



# City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219  
[www.rva.gov/office-city-clerk](http://www.rva.gov/office-city-clerk)

## Meeting Minutes Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee

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Thursday, September 15, 2022

1:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor – City Hall

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### Committee Members

The Honorable Michael Jones – Chair  
The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Committee Member

### Absent

The Honorable Kristen Nye – Vice Chair

### Staff and Others in Attendance

The Honorable Andreas Addison – Council member (late arrival and early departure)  
The Honorable Katherine Jordan – Council member  
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert – Council member (late arrival)  
Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff  
Rachel Paul, Assistant City Clerk  
Tabrica Rentz, Deputy City Attorney  
Candice Reid, City Clerk  
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

### Call to Order

Chair Michael Jones called the meeting to order at 1:12 p.m., and presided.

### Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Upon the Chair's request, Deputy City Clerk RJ Warren provided information on the appropriate manner in which the Council Chamber is to be evacuated in the event of an emergency along with citizen speaker guidelines.

### Public Comment Period

There were no public comment speakers.

## Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections or amendments to the meeting minutes of the Thursday, July 21, 2022 committee meeting, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2022.308](#) July 21, 2022 Finance and Economic Development Meeting Minutes

## Papers for Consideration

The following ordinance was considered:

1. [ORD. 2022-238](#) To amend City Code §§ 26-601, concerning definitions, 26-604, concerning application for partial exemption of rehabilitated commercial or industrial structures, or other improvements, and 26-605, concerning the amount of exemption for rehabilitated commercial or industrial qualified structures, for the purpose of clarifying that residential property is not eligible for the partial real estate tax exemption for rehabilitated commercial or industrial structures and to increase the time period to qualify for the partial real estate tax exemption from two to three years.

**Patrons:** Mayor Stoney

Leonard Sledge, Department of Economic Development director, provided an introduction and additional background information regarding the proposed ordinance.

*Member Ellen Robertson inquired about the impact to developments that contain both residential and commercial structures.*

Mr. Sledge stated that he would need to consult with the City Assessor before he could provide information regarding mixed-use property applications.

**There were no further comments or discussions and Member Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2022-238 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following ordinance was considered:

2. [ORD. 2022-251](#) To authorize the issuance of general obligation public improvement bonds of the City of Richmond in the maximum principal amount of \$4,000,000 to finance the cost of school projects and general capital improvement projects of the City for the following purposes and uses: construction, reconstruction, improvements and equipment for public schools; construction, reconstruction, improvement and equipment for various infrastructure needs, including traffic control facilities, streets,

sidewalks and other public ways, bridges, storm sewers, drains and culverts, and refuse disposal facilities; participation in redevelopment, conservation and community development programs, including the construction, reconstruction, improvement and equipment for targeted public facilities included in these programs; construction, reconstruction, improvements and equipment for public institutional, operational, cultural, educational and entertainment buildings and facilities, including but not limited to the theaters, parks, playgrounds, cemeteries, libraries and museums; acquisition of real property therefor as appropriate; and the making of appropriations to the City's Economic Development Authority ("EDA") to be used by the EDA to finance capital expenditures or to make loans or grants to finance capital expenditures for the purposes of promoting economic development; to authorize the Director of Finance, with the approval of the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City, to sell such bonds for such capital improvement projects, to provide for the form, details and payment of such bonds; to authorize the issuance of notes of the City in anticipation of the issuance of such bonds; and to authorize the issuance of taxable bonds, for the same purposes and uses, in the same maximum principal amount and payable over the same period as such general obligation public improvement bonds.

**Patrons:** Mayor Stoney

Sheila White, Department of Finance director, provided an introduction and additional background information regarding the proposed ordinance.

*Member Ellen Robertson confirmed that the fire station referenced in ORD. 2022-251 was located at 2223 West Cary Street.*

**There were no further comments or discussions and Member Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2022-251 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**The following ordinance was considered:**

3. [ORD. 2022-252](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to accept a donation of a spay and neuter trailer valued at approximately \$140,300.00 from the Richmond Animal Welfare Foundation for the purpose of providing sterilization and other non-emergency surgical procedures for animals by the Office of Animal Care and Control.

**Patrons:** Mayor Stoney and Ms. Lambert

Christie Peters, Department of Animal Control director, provided an introduction and additional background information regarding the proposed ordinance.

**There were no further comments or discussions and Member Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2022-252 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**The following resolution was considered:**

4. [RES. 2022-R049](#) To make an assignment of the calculated general fund surplus for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 for the costs associated with the City's Safe Streets and Roads for All program.

**Patrons:** Mr. Addison

Sabrina Joy-Hogg, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Finance and Administration, addressed the committee and stated that the calculated general fund surplus for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 was not yet finalized. Ms. Joy-Hogg also stated that the assignment requested in the proposed resolution was premature.

*Member Ellen Robertson stated her concerns with RES. 2022-R049 and its impact on surplus funds prior to finalization.*

*Chair Michael Jones stated his concerns with legislation that directed surplus funds towards priorities identified by individual Councilmembers.*

**There were no further comments or discussions and Chair Michael Jones moved to forward RES. 2022-R049 to Council with the recommendation to strike, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**The following resolution was considered:**

5. [RES. 2022-R050](#) To make an assignment of the calculated general fund surplus for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 for any costs to the City associated with joining the Virginia Retirement System.

**Patrons:** Mr. Addison

Interim Council Chief of Staff Joyce Davis provided an introduction regarding the proposed resolution.

Sabrina Joy-Hogg, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Finance and Administration, addressed the committee and stated that the calculated general fund surplus for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 was not yet finalized. Ms. Joy-Hogg also stated that the assignment requested in the proposed resolution was premature. Ms. Joy-Hogg further stated that additional information would be necessary from the Virginia Retirement System before the city could move forward with joining the system.

*Councilor Andreas Addison joined the meeting at 1:41 p.m.*

*Member Ellen Robertson spoke in support of the city joining the Virginia Retirement System, but stated that the proposed resolution should be stricken.*

*Chair Michael Jones spoke in support of the city joining the Virginia Retirement System, but he stated that he did not believe the proposed resolution was appropriate at this time.*

*Councilor Andreas Addison addressed the committee and provided additional information regarding RES. 2022-R050. Councilor Addison stated that the proposed resolution was to prioritize the city's joining of the Virginia Retirement System. Councilor Addison also stated that he was concerned that the city had difficulty retaining and hiring staff due to the city not being a part of the Virginia Retirement System.*

Ms. Joy-Hogg informed the committee that the city was actively working with the Virginia Retirement System about the potential of joining, and provided information regarding the steps necessary for the change.

*Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert joined the meeting at 1:50 p.m.*

*Chair Jones requested that city administration provide the committee with an update regarding the possible transition at the February Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee meeting.*

**There were no further comments or discussions and Member Robertson moved to forward RES. 2022-R050 to Council with the recommendation to strike, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

*Councilor Andreas Addison left the meeting at 1:54 p.m.*

**The following resolution was considered:**

7. [RES. 2022-R056](#) To amend Res. No. 2021-R073, adopted Oct. 11, 2021, which approved the Richmond Behavioral Health Authority's performance contract for Fiscal Year 2022 and Fiscal Year 2023, to amend the Richmond Behavioral Health Authority's performance contract for Fiscal Year 2022 and Fiscal Year 2023.

**Patrons:** President Newbille

Dr. John Lindstrom, Richmond Behavioral Health Authority chief executive officer, provided an introduction and additional background information regarding the proposed resolution.

*Member Ellen Robertson inquired about RES. 2022-R056's impact on the city's budget.*

**There were no further comments or discussions and Member Robertson moved to forward RES. 2022-R056 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**The following resolution was considered:**

6. [RES. 2022-R055](#) To select RVA Diamond Partners LLC as the developer of the Diamond District and express the Council's support for certain proposed minimum business terms and conditions in relation to the development of the Diamond District.

**Patrons:** Mayor Stoney, President Newbille, Vice President Robertson, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Addison, Ms. Jordan, Ms. Lynch and Mr. Jones

Leonard Sledge, Department of Economic Development director, and Maritza Pechin, Department of Planning and Development Review deputy director for equitable development, provided the committee with a presentation regarding RES. 2022-R055, and the city selecting RVA Diamond Partners LLC as the developer of the Diamond District.

*A copy of the material provided has been filed.*

*Member Ellen Robertson stated her appreciation for the presentation provided by city administration.*

**Member Ellen Robertson moved to forward RES. 2022-R055 to Council with the recommendation to approve.**

*Chair Michael Jones inquired about certain real estate transactions referenced in the proposed development. Chair Jones also inquired how Authur Ashe, Jr.'s legacy would be addressed within the RVA Diamond District development.*

Jason Guillot, Thalhimer Realty Partners principal, addressed the committee and provided information regarding the timeline for the transaction of real estate located in the proposed Diamond District.

Ms. Pechin provided details regarding the plans to honor Authur Ashe, Jr. within the proposed development. Ms. Pechin also stated that the family of Authur Ashe, Jr. would be consulted throughout the process.

*Chair Jones stated that he was concerned about the city and the Richmond Public School Board collaborating to develop a technical training center referenced in the proposed development.*

Mr. Sledge stated that he understood the concerns raised, and that he believed the developers associated with the Diamond District would work to address the concerns.

*Councilor Katherine Jordan stated her appreciation for the committee's review of RES. 2022-R055, and she provided information regarding the process for selecting RVA Diamond District Partners LLC.*

*Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert addressed the committee and informed members that a telephone town hall would take place on September 20, 2022 regarding the proposed Diamond District development.*

**There were no further comments or discussions and the motion to forward RES. 2022-R055 to Council with the recommendation to approve, was seconded and unanimously approved.**

### **Presentations**

There were no presentations.

### **Board Vacancies**

There were no vacancies for consideration.

### **Discussion Items**

There were no discussion items.

### **Staff Report**

Interim Council Chief Staff Joyce Davis provided the committee with the meeting staff report.

[CD.2022.313](#) September Finance Staff Report

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m.