



City of Richmond

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

Minutes

Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee

Tuesday, September 20, 2016

3:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Committee Members and Staff in Attendance

The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Chair
The Honorable Jonathan Baliles – Vice Chair
The Honorable Kathy Graziano – Committee member
Lou Brown Ali, Council Chief of Staff
Jean V. Capel, City Clerk
Pamela Nichols, Assistant City Clerk
Alexander Rawles, Boards and Commissions Administrator
Candice Reid, Deputy City Clerk
Steve Taylor, Council Policy Analyst
Matthew Welch, Assistant City Attorney

Call to Order

Chair Ellen Robertson called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

Evacuation Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

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 speaker guidelines.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes

Committee member Kathy Graziano moved to approve the meeting minutes of Tuesday, June 21, 2016, at 3:00 p.m., which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Board Vacancies

Alexander Rawles, boards and commissions administrator, reviewed the board applications for consideration by the committee.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Committee member Kathy Graziano moved to approve recommendation of the following board applicants, which was seconded and unanimously approved:

Board of Building Code Appeals, Electrical Division

- Douglas E. Albertson – Initial Appointment

Clean City Commission

- Linda Dunn – Initial Appointment
- Caroline Bolte Cardwell – Initial Appointment
- Stephenie L. Harrington – Initial Appointment
- Badia Hiwott – Initial Appointment
- Wanda K. McGee – Reappointment

Mr. Rawles advised the committee that, included in its packet, was a letter of endorsement from the Green City Commission for the following applicants:

Green City Commission

- Matthew H. Lee – Initial Appointment
- Katherine Jordan – Initial Appointment
- M. Stuart Nuckols – Initial Appointment
- Susan H. Hill – Initial Appointment
- Michael S. Phillips – Reappointment
- Elizabeth Seward – Reappointment

Highway Safety Commission

- Mary K. Larson – Initial Appointment

Urban Design Committee

- Robert Smith – Reappointment

Committee member Kathy Graziano asked Mr. Rawles to provide the committee with a report on the activity of the Urban Forestry Commission and suggested that the commission may need to be dissolved. It was also the consensus of the committee to continue consideration of the Urban Forestry Commission appointment recommendations, to the next Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting.

Chair Ellen Robertson asked Mr. Rawles to ask City Planning Commission staff to include a discussion item regarding the Planning Commission member vacancy on the Urban Design Committee at its next meeting.

Presentation(s)

There were no presentations.

Paper(s) for Consideration

Committee member Kathy Graziano moved to forward the following papers to Council with the recommendation to continue to the next Land Use, Housing & Transportation Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and unanimously approved:

ORD. 2015-199 - To amend City Code §§ 38-156, concerning the abatement of certain refuse, litter and weed control violations, and 86-44, concerning the times and places of collection for bulk items, brush and loose leaves, for the purposes of requiring the Chief Administrative Officer to waive certain fees for the abatement of certain violations, requiring the Director of Public Works to provide written notification of the date on which bulk items are scheduled for collection, and prohibiting the placement of bulk items for collection on or near a public right-of-way more than 48 hours before the date scheduled for collection.

Patrons: Ms. Robertson and Mr. Agelasto

ORD. 2016-204 - To reduce the speed limit on West Grace Street between North Lombardy Street and North Boulevard from 25 miles per hour to 20 miles per hour.

Patron: Mr. Samuels

Committee member Kathy Graziano moved to forward the following paper to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved:

ORD. 2016-202 - To declare that a public necessity exists and to authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to accept temporary and permanent easements at the intersection of Idlewood Avenue, Grayland Avenue, and the Downtown Expressway off-ramp for the purpose of constructing the Idlewood Avenue Roundabout project.

Patron: Mr. Agelasto

Travis Bridewell, operations manager, traffic engineering – Department of Public Works, introduced ORD. 2016-202.

Committee member Kathy Graziano moved to forward the following paper to Council with the recommendation to continue to the next Land Use, Housing & Transportation Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and unanimously approved:

RES. 2016-R056 - To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be conducted a traffic study to determine traffic efficiency on South 4th Street between East Byrd Street and East Canal Street and to determine the feasibility of changing South 4th Street from a one-way to a two-way street.

Patron: Ms. Robertson

Travis Bridewell, operations manager, traffic engineering – Department of Public Works, advised the committee that the Department of Public Works does not support the proposed legislation. Mr. Bridewell provided reasons for the opposition and responded to questions from the committee.

Support

Donald E. Steeber, a board member for the Richmond Ballet, spoke in support of the proposed legislation stating that the conversion of South 4th Street to a two-way street will provide an easier access to the parking area and decrease safety risks for students of the Richmond Ballet. Mr. Steeber further stated that portions of South 5th Street have two-way traffic patterns.

Mr. Bridewell agreed to meet with Mr. Steeber to discuss alternatives to resolve traffic and safety concerns.

Vice Chair Jonathan Baliles asked to be added as co-patron of the proposed legislation.

M. Khara, deputy director and city engineer – Department of Public Works, advised the committee that the cost of a traffic study will be approximately ten thousand dollars and will require approval from the City Council for the funding to conduct the study. Mr. Khara stated that the department was willing to work with the Richmond Ballet to discuss alternatives to improve safety.

Chair Ellen Robertson stated that she would like to continue RES. 2016-R056 to the next committee meeting to allow time for the parties involved to discuss alternatives to address safety concerns.

Committee member Kathy Graziano moved to forward the following papers to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved:

RES. 2016-R064 - To support a project to provide funding to make pedestrian access and safety infrastructure improvements to Belvidere Street at its intersections with Idlewood Avenue, Spring Street, and Rowe Street and the City's application in relation thereto to the Virginia Department of Transportation for \$574,400 from the federal Transportation Alternatives Program.

Patron: Mayor Jones

RES. 2016-R065 - To support a project to provide funding to install a pedestrian hybrid beacon near the intersection of East Broad Street and North 16th Street and the City's application in relation thereto to the Virginia Department of Transportation for \$100,000 from the federal Transportation Alternatives Program.

Patron: Mayor Jones

RES. 2016-R066 - To support a project to provide funding to install new sidewalks and pedestrian crossing improvements adjacent to E.S.H. Greene Elementary School and the City's application in relation thereto to the Virginia Department of Transportation for \$480,000 from the federal Transportation Alternatives Program.

Patron: Mayor Jones

RES. 2016-R067 - To support the Maymont Neighborhood Sidewalks Project that Res. No. 2015-R51-57, adopted Sept. 14, 2015, requested the Commonwealth Transportation Board to establish and the City's application in relation thereto to the Virginia Department of Transportation for \$640,000 from the federal Transportation Alternatives Program.

Patrons: Mayor Jones and Mr. Agelasto

RES. 2016-R068 - To support a project to provide funding to make traffic calming and other pedestrian safety infrastructure improvements adjacent to Oak Grove Elementary School and the City's application in relation thereto to the Virginia Department of Transportation for \$100,000 from the federal Transportation Alternatives Program.

Patron: Mayor Jones

Lamont Benjamin, capital improvement project administrator – Department of Public Works, introduced RES. 2016-R064 and RES. 2016-R067; he stated that the projects require the city to contribute twenty percent in matching local funds for each project.

Travis Bridewell, operations manager, traffic engineering – Department of Public Works, introduced RES. 2016-R065, RES. 2016-R066 and RES. 2016-R068.

Chair Ellen Robertson advised Mr. Bridewell to notify the civic associations in the Oak Grove area prior to beginning the project.

M. Khara, deputy director and city engineer – Department of Public Works, agreed to contact the civic associations in the Oak Grove area.

Committee member Kathy Graziano moved to forward the following papers to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved:

ORD. 2016-205 - To install an appropriate number of speed tables to be determined by the Department of Public Works, in Willway Avenue between Grove Avenue and Cary Street Road.

Patron: Mr. Baliles

Travis Bridewell, operations manager, traffic engineering – Department of Public Works, stated that the department has one existing speed table which will be installed immediately between Cary Street Road and Grove Avenue to resolve traffic concerns and asked the patron, Vice Chair Jonathan Baliles, to consider withdrawing the proposed legislation.

Vice Chair Baliles stated that he will contact residents within the vicinity of the proposed speed tables to determine if the installation of one speed table is satisfactory and that he will consider withdrawing the proposed legislation.

ORD. 2016-223 - To designate the 2300, 2400, 2500 and 2600 blocks of Whitcomb Street, between Sussex Street and Anniston Street, in honor of Annie Giles.

Patron: Ms. Robertson

ORD. 2016-224 - To designate the 100 Block of North 5th Street in honor of Raymond H. Boone.

Patron: Ms. Robertson

Travis Bridewell, operations manager, traffic engineering – Department of Public Works, displayed a picture of the proposed signs to the committee and reported that the cost for each sign will be approximately four hundred dollars.

M. Khara, deputy director and city engineer – Department of Public Works, reported that the total cost of the signs for the proposed street designations, will be approximately two thousand four hundred dollars.

ORD. 2016-225 - To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Standard Project Administration Agreement between the City of Richmond and the Virginia Department of Transportation for the City to administer the Hull Street Primary Extension Paving Program project consisting of resurfacing Hull Street Road from its intersection with Hey Road to its intersection with Chippenham Parkway.

Patron: Mayor Jones

Kenneth D. Horak, senior capital project manager – Department of Public Works, introduced ORD. 2016-225 and stated that all funding for the project will be provided by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

Committee member Kathy Graziano moved to forward the following paper to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved:

ORD. 2016-221 - To amend the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Areas Map in accordance with ch. 14, art. IV of the City Code for the purpose of adding new development and stream determinations approved by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

Patron: Mayor Jones

Jonet Prevost-White, operations manager – Department of Public Utilities, introduced ORD. 2016-221.

Committee member Kathy Graziano moved to forward the following paper to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved:

ORD. 2016-201 - To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to accept a gift, valued at approximately \$154,000, from Flying Squirrels Charities of materials and project management for the purpose of redeveloping baseball fields of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities located on the grounds of Blackwell Playground at 1450 Maury Street and Bellmeade Community Center at 1800 Lynhaven Avenue.
Patron: Mayor Jones

Barry Russell, deputy director – Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities, introduced ORD. 2016-201.

Committee member Kathy Graziano moved to forward the following paper to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved:

ORD. 2016-222 - To designate the City-owned property located within the area bounded by Dock Street to the north, Great Shiplock Park to the east, the Kanawha Canal to the south, and South 17th Street to the west as open-space land named the “Low Line.”
Patrons: Mayor Jones, Mr. Agelasto and Ms. Newbille

Keith Rogers, senior assistant to the Chief Administrative Officer, introduced ORD. 2016-222 and acknowledged that two representatives of Capital Trees were present.

Support

Jeanette Felton McKittrick, board of trustees chairman of Capital Trees, spoke in support of the proposed legislation expressing appreciation to City Council for its support of Capital Trees.

Molly Anderson, member of the Capital Trees Board of Trustees, stated that she supported the proposed legislation.

Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward the following paper to Council with the recommendation to continue to the next Land Use, Housing & Transportation Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and unanimously approved:

RES. 2016-R057 - To amend Res. No. 2003-R230-2004-R18, adopted Jan. 12, 2004, as previously amended by Res. No. 2010-R141-173, adopted Nov. 8, 2010, and Res. No. 2016-R017, adopted Mar. 28, 2016, which established a procedure to be followed before the Council appoints a tenant representative to serve on the Board of Commissioners of the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority, to provide for the appointment of a Housing Choice Voucher user as a third tenant representative.
Patron: Ms. Robertson

Chair Ellen Robertson stated that she would like to continue RES. 2016-R057.

Staff Report

Steve Taylor, council policy analyst, provided the committee with the September staff report.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m.