



City of Richmond

Informal Meeting Minutes

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

Monday, June 8, 2020

3:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall
Virtual Meeting

Councilmembers Present

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

Reported Absent

The Honorable Chris Hilbert, Vice President

Staff Present

Lawrence Anderson, Council Chief of Staff
Lisa Braxton, Council Management Analyst
Haskell Brown, Interim City Attorney
Meghan Brown, Deputy Council Chief of Staff
Candice Reid, City Clerk
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and presided.

ELECTRONIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Council Management Analyst Lisa Braxton, in accordance with Ordinance No. 2020-093, adopted April 9, 2020, announced the meeting would be held through electronic communication means, and stated that notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information advisory issued on May 28, 2020, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice. She also stated there would be no opportunities for public comment and no public hearings during the meeting.

Docket Review

Council Management Analyst Lisa Braxton reviewed the following agenda items as indicated:

Consent Agenda:

1. Ord. 2018-324 – to be continued to Monday, July 27, 2020
2. Ord. 2018-325 – to be continued to Monday, July 27, 2020
3. Ord. 2020-087 – retained on the Consent Agenda
4. Ord. 2020-090 – retained on the Consent Agenda

5. Ord. 2020-110 – withdrawn
6. Ord. 2020-111 – retained on the Consent Agenda
7. Ord. 2020-116 – retained on the Consent Agenda
8. Ord. 2020-117 – to be continued to Monday, July 27, 2020
9. Ord. 2020-118 – retained on the Consent Agenda
10. Ord. 2020-119 – to be continued to Monday, June 22, 2020
11. Ord. 2020-120 – retained on the Consent Agenda
12. Ord. 2020-121 – retained on the Consent Agenda
13. Ord. 2020-122 – retained on the Consent Agenda
14. Ord. 2020-123 – retained on the Consent Agenda
15. Ord. 2020-124 – retained on the Consent Agenda
16. Ord. 2020-125 – retained on the Consent Agenda
17. Res. 2020-R024 – retained on the Consent Agenda
18. Res. 2020-R037 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Regular Agenda:

19. Ord. 2018-236 – to be continued to Monday, July 27, 2020
20. Ord. 2020-041 – to be continued to Monday, June 22, 2020

Councilor Stephanie Lynch joined the meeting.

Councilor Michael Jones requested to be added as a co-patron to Res. 2020-R037.

21. Ord. 2020-132 – retained on the Regular Agenda
22. Res. 2020-R034 – to be amended and continued to June 22, 2020

President Cynthia Newbille requested to be added as a co-patron to Ord. 2020-125.

Upon Councilor Kristen Larson's request, it was the consensus of Council to continue Res. 2020-R034 to allow an opportunity to review the proposed amendment to the legislation.

Sharon Ebert, deputy chief administrative officer, Economic Development, provided an introduction of the proposed amendment to Res. 2020-R034.

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

New City Website

Jim Nolan, Office of the Press Secretary communications director, Amal Shanker, Department of Information Technology (DIT) project manager, and Charles Todd, DIT director, provided Council with a presentation regarding the new city website, RVA.gov, which is a video-

based digital communication platform that integrates with every city social media page and the city's public, education and government access channels. A copy of the presentation provided has been filed.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch asked that a link to council meetings be located on the home page of the new and current city website.

Councilor Kristen Larson requested an update prior to RVA.gov's public debut.

Councilor Michael Jones expressed a desire for live streaming district meetings via the city's communication platform.

Unsolicited Offer Update

Leonard Sledge, Economic Development director, provided Council with an update concerning the unsolicited offer received by Douglas Development Corporation, for the redevelopment of properties formerly associated with the Navy Hill development project, and Capital City Partners, LLC, for the Public Safety facility at 500 North 10th Street. Mr. Sledge also provided a generic request for proposal timeline for the proposed pre-development process of the downtown area and a list of virtual public meeting dates for receiving comments regarding the small area plan. A copy of the presentation provided has been filed.

Councilor Ellen Robertson suggested that Council adopt a procedure for organizing development processes for city-owned properties to ensure transparency.

FY 2020 Third Quarter Reappropriation Update

Jay Brown, Budget and Strategy Planning director, presented information which outlined administrative reporting on city finances, third quarter general fund revenue and expenditure projections and the proposed fiscal year 2020 third quarter reappropriation amendment. A copy of the presentation provided has been filed.

Mr. Brown clarified the utilization of federal CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act funds, which he stated cannot be used to offset the projected general fund shortfall.

Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) Program

Councilor Kristen Larson addressed her colleagues regarding the C-PACE program, which is a tool that can finance energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements on commercial property, and uses borrowed capital to pay for the upfront costs associated with the improvements. Ms. Larson advised Council of her amendment extending the program's start date to allow an opportunity for further discussion.

Alicia Zatcoff, Public Utilities sustainability manager, was available to answer questions and stated that it was more beneficial to commercial property owners if the city opted into a statewide C-PACE program instead of creating its own.

Councilor Kim Gray questioned the extension of the program's start date and reluctance of utilizing of a third party to administer the program.

Councilor Larson requested a continued discussion and plan regarding the C-PACE program at the next Organizational Development Standing Committee meeting.

Broader Funding Strategy for Small Businesses Affected by COVID-19 and (Civil Unrest during) Protests

Leonard Sledge, Economic Development director, provided Council with information regarding the city response to support small businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic through the following:

- Small business disaster loan program
- First responder meals program
- Loan payment deferrals
- Tax amnesty program
- ForwardRVA
- Webinars and financial resources
- Capital Region Workforce Board grants
- Expanded outdoor dining and pedestrian access
- Continuation of grant programs to be created with CARES Act funds
- Exploration of expansion to lower-cost food delivery service alternatives

Mr. Sledge informed Council that \$.5 million of CARE (Commercial Area Revitalization Effort) program funding has been identified to provide grants to businesses impacted by the civil unrest during days of protests. Mr. Sledge explained that 50 percent of the proposed funding would be awarded to minority-owned businesses and property owners for the reimbursement of insurance deductibles, graffiti removal, repair and replacement of signs, lighting, doors and structural facades and stolen inventory.

President Cynthia Newbille requested the suspension of Council's Rules of Procedure, to allow an opportunity to receive additional citizen speaker comments later that evening at the Formal Session of Council.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

CITY CLERK