



City of Richmond

Special Meeting Minutes

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

Wednesday, July 1, 2020

11:00 AM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall
Virtual Meeting

Councilmembers Present

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

Absent

The Honorable Reva Trammell

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m., and presided.

ELECTRONIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

City Clerk Candice Reid, in accordance with Ordinance No. 2020-093, adopted April 9, 2020, announced the meeting would be held through electronic communication means. City Clerk Reid stated notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information advisory issued on June 26, 2020, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

The following ordinance and resolutions were introduced for public hearing on Monday, July 27, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.:

ORD. 2020-155

To establish a Task Force on the Establishment of a Civilian Review Board to review and provide recommendations concerning the creation of such a board.

Patrons: Ms. Lynch, Mr. Jones, Mr. Addison, President Newbille and Ms. Robertson

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Governmental Operations Standing Committee meeting on Thursday, July 23, 2020, at 12:00 p.m.

RES. 2020-R045

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be established a work group including certain employees of the City and a member of the City Council to develop a plan and recommendations for the implementation of a "Marcus Alert" program by October 1, 2020.

Patrons: Mr. Jones, Ms. Lynch and President Newbille

This resolution was introduced and referred to the Education and Human Services Standing Committee meeting on Thursday, July 2, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.

RES. 2020-R046

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be prepared and submitted to the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee a quarterly report that provides certain data relevant to the City's five civil asset forfeiture special funds for the purpose of increased oversight of the sources and uses of civil asset forfeiture special funds.

Patrons: Ms. Lynch and Mr. Jones

This resolution was introduced and referred to the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee meeting on Thursday, July 16, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.

RES. 2020-R047

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be prepared and submitted to the Council and the Mayor a report identifying funding in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Budget and the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Special Fund Budget appropriated to the Department of Police for mental health, substance abuse, and social service functions and that provides recommendations, to the extent permitted by law, for the re-appropriation and transfer of such funding from the Department of Police to other City departments and to community mental health, substance abuse, and social service programs designed to perform such functions.

Patrons: Ms. Lynch and Mr. Jones

This resolution was introduced and referred to the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee meeting on Thursday, July 16, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.

The following ordinance and resolution were introduced for public hearing on Monday, August 3, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.:

ORD. 2020-154

To provide for the removal of certain monuments on City-owned property, provide for the disposition of such monuments, and repeal an ordinance accepting the General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson monument, adopted Mar. 3, 1920, as authorized by Va. Code § 15.2-1812.

Patrons: Mr. Jones, Ms. Lynch and Mr. Addison

This ordinance was introduced and referred to the Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting on Tuesday, July 21, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.

RES. 2020-R048

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause the Department of Police to revise its policies to ban the use of certain non-lethal weapons to control unlawful assemblies.

Patrons: Ms. Lynch and Mr. Jones

This resolution was introduced and referred to the Public Safety Standing Committee meeting on Tuesday, July 28, 2020, at 12:00 p.m.

Councilor Michael Jones joined the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

President Cynthia Newbille informed members that the mayor was requesting Council to expedite consideration of a resolution regarding the removal of certain statues and monuments within the city.

Mayor Levar Stoney addressed Council and provided information regarding the proposed resolution that would authorize the temporary removal and storage of certain statues in the city due to public safety concerns. Mayor Stoney stated he believed the administrative process outlined in Ord. 2020-154, regarding the removal and disposition of certain statues in the city, could proceed while the statues remained in storage. Mayor Stoney also stated he believed he had the authority to request the immediate removal of certain statues due to the mayor's role as Director of Emergency Management for the city.

Interim City Attorney Haskell Brown informed Council that the Office of the City Attorney received the mayor's proposed resolution shortly before the meeting began, and the office did not have an opportunity to review and approve its form and legality. Mr. Brown stated the July 1, 2020 Special meeting agenda did not reference a motion to expedite consideration of a resolution, and therefore the resolution could not be considered. Mr. Brown also stated that Council could call a special meeting with at least 24 hour notice to consider the proposed resolution.

Councilor Stephanie Lynch stated she was disappointed that Council could not move forward with expedited consideration of the resolution. Councilor Lynch requested that Council still approve a motion indicating support of the resolution and removal of certain statues within the city.

Councilor Kim Gray inquired if a motion to indicate support was permitted at the meeting.

Mr. Brown confirmed that motions for expedited consideration and to indicate support of the resolution were not permitted.

Councilor Lynch requested that Council provide a consensus of support of the resolution and its intent, rather than a formal motion of support.

Councilor Ellen Robertson joined the meeting at 11:23 a.m.

Councilor Kirsten Larson inquired about the cost and the source of funds to finance the removal of statues.

Mayor Stoney informed Council that the estimated \$1,800,000.00 removal costs would be addressed by the Department of Public Works (DPW). Mayor Stoney stated philanthropic entities were working to raise funds to reimburse the city regarding the costs of statue removal.

Councilor Gray stated she believed Council should move forward on statue removal in an expedited fashion, but expressed her belief that any steps taken must be in accordance with legal requirements.

Councilor Larson suggested the proposed resolution be introduced and considered at a special meeting prior to the July 2, 2020 Education and Human Services Standing Committee meeting, scheduled for 2:00 p.m.

Councilor Michael Jones expressed his concerns with the speed at which the city was moving to address statues and the minimization of African American citizens. Mr. Jones stated he supported the expedited removal of statues to ensure public safety.

President Newbille stated she understood the need for expedited consideration of the resolution, but noted Council must work within the legal guidelines allowed for expedited legislative review. President Newbille informed members she would request a special meeting of Council on July 2, 2020, at 1:00 p.m., to allow consideration of the mayor's resolution.

Councilor Jones inquired about the legal authority the mayor possessed as it pertained to public safety.

Interim City Attorney Brown stated he did not believe the legal statutes related to emergency declarations and public safety gave the mayor authority to remove statues within the city. Mr. Brown also stated the action could lead to legal action against the city.

President Newbille confirmed the availability of members for a special meeting and requested that the resolution discussed be formally read for introduction by the City Clerk.

Councilor Andreas Addison left the meeting at 11:59 p.m.

The following resolution was introduced for public hearing on Thursday, July 2, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.:

RES. 2020-049

To authorize the Mayor of Richmond, in his capacity as Director of Emergency Management, to order the temporary removal and storage of certain statues in the City of Richmond, whose presence creates a public safety concern or necessitates their removal for their preservation, on July 1, 2020, for the safety and health of the residents of Richmond and the protection of property.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

CITY CLERK