



City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
www.richmondgov.com/cityclerk

Meeting Minutes

Governmental Operations Standing Committee

Thursday, January 28, 2016

5:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Committee Members and Staff in Attendance

The Honorable Jonathan Baliles – Chair
The Honorable Charles Samuels – Vice Chair
The Honorable Cynthia Newbille – Member
Debra Bowles, Assistant City Clerk
Haskell Brown, Deputy City Attorney
Meghan Brown, Council Budget Analyst
Jean V. Capel, City Clerk
Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst
Vincent Jones, Deputy Council Chief of Staff
Alexander Rawles, Boards and Commissions Administrator
Candice Reid, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Jonathan Baliles called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.

Evacuation Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Upon the Chair's request, Debra Bowles, 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 speaker guidelines and conduct during the meeting.

Paper for Consideration

Committee member Cynthia Newbille moved to continue the following paper to the April 28, 2016 Governmental Operations Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and approved ~ Vote 3/0:

ORD. 2014-093 - To establish an Advisory Task Force for the Economic Revitalization of South Richmond to provide advice to the Council, the Mayor and other City agencies concerning strategies and initiatives to improve the economic health of and promote economic development in certain Enterprise Zones and along certain corridors of South Richmond.

Patron: Ms. Trammell

Discussion Items

Snow Removal Report

Selena Cuffee-Glenn, Chief Administrative Officer thanked Council and citizens for their support during the recent snow storm. Ms. Cuffee-Glenn stated that the city started preparing for the storm a week prior to the weather event.

John Buturla, Interim Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Operations, informed the committee that Governor Terry McAuliffe declared the winter storm the most significant in Virginia history. Mr. Buturla stated that efforts began early to pre-treat roads and activate the emergency center. Mr. Buturla also stated that the 311 Call Center was open to accept calls from concerned citizens and to provide information regarding road clearance.

Bobby Vincent, Deputy Director of Operations – Department of Public Works, informed the committee that maintaining a network of pre-selected emergency vehicle access routes was a high priority during the storm. Mr. Vincent stated that snow event training and weather monitoring allowed for a successful response to city needs. Mr. Vincent also reviewed the storm response levels, stating that primary arterials, posted emergency routes, major thoroughfares and bridges are first priority as it relates to road clearance. Mr. Vincent stated that the lessons learned from the storm include the need for additional CDL drivers, that the chemical pre-treatment of roads helped, and the city was able to begin neighborhood road clearing within twenty-four hours of the storm ending. Mr. Vincent stated further that an assessment of damaged streets, pothole blitzing and leaf collection will occur following a post storm review.

Vice Chair Charles Samuels requested that hospital areas be granted a higher priority treatment level during storms.

Committee member Cynthia Newbille expressed her thanks to city employees for their assistance in helping citizens meet their individual needs during the weather event.

Selena Cuffee-Glenn expressed her gratitude to Ms. Newbille for her positive comments and also stated that she is proud of employees' response.

Chair Jonathan Baliles expressed concern that a request he forwarded to city administration in September pertaining to snow removal funding received no response.

Selena Cuffee-Glenn stated that an after action report will be completed that includes an assessment of the fiscal impact, available resources and resource needs for 2016 and 2017.

CIP Funding of Richmond Public Schools Project Approved Within the Current Fiscal Year Budget

Chair Jonathan Baliles stated that Councilor Parker Agelasto, 5th District, emailed city administration requesting an explanation of why the city has not released \$18,000,000 to Richmond Public Schools (RPS).

Selena Cuffee-Glenn stated that the monies in question were allocated for RPS planning and construction. Ms. Cuffee-Glenn stated that Mayor Dwight Jones received a letter in December from Donald Coleman, former chair – RPS School Board, in which several options

for use of the money included but was not limited to the construction of two new schools and the renovation of two additional schools. Ms. Cuffee-Glenn indicated that Mr. Coleman's letter stated that the city should consider adding capacity to two existing schools if new construction and renovations are not viable options. Ms. Cuffee-Glenn also stated that Mayor Jones responded to RPS requesting clarity on how the money will be utilized and that his response will be made available to all Council members.

Board Vacancy Report

Alexander Rawles, Boards and Commissions Administrator, reviewed board applications for consideration by the committee.

It was the consensus of the committee to approve the following recommendations and continue the consideration of a second applicant to the City Personnel Board and Sister City Commission appointments ~ Vote 3/0:

City Personnel Board

Joseph Gurley – Reappointment

Richmond Public Library Board

David L. Ballard – Appointment

Kevin Lee Butterfield – Appointment

Chair Jonathan Baliles requested that Mr. Rawles provide clarification of skill sets needed when recruiting for new appointments to a board or commission.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the Wednesday, October 21, 2015, meeting were approved ~ Motioned by Vice Chair Charles Samuels and seconded ~ Vote 2/0/1. (Newbille – abstained)

Staff Report

Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst, provided the committee with the January staff report. Ms. Davis

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 25, 2016 at 5:00 p.m., Council Chamber, 2nd Floor City Hall

Staff Contact: Debra Bowles, 804-646-5011, debra.bowles@richmondgov.com