



# COUNCIL

## Communicates

### Highlights from City Council Meeting

#### City Council Members

Ward 1

**Treska Wilson-Smith**

[treskawilsonsmith@petersburg-va.org](mailto:treskawilsonsmith@petersburg-va.org)

Ward 2

**Darrin Hill**

[dhill@petersburg-va.org](mailto:dhill@petersburg-va.org)

Ward 3

**Samuel Parham**

**Mayor**

[sparham@petersburg-va.org](mailto:sparham@petersburg-va.org)

Ward 4

**Charles Cuthbert**

[ccuthbert@petersburg-va.org](mailto:ccuthbert@petersburg-va.org)

Ward 5

**W. Howard Myers**

[whowardmyers@petersburg-va.org](mailto:whowardmyers@petersburg-va.org)

Ward 6

**Anette Smith-Lee**

**Vice Mayor**

[alee@petersburg-va.org](mailto:alee@petersburg-va.org)

Ward 7

**John Hart, Sr.**

[jhart@petersburg-va.org](mailto:jhart@petersburg-va.org)

Clerk of Council

**Nykesha Jackson**

[njackson@petersburg-va.org](mailto:njackson@petersburg-va.org)

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](http://www.petersburg-va.org)

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

September 21 & 27, 2021 – Meetings (virtual)

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  
**None**
6. Responses to Previous Public Information Posted  
**No responses**
7. Approval of Consent Agenda (to include minutes of previous meetings):
  - a. Minutes: September 7, 2021, Closed Session, September 7, 2021 Work Session
  - b. A public hearing for the consideration of suspension of noise ordinance for the Downtown Zoning District pending Planning Commission recommendation.  
**Approved**

## 8. Official Public Hearings

### a. A presentation on consideration of ARPA Funds.

City Manager asked that resolution for ARPA funding expenditures be considered after the public hearing.

Approved

#### Public Hearing on ARPA Funding

Marcus Squires

Consider ARPA funding for:

Blight and vacant houses

Stabilize Titmus & other vacant city buildings

Many studies already available in City

Alvin Baskerville

Use funding on city eyesores & gun violence prevention

Barb Rudolph

Delay vote on ARPA spending

Too little assistance included for households and individuals, i.e. utilities, fees

Infrastructure funding needed

Questioned spending on Library Events Center as related to COVID

#### Council Discussion

Councilwoman Wilson-Smith

Questioned Library spending

Consider staff working on Parks & Rec master plan

Questioned late applications – must stay with rules for submission (related to Museum

Director salary)

Suggested revisiting some recommendations based on urgency

Councilman Hill

Include more funds for citizens & blight

Address flooding in Ward 2

Use funding for upgrading parks instead of study

Unclear about spending funds on Library

Mayor Parham

Glad funds include drainage in Battlefield Park area

Councilman Myers

More emphasis on police hiring/retaining

Additional funding to support citizens

Approves of South Side Depot restoration

Requested additional information on EDA Revolving Loan Fund

Councilwoman Smith-Lee

Would like presentation from Parks & Rec

Recalls City's promised contribution to Library at \$500,000 – Center will be used for learning

Additional funding needed for blighted properties & household requests

Agrees with storm drainage funding

**Motion approved to table & hold special meeting giving city manager time to adjust funding allocations.**

**Councilman Cuthbert - abstain**

- b. Official Public Hearing for the consideration of an appropriation for the Virginia Resources Authority (VRA) funded FY 2021-2022 Capital Budget projects for Water and Wastewater projects per the FY 2021-2022 Capital Budget section of the FY2022 budget document approved by Council on May 25, 2021.  
**Approved**
- c. To conduct an official public hearing on the consideration to request FY 2021 carryover funding and appropriate additional FY 2022 funding for the Petersburg Station Park and Ride project.  
**Approved**
- d. A public hearing to receive citizen comments on the consideration to appropriate the FY 2021 carryover of the Urban Highway Set-Aside Funds in the amount of \$1,953,758.40 from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).  
**Approved**
- e. A public hearing to consider vacation of City Right of Way between two parcels that are located between Brown Street and Farmer Street.  
**Approved**
- f. A public hearing, second reading, and consideration of adoption of an ordinance to adopt section 74-213 of the city code prohibiting the possession, carrying, or transportation of any firearms, ammunition, or components thereof in specified public places.  
Motion to remove agenda item - The proposed ordinance to adopt Section 74-213 regarding the prohibition of firearms on city property from the table for the purposes of further discussion and consideration.  
**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 sign-up sheet placed by the Clerk in the rear of the meeting room prior to the meeting removed from consent agenda

Barbara Hoosier

Submitted petition with 100 signatures in April to change the charter for election of the mayor – requested update.

Petition and request from Ms. Hoosier received by Clerk of Council in May, 2021. Clerk forwarded request and petition to Council members.

Marcus Squires

Reported on Cameron grant for research for Walnut Hill Historical district

Asked about installing welcome banners on Sycamore Street leading to Walnut Hill district

Asked that grass on gates at Cameron field be cut

A special request for banners on poles should be submitted to the City Manager's office.

City Codes related to all special signage, banners, etc. are being reviewed and updated by City staff.

Request for grass cutting should be submitted to Public Works.

Barb Rudolph

Requested status of Old Bus station

Asked who is responsible for FOIA in City

Asked that presentations not included in Council agenda packet to be posted on website & posting is required by code

Economic Development plans to update Council on the status of the Old Bus station at the next meeting in October or the first meeting in November.

FOIA requests are currently being submitted to the Director of Neighborhood Services. A FOIA officer will be hired soon.

Website training is being scheduled for eight departments, including the Clerk of Council and Communications. There are some technical issues with the current website that should be resolved soon.

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

Councilman Cuthbert

Concerned about complaints of city phones not being answered – asked City Manager to prepare an update and present to Council

Concerned about continued delay in trash and recycling collection – requested update at October meeting

Councilwoman Wilson-Smith

Same concerns as Councilman Cuthbert on phones being answered and trash/recycling collection delays.

Asked for plan on saving Peabody School complex.

Councilman Hill

Asked for a holistic approach to grass and trash. Citizens requested to help with litter problem along with City.

Requested plan on grass and trash from City Manager.

Requested plan on leaf collection from Deputy City Manager.

Reported stray dogs on Warren Street, no response from Animal Control.

Councilwoman Smith-Lee

Reminded citizens that early voting is open, and to vote.

Mayor Parham

Exchange Building is now open and recommended that citizens visit to see the new exhibits.

Attended roundtable at Fort Lee with Congressman on renaming, and update on refugees.

Participated in roundtable with Attorney General on gun violence and crime.

Thanked Phlow/AMPAC for new playground at Pleasant's Lane School.

Thanked council members for all the meetings they attend.

11. Items removed from Consent Agenda

None

12. Finance and Budget Report

a. Discussion of the Breakdown of Water Debt

Presentation by Stacey Jordan, Director of Finance

Motion approved for staff to seek funding sources for new utility billing software and project management services to be completed by January 1, 2025.

13. Unfinished Business

None

14. New Business

a. Consideration of an ordinance for the Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services from the Virginia Department of Fire Programs. This FY2021 allotment is \$123,553, unused funds are not forfeited but must remain available for use by the agency- 2nd Reading.

Approved with corrected allotment number.

b. Consideration of an ordinance for Virginia Office of EMS-Rescue Squad Assistance Fund (RSAF)- 2nd Reading.

Approved

c. Consideration of FY2019 Carryover (\$4,070.22) for the Edward Byrne Memorial Grant (JAG). - 2nd Reading

Approved

d. Consideration of FY2020 Carryover (\$26,589.00) for the Edward Byrne Memorial Grant (JAG). - 2nd Reading

Approved

- e. Consideration to appropriate an additional \$231,458 to the Street Operations Special Revenue Fund due to a FY 2021-2022 increase by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) - 2nd Reading  
**Approved**
- f. Consideration of an ordinance for Petersburg's Juvenile Community Crime Control Act and Bureau of Police, from the Department of Criminal Justice Services for \$25,000 to conduct a Youth and Gang Violence Community Assessment. -2nd Reading  
**Approved**
- g. Consideration and appropriation of the FY 2020-2021 Southside Depot project carryover balance in the amount of \$92,753.38 for the Southside Depot project to FY 2021-2022 - 2nd Reading  
**Approved**
- h. Consideration of an appropriation for the FY 2021-2022 Capital Budget South Crater Road Traffic Signal Improvement Project that was approved in the amount of \$271,634.00 per the budget document approved by Council on May 25, 2021 - 2nd Reading  
**Approved**
- i. Consideration of an appropriation ordinance in the amount of \$430,940 for the FY 2021-2022 Capital Budget Sycamore Street Bridge Culvert Rehabilitation project per the FY 2021-2022 Capital Project section of the budget document that was approved by Council on May 25, 2021 - 2nd Reading  
**Approved**

15. City Manager's Report

- a. Presentation and Discussion of the COVID Vaccination Policy for City Staff.

Councilwoman Wilson-Smith

How many city employees are not vaccinated? HIPAA only prevents saying who, not numbers. Numbers needed to determine how departments could function.

City Attorney

Vaccination policy does not require approval from Council to implementation.

Councilman Cuthbert

Can City condition premium pay on employees being fully vaccinated?

Councilman Hill

Appreciates that City Manager is bringing discussion of possible City employee vaccination policy to Council.

City Manager will research staff survey and will contact Crater Health District for additional information on mobile vaccination truck

- b. Discussion on City Council Retreat  
Motion passes to not have a Council retreat this year.  
City Manager may use retreat facilitator for staff development.
- 16. Noise Ordinance  
Motion passed not to enforce noise ordinance until recommendation is received from the Planning Commission.
- 16. Business or reports from the Clerk  
None
- 17. Business or reports from the City Attorney  
None
- 18. Adjournment

**September 27, 2021 Special Council Meeting – Zoom**

1. Roll Call  
Councilman John Hart, Sr. not present
2. Discussion and/or consideration:
  - a. Discussion and consideration of the ARPA funds.  
Approved below funding.

ARPA IMMEDIATE NEEDS	
Community Recovery Needs Reserve	\$ 520,000
Parks & Rec Rehab	\$ 250,000
Library Foundation (Learning Center)	\$ 269,000
Hazardous Duty Organizational Pay (TABLED)	-\$ 975,000
EMS/Fire Life-Saving Equipment	\$ 262,848
Police Radios	\$ 98,551
Fire Radios	\$ 226,134

ARPA IMMEDIATE NEEDS	
Farmer Street Rehab – Public Safety	\$ 1,271,352
South Side Depot	\$ 1,364,035
EDA-Revolving Loan Fund	\$ 2,250,000
Downtown Master Plan (grant match)	\$ 100,000
Willcox Lake Dam	\$ 90,000
Storm Drainage Projects (shovel ready)	\$ 2,104,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ 8,805,920</b>

- b. Consideration of a motion to instruct the City Manager to reallocate \$50,000 from the Economic Development budget to non-departmental for the payment of professional services.  
No Action Taken.
3. Adjournment