



City of Richmond

Informal Meeting Minutes

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

Monday, December 9, 2019

4:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Councilmembers Present

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

Staff Present

Lawrence Anderson, Council Chief of Staff
Lisa Braxton, Assistant City Clerk
Haskell Brown, Interim City Attorney
Meghan Brown, Deputy Council Chief of Staff
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Tabrica Rentz, Acting Deputy City Attorney
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 4:02 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.

Docket Review

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

Consent Agenda:

1. Ord. 2018-324 – to be continued to Monday, January 27, 2020
2. Ord. 2018-325 – to be continued to Monday, January 27, 2020
3. Ord. 2019-118 – retained on the Consent Agenda
4. Ord. 2019-247 – to be amended and continued to Monday, January 13, 2020
5. Ord. 2019-257 – to be continued to Monday, January 27, 2020

Ord. 2019-257 was continued per a previous request by Councilor Stephanie Lynch.

6. Ord. 2019-275 – to be continued to Monday, January 27, 2020
7. Ord. 2019-276 – to be continued to Monday, January 27, 2020
8. Ord. 2019-294 – to be continued to Monday, January 27, 2020

9. Ord. 2019-302 – to be continued to Monday, January 13, 2020
10. Ord. 2019-305 – retained on the Consent Agenda
11. Ord. 2019-306 – retained on the Consent Agenda
12. Ord. 2019-307 – retained on the Consent Agenda
13. Ord. 2019-308 – retained on the Consent Agenda
14. Ord. 2019-309 – retained on the Consent Agenda
15. Ord. 2019-310 – retained on the Consent Agenda
16. Ord. 2019-311 – retained on the Consent Agenda
17. Ord. 2019-313 – to be continued to Monday, January 27, 2020
18. Ord. 2019-314 – to be amended and continued to Monday, January 13, 2020
19. Ord. 2019-315 – retained on the Consent Agenda
20. Ord. 2019-316 – retained on the Consent Agenda
21. Ord. 2019-317 – retained on the Consent Agenda
22. Ord. 2019-318 – to be amended and continued to Monday, January 13, 2020
23. Ord. 2019-321 – retained on the Consent Agenda
24. Ord. 2019-322 – retained on the Consent Agenda
25. Ord. 2019-323 – retained on the Consent Agenda
26. Ord. 2019-324 – to be continued to Monday, January 13, 2020
27. Ord. 2019-325 – retained on the Consent Agenda
28. Ord. 2019-326 – retained on the Consent Agenda
29. Ord. 2019-327 – retained on the Consent Agenda
30. Ord. 2019-328 – to be continued to Monday, January 13, 2020

Councilor Andreas Addison arrived at 4:06 p.m. and was seated.

31. Res. 2019-R025 – retained on the Consent Agenda
32. Res. 2019-R065 – retained on the Consent Agenda
33. Res. 2019-R066 – retained on the Consent Agenda
34. Res. 2019-R067 – retained on the Consent Agenda
35. Res. 2019-R068 – to be continued to Monday, January 27, 2020
36. Res. 2019-R069 – to be continued to Monday, January 27, 2020

Regular Agenda:

37. Ord. 2018-231 – to be continued to Monday, January 27, 2020

Councilor Stephanie Lynch arrived at 4:08 p.m. and was seated.

38. Ord. 2018-236 – to be continued to Monday, January 13, 2020

39. Ord. 2019-288 – moved to the Consent Agenda

40. Ord. 2019-312 – retained on the Regular Agenda

41. Res. 2019-R057 – to be continued to Monday, January 27, 2020

Res. 2019-R057 was continued per a previous request by Councilor Stephanie Lynch.

42. Res. 2019-R064 – retained on the Regular Agenda

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

Navy Hill Development Proposal Public Hearings

President Cynthia Newbille reviewed Section 2 of adopted Ord. 2019-119, which requires Council to conduct four public hearings regarding the Navy Hill Development proposal throughout the city. President Newbille advised councilors of the intent to schedule the public hearings by January 18, 2020 and stated that information pertaining to location, date and time will be forthcoming.

Independent Consultant to Review Navy Hill Development (NHD) Proposal

Betty Burrell, Procurement Services director, provided information regarding the procurement process for the request for proposal (RFP) of an external consultant to advise Council on the Navy Hill Development proposal and stated that the notice of intent to award had been posted. Ms. Burrell explained options regarding the RFP solicitation and stated that Council could either award the contract to the winning firm (C. H. Johnson Consulting, Incorporated) or cancel the solicitation entirely.

Councilor Michael Jones arrived at 4:16 p.m. and was seated.

Councilor Kristen Larson expressed concern with the recommended awarded firm of the RFP, citing a conflict of interest since the firm had a previous relationship with Hunden Strategic Partners, a firm which was retained by city administration to also review the NHD proposal. Ms. Larson questioned the awarded firm's ability to provide an unbiased prospective of the project.

Vice President Chris Hilbert acknowledged the constricted timeframe for reviewing the NHD proposal and stated that Council should forgo the RFP solicitation due to forthcoming budget deliberations.

Councilor Michael Jones expressed frustration after learning that his inquiry for certain information pertaining to the RFP solicitation process could not be disclosed at that time.

Ms. Burrell affirmed that confidential information would become public after the conclusion of the procurement process.

Councilor Kim Gray maintained her opposition to expending funds for an external consultation given Council having appointed a voluntary citizen commission to review the NHD proposal; she suggested the cancellation of the RFP solicitation.

Councilor Ellen Robertson stated that she appreciates the work of the Navy Hill Development Advisory Commission; however, she wants a professional review of the economic development proposal.

Interim City Attorney Haskell Brown defined the term “conflict of interest” as it pertains to the RFP process and answered questions.

After further discussion regarding the RFP solicitation process and claim of the potential conflict of interest by the awarded firm, Councilor Kim Gray moved that Council request the Council Chief of Staff to withdraw the request for proposal soliciting for a consulting firm to review the Navy Hill Development proposal, which was seconded and failed: Ayes 4, Larson, Gray, Trammell, Hilbert. Noes 5, Jones, Robertson, Lynch, Addison, Newbille.

Other Discussion

President Cynthia Newbille briefly reviewed a draft timeline for evaluating the Navy Hill Development proposal and mentioned that the proposed project is expected to be considered at the February 24th Formal Session of Council. President Newbille noted that the draft timeline will be provided to councilors once she receives confirmation regarding possible truncation of the review period by the awarded firm, C. H. Johnson Consulting, Incorporated.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

CITY CLERK