

The regular meeting of the Petersburg City Council was held on Tuesday, January 21, 2020, at the Union Train Station. Mayor Parham called the meeting to order at 6:31p.m.

1. ROLL CALL:

Present:

Council Member Charles H. Cuthbert, Jr.
Council Member Annette Smith-Lee
Council Member Treska Wilson-Smith
Council Member W. Howard Myers
Council Member Darrin Hill
Mayor Samuel Parham

Absent: Vice Mayor John A. Hart, Sr

Present from City Administration:

City Manager Aretha R. Ferrell-Benavides
City Attorney Anthony C. Williams
Clerk of Council Nykesha D. Jackson

2. PRAYER:

Mayor Parham stated, "Councilman Darrin Hill will lead us in our prayer."

Council Member Hill led the council meeting in prayer.

3. CLOSED SESSION:

*No items for a closed session.

4. MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Mayor Parham led the meeting into the moment of silence.

5. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Parham led council and the citizens in the pledge of allegiance.

6. DETERMINATION OF THE PRESENCE OF A QUORUM:

A quorum was determined with the presence of all City Council Members except for Vice Mayor Hart.

7. PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATION OF CEREMONIAL PROCLAMATIONS:

a. Proclamation for Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

Mayor Parham stated, "We have a proclamation for Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. That is tabled until the next meeting."

8. REPORTS/RESPONSES TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC INFORMATION PERIOD:

*Audio available upon request.

Folakemi Osoba, Public Information Period, read comments and responses from previous public information at the January 7, 2020, regular council meeting.

1. What is the update on the potential dog park?

The terms are currently being worked through with the proposed Lessee. Staff members are also working with the National Park Service to ensure it conforms with development agreements for the Southside Depot and with FOLAR to ensure it conforms with the Appomattox River Trail.

2. Update on St. Andrews Street Pump House

A consultant study was recently completed for this property. In summary, this 1856 pump house property is distressed. The study raised significant interior and exterior structure concerns. The foundation is partially collapsed. Therefore, limited access to the structure is recommended at this time.

3. Will there be residential street sweeping soon?

The Street Operations team is currently finalizing the dates for residential street sweeping. More information will be provided once the schedule is complete.

4. What is the update with leaf collection?

Completed: Wards 5,1,6,7, and 2. Wards 4 and 3 are ongoing. Expected leaf collection end date is January 24, 2020. Staff members will conduct a second-round leaf pick-up in each ward for residents that might have missed the 1st pick-up. The second round will take place January 27 - 31.

5. Has anyone followed up with Mr. Crockett about the bench in front of his store?

This bench has been removed.

India Adams-Jacobs, Public Information Officer, gave follow-up responses to City Council from the January 7, 2020, council meeting.

1. Can we paint the parking spots from Washington to Tabb Street in the front of the new building? -Councilmember Hill

- a. Staff is waiting for warmer weather to restripe the spots from Washington to Tab Street. We anticipate the restriping to begin within the next three to five weeks depending on weather.

2. Could you all provide the next steps on building code violations efforts from the meeting in the fall? -Council Member Cuthbert

- a. Ms. Peters provided an update during the meeting regarding surveys received by the department and indicated there will be a follow-up meeting in February on this topic and will notify City Council of the meeting date.

3. Could the City look into holding a job fair to fill some of the vacant positions? – Councilmember Smith-Lee

- a. Ms. Kim Robinson, HR Director is working with staff to coordinate a job fair to be held in late February.

4. Can we remove the benches in front of Mr. Crocker's store? – Councilmember Hill

- a. Staff removed the benches on Wednesday, January 8, 2020.

5. Can we look into covering the one stop cancer test for all fire employees? – Mayor Parham

- a. Staff has reached out to Southside Regional Medical Hospital to gauge whether or not it can be covered by our insurance. Deputy City Manager, Ms. Darnetta Tyus, is taking the lead on this item.

*Audio available upon request.

**6. Can we get an update and timeline on the repairs of the marquee kiosk downtown?
Councilmember Cuthbert**

- a. Mr. Sergei Troubetzkoy is awaiting an update from vendor on the replacement timeline. We expect an update by the February 4th council meeting.

Mayor Parham stated, "Tonight, I would like to recognize our Petersburg Parks and Leisure Services for hosting a wonderful workshop for our Petersburg Youth. Yesterday, during the time we honor the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, our youth participants were able to engage in workshops covering: Mock interviews, resume writing, etiquette, completing online applications and summer employment. This was a magnificent day for our young people to take part in. I want to thank Mrs. Tami Yerby and her team for planning this day for our youth and also for our City Manager, Mrs. Benavides and Mr. Lyons. They came out and Ms. Tyus and also Council Member Cuthbert and Council Member Hill who was there for excellent MLK service. Thank you."

9. COMMUNICATIONS/SPECIAL REPORTS:

- a. City Assessor Report – Brian Gordineer, AAS, City Assessor

Mr. Gordineer gave a PowerPoint presentation.

Key Points:

- With the last reassessment the total value of property in the City has increased by 1.81%.
- Office/Team has analyzed over 500 fair market value transactions in the City. All are typical real estate transactions.
- Nationally the City is in a good environment and sales have increased.
- Petersburg does not operate the market in isolation.
- There are 2.7% more transactions than last time.
- Sales have increased by 5.4% nationally since last year.
- Long & Foster tracks pricing and regional sales. They noted in the Greater Richmond Market that there are 20% more sales than last year.

Mayor Parham stated, "Thank you Mr. Gordineer for your report and thank your staff for all the hard work. It was good news right there for the City of Petersburg. Any questions for Mr. Gordineer? Okay, we will move right along to the City Manager's Report. Mrs. Benavides."

- b. City Manager Report – Aretha R. Ferrell-Benavides, City Manager

Mrs. Benavides stated, "Good evening Mayor and Council. Included you have a copy of my overall report with an update included in their on the healthcare RFP and the things that council and staff have been interested in with assuring that we get the most competitive rates for health insurance. So, that RFP process is underway. We have submitted an RFP and we have received proposals and we do have a selection committee that is working on reviewing the RFPs. That is one thing that I wanted to highlight. Another highlight is 'Operation No Guns.' One of the efforts of the City and the police chief are to take weapons of the streets in Petersburg. And as of 2020 we have removed 28 illegal guns off the street. And I would like to commend thank our chief and police force for creating a safe City for the City of Petersburg. The 2019 leaf collection is still underway. We have completed Wards 5, 1, 6, 7 and 2. Wards 4 and 3 are still underway. Bids are due on February 24, 2020, for the Jarratt House. That is one of the big projects that we have underway. Moving to my presentation one update that is very important to everyone is that each week we need to provide a council meeting update on our audit. Today we had a meeting not only with VML VaCO Group, but we received an update from Robinson, Farmer and Cox Auditors. They have stated that they will have the audit to staff by next *Audio available upon request.

week. I said January 31st, but they said next week. From that information, we will have the opportunity to review and provide management responses. Council will receive a copy of the draft audit by February 4th without the response. And the CAFR is still scheduled to be presented to council by February 18th. That will give you adequate time to review and develop questions as well as any briefing that is necessary with the auditors. In our previous years, when we have done the audit report, we held a special council meeting. I recommend that we do it during a regular council meeting, but we will try to make sure council agenda as enough adequate time to focus on questions and answers. If council would like to start it earlier that is also an option. But we believe that we will be ready with a final document by February 18th. But we will receive the draft audit from our auditors on next week. Second part is that we will be working with VML VaCO and our finance team to develop our management response management letter. In discussion out 2018/19 we have secured a contract with our project manager for our preaudit team that is underway. We held our first meeting today to discuss our 2020/21 planning. Part of our focus this year is to not only get information but to complete it as quickly as possible but also some lessons learned. One is the biggest challenge that we found with the audit is the lack of consistency of information. What we are going to be working on is not only completing the 2018/19 audit but documenting the steps. We think that part of the staff that we have on board will be helping with this process because we have folks that have experience this time. But we also want to document that experience and not continue to start over again with the process. Big announcement, as many of you have found out that the Office of Financial Management is now open. We have consolidated all of our financial functions. The Office of Finance, Budget, IT and Billing and Collections have now moved to our new site. There are customers being served there. I know that it is still confusing for folks who are coming to the original site. But as we work on getting the word out, we are going to try and have better signage out front so that people will not get out their cars and walk up there looking for it. The only park that is underwork is the Commission of Revenue Office. As you can see its all doors that they need, and we will be working this week to complete the glass for that area. Once that occurs, they should be moving over next week sometime, and we will be fully integrated in that area. We will have an open house around the first or second week in February. The black drop box will continue until January 24th, because that is what many people are used to. After that time, we will move our depository to drop off to the new site. From a location standpoint about parking and the availability of parking we know that there is a little bit of adjustment. We have restriped the parking areas and made sure that we have adequate parking for short term folks to come and be worked there. Handicapped parking spaces have also been repainted to make sure that it is available and visible to the residents. Good feedback so far. I want to commend our staff once again. This was a staff effort. And if you look at the site and the building this work was done internally by our general service of staff. We have had limited contractual staff working on it. But as we start to look at consolidation of our site, we believe that we will be better able to serve our residents. And that concludes my presentation.”

There was discussion among City Council and staff.

c. Presentation by the Petersburg Healthy Options Partnership (pHOP)

BACKGROUND: Petersburg Healthy Options Partnership (pHOP) is a new collaborative effort to reduce obesity in the city of Petersburg. The Program is funded by a five-year High Obesity Prevention (HOP) grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Petersburg Healthy Options Partnership (pHOP) aims to 1) increase access to healthier foods in the city and 2) improve and connect routes to everyday destinations (with an emphasis on walking).

Led by the Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) and the Virginia Tech Center for Public Health Practice and Research (CPHRP), the pHOP project is pushing for the development of mobile produce markets for the city, more fresh fruits and vegetables at corner stores, and more places to walk and get fit.

To see these changes in the city, the pHOP project is partnering with several organizations including: Crater Health District (Petersburg office), the Petersburg City Library Healthy Living and Learning Center, the

*Audio available upon request.

Petersburg Wellness Consortium, River Street Farmers' Market, Friends of the Lower Appomattox River (FOLAR) and the Petersburg Healthy Community Action Team.

Additional partners are welcomed as strategizing continues, needs are assessed, and new initiatives are planned. For example, the pHOP project aims to support FOLAR and Bike Walk Petersburg with soon-to-begin expansions to the Appomattox River Trail and other initiatives to promote biking and walking.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Petersburg Healthy Options Partnership (pHOP) be provided an opportunity on the Agenda to make a presentation to the City Council.

Pat Caulkins, Petersburg Healthy Community Action Team (HCAT) coordinator, Provisional Healthy Living & Learning Center and Dr. Morgan Maxwell, Project Manager, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the work that they have been doing in the City.

Key points:

- Robert Wood Johnson has ranked Petersburg 133 out of 133 counties. That is across health areas and economic factors.
- With health access Petersburg also ranks poorly.
- It is a 21% capacity of citizens in Petersburg knowing about healthy food.
- 42% of the population is obesity.
- Obesity is related to stroke, heart disease, gout, cancer and other health problems.

There was discussion and comments among City Council and the presenters.

d. Presentation on the Appomattox River Trail Phase I Project

BACKGROUND: This project started back in 2015 as a gateway project in collaboration with the Cameron Foundation and the City Administration. The project was allocated \$500,000.00 in the Capital Improvement Plan. This money was later moved to the Exit 52 Gateway Bridge Project. The agreement with Cameron Foundation was the City pays ½ of the Construction cost, the Cameron Foundation pays the other ½ of the Construction cost and 100% of the design cost.

The City expended funds on the relocation of Utility and Verizon poles in preparation for the project. City Council authorized staff to purchase the easement and land from CSX for this project.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council will adopt a resolution authorizing and supporting staff to continue to work with the Cameron Foundation, FOLAR, Virginia State University (VSU), Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), and out Regional partners to develop the trail.

Michelle Peters, Director of Planning and Community Development, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Appomattox River Trail.

Heather Barrar, Regional Trails Program Director for FOLAR, stated, "It is good to be back here before you. Remember I was here last summer with you when you adopted a resolution for the park and the MOU for the Appomattox River Trail. So, we are here asking for support for the Appomattox River Trail to support continuing the project. We do have quiet a few members of the community that would like to show their support tonight but not take all your time. So, I am going to ask them to raise their hands now to show their support. So, you can see our community support that we have with us tonight. I just want to point out again like Michelle said that this particular project is really vital to the entire 20-mile system. This project is actually at the very midpoint of the entire 20 mile. So, we look at it has the beating heart of the system. It's a spot that we will have amazing views of the river and also that really great access to old town. We can get dining and services and
*Audio available upon request.

other regional needs. And as Michelle said it is going to be the intersection point between the east and west trail and the north south Petersburg trail. I also want to mention to you that FOLAR has been actively leveraging this project site with public and private partners to fundraise and to invest in the City of Petersburg both east and west of the project area. FOLAR in 2019 secured funding to purchase more properties on the river for public access. And we are also poised to start putting some investments in Petersburg in 2020. We have been bringing public and private investors to the site and they are all excited to build on this momentum that we have going. And as you heard earlier, we have new public partners coming together. This work is important. And we have seen time again across the country cities improving their health and improve their economic landscape.”

Council Member Myers made a motion to adopt the resolution authorizing and supporting staff to work with the Cameron Foundation, FOLAR, Virginia State University (VSU), Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), and our regional partners to develop the trail. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hill.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comment.

Richard Taylor, 828 W. Tuckahoe Street, stated, “I don’t know if I am the oldest one talking about supporting this project, but I guarantee that I am the oldest residential member here to speak about it. I have lived in Petersburg now for 76 years. When we started this project almost 15 years, we removed 20,000 tires from Patton Park. Most of you probably would never have seen it because it was so overgrown you couldn’t but with volunteers from Fort Lee, we were able to move some of those tires. I wholeheartedly endorse your support of this resolution and hope that you will consider it.”

Richard Stewart, 129 Rolfe Street, stated, “Let me say this. Richard Taylor, I call him my brother by another mother. But what Richard Taylor and that group did for Pocahontas Shore Line off Rolfe Street is right behind my property. I have been living in Pocahontas, matter of fact my family goes back eight or nine generations to the 17th Century. That was called a slaughterhouse. And after the tornado came through many tires and some of everything was wrong. Richard and his crew made a difference. There is a lady that in the paper named Walthall. I want to meet that lady. Her name is Walthall. Because it is part of our history of the William Walthall House in Pocahontas. But they came in and trees and beautiful rocks. People are coming in walking the trail. Matter of fact thank the police department because I call them sometimes too. Because there are too many people walking down there at night at 12am when you cannot see the water. Anyway, what I am saying is that whatever you can do to help them, please help them. Because they have helped Pocahontas a lot. Thank you.”

Willie Noise, 1508 Circle Drive, stated, “Happy New Year to the Mayor and Council persons and the citizens of Petersburg. And I have been down the river for quite some time now. That is my home. I have met everybody down there and everyone knows me. And during my visit there for the time that I have been spending there on the river right there at the rock and the toilet bowl. And if you don’t know about that then you have not been talking to us on the river. I have watched that trail come up on Colonial Heights side all the way over there by the dog pound. And it is beautiful, and I love it. And I was comparing it with the Petersburg side. And so, whoever is in charge is bringing up the Colonial Heights side and they barely touching the Petersburg side. I was shocked about Pocahontas. And you just keep doing little stuff that don’t make no sense. You got the trail there and somebody planted a tree right in the trail road. So, what about the fire department and big vehicles that have to come through there. Bicycles are not the only one. And getting back up to Virginia State area, the rock, the toilet bowl and Patton Park. You been coming in there so fast all the time and we have been sitting there watching and wondering what is going on now. Nobody talked to us. There was some kind of rule that said that if you are going to make a development somewhere you first have to poll the people that live in that area. No one has ever polled anybody down there on the river as far as the citizens except a select few or whatever. But it is not equally shared. Now the Petersburg side is the best side to run this thing all the way to Matoaca. On the Colonial Heights side there are too many obstacles. But I cannot say for sure this is the

*Audio available upon request.

first time tonight. I am the one to talk to the people in charge and this is my first time. And the roads up through there just don't make no sense. What is wrong with clearing that path so people with beautiful cars can come through. Right now, the only way that you can come through is if you are driving a truck. And that don't make no sense. It doesn't take nothing to run the grader through there and smooth out everything. Make the permanent road that is going to structure all of this. Good afternoon."

Sara Melissa Witiak, 22 Centre Hill Court, stated, "I would like to also add my support for the trail. I have been working with the university to make sure that part of the trail coming from Ashland is aligned with the trail coming through Petersburg. We have been working very hard to make sure that the trail is acceptable and hopefully very cool with the old train Trussell to make a really cool pedestrian path near the river. And making the university more acceptable to people. So, I fully support this and if anyone has any questions about what the university is doing, I will be happy to talk to you. Thank you very much for your time."

Sam Jean, 39 River Street, stated, "Good evening. I must agree that we do need a trail. I also see that the dog park can coexist with the trail park and that is the reason why I am standing for it. I agree that just like humans need exercising, animals need exercising. We are in an area that have a lot of issues when it comes to animals. So, I am asking council to pay attention to what is going on. Not pay attention to the people that are against it and see it for what it is worth. It is an attraction and it is going to bring people here, and dogs and a whole bunch of situations here."

There was discussion among City Council and staff.

Council Member Wilson-Smith made a motion to adopt the resolution regarding the Appomattox River Trail Phase I Project. The motion was seconded by

The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Wilson-Smith, Smith-Lee, Myers, Hill, and Parham; Absent: Hart

20-R-6 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND SUPPORTING STAFF TO CONTINUE TO WORK WITH THE CAMERON FOUNDATION, FOLAR, VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY (VSU), VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (VDOT), AND OUT REGIONAL PARTNERS TO DEVELOP THE TRAIL.

10. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA (to include minutes of previous meeting/s)

- a. Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of January 7, 2020
- b. Minutes of the Organizational Meeting of January 7, 2020 and the Special Closed Session meeting of January 7, 2020.
- c. A request to schedule a public hearing request of Equity Plus, LLC to rezone the property from A (Agricultural) District to a PUD (Planned Unit Development) District to allow a residential subdivision of 168 single-family dwellings. The property address is 2557 North Stedman Drive, T.P. 036-09-0001.
- d. A request to schedule a public hearing upon request of John Ruffin (Clearfield MMG, Inc.) to construct and operate a Waste Disposal Solution Facility. The property is zoned M-2. The property address is 2851 Frontage Road, T.P. 064-03-0006. The property is being subdivided to create an 8-acre parcel for development.
- e. A request to schedule a public hearing to amend the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-pace) ordinance.
- f. A request to schedule a public hearing to endorse a proposed tourism development project, and to authorize other actions consistent with Virginia Tourism Gap Financing.

*Audio available upon request.

Council Member Myers made a motion to approve the consent agenda and to accept the public hearings date for February 4, 2020. The motion was seconded by Council Member Wilson-Smith.

Council Member Cuthbert stated, "I am going to abstain because a member of my family has an interest in '10f'. And where it is not a conflict of interest under the state statute, I do not feel comfortable voting."

The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Wilson-Smith, Smith-Lee, Myers, Hill, and Parham; Abstain: Cuthbert; Absent: Hart

11. OFFICIAL PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- a. A public hearing to consider an ordinance authorizing the sale of 602 Commerce Street.

BACKGROUND: The City has received a proposal from High Street Lofts, LLC to purchase the following City-owned property:

Parcel ID	Premise	Street	Proposed Use
23050800	602	Commerce Street	Parking

High Street Lofts, LLC proposes to use the property for parking, especially for tenants of the adjacent apartment development.

The parcel is one of three former sections of 400 Commerce Street, which was purchased from the City of Petersburg in 2010. The parcel was not separated when the deed was recorded and the description of the property purchased from the City by High Street Lofts, LLC includes one of the three sections. High Street Lofts, LLC would like to purchase only one of the remaining two portions, addressed as 602 Commerce Street.

The City Assessor has provided the assessed value of the .82-acre parcel at 602 Commerce Street, which totals \$30,300. According to the City Assessor, it is based on the proportional size of the property and the assessed value of the former combined parcel at 400 Commerce Street.

The offer price is \$10,000, which considers real estate taxes paid by High Street Lofts, LLC for the combined parcel at 400 Commerce Street, which included property owned by the City of Petersburg because the portion of the parcel purchased by High Street Lofts, LLC in 2010 was not separated from the City-owned parcel when the deed was recorded.

In accordance with applicable legal requirements, A public hearing is required prior to approving and authorizing the sale of City-owned property. The City Council scheduled the public hearing during their January 7, 2020 meeting.

RECOMMENDATION: Following a duly advertised public hearing, Council by majority of those members present and voting, the council may firm, reverse or modify the decision of the Architectural Review Board (ARB) in whole or part.

Council Member Myers stated, "From my understanding it was not properly advertised. And it probably should be tabled until the next meeting until after its advertisement."

Council Member Myers made a motion to table until the February 4, 2020, council meeting with proper advertisement. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hill. The motion was approved on roll call. There was discussion on the motion. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Smith-Lee, Hill and Parham; Absent: Hart

*Audio available upon request.

- b. A public hearing to consider an ordinance authorizing the sale of 10 N. Jefferson Street and 125 E. Washington Street.

BACKGROUND: The City has received a proposal from Mr. Ezaddin Alasad to purchase the following City-owned property:

Parcel ID	Premise	Street	Proposed Use
011-290004	10	N Jefferson Street	Commercial Development
011-290007	125	E Washington Street	Commercial Development

Mr. Alasad proposes to establish Alshami Pitstop Center on the property that would include a 4-bay Branded Gas Station with an adjacent 4-bay Shopping Center to include a convenience store and three commercial restaurant or retail tenants. Mr. Alasad is working to secure agreements with national chains to serve as tenants. The number of projected jobs includes 25-35 Temporary Construction Jobs, and 30-40 Permanent Jobs amongst all of the businesses, with average wages between \$10-16/hr. The proposed hours of the businesses would be 6:00a.m. to 12:00 a.m. the property is not located within a Historic District. The proposed use of a Convenience Store with Gas is allowed in within the current zoning, B-3. Wine and Beer off-premises would be sold pending an ABC License.

The Offered Purchase Price is \$80,000, and the proposed total investment is \$2,500,000. The project financing would include Equity – 50%, and Debt Financing – 50%. The potential benefits include new businesses that would generate property, sales and meals tax revenue as well as jobs. The Developer estimates a Due Diligence Period of 120 Days.

In accordance with applicable legal requirements. A public hearing is required prior to approving and authorizing the sale of City-owned property.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the City Council holds a public hearing on January 21, 2020 and subsequently considers adoption of an ordinance approving and authorizing the City Manager to execute a Purchase Agreement and proceed with the sale of City-owned property in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Reginald Tabor, Project Manager, gave an update on the request to adopt an ordinance approving and authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement and proceed with the sale of City-owned in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

Linwood Christian, 410 Mistletoe Street, stated, “First and foremost that name Alasad, I am wondering when he said on Halifax Street are, we are talking about Spurs. Is that one of the places that he owns or where? But normally I be one especially looking at the ways and that is something that we don’t have around here. Here is what I am going to say. For the simple fact, that we have had schools. We are looking at Virginia Avenue and A.P. Hill. I don’t mean no harm, but I like Family Dollar because I shop there but Family Dollar and convenient stores we have had enough. And I am sorry I don’t want to subject anybody else. And this is right across from St. Joseph School. I don’t want to subject to anybody else having to deal with anybody urinating in public during the day. First of all, I am just going to put it like this, most of the convenient stores in my neighborhood and some of them are in yours. Persons that run them do not contribute anything positive to our neighborhood. And I say what I want for fear of somebody saying it is a racist statement. Black people do not run these convenient stores in my neighborhood. And they are contributing to the demised neighborhood. I do

*Audio available upon request.

not want to be subjected to our kids or anybody being subjected to someone walking up to you asking do you have a dollar. You do not have to be subjected to tricks in the daytime bad enough in the nighttime. And I am only telling you not from what somebody told me but from what I see. And if you think that it is bad in the neighborhoods go to churches. I would say to this one 'NO.' We have had enough. I cannot speak for anybody else but speaking from what I am seeing just in my neighborhood alone we have had enough. Thank you."

Michael Packer, 1245 Woodland Road, stated, "I come to speak in opposition in the sale of this property in the City of Petersburg. It is located adjacent to the Centre Hill Historic District. There are historical structures both on the Jefferson Street side and on Franklin Street side. A service station would not be compatible or attractive to the use especially on one of the main entrance ways to the City. More importantly the property is across the street from St. Joseph School. Council has historically denied and done its best to restrict the sale of off premises alcoholic beverages in close proximity of a school. The ones that come to my mind is the property directly across from Walnut Hill School that was proposed to be a convenient center. It was zoned properly, and we fought in Richmond at the ABC Board to keep the ABC License Off Premises from being and now that is a laundromat. There was also a piece of property across from Peabody Middle School. A convenient store that wanted alcoholic beverages. We fought against that and kept that from happening. There was the Utotem, those of you that have a little age. The Utotem directly across the street from Lee Park Baseball Field that opened but had to close because they couldn't get an ABC License because the City was against that. On premises of a restaurant or something like that would be a different story. When you have off premises and you have people buying beer all day and all night across the street from a school is it not a good situation. The City has always recognized that. I am sure that the people from the school would be down here wearing mask if they had any indication that this was the proposed use for the property. I don't know how they would have found that out based on the information in the ad. They would have actually had to go to the council website and read that. Folks don't necessarily do that all the time. I think that those folks have made a tremendous improvement to the City of Petersburg especially in recent years. A substantial amount of money on the restoration of the school and its technology that this would not be a good use. The owns the property and the City can control it in every way. The good news is that it is a public use. There is a sign on the property now that says that it is for public parking and because it is a public use it would require $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of this body which would be six votes. If one of the six of you voted negatively then the property would not be sold. Thank you very much."

Ron Flock, 1708 Pender Avenue, stated, "Just a couple of things. I don't see how this fit in with the development that we are proposing and looking at in that whole section between Wythe and Washington Street. Throwing a convenient store in the middle of it does not make any sense. What is the actual value of that property? Is it \$80,000 or \$250,000? Are we really getting anything for it or are we just giving it away to just have some development? Thank you."

Marcus Squires, 1701 Monticello Street, stated, "The hotel project at the intersection of 95 and Washington/Wythe Street has been standing in its derelict form for the past couple of years. And this is what the free market has brought out to Petersburg. My wish is that council would table the motion until next couple meeting so that more members of the community and public can come out and voice their concerns about the project. Not all these slides are posted online. So, the public wasn't fully informed about the project. Thank you."

Michelle Moseley, 103 N. Jefferson Street, stated, "It is my understanding that this project is to also grant a gas station. And I am opposed to selling this particular property for several reasons. Number one is that I would like to know if a needs assessment was done for having a particular gas station. It does show that gas stations are declining in the U.S. In a particular, gas station in smaller rural areas have far less to have them adjacent to each other. Also, it shows as well that they are encouraging cities to find blighted gas stations that will allow individuals to buy those particular properties. Because we do know that when you have more than the market can sustain than other gas stations should be particularly closed because it is hard to sell those

*Audio available upon request.

particular properties to blight in other areas because of the health and environment concerns of gas tanks underneath the City. Another particular piece for particular gas stations is concerned with housing. And with that particular piece I wanted to bring that to your attention. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development report shows the potential of property values going down as well as the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) insurance mortgages are not available for property located within 300 feet of tanks and having the capacity of 1000 or more in gasoline. Most particular new stations have tanks of 1000 or more of gasoline. That can affect it. I live in the community and I do know that there are other houses in that area that need to be sold and improved. So, we are looking to provide FHA loans for those individuals, and they may not be able to get those loans because how close they are to particular residential areas. So, I would like the City to reconsider selling this particular property and having a particular business to do a needs assessment to see the need for this particular property because it can create ripple effect for businesses that are closing down which places additional blight in the community. Thank you.”

Conner Kruger, 131 Franklin Street, stated, “I really don’t have an issue with you putting a gas station there. I think if anyone that wants to spend \$2.5 million dollars in the City all the better. But the fact that you are serving a half of a million-dollar lot for \$80,000 does concern me because you are not getting anything from it. You spent a huge amount of money improving the City with sculptures on the bridge and everything and then having it led to a gas station sounds foolish to me. I would propose that if he wants to do this that even though it is not in a historical district it is surrounded by historic districts and it is the gateway to our City that we get him to voluntarily meet the criteria of a historic neighborhood and be under the purview of the Architectural Review Board. I don’t want to stop progress, but you should get something for what you are giving away. That is my thoughts. Thank you.”

Father Brown, 11 N. Market Street, stated, “I am responsible for property in Centre Hill as well as the property at 151 W. Washington Street, the church and the school at 123 Franklin Street. I lived in Centre Hill by myself for five years. Some of my neighbors are here and we have picked up beer cans at 2:00am in the morning. I keep people from cutting through on my property of the school in order to go in the gas station that is already across from the school. At the current residence with the WIFI connected 24/7 at the library I regularly go out on my front step at 2-3:00am to pickup beer cans and pull people away from the edges of the library and to get them to lower their car radios and to invite them to go home. And all of that traffic is coming from the convenient store that is cross the street from where I live. That particular convenient store has retail space that has gone unused in the entire seven years that I have been here in the City. I am certainly not opposed to additional development. I like Conner’s recommendation to ask the developer to improve the visuals. With all of that said there certainly is concern on my part for a convenient store or facility that would be run up until midnight. Just this past summer I installed additional fencing at the school and continued picking up beer cans and crumpled up paper around the school. Thank you.”

Brandon Martin, 1546 Berkeley Avenue, stated, “I would ask that this council turn down the proposition to sell this property. As an alternative I am suggesting turning this into a welcoming green space. Take up all the tar and remove the trash and convert it into a nice welcoming park right in the center of downtown. Thank you.”

Sara Marsh-Read, 12 Centre Hill Court, stated, “Just to underscore some of our neighbors’ previous comments on blight and everything else. This is actually in contravention of everything else that you reported this evening. And that includes that if this particular business is going to incur three additional bays of restaurant that is likely fast food. And fast food is not necessarily healthy for everyone. Similar to what our neighbors have said I would recommend potentially put the space as an agricultural spot or garden center for people as they enter Petersburg. Or even parking for the trail because we are not that far away. We are may be two or three blocks down from the river. Within a basic google search within a mile of this particular area there are seven gas stations. That does not include Quik Marts that are available as well. Our neighbors are wonderful people, but we do have some people that like to transit the area and just like was said earlier there is

*Audio available upon request.

so much trash. I have spent days picking it up on Franklin, Jefferson and Centre Hill. I think we have a couple of solutions, but I would recommend that council deny this sale. Thank you.

Ann Marie Donlon, 19 Centre Hill Court, stated, "We are trying to revitalize Petersburg here and a convenient store is not exactly the revitalization that is right it is the complete opposite. It is right there near the beautiful Centre Hill Neighborhood. It will decimate the property value and it will be ruined. The museum is right there and most importantly there is a school. So, when I first moved to Petersburg, and I am not making this story up, someone told me, 'I am going to tell you what gas stations you should not go to.'" And I thought what in the world a gas station that I cannot go to. If we put a gas station, there would it be one of those. It is going to impede the mansion and the museum there. But mostly importantly there are young children at the school directly across the street. And you must have blinders on if you don't know that there is human trafficking and there are children predators who look for them. A parking lot and gas station in front of the school is a playground. Please look after the children. Thank you."

Joseph Trisler, 22 Centre Hill Court, stated, "I am also opposed to this for simple reason as mentioned. We have a business that is being proposed that has no value here for the City of Petersburg. You are proposing to sell this at 15% less than value. We are basically giving this property away for something that we have too much up. And if I am not mistaken many states have laws against selling alcohol and tobacco within the distance of a school. So, even if it is not illegal in Virginia it is in law. Thank you and I hope you oppose it."

Lawrence McLaughlin, 115 Marshall Street, stated "Petersburg is working on escape ways in the City. WE have had some success. It is way better than it was before. What we allow to be build is critical to our image especially the escape way. We have to hold out a project that enhances Petersburg and which doesn't do the opposite. Five days a week I walk past Liberty gas station. I pick up the trash when I walk past. If you walk on the side of Liberty, it is pretty clean. Is the new place going to sell lottery tickets? I am sure it will. What are they going to do? What do I do? What does anyone do? They finish the ticket and pinch them, and it does not get picked up. Also, finally we just do not need to sell this prime piece of property for 15% of its assessment. We cannot afford to do this. Thank you."

Sara Melissa Witiak, 22 Centre Hill Court, stated, "I am speaking to oppose this sale for this purpose. I have very serious questions about the proposed purchase price and the assessed value of this property. I am sure somebody like FOLAR can raise enough money to make a wonderful green space to welcome people into our community for \$80,000. The other piece of opposition is that there is a Liberty gas station already and multiple gas stations within a few blocks. Which do not help us get out that 133 of 133 for the City. I like the fat food mart. Let's find something that really makes us proud. I do not drive into any City and look for a gas station. When we drive in a City and we see an important business, a green space or something that shows pride in that City. We want to continue on and spend time in that City. However, in Petersburg you come into a hotel that is not fixed and then a gas station and another gas station does not encourage people to continue on into the City to see the beautiful things that we have here. In addition, there is a school that is adjacent to that property. These are young children that have to have crossing guards to cross the street every day. Chain restaurants do not bring money in the City the way that independent restaurants do. In chain restaurants most of the money leaves the City. Thank you."

Richard Taylor, 828 Chuckatuck Street, stated, "The Petersburg Foundation spent over \$500,000 to make the improvements to the entryway to Petersburg on Washington Street. All those brick sidewalks and nice lights. We cleaned that whole area up. At our meeting last week, we decided to continue bringing those improvements down Washington Street. We are not going to do it if you approve this project. And we have some money to put into the project now and we would like to do but this particular development is not what we need on that corner there. I wish I had the money to put in a nice office building, but I don't. but anyway, I hope you will consider to not sell it for this reason. Thank you."

*Audio available upon request.

Seeing no further hands, Mayor Parham closed the public hearing.

There was discussion among City Council and staff.

No action or motion.

- c. A public hearing to consider an ordinance requesting that the General Assembly approves an amendment to the City's Charter Section 2-7 Councilmen's salaries.

BACKGROUND: During the December 10, 2019, City Council Meeting, the City Council adopted the City's 2020 Legislative Agenda.

The Legislative Agenda includes a request for an amendment to the City's Charter section 2-7. Councilmen's salaries, that would streamline the process and allow the City Council to establish the salaries of the City Council by ordinance.

This process of the City Council adopting an ordinance to establish the salaries of the City Council is consistent with the process defined in the Code of Virginia. The proposed Charter Amendment would stipulate that the change would be effective immediately upon adoption.

In accordance with applicable legal requirements, a public hearing is required prior to approving a request for the General Assembly to amend the existing Charter.

During the January 7, 2020, City Council scheduled a public hearing to be held on January 21, 2020 to consider an ordinance requesting that the Virginia General Assembly approves an amendment to the City's Charter Section 2-7 Councilmen's salaries.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the City Council holds a public hearing on January 21, 2020, and considers an ordinance requesting that the Virginia General Assembly approves an amendment to the City's Charter Section 2-7 Councilmen's salaries.

Mr. Williams stated, "And just for point of clarification, council's current charter provides a process in which council would adopt its own salary. The process that it includes is beyond what the state code requires. But if you look at the second or third page in the package you will see that there is a code section 15.2-1414.6 which provides that council may set its own salary by ordinance notwithstanding any contrary provision of law. Which means that even if you have a provision in your charter it is to the contrary that council can use the state code provision instead as its process. So, the only thing that you would be doing by approving this ordinance would be asking the General Assembly to waive the waiting period which is further down in the ordinance. It is not changing the process that they can use with the existing state code provision."

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

Willie Noise, 1508 Circle Drive, stated, "And every time you come up with certain topics you always compare with the local towns and what not. Can you provide a little more information on the current salaries of Colonial Heights, Hopewell and Dinwiddie? Thank you."

Barb Rudolph, 1675 Mt. Vernon Street, stated, "I appreciate the City Attorney getting some clarity to this. And I hope that all of you absorbed all of that and are aware. I think what he is saying though that basically what you are going to do is just remove the special instructions in the charter that pertains to Petersburg and fall back on the state code. But actually, take out the waiting period which I think is probably,

*Audio available upon request.

and I commented on this previously just in a public information period, that I think cutting out the waiting period is pretty presumptuous to do. I do believe that there are certainly reasons that the City Council might need to increase your salaries, but I think the current process does give citizens a voice in that. Which we don't have otherwise. I do understand the case being made that other localities are just using the state code. So, its kind of hard to argue against that so I am just going to say that eliminating the waiting period is a step to far. And if that is what ends up being supported by the council I for one will address it to my legislators and suggest that they don't support this legislation. Thank you."

Richard Stewart, 129 Rolfe Street, stated, "I am in favor of council getting a pay raise. Not only council but City workers, police department and fire department. The way that the economy is right now you need some money. How many years has it been since City Council had a raise? I bet it is more than 25 years. I bet you back during a civil right struggle they were trying to get council a pay raise. I think that council need a pay raise. When you look at the General Assembly now, they are trying to increase the minimum wage to \$15/hr. People are struggling out here. So, I am totally in favor of City Council, city workers, etc. getting a pay raise. Thank you."

Taylor Moore, 307 N. Boulevard stated, "Anytime I have gotten a pay raise it was based on my performance review from my manager so, I am not sure if that is something that can be taken into account. I have always been told that City Council works for the people. And so, I think that it might be something to take into consideration. Maybe a citywide survey for satisfactory performance for a pay raise. Thank you."

Ron Flock, 1708 Pender Avenue, stated, "I am a plant manager. And I have been in upper management for 40 plus years. I have always been clear with my employees that you will get a raise when you can show me you can do the job. For the most part, it has been a little bumpy road. But I don't know. I have been coming to these council meetings for five years now. We still to this day cannot get our heads out of our backside in this water billing. Show me you can fix that, and I am all for a raise because you all deserve a raise. It has been way too long. But I mean sit down and buckle down and figure out the problem and fix it. Don't just. You cannot let these problems go on and on and year after year after year. It is like the Ramada. Do something and show us that you have earned the money. Thank you."

Linwood Christian, 410 Mistletoe Street, stated, "Looking at some things. I too like Mrs. Rudolph, there are a lot of things that I can see all kinds of sides to this. As a citizen of this community if we were talking about our Clerk of Council, I would be trying to flip up here and say yes. Because if anybody deserves a raise she does. If it was our police, then yes. Because if anybody deserves a raise they do. Considering the health situation and other things and our firemen. If anybody deserves a raise they do. our elected officials, if anybody deserve a raise you don't. I am sorry to say that. As it was said before there are certain processes that you have an evaluation. Although the greatest evaluation will come in November when some of you may or may not be in the seat that you are sitting. But I hope that you all take into consideration and understand why we are saying this. Because I think about the time even though you reimplemented when you were talking about a raise, yet you cut the salary of some of our City workers. I look at how we have to advocate and fuss and fight to get money for our schools, but you all want a raise. Some of our City Council people, most of the people in the City do not know. I am not being funny. People think that this lady right here, Treska Wilson-Smith, is the Mayor or something in the City. What does that say about the other six City Council people? They know our City Manager because she is out and about. So, I would say if anybody deserve a raise then our City Manager. You had to look at our evaluation. Now you whether pass this along, remember the final evaluation will come in November. And even if you get back on council look at the margin at which you got back on council. And I hope that sends a signal. Did we really deserve that raise when we have don't nothing? See a lot of council members say citizens bad mouth Petersburg. We don't have to bad mouth Petersburg because everywhere we go people talk about the leadership in Petersburg and why don't we change it. But yet you all want a raise. Thank you."

*Audio available upon request.

Sam Jean, 38 River Street, stated, "A lot of people on the sideline say things that they don't like. But the key word is that they on the sideline. I think you all deserve a raise. Because Petersburg is not where it was before. Everybody remember how Petersburg was when things were really upside down. The problems did not happen overnight, and you know that right. They are trying. And the first thing you can say is they do not deserve a raise. Then who do? It is better than it was before. So, let's act like it. You all deserve a raise. Raise yourself. You deserve it."

Sara Melissa Witiak, 22 Centre Hill Court, stated, "I understand that being a City Council Member is a lot of hard work and you get beaten up here some days. And I understand that you feel like you would like to have some more money and I am not necessarily opposed to that. However, I think something that should be decided by the citizens at election time. So, I really do not feel that you should be able to vote your own salary up. Which is essentially what you are asking council to vote on tonight. I think if you are so confident that you are doing a really good job and that you have really good evaluations and you are going to get reelected then wait until election time. It is not that long. Give yourself a nice good raise and let's see who run. If you are going to put more money out there, then maybe we will get some new faces. Maybe they will do a good job and maybe you will find something else to do. But I would really encourage you to keep the waiting period. I think it is a good idea to just take that time to wait so, that way we make sure that we have things in the budget and politics stay out of it a little bit. Thank you."

Cory Harris, 2316 Anderson Street, stated, "Why? Tell us why you deserve a raise. You want a raise? Tell us why. You deserve a raise for walking in the back when citizens come to the podium? Do you deserve a raise for discrediting citizens because they care about the City? Do you deserve a raise because of what? If you can tell me why you deserve a raise, I will go to bat for you. Tell me. I am not going to criticize, and I am not going to tell you that you don't deserve. Because I believe that 1973 was the last time City Council got a raise. I am not going to say that. Tell the citizens of Petersburg why you deserve a raise. That is, it. If you can tell us why you deserve a raise in detail, I am all for it. But if you cannot tell us then you don't deserve. She does. Thank you."

Seeing no further hands, Mayor Parham closed the public hearing.

Council Member Myers made a motion to approve an ordinance requesting that the General Assembly approve an amendment to the City's Charter Section 2-7 Councilmen's salaries. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hill. There was discussion on the motion. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Wilson-Smith, Myers, Smith-Lee, Hill and Parham; Voting No: Cuthbert; Absent: Hart

20-ORD-4 AN ORDINANCE OF AN ORDINANCE REQUESTING THAT THE VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY APPROVES AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY'S CHARTER SECTION 2-7 COUNCILMEN'S SALARIES

- d. A public hearing to consider an ordinance requesting that the General Assembly approves an amendment to the City's Charter Section 6-8 related to land book duties.

BACKGROUND: During the December 10, 2019, City Council Meeting, the City Council adopted the City's 2020 Legislative Agenda, which includes an amendment to the City's Charter regarding land book duties.

The change would be consistent with the assignment of land book duties in other jurisdictions. The land book serves as an appraisal report for the City Assessor. The Commissioner of Revenue supports these changes.

In accordance with applicable legal requirements, a public hearing is required prior to approving a

*Audio available upon request.

request for the General Assembly to amend the existing Charter and revise related ordinances.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the City Council requests that the Virginia General Assembly approves an amendment to the City's Charter Section 6-8 related to land book duties and subsequently considers amendment of related ordinances Section 106-64. Transfer of property upon land book and Section 106-146. – Land Book.

Mr. Gordineer and Mr. Williams gave a briefing of the request on the amendment to the City's Charter.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

Seeing no hands, Mayor Parham closed the public hearing.

Council Member Myers made a motion to table until he can certify what is written in the agenda and talk to the Commissioner of Revenue. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hill. There was discussion on the motion. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Smith-Lee, Hill and Parham; Absent: Hart

12. PUBLIC INFORMATION PERIOD: A public information period, limited in time to 30 minutes, shall be part of an Order of Business at each regular council meeting. Each speaker shall be a resident or business owner of the City and shall be limited to three minutes. No speaker will be permitted to speak on any item scheduled for consideration on the regular docket of the meeting at which the speaker is to speak. The order of speakers, limited by the 30-minute time period, shall be determined as follows:

- a) First, in chronological order of the notice, persons who have notified the Clerk no later than 12:00 noon of the day of the meeting,
- b) Second, in chronological order of their sign up, persons who have signed a sign-up sheet placed by the Clerk in the rear of the meeting room prior to the meeting.

Linwood Christian, 410 Mistletoe Street, stated, "There was something that I was getting ready to say in response to a comment made by a member of council. But I am not going to do that other than just to remember that we as citizens have the right to say how we feel about our elected officials. Good, bad or in differ, when you got in the seat that is what comes with the job. I want to say to you Mayor Parham, although I told you this personally, but I want to thank you as a citizen for your stance. You gave a very good public speaking and it paid off very well. As far as the second amendment issue and us becoming a sanction City. I want to tell you that as a citizen, I stand behind you. Wrong is wrong but at the same time you are my City Council and I am going to stand behind you. And I just want you to know that as one citizen I am standing behind you. Also, I need to let you all know that pretty soon the Harding Street Neighborhood Association, we are going to be doing some follow-up press conference about the gun shootings and all. We hope to have a plan to present to you. We are very happy that we are going to be working with our police department as well. And one thing that I have to say because we don't say it enough, our police department and our leaders, Deputy Chief Christian and Chief Kenneth Miller, they need to be applauded because if they have done nothing else they have kept our police department like the police departments around the country. Where the citizens and the police department are at arms with each. And that should be a Positive Petersburg moment if not anything else. And I think that we ought to give them a hand for that. We good be a City off the chain such as the others. I must say that I do hope that this council would work very hard to work with some of those that are stepping forward to do something with the A.P. Hill Community Center. Because in addition to that hotel looking like hell and by the way I have sent some pictures to the City Manager and I am going to send some to the other members of council. But there are other ways that people are still getting into that Ramada. Had you all done what you did as far as passing that. But if nothing else is our shame, whether you are coming from the north bound or south bound you see the Ramada and the graffiti. And some of that graffiti is gang stuff. Please

*Audio available upon request.

do something about that very quickly. Thank you.”

Barb Rudolph, 1675 Mt. Vernon Street, stated, “That was a great discussion about the property at 125 East Washington Street. But I couldn’t help but think is that it seems optimistic that anybody is going to get off the interstate to get on Washington Street going that way when they see going up and down the road is the Ramada Inn. So, this is kind of part two from last week. There was an article in the Progress-Index a week ago and it was very interesting. The first thing that came to mind when I read it was why was Chris Harrison, the developer, communicating with City officials through the Progress-Index. I mean it was like he was interviewed by the paper. He had his comments and then they interviewed the Mayor and he has his comments. That was odd. But I have a concern. I do not know how you can deal with Mr. Harrison if he does actually come forth and deal with you in person rather than the newspaper. I mean he is so untruthful. I am saying that as nicely as I can. Because he said in the course of this article that he said that the loss of the tourism department was a big blow. And that it set him off and he loss all of this money that he was going to get and do the development. Now the tourism department, it was announced in October and closed in November 2016. That is a long time ago folks. It is January 2020. He has been here as recently as May 2019 talking with you all. Did he say anything about that? This is the first time I have ever heard anything about the tourism department being the whole fly and ointment for him. So, basically every time that he has interviewed or speaks with council or comes out and talks about this there is a different excuse. So, I don’t know how you can believe someone like that and how do you deal with him. He is not truthful. He is kind of trying to put you over a barrel by saying if you tried to hold my feet to the fire that nobody is going to give me money and I am never going to be able to accomplish the project. I feel like you are being held hostage by all of his outrageous claims. Things that are going wrong for him as I have said changes every time. Also, you were quoted Mayor Parham as saying, ‘that it is just a black eye right now for the City of Petersburg and I hate it.’ Which, I think you speak for all of us when you say that. It really is a deterrent for the City of Petersburg. But the whole strategy of continuing to deal with it through code violations. I am not saying that we shouldn’t be doing code violations, but I don’t think that is enough. I don’t think that you are dealing with someone who is an honest player. I think you are going to have to come up with something that is more radical. Because even if somehow, he is induced to start working on this building it is going to take more than a year, and I am being very optimistic, more than a year to finish it. If anybody believe in work form, remember people sue him all the time. So, if we go out from here and it got done, we would be talking about a minimum of fours years after he said it was going to be done. I can give you more information and I have exceeded my time. I appreciate you listening, and I will be back with more. Thank you.”

Bruce Richardson, 201 W. Washington Street, stated, “I am here this evening because we offer First-Time Home Buyer Education throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. We have been doing this event for years. And we are glad to be back in the City of Petersburg. It has been too long. So, on Saturday, February 29th at the Petersburg Public Library, from 10am to 4:15pm, we will be hosting a free First-time Home Buyer Education Course. This course will talk to participants about credit and what is your credit and personal financing. Working with a lender and working with a local real estate agent. Learning the home inspection before you purchase and then what happens at loan closings. I am fortunate as being a product of the City of Petersburg, born and raised in the City of Petersburg and owning property in Petersburg. But I am fortunate from the standpoint and I have helped many residents in the City of Petersburg become homeowners. I have sold millions of dollars of property in the City of Petersburg. It impairs me to come back to the City that I was born and raised in to make these opportunities available. Right now, we have a high rate of rent a month for residents and we need o do things to mitigate the high rates of rents. One of the things that we are doing in this class that we have done over the year in putting on these events is that we offered down payment assistance. We have walked individuals who have one time come to these events and said that I do not know how to purchase a home. We have walked them through the process and now they have purchased a home. We are talking about law enforcement officers with the City of Petersburg. We are talking about firefighters with the City of Petersburg. We are talking about educators with the City of Petersburg. We are talking about the City Clerk with the City of Petersburg. We are talking about so many individuals with the City of Petersburg that we

*Audio available upon request.

have helped. We have assisted since beginning this event in 2012. We have assisted over 78 people in the City of Petersburg purchase homes. We are always eager to come back to the City of Petersburg. The only thing that I would ask is that if you are holding your ward meeting, please invite us and please invite me. Use me as a resource. I grew up on The Heights in Petersburg. I am native to the City of Petersburg and even though I may work from a far I love the City of Petersburg. And no one can tell me. I have watched all of your walks. I know each of you on this stage. And don't you dare think that maybe I am not here every day I don't know what you are doing. Your work is appreciated. And regardless of what you say. I am not going to get up here and go back and forth but regardless of what people say I know your worth. The point that I make is that your work is appreciated. As a real estate broker in this area I would love the opportunity to increase home ownership in the City of Petersburg. Thank you."

Marcus Squires, 1701 Monticello Street, stated, "I am actually really impressed with the progress that has occurred in our City. There is a lot of progress regarding just citizens going around on the 'Go Request' app reporting blighted structures. I would like to thank the City Manager and her staff for that progress in our City. But we still have some buildings that could be like Blandford Church. It is a very historical setting. And our cultural is falling in Petersburg. Peabody, the old library, Titmus Optical Building and what all these buildings have in common is that they are owned by the City. Perhaps it is time that we come together as a City and community and have a talk about the structures and what the future hold. How we can contribute to that conversation. This is our history, and this is our heritage. Once it is gone it is gone. I mean there is no reviving it and we cannot bring it back. So, you may have pictures, or you may have architectural salvage. But that is our heritage. And I hope that the City will continue to care about that heritage. Thank you."

Ron Moore, 307 N. Boulevard, stated, "Thank you all for supporting the historic district of Walnut Hill last weekend with your vote. I want to also thank you supporting the dredging of the Appomattox. I think that it is in the legislative package. I think finding my way to Chesapeake Bay would be really awesome approach and it will help the City greatly. Also, I want to briefly mention that the entrance way on 95, I know there was some studies on how to get people more efficiently. Since I travel, I will put two cents worth. It is a four-lane highway that is coming in down Washington Street from the other side from Hopewell coming this way. If you all are familiar with that. I don't think you need four lanes there. I think it is a real simple solution. Merge two lanes over to the left and take the other two lanes and open them up and let the traffic free flow into Washington and have a nice day. They did that at 95, where 64 merges back into the 95N. It used to back up there really bad. And 95 is a three-lane highway at that point and they got rid of two lanes and it worked. So, basically, they stopped the whole congestion. I hope that you all consider that under your own money or from a grant. I want to go back and mention what I talked about last week briefly which is the two lane sanctuary. I know that it is not popular here. Mayor Parham, I want to thank you for your commitment in not wanting to infringe the law-abiding gun rights. I thank you for saying that. Unfortunately, the legislation does not support it. So, what I am afraid of is that normal law-abiding citizens that are not involved in gangs, drugs or shooting people are not going to be able to clear ammunition or guns, or pistols anywhere based on what is submitted. I suggest that you take a second and look at the details on this legislation because I do not think that it is going to hold up to what you were saying in the media. Reward money. I would like to thank Willie Noise for raising \$1,000 of his own money to find the murder of Joey Spillane. I just saw this article. His mother is having a bake sale to raise money to increase that to encourage people to turn them in. The ATF in Hopewell gave \$5,000 to reward money to the fire lady that died defending her son. The ATF is here, and I recommend that the City raise funds and at least to match Willie's donation or raise even more. I do not think that the gun laws that are being proposed at the General Assembly will be making a dent. It has not improved in itself in Chicago. It has failed in Baltimore miserably and it is going to fail here. I hope that we consider that with the specifics of the legislation. Thank you for your time. And thank you Willie."

Taylor Moore, 307 N. Boulevard, stated, "I wanted to start off by thanking Brad and Chief Reid with working with Code Compliance. There are a blighted abandoned property two doors down from where my husband and I live, and we have been working with Code Compliance for quite some time in trying to get in

*Audio available upon request.

contact with the owner who lives in the State of New York and is very seldom here. She was recently down here bagging up leaves on her property and it was on a weekend on a Sunday. So, we called our nonemergency police line and I would like to thank our people answering the phone there because they helped us to get in contact with Chief Reid as well as with Brad to see if anyone can come out to serve the owner of the property. Unfortunately, they were not able to come out on that Sunday, but they were there at 8am the Monday following. And the owner was not there and two hours later she was. And I called Brad back and said that she is here can you come, and he said I am on my way. So, he came, and he was able to issue her whatever the appropriate legal notice is and site her for the code compliance violations that he noticed. So, I really want to thank them for being dedicated to our comprehensive plan to eradicate blight. I had a suggestion on it. It made me think since she was here on the weekend and she is out of state. I spoke with a couple other citizens on this. It might be good to have an on-call person on the weekends or after hours with Code Compliance. I conjecture that there are a lot of property owners that live outside the City or state that come on the weekends because it is easier to travel and they are working during the week or they have children or they know that Code Compliance does not work on the weekends. Just something to think about. I wanted to ask about the legislative agenda. I saw a lot of great things regarding public safety, education and transportation. I just wanted to ask what happens next with that. We put our agenda out there. A lot of great things on there and things that could help the City. So, but what happens next with that. I know that they are getting close time. I also wanted to piggyback on some things that have been spoken on regarding the health of the City. I also I know that it has been mentioned many times before that we live in a food desert with only three buyable grocery stores. So, that is something that Petersburg Hops and different initiatives that we are working on can look into. May be attracting an affordable grocery store that has healthy options. And also working with the local restaurants to have one to two Petersburg Hops approved meals on the menu. That may be something to work in collaboration with that initiative as well. Thank you.”

Willie Noise, 1508 Circle Drive, stated, “I want to thank the gentleman for mentioning my son. It was a tough day and started a program. We call him ‘Damn it Boy’. And we discussed that with the police and that is part of the campaign about things that have to stop. So much for that. I went to see Martin Luther King program which was outstanding. And the City officials that were there represented the City very well. Tonight, we the citizens of Ward 7, Western Hills, are here tonight with two objectives on our list. We want to thank God for giving us such a great council who endlessly give their all day in and day out. A couple who has a listening ear and a positive attitude. We want to remind you of this book. We came to you to publish for us in the 7th Ward. When we presented the book and the contents it read acknowledgment, introduction, list of topics, chapters sources and index. If you are going to finish this book you then are on the introduction too long. It is time to complete a chapter. On several occasions we have come to the table and commitments were made. As of today, we have come to see on paper an action plan on a time limit. We cannot finish this book if you will not get off the introduction page. In conclusion this is our final notice to collect this debt. Our next stop is to knock on the door of the council attorney. Thank you for the opportunity to review our concerns. We love you. Hey America. I can see when Donald Trump said that we need to take America back. I sit in my room watching TV. There I can see what, when, where and who being pieces on a Chess and being manipulated here and there. Going to play God be fair. This journey is going to take us all to hell. Hey America, I can see when Donald Trump said we need to take America back along with other things. Saving a race. What about my race? We save the race or lose it to changing the time. Gone forever. We are like all other pieces and specimens on earth. We die by nature. Life is like dilemma. Do we get doo-doo up or let it harden? Thank you.”

Richard Stewart, 129 Rolfe Street, stated, “I am behind you all. I have been coming to City Council ever since back when Roy Hines was here. And Petersburg was in terrible shape. I stand behind you all. You all have come a long way. I hear them talk about that Ramada Inn. I am sure that the Ramada Inn is a problem but if you make the wrong turn in Petersburg right now it can cost you your life. Murder on Terrance Street. Murder on Sixth Street. Murder all of the City. The police department is doing the best that they can. If we were to take more pride in our neighborhood than we do the Ramada Inn, then we probably would cut down on some of the killing. Where is our neighborhood watch that use to be? We do not have a neighborhood watch.

*Audio available upon request.

We are looking at the Ramada Inn and killing is going all around. There on Terrance Avenue right now they are getting ready to build something there very nice. Two people got killed there nearly 30 years ago. I wonder what is going to be in that neighborhood. On Little Church Street, drug dealing and prostitution. What are we going to do? Let us take our eyes off of Ramada Inn and look at our neighborhoods. The wrong turn can get you killed. I am afraid to go out at night now. That is what we need to do. We come here to City Council and we in unity talking about Ramada Inn. But we go our separate ways to Walnut Hill, The Heights, and 5th Ward and we don't even communicate. Is it that we only come together in Petersburg at City Council? Do you ever meet once you leave here? I have never seen no meeting in 5th Ward. No meeting of whites and blacks. Blacks and whites need to come together. The bullets do not discriminate and can kill anybody. That is what I am saying. Let's cut this stuff trying to put City Council down. And the only thing is blight property. We send a man to General Assembly named Joe Morrissey and he said that he was going to do so much. When he is going to come home and do something about blight property and so forth? Thank you."

Ron Flock, 1708 Pender Avenue, stated, "Real quick on the two-way sanctuary City thing. I am not either way on that. From what I understand Mr. Mayor you came out made a statement on behalf of the City. I just don't know if that was representative of the entire council or not. But I think you all should as a group make that statement. Second, when I was talking earlier about doing something about water billing and all that. I came to you all in November and I said that I went down there and had utilities turned over in my name and I had to pay a \$75 security deposit. And I said that if decided to sell my house, I was told that the ordinance said that I will not get my money back under any circumstances. So, I had come and asked you to fix that verbiage to say that I can get my money back as long as my bill is in good standing. I have not seen any action on that whatsoever. So, I would appreciate if you would. Councilwoman Annette Smith, thank you for your support and encouragement, one year and five days. Thank you all."

13. BUSINESS OR REPORTS FOR/FROM THE MAYOR OR COUNCIL MEMBERS:

a. Consideration of reappointment/appointment to the Petersburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority Board.

BACKGROUND: The Petersburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority (PRHA) Board consists of seven (7) members who are appointed by City Council to serve four-year, staggered terms. PRHA was created to study blighted areas within the City and to recommend programs for the improvement of such areas; to provide quality housing for low-income families at rents within their ability to pay; and to serve as the duly designated agent for the City to contract with federal agencies for financial assistance in order to undertake urban redevelopment and low-rent housing programs approved by City Council.

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend Council make re/appointments to the Petersburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority Board.

Council Member Myers made a motion to reappoint Jerry Clark and appoint Linda Poe (resident of Sycamore Towers) to the Petersburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority. There was discussion on the motion. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cuthbert. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Smith-Lee, Hill and Parham; Absent: Hart

20-R-7 A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING JERRY CLARK AND APPOINTING LINDA POE TO THE PETERSBURG REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024.

Council Member Cuthbert stated, "Mr. Mayor would you tell us the status of the initiative to help pay for the addition to Petersburg Public Library. We are talked about \$250,000. Maybe the vote was contingent upon receiving money from the sale of real estate."

*Audio available upon request.

Mayor Parham stated, "Which was the build up of the general fund of our reserves. Anything over the million-dollar reserves would go toward the library or auditorium fund based on when the CAFR was completed and we knew exactly was in the rainy-day account."

Council Member Cuthbert stated, "So, we need to complete both the 2018/2019 and the 2020/2021 CAFR. The two CAFRs that are overdue, we need to complete that?"

Mayor Parham stated, "We need to get the first one completed and then we will know exactly where we are."

Council Member Cuthbert stated, "Great. We all look forward to the day those two CAFRs are completed and this is just one more to look forward to that. Thank you. I do not have anything else to bring forward to council."

Council Member Wilson-Smith stated, "I have some concerns about our old buildings which seem to not get any attention until it is time to tear them down. And I have asked before for some information. If we have a listing of buildings which are very old. If we had any type of report, I would suppose from Code Compliance that can give us some type of insight about those buildings. Say the library for instance. Has Code Compliance been there, what is there report, what is the cost of the upkeep to fix it? Some type of report such as that would help us not wait until the point of tearing buildings down. I asked about this and asked for this information when we were talking about turning the parking lot behind the multimodal center into a parking lot, I have asked several times since then. So, please Mrs. City Manager or whoever is in charge of that. I am very interested in us making some attempts to save the old buildings. Peabody would be one of those buildings. What are we going to be Giles B. Cook? Who has been in there? The tin roof went back in one corner and the classrooms are still standing. That building is historical for the State of Virginia as the first African American School in Virginia. There has to be something that we can do to look at where we are, so we know how to preserve, and we know where to go. Another thing I wanted to look at is the conversation between the Battlefield Park people and the situation with the dog park. Sorry that Mr. Tabor has left but he was to have a conversation about. I had shared the email that went out from the park services. Park services wanted to know why we were entertaining this so to speak and that we had not discussed this with them before we took the vote on that. I have not heard anymore about it so I would like to know. And I can resend the email that Mr. Tabor said that he would talk to everybody about it. Did we come to some conclusion about the park and the azalea's and the water at Wilcox Lake? Is the water going to be turned back on before the spring of the year before the azaleas start to bloom? If we can get something about that I would appreciate it in writing."

Mrs. Benavides stated, "I think some of those questions were asked. We did respond to the water being cut on. But we will get that information to you as well, not only is staff recording your questions, staff will respond to any question from council before the next meeting. We will get you responses to everything that you asked for tonight."

Council Member Wilson-Smith stated, "And one of the questions had to do with the sports complex and the people who were interested pulling out of that. Do we have that in writing that they were no longer? And I don't remember their names. I'll pull that up and send that back to you. Thank you. That is all that I have."

Council Member Smith-Lee stated, "Good evening and congratulations Mr. Flock. Continue to do your great work. Also, I just want to say that when you are saying your prayers or meditation please meditate or pray for John Hart. John is a good person and he is going through some things and health issues right now. We got to keep uplifting him up in prayer. Also, congratulations to Messiah Scott. He made All-State First Team Petersburg High School Quarterback. If I am not mistaken, he is the first person that got that honor as a quarterback. My brother was a running back. Also, February 11th I am still going to have a joint meeting with

*Audio available upon request.

Ward 6 and 7. I am going to carry on and make sure that John constituents are informed. It is on Tuesday at 6pm at Cool Springs Elementary School.”

Council Member Hill stated, “Please pray for John Hart. Prayer does change things. Also, can we get an update Madam City Manager on our economic developer. Where are you with that as far as the process on interviews and what have you.”

Mrs. Benavides stated, “We have received several applications and anticipate interviews to occur the first week of February. The first week in February we will hold interviews. I believe that we are putting together a joint selection committee with some of our intergovernmental partners as well as council and staff for this process.”

Council Member Hill stated, “Glad to see that we are moving. Also, I would like to thank Mr. Lyons for taking me through the new collection building. I think the citizens would be pleased with it. I am happy to see that we are using some of our facilities. I agree with Councilwoman Wilson-Smith that we have to come up with a plan on how we are going to do our buildings, especially the ones that are vacant. If we can get our heads together. I know that there are limited funds for some buildings. If we can partner up with some people. I know that there are some people that is interested in A.P. Hill or Virginia Avenue and things of that nature. I want to thank all of those that came out to the MLK Celebration on yesterday. I want to thank Mrs. Tami Yerby for putting some of the things together on the recreation side for our youth. It was very inspirational, and it was just a great day on yesterday. Senator Tim Kaine was there, and he was very pleased with the outcome. He was pleased with the direction that the City is going in and we prayed for him for what he has to go through in Washington right now. We pray for all our senators and leaders no matter what side you stand on in our government. It is just trying times. We will be trying to have a Ward 2 meeting in February. I will give you a date as soon as I talk to the facility. I want to thank Berkeley Manor Association. I had another meeting with them on this past Sunday. I want to thank them. I want to thank Mr. Tony Gaines for opening up his home again. They have their meeting every second Sunday of the month. Members of City Council we have a Planning Commission application in our packet, and I would like to now make a motion that we appoint James Norman. He lives at 3201 Hastings Road in Camelot in Ward 7. He works at Virginia State University and is a citizen of the City of Petersburg.”

Council Member Hill made a motion to appoint James Norman to the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Council Member Myers. There was discussion on the motion.

Council Member Cuthbert stated, “Point of order, Mr. Mayor. I am looking at Rule 3, Section 1, that says only those proposed ordinances, resolutions or motions that have been presented by the clerk or on the docket of the meeting in accordance with the requirements of Rule 2, Section 2, will be considered for action at such a meeting. I know Mr. Norman and I think that he would be a tremendous addition to the Planning Commission. But I think we should wait until the motion to appoint him appears in our agenda packet. I think that can happen at our first meeting in February.”

Council Member Hill rescinded him motion.

Mayor Parham stated, “Also, I would like to ask everyone to keep John Hart in your prayers. Because he is an awesome man here in the City of Petersburg and has given this City his all. And he is going through his share of things but yet he keeps pushing for the City of Petersburg and now the City needs too get together and help push John back to good help and to get him back up here. So, Council Member Smith-Lee I will be there at the ward meeting as well and so will Councilman Hill. So, Mr. Noise and others let us know if there is anything that we can do over there in Ward 7. And we will be representing anything that you need just give us a call. We are going to be on it in John Hart’s absence. This weekend we had a great number of MLK event starting at Virginia State University. They invited us to their Freedom Classic Festival this past Saturday. It was

*Audio available upon request.

a wonderful event and we thank Dr. Abdullah. I also like to thank Mr. Noise as well as Richard Taylor. I invited them to the MLK Ceremony that we had at Tabernacle Baptist Church. We had a great program. Dr. Lyons spoke and really touched on what Mr. Stewart said earlier about building your community with the City. I encourage each and every one of you all to get together and have conversations with each other. An example of that is that Mr. Richard Taylor came to my church service and then he invited me to his family's church Martin Luther King event. I had a privilege to attend that Monday evening. And we had a nice open and honest discussion about how even though we may be different races and different age groups we have similar things in common. The church opened up and we had a great conversation about racism in this country and the different types of experiences that we have had. Whether it was in the City. We had a great time and it was great fellowship. So, I encourage each and every one of you all to get to know somebody other than your normal network of people and you will find that you have many, many similarities and very few differences between our lives. Next, I just wanted to say also that I enjoy serving on City Council and this is something that growing up here in the City of Petersburg I always wanted to do here as a child. I really value being here but the City really has to look forward to the next generation of council people. Just touching on what Councilman Hill said that people do not understand that Petersburg has suffered due to lack of representation. And I have a council that represents the City to the fullest. And we do our share of meeting. We went to the General Assembly a few times to advocate the dredging of the river and will spend a day up there and nobody knows. We have Virginia Gateway Board meetings early in the morning and Crater Planning meetings at night. Chief Elected Officials for Workforce Development on Monday and meeting with the Chamber of Commerce on tomorrow morning. So, when you look at it this job entails a lot of sacrifices. And this is not something that you get a wage on or gas to get to these events. Most of us use our own cars and own cellphones and own computers. Take all of these things home and catalogue information because we don't have any offices here within the City of Petersburg. So, in order to do this effective you really go all in. And I have a council of seven people that have gone all in and spent countless meetings. We have more council meetings than anyone in this region. And I have had several people from Hopewell and Colonial Heights say, 'that it is amazing what you all go through in Petersburg. We don't do nothing like that. Our council meetings are pretty simple. We don't have that level of intensity.' So, when you look at the City moving forward you want to always look at how people that come here and they want to invest in the City. Sure it may not be a project that you like but when you look at moving a City forward and you are here on various nights when these people say that we have so much course in Petersburg and that is why they are not coming here with their hotel or restaurant. You have to realize that everyone here is definitely being observed both ways. We conduct ourselves a certain way and it is important for the City of Petersburg to move forward and to believe where Petersburg is going. And I see it all the time. We have a lot of positive feedback on the work that we are doing. People see the difference and they really appreciate you all for what you do. Councilwoman Wilson-Smith happy to see you back because you battled with sickness this last meeting, but you always bounce back with resiliency because you are dedicated to the City of Petersburg. So, I know you have lot on your plate as well and I really value everyone's time and all that you do here. I have no other items."

14. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA:

*No items for this portion of the agenda.

15. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

*No items for this portion of the agenda.

16. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Consideration of supplemental appropriations for Community Corrections - \$6,998.00

BACKGROUND: Community Corrections in Petersburg is responsible for local probation and pretrial

*Audio available upon request.

services for individuals in Petersburg and Dinwiddie County. The Commonwealth of Virginia via the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services has authorized the following revenue for the Petersburg Community Corrections agency.

- Total Authorized Revenue \$418,955
 - \$184,689 for local probation
 - \$182,060 for personnel
 - \$1,614 for equipment
 - \$1,015 for supplies/other costs
 - \$145,490 for pretrial services
 - \$143,876 for personnel
 - \$1,614 for equipment
 - \$41,256 from fees collected
 - \$47,520 from local funds
 - This is one City funded position within the Community Corrections agency
 - The salary (including benefits) totals \$45,008 which is less than the authorized \$47,520.

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend City Council approve the attached appropriation ordinance in the amount of \$6,998.

Council Member Myers made a motion to approve the appropriation ordinance in the amount of \$6,998. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hill.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comment.

Seeing no hands, Mayor Parham closed the public comments.

There was discussion among City Council and staff.

Council Member Wilson-Smith made a motion to table action until the next meeting and this be the 1st reading of such appropriation. The motion was seconded by Council Member Myers. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Smith-Lee, Hill and Parham; Absent: Hart

b. Consideration of an Honorary Street Name Policy & Program

BACKGROUND: This ordinance will allow City Council to recognize the significant contributions by or importance of certain individuals and organization to the City of Petersburg by renaming sections of public streets in their honor. **The honorary street names do not change or affect the existing names of those public streets.**

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend City Council adopt the attached ordinance.

India Adams-Jacob, Assistant to the City Manager, gave an overview of consideration of policy on honorary street names.

Mrs. Benavides gave brief information on the request.

Council Member Wilson-Smith made a motion to adopt the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Council Member Myers.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

*Audio available upon request.

Ron Flock, 1708 Pender Avenue, stated, "I just want to thank you all for coming together and finding a way to get this done as a group."

Willie Noise, 1508 Circle Drive, stated, "I just want to request that you all check with the neighborhood watches and get their comments and suggestions about any person or street that you want to change. And let them be a big part of the naming and approving. Thank you."

Linwood Christian, 410 Mistletoe Street, stated, "Like Mr. Flock, I am finally glad to see the coming together of the minds. Because when this stuff all started, if someone had listened again to us citizens when this was first started as a suggestion, rather than the stuff of going back before we probably wouldn't be where we are today. Thank you."

Seeing no further hands, Mayor Parham closed the public comments.

There was discussion among City Council. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Wilson-Smith, Myers, Smith-Lee, Hill and Parham; Voting No: Cuthbert; Absent: Hart

20-ORD-5 AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT SECTION 98-52 OF THE CITY CODE TO ALLOW FOR THE USE OF HONORARY STREET NAMES.

17. CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA:

Mrs. Benavides stated, "I have to say something. Will Mr. Monte Evans please stand. Please help me in welcoming our new Manager of Billing and Collections. Monty joins us with over 14 years of experience. He has both a Bachelor of Science and an MBA. But most recently he has worked with us as part of our pre-audit team. With both his financial experience and process reengineering experience I think that he will be a valuable asset to the City of Petersburg. And I am so happy to welcome him to our team. Thank you for coming and look forward to hearing your plan of action and tackling our billing and collection challenges in the next few weeks."

18. BUSINESS OR REPORTS FROM THE CLERK:

*No items for this portion of the agenda.

19. BUSINESS OR REPORTS FROM CITY ATTORNEY:

*No items for this portion of the agenda.

20. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Parham stated, "I just want to thank all of our police that are present tonight with us. We appreciate you all being here for us."

City Council adjourned at 10:14p.m.

Clerk of City Council

APPROVED:

*Audio available upon request.

Mayor