



City of Richmond

Special Meeting Minutes

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

Thursday, April 9, 2020

3:30 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Councilmembers Present

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President
The Honorable Chris Hilbert, Vice President (by videoconference from home)
The Honorable Kim Gray (late arrival by videoconference from home)
The Honorable Michael Jones (by teleconference from office)
The Honorable Kristen Larson (by videoconference from home)
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch (by teleconference from home)
The Honorable Ellen Robertson (by videoconference from home)
The Honorable Reva Trammell

Absent

The Honorable Andreas Addison

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m., and presided.

CITIZEN SPEAKER GUIDELINES

Upon the President's request, City Clerk Candice Reid provided citizen speaker guidelines.

ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION

City Clerk Candice Reid, in accordance with section 2.2-3708.2(A)(3) of the Code of Virginia, announced that the Governor had declared a state of emergency as a result of the spread of the COVID-19 disease and prohibited the in-person gathering of more than ten people. City Clerk Reid stated that the catastrophic nature of the declared emergency made it impracticable or unsafe to assemble a quorum in a single location. Ms. Reid also stated the meeting was being held through electronic communication means in the form of a video and telephone conference call by which less than a quorum of the Council was physically assembled in one location, and that the purpose of the meeting was to address the emergency by considering an ordinance to provide a method to assure continuity in the city's government.

PAPER FOR CONSIDERATION

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2020-093

To assure the continuity of government during the disaster resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic by modifying the practices and procedures of public bodies to permit electronic meetings as authorized by Va. Code § 15.2-1413.

Interim City Attorney Haskell Brown provided information regarding the proposed ordinance and its impact on meetings of Council. Mr. Brown also informed Council of procedures necessary to conduct meetings of Council if the ordinance was adopted.

Councilor Kim Gray joined the meeting by videoconference at 3:40 p.m.

Councilor Kim Gray questioned the impact potential revisions to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia, would have on the proposed ordinance.

Mr. Brown stated he would inquire about the potential revisions and provide Council with information regarding its impact on the proposed ordinance.

Councilor Kristen Larson requested that if the ordinance was adopted, information on how the public can participate in remote meetings of Council be provided to the public.

Councilor Gray inquired if Council's regular Formal meetings would still be broadcasted on Virginia Public Media's television channel.

President Cynthia Newbille confirmed with Council staff that broadcasts would continue.

There were no further comments or discussions and **ORD. 2020-093 was adopted:** Ayes 7, Jones, Robertson, Larson, Gray, Trammell, Hilbert, Newbille. Noes None. Lynch was excused.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 3:48 p.m.

CITY CLERK