



City of Richmond

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

Minutes

Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

12:00 PM

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

Committee Members and Others in Attendance

The Honorable Andreas Addison – Chair
The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Vice Chair
The Honorable Michael Jones – Committee member (late arrival)
The Honorable Katherine Jordan – Alternate Committee member (late arrival)
Bonnie Ashley, Deputy City Attorney
Samson Anderson, Council Budget Analyst
Pamela Nichols, Senior Assistant City Clerk
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Steve Taylor, Council Policy Analyst
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Andreas Addison called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m., and presided.

Electronic Meeting Announcement

Senior Assistant City Clerk Pamela Nichols, 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. Senior Assistant City Clerk Nichols stated notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information advisory issued on May 12, 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 Tuesday, May 18, 2021, were provided to committee members. Ms. Nichols 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

Senior Assistant City Clerk Pamela Nichols provided citizen speaker guidelines.

Public Comment Period

Norman Elliott addressed the committee regarding what he described as unprofessional behaviors of two bus operators with Greater Richmond Transit Company (GRTC). Mr. Elliott remarked that most of his trips on GRTC were uneventful; however, he stated that it appears bus operators' unprofessional behaviors were increasing. Mr. Elliott also stated that along with the filing of his complaints, he had requested a review of the camera footage from the date of the incidents, but he had not received a response.

Chair Andreas Addison advised Mr. Elliott that he had spoken with GRTC chief executive officer Julie Timm regarding his complaints, and he anticipated a response regarding the matter by the end of the week.

Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections or amendments to the meeting minutes of Tuesday, April 20, 2021, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

Member Michael Jones joined the meeting at 12:08 p.m.

Presentation(s)

Proposed Amendments to the Richmond 300 Comprehensive Plan

Alternate member Katherine Jordan joined the meeting at 12:18 p.m.

Maritza Pechin, Office of Equitable Development manager, acknowledged that William Palmquist, Planning and Preservation planner, Kevin Vonck, Planning and Development Review acting director and Sharon Ebert, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Planning, Community and Economic Development, were present to respond to questions. Ms. Pechin provided an overview of the final Richmond 300: A Guide for Growth Plan, and remarked that citizens involved in the development of the plan felt that the final plan adequately represented their vision for the city. Ms. Pechin reviewed a summary of proposed amendments to the Plan and reported that 17 amendments were already incorporated, 5 were mainly clarifying, 24 were too specific or not relevant to a land use planning document, and 21 were fundamental change amendments addressing elements of the plan which were vetted through extensive community input. Ms. Pechin reported that city administration was willing to meet with members of City Council to discuss proposed amendments, and she reviewed plan implementation currently underway.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson expressed support for a mandatory five year review of the plan, and reiterated her concern with the concentration of growth nodes outside of low-income neighborhoods. Vice Chair Robertson suggested the addition of a work session with city administration to discuss the classification of proposed amendments.

Member Michael Jones emphasized the need for economic development on the city's Southside.

Alternate member Katherine Jordan commented that City Council's adoption of the Master Plan was with the caveat there would be an amendment process.

Rodney Poole, City Planning Commission chair, expressed support for patrons of proposed amendments to meet with city administration to discuss the amendments, and for citizens to be engaged in the review of proposed amendments.

Chair Andreas Addison stated he would like to review proposed amendments to the Master Plan and recommended the proposed legislation on the committee's agenda regarding such, be continued to the next committee meeting.

Overview of the Creation of a Revised Residential Permit District

Chair Andreas Addison provided an overview regarding the creation of a revised residential permit district.

Lynne Lancaster, Department of Public Works parking and mobility deputy director, stated the Department of Public Works would like to revise the establishment of a residential restricted parking permit program to exclude the required petition process and to include a tier permit fee system.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson inquired about the permit cost versus the cost for the administration of parking enforcement.

Ms. Lancaster listed the names of parking districts throughout the city, and reported that revenue generated from a parking district did not cover the cost of administering the parking program.

Steve Bergin, Department of Public Works parking services operations manager, reported the city has been working with other neighborhoods to establish residential permit districts.

Vice Chair Robertson requested a revenue analysis for each of the parking districts.

Alternate member Katherine Jordan requested a review of the residential restricted parking permit program.

Chair Addison stated he would like to see collaboration with residential neighborhoods and businesses to create parking solutions.

Ms. Lancaster advised the committee that the creation of a new residential restricted parking permit program would require approval by City Council. She reported that it is the goal of city administration to create guidelines for each residential permit district, through working with respective members of City Council, residents and neighborhood associations.

Vice Chair Robertson expressed her interest in attending the scheduled meeting with residents of Monroe Ward to discuss parking.

Safe and Healthy Streets Commission's Quarterly Update

Tara Fitzpatrick, Safe Routes to School coordinator and Safe and Healthy Streets Commission member, presented the Safe and Healthy Streets Commission's quarterly update which included data on crashes, serious injuries and fatalities. Ms. Fitzpatrick explained Safe and Healthy Streets Commission's adoption of certain resolutions to improve traffic safety and new transportation laws.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Member Michael Jones expressed his concern regarding the lack of equity in transportation options for areas in the city's Southside, and remarked that the city has failed to create multimodal options on a citywide basis.

Alternate Member Katherine Jordan asked about the process to reduce speeds on a citywide basis.

Ms. Fitzpatrick reported the Safe and Healthy Streets Commission has begun working on updates to the Multimodal Plan.

Vice Chair Robertson requested a current list of members on the Safe and Healthy Streets Commission.

Staff Report

Steve Taylor, council policy analyst, and Samson Anderson, budget policy analyst, provided the committee with the May staff report.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Paper(s) for Consideration

The following ordinances were considered:

ORD. 2021-117

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a City of Richmond Grant Contract between the City of Richmond and the James River Association to provide funding for the implementation of green infrastructure practices to increase stormwater detention at certain libraries of the City known as the West End Branch, the North Avenue Branch, and the Broad Rock Branch. (1st District, 3rd District, and 8th District)

Patron: Mayor Stoney

ORD. 2021-118

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Greening Richmond Public Libraries Project, West End Branch, North Avenue Branch, and Broad Rock Branch Right-of-Entry Agreement between the City of Richmond and the James River Association for the purpose of implementing green infrastructure practices to increase stormwater detention at certain libraries of the City known as the West End Branch, the North Avenue Branch, and the Broad Rock Branch. (1st District, 3rd District, and 8th District)

Patron: Mayor Stoney

Jennifer Clarke, public education and outreach coordinator for the city's stormwater utility, provided an overview of ORD. 2021-117 and ORD. 2021-118. Ms. Clarke reported the city held virtual and in-person community meetings to discuss the proposed project.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Michael Jones moved to forward ORD. 2021-117 and ORD. 2021-118, to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2021-119

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Pole Attachment Agreement between the City of Richmond as licensor and VA SkyWire LLC as licensee for the purpose of allowing the attachment and maintenance of communication cables, fibers, attachments, equipment, and other related facilities on certain City-owned utility poles.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

Robert Steidel, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer of Operations, introduced ORD. 2021-119.

Chair Andreas Addison expressed support of the proposed legislation.

Member Michael Jones inquired about the location of the city-owned utility poles and expressed concern regarding aesthetics.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2021-119, to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2021-R026

To direct the City Planning Commission to prepare, submit to public hearing, and consider an amendment making certain changes to the Master Plan.

Patrons: President Newbille, Vice President Robertson, Ms. Jordan, Ms. Lambert, Ms. Lynch and Ms. Trammell

Following the presentation on proposed amendments to the Richmond 300 Comprehensive Plan by Maritza Pechin, **Member Michael Jones moved to continue RES. 2021-R026 to the June 22, 2021 Land Use, Housing and Transportation Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2021-R027

To declare a public necessity to amend ch. 30 of the City Code and to initiate an amendment to the City's zoning ordinance to eliminate parking space minimums.

Patron: Mr. Addison

Chair Andreas Addison introduced RES. 2021-R027, and explained that requirements for parking increase costs for businesses and housing redevelopments which are passed down to customers. He stated such requirements could be considered a contradiction to goals outlined in the city's Master Plan.

Kevin Vonck, Planning and Development Review acting director, expressed support for RES. 2021-R027 and stated that surface parking lots were not the most efficient use of land, and it adds a cost burden to developers and whoever buys or occupies a building.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson stated that she supports the proposed legislation; however, she stated she would like to ensure provisions were established to address potential adverse impacts associated with reduced parking spaces. Vice Chair Robertson asked to be added as a co-patron.

Member Michael Jones stated he supports the concept of reducing parking space requirements; however, he stated he would like to know how the city would respond to future concerns of neighborhoods impacted by a new development, with reduced parking space requirements. Member Jones asked to be added as a co-patron.

Chair Addison stated the proposed legislation would afford an opportunity to review ways the city can move forward to have multimodal options, and to develop tools to support good growth in the city.

Alternate Member Katherine Jordan stated that with current parking situations that some existing neighborhoods were experiencing, she does not think the city is ready to eliminate parking space minimums.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Michael Jones moved to forward RES. 2021-R027 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

Chair Andreas Addison allowed Richmonders Involved to Strengthen Our Communities (RISC) member Caitlin Deyerle to express comments regarding RES. 2021-R026, which was continued to the June 22, 2021 committee meeting.

Discussion Items

There were no discussion items.

Board Vacancies

There were no board vacancies for review.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:19 p.m.