



City of Richmond

Special Meeting Minutes

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

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

1:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall
Virtual Meeting

Councilmembers Present

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President
The Honorable Ellen Robertson, Vice President
The Honorable Michael Jones
The Honorable Katherine Jordan
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch
The Honorable Kristen Nye

Absent

The Honorable Andreas Addison
The Honorable Reva Trammell

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m., and presided.

ELECTRONIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

City Clerk Candice Reid, in accordance with 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, announced the meeting would be held through electronic communication means. City Clerk Reid stated notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information advisory issued on January 26, 2022, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice. She also stated members of the public were encouraged to provide comments in writing prior to the meeting and all comments received prior to 10:00 a.m., on Wednesday, February 2, 2022, were provided to Council members. Ms. Reid indicated that members of the public who signed up to speak and provide comment would be called to speak at the appropriate time.

CITIZEN SPEAKER GUIDELINES

Upon the President's request, Deputy City Clerk RJ Warren provided citizen speaker guidelines.

PAPERS FOR CONSIDERATION

The following ordinances were considered:

ORD. 2022-029

To amend Ord. No. 2021-040, adopted May 24, 2021, which adopted the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 General Fund Budget and made appropriations pursuant thereto, to (i) create a new line item in the Non-Departmental agency entitled "Employee COVID-19 Bonuses," (ii) increase anticipated revenues from real estate taxes by \$11,447,025.00, and (iii) appropriate \$8,900,000.00 of this increase to the new "Employee COVID-19 Bonuses" line item in the Non-Departmental agency to provide funds for the payment of one-time bonuses to certain eligible City employees and

\$660,000.00 of this increase to the Department of Economic Development for disbursement to the Economic Development Authority to provide funds for the Authority's operating expenses.

ORD. 2022-030

To amend section II of the Pay Plan by adding therein a new subsection (E) providing for the payment of one-time bonuses to certain eligible City employees.

Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Lincoln Saunders provided an introduction and background information regarding the proposed ordinances.

Councilor Kristen Nye stated her appreciation for city administration's efforts regarding the city employee bonuses. Councilor Nye also stated her concerns that individuals employed by constitutional officers were not designated as eligible city employees that would be receiving bonuses.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch stated her appreciation for city administration's efforts to recognize city employees that served the city throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Councilor Lynch also stated she believed individuals employed by constitutional officers should also receive employee bonuses.

Councilor Michael Jones stated his appreciation for city employees that were not able to work from home during the pandemic. Councilor Jones also stated his concerns that individuals employed by constitutional officers were not designated as eligible city employees that would be receiving bonuses.

Councilor Katherine Jordan stated her willingness to work with city administration to ensure constitutional officer employees receive employee bonuses.

President Cynthia Newbille stated the employee bonuses were an important method to show employees that Council and city administration appreciated the work put forward during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vice President Ellen Robertson stated showing appreciation to city employees was necessary to ensure that the city remains an attractive place for individuals to work.

Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert stated her appreciation for city employees.

There were no further comments or discussions and **ORD. 2022-029 and ORD. 2022-030 were adopted:** Ayes 7, Jordan, Lambert, Nye, Lynch, Jones, Robertson, Newbille. Noes None.

CAO Saunders provided Council with information regarding the state's involvement with compensating constitutional officer city employees. CAO Saunders stated that constitutional officer employees were considered very important to city administration, and he informed Council that legislation would soon be introduced regarding bonuses for constitutional officer employees.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 1:26 p.m.

CITY CLERK