



City of Richmond

Informal Meeting Minutes

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

Monday, June 14, 2021

4:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall
Virtual Meeting

Councilmembers Present

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President
The Honorable Ellen Robertson, Vice President
The Honorable Andreas Addison
The Honorable Michael Jones (late arrival)
The Honorable Katherine Jordan
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert
The Honorable Kristen Larson (late arrival)
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch (not audible during roll call)
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 4:02 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 May 26, 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. 2021-083 – retained on the Consent Agenda
2. Ord. 2021-085 – retained on the Consent Agenda
3. Ord. 2021-111 – retained on the Consent Agenda
4. Ord. 2021-115 – retained on the Consent Agenda
5. Ord. 2021-128 – retained on the Consent Agenda

6. Ord. 2021-130 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Councilors Kristen Larson and Michael Jones joined the meeting at 4:06 p.m.

7. Ord. 2021-131 – retained on the Consent Agenda
8. Ord. 2021-132 – to be continued to Monday, June 28, 2021
9. Ord. 2021-133 – retained on the Consent Agenda
10. Ord. 2021-134 – retained on the Consent Agenda
11. Ord. 2021-135 – retained on the Consent Agenda
12. Ord. 2021-136 – retained on the Consent Agenda
13. Ord. 2021-137 – retained on the Consent Agenda
14. Ord. 2021-138 – retained on the Consent Agenda
15. Ord. 2021-141 – retained on the Consent Agenda
16. Ord. 2021-142 – retained on the Consent Agenda
17. Ord. 2021-143 – retained on the Consent Agenda
18. Res. 2021-R031 – retained on the Consent Agenda
19. Res. 2021-R032 – retained on the Consent Agenda

Regular Agenda:

20. Ord. 2021-140 – retained on the Regular Agenda
21. Res. 2021-R028 – retained on the Regular Agenda
22. Res. 2021-R030 – to be continued to Monday, July 26, 2021
23. Res. 2021-R033 – retained on the Regular Agenda

Councilor Stephanie Lynch introduced Res. 2021-R033 and stated the proposed legislation directly correlates to the Homelessness Advisory Council's recommendations and the city's strategic plan to end homelessness.

Councilor Michael Jones expressed concern with Res. 2021-R033 since Council had not yet agreed to the appropriation of potential American Rescue Plan funding through prior legislation.

Sherrill Hampton, Housing and Community Development director, informed Council that Res. 2021-R033 is not related to the receipt of funding referenced by Ord. 2021-140; however, she stated the city has received written notification concerning a separate \$5.8 million HOME Investment Partnership COVID-19 grant, and guidelines regarding expenditure will be forthcoming.

24. Res. 2021-R034 – retained on the Regular Agenda

Continuity of Government

Interim City Attorney Haskell Brown informed Council of the introduction of legislation, later that evening at the Formal Session of Council, extending the continuity of government regulation, which allows public bodies to permit electronic meetings. Mr. Brown indicated that the proposed legislation will be valid through December 31, 2021; however, he stated Council can choose to resume in-person meetings whenever Council feels it is safe and/or feasible to do so prior to the expiration date. Mr. Brown further informed Council that an amendment to the Freedom of Information Act, allowing an alternative procedure for holding electronic meetings when either a governor's state of emergency or a declaration of local emergency has been imposed, will be effective July 1, 2021 as an alternate option.

City Clerk Candice Reid provided an update regarding preparation measures for reopening the Council Chamber to in-person meetings and identified September 1, 2021 as the most viable date, due to unforeseen procurement challenges pertaining to the installation of COVID safeguards.

Vice President Ellen Robertson requested a presentation regarding the re-opening of city facilities to the public.

Councilor Andreas Addison inquired regarding a hybrid participation approach for Council meetings.

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Funding Process and Next Steps

President Cynthia Newbille stated draft information regarding suggested ARP funding processes from other localities and recommendations have been distributed to Council for review and comments.

After receiving initial feedback from Council, Interim Council Chief of Staff Joyce Davis explained it was suggested the composition of the proposed working taskforce for prioritizing ARP allocations consist of all members of Council instead of the prior recommendation of only two members. Ms. Davis provided details for finalizing the city's ARP plan by August, 2021 and suggested scheduling of a special meeting of Council, prior to the July Organizational Development Standing Committee meeting for the planned introduction of legislation after the refinement and consensus of all proposed recommendations.

Council Retreat Next Steps

Vice President Ellen Robertson updated Council regarding plans to affirm and adopt a critical plan of action for the new fiscal year, as an outcome from suggestions communicated at Council's retreat, and she requested each standing committee undertake the review and development of priorities aligned with its specific mission.

Council Chief of Staff Update

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

- City attorney recruitment process
- Council Chief of Staff executive search and office restructuring study

Docket Review Revisited

Given the number of individuals requesting to provide comment during the public hearing for Res. 2021-R034 later that evening at the Formal Session, it was the consensus of Council to only allow a duration of up to two minutes per speaker.

Maggie Anderson, acting chief of staff – Office of the Mayor, introduced Ord. 2021-128.

Leonard Sledge, Economic Development director, introduced Ord. 2021-142.

Reginald Gordon, deputy chief administrative officer – Human Services, introduced Ord. 2021-143.

Vice President Ellen Robertson requested to be added as co-patron of Res. 2021-R032 and a follow-up regarding the proposed legislation once adopted.

Acting Chief Administrative Officer Lincoln Saunders was also available to answer questions pertaining to Ord. 2021-128.

Councilor Ann-Frances Lambert requested to be added as a co-patron of Res. 2021-R028.

There were no further comments or discussions concerning Consent and Regular Agenda items reviewed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

CITY CLERK