



City of Richmond

Minutes

Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee

Thursday, June 17, 2021

1:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor – Virtual Meeting

Committee Members and Others in Attendance

The Honorable Michael Jones – Chair
The Honorable Kristen Larson – Vice Chair (late arrival)
The Honorable Ellen F. Robertson – Committee Member

Samson Anderson, Council Budget Analyst
Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Tabrica Rentz, Acting Deputy City Attorney
Dominique Thaxton, Assistant City Clerk
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Michael Jones called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m., and presided.

Electronic Meeting Announcement

Assistant City Clerk Dominique J. Thaxton, pursuant to and in compliance 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 Thaxton stated notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information advisory issued on June 11, 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 Thursday, June 17, 2021, were provided to committee members. Ms. Thaxton 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 Dominique J. Thaxton provided citizen speaker guidelines.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comment speakers.

Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections or amendments to the meeting minutes of the Thursday, May 20, 2021

committee meeting, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

Papers for Consideration

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2021-144

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to enter into the Twenty-Fourth Commercial Area Revitalization Effort Program Cooperation Agreement between the City of Richmond, Virginia and the Economic Development Authority of the City of Richmond for the purpose of providing for the operation of the Commercial Area Revitalization Effort ("CARE") Program and a business recovery grant program.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

Leonard Sledge, Department of Economic Development Director, provided an overview of ORD. 2021-144.

Vice Chair Kristen Larson joined the meeting at 1:07 p.m.

Member Ellen Robertson inquired if ORD. 2021-144 would impact all of the city Commercial Area Revitalization Effort (CARE) zones.

Mr. Sledge confirmed that ORD. 2021-144 would impact all CARE zones in the city.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2021-144 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2021-145

To amend ch. 11, art. VIII of the City Code by adding therein a new section numbered 11-198, concerning the suspension of the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Financing Program, for the purpose of providing for the suspension of such program until July 1, 2022.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

Alicia Zatcoff, Sustainability Manager, Office of Sustainability, provided an overview of ORD. 2021-145.

Vice Chair Kristen Larson expressed her concern regarding the lack of communication with the administration's staff regarding ORD. 2021-145.

Chair Michael Jones stated that he had requested that administration's staff make outreach to Vice Chair Larson to discuss ORD. 2021-145, prior to the meeting.

Jeff Gray, Senior Policy Advisor to the Chief Administrative Officer, stated that the administration will work diligently with Vice Chair Larson to address her concerns with ORD. 2021-145.

Vice Chair Kristen Larson moved to forward ORD. 2021-145 to Council with the recommendation to strike.

Member Ellen Robertson asked for clarification on the purpose of suspending the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) Financing Program as outlined in ORD. 2021-145.

Alicia Zatcoff, Sustainability Manager, Office of Sustainability, shared that ORD. 2021-145 is requesting a suspension of the city's C-PACE program to allow the city the opportunity to participate in the statewide C-PACE program.

Member Robertson inquired why the administration is requesting to suspend the C-PACE program rather than to delay the program's implementation.

Ms. Zatcoff clarified that ORD. 2021-145 asks for a suspension of the current C-PACE program because the effective date of March 1, 2021, as outlined in ORD. 2020-129, adopted June 22, 2020, has already passed.

Member Robertson inquired if adopting ORD. 2021-145 would nullify ORD. 2020-129.

Tabrica Rentz, Acting Deputy City Attorney, stated that the suspension of the C-PACE program recommended in ORD. 2021-145 would temporarily halt operations of the program established by ORD. 2020-129, but would not nullify the existence of the program.

Chair Michael Jones asked for clarification as to what would happen to the current C-PACE program if ORD. 2021-145 is stricken.

Ms. Rentz stated that if ORD. 2021-145 is stricken, the C-PACE program will continue normal operations.

Vice Chair Larson shared her request for Council to stand by the path towards implementing a C-PACE program as outlined in ORD. 2020-129. Vice Chair Larson stated that the implementation of the C-PACE program can be facilitated by a third-party administrator.

Ms. Zatcoff shared the difficulties that various localities across Virginia are experiencing with securing the financing needed to implement the C-PACE program. Ms. Zatcoff also shared the benefits of participating in the statewide C-PACE program.

Vice Chair Kristen Larson restated the aforementioned motion to forward ORD. 2021-145 to Council with the recommendation to strike, which was seconded.

Chair Michael Jones underscored the importance of effective collaboration between Council and the administration.

There were no further comments or discussions and the **motion was unanimously approved.**

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2021-156

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to accept a donation from the Richmond Police Foundation of physical fitness equipment, flooring materials, and renovation services valued at approximately \$46,000.00 for the purpose of providing physical fitness equipment for use by Department of Police personnel at the Department of Police's Third Precinct located at 301 South Meadow Street. (5th District)

Patron: Mayor Stoney

There were no comments or discussions and **Member Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2021-156 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following ordinance was considered:

ORD. 2021-157

To amend and reordain City Code § 26-460, concerning the levy on machinery and tools used in business and certain motor carrier transportation property, for the purpose of reflecting amendments to Va. Code § 58.1-3506.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

Sheila Rollerson, Deputy Director, Department of Finance, provided an overview of ORD. 2021-157.

There were no comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Kristen Larson moved to forward ORD. 2021-157 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2021-R035

To request that the James River Outdoor Coalition provide to the Chief Administrative Officer and other officials of the City's Administration, as appropriate, the information necessary for the Mayor to introduce and for the Council to adopt the necessary amendments to Ord. No. 2021-042, adopted May 24, 2021, which accepted a program of proposed Capital Improvement Projects for the fiscal year beginning Jul. 1, 2021, and for the four fiscal years thereafter, authorizing the Chief Administrative Officer to accept a grant from the Coalition in the amount of \$145,000.00 for the construction of the universal access ramp at Huguenot Flatwater Park located at 8600 Riverside Drive in the city of Richmond, and that the Mayor introduce such legislation as may be necessary to accept such grant funds for the implementation of the universal access ramp at Huguenot Flatwater Park located at 8600 Riverside Drive in the city of Richmond and to amend the Capital Budget for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 for the purpose of appropriating \$145,000.00 for the universal access ramp at Huguenot Flatwater Park. (4th District)

Patron: Ms. Larson

Vice Chair Kristen Larson provided an overview of RES. 2021-R035.

Chair Michael Jones expressed support for RES. 2021-R035 and noted the momentous efforts of the James River Outdoor Coalition (JROC) in making the James River accessible to all city residents.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Vice Chair Larson moved to forward RES. 2021-R035 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

Member Ellen Robertson shared her intention to discuss best practices and objectives with the Chair of each of the Richmond City Council standing committees. Member Robertson stated that the goal is to compile and present Council with a list of prioritized goals for each standing committee.

Chair Michael Jones emphasized the role that Council retreats play in understanding the goals and projects of each Councilmember.

Presentations

There were no presentations.

Discussion Item

There were no discussion items.

Staff Report

Samson Anderson, Council Budget Analyst, provided the committee with the June staff report.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:48 p.m.