



City of Richmond

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

Minutes

Governmental Operations Standing Committee

Thursday, September 22, 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 (*early departure*)
Lou Brown Ali, Council Chief of Staff
Debra Bowles, Assistant City Clerk
Haskell Brown, Deputy City Attorney
Jean Capel, City Clerk
Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst
Alexander Rawles, Boards and Commissions Administrator
Candice Reid, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Jonathan Baliles called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Evacuation Announcement

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.

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

Committee member Cynthia Newbille moved to approve the meeting minutes of Thursday, June 23, 2016, which was seconded and approved ~ Vote 2/0/1: Ayes 2, Newbille, Baliles. Noes, None. Samuels abstained.

Paper(s) for Consideration

Vice Chair Charles Samuels moved to forward the following paper to Council with the recommendation to continue to the next Governmental Operations Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and unanimously approved:

RES. 2016-R016

To establish a policy of the Council that the Council will appoint no person to the Board of Commissioners of the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority to more than two consecutive full terms.

Patron: Mr. Agelasto

Vice Chair Charles Samuels moved to forward the following papers to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved:

ORD. 2016-033

To amend ch. 2, art. III, div. 7 of the City Code by adding therein a new section 2-216, concerning the obstruction of inspector general investigations, to provide that certain employees who obstruct inspector general investigations by denying the Office of the City Auditor, when not required by law to so deny, immediate access to information are subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination by their appointing authority.

Patron: Mr. Samuels

Vice Chair Charles Samuels introduced **Ordinance 2016-033** stating that the proposed ordinance brings city code into compliance with the city charter and current city policy, as it relates to the auditor's requests for information from an employee. Mr. Samuels stated that the proposed ordinance does not require dismissal of an employee; however, it does allow for discipline that could lead to the dismissal of an employee.

Opposition

Johnny McLean, director of human resources, spoke in opposition of the proposed legislation stating that it may result in allegations of harassment and/or discrimination. Mr. McLean stated that current personnel rules and administrative regulations have provisions in place to address behavioral issues, and the proposed legislation would require the city's personnel board to address unnecessary disciplinary actions.

Committee member Cynthia Newbille clarified that the proposed legislation is codifying what is currently in the city charter and does not add new or additional requirements.

ORD. 2016-198

To amend ch. 2, art. VI, div. 3 of the City Code by adding therein a new section 2-1246 for the purpose of requiring a written report to the City Council prior to the authorizing or making of any contribution to a deferred compensation plan as a bonus or similar payment for an elected official, officer, or employee of the City.

Patron: Mr. Baliles

Chair Jonathan Baliles introduced **Ordinance 2016-198** stating that the purpose of the proposed legislation is to notify Council when bonuses or similar payments are contributed to a deferred compensation plan for an elected official, officer or employee of the city.

Mr. Johnny McLean stated that the proposed legislation is confusing due to its reference of deferred compensation and that there are specific distinctions between a bonus and deferred compensation. Mr. McLean also stated that, when deferred compensation is used as a recruitment tool, yet has to be approved by Council, the recruitment process will likely be delayed thereby potentially causing a loss of qualified applicants.

Chair Baliles responded that the proposed legislation is not for Council to approve deferred compensation plans, it is for Council to be notified when contributions to deferred compensation plans as bonuses are given to current city employees or elected officials.

Vice Chair Charles Samuels stated that reporting this information to Council maintains trust in transparency.

Vice Chair Charles Samuels moved to forward the following paper to Council with the recommendation to continue to the next Governmental Operations Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and unanimously approved:

RES. 2016-R007

To declare a public necessity and to initiate an amendment to the City's zoning ordinance making the Department of Planning and Development Review, instead of the Office of the City Clerk, responsible for the mailing of required notices of City Planning Commission meetings.

Patron: Vice President Hilbert

City Clerk Jean Capel stated that she will recommend the withdrawal of the proposed legislation to Vice President Chris Hilbert since she has received guidance from the City Attorney's Office.

Vice Chair Charles Samuels moved to forward the following paper to the September 26th Council meeting for approval, which was seconded and unanimously approved:

Res. 2016-R071 - To appoint Melvin Bloomfield as the Interim City Assessor.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Committee member Cynthia Newbille departed the meeting.

Presentation(s)

Update on Procurement Services

Director of Procurement Ed Gibbs provided an update on the Office of Procurement Services. Mr. Gibbs informed the committee that there are eighteen positions within the department with nine vacant; therefore, the department cannot optimally serve all city agencies. Mr. Gibbs stated that reasonable compensation is needed to recruit more qualified applicants; however, combining the salaries of six funded vacancies allows him the ability to recruit for a portion of the nine positions. Mr. Gibbs further stated that professional development, updates of policies and procedures, identification of needed changes to the city code and technology to improve transparency are important to the progress of the department.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Overview of the Kanawha Plaza Project

Deputy Director for Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities Deborah Morton announced that Kanawha Plaza is open and its official ribbon cutting ceremony was held on Tuesday, September 20th. Ms. Morton stated that it is a beautiful park with a working fountain and the completion of phase 1 renovations which came in slightly under budget.

Enrichmond Foundation Chief Executive Office John Sydnor stated that Phase 2 improvements are starting soon, which will include a stage and shelters. Mr. Sydnor also stated that community partners are being solicited for Phase 2 funding prior to requesting funds from the city.

Board Vacancies

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

Vice Chair Charles Samuels moved to approve recommendation of the following appointments and reappointment, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Richmond Retirement System

Matthew E. Peanort, III – Reappointment
Elizabeth Cabell Jennings – Appointment
Nancy G. Leake – Appointment

Mr. Rawles also provided a copy of the 2016 Annual Report for the boards and commissions assigned to the Governmental Operations Standing committee for review.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Discussion Item(s)

Term Limitations Relevant to Members of Boards and Commissions

Boards and Commissions Administrator Alexander Rawles provided the committee with a copy of the term limit policies currently in place for all boards and commissions.

Vice Chair Charles Samuels requested that the information be shared with all Council members at the Organizational Development Standing Committee meeting on Monday, October 3rd.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Staff Report

Council Policy Analyst Joyce Davis provided the committee with the September staff report. Ms. Davis noted that the November committee meeting is currently scheduled for Thursday, November 24th, which is Thanksgiving Day and stated that the committee should consider rescheduling the meeting.

It was the consensus of the committee to reschedule the November committee meeting to Thursday, November 17th at 5:00 p.m.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.