



City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
www.rva.gov/index.php/office-city-clerk

Minutes

Organizational Development Standing Committee

Monday, January 4, 2021

5:00 PM

**Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall
(Virtual Meeting)**

Committee Members

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille – Chair
The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Vice Chair
The Honorable Andreas Addison – Member
The Honorable Michael Jones – Member
The Honorable Katherine Jordan – Member
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert – Member
The Honorable Kristen Larson – Member
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch – Member
The Honorable Reva Trammell – Member

Others in Attendance

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

Call to Order

Chair Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m., and presided.

Electronic Meeting Announcement

Deputy City Clerk RJ Warren, in accordance with Ordinance No. 2020-093, adopted April 9, 2020, as most recently amended by Ordinance No. 2020-232, adopted December 14, 2020, announced the meeting would be held through electronic communication means. Mr. Warren stated notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information advisory issued on December 29, 2020, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice. He also stated there would be no opportunities for public comment at the meeting.

Approval of the Minutes

There were no minutes of previous meetings for approval.

Reports from City Administration, Council Staff and Other Parties

There were no reports or presentations.

Reports of Standing Committees

There were no reports from standing committees.

Consideration of Appointments to Boards, Commissions and Similar Entities

There were no appointment/reappointment items for consideration.

Paper(s) for Consideration

There were no papers for consideration.

Discussion Items

City Attorney Recruitment Process

Chair Cynthia Newbille informed committee members that an update regarding the City Attorney Recruitment Process would be provided at City Council's Informal meeting on Monday, January 11, 2021.

Homelessness Advisory Council

Chair Cynthia Newbille stated the Homelessness Advisory Council would be led by Reggie Gordon, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (DCAO) of Human Services. Chair Newbille also stated City Council Members Stephanie Lynch and Ellen Robertson indicated their interest to serve on the Homelessness Advisory Council.

Chair Newbille informed members that an update regarding homelessness in the city would be provided at City Council's Informal meeting on Monday, January 11, 2021. Chair Newbille noted recent reports about the possible eviction of homeless individuals that receive shelter in hotels operated by service providers contracted by the city. Chair Newbille stated she would schedule a meeting with city administration to address the issue and possible remedies.

Member Michael Jones stated his concerns about the timeline for addressing the possible evictions and requested the issue be addressed expeditiously.

Member Kristen Larson inquired when the Homelessness Advisory Council would convene. Member Larson requested additional information regarding the available funds used to provide shelter and other services for homeless individuals.

Acting Chief Administrative Officer Lincoln Saunders stated the advisory council had yet to meet, as it was waiting to finalize membership.

DCAO Reggie Gordon informed the committee that the advisory council was still being established and requested that Council Members provide recommendations of other community members to join the advisory council. Mr. Gordon stated the advisory council would begin work in the middle of January.

Member Katherine Jordon inquired about the funding available to immediately provide shelter for homeless individuals in the city and about recent reports of individuals being denied emergency safety-net shelter.

Sharon Ebert, DCAO of Planning and Economic Development, provided information regarding the amount of the funds provided to Homeward and other service providers that administer the emergency safety-net shelter. DCAO Ebert stated she would inquire and provide information

regarding the reports of hotels that provide safety-net shelter not being paid by the service providers contracted by the city.

Member Stephanie Lynch stated she was frustrated with the lack of information of available services being provided to individuals in need. Member Lynch requested an evaluation of the emergency safety-net shelter service.

Chair Cynthia Newbille stated members should provide Council staff with potential amendments to the Richmond 300 Plan by January 8, 2021. Chair Newbille informed members that City Council and city administration would examine potential tax amnesty programs regarding payment of real estate tax and meals tax. Chair Newbille also informed members about the potential to hold a Council retreat to examine strategies for City Council moving forward and to review the scope of Council's designated standing committees. Chair Newbille requested members share potential topics to be reviewed at the retreat.

Member Andreas Addison stated his support for the retreat and suggested the retreat examine the city's plan for moving forward through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:51 p.m.