



# City of Richmond

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

## Minutes

### Governmental Operations Standing Committee

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Wednesday, May 26, 2021

2:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor – Virtual Meeting

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#### Committee Members and Staff in Attendance

The Honorable Kristen Larson – Chair  
The Honorable Katherine Jordan – Vice Chair  
The Honorable Michael Jones – Member  
Lisa Braxton, Council Management Analyst  
Haskell Brown, Interim City Attorney  
Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff  
William Echelberger, Council Budget Analyst  
Jamie Isley, Assistant City Clerk  
Candice Reid, City Clerk  
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

#### Call to Order

Chair Kristen Larson called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m., and presided.

#### Electronic Meeting Announcement

Assistant City Clerk Jamie Isley, 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. Assistant City Clerk Isley stated notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information advisory issued on May 19, 2021, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice. She also stated members of the public were encouraged to provide comments in writing prior to the meeting and all comments received prior to 10:00 a.m., on Wednesday, May 26, 2021, were provided to committee members. Ms. Isley indicated that members of the public who signed up to speak and provide comment would be called to speak at the appropriate time.

#### Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Upon the Chair's request, Assistant City Clerk Jamie Isley provided the citizen speaker guidelines.

#### Public Comment

There were no public comment speakers.

#### Approval of Minutes

There were no amendments or corrections to the meeting minutes of Tuesday, May 4, 2021, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

## **Presentation(s)**

### **Green Fleet, Sustainability Office Amendment & Climate Resolution**

Vice Chair Katherine Jordan, Alicia Zatcoff, Sustainability Manager – Office of Sustainability, and Matthew Wade, Deputy Director – Virginia Clean Cities, presented information regarding environmental objectives for the city of Richmond.

*Vice Chair Jordan provided an overview of the purpose of the presentation and stated that the RVAgreen 2050 goals were not included within the Fiscal Year 2022 budget. She stated that with the potential for infrastructure funding from the federal government, the city could fund electric vehicles, infrastructure, purchasing, and training. Vice Chair Jordan further stated that updates to the city's 2019 Green Fleet plan were made by both the city and stakeholders.*

*Ms. Zatcoff discussed RES. 2020-R024, and the RVAgreen 2050 processes, objectives and strategies. She also discussed the Green Fleet plan's recommendations, goals and implementation steps going forward. Ms. Zatcoff further outlined the Mayor's Fleet of the Future plan which encompasses the Green Fleet plan.*

*Mr. Wade provided the committee with information regarding updates made to the Green Fleet plan to include, rightsizing, electric vehicle pricing, police vehicle hybrids, the social cost of carbon and other environmental justice issues. Mr. Wade informed the committee that Virginia Clean Cities is willing to assist city administration concerning the topics discussed within his presentation.*

*Member Michael Jones inquired about the total project cost of investing in the Green Fleet plan between now and 2050.*

*Mr. Wade stated that the cost would be dependent upon the number and type of electric or hybrid vehicles to be utilized.*

*Ms. Zatcoff stated that she would follow up with the committee regarding total project costs and that adjustments would be made to the cost post rightsizing.*

*Vice Chair Jordan stated that a summary would be recirculated to members.*

*Chair Kristen Larson inquired about plans to access federal funding.*

*Ms. Zatcoff reviewed the process for locating funding opportunities and stated that the city could emphasize its priorities regarding electric vehicles so that opportunities with quick turnaround times are not missed.*

*Chair Larson voiced support for locating funding opportunities outside of the city to support green initiatives.*

*Member Jones discussed issues in South Richmond regarding green initiatives and transportation accessibility. He also highlighted several areas of city operations that he believes are not eco-friendly.*

*Ms. Zatcoff discussed a previous request from a resident regarding curbside electric vehicle charging stations within the city, and advised that draft documents would circulate soon.*

*Ms. Larson requested staff to revisit the topic regarding electric vehicle charging stations in October.*

*A copy of the material provided has been filed.*

## **Paper(s) for Consideration**

**The following ordinance was considered:**

ORD. 2021-128

To repeal City Code § 2-3, concerning the City logo, and to amend ch. 2, art. I of the City Code by adding therein a new section 2-3, concerning the City logo, for the purpose of abandoning the former City logo and establishing a new City logo.

**Patron:** Mayor Stoney

*Maggie Anderson, Office of the Mayor acting chief of staff, introduced ORD. 2021-128.*

*Member Michael Jones inquired about the history of the proposed city logo and current city flag, as well as that of the figure standing on a boat.*

*Chair Kristen Larson requested city administration consider reaching out to a historian or to the Library of Virginia to provide additional information about the boat figure.*

*Ms. Anderson provided a brief description of the history of the boat figure and stated that city administration would follow up with additional information.*

*Member Jones asked when the city of Richmond flag was unveiled.*

*Interim City Attorney Haskell Brown stated that he would follow up with additional information and that the information could be found within the Code of the City of Richmond § 2-2.*

*Member Jones requested that ORD. 2021-128, be placed on Council's Regular Agenda, and that city administration returns to the full body with historical context regarding the proposed logo and city flag.*

*Chair Larson expressed support for changing the Council's Rules of Procedure to allow for legislation to be placed on the Regular Agenda when it is forwarded to the full body with no recommendation.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Katherine Jordan moved to forward ORD. 2021-128 to the June 14, 2021, Council meeting with no recommendation, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**The following ordinance was considered:**

RES. 2021-R031

To amend the Rules of Procedure adopted by Res. No. 2021-R005, adopted Jan. 4, 2021, for the purpose of conforming certain provisions concerning the electronic participation of Council members in Council meetings to Va. Code § 2.2-3708.2(A).

**Patron:** President Newbille

*William Echelberger, Council budget analyst, introduced RES. 2021-R031.*

*Interim City Attorney Haskell Brown stated that the purpose of RES. 2021-R031 is to keep the city in compliance with the Code of Virginia.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Michael Jones moved to forward RES. 2021-R031 to the June 14, 2021, Council meeting with recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

**Discussion Item(s)**

**Charter Review Committee Process Update**

Chair Kristen Larson provided a brief overview of past discussions regarding the Richmond City Charter review and asked members for input.

Member Michael Jones discussed difficulties that have arisen from the part-time classification of Council members, which he believes conflicts with the number of hours worked. He further highlighted what he believes to be the exclusionary nature of a part-time legislature. Member Jones proposed requesting that the Virginia General Assembly approve the changes necessary to allow councilors to work full-time for the city.

Chair Larson asked if Member Jones's suggestion would require a charter change.

Interim City Attorney Brown informed the committee that the change would need to occur at the state level within the Code of Virginia.

Member Jones inquired about the difference between members of boards of supervisors and members of city councils.

Interim City Attorney Haskell Brown stated that the salary for Richmond City Council is based on population, and that he would follow up regarding the differences between the two governing bodies' compensation.

Chair Larson requested that members work to find consensus on the items listed on the spreadsheet provided at the time of the previous standing committee meeting and to provide feedback on items for discussion at the next committee meeting.

## Board Vacancies

Deputy City Clerk RJ Warren reviewed board applications for consideration by the committee.

**Member Michael Jones moved to forward the following application for appointment to the Sister Cities Commission, to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved:**

Board Name	Criteria for Appointment	Applicant Name
Sister Cities Commission (13 members)	Reside or work in the city (1 vacancy)	Norman E. Washington, II (appointment)

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

## Staff Report

Bill Echelberger, Council budget analyst provided the committee with the May staff report.

Member Michael Jones requested staff to provide information regarding potential methods of encouraging 9<sup>th</sup> Voter District residents to apply for boards and commissions vacancies.

A copy of the report provided has been filed.

## Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m.