ord. 2021-363 – to be continued to Monday, January 24, 2022
28. Ord. 2021-364 – to be continued to Monday, January 24, 2022
29. Ord. 2021-365 – to be continued to Monday, January 24, 2022
30. Ord. 2021-366 – to be continued to Monday, January 24, 2022
31. Ord. 2021-367 – to be continued to Monday, January 24, 2022
32. Ord. 2021-368 – to be continued to Monday, January 24, 2022
33. Res. 2021-R065 – to be continued to Monday, January 24, 2022
34. Res. 2021-R082 – to be continued to Monday, January 24, 2022

After Councilor Andreas Addison provided an introduction and requested alternate review of Res. 2021-R082, it was the consensus of Council to continue and forward the proposed legislation to the January 20, 2022 Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee for recommendation.

35. Res. 2021-R085 – retained on the Consent Agenda
36. Res. 2021-R086 – to be continued to Monday, January 24, 2022

After Councilor Andreas Addison provided an introduction and requested alternate review of Res. 2021-R086, it was the consensus of Council to continue and forward the proposed legislation to the January 18, 2022 Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee for recommendation.

37. Res. 2021-R087 – retained on the Consent Agenda
38. Res. 2021-R089 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Regular Agenda:

39. Ord. 2019-275 – to be continued to Monday, February 14, 2022
40. Ord. 2019-276 – to be continued to Monday, February 14, 2022

Councilor Andreas Addison requested a continuance of Ords. 2019-275 and 2019-276 to allow for the introduction of alternate legislation.

41. Ord. 2021-208 – retained on the Regular Agenda
42. Ord. 2021-308 – to be continued to Monday, January 24, 2022
43. Ord. 2021-315 – retained on the Regular Agenda

Chief Administrative Officer Lincoln Saunders and Bob Steidel, deputy chief administrative officer – Operations, addressed questions regarding Ord. 2021-351, and informed Council that current funding in the fiscal year 2022 general fund budget would be used to expedite the removal of the pedestal at the Lee Circle, if adopted.

Councilor Katherine Jordan questioned the removal of the First Virginia Regiment Monument with the proposed adoption of Ord. 2021-315.

Chris Frelke, Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities director, provided an introduction of Ord. 2021-315 and clarified city administration support of the proposed legislation.

Mr. Steidel informed Council of a drafted agreement sent to descendants of A. P. Hill regarding the process for remains removal from the monument's pedestal and stated that city administration is awaiting a response.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell questioned the use of city funds to provide for the removal of Confederate monuments throughout the city, and she cited the need to prioritize funding for other critical crises.

Chief Administrative Officer Saunders provided an introduction of Ord. 2021-351 and explained the proposed transfer of certain monuments and pedestals to the Black History Museum as a method to ensure the discontinued use to promote the Lost Cause or Confederacy.

44. Ord. 2021-345 – to be continued to Monday, February 14, 2022
45. Ord. 2021-346 – to be continued to Monday, February 14, 2022

Councilor Kristen Larson, on behalf of the Governmental Operations Standing committee, addressed Council regarding Ords. 2021-345 and 2021-346 and indicated the desire of both patrons preferring the review of the proposed legislation by all members of Council.

It was the consensus of Council to continue and forward Ords. 2021-345 and 2021-346 to the February 7, 2022 Organizational Development Standing Committee for recommendation.

46. Ord. 2021-347 – to be continued to Monday, January 24, 2022
47. Ord. 2021-351 – retained on the Regular Agenda
48. Res. 2021-R026 – to be continued to Monday, February 14, 2022
49. Res. 2021-R088 – to be continued to Monday, January 24, 2022

Councilor Michael Jones requested individuals present be allowed an opportunity to provide comments regarding Ords. 2021-345 and 2021-346 later that evening at the Formal Session of Council.

After further discussion, it was the consensus of Council to suspend Council's Rules of Procedure and allow a representative from Richmond Coalition of Police (RCOP), Richmond

Professional Firefighters Association, International Brotherhood of Teamsters and Service Employees International Union (SEIU) an opportunity to address Council regarding Ords. 2021-345 and 2021-346 during the Informal Session of Council, due to the proposed continuance of legislation.

Councilor Kristen Larson requested a continuance of Res. 2021-R088.

The following individuals provided comments regarding Ords. 2021-345 and 2021-346:

- Brian Peyton, president, principal officer and business agent, International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 322
- Keith Andes, president, Richmond Professional Firefighters Association
- David Broder and Ben Himmelfarb, president, SEIU Virginia 512, and city employee
- Bill Pantele, attorney, RCOP

There were no further comments or discussions concerning Consent and Regular Agenda items reviewed.

City of Richmond Redistricting Update and Proposed Schedule

J. Gerald (Gerry) Hebert, Campaign Legal Center (CLC) senior consultant, presented Council with two different options pertaining to the 2021/2022 Richmond redistricting meetings schedule. Mr. Herbert stated he recommends option 2 since it provides ample opportunity for citizen participation. A copy of the information provided has been filed.

Mr. Hebert informed Council of a Virginia Supreme Court ruling that requires legislative districts to be within a 5% margin in order to achieve equal population, which he stated may cause a retooling of 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th Council district lines. Mr. Herbert further stated that he will examine the ruling prior to the redrawing of district lines in order to ensure full compliance with federal and state law.

After discussion to ensure maintaining current minority voting strength, Councilor Michael Jones moved that the Council select option 2 of the 2022 Draft 2021/2022 Richmond Decennial District Redistricting meetings schedule.

The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 6, Jordan, Larson, Lynch, Trammell, Jones and Newbille. Noes None. Addison, Lambert and Robertson were excused

Budget Presentations from City Council Agencies

City Council appointees presented their agency's fiscal year 2023 budget proposal focusing on unfunded enhancements needed to address day-to-day operations. A copy of the presentations provided has been filed.

Councilor Kristen Larson expressed appreciation for Council agencies and staff and informed Council of the prior introduction of Res. 2021-R091, which requests the Mayor propose an annual budget for fiscal year 2022-2023 that recommends appropriations for all budget enhancements requested by City Council agencies.

Councilors Katherine Jordan, Andreas Addison, Michael Jones and Ann-Frances Lambert, and President Cynthia Newbille requested to be co-patrons of Res. 2021-R091.

Review of FY 2023 Budget Schedule

Due to meeting time constraint, the review of the FY 2023 budget schedule was postponed to the January 24th Informal meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

CITY CLERK