



City of Richmond

Meeting Minutes

Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee

Thursday, October 15, 2015

3:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor – City Hall

The Honorable Kathy Graziano, Chair
The Honorable Parker Agelasto, Vice Chair
The Honorable Ellen Robertson, Committee Member
The Honorable Jonathan Baliles (*Early Departure*)
Lou B, Ali, Council Chief of Staff
Meghan Brown, Council Budget Analyst
Jean V. Capel, City Clerk
Bill Echelberger Jr., Council Budget Analyst
Vincent Jones, Deputy Council Chief of Staff
Matthew Welch, Assistant City Attorney
Pamela Nichols, Assistant City Clerk
Candice Reid, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Kathy Graziano called the meeting to order at 3:11 p.m.

Evacuation Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines Public Comment Period

Upon the Chair's request, Pamela Nichols, Assistant City Clerk, provided information on the appropriate manner in which the Council Chamber is to be evacuated in the event of an emergency along with citizen speakers' guidelines and conduct during the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of September 17, 2015 were approved – Motioned by Vice Chair Parker Agelasto, and seconded – 3/0.

Board Vacancies

None

Presentation(s)

Payment Register Demonstration

Charles Todd, Interim Director – Department of Information Technology, presented an overview of and demonstrated the use of the city's online payment register. Mr. Todd explained the work flow process for purchases and payments through the city's accounting system (RAPIDS) and the scrubbing of sensitive information before being

information is made available in the data portal. Mr. Todd stated that the register has various columns ranging from a vendor's name, check number, check amount, fund description and distribution amount. He further stated that the register provides citizens the ability to access, interpret and interact with data about the city.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Paper(s) for Consideration

Committee member Ellen Robertson moved to forward the following paper to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved ~ Vote 3/0:

ORD. 2015-220 - To amend Ord. No. 2015-73-84, adopted May 15, 2015, which adopts the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 General Fund Budget and makes appropriations pursuant thereto, by transferring \$200,000 within the Non-Departmental agency from the Health Diagnostic Laboratory, Inc., line item and appropriating this \$200,000 to the Venture Richmond, Inc., line item for the purpose of providing funds to Venture Richmond, Inc., for the continued operation of the Clean and Safe Program.

Patrons: Mayor Jones, Ms. Graziano and President Mosby

Chair Kathy Graziano introduced ORD. 2015-220.

Support

Richard Waller, business owner, spoke in favor of the proposed legislation stating that the funding will be used for the Clean and Safe Program, a program which has proven to be an asset to the city and businesses.

Lucy Meade, Marketing & Development Director – Venture Richmond, spoke in favor of the proposed legislation stating that the restoration of funds would ensure that the Clean and Safe Program continues to operate effectively.

Carrie Roth, President/CEO - Virginia Biotechnology Research Park, spoke in favor of the proposed legislation stating that the reduction in funding would negatively impact the positive growth and experiences in the city.

Jack Berry, President - Richmond Region Tourism, spoke in favor of the proposed legislation stating that, over the past year, downtown tourism has increased tremendously and the Clean and Safe Program will provide services needed to attract more visitors to the city.

Brian White, President - Main Street Realty, spoke in favor of the proposed legislation stating that the Clean and Safe Program has assisted in residential growth and that a reduction in the program will negatively impact the city.

Chris Johnson, on behalf of the Shockoe Partnership, spoke in favor of the proposed legislation stating that it was important to maintain the Clean and Safe Program to accommodate the increased population and tourism growth in the city.

Vice Chair Parker Agelasto stated that he supports the Clean and Safe Program; however, he would like assurance that the allocation of funding will not negatively impact existing basic services within the city such as trash collection, street sweeping and leaf collections.

Committee member Ellen Robertson stated that a strong partnership with the business community is important for the city and she would like to see the creation of more opportunities for leveraging funds for services that are vital to the city's growth. Committee member Robertson requested to be added as a co-patron for ORD. 2015-220.

Chair Kathy Graziano concurred with the comments of the other committee members and stated that it was important to maintain the city in a manner that will continue to attract growth.

Committee member Ellen Robertson moved to forward the following paper to Council with no recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved ~ Vote 3/0:

ORD. 2015-161 - To amend and reordain City Code § 42-11, concerning the form of the budget submitted to the Council, for the purpose of requiring that certain per capita calculations and information be included in the budget.

Patron: Mr. Samuels

Jay Brown, Director – Budget and Strategic Planning, explained that city administration and Councilor Charles Samuels met to discuss the proposed legislation and that the proposed amendment was agreed upon by both parties.

Vice Chair Parker Agelasto stated that the Virginia Auditor of Public Accounts publishes similar information on an annual basis, and if the proposed legislation is adopted, it would be helpful during the budget review process if the data on both reports was the same.

Committee member Ellen Robertson moved to continue the following paper to the November 19th Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and approved – Vote 3/0:

ORD. 2015-204 - To amend and reordain City Code §§ 98-263, concerning the eligibility of residential real property in redevelopment and conservation areas and rehabilitation districts for partial tax exemption, 98-264, concerning the application requirements for such partial tax exemption, and 98-265, concerning the amount of such exemption and the basis for taxes during construction, for the purposes of adjusting applicable threshold requirements to qualify for such exemption, adding maximum rent limits for certain dwelling units, authorizing an additional exemption period for certain structures and requiring that property owners file annual renewal applications with the City Assessor.

Patron: Ms. Robertson

Committee member Ellen Robertson advised the committee of her request to continue ORD. 2015-204 to await amendments to proposed legislation.

Vice Chair Parker Agelasto moved to forward the following paper to Council with no recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved ~ Vote 3/0:

ORD. 2015-213 - To amend ch. 42, art. I of the City Code by adding therein a new section numbered 42-16 for the purpose of requiring that the Chief Administrative Officer present certain financial reports on a monthly basis.

Patron: Mr. Baliles

Councilor Jonathan Baliles introduced ORD. 2015-213 and asked the committee to consider forwarding the proposed legislation to a special meeting of Council, scheduled for Monday, November 2, 2015.

Committee member Ellen Robertson moved to forward the following paper to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved ~ Vote 3/0:

ORD. 2015-214 - To amend and reordain Ord. No. 2015-55-82, adopted May 15, 2015, which appropriates and provides funds for financing the school budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016, for the purpose of appropriating additional revenues from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Patron: Mayor Jones

Jay Brown, Director – Budget and Strategic Planning, introduced ORD. 2015-214.

Councilor Jonathan Baliles exited the meeting.

Vice Chair Parker Agelasto moved to forward the following paper to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved ~ Vote 3/0:

ORD. 2015-215 - To amend Ord. No. 2015-57-83, adopted May 15, 2015, which adopted the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Special Fund Budget, to transfer the Special Parking Districts special fund from the Department of Finance to the Department of Public Works, and to appropriate funds in the amount of \$363,000.00 to the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Special Fund Budget by increasing estimated revenues from parking fines and the amount appropriated to the Department of Public Works' Special Parking Districts special fund by \$363,000.00 for the purpose of providing services in accordance with the Special Parking Districts Program established by City Code § 102-303.

Patron: Mayor Jones

Lynne Lancaster, Interim Duty Director – General Services, introduced ORD. 2015-215.

Committee member Ellen Robertson moved to forward the following paper to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved ~ Vote 3/0:

ORD. 2015-216 - To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Project Agreement for Use of Commonwealth Transportation Funds - Fiscal Year 2016 between the City of Richmond and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public

Transportation for the purpose of receiving a grant of \$99,161.00 to fund Phase 3 improvements to Main Street Station.

Patron: Mayor Jones

Douglas Dunlap, Interim Director – Economic and Community Development, introduced ORD. 2015-216.

Committee member Ellen Robertson moved to forward the following paper to Council with no recommendation, which was seconded and approved ~ Vote 3/0:

ORD. 2015-221 - To amend Ord. No. 2015-73-84, adopted May 15, 2015, which adopts the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 General Fund Budget and makes appropriations pursuant thereto, by transferring \$200,000 from the Department of Economic and Community Development agency and appropriating this \$200,000 to a new line item in the Non-Departmental agency for the purpose of making a grant to the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority to assist with the long-term redevelopment of the Creighton Court community.

Patron: Mayor Jones

Douglas Dunlap, Interim Director – Economic and Community Development, introduced ORD. 2015-221.

Chair Kathy Graziano and Vice Chair Parker Agelasto remarked that they would like additional information regarding the specific use for the requested funds.

Mr. Dunlap reported that the requested funds were needed to begin the process of providing strong support to Creighton residents in the transition process, to strengthen resident engagement in preparation for the Choice application and to obtain professional help in preparing the Choice Neighborhood Grant. Mr. Dunlap emphasized that timing for the funding has a direct impact on the overall project.

Mark Kronenthal, Senior Policy Advisor to the Mayor, advised the committee that, while the funding could be use for various purposes, immediate deployment of the funds were essential.

Mr. Dunlap agreed to provide City Council with information outlining the proposed uses for the requested fund, prior to the next City Council meeting. Mr. Dunlap also responded to questions regarding the use of previously approved planning funds allocated for the Creighton and Whitcomb Court project. Mr. Dunlap further explained how the funds will be used in part for the Choice application and the residents transition processes.

Committee member Ellen Robertson stated that, prior to City Council's consideration of the proposed legislation, it could prove helpful if members of the committee met with Dr. Thaddeus Williamson, Director of Office of Community Wealth Building, and/or representatives from Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority (RRHA) regarding the proposed request. Committee member Robertson emphasized that proposed funding was a necessary component for the implementation grant.

Vice Chair Parker Agelasto moved to forward the following paper to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved ~ Vote 3/0:

ORD. 2015-222 - To amend Ord. No. 2015-73-84, adopted May 15, 2015, which adopted a General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 and made appropriations pursuant thereto, to transfer funds in the amount of \$50,000.00 from the City Council agency and to appropriate the transferred funds to a new Non-Departmental agency line item for the purpose of making a grant to Groundwork RVA, Inc. to support its Oak Grove-Bellemeade Green Team activity.
Patron: Mayor Jones

Keith Rogers, Senior Assistant – Chief Administrative Office, introduced ORD. 2015-222.

Support

Giles Harnsberger, Executive Director – Groundwork RVA, spoke in favor of the proposed legislation and provided photographs of the Oak Grove-Bellemeade Green Team.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Vice Chair Parker Agelasto moved to continue the following paper to the November 19th Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and approved – Vote 3/0:

RES. 2015-R053 - To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be prepared and delivered to the Council and the Mayor a report on the local tax revenues generated by businesses located in the area of the city of Richmond known as Carytown. (As Amended)
Patron: Mr. Agelasto

Vice Chair Parker Agelasto introduced RES. 2015-R053 and reported that the proposed resolution was amended to reflect an extension for the deadline date.

Sharon McDonald, Chief of Revenue Administration – Finance, asked the committee to consider continuing the proposed legislation to its November 19th committee meeting to allow city administration time to prepare the impact estimate regarding the request.

Vice Chair Agelasto stated that, based on city administration's request, he was willing to continue the proposed legislation to the November 19th Finance and Economic Development Committee meeting. Vice Chair Agelasto reminded the committee that, at its September 17th meeting, city administration indicated that it would be able to produce the requested information within the deadline and he would like city administration to honor its commitment.

Discussion Item(s)

Staff Report

Bill Echelberger and Meghan Brown, Council Budget Analysts, provided the committee with the October staff report and a copy of the semi-annual debt issuance report.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 19, 2015 - 3:00 p.m., Council Chamber, City Hall

Staff Contact: Pamela Nichols, 804-646-7931, pamela.nichols@richmondgov.com