



City of Richmond

Meeting Minutes

Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee

Thursday, April 21, 2016

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
Meghan Brown, Council Budget Analyst
Bill Echelberger Jr., Council Budget Analyst
Vincent Jones, Deputy Council Chief of Staff
Pamela Nichols, Assistant City Clerk
Alexander Rawles, Boards & Commissions Administrator
Candice Reid, Deputy City Clerk
Tabrica Rentz, Senior Assistant City Attorney

Call to Order

Committee member Ellen Robertson called the meeting to order at 3:11 p.m.

Evacuation Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Upon the committee'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 speaker guidelines and conduct during the meeting.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

Presentation

There were no presentations.

Board Vacancies

Alexander Rawles, boards and commissions administrator, reported that there were no board applications to be considered and that the city administration was working on the mayoral appointments to the Richmond Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Vice Chair Parker Agelasto moved to continue the following papers to the May 19th Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and approved ~ Vote 3/0.

ORD. 2014-217 - To amend ch. 18 of the City Code by adding therein a new art. XII, consisting of new sections 18-626, 18-627, 18-636, 18-646 and 18-647, concerning tourism zones, for the purpose of establishing a Downtown Tourism Zone pursuant to Va. Code § 58.1-3851.
Patron: Vice President Robertson

ORD. 2016-091 - To amend and reordain City Code § 2-301, concerning certain definitions applicable to City Code §§ 2-301—2-304, for the purpose of modifying the definition of “economic development project” to include public investment.
Patron: Ms. Robertson

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the Thursday, March 24, 2016 meeting at 3:00 p.m., were approved – Motioned by Vice Chair Parker Agelasto, and seconded – 3/0.

Committee member Ellen Robertson moved to forward the following papers to Council with recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved ~ Vote 2/0/1 (Abstention, Agelasto).

ORD. 2016-110 - To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Governor’s Agriculture & Forestry Industries Development Fund Performance Agreement between the City of Richmond, Virginia, the Economic Development Authority of the City of Richmond, Virginia, and Blue Bee Cider, LLC, for the purpose of enabling the Authority to provide an economic development grant to Blue Bee Cider, LLC, as an incentive to construct and improve a Virginia agricultural products processing facility in the city of Richmond.
Patron: Mayor Jones

ORD. 2016-111 - To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to accept funds in the amount of \$50,000 from the Governor’s Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development Fund and to appropriate the increase to the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 General Fund Budget by increasing estimated revenues and the amount appropriated to a new line item in the Non-Departmental agency called the “Blue Bee Cider - AFID Grant” line item for the purpose of providing funds to the Economic Development Authority for a grant to Blue Bee Cider, LLC, pursuant to a performance agreement approved by the City Council.
Patron: Mayor Jones

Lee Downey, deputy chief administrative officer – Economic and Community Development, introduced ORD. 2016-110 and ORD. 2016-111 and explained that the grant will be a part of the local Enterprise Zone Incentives.

Justine Roberts, project development manager – Economic and Community Development, responded to questions regarding the potential revenue to the city as a part of the economic development project; she also agreed to provide the committee with the return on investment (ROI) model for the proposed project.

Vice Chair Parker Agelasto stated that he would like assurances that the city negotiated the highest and best use for the property and requested information on the rankings of the eight properties evaluated for sale during the negotiations for the subject property. Mr. Agelasto inquired whether the project's proposed annual wage was in alignment with the city's living wage standards.

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

ORD. 2016-112 - To amend Ord. No. 2015-73-84, adopted May 15, 2015, which adopted the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 General Fund Budget and made appropriations pursuant thereto, by transferring \$45,000 within the Non-Departmental agency from the Health Diagnostic Laboratory, Inc., line item and appropriating this \$45,000 to a new line item in the Non-Departmental agency called the Capital Region Airport Commission line item for the purpose of providing funds to supplement the grant supporting air service development at Richmond International Airport.

Patron: Mayor Jones

Lee Downey, deputy chief administrative officer – Economic and Community Development, introduced ORD. 2016-112.

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

ORD. 2016-113 - To amend City Code § 23-97, concerning fees for the use of a City transfer station, and to amend Appendix A of the City Code by adding therein new fees for City Code § 23-97, for the purpose of imposing fees for the use of a City transfer station.

Patron: Mayor Jones

Bobby Vincent, deputy director – Department of Public Works, introduced ORD. 2016-113 and responded to questions from the committee regarding potential amendments to the proposed legislation.

In response to a question by Vice Chair Parker Agelasto, Mr. Vincent stated that the city will consider an exemption of the fee for organizations participating in citywide cleanup efforts through the Clean City Commission.

Committee member Ellen Robertson moved to forward the following paper to Council with recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved ~ Vote 2/1, Agelasto.

ORD. 2016-115 - To amend Ord. No. 2015-82-72, adopted May 4, 2015, which authorized the Chief Administrative Officer to submit a Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as an application for the receipt of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) funds, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds and Housing Opportunities for

Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) funds; accepted funds from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in the total amount of \$6,622,947; and appropriated \$6,622,947 for various projects, for the purposes of re-appropriating unexpended funds and appropriating additional funds in the total amount of \$458,605 and of reallocating funds for various projects.

Patron: Mayor Jones

Denise Lawus, deputy director II – Economic and Community Development, introduced ORD. 2016-115.

Ms. Lawus, along with Mary Blow, project development manager for Economic and Community Development, responded to questions regarding CDBG project balances, allocation of funds for specific projects and the city's adherences to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development guidelines.

Committee member Ellen Robertson requested an item plan description for the CDBG projects.

Vice Chair Parker Agelasto stated that he was concerned about the current process for allocating funds to the various projects and requested the overall balances for the projects for which the additional funds are being proposed.

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

ORD. 2016-116 - To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to submit a Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as an application for the receipt of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) funds, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) funds; to accept funds from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in the total amount of \$6,362,297; and to appropriate \$6,562,297, consisting of the accepted funds, \$98,535 in CDBG prior year surplus funds, and \$101,465 in CDBG program income, for various projects.

Patron: Mayor Jones

Denise Lawus, deputy director II – Economic and Community Development, introduced ORD. 2016-116.

Committee member Ellen Robertson stated that, in moving forward, it would be helpful if city administration prepared an executive summary of the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan.

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

RES. 2016-R031 - To set the rate of personal property tax relief for qualifying vehicles for the 2016 tax year pursuant to City Code §§ 26-495-26-497.

Patron: Mayor Jones

Jim Duval, interim director – Finance, introduced RES. 2016-R031.

Bill Echelberger, council budget analyst, provided background information on the State of Virginia financial commitment for the tax relief program.

Discussion Item(s)

Vice Chair Parker Agelasto remarked that, with the knowledge that the Economic Development Authority has made another payment to the Washington Redskins for the Bon Secours Redskins Training Center agreement, he again requests a review of the pro forma for that agreement, to include the projected and actual revenues. Mr. Agelasto stated that it was important for City Council and administration to measure the performance of the entire agreement.

Chair Kathy Graziano stated that she would like to review the entire economic development agreement package associated with the Bon Secours Redskins Training Center.

Staff Report

Bill Echelberger and Meghan Brown, council budget analysts, provided the committee with the April staff report.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.