



COUNCIL

Communicates

Highlights from City Council Meeting

City Council Members

Ward 1

Treska Wilson-Smith

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Ward 2

Darrin Hill

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Ward 3

Samuel Parham

Mayor

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Ward 4

Charles Cuthbert

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Ward 5

W. Howard Myers

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Ward 6

Anette Smith-Lee

Vice Mayor

alee@petersburg-va.org

Ward 7

John Hart, Sr.

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Clerk of Council

Nykesha Jackson

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804-733-2323

Please Note:

These are not the official minutes of the City Council meeting.

The official minutes and agendas can be accessed on the city website:

www.petersburg-va.org

Please note that official minutes are not posted until approved by City Council.

July 20, 2021 – Closed Session & Regular Session (virtual)

1. Roll Call

Councilman John Hart, Sr. not present

2. Closed Session:

a. The purpose of this meeting is to convene in the closed session pursuant to §2.2-3711(A)(7) and (8) of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of receiving legal advice and status update from the City Attorney and legal consultation regarding the subject of specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by the City Attorney specifically including but not limited to matters requiring legal advice from the City Attorney concerning the City's continued participation in the Crater Regional Workforce Development Board (CRWDB) and Petersburg Circuit Court Case No.CL21-000495 and other legal matters requiring the legal advice of the City Attorney and under Subsection 2.2-3711(A)(3) of the code of Virginia for the purpose of discussion or consideration of the acquisition and disposition of real property for a public purpose or the disposition of publicly held real property where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.

Councilman Myers made motion to direct and confirm Council's desire that the Mayor inform the Board of the City's wishes to continue participation on the CRWDB, but that the City not serve as lead agency grant recipient for the program.

Approved.

3. Adjournment

Regular Session

1. Roll Call
Councilman John Hart, Sr. not present
2. Prayer
Councilman Darrin Hill
3. Pledge of Allegiance
Led by Mayor Sam Parham
4. Determination of the Presence of a Quorum
Quorum present
5. Proclamations/Recognitions/Presentation of Ceremonial Proclamations
 - a. Proclamation designating the week of July 18-24, 2021, as Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week in the City of Petersburg, VA.
Proclamation read by Mayor Sam Parham. Virtually accepted by Nicole Loving, Director Petersburg Community Corrections.
 - b. Presentation on Legislative Update from Delegate Lashrecse Aird.
Delegate Aird not present.
Joanne Williams, Director of Communications, Marketing & Government Relations for Petersburg reviewed the City's Legislative Agenda for the upcoming General Assembly Special Session to begin on August 2, 2021. Legislative Agenda approved.
6. Responses to Previous Public Information Posted
 - a. Council Communicates
Joanne Williams, Director of Communications, Marketing & Government Relations for Petersburg reported that Council Communicates for the July 6, 2021 council meeting was posted on the city website and social media channels, and included in the agenda packet online for today's meeting. Responses to public information period questions are included in Council Communicates.
7. Approval of Consent Agenda (to include minutes of previous meetings):
 - a. ABC Application for TTT Enterprises LLC (Monarays)
 - b. ABC Application for 115 North Sycamore Street
 - c. Minutes of the Closed Session City Council Meeting of July 6, 2021 and minutes of the Work Session City Council Meeting of July 6, 2021.
Consent agenda approved.

8. Official Public Hearings

- a. An Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and Joel Erb towards the sale of City owned property at 115 Jolly Alley, parcel ID 031050038.
No public comments. Approved.
- b. An Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and Robert Jones, Jr. and Crystal Jones towards the sale of City owned property at 357 University Boulevard, parcel ID 010150029.
No public comments. Approved.
- c. A Public Hearing for the purpose of considering a Resolution Offering City Council Concurrence of a Proposed Detour into the City of Petersburg for Construction of a Roundabout in Dinwiddie County.
Andrew Barnes from VDOT presented
No public comments. Approved.
- d. A Public Hearing for the purpose of considering a Resolution offering City Council concurrence of a proposed detour for I95 bridge work over South Crater Road.
Andrew Barnes from VDOT presented.
Public comments from Ron Moore and Marcus Squires. Concerned expressed for amount of traffic from detour through city. Request that VDOT install lights under the bridge.
Approved.
- e. A Public Hearing for the purpose of considering a Resolution Offering City Council Concurrence of Proposed Detour on I95 for the South Sycamore Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project.
This project has been delayed.
- f. A Public Hearing for the purpose of considering a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager Authority to Accept Fee Simple Conveyances of Real Property on Behalf of the City of Petersburg for the S. Crater Road Signal Improvements Project.
No public comments. Approved.
- g. An ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a revised Purchase Agreement between the City of Petersburg and PB Petersburg Owner, LLC towards the sale of City owned property at 1000 Diamond St, 612 Pegram St, 151 St Mark St, 521 St Mark St, 709 Ann St, 735 Halifax St, 808 Halifax St, 811 Halifax St, 334 Harrison St, 803 Jones St S, 83941 Jones St S, 829 Jones St S, 804 Jones St S, 809 Jones St S, 604 Shore St, 408 Shore St, 328 Shore St, 425 West St S, 715 West St S, 731 West St S, 716 Harding St, 627 Harding St, 517 St. Matthew St, 415 St Matthew St, 70810 Kirkham St, 712714 Kirkham St, 716 Kirkham St, 249 North Carolina Ave, 742 Mount Airy St, 742 Blick St, 135 Kentucky Ave, 204 Kentucky Ave, 202 Kentucky Ave, 1004 Farmer St, 852 Rome St, 725 Sterling St, 919 Wythe St W, and 151 Virginia Ave.

Tom Heidelman/Avram Fechter of PB Petersburg Owner LLC explained changes requested by the lender for the project and that 11 of the 49 lots slated for purchase have been deleted (following due diligence) because the lots are not suitable for houses.

No public comments.

Councilwoman Wilson-Smith noted that pages 188-189 did not reflect correct purchasers of the property and should be changed.

Motion for approval made by Councilman Myers with corrected information noted by Councilwoman Wilson-Smith.

Approved.

Councilman Cuthbert voted no, stating point of order because he believes the motion fails because it must have a super majority Council vote since the City owns Virginia Avenue School. The City Attorney was asked to provide documentation on this matter.

- h. An Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and PB Petersburg Owner, LLC towards the sale of City owned property located at 857 Bank Street, 741 Blick Street, 1411 Farmer Street, 10 Foley Street North, 1111 Halifax Street, 1115 Halifax Street, 1230 High Street, 1206 Hinton Street, 751 Jones Street, 205 Maple Street, 1011 Mckenzie Street, 921 Priam Street, 110 Richland Street, 35123 University Boulevard, 201 Virginia Avenue, 710 Wesley Street, 118 West Street South, 323 West Street South, and 1114 Wythe Street.
- No public comments.
- Councilman Myers noted typo, should be 352-53 University Boulevard, which economic development rep said would be correct.
- Councilman Cuthbert and Councilwoman Wilson-Smith noted concern that some of the lots listed to be sold are not suitable for home construction. Developers explained that due diligence on the lots will occur during the upcoming months to determine if the lots are buildable. Councilwoman Wilson-Smith also said the Virginia Avenue School project should be underway before other properties are sold to the developer.
- Approved.
- Councilman Cuthbert and Councilwoman Wilson-Smith voted no.
- i. A public hearing for July 20, 2021, for the consideration to amend and readopt ordinance 14ORD24 regarding the procedure for citizens desiring to change the name of public and private streets in the City of Petersburg.
- City Attorney explained recommendation to make street name changes consistent with building name changes.
- No public comments. Motion was made and approved to further discuss at Council Retreat in August.
- j. Public hearing and second reading/consideration of adoption of an ordinance to authorize the acquisition of property in association with southeast Petersburg water infrastructure upgrades.
- City Attorney explained this is part of the Phlow pharmaceutical infrastructure project.

No public comments. Approved.

- k. Ordinance Housekeeping to Correct a Typographical Omission to Sec.10630 Rehabilitated Real Estate Located in the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Commercial and Industrial Federal and Historic District.
Overview presented by Brian Gordineer, City Assessor.
No public comments. Approved.

- l. Requesting adoption of an ordinance revision to make the duration of the New Residential Tax Credit Exemption (Sec. 106141 through 145) five years to be consistent with all other real estate exemptions.
No public comments. Approved.

- m. A public hearing, second reading, and consideration of adoption of an ordinance to adopt section 74213 of the city code prohibiting the possession, carrying, or transportation of any firearms, ammunition, or components thereof in specified public places.
Councilman Cuthbert proposed change. It was notes that VA code changed in 2020 allowing localities to determine possession of firearms, etc. in specified public places.
Public Comment:
Ron Moore, member of Petersburg Planning Commission, stated that he feels this change would violate his right to bear arms and asked that Council table for additional research/discussion.
Denise Tipton of Studio 7 stated the need for the public to better understand this law.
Councilman Cuthbert made motion for approval. There was no second, so motion died.
Following additional discussion, Councilman Cuthbert made a motion to table and discuss at the Council Retreat in August.
Approved.

9. 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 signup sheet placed by the Clerk in the rear of the meeting room prior to the meeting removed from consent agenda.

Marcus Squires

Thanked Parks & Rec for Jefferson Street Park Clean-up Day

Asked for City plan for former Titmus building & Peabody School complex – There are no completed plans at this time.

Noted inspection needed for building safety at bathhouse at Willcox Lake and requested presentation on the safety of the dam at Willcox Lake.
Stated that Cooper field should be considered for a dog park.
Asked about Hill Community Center plan – there is no completed plan at this time.
Noted that Walnut Hill business district needs to be kept alive.
Commented that former vacant hotel at Wythe and Crater not a good image coming from Battlefield into downtown area.

Ron Moore

Suggested city consider using inmates to keep parks clean and cut grass throughout city and cemetery.

JaVonni Brustow

Stated that he does not like virtual meetings and asked that videos of council meetings be publicly posted.
Commented that public comment period is not transcribed correctly in council minutes.

Cory Harris

Stated that poverty should be the City's top priority.

Mary Howard

Stated she is working with Southside Community and Housing Authority and rent relief is available through this organization.
Commented that it is time to open up Sycamore Street to Old Street.

10. Business or reports from the Mayor or other Members of City Council

Councilwoman Wilson-Smith

Asked that the city manager move forward with hiring an Economic Development Director.
Questioned if noise study, previously approved by Council, had been completed. Requested that noise ordinance be discussed at Council retreat in August.

Councilman Hill

Asked city manager to include police chief in noise study. Expressed concern for grass growing on sidewalks and curbs throughout city. Requested that city manager and public works address this issue.
He also asked that if citizens see problems/crime, please report problems/crime.
Commended city manager for work to date.
Ward 2 meeting will be held in September and it may be outside due to COVID.

Smith-Lee

Announced new restaurant on Commerce Street.
Congratulated class of 2021 for all the scholarships received.
Financial workshop (no cost) being held tonight at Big Question.com.
Thanked Parks & Leisure Services for summer programs for youth.
Thanked Public Works for always being there to take care of problems.

Mayor Parham

Reported that recent "Shred Day" was successful.

Commented that the Park clean-up was successful because it brought together community partners to work on a project.

Thanked Public Works for cleaning up the large amount of trash dropped throughout the city.

Announced Council retreat – 8/22/2021 (Sunday/half day) and 8/23/2021 (full day) at Fort Lee.

11. Items removed from Consent Agenda

None.

12. Finance and Budget Report

None.

13. Unfinished Business

- a. Request to adopt a resolution to designate 25 vacant parcels of City Owned Real Estate Property within a conservation easement and removal from the property surplus list for disposition.

Approved.

- b. An Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and Petersburg Revival, LLC towards the sale of City owned property at 119 High Street West, parcel ID 024080016

Approved.

- c. Presentation by City Manager on Sycamore Street Old Towne Square

The city manager presented three options for the Square area located on Sycamore Street between Bank and Bollingbrook Streets. He stated his presentation was made regarding research/data on economic benefits verses public safety concerns.

Option 1: Leave as it currently exists

Option 2: Reopen Sycamore Street

Option 3: Reopen Sycamore Street and explore other options for opening an outside dining/gathering/entertainment area at the corner of Bollingbrook and Sycamore Streets. This option also included developing a master plan with Main Street for Downtown/Old Towne.

Councilman Cuthbert stated he preferred Option 2.

Councilwoman Wilson-Smith explained that while she had supported keeping Sycamore Street closed, following the presentation she supports Option 3 based on the data and extensive thought process presented by the city manager.

Councilwoman Smith-Lee commended the city manager for a presentation made on facts and not emotion and that she too supported Option 3.

Councilman Hill said he liked the city manager's presentation but would not give his thoughts since he owns a business in that area.

Councilman Myers stated that it was the city manager's decision on how to proceed with reopening Sycamore Street.

The city manager stated he will move forward with Option 3 and explore terms of leasing the lot at the corner of Sycamore and Bollingbrook Streets and bring back to Council.

14. New Business

- a. Consideration for the appropriation of a Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth Grant in the amount of \$30,000.00 2nd Reading
No public comments. Approved.
- b. A Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Execute A Development Agreement Between The City Of Petersburg And Joel Erb For The Development Of 115 Jolly Alley located in Petersburg, VA
No public comments. Approved.
- c. Resolution approving the City Manager to sign and submit appropriate documents for the submittal of the industrial revitalization fund for the Hotel Petersburg rehabilitation located at 20 Tabb Street into a downtown boutique hotel.
Jeff Sadler explained that any match money required by the grant would be paid by the developer of Hotel Petersburg.
No public comments. Approved.
Councilman Cuthbert abstained.
- d. A Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Execute A Development Agreement Between The City Of Petersburg And PB Petersburg Owner, LLC For The Development Of 19 Vacant City owned Parcels Located In Petersburg, VA
No public comments. Approved.
Councilman Cuthbert and Councilwoman Wilson-Smith voted no.
- e. A Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Execute An Amended Development Agreement Between The City Of Petersburg And PB Petersburg Owner, LLC For The Development Of 1000 Diamond Street and 38 vacant parcels located in Petersburg, VA
No public comments. Approved.
Councilman Cuthbert voted no. As stated earlier, Councilman Cuthbert believes motion fails because it must have a super majority vote. City Attorney will provide a written opinion.
- f. Request to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a performance agreement between the City of Petersburg, Virginia, AMPAC Fine Chemicals Virginia, LLC, and the Virginia Economic Development Partnership Authority
No public comments. Approved.
- g. Consideration of a resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of general obligation refunding bonds of the City of Petersburg.
Roland Kooch from Davenport presented.
No public comments. Approved.

- h. Consideration of appointing Stuart Turille as the primary to the Appomattox River Water Authority (ARWA) Board.
Councilwoman Wilson-Smith made a motion to include items h, I, j. and I into one motion.
No public comments. Approved to vote on all appointments in one motion.
- i. Consideration of appointing Stuart Turille as primary to the South Central Wastewater Treatment Authority Board.
See item h.
- j. Consideration of appointing Stuart Turille, City Manager, as primary member to the Riverside Regional Jail Authority.
See item h.
- k. Consideration of a resolution to accept American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding First Tranche.
Public Comment:
Marcus Squires stated that he hoped citizens would have input and that funds will go to infrastructure needs in the city.
Barb Rudolph also stated that she hopes city will get input from citizens on how funds will be used.
Approved.
- l. Consideration of appointment to the Petersburg Area Regional Tourism (PART) Board.
See item h.

15. City Manager's Report

- a. Report from City Manager, Stuart Turille.
City buildings will open to the public on August 1 with safety measures for staff/customers. The city manager stated he reserves the right to return to previous safety measures pending COVID numbers.

Reported that he has asked the Director of Planning to create a Historic Home Committee with the mission to prevent demolition of historic homes. This would be a public/private partnership.
- b. Update on Old Towne Square (Sycamore Street)
Presentation made under Item 13.
- c. COVID19
Chief John Michalek gave update. City manager stated he would monitor reports each week. Petersburg is ranked #2 for vaccinations in Crater Region. 280 children have been fully vaccinated. Homebound vaccinations are available.
Councilman Hill asked city manager to consider precautions when Council starts to meet in person in September.

16. Business or reports from the Clerk
None.
17. Business or reports from the City Attorney
None.
18. Adjournment
5:04pm

Special Closed Session Petersburg City Council Meeting

July 27, 2021 / 12:00pm

1. Roll Call
All present.
2. Determination of the Presence of a Quorum
Quorum present.
3. Discussion and/or Consideration
 - a. A Resolution Authorizing The City Manager To Execute A Development Agreement Between The City Of Petersburg And Robert and Crystal Jones For The Development Of 357 University Boulevard located in Petersburg, VA
Approved.
4. Closed Session
 - a. The purpose of this meeting is to convene in the closed session pursuant to §2.23711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of discussion pertaining to performance, assignment, and appointment of specific public employees of the City of Petersburg specifically including but not limited to discussion of the evaluation of the performance of the appointees of City Council.
5. Adjournment