



City of Richmond

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

City Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 28, 2022

1:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Council Budget Work Session #1

Councilmembers Present

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

Staff Present

Samson Anderson, Council Budget Analyst
Myrtle Brown, Council Budget Analyst
Jerry Carchedi, Council Budget Analyst
Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff
Pamela Nichols, Senior Assistant City Clerk
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Debra Shaw, Council Management Analyst
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m., and presided.

Electronic Meeting Announcement

Senior Assistant City Clerk Pamela Nichols, 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. Senior Assistant City Clerk Nichols stated notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information advisory email issued on February 25, 2022, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice. She also stated there would be no opportunities for public comment and no public hearings during the session.

Discussion of Operating Budget Priorities

Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff, provided an introduction of the Council Chief of Staff's budget team, and an overview of the categories for the operating budget and capital improvement plan (CIP) priorities submitted by Council.

Councilor Kristen Nye joined the meeting at 1:09 p.m.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch joined the meeting at 1:09 p.m.

Samson Anderson, Council Budget Analyst, provided an overview of the operating budget priorities under the category of Assessor of Real Estate.

Mr. Anderson explained that during its 2020 session, the General Assembly of Virginia adopted the Richmond Housing Improvements bill, which authorized the city to impose a tax rate on improvements to real property that is different than the city's tax rate on the land.

Ms. Davis provided an overview of operating budget priorities under the category of city government and employees, which included City Council agencies' budget enhancements, proposed new economist position, Spanish translation service expansion, city employees' compensation and benefits, continued Gallagher Salary Plan implementation and a cost of living adjustment (COLA) for all employees, and a police and fire pay plan based on the 2022 compensation study. Ms. Davis reported that some estimated costs will be determined at a later date.

There were questions regarding Council agencies' vacancies and President Cynthia Newbille directed Ms. Davis to provide an update at the next work session.

Lou Lassiter, City Auditor, briefed Council on the budgetary enhancement for his office.

Councilor Michael Jones requested funding to assist the Richmond Police Department in providing Spanish translation services for the city's Latino residents.

Ms. Davis reviewed priorities under the category of the Department of Public Works/Vision Zero.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell conveyed concerns expressed by area residents located on Belmont Road and Dorset Road. Councilwoman Trammell reported that the roundabouts created numerous traffic hazards.

Mr. Anderson provided an overview of priorities under the category of economic development, which included funding for a youth jobs program.

Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert expressed the need for the creation of a youth jobs pilot program to be in partnership with local businesses to help reduce violence and promote economic growth. Councilor Lambert remarked that the goal of the proposed pilot program is to combine citywide efforts for the city's youth.

Myrtle Brown, Council Budget Analyst, provided an overview of priorities in the category of human services which included after school programming, the Annie Giles Center and increased funding for the city's Office on Aging and Persons with Disabilities.

Gerald Carchedi, Council Budget Analyst, provided an overview of the Brookland Park Boulevard - Parking study, the BRT North/South study, staffing for the Department of Planning and Development Review, Small Area Plans for Mosby, Gilpin and Creighton Court public housing communities, the Southside zoning study and zoning re-write consultant priorities, in the category of planning and development review.

Councilor Andreas Addison provided an explanation for some of the priorities under the planning and development review category.

Discussion of Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Priorities

Mr. Anderson reviewed CIP priorities under the Department of Public Works/Vision Zero, housing, parks, Department of Planning and Development Review and Richmond Public Schools.

Councilor Katherine Jordan explained that the proposed priority for Scott's Addition was more in alignment with improved traffic circulation, implementation of the city's Multi-Modal Transportation Plan, and advancement of the Vision Zero and Complete Streets Plans.

Councilwoman Trammell requested information on the total budget for the McGuire and Chapel Drive Drainage Improvement Project.

Councilor Jones expressed the urgent need for infrastructure improvements for the Hull Street Corridor.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch reported on the speed studies and traffic calming priorities for the 5th Voter District.

President Newbille explained that the Creighton Court Transformation priority would fund phase 2 of the transformation project, if approved.

Ms. Davis advised Council that the improvements to the Annie Giles Community Center priority item was inadvertently omitted from the list of priorities.

Councilor Jordan explained that her priorities for Richmond Public Schools included William Fox Elementary School, George Wythe High School and Woodville Elementary School. Councilor Jordan expressed support for increased funding for the construction of George Wythe High School.

Vice President Ellen Robertson expressed a need for the establishment of a budget review process which includes collaboration with Council and city administration. Vice President Robertson stated that she was concerned that priorities established by Council during its last retreat were not included as current priorities. Vice President Robertson further stated that issues surrounding affordable housing, legal injustices and ending hunger needed to be addressed.

Councilwoman Trammell and Councilor Lynch expressed their support for the establishment of an efficient budget review process.

Ms. Davis stated that the next steps included review and analysis of the Mayor's proposed budget. Ms. Davis remarked that Council staff and city administration were committed to work seamlessly during Council's review of the upcoming proposed budget.

Vice President Robertson requested that the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee work with Council staff to establish a review process of the upcoming proposed budget.

[CD.2022.088](#) Council FY2023 Budget Priorities

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:11 p.m.

CITY CLERK