



City of Richmond

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

Minutes

Organizational Development Standing Committee

Monday, June 7, 2021

5:00 PM

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

Committee Members

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille – Chair
The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Vice Chair
The Honorable Andreas Addison – Member
The Honorable Michael Jones – Member
The Honorable Katherine Jordan – Member
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert – Member
The Honorable Kristen Larson – Member
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch – Member (late arrival)
The Honorable Reva Trammell – Member (early departure)

Others in Attendance

Haskell Brown, Interim City Attorney
Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff
Pamela Nichols, Senior Assistant City Clerk
Candice Reid, City Clerk
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 5:18 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 meeting would be held through electronic communication means. Mr. Warren stated notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information advisory issued on June 1, 2021, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice. He 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 Monday, June 7, 2021, were provided to committee members. Mr. Warren indicated that members of the public who signed up to speak and provide comment would be called to speak at the appropriate time.

Approval of the Minutes

There were no corrections or amendments to the minutes of the Monday, May 3, 2021 Organizational Development Standing Committee meeting, at 5:00 p.m., and the minutes were approved as presented.

Member Stephanie Lynch joined the meeting at 5:21 p.m.

Reports from City Administration, Council Staff and Other Parties

City Center Draft Plan

Maritza Pechin, Department of Planning and Development Review, Office of Equitable Development manager, provided the committee with a presentation regarding the city's draft plan for redevelopment of vacant land and underutilized parcels in downtown Richmond. Ms. Pechin stated that the draft plan would increase the city's tax base and increase partnerships with downtown entities, while also creating a more vibrant downtown during non-business hours. Ms. Pechin addressed the community engagement process throughout the development of the City Center Draft Plan. Ms. Pechin also provided members with a timeline for the process moving forward regarding adoption of the City Center Plan.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Member Michael Jones stated that he believed it was important to reflect on the history of displaced Black citizens in the downtown area during the upcoming review and planning of possible downtown redevelopment.

Member Ann-Frances Lambert inquired about the timeline for the community engagement process. Member Lambert stated her concerns with getting a full scope of the public's views while the city was dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms. Pechin informed members that the engagement process started prior to the onset of the pandemic, and that it overlapped with the development of the Richmond 300: A Guide for Growth Master Plan.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson recommended that members schedule individual meetings with Ms. Pechin to review the City Center Draft Plan. Vice Chair Robertson stated it was important that the city work to achieve the goal of downtown redevelopment, while also ensuring that the community is engaged throughout the process. Vice Chair Robertson also stated that the city must work to compete with surrounding counties to provide attractive areas for people to enjoy. Ms. Robertson further stated that attractive areas downtown would lead to an increase in hotel activity and potential growth of city revenue. Vice Chair Robertson also expressed her belief that affordable housing assistance should be included within any redevelopment proposal.

Chair Cynthia Newbille suggested that members put in writing their questions regarding the City Center Draft Plan, and stated that future meetings would occur to address additional discussions.

Update on Federal Guidelines Regarding Allowable Uses of American Rescue Plan Act Funds

Ron Jordan, Council Lobbyist, Advantus Strategies, and Laura Bateman, Council Lobbyist, Advantus Strategies, provided the committee with an update regarding potential funding to be received from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP), the Virginia General Fund revenue surplus and the potential American Jobs Plan Act of 2021. Mr. Jordan and Ms. Bateman also discussed with members, updates regarding legislation related to housing. Mr. Jordan and Ms. Bateman informed members of the guidelines and restrictions associated with how the city could allocate and use the incoming funds. Mr. Jordan stated that the guidelines regarding the use of ARP funds should be finalized in July, 2021.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Chair Cynthia Newbille stated that Council would proceed with a process to prioritize allocation of forthcoming funds as guidelines are finalized and discussions are held amongst members.

Member Ann-Frances Lambert inquired how the forthcoming funds could be used to assist small businesses in the city.

Mr. Jordan provided information regarding several different options before Council that could assist

small businesses.

Ms. Bateman provided information regarding how Council could use nonprofits within the city to help identify and address community needs with federal stimulus funding.

Member Andreas Addison stated that Council should examine methods to use the received funding to leverage the receipt of additional funding from non-city entities.

Member Katherine Jordan stated that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic was still effecting many in the city, and she added that it was important for Council to act swiftly to better support citizens in need of assistance.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson stated that it was important for Council to be prepared and ready to act swiftly to identify priorities in need of funding assistance.

Mr. Jordan informed members that he would have additional information to provide once the Virginia General Assembly meets for a special session during the summer of 2021.

Chair Newbille informed members that Council would work to ensure that review and allocation of received funding would occur in a collaborative manner citywide.

Consideration of Appointments to Boards, Commissions and Similar Entities

Pamela Nichols, Senior Assistant City Clerk, reviewed board vacancies for the committee's consideration.

Member Ann-Frances Lambert stated that when individuals apply for membership to multiple boards and commissions, and receive an initial appointment, the Office of the City Clerk should inquire if that individual would prefer to have remaining appointment applications withdrawn from consideration.

Member Michael Jones moved to forward the following appointment applications to Council with the recommendation to approve:

Board Name	Criteria for Appointment	Applicant Name
Ethics Reform Commission (11 members)	Reside or Work in the City	Tomaree Porter
		Joaquin Ross
		Belita Strudwick
		Lawrence West

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Reports of Standing Committees

There were no reports from standing committees.

Papers for Consideration

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2021-R034

To select RVA Entertainment Holdings, LLC, as the City's preferred casino gaming operator to operate a casino gaming establishment located at 2001 Walmsley Boulevard and 4700 Trenton Avenue and to provide for the requisite referendum thereon pursuant to Va. Code § 58.1-4123.

Patron: Mayor Stoney

Leonard Sledge, Department of Economic Development director, provided members with a presentation related to the proposed resolution.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Public Hearing

Chris Tsui, EAT Restaurant Partners! president, spoke in support of RES. 2021-R034, and stated that the proposed ONE Casino + Resort development would be very beneficial for the city. Mr. Tsui informed members that he believed ONE would provide opportunities for local restaurants and breweries to expand within the casino development. Mr. Tsui also stated that the city would see a large increase in revenue from the city's meals tax due to the establishment of ONE Casino + Resort.

Greta Harris, Better Housing Coalition president and CEO, spoke in support of RES. 2021-R034, and stated that the Better Housing Coalition was a partner with the casino development team regarding the delivery of community benefits. Ms. Harris also stated that she believed the ONE Casino + Resort would provide living wage jobs.

Dr. Monroe Harris, Jr., D.M.D., spoke in support of RES. 2021-R034, and stated he was impressed with the ONE Casino + Resort development team's commitment to philanthropic efforts in the city. Dr. Harris requested that Council support the proposed casino project.

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Ann-Frances Lambert moved to forward RES. 2021-R034 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved:** Ayes 8, Addison, Jordan, Lambert, Larson, Trammell, Jones, Robertson, Newbille. Noes None. Lynch was excused.

The following resolution was considered:

RES. 2021-R030

To express the Council's intent, to the extent authorized by law, to prioritize the appropriation of any funds received by the City, whether from the United States government, the Commonwealth of Virginia, or otherwise, provided pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and the proposed American Jobs Plan of 2021.

Patron: President Newbille

Chair Cynthia Newbille provided an introduction and additional background information regarding RES. 2021-R030.

Bill Echelberger, Council Budget Analyst, provided additional information on the history of RES. 2021-R030. Mr. Echelberger also addressed Council's prior discussions regarding the potential use of forthcoming American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) funds, as well as the proposed American Jobs Plan Act of 2021.

Member Reva Trammell left the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Member Kristen Larson suggested that the committee continue consideration of the proposed resolution until Council receives finalized information and guidelines regarding the forthcoming federal stimulus funds. Member Larson stated that she believed the continuance would allow Council the opportunity to review the allocation of funding for all of the city's priorities and needs collectively.

Member Michael Jones stated his concerns with the process of supporting the priorities identified during FY2021-2022 budget deliberations for federal stimulus funding. Mr. Jones also stated he believed that Council had previously reached consensus that the priorities identified in RES. 2021-R030, should receive federal relief stimulus funding.

Chair Newbille stated that the list of priorities identified in RES. 2021-R030 would not be the sole items to receive funding, and she also stated that she believed Council had reached a consensus on the matter during FY2021-2022 budget deliberations.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson stated she believed that certain concessions were made during FY2021-2022 budget deliberations, because it was the understanding amongst Council that certain priorities that did not receive funding through the FY2021-2022 budget, would receive priority allocation from federal stimulus funds.

Member Kristen Larson moved to continue RES. 2021-R030 to the July 6, 2021 Organizational Development Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded.

Member Katherine Jordan requested that the appropriate staff be available to provide information and analysis regarding RES. 2021-R030, at the July 6, 2021 Organizational Development Standing Committee meeting.

Member Michael Jones stated he agreed to certain concessions during FY2021-2022 budget deliberations, because he believed that Council had reached consensus on the priorities addressed in RES. 2021-R030. Mr. Jones informed members that he believed Council was not adhering to the consensus reached during budget deliberations.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson requested that an amendment be included with the motion to continue, that requires that no other priorities be addressed or funded, until the items listed in RES. 2021-R030 are addressed first.

Member Andreas Addison stated Council should review the idea of holding a separate meeting to solely address the use of federal stimulus funding.

Interim City Attorney Haskell Brown informed the committee that the requested amendment could not ensure that Council would adhere to the request that Vice Chair Robertson was seeking.

Vice Chair Robertson stated again that she believed Council should support the priorities listed in RES. 2021-R030, before any new list of priorities is created.

Chair Newbille stated she believed that Council had previously agreed through consensus on the adoption of an expedited resolution to fund the priorities listed in RES. 2021-R030.

There were no further comments or discussions and **the motion to continue RES. 2021-R030 to the July 6, 2021 Organizational Development Standing Committee meeting, was approved:** Ayes 5, Addison, Jordan, Lambert, Larson, Lynch. Noes 3, Jones, Robertson, Newbille. Trammell had left the meeting.

Discussion Items

There were no discussion items.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.