



City of Richmond

Informal Meeting Minutes

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

Monday, September 23, 2019

4:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Councilmembers Present

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President
The Honorable Chris Hilbert, Vice President (late arrival)
The Honorable Andreas Addison
The Honorable Parker Agelasto
The Honorable Kim Gray (late arrival)
The Honorable Michael Jones
The Honorable Kristen Larson (late arrival)
The Honorable Ellen Robertson
The Honorable Reva Trammell

Staff Present

Lisa Braxton, Assistant City Clerk
Haskell Brown, Deputy City Attorney
Meghan Brown, Interim Council Chief of Staff
Allen Jackson, City Attorney
Candice Reid, City Clerk
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. and presided.

Upon the President's request, Assistant City Clerk Lisa Braxton provided information on the appropriate manner in which the Council Chamber is to be evacuated in the event of an emergency.

Vice President Chris Hilbert arrived at 4:05 p.m. and was seated.

Docket Review

Assistant City Clerk Lisa Braxton reviewed the following agenda items as indicated:

Consent Agenda:

1. Ord. 2019-118 – to be continued to Tuesday, November 12, 2019
2. Ord. 2019-186 – retained on the Consent Agenda
3. Ord. 2019-189 – to be continued to Tuesday, November 12, 2019
4. Ord. 2019-197 – retained on the Consent Agenda
5. Ord. 2019-198 – retained on the Consent Agenda
6. Ord. 2019-220 – retained on the Consent Agenda
7. Ord. 2019-221 – retained on the Consent Agenda
8. Ord. 2019-222 – retained on the Consent Agenda

9. Ord. 2019-223 – retained on the Consent Agenda
10. Ord. 2019-224 – retained on the Consent Agenda
11. Ord. 2019-225 – retained on the Consent Agenda
12. Ord. 2019-226 – retained on the Consent Agenda
13. Ord. 2019-227 – retained on the Consent Agenda
14. Ord. 2019-228 – retained on the Consent Agenda
15. Ord. 2019-229 – retained on the Consent Agenda
16. Ord. 2019-230 – retained on the Consent Agenda
17. Ord. 2019-231 – retained on the Consent Agenda
18. Ord. 2019-232 – retained on the Consent Agenda
19. Ord. 2019-233 – retained on the Consent Agenda
20. Ord. 2019-234 – retained on the Consent Agenda
21. Ord. 2019-235 – retained on the Consent Agenda
22. Ord. 2019-236 – retained on the Consent Agenda
23. Ord. 2019-237 – retained on the Consent Agenda
24. Ord. 2019-238 – retained on the Consent Agenda
25. Ord. 2019-239 – retained on the Consent Agenda
26. Ord. 2019-240 – retained on the Consent Agenda
27. Ord. 2019-241 – retained on the Consent Agenda
28. Ord. 2019-242 – retained on the Consent Agenda
29. Ord. 2019-243 – retained on the Consent Agenda
30. Ord. 2019-244 – retained on the Consent Agenda
31. Ord. 2019-245 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Councilor Kristen Larson arrived at 4:08 p.m. and was seated.

City Attorney Allen Jackson informed Council that the proposed use of the center referenced in Ord. 2019-245 for a cold weather shelter would be indefinite until amended.

Shunda Giles, Social Services director, stated that city administration did not oppose an amendment to Ord. 2019-245 limiting the use of the center to one year; however, she expressed concern with a continuance of the proposed legislation since cold weather season starts October 1st.

Councilor Kim Gray arrived at 4:12 p.m. and was seated.

Vice President Chris Hilbert voiced his opposition to an impending special use permit for a hypothermia shelter in his district.

Councilor Ellen Robertson emphasized the need for amending Ord. 2019-245 given opposition to a shelter in another district, and noted that her district has carried the responsibility of providing the essential service for years. Ms. Robertson persisted that she could not support the proposed legislation without the suggested amendment.

32. Ord. 2019-246 – retained on the Consent Agenda
33. Ord. 2019-247 – to be continued to Tuesday, November 12, 2019
34. Ord. 2019-249 – to be continued to Tuesday, November 12, 2019
35. Ord. 2019-251 – retained on the Consent Agenda
36. Ord. 2019-252 – retained on the Consent Agenda
37. Ord. 2019-254 – retained on the Consent Agenda
38. Res. 2019-R025 – to be continued to Tuesday, November 12, 2019
39. Res. 2019-R029 – retained on the Consent Agenda
40. Res. 2019-R030 – retained on the Consent Agenda
41. Res. 2019-R031 – retained on the Consent Agenda
42. Res. 2019-R032 – retained on the Consent Agenda
43. Res. 2019-R033 – retained on the Consent Agenda
44. Res. 2019-R034 – retained on the Consent Agenda, 2019
45. Res. 2019-R035 – retained on the Consent Agenda
46. Res. 2019-R036 – retained on the Consent Agenda
47. Res. 2019-R037 – retained on the Consent Agenda
48. Res. 2019-R038 – retained on the Consent Agenda
49. Res. 2019-R039 – retained on the Consent Agenda

M. Khara, Public Works deputy director, provided an introduction and answered questions regarding proposed Res. 2019-R039.

50. Res. 2019-R040 – retained on the Consent Agenda
51. Res. 2019-R041 – retained on the Consent Agenda
52. Res. 2019-R042 – to be continued to Tuesday, November 12, 2019
53. Res. 2019-R043 – to be amended and considered
54. Res. 2019-R048 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Councilor Kristen Larson requested that Council convened in a closed meeting to discussion proposed Res. 2019-R048.

- 55. Res. 2019-R049 – retained on the Consent Agenda
- 56. Res. 2019-R050 – to be continued to Tuesday, November 12, 2019
- 57. Res. 2019-R051 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Regular Agenda:

- 58. Ord. 2018-231 – to be continued to Tuesday, November 12, 2019
- 59. Ord. 2018-236 – to be continued to Tuesday, November 12, 2019
- 60. Ord. 2019-208 – to be amended and continued to Tuesday, November 12, 2019
- 61. Ord. 2019-250 – to be stricken

Councilor Parker Agelasto, on behalf of the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee, informed Council on the committee's decision to recommending striking Ord. 2019-250 and their request for discussion at the October Organizational Development Standing Committee meeting.

Councilor Kristen Larson explained that the Committee did not oppose the recommended allocation of the surplus fund balance; however, they contest the procedural aspect of Ord. 2019-250. Ms. Larson noted the deadline of November 1st for the allocation of the surplus fund balance.

City Attorney Allen Jackson and City Auditor Lou Lassiter were available to answer questions regarding Ord. 2019-250. Mr. Lassiter reported that the proposed legislation contradicts current city policy for committing fiscal year-end fund balance to a specific purpose prior to June 30th, and he advised against contravening GASB (Governmental Accounting Standards Board) Statement No. 54 pronouncement.

There were no further comments or discussions concerning Consent and Regular Agenda items reviewed.

General Assembly Legislative Proposals

Ron Jordan and Laura Bateman, council lobbyists, Advantus Strategies, reviewed a draft of proposed recommended legislative initiatives and position statements for inclusion in the city's 2020 legislative packet for the upcoming General Assembly session. A copy of the information provided has been filed.

Councilor Ellen Robertson stated that the legislative request extending partial tax exemption in redevelopment districts from 15 to 30 years should reflect "for the purpose of affordable housing."

Councilor Kim Gray requested an update from city administration concerning the Richmond Eviction Diversion Pilot program.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell inquired regarding the city's emergency relief efforts.

Councilor Kristen Larson expressed opposition for the legislative request eliminating the authority of the mayor to introduce legislation and specifying introduction only by members of Council.

Councilor Andreas Addison also opposed the inclusion of the legislative request regarding the introduction of legislation.

After further discussion, it was the consensus of Council to remove the "Introduction of Legislation" request from the city's 2020 legislative packet.

Closed Session Motion

At 5:11 p.m., Councilor Kristen Larson moved that the City Council go into a closed meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia for discussion and consideration of a prospective candidate for appointment as an appointee of the City Council, specifically an interim city attorney.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Councilor Michael Jones motioned to exit closed session. The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 8, Jones, Robertson, Larson, Agelasto, Trammell, Addison, Hilbert, Newbille. Noes None. Gray excused. Councilors reconvened in open session at 5:29 p.m.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

September 23, 2019

WHEREAS, the Council has convened in closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law:

NOW, THEREFORE,
BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Council hereby certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge (i) only public matters lawfully exempt from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certifying resolution applies; and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Council.

WITNESS the following vote of Council members, as recorded by Candice D. Reid, City Clerk:

CERTIFYING:

Cynthia I. Newbille, President
Christopher A. Hilbert, Vice President
Andreas D. Addison
Kimberly B. Gray (excused)
Kristen N. Larson
Parker C. Agelasto
Ellen F. Robertson
Reva M. Trammell
Michael J. Jones

DECLINING TO CERTIFY:

Consideration of Navy Hill (NH) Development Advisory Commission Nominations

After discussion regarding the appointment process, Councilor Parker Agelasto moved to appoint Richard Crom to the Navy Hill Development Advisory Commission, which was seconded and failed: Ayes 4, Larson, Agelasto, Gray, Trammell. Noes 5, Jones, Robertson, Addison, Hilbert, Newbille.

Councilor Ellen Robertson moved to appoint Mark Gordon to the Navy Hill Development Advisory Commission, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Councilor Andreas Addison moved to appoint Grindley Johnson to the Navy Hill Development Advisory Commission, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Councilor Ellen Robertson moved to appoint Suzanne Long to the Navy Hill Development Advisory Commission, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Councilor Ellen Robertson moved to appoint Mary Harding Sadler to the Navy Hill Development Advisory Commission, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Councilor Agelasto expressed his disappointment with the lack of certified public accounting expertise representation on the NH Commission.

Councilor Michael Jones moved to appoint Michael Schewel to the Navy Hill Development Advisory Commission, which was seconded and approved: Ayes 7, Jones, Robertson, Larson, Gray, Trammell, Addison, Newbille. Noes 1, Agelasto. Hilbert abstained.

Councilor Andreas Addison moved to appoint Corey Walker to the Navy Hill Development Advisory Commission, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Councilor Michael Jones moved to appoint Hakim Lucas to the Navy Hill Development Advisory Commission, which was seconded and approved: Ayes 5, Jones, Robertson, Addison, Hilbert, Newbille. Noes 4, Larson, Agelasto, Gray, Trammell.

Navy Hill Development Proposal Review Process

President Cynthia Newbille reviewed a draft of the proposed Navy Hill Development Work Session schedule. A copy of the information has been filed.

After discussion regarding Council's availability and review process, President Newbille stated that consideration will be given to refine the work session schedule to allow for attendance by a majority of Council.

City Attorney Allen Jackson explained that the Navy Hill Development Advisory Commission is required to provide Council with its final report no later than 90 days after the appointment of a majority of the members, which is effective as of today's meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

CITY CLERK