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**Reva M. Trammell**, Alternate,  
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**Richmond City Council**  
The Voice of the People Richmond, Virginia

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# Land Use, Housing & Transportation Standing Committee Staff Report & Supplemental Information January 17, 2017



**Richmond City Council**  
The Voice of the People Richmond, Virginia

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Lou Brown Ali  
Council Chief of Staff

# Richmond City Council

*The Voice of the People*

*Richmond, Virginia*

## Office of the Council Chief of Staff

### STAFF REPORT

January 17, 2017

The last Committee meeting was held on November 22, 2016

#### Presentations, Reports and Discussion Items at the November Meeting

- None

#### Expected Presentations, Reports or Discussion Items at the January Meeting

- Richmond Transit Network Plan ..... Amy Inman Senior,  
Department of Economic and Community  
Development

#### Board Recommendations/Actions

- Alexander Rawls, Boards and Commissions Administrator

#### Next Committee Meeting

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2017 at 3:00 P.M.

## SUMMARY OF PAPERS

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### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

1. **Ordinance No. 2015-199 (Patrons: Ms. Robertson and Mr. Agelasto):** 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. – Continued from November.

#### **Summary of Ordinance/Resolution and Background:**

Ordinance No. 2015-199 makes several changes to the City Code related to bulk pickup and abatement of dumping:

- §38-156 Requires the waiver of administrative fees after a written determination that the responsible party did not cause the unlawful accumulation. This written determination is appealable to Circuit Court.
- §86-44 Requires the Director of Public Works to provide a date for requested bulk pickup of refuse.
- Prohibits placement of items scheduled for bulk pick-up on or near a public right-of-way for collection more than 48 hours before the scheduled collection date.

#### **Staff Analysis and Questions:**

- While the City already engages in code enforcement the actual payments received in relation to the amount billed is not tracked and is, therefore, unknown. Under existing code provisions, violations are assessed the actual cost of abatement plus a \$100 administrative fee in the event abatement action by the City is required.
- Can the advanced scheduling be accomplished with the existing administrative systems?

#### **Fiscal Impact:**

The proposed change will alter operational procedures, which will result in a cost change. Due to the lack of collections data, the revenue impact cannot be determined.

2. **Ordinance No. 2016-204 (Patron: Samuels)** 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. – Continued from November.

#### **Summary of Ordinance/Resolution and Background:**

This legislation establishes a speed limit of 20 miles per hour on W. Grace Street from its intersection with N. Lombardy Street to its intersection with N. Boulevard. There are concerns that construction of the Bus Rapid Transit System on Broad Street is likely to increase the amount of

vehicle traffic on Grace and it is hoped that a speed limit of 20 miles per hour will make the street safer with the increased traffic.

**Staff Analysis and Questions:**

- Should the street revert back to the previous limit after the BRT project is completed?

**Fiscal Impact:**

Signage costs are usually absorbed in ordinary operating costs.

**3. Ordinance No. 2016-309 (Patron: Mayor Jones)** To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Telecommunications Franchise Agreement by and between the City of Richmond and Windstream Communications, LLC, for the purpose of installing telecommunications equipment within the City's public right-of-way.

**Summary of Ordinance/Resolution and Background:**

Ordinance No. 2016-309 authorizes the CAO to sign a Telecommunications Franchise Agreement between the City and Windstream Communications, LLC (Windstream) which allows Windstream to install telecommunications equipment in City owned public right-of-way.

State law requires that franchise agreements be signed between cities and utility/communications companies needing to operate in right-of-ways located in incorporated cities of the State. According to the administration's O&R the City has several agreements like this with Verizon, Dominion Power, Comcast, and Lumos and that this agreement is consistent with the others.

The agreement includes provisions for surety bonds and insurance to protect City property and notice of damage to City property. The Agreement additionally includes requirements for work in the street permits from DPW in the event that there are needs for closures of public right of ways.

Revenue will be provided to the City from the Commonwealth based on Right of Way Usage fees collected from the telecommunications providers by the Commonwealth. The amount is not known at this time.

**Staff Analysis and Questions:**

- What parts of the City are affected?
- Are street or sidewalk closures expected?

**Fiscal Impact:**

There is no expenditure impact. The revenue impact is not known.

## DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- 4. Ordinance No. 2016-305 (Patron: Mayor Jones)** To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a License Agreement between the City of Richmond as Licensor and the Virginia Tourism Authority, doing business as the Virginia Tourism Corporation, as Licensee for the purpose of facilitating the development and operation of a Welcome Center in Main Street Station at 1500 East Main Street in the city of Richmond.

### **Summary of Ordinance/Resolution and Background:**

Ordinance No. 2016-305 authorizes a license agreement between the City of Richmond and the Virginia Tourism Authority for the development and operation of a Welcome Center in Main Street Station at 1500 East Main Street.

### **Staff Analysis and Questions:**

- The term of this License shall be five (5) years, beginning on July 1, 2016 and ending on June 30, 2021.
- There is an option to renew the agreement for up to three additional five year periods.
- The Virginia Tourism Authority will be responsible for direct costs of operating the welcome center. The city will be responsible for operating costs of Main Street Station, including custodial services.
- The City will receive rent of \$1 for the license term.

### **Fiscal Impact:**

There is no expenditure or revenue impact.

- 5. Resolution No. 2016-R092 (Patron: Mayor Jones)** To express the City's position on certain policy questions with regard to bus routes and stops in the city raised during the development of a Transit Network Plan for the city.

### **Summary of Ordinance/Resolution and Background:**

Resolution No. 2016-R092 expresses the City's position that:

1. 70% of the operating budget will be for high frequency routes in more populated areas and 30% of its operating budget for less populated areas,
2. 5 stops per mile will be included in urban areas and suburban areas may have stops spaced more closely together based on availability of safe crossing, and
3. GRTC will implement the Transportation Network Plan concurrently with the Pulse plan.

The Transportation Network Plan is designed to help connect the GRTC system with the new Pulse project.

### **Staff Analysis and Questions:**

- Does GRTC have the ability to implement the Transportation Network Plan concurrently with BRT?

- Where are the high populated areas vs. the suburban areas?
- How far will users have to walk between stops on the Pulse routes?
- Are there any plans to eliminate stops or routes currently in the GRTC stops?
- Will the Transportation Network Plan require additional City funding for the GRTC?
- Will the Transportation Network Plan result in changes to the GRTC fee structure?

**Fiscal Impact:**

There is no expenditure or revenue impact.

**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION, AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

- 6. Ordinance No. 2016-308 (Patron: Mayor Jones)** To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to enter into an Agreement between the City of Richmond and the Richmond Metropolitan Transportation Authority concerning the use of certain historic stones from the Kanawha Canal in connection with improvements at the T. Tyler Potterfield Memorial Bridge.

**Summary of Ordinance/Resolution and Background:**

Ordinance No. 2016-308 authorizes the CAO to sign agreements with the Richmond Metropolitan Transportation Authority (RMTA) to allow the City to move and use several stones owned by the RMTA. These stones were a part of the historic Kanawha Canal and are no longer in use by the RMTA but can be used as seating at the T. Tyler Potterfield Bridge. According to the agreement the RMTA will continue to own the stones and may recover them with a sixty day notice to the City. The costs of moving the stones will be borne by the City and paid for with funds for the bridge project.

**Staff Analysis and Questions:**

- The committee may want to know the actual cost that will be incurred to move the stones, even though funds are available.

**Fiscal Impact:**

There is no expenditure or revenue impact.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

- 7. Ord. No. 2015-033 (Patron: Ms. Trammell):** To rename the building located at 900 East Broad Street and known as “City Hall” as “L. Douglas Wilder City Hall.” – Continued from May to July 19th. - **Continued from October.**

**Summary of Ordinance/Resolution and Background:**

This proposal names Richmond City Hall at 900 East Broad Street after L. Douglas Wilder.

L. Douglas Wilder served as Mayor of Richmond from 2005-2009. He is first person elected directly by the voters as mayor under the current City Charter and at least since the 1948 City Charter. Previous mayors were indirectly elected and chosen by the Council. Notably, Mr. Wilder is a native of the City and is the first African-American elected Lt. Governor of Virginia and the first African American elected governor of any State.

Section 26-7 through 26-10 of the City Code expresses guidelines on naming public facilities and streets. The general preference of the policy is to only name facilities after someone who has been deceased for 5 years. However; the City Council and Mayor, have at times found it appropriate to name City-owned streets and facilities for historic and honorific reasons such as in the cases of the naming Louise Caine Park, Toler Furniture Road, First Freedom Center Alley, the Manchester Courts Building, Joe Brooks Boulevard, and the T. Tyler Potterfield Memorial Bridge.

**Staff Analysis and Questions:**

- Does the proposal create any costs for changing the name of the building to officials operating their offices such as stationery and signage?

**Fiscal Impact:**

No fiscal impact is anticipated. There may be nominal costs associated with changing signage and stationery but those exact costs are not known. Council Staff has previously been informed by Administration Staff that costs of signage is absorbed in DPW's operating budgets for naming or re-naming City streets, alleys, and other facilities.

**8. Ordinance No. 2016-307 (Patron: Mayor Jones)** To amend City Code § 29-189, concerning bus fares, for the purpose of authorizing an expansion of the CARE paratransit service to provide a third party transportation voucher program for patrons that desire on-demand transportation service.

**Summary of Ordinance/Resolution and Background:**

Ordinance No. 2016-307 amends §110-136 of the City Code, concerning bus fares, to add a same-day request a ride program entitled "Third Party Transportation Voucher Program" for use by all CARE eligible patrons.

**Staff Analysis and Questions:**

- GRTC currently provides complementary paratransit service for eligible patrons within three quarters of a mile of local fixed route service, as required by federal law. This complementary service requires patrons to pre-book 24 hours in advance.
- The proposed "Third Party Transportation Voucher Program" will provide patrons with greater flexibility by eliminating the pre-booking requirement.
- The proposed voucher program allow GRTC and the CARE patron to share payment for service fees to an authorized third party transportation provider for on-demand service, as follows:
  - CARE Patron will pay the first \$6.00 in fare on a one-way trip
  - GRTC will pay up to \$15.00 - after the first \$6.00 in cost GRTC, will pay fare ranging from \$6.01 to \$21.00
  - CARE Patron will pay the total remaining balance on a one-way trip above \$21.00
- The Third Party Transportation Voucher Program would be implemented as a pilot program. From February 5, 2017 to December 31, 2017.
- Council may want to know the criteria that will be used to evaluate the success of the program.
- Council may want to know more about GRTC's plans to inform patrons of the service changes.



**Fiscal Impact:**

There is no expenditure or revenue impact.

Prepared by: W. Echelberger & S. Taylor

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