



# City of Richmond

## Special Meeting Minutes

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

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Tuesday, December 21, 2021

1:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall  
(Virtual Meeting)

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### **Councilmembers Present**

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President  
The Honorable Andreas Addison (early departure)  
The Honorable Michael Jones (late arrival)  
The Honorable Katherine Jordan  
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert  
The Honorable Kristen Larson

### **Absent**

The Honorable Ellen Robertson, Vice President  
The Honorable Reva Trammell  
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch

### **Staff Present**

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 1:09 p.m. and presided.

## **ELECTRONIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

City Clerk Candice Reid, in accordance with Ordinance No. 2020-093, adopted April 9, 2020, as most recently amended by Ordinance No. 2021-181, adopted June 28, 2021, 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 December 14, 2021, 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 Tuesday, December 21, 2021, 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.

## PAPER FOR CONSIDERATION

### The following resolution was considered:

#### RES. 2021-R084

To adopt redistricting criteria and a redistricting schedule for the 2021 decennial redistricting of Council and School Board election districts.

J. Gerald Hebert, Campaign Legal Center Senior Consultant, provided an introduction and background information regarding the proposed resolution. Mr. Hebert discussed with Council the proposed schedule for the redistricting process for the city of Richmond, and he also confirmed that the proposed schedule could be changed or amended after the adoption of RES. 2021-R084, if necessary.

*Councilor Kristen Larson provided members with a summary of the discussions held at the December 15, 2021 Governmental Operations Standing Committee meeting, regarding committee review of RES. 2021-R084.*

*Councilor Andreas Addison stated that he believed it was important that Council take the necessary action to ensure that proposed redistricting options were presented to the public prior to the end of the redistricting process. Councilor Addison also stated that he wanted the public to have a sufficient amount of opportunities to provide feedback on any redistricting proposals prior to the finalization of redistricting.*

*Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert stated that she would work to make sure that 3<sup>rd</sup> Voter District residents had opportunities to engage in the redistricting process.*

*President Cynthia Newbille stated that she agreed with members, and that Council would work to ensure the public would have opportunities to participate and provide feedback during the redistricting process.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **RES. 2021-R084 was adopted:** Ayes 5, Addison, Jordan, Lambert, Larson, Newbille. Noes None.

*Councilor Michael Jones joined the meeting at 1:21 p.m.*

Interim Council Chief of Staff Joyce Davis provided Council with information concerning action taken by Council staff to provide citizens with opportunities to engage in the redistricting process. Ms. Davis also provided Council with information on the redistricting webpage established on the city's website. Ms. Davis stated that the redistricting webpage would provide residents with information regarding the redistricting schedule and opportunities for public engagement. Ms. Davis further stated that the webpage would be updated as needed.

*Councilor Andreas Addison left the meeting at 1:29 p.m.*

*Councilor Kathrine Jordan stated her appreciation for Council staff's involvement with creating an informative website.*

Mr. Hebert stated that he envisioned Council providing the public with opportunities to provide feedback regarding redistricting prior to the drafting and introduction of proposed plans on January 24, 2022.

*Councilor Lambert inquired about efforts to include city residents who do not have internet access.*

Ms. Davis stated that printed publications would be provided at city libraries, and she also stated that public outreach efforts would take place to engage with residents without internet access.

*President Newbille confirmed that she would request redistricting updates be provided by Council staff at upcoming meetings of Council in January, prior to the introduction of proposed plans on January 24, 2022.*

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

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CITY CLERK