



City of Richmond

Council Budget Amendment

Work Session 5 Minutes

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

Thursday, May 6, 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 (early departure)
The Honorable Michael Jones (late arrival)
The Honorable Katherine Jordan
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch
The Honorable Reva Trammell (late arrival)

Absent

The Honorable Kristen Larson

Staff Present

Lisa Braxton, Council Management Analyst
Haskell Brown, Interim City Attorney
Joyce Davis, Interim Chief of Staff
Bill Echelberger, Council Budget Analyst
Samson Anderson, Council Budget Analyst
Steve Taylor, Council Policy Analyst
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 4:03 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 work session would be held through electronic communication means, and stated that notice of the session was provided to the public through a revised public information advisory issued on May 4, 2021, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice. He also stated there would be no opportunities for public comment and no public hearings during the session.

Councilor Michael Jones joined the meeting at 4:04 p.m.

Discussion of Proposed Amendments

Samson Anderson, Council Budget Analyst, provided Council with an overview of Council's proposed amendments to the proposed Capital Improvement Projects budget to address the city's transportation system. Mr. Anderson informed Council that many of the proposed funding increases for improvements to city transportation projects were scheduled to be implemented in the city's Complete Streets program, and did not require additional funding amendments by Council. Mr. Anderson also stated that an exception was for the requested Creighton Court Transformation,

which could be funded by resources from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and additional federal stimulus funds.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Councilor Katherine Jordan stated she understood the improvements would be funded through the Complete Streets program, but she wanted additional funding allocated for additional traffic calming measures in the city.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell joined the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

Bobby Vincent, Department of Public Works (DPW) director, informed Council that DPW had enough allocated funds to address all the requests for transportation improvements and traffic calming measures identified by Council, with the exception of the Creighton Court Transformation.

Councilor Jordan requested more specifics on the improvements scheduled by city administration, as well as a detailed outline of the Complete Streets program.

Mr. Vincent stated it would be premature to identify specific neighborhoods that would see improvements in the upcoming year.

Councilor Andreas Addison inquired about the use of the Central Virginia Transportation Fund, and asked if more projects would be implemented due to the increased funding.

Mr. Vincent confirmed that additional items would be implemented due to the increase of state funding, specifically for traffic calming measures.

President Cynthia Newbille stated that members had a discussion with United States Senator Mark Warner regarding additional funds that would be available from the federal government for the use of infrastructure improvements in the upcoming year.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell stated the need for traffic calming measures to be implemented in the 8th Voter District. Councilwoman Trammell also requested sidewalk improvements in the city's Southside.

It was the consensus of Council to proceed with the understanding that transportation improvements would be addressed through the Complete Streets program and did not require additional funding. It was also the consensus of Council to identify the Creighton Court Transformation as an item that could be addressed through the American Rescue Plan (ARP) and additional federal infrastructure stimulus funding.

Councilor Michael Jones noted his request that Council work to understand potential projects for the forthcoming ARP funds. Councilor Jones stated he wanted the expedited construction completion of the Southside Community Center to be identified as a priority for ARP fund use. Councilor Jones also stated his concerns that city improvements be addressed in an equitable way.

Samson Anderson, Council Budget Analyst, provided Council with an overview of Council's proposed amendments of funding increases to the proposed Capital Improvement Projects budget to address the city's parks system.

Bill Echelberger, Council Budget Analyst, informed Council of discussions between Council staff and city administration regarding improvement requests put forward by Council. Mr. Echelberger stated that city administration informed Council staff that none of the projects, with the exception of improvements to equipment at the Carter Jones/Fonticello Park, were ready to be implemented. Mr. Echelberger also stated that city administration requested a text amendment be considered regarding the request for the Community Center Enhancements in Hickory Hill, as additional information was necessary. Mr. Echelberger added that the James River Park

Infrastructure improvements would be identified as a priority for use of the forthcoming federal stimulus funding.

Chris Frelke, Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities director, provided members with additional information regarding improvements and playground construction at Ann Hardy Plaza and Hillside Court.

Councilor Michael Jones stated his understanding that the requested park improvements were not ready to be implemented and completed, but he requested that Council agree that the referenced projects be identified as priorities to be addressed by forthcoming federal stimulus funding.

It was the consensus of Council to proceed with the understanding that park improvements would be addressed through the forthcoming federal stimulus funding.

Samson Anderson, Council Budget Analyst, provided Council with information regarding the proposed amendment put forward by Vice President Ellen Robertson, that \$100,000,000 designated for School Modernization at George Wythe High School be moved from implementation in the Fiscal Year 2024 budget to the Fiscal Year 2022 budget.

Vice President Ellen Robertson addressed the proposed amendment, and she stated that the proposed amendment would likely be withdrawn once she obtains additional information.

Councilor Andreas Addison left the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

Jim Duval, Department of Finance investment and debt portfolio manager, addressed the city's debt capacity and stated he did not believe the city could move the \$100,000,000 designated for School Modernization at George Wythe High School to the Fiscal Year 2022 budget.

Bob Steidel, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer of Operations, provided Council with information regarding the city's fiscal needs for George Wythe High School construction.

Vice President Robertson informed members of her desire to withdraw her amendment regarding George Wythe High School, with the understanding that the item would be reexamined the following year.

Bill Echelberger, Council Budget Analyst, provided Council with information regarding the drafting of a proposed ordinance that would identify specific items as priorities to receive funding from the American Rescue Plan Act, the American Jobs Plan Act, and other federal and state funds.

Councilor Michael Jones requested that \$15,000,000 for the expedited construction completion of the Southside Community Center, be added to the priority list of projects referenced in the ordinance.

Councilwoman Reva Trammell expressed her concerns with public safety officer retention.

Acting Chief Administrative Officer Lincoln Saunders addressed remaining questions Council presented regarding fleet management and public safety officer compensation and recruitment. Mr. Saunders stated city administration was examining options for a third quarter appropriation to work with city partners to provide funds for gun violence prevention programs.

President Cynthia Newbille informed members that the proposed budget of the city for Fiscal Year 2022 was balanced and that review of the proposed budget was complete.

Adjournment

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

CITY CLERK