



City of Richmond

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

Informal Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 13, 2022

4:00 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
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch (early departure)
The Honorable Reva Trammell

Absent

The Honorable Kristen Nye

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

Call to Order

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Announcement

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.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch left the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

Docket Review

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

Consent Agenda:

1. Ord. 2022-054 – to be continued to Monday, June 27, 2022
2. Ord. 2022-094 – to be continued to Monday, June 27, 2022
3. Ord. 2022-121 – to be amended and continued to Monday, June 27, 2022
4. Ord. 2022-122 – to be amended and continued to Monday, June 27, 2022
5. Ord. 2022-127 – retained on the Consent Agenda
6. Ord. 2022-145 – retained on the Consent Agenda
7. Ord. 2022-146 – retained on the Consent Agenda
8. Ord. 2022-147 – retained on the Consent Agenda
9. Ord. 2022-148 – to be continued to Monday, June 27, 2022
10. Ord. 2022-149 – retained on the Consent Agenda
11. Ord. 2022-153 – retained on the Consent Agenda
12. Ord. 2022-155 – retained on the Consent Agenda
13. Ord. 2022-157 – retained on the Consent Agenda
14. Ord. 2022-158 – retained on the Consent Agenda

It was the consensus of Council to committee waive and consider Ord. 2022-158 later that evening at the Formal Session of Council.

15. Ord. 2022-168 – retained on the Consent Agenda
16. Ord. 2022-169 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Chief Administrative Officer Lincoln Saunders provided an introduction and answered questions regarding Ord. 2022-169.

Councilor Michael Jones arrived at 4:09 p.m. and was seated.

Megan Fields, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer senior policy analyst, was available to answer additional questions regarding proposed Ord. 2022-169 and provided background information pertaining to the foundation tasked with administering the voluntary gun buyback program.

Vice President Ellen Robertson requested information concerning the memorandum of understanding associated with the proposed program and additional foreseen city initiatives to reduce the current uptick in gun violence.

Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert expressed her support for Ord. 2022-169.

Councilor Michael Jones acknowledged the proposed adoption of Ord. 2022-169 will not deter gun violence in the city.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell requested a clarification of the monetary incentive of the proposed gun buyback program.

Vice President Robertson also requested a method to evaluate the impact of Ord. 2022-169, if adopted, and encouraged the revisiting of community policing as an effective method to combat the recent rise in crime.

Councilwoman Trammell mentioned the lack of morale in the police department and the need to increase staffing level.

Councilor Andreas Addison arrived at 4:38 p.m. and was seated

17. Res. 2022-R025 – retained on the Consent Agenda

18. Res. 2022-R031 – to be continued to Monday, July 25, 2022

Regular Agenda:

19. Ord. 2021-097 – to be continued to Monday, July 25, 2022

20. Ord. 2022-091 – to be continued to Monday, September 12, 2022

21. Ord. 2022-119 – to be continued to Monday, September 12, 2022

Councilor Katherine Jordan commented on the continuance of Ord. 2022-119 and stated her willingness to facilitate community meetings with her colleagues to educate citizens on the proposed legislation.

22. Res. 2019-R057 – to be stricken

23. Res. 2021-R026 – to be continued to Monday, September 12, 2022

24. Res. 2022-R007 – to be amended and continued to Monday, July 25, 2022

Given the recent introduction of state budget amendments barring the city from holding a second referendum for a casino and possibly the granting of a casino license, Chief Administrative Officer Lincoln Saunders explained that city administration is awaiting the final adoption of the state budget to determine the city's legal recourse regarding the referendum.

Interim City Attorney Haskell Brown informed Council that the city registrar, on behalf of the city, is still obligated to follow a court order to provide for a second referendum on the 2022 November ballot regarding the approval or disapproval of a casino in the city.

25. Res. 2022-R014 – to be continued to Monday, July 25, 2022

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

Other Discussion

President Cynthia Newbille explained the cancellation of a presentation concerning collective bargaining at today's meeting was due to the expected introduction of an amendment to Ords. 2021-345 and 2021-346.

Councilor Katherine Jordan requested to added as a co-patron of Ord. 2022-157.

President Newbille, providing an update regarding staff recruitment of a city attorney and council chief of staff, stated she is awaiting additional information and acknowledged her plan to hold a closed session during an upcoming meeting to discuss hiring recommendations.

Vice President Ellen Robertson requested to added as a co-patron of Res. 2022-R025.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

CITY CLERK