

Friday, May 13, 2016 6:00 PM Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Councilmembers Present

The Honorable Michelle Mosby, President The Honorable Chris Hilbert, Vice President The Honorable Parker Agelasto The Honorable Jonathan Baliles The Honorable Kathy Graziano The Honorable Cynthia Newbille The Honorable Ellen Robertson (late arrival) The Honorable Charles Samuels The Honorable Reva Trammell

Chamber Evacuation Plan and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Council President Michelle Mosby called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m. and presided. Upon the President's request, Deputy City Clerk Candice Reid 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.

President Mosby delivered remarks on Council's amendments to the mayor's proposed FY2017 budget including changes to the Richmond Public Schools (RPS) budget.

Papers for Consideration

The following ordinances were considered:

ORD. 2016-053 (As Amended)

To adopt the General Fund Budget for the fiscal year commencing Jul. 1, 2016, and ending Jun. 30, 2017; and to appropriate the estimated revenues for such fiscal year for the objects and purposes stated in the said budget.

Opposition

Glenwood Burley spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation requesting additional funding to stop staff turnover and shortages in the Richmond Police Department and to improve public safety.

ORD. 2016-057 (As Amended)

To appropriate and to provide funds for financing the school budget for the fiscal year commencing Jul. 1, 2016, and ending Jun. 30, 2017.

Opposition

Devin Ramachandran, RPS student, spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that he attends a mold-containing classroom in a 105-year old school building.

Otis, RPS student, spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation asking Council for additional school funding since its proposed amount is not enough to fix the city's crumbling schools.

Marcy Tafts, RPS student, spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that children need schools and schools need support.

Mira Ramachandran, RPS student, spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that money is available for schools without having to close them; she also stated that teachers and students endure unfavorable school conditions.

Lucy and Clara Maceyka, RPS students, spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that children, like themselves, who love to learn need adequate school funding and urged Council to provide more.

Sean Smith spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that Council's categorical school funding requirements and hesitation to divert a portion of Richmond's meals tax to schools, are not what the city needs.

Keri Treadway spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation expressing disappointment in Council's categorical school funding amendment to the RPS budget; she stated that it adds an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy and questioned why city departments are not held to the same funding requirements.

Chris Lombardi spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that, while Council's approval of categorical appropriations requirements for RPS may be well-intentioned, it will result in mistrust and less communication between school officials and Council.

Diane Marshall, RPS educator, spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that Council's school budget amendment has her doubting its commitment to education, and she is concerned that councilmembers will decide RPS' fate without firsthand knowledge of its challenges.

Lee Robinson spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that the school system's problems will remain if Council fails to address them in the current budget cycle.

Bradley Heath, RPS student, spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that ending certain state and local spending practices could provide additional funding to Richmond's schools.

Councilor Ellen Robertson arrived and was seated.

Ansley Perkins spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that an investment in RPS is not the city's top priority and urged Council to implement a local advocacy group's school funding recommendations in lieu of categorical funding.

Deanna Griffin spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that RPS should be fully funded without categorical funding stipulations and more school funding would be available if city operations were run more efficiently.

Kelly Ryan spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that local government support of public schools draws more residents and encouraged Council to remove categorical funding requirements for RPS.

Kenya Gibson spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that, though she is appreciative of the additional school funding Council found, it still falls short of the amount needed; she also stated that categorical funding requirements are too problematic for the complexity of RPS operations.

Garet Prior, Richmond Forward, spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that the city can cut his services and raise his taxes if doing so will adequately fund RPS.

Victoria Carl, RPS educator, spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation urging councilmembers to work through their exhaustion to find more funding for schools.

Charlotte Hayer, Richmond Education Association president, spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that categorical school funding requirements were unsuccessful when attempted in the past and will create mistrust between the school board and Council.

Daniella Jacobs, RPS principal, spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that inequitable funding for basic city services, a lack of support for schools and the promotion of competition among city departments for funding must end before Richmond can be considered a world class city.

Phillip Ricks, RPS coach, spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that he appreciates Council for finding additional money for schools but the vote on the RPS budget should be delayed to find even more funding.

Bridgette Newberry, RPS educator, spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that the city has so many great things to offer its visitors; meanwhile, Richmond residents are plagued with a school system in shambles and city leaders who fail to fix it.

Phillip Daniel, RPS student, spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that the sense of community and traditions established at his high school will be compromised if it is forced to merge with another local school due to budget cuts.

Katherine Jerden spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that effecting positive change within the school system proves difficult enough so categorical funding requirements will only present more difficulties for RPS.

Julie Crowder, RPS educator, spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that schools should be safe, sturdy and clean; she implored Council to get creative in its approach to adequately fund RPS.

Tracy Roof spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that she is fed up with the level of dysfunction that seems to surround the school budget every year; she stressed that RPS' problems will only worsen and become more expensive if they are not resolved now.

Alan Lankford spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that the city has enough money to host a bike race, build a jail and pay salaries so there should be enough money to fully fund RPS.

Jason Thompson spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that city leaders prioritize sports over schools and Richmond's Capital Improvement Plan will fund the construction of buildings that won't benefit students.

Jordan Critchlow, RPS student, spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that the school system needs city leaders to assist in realizing its full potential.

Margie Roseberry, RPS educator, spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation asking Council to remove categorical funding requirements as they place more constraints on RPS.

Chad Ingold, RPS educator, spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation encouraging Council to reconsider its proposed appropriations and approve a budget that will benefit RPS.

L. Shirley Harvey spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that it's nonsensical that money has been given to entities and spent on projects that are less important than the taxpaying residents of the city.

G.A. Robinson spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that the same challenges he experienced as a RPS student many years ago still exist today and asked Council to use its authority to fully fund RPS.

Amanda Featherstone spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation expressing disappointment with categorical funding requirements stating that they will cause a divide between the school board and city leaders.

Jonathan Miller spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that there is plenty of money that can be reallocated to schools yet Council has merely reallocated a small sum from the Richmond Ambulance Authority.

Tequan Grant, RPS student, spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that councilmembers should come together to figure out a way to avoid school closings.

Mariah White spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that the city's children need a quality education and urged Council to fully fund RPS.

Aaron Garber, RPS educator, spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that he wishes there had been more consensus-building during Council's budget deliberations to cut and reallocate funding from city departments/programs to RPS.

Joseph Jackson, RPS educator, spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that he feels pressured to teach in another locality because RPS teacher salaries are unsatisfactory and city leaders should fund the schools' budget instead of paying pro sports teams to train in Richmond.

Marcus Squires, RPS educator, spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that, while he supports school spending oversight, he also supports more money for RPS.

Jesse Perry spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation questioning what city decision makers are doing to keep people in Richmond; she stated that many of the city's initiatives have yielded little return on investment.

Justin Patterson spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation asking Council to delay the vote on the budget until it finds additional RPS funding.

Greg Muzik, RPS educator, spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that, since Richmond has some of the highest taxes in the region, there should be ample revenue to sufficiently fund its school system.

Alejandro Sosa spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that he hopes Council truly considers all the sentiments voiced by parents, teachers and students regarding RPS.

Joshua DePaulis spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that Council serves the interests of wealthy families whose children don't attend public schools in the city.

Jennifer Ramachandran spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that, despite the public outpouring of support for RPS, Council refuses to make the difficult decisions necessary to fully fund schools and education needs to be Richmond's number one priority.

Alicia Atkins spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation encouraging Council to be brave and bold enough to fully fund RPS; she stated that delaying the budget vote may prove helpful.

Calvin spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that the city's taxpaying citizens should work together to ensure schools receive all the funding they need since city leaders won't make it a priority.

Support

Charles Willis spoke in support of the proposed legislation stating that he supports categorical school funding to ensure accountability, and the city should diversify funding for RPS without cutting departmental budgets and basic services.

Several councilmembers expressed appreciation to citizens for their civic engagement regarding the schools budget and encouraged them to stay involved.

Councilor Parker Agelasto stated that Council recently received a city finance report citing an estimated \$52,000,000 in delinquent taxes, and Council has put resources toward the city's finance department for additional staff to collect the taxes owed. He also stated that such revenue could be allocated to schools in the future.

Councilor Cynthia Newbille stated that a long-term RPS funding plan is in the works and recommendations to Council are forthcoming.

Councilor Jonathan Baliles stated that ordinances proposing consistent sources of funding for RPS will be considered by Council at upcoming meetings and encouraged public attendance.

ORD. 2016-058 (As Amended)

To accept a program of proposed Capital Improvement Projects for the fiscal year beginning Jul. 1, 2016, and for the four fiscal years thereafter; to adopt a Capital Budget for the fiscal year beginning Jul. 1, 2016; and to determine the means of financing the same.

ORD. 2016-141

To amend ch. 26, art. III, div. 3 of the City Code, concerning the City Assessor, by adding therein a new section 26-105, for the purpose of requiring the City Assessor to assess certain new buildings substantially completed or fit for use and occupancy, and to abate levies on buildings razed, destroyed or damaged by fortuitous happenings.

ORD. 2016-046

To amend and reordain the fees set forth in Appendix A of the City Code for section 27-245(a), concerning mandatory charges for using meters for on-street and off-street parking spaces, for the purpose of increasing on-street parking meter charges.

ORD. 2016-047

To adopt the Department of Public Works' Parking Enterprise Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017; and to appropriate the estimated receipts of the Department of Public Works' Parking Enterprise Fund for the said fiscal year for the operation and management of parking facilities.

ORD. 2016-048

To adopt the Special Fund Budgets for the fiscal year commencing Jul. 1, 2016, and ending Jun. 30, 2017, and to appropriate the estimated receipts of the Special Revenue funds for the said fiscal year.

To repeal ch.10, art. III of the City Code, consisting of sections 10-48 through 10-52, and concerning fire and burglar alarm systems; to amend and reordain ch. 10 of the City Code by adding therein a new art. III, consisting of sections 10-48 through 10-55, concerning burglar alarms, for the purpose of implementing a procedure to issue alarm permits and assess charges for excessive false alarms; and to amend Appendix A of the City Code by repealing the fees set forth therein for section 10-51 and adding new fees for sections 10-52, concerning permits, and 10-53, concerning false alarms.

ORD. 2016-050

To amend City Code §12-120, concerning rates and discounts for parking facilities operated by the City, to impose a penalty for late payments, and to amend the fees set forth in Appendix A of the City Code for sections 12-120(a)(1), 12-120(a)(2), 12-120(a)(3), 12-120(a)(4), 12-120(a)(5), 12-120(a)(6), 12-120(a)(7), 12-120(a)(8), 12-120(a)(9), 12-120(a)(11), 12-120(a)(13), 12-120(a)(14), 12-120(a)(17), 12-120(a)(21) and 12-120(a)(22) of the City Code, concerning rates and discounts for parking facilities operated by the City.

ORD. 2016-051

To amend and reordain the fees set forth in Appendix A of the City Code for section 23-42 (concerning fees for solid waste) of the City Code, effective as of the date of rendering bills for Cycle I in July, 2016, to establish revised charges for such services.

ORD. 2016-052

To adopt the Debt Service Fund Budget for the fiscal year commencing Jul. 1, 2016, and ending Jun. 30, 2017, and to appropriate the estimated expenditures from the Debt Service Fund for the said fiscal year.

ORD. 2016-054

To amend and reordain the fees set forth in Appendix A of the City Code for sections 26-873(a), 26-874(b), 26-931(a), 26-932, 26-933(a), 26-940(a), 26-941(a), 26-941(b), 26-942(a), 26-948(d), 26-951, 26-952(a), 26-953, 26-954, 26-955(a), 26-956(a), 26-957, 26-958, 26-960(a), 26-964, 26-967(a), 26-969, 26-970, 26-971, 26-972(a), 26-972(j), 26-973, 26-974, 26-980(c), 26-989(b), 26-990(a), 26-990(b), 26-991(a), 26-992(a), 26-993, 26-994(a), 26-995, 26-996, 26-998, 26-1000, 26-1001(a), 26-1001(b), 26-1002(a), 26-1003, 26-1006(a), 26-1007(a), 26-1007(b), 26-1007(c), and 26-1008(a) concerning license fees to increase the license fee for certain licenses from \$30.00 to \$50.00.

ORD. 2016-055

To amend City Code §§ 26-977 (concerning vehicle license fees for motor vehicles) and 26-978 (concerning vehicle license fees for motorcycles) for the purpose of providing that such license fees shall be equal to the equivalent fee imposed by Va. Code § 46.2-694, and to amend Appendix A of the City Code by repealing the fees set forth therein for City Code §§ 26-977 and 26-978.

ORD. 2016-056

To amend City Code §§ 26-984 and 26-986, concerning license taxes for peddlers of crabs and for hawkers and hucksters, respectively, for the purpose of increasing the license tax for peddlers of crabs and for hawkers and hucksters from \$225.00 to \$300.00.

ORD. 2016-059

To adopt the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities' Richmond Cemeteries Budget for the fiscal year commencing Jul. 1, 2016, and ending Jun. 30, 2017; to appropriate the estimated receipts of the Richmond Cemeteries for the said fiscal year for the operation and management of the facilities.

To adopt the Internal Service Fund Budgets for the fiscal year commencing Jul. 1, 2016, and ending Jun. 30, 2017, and to appropriate the estimated receipts of the Internal Service funds for the said fiscal year.

ORD. 2016-061

To authorize the issuance of general obligation equipment notes of the City of Richmond in the maximum principal amount of \$5,500,000 to finance the cost of equipment for the following purposes and uses: acquisition of equipment and vehicles for the stormwater utility of the City; to authorize the Director of Finance, with the approval of the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City, to sell equipment notes to finance the acquisition of such equipment; and to authorize the issuance of taxable notes, for the same purposes and uses, in the same maximum principal amount and payable over the same period as such general obligation equipment notes.

ORD. 2016-062

To authorize the issuance of public utility revenue bonds of the City of Richmond in the maximum principal amount of \$110,676,000 to finance the cost of capital improvement projects of the gas, water and wastewater utilities and public utilities buildings and facilities for the following purposes and uses: enlargement, extension, repair, replacement, improvement and equipping of the gas plant and transmission lines; enlargement, extension, repair, replacement, improvement and equipping of the waterworks plant and transmission lines; enlargement, extension, repair, replacement, improvement and equipping of the wastewater plant and intercepting lines; construction, reconstruction, repair, replacement, and improvement of sanitary and storm water sewers, pumping stations, drains and culverts; construction, reconstruction, repair, replacement, improvement and equipping of public utility buildings and facilities therefor, including but not limited to the stores division; and acquisition of real property and real property rights (including without limitation easements and rights-of-way) therefor as appropriate; 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 approve the form of supplemental indenture of trust; 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 public utility revenue bonds.

ORD. 2016-063

To authorize the issuance of general obligation public improvement bonds of the City of Richmond in the maximum principal amount of \$62,500,000 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.

To cancel all authorized but unissued notes authorized by the City of Richmond in Fiscal Year 2014-2015, to authorize the issuance of general obligation equipment notes of the City of Richmond in the maximum principal amount of \$5,000,000 to finance the cost of equipment for the following purposes and uses: acquisition of computer, radio, office, solid waste collection, office furniture and miscellaneous equipment and vehicles for the various departments, bureaus and agencies of the City, and equipment for City schools; and to authorize the Director of Finance, with the approval of the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City, to sell equipment notes to finance the acquisition of such equipment, and to authorize the issuance of taxable notes, for the same purposes and uses, in the same maximum principal amount and payable over the same period as such general obligation equipment notes.

ORD. 2016-065

To amend section 12A of Article III of Ord. No. 93-117-159, adopted May 24, 1993, concerning salary supplements for the Commonwealth Attorney's Office, to provide the Commonwealth Attorney with a salary supplement of \$46,768 and a contribution to the Virginia Retirement System on his behalf of \$9,713 and to provide the Commonwealth Attorney's Office with \$783,169 for salary supplements and \$185,229 for a contribution to the Virginia Retirement System for members of the office for Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

ORD. 2016-066

To amend section 12B of Article III of Ord. No. 93-117-159, adopted May 24, 1993, concerning salary supplements for the Sheriff's Office, to provide the Sheriff with a salary supplement of \$23,069 and the Sheriff's Office with \$2,897,868 for salary supplements for members of the office for Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

ORD. 2016-067

To amend and reordain the fees set forth in Appendix A of the City Code for section 23-42(b) (concerning charges for recycling by the City) to increase the charges for recycling by the City.

ORD. 2016-068

To amend and reordain sections 3 and 25 of Article III of Ordinance No. 93-117-159, adopted May 24, 1993, to suspend the Educational Incentive Program for certain Police and Fire Officers for Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

ORD. 2016-069

To amend and reordain certain fees set forth in Appendix A of the City Code for sections 28-650 (concerning fees for residential wastewater service), 28-651 (concerning fees for commercial wastewater service), 28-652 (concerning fees for industrial wastewater service), 28-653 (concerning fees for state and federal wastewater service), 28-654 (concerning fees for municipal wastewater service) and 28-799 (concerning fees for discharge of hauled materials into designated septage receiving stations by contractors) of the City Code, effective as of the date of rendering bills for Cycle I in July, 2016, to establish revised charges for such services.

ORD. 2016-070

To amend and reordain the fees set forth in Appendix A of the City Code for sections 28-326 (concerning fees for residential water service), 28-327 (concerning fees for commercial water service), 28-328 (concerning fees for industrial water service), 28-329 (concerning fees for municipal water service), 28-330 (concerning fees for state and federal water service), 28-458 (concerning fees for water for fire protection) and 28-549 (concerning fees for water use during conservation periods) of the City Code, effective as of the date of rendering bills for Cycle I in July, 2016, to establish revised charges for such services.

To amend and reordain the fees set forth in Appendix A of the City Code for sections 28-191(2) and 28-191(3) (concerning fees for residential gas service), 28-192(2) (concerning fees for residential gas peaking service), 28-193(2) (concerning fees for general gas service), 28-195(f) and 28-196(f) (concerning fees for transportation service), 28-198(2) (concerning fees for municipal gas service), 28-202(c) (concerning fees for large volume gas sales service), and 28-203(c) (concerning fees for large volume, high load factor, gas sales service) of the City Code, effective as of the date of rendering bills for Cycle I in July 2016, to establish revised charges for such services.

ORD. 2016-072

To adopt the Water Utility Budget for the fiscal year commencing Jul. 1, 2016, and ending Jun. 30, 2017; to appropriate the estimated receipts of the Water Utility for the said fiscal year; and to make appropriations from the Water Utility Renewal Fund or Operating Fund for renewing, rebuilding or extending the plant and distribution system of the Water Utility and for the purchase of vehicles.

ORD. 2016-073

To adopt the Department of Public Utilities' Stores Internal Service Fund Budgets for the fiscal year commencing Jul. 1, 2016, and ending Jun. 30, 2017; and to appropriate the estimated receipts of the Department of Public Utilities' Stores Internal Service Funds for the said fiscal year.

ORD. 2016-074

To adopt the Gas Utility Budget for the fiscal year commencing Jul. 1, 2016, and ending Jun. 30, 2017; to appropriate the estimated receipts of the Gas Utility for the said fiscal year; and to make appropriations from the Gas Utility Renewal Fund or Operating Fund for renewing, rebuilding or extending the plant and distribution system of the Gas Utility and for the purchase of vehicles.

ORD. 2016-075

To adopt the Wastewater Utility Budget for the fiscal year commencing Jul. 1, 2016, and ending Jun. 30, 2017; to appropriate the estimated receipts of the Wastewater Utility for the said fiscal year; and to make appropriations from the Wastewater Utility Renewal Fund or Operating Fund for renewing, rebuilding or extending the plant and distribution system of the Wastewater Utility and for the purchase of vehicles.

ORD. 2016-076

To adopt the Stormwater Utility Budget for the fiscal year commencing Jul. 1, 2016, and ending Jun. 30, 2017; to appropriate the estimated receipts of the Stormwater Utility for the said fiscal year; and to make appropriations from the Stormwater Utility Renewal Fund or Operating Fund for renewing, rebuilding or extending the plant and distribution system of the stormwater utility and for the purchase of vehicles.

ORD. 2016-077

To adopt the Electric Utility Budget for the fiscal year commencing Jul. 1, 2016, and ending Jun. 30, 2017; to appropriate the estimated receipts of the Electric Utility for the said fiscal year; and to make appropriations from the Electric Utility Renewal Fund or Operating Fund for renewing, rebuilding or extending the plant and distribution system of the Electric Utility and for the purchase of vehicles.

There were no further comments and discussions and ORDS. 2016-053, 2016-057, 2016-058, 2016-141, and 2016-046 through 2016-77 were unanimously adopted.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.