

The Special City Council Meeting of the Petersburg City Council was held on Tuesday, July 5, 2022, at the Petersburg Public Library. Mayor Parham called the Special City Council Meeting to order at 5:18 p.m.

**1. ROLL CALL:**

Present:

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

Absent: Council Member Treska Wilson-Smith

Present from City Administration:

Clerk of Council Nykesha D. Lucas  
Interim City Manager Kenneth Miller  
City Attorney Anthony Williams

**2. DISCUSSION AND/OR CONSIDERATION:**

- a. Consideration of a resolution to accept American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding – Second Tranche.

**BACKGROUND:** On March 11, 2021, the President of the United States signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to provide continued relief from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Approximately \$350 billion of The ARPA funding was allotted to assist state, local, tribal, and territory governments in responding to the coronavirus pandemic. The City of Petersburg is due to receive a total of \$20,961,839 which will be delivered in two tranches. The first tranche has already occurred, and the City of Petersburg has received \$10,480,919.50. The city has just received the second tranche 06-27-2022.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends that City Council approve the resolution.

Tangela Innis, Deputy City Manager, a brief overview of the public hearing.

Council Member Hill made a motion to approve the resolution to accept the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding – second tranche. Vice Mayor Hill seconded the motion.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

Barbara Rudolph, 1675 Mt. Vernon Street, stated, “Just a quick comment. I think that if you had some type of process this time and engaged the citizens more on ways to spend the money or at least share the idea in like a special public hearing. I know that you are not going to turn this over to the citizens and that is okay. I think that you might come up with some good ideas. Anyway, I think that it is a great opportunity and thank you.”

Seeing no further hands, mayor Parham closed public comments.

The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Myers, Westbrook, Hill,

\*Audio available upon request.

Smith-Lee, and Parham; Absent: Wilson-Smith

**22-R-44 A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDING – FIRST TRANCHE.**

- b. Consideration of an ordinance authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute the Commercial Lease Agreement between Marwaha Real Estate, LLC and the City of Petersburg for the property located at 30 Franklin Street, Petersburg, VA.

**BACKGROUND:** The city would like to enter into lease with the city and Marwaha Real Estate, LLC, for the lease property located at 30 Franklin, Petersburg, VA, for the period of August 1, 2022, through July 31, 2023, for the amount of \$61,000 per year. The Departments of Economic Development and Planning will utilize this space.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The City Council review and approve the attached ordinance.

Tangela Innis, Deputy City Manager, gave a brief overview of the public hearing.

Council Member Cuthbert made a motion to approve the ordinance and the lease. Council Member Hill seconded the motion.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

Barbara Rudolph, 1675 Mt. Vernon Street, stated, “You know I would like to talk about this one since I wrote to all of you about it. I think that it would be very helpful for you all to take inventory of all the city owned property and office space that is either in use now or has been in use in recent times. And look and say what is the need here. Looking at it from a standpoint of Dominion Energy gave the city a facility on East Washington Street and then the city has in the last couple of years expanded into space on South Sycamore Street for the finance office and the Commissioner of Revenue, IT and so forth. I am wondering what is left in city hall. Now looking at the agenda for tonight it says that the Department of Economic Development and Planning will use it. But on June 21<sup>st</sup> it was going to be the Department of Economic Development and Communications. So, I am not sure how and why that has changed. If it was explained in there, I did not read it close. I apologize if I missed it. It would be more compelling if you all established that there is no alternative to move these departments out of where they are and into this space. If you did that, I am going to be a little facetious, first you would establish that there is a need that cannot be met by anything that the city currently leases, owns, or controls. Then you would come back and say that we looked high and low, and we cannot find any place to lease in the city. So, we flipped the coin. It went to the one councilor who is a facility manager in several buildings in Petersburg. Or we could have leased it from the other councilor who owns a lot of property in downtown Petersburg. I know that I am being funny, but it still does have an interesting flavor to it. Councilor Myers is a facilities manager at 30 Franklin Street. So, I hope that this is the kind of thing that you would take under advisement as you go forward and decide whether or not you are going to approve this. I think it needs a little closer examination. Thank you.”

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

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

**22-ORD-39 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE COMMERCIAL LEASE AGREEMENT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 30 FRANKLIN STREET.**

\*Audio available upon request.

5. **ADJOURNMENT:**

City Council adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

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Clerk of City Council

APPROVED:

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Mayor