



City of Richmond

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

Minutes

Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee

Tuesday, November 22, 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
The Honorable Chris Hilbert – Council Vice President
Meghan Brown, Deputy Council Chief of Staff
Jean V. Capel, City Clerk
William Echelberger Jr., Council Budget Analyst
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 3:05 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, October 18, 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.

Vice Chair Jonathan Baliles moved to forward the following board applications to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved:

Clean City Commission

- Nancy J. Lampert – Initial Appointment

Highway Safety Commission

- James H. Johnson – Reappointment

It was the consensus of the committee to abolish the Urban Forestry Commission and to request that Council staff start the process for dissolving the commission.

Presentation(s)

Land Use and Economic Development Plans for the Bus Rapid Transit Project

Mark Olinger, Planning and Development Review director, provided an overview of the Pulse Corridor Plan which included information on existing conditions, corridor framework and station plans. Mr. Olinger also provided a description of the corridor wide recommendations to be considered such as rezoning land to match the future land use map, installing streetscape improvements along the Pulse corridor and connection recommendations.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Chair Ellen Robertson inquired about consideration for connectivity to workforce development and employment centers for low-income residents, and how the proposed plans for the Bus Rapid Transit project will impact existing parking and current zoning categories.

Paper(s) for Consideration

Committee member Kathy Graziano moved to forward the following paper to Council with the recommendation to continue to the December 20, 2016 Land Use, Housing & Transportation Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and unanimously approved:

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:

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 introduced RES. 2016-R057.

In response to a question by Committee member Kathy Graziano, Matthew Welch, assistant city attorney, stated there were no regulations prohibiting an increase of tenant representatives to three.

Committee member Kathy Graziano moved to forward the following paper to Council with the recommendation to continue to the January 17, 2017 Land Use, Housing & Transportation Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and approved ~ 2/1 (Robertson):

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

Chair Ellen Robertson introduced ORD. 2015-199 and explained that the intent of the proposed legislation is to require that the Department of Public Works create a schedule of pick-up for bulk items and to prohibit placing items, in public right-of-ways, earlier than two days before a scheduled pick-up.

Bobby Vincent, deputy director of operations – Department of Public Works, stated that the city is aware of the issues regarding bulk collection and anticipates completing a revised plan for bulk collection, before the spring 2017 collection season. He stated that the city does not have the resources to address the approximately 20,000 requests received annually, and requiring a collection scheduled and a notification process, will increase demands on the department's resources. He further stated that the proposed legislation will have a significant fiscal impact on the department.

Chair Robertson stated that the problem with illegal dumping needs to be addressed and that she was comfortable forwarding the proposed legislation to Council.

Committee member Kathy Graziano stated that she cannot support the proposed legislation because of the fiscal impact; however, she would support a continuance of ORD. 2015-199 to the January 2017 committee meeting to give city administration time to complete its revised plan for bulk collection.

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

ORD. 2016-274 To designate the 2500 Block of Hawthorne Avenue in honor of Andrew “Bo” Hobbs.
Patron: Vice President Hilbert

Council Vice President Chris Hilbert introduced ORD. 2016-274.

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

RES. 2016-R081 To express the sense of the City Council that a traffic signal light should be installed at the intersection of Brookland Park Boulevard and Lamb Avenue.
Patron: Vice President Hilbert

Council Vice President Chris Hilbert introduced RES. 2016-R081 and provided background information regarding the proposed request. Mr. Hilbert stated that installing a traffic light will address the concerns of a business owner within the vicinity of the intersection, and improve the safety for the school children in the area and pedestrians. Council Vice President Hilbert stated that funding was included in the FY 2017 adopted budget for city-wide traffic control installation; however, those funds were possibly allocated to other projects.

Travis Bridewell, operations manager, traffic engineering – Department of Public Works, presented city administration’s response to the proposed legislation and explained that an engineering study is required to determine the need for traffic devices. Mr. Bridewell asked the committee to consider continuing the proposed legislation until the engineering study is completed.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Matthew Welch, assistant city attorney, advised the committee that the proposed legislation does not require a traffic study.

Council Vice President Chris Hilbert indicated that city staff misled the business owner and the proposed legislation would correct an access error that was created at no fault of his own. He stated that proposed alternatives to resolve the issues were rejected; therefore, the only alternative is to install a traffic light.

Support

Richard Lambert, owner of Scott's Funeral Home, spoke in support of the proposed legislation stating that a traffic light, will not only provide safety for people attending services at the chapel, but also for the school, pedestrians and shoppers.

Committee member Kathy Graziano expressed concern about the fiscal impact and stated that a traffic study should be completed before Council considers the proposed legislation.

Council Vice President Chris Hilbert asked city administration to provide an anticipated completion date for the traffic study.

Vice Chair Jonathan Baliles suggested to forward the proposed legislation to Council with the recommendation to approve; and subsequently, the patron can request city administration to conduct a traffic study and discuss funding options for the proposed traffic light prior to Council's consideration.

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

ORD. 2016-275 To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and 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 purpose of installing sidewalk and landscaping on West Broad Street from Hamilton Street to Laurel Street.

Patron: Mayor Jones

ORD. 2016-276 To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and 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 purpose of developing and administering the I-95 and Broad Street Interchange Area project.

Patron: Mayor Jones

M. Khara, deputy director and city engineer – Department of Public Works, provided an overview of projects approved by the Virginia General Assembly.

Lamont Benjamin, capital improvement project administrator – Department of Public Works, introduced ORD. 2016-275 and stated that all funding for the Broad Street Streetscape project will be provided by the Virginia Department of Transportation.

Mr. Khara provided an overview of the Broad Street Interchange Area project.

Travis Bridwell, operations manager, traffic engineering – Department of Public Works, introduced ORD. 2016-276 and presented an overlay map for I-95/I-64 overlap.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

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

ORD. 2016-277 To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute an Agreement between City of Richmond and Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Transportation for Adjustment of Water Facilities between the City of Richmond and the Virginia Department of Transportation to facilitate the replacement of existing water utility facilities and an existing bridge as part of the Route 5 (East Main Street) Bridge Replacement over Norfolk Southern Railroad project.
Patron: Mayor Jones

Jonathan Cosby, engineer III – Department of Public Utilities, introduced ORD. 2016-277.

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

ORD. 2016-278 To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a First Amended and Restated Dove Street Redevelopment Program Area Implementation Program Cooperation Agreement between the City of Richmond and the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority for the purpose of making a grant to the Authority for the design, development, and implementation of various street, sidewalk, alley, water, sewer, and drainage infrastructure improvements necessary for the redevelopment of the Dove Street Redevelopment Area in the city of Richmond.
Patron: Mayor Jones

Mark Olinger, director – Planning and Development Review, introduced ORD. 2016-278.

Discussion Item(s)

There were no discussion items.

Staff Report

Steve Taylor, council policy analyst, and Bill Echelberger, council budget analyst, provided the committee with the November staff report.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.