



City of Richmond

Legislative Summit Minutes

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

Tuesday, October 2, 2019

12:00 PM

Library of Virginia Conference Room
800 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA

Council Members Present

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

Others Present

The Honorable Dawn Adams, Virginia House of Delegates Representative, 68th Voter District
The Honorable Lamont Bagby, Virginia House of Delegates Representative, 74th Voter District (*late arrival*)
The Honorable Jeffrey Bourne, Virginia House of Delegates Representative, 71th Voter District
The Honorable Betsy Carr, Virginia House of Delegates Representative, 69th Voter District
The Honorable Delores McQuinn, Virginia House of Delegates Representative, 70th Voter District
Haskell Brown, Deputy City Attorney
Meghan Brown, Interim Council Chief of Staff
Cheryl Burke, Richmond Public School Board, Chair, 7th District
Ron Jordan, Council Lobbyist
Jason Kamras, Richmond Public Schools Superintendent
Linda Owen, Richmond Public School Board, 9th District
Abigail Philips, Chief of Staff for the Honorable Jennifer McClellan, Virginia Senator, 9th Voter District
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Lenora Reid, Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Lincoln Saunders, Chief of Staff for the Honorable Mayor Levar Stoney
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m., and provided opening remarks.

President Newbille introduced Ron Jordan, council lobbyist to the Virginia General Assembly, and managing director of Advantus Strategies, who provided an overview of the following Richmond legislative proposals for the 2020 General Assembly session:

- Authorize the City of Richmond to implement a land value tax.

Vice President Chris Hilbert arrived and was seated at 12:13 p.m.

Councilor Andreas Addison arrived and was seated at 12:14 p.m.

Councilor Andreas Addison provided additional information regarding the land tax legislative proposal. He also responded to questions from Delegates Dawn Adams and Delores McQuinn regarding implementation and property qualification.

- Develop a tax structure to fund regional transportation infrastructure projects and expand public transit access across the Richmond Region.

Councilor Addison stated the proposed tax structure could provide additional funding to expand Greater Richmond Transportation Company (GRTC) and rapid transit Pulse routes to surrounding counties of the city.

- To encourage affordable housing opportunities, provide local government the authority to extend the partial tax exemption for affordable housing in redevelopment districts from 15 years to 30 years.

Councilor Ellen Robertson explained the difficulties home owners encounter once tax exemptions expire after 15 years. She stated the ability to extend exemptions an additional 15 years would alleviate the issue.

Delegate Lamont Bagby arrived and was seated at 12:38 p.m.

- Authorize localities to establish a local Homestead Property Tax Exemption program that would allow a lump sum deduction from the assessed value of a residential single-family home based on a fixed deduction amount that is set by the local governing body on an annual basis. Provide an exemption of up to 20% of the just value of the homestead.
- Modify the City of Richmond membership on the Richmond Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board to require the appointment of one Council member with remaining appointments made by the Mayor with approval of Council.
- Authorize the City of Richmond to adopt an affordable housing dwelling unit program to address housing needs, promote a full range of housing choices, and encourage the construction and continued existence of moderately priced housing.
- City Charter
 - Clarify the residency requirement for Council Members;
 - Clarify the authority to remove an elected official who is in violation of a Charter residency requirement.

Ron Jordan reported that discussions regarding legislative proposals for additional changes to the City Charter were on-going between Council and the mayor.

Councilor Kristen Larson expressed her support to remove the allowance of a member of city administration to attend closed sessions of Council.

Councilor Kim Gray stated Council should review personnel matters in closed sessions without the attendance of city administration.

President Cynthia Newbille informed the state delegation that any request to change the City Charter must obtain a consensus of Council.

Councilor Michael Jones requested any additional proposals to change the City Charter be addressed at a separate meeting of Council.

- Provide full funding for the true costs of public education in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Immediate goals should be increasing funding for the “at-risk” add on, removal of the funding caps for support staff enacted during the Great Recession and providing sufficient general funds for direct aid programs so that 100 percent of the lottery proceeds can be returned directly to local schools for discretionary use.

Further, meaningful state financial support for school modernization and construction is critical, either by maximizing Lottery funds and/or creation of a new funding stream.

Councilor Kim Gray inquired how the proposed Navy Hill Development Project could impact education funding.

Mr. Jordon stated he would research the matter and provide additional information to Council.

Richmond School Board Member Cheryl Burke stressed the importance of an early childhood education program for low-income families and requested it to be sufficiently funded.

Lenora Reid, acting chief administrative officer, expressed her support for the early childhood education program expanding acceptance to 3-year olds, and inquired if the program was income based.

Jason Kamras, Richmond Public Schools superintendent, stated the program was income based due to limited resources.

Delegate Delores McQuinn requested Council and city administration review the issue of gentrification in the city.

Delegate Lamont Bagby addressed the need to properly fund mental health support within regional jails. He also requested Council and city administration look at the possible impact of casinos in the Richmond area.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:24 p.m.

CITY CLERK