



City of Richmond

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

Meeting Minutes Governmental Operations Standing Committee

Wednesday, June 28, 2023

1:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Committee Members and Others in Attendance

The Honorable Katherine Jordan – Chair
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert – Vice Chair (early departure)
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch – Member (late arrival)
The Honorable Andreas Addison – (late arrival and early departure)

Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst
Susan McKenney, Assistant City Attorney
Rachael Paul, Assistant City Clerk
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Katherine Jordan called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Upon the Chair's request, Assistant City Clerk Rachael Paul provided information on the appropriate manner in which the Council Chamber is to be evacuated in the event of an emergency along with 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 Wednesday, May 24, 2023, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2023.228](#) May 24, 2023 - Governmental Operations Services Standing
Committee Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [20230524 Gov Ops Mins](#)

Presentation(s)

RVAH20 Combined Sewer System Program Update

April Bingham, Department of Public Utilities (DPU) Director, and Robert Stone, DPU Engineering Manager, provided the committee a presentation regarding RVAH20 Combined Sewer System Program update.

[CD.2023.230](#) 20230628 RVAH20 Combined Sewer System Program Update

Attachments: [20230628 RVAH20 Combined Sewer System Program Update](#)

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert asked if the \$50 million allocated for the interim plan was received from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

Robert Stone stated that ARPA was providing the funds, and he informed the committee that the interim plan received \$150 million from ARPA, which included a \$50 million match from the city, for a total of \$200 million.

Director Bingham informed the committee that there is an affordability clause in place, and if the city has to pay more for the plan, then the funding will come from the city's customers.

Chair Katherine Jordan asked if ARPA spending deadlines were impacting the city's plans.

Mr. Stone advised that the ARPA funds that are required to be spent by December would not be much use for the more expensive aspects of the final plan.

Brianna Morring, District Manager with James River Soil and Water Conservation District, provided the committee with an update on the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program with the Urban and Suburban Storm Water Management Program.

Chair Jordan asked how Council can help advocate for additional state funding.

Director Bingham stated DPU appreciates any assistance from Council and informed the committee that education, outreach, and advocacy would help.

Vice Chair Lambert requested Director Bingham to provide Council with more information that the members can add to their newsletters and social media.

Parker Agelasto, Capital Region Land Conservancy Executive Director, provided the committee with an overview regarding the current operations of the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program for the James River Soil and Water Conservation District.

Councilor Andreas Addison joined the meeting at 1:18 p.m.

Paper(s) for Consideration

The following ordinance was considered:

1. [ORD. 2023-188](#) To amend ch. 2, art. V of the City Code by adding therein a new div. 21, consisting of §§ 2-1202.6-2-1202.8, for the purpose of establishing a Public Utilities and Services Commission.

Patrons: Mr. Addison, Ms. Jordan, Ms. Lambert and Ms. Lynch

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2023-188](#)

Member Stephanie Lynch arrived at 1:32 p.m., and was seated.

Council Member Andreas Addison provided the committee with information regarding ORD. 2023- 188, and explained the purpose of establishing a Public Utilities and Services Commission.

Public Hearing

Kevin Cianfarini, Electricify RVA and Beyond Methane RVA member, spoke in support of Ord. 2023-188 and stated the commission would benefit the city in many ways.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert asked what the city is doing now that is different from what the commission is proposing.

Bob Steidel, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (DCAO) of Operations, informed the committee that the city had a similar commission in the past and that the commission gives Council the opportunity to understand the utilities process. Mr. Steidel stated that commission recommendations would be better presented to Council in October or September, and he also stated that surrounding counties should be included in commission membership.

Vice Chair Lambert asked if members of the commission would be paid.

Mr. Steidel advised the committee that the City Attorney would have information on commission member compensation.

Chair Katherine Jordan stated that Councilor Addison has communicated with city administration on continuing the paper for additional time for review of potential amendments.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert asked to be added as a co-patron of ORD. 2023-188.

Member Stephanie Lynch recommended the committee move the paper forward to Council and review potential amendments in the future.

The committee had further discussion with Councilor Andreas Addison and DCAO Steidel on moving the ordinance forward and amending the paper later.

There were no further comments or discussions and Member Stephanie Lynch moved to forward ORD. 2023-188 to Council with a recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Councilor Andreas Addison left the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

The following ordinances were considered:

2. [ORD. 2023-192](#) To designate the 5200 block of Warwick Road in honor of Dr. Roscoe D. Cooper, Jr.
Patrons: President Jones, Ms. Lambert, Ms. Trammell, Ms. Lynch, Ms. Newbille, Mr. Addison and Vice President Nye
Attachments: [Ord. No. 2023-192](#)

3. [ORD. 2023-193](#) To designate the 2200 block of Bainbridge Street in honor of the late Mrs. Mozelle Willis Minor.
Patrons: Ms. Lynch
Attachments: [Ord. No. 2023-193](#)

4. [ORD. 2023-194](#) To designate the 1700 block of Porter Street in honor of the late Dr. Ruth Moore.
Patrons: Ms. Lynch
Attachments: [Ord. No. 2023-194](#)

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert asked to be added as a co-patron of ORD. 2023-192.

There were no further comments or discussions and Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert moved to forward ORD. 2023-192, ORD. 2023-193, and ORD. 2023-194 to Council with a recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Board Vacancies

There were no board vacancies.

Discussion Item(s)

Update on the Honorary Street Sign Process

Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst, provided the committee with an update of previous honorary street sign data, and she shared that the amount of dedicated street signs has increased which is warranting the conversation of funding.

Bob Steidel, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (DCAO) of Operations, provided an overview to the committee regarding honorary street signs. He stated that city administration has prepared the steps needed for the process once Council decides on the process for honorees.

Member Stephanie Lynch asked if the city budget included honorary street signs as a separate line item, and she also asked what the cost estimate would be for that line item.

DCAO Steidel stated that there has not been a separate budget line item for honorary street signs in previous years.

Bobby Vincent, Department of Public Works (DPW) Director, informed the committee he does not have a cost estimate at this time but explained that sign installation requires two to four DPW employees and can take up to four hours. Director Vincent advised the budget for the signs would be based on how many signs are proposed for that year.

Member Lynch asked how the signs are funded currently.

Director Vincent stated the funds for the signs are currently being provided from the DPW budget. He informed the committee that his recommendation would be that honorary street signs become a Council budget line item.

The committee had further discussion regarding honorary street signs and discussed other methods to honor people.

Cemetery Update

Chris Frelke, Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities Director, provided the committee with an update regarding the Evergreen Cemetery and East End Cemetery. Mr. Frelke informed the committee that after some conversations with Councilmembers, he recommends a community engagement special meeting.

Member Stephanie Lynch asked for the cost estimate for maintaining the cemeteries.

Director Frelke stated that he would get feedback from the community engagement meeting to understand what the community wants.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert requested the cost estimate, to include basic maintenance, prior to the public meeting so the community can start to think about how they would spend the money on each cemetery.

The committee had further discussion regarding cemetery maintenance.

Vice Chair Ann-Frances Lambert departed the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

Staff Report

Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst, provided the committee with a staff report. Ms. Davis addressed the committee's request for information on the policy for honorary street naming in the city. Ms. Davis also provided the committee with information regarding the City Charter Commission's upcoming meetings, work sessions, and public hearings.

[CD.2023.234](#) 20230624 Governmental Operations Staff Report

Attachments: [20230628 Gov Ops Staff Report](#)

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.