



# City of Richmond

## Informal Meeting Minutes

900 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219  
[www.rva.gov/office-city-clerk](http://www.rva.gov/office-city-clerk)

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Monday, April 12, 2021

4:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall  
Virtual Meeting

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### **Councilmembers Present**

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President  
The Honorable Ellen Robertson, Vice President  
The Honorable Andreas Addison  
The Honorable Michael Jones  
The Honorable Katherine Jordan  
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert  
The Honorable Kristen Larson  
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch (late arrival)  
The Honorable Reva Trammell

### **Staff Present**

Lisa Braxton, Council Management Analyst  
Haskell Brown, Interim City Attorney  
Joyce Davis, Interim 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 4:00 p.m. and presided.

### **ELECTRONIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

Council Management Analyst Lisa Braxton, 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, and stated that notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information advisory issued on March 24, 2021, 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. 2021-074 – retained on the Consent Agenda
2. Ord. 2021-075 – retained on the Consent Agenda
3. Ord. 2021-076 – retained on the Consent Agenda
4. Ord. 2021-077 – retained on the Consent Agenda

5. Ord. 2021-079 – retained on the Consent Agenda
6. Ord. 2021-080 – retained on the Consent Agenda
7. Ord. 2021-081 – retained on the Consent Agenda
8. Ord. 2021-082 – retained on the Consent Agenda

After questions regarding the committee referral waiving of Ords. 2021-079 and 2021-080, Interim City Attorney Haskell Brown reminded Council of section VI (B)(3)(c) of Council's Rules of Procedure, which allow referrals be excused for ordinances appropriating funds other than to the capital budget. President Cynthia Newbille justified the committee referral waiving of Ord. 2021-081, since city administration provided an overview of the proposed legislation during a prior meeting before its introduction.

*Councilor Stephanie Lynch joined the meeting at 4:08 p.m.*

Vice President Ellen Robertson inquired whether information regarding waivers of committee referral could be notated on the docket.

9. Res. 2021-R019 – retained on the Consent Agenda
10. Res. 2021-R020 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Regular Agenda:

There were no Regular Agenda items.

Budget-Related Papers:

11. Ord. 2021-040 – after public hearing, to be continued to Monday, May 3, 2021
12. Ord. 2021-041 – after public hearing, to be continued to Monday, May 3, 2021
13. Ord. 2021-042 – after public hearing, to be continued to Monday, May 3, 2021
14. Ord. 2021-043 – after public hearing, to be continued to Monday, May 3, 2021
15. Ord. 2021-044 – after public hearing, to be continued to Monday, May 3, 2021
16. Ord. 2021-045 – after public hearing, to be continued to Monday, May 3, 2021
17. Ord. 2021-046 – after public hearing, to be continued to Monday, May 3, 2021
18. Ord. 2021-047 – after public hearing, to be continued to Monday, May 3, 2021
19. Ord. 2021-048 – after public hearing, to be continued to Monday, May 3, 2021
20. Ord. 2021-049 – after public hearing, to be continued to Monday, May 3, 2021
21. Ord. 2021-050 – after public hearing, to be continued to Monday, May 3, 2021
22. Ord. 2021-051 – after public hearing, to be continued to Monday, May 3, 2021
23. Ord. 2021-052 – after public hearing, to be continued to Monday, May 3, 2021
24. Ord. 2021-053 – after public hearing, to be continued to Monday, May 3, 2021
25. Ord. 2021-054 – after public hearing, to be continued to Monday, May 3, 2021

26. Ord. 2021-055 – after public hearing, to be continued to Monday, May 3, 2021
27. Ord. 2021-056 – after public hearing, to be continued to Monday, May 3, 2021
28. Ord. 2021-057 – after public hearing, to be continued to Monday, May 3, 2021
29. Ord. 2021-058 – after public hearing, to be continued to Monday, May 3, 2021
30. Ord. 2021-059 – after public hearing, to be continued to Monday, May 3, 2021
31. Ord. 2021-060 – after public hearing, to be continued to Monday, May 3, 2021
32. Ord. 2021-061 – after public hearing, to be continued to Monday, May 3, 2021
33. Ord. 2021-062 – after public hearing, to be continued to Monday, May 3, 2021
34. Ord. 2021-063 – after public hearing, to be continued to Monday, May 3, 2021

Given the number of individuals requesting to provide comment during the proposed fiscal year 2022 budget public hearing later that evening at the Formal Session, President Cynthia Newbille sought the consensus of Council to adjust the allotted time limit of speakers.

Councilor Michael Jones asked that Council consider changing its Rules of Procedure to automatically adjust speakers' time limit during public hearings when there is significant citizen participation.

It was the consensus of Council to only allow a duration of up to two minutes per speaker during that evening's budget public hearing .

Councilwoman Reva Trammell asked that Council also revisit its own speaking limitation rule for possible revision and/or adherence.

There were no further comments or discussions concerning Consent, Regular and Budget-Related Agenda items reviewed.

### **Other Discussion**

Interim Council Chief of Staff Joyce Davis provided updates on the following subject matters:

- Council's lobbyist service contract request for proposal (RFP) along with local jurisdictions lobbyist pay and data analysis
- Draft monuments disposal process options  
(*A copy of the information provided has been filed.*)
- City attorney recruitment process

Councilor Kristen Larson suggested possibly hiring a legislative director to assist with Council's legislative packet.

Ms. Davis apprised Council of the limited timeline for procuring a lobbyist service for this legislative year and offered renewal of the current lobbyist contract.

Councilor Andreas Addison asked Council staff to obtain draft RFP language utilized by other localities when procuring a lobbyist service for comparison.

In an effort to improve efficiency, Councilor Katherine Jordan requested agenda topics be delineated prior to discussion.

Councilor Larson requested proposed public input and listening session dates regarding the disposal of the Confederate monuments be appropriately noticed to ensure transparency.

Interim Chief Administrative Officer Lincoln Saunders and Sharon Ebert, deputy chief administrative officer – Economic Development, introduced Sherrill Hampton, the newly appointed director of Housing and Community Development.

Interim Chief Administrative Officer Saunders, along with Reginald Gordon, deputy chief administrative officer – Human Services, also informed Council of the appointment of Dianne Wilmore as the city’s homeless services liaison, while maintaining to serve as community service manager at the North Avenue library branch.

**Closed Session**

At 4:58 p.m., Councilor Kristen Larson moved that the City Council hold a closed meeting pursuant to subdivision (A)(39) of section 2.2-3711 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to discuss additional information related to negotiating points prepared by City staff for negotiation with businesses that are considering locating a resort casino in the city of Richmond where competition or bargaining pursuant to the City’s Request for Qualifications/Proposals is involved and where disclosure of such information would adversely affect the City’s financial interest.

The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 8, Addison, Jordan, Lambert, Larson, Lynch, Trammell, Jones, Newbille. Noes None. Robertson was excused.

Councilor Andreas Addison motioned to exit closed session. The motion was and approved: Ayes 8, Addison, Lambert, Larson, Lynch, Trammell, Jones, Robertson, Newbille. Noes None. Jordan was excused.

Councilors reconvened in open session at 5:22 p.m.

**CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING**

April 12, 2021

WHEREAS, the Council has convened in closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law:

NOW, THEREFORE,  
BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Council hereby certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge (i) only public matters lawfully exempt from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certifying resolution applies; and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Council.

WITNESS the following vote of Council members, as recorded by Candice D. Reid, City Clerk:

**CERTIFYING:**

Cynthia I. Newbille, President  
Ellen F. Robertson, Vice President

**DECLINING TO CERTIFY:**

Andreas D. Addison  
Katherine L. Jordan (excused)  
Ann-Frances Lambert  
Kristen N. Larson  
Stephanie A. Lynch  
Reva M. Trammell  
Michael J. Jones

*Prior to the adjournment of the Informal Session, Ms. Dianne Wilmore joined the meeting to address Council regarding her appointment as the city's homeless services liaison.*

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

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CITY CLERK