



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

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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.

October 5, 2021 – Meeting at Petersburg Public Library

Motions Following Closed Session Meeting

Motion to authorize the city manager to make all reasonable efforts to conclude U.S. District Court Case No. 3:19-cv-00750-REP under the terms and for the amount discussed in closed session.

Approved

Motion to authorize the city manager to utilize existing budgeted funds for the purpose of allowing the Commonwealth's Attorney to retain an attorney or paralegal as needed to address workload needs as discussed in closed session.

Approved

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

Councilman Hill made motion to suspend the Rules of Council and move the public comment hearing to the top of the agenda.

Approved

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Marcus Squires

Cameron Field is wonderful asset and is being neglected. Hopes that City will consider funding for Cameron Field and repairing cottage at Legends Park.

Talked about sections of former Titmus building collapsing and need for City to repair or entire complex may need to be demolished.

Jeff Fleming

Concerned about attack of city employees and department heads by one city council person at the last Council Zoom meeting.

Gary Talley

Commented that he was glad to be back at in-person Council meetings.

City Manager

Asked to amend the consent agenda to table Item E and move to a later meeting.

City Manager Statement on Gun Ordinance

I would like to clarify the gun ordinance. As I understand the gun ordinance, not as an attorney but as a city manager and a Petersburg citizen, the resent gun prohibition ordinance applies only in public building, public parks, recreation, or community centers where the restriction has been posted. And to public places that are being used by or adjacent to an event which requires a permit.

5. Approval of Consent Agenda (to include minutes of previous meetings):
 - a. City Council Meeting Minutes:
September 21, 2021 Closed Session
September 21, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting
 - b. A request to schedule a public hearing on October 19, 2021 for the consideration of an Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and Dennis V. Jefferson towards the sale of City owned property at 244 New Street, parcel ID 031200003
 - c. A request to schedule a public hearing on October 19, 2021 for the consideration of an Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and Capek Properties, LLC towards the sale of City owned property at 703 Hinton Street, parcel ID 023060009 Myers asked to remove
 - d. A request to schedule a public hearing on October 19, 2021 for the consideration of an Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and Heirloom Reclaim and Design towards the sale of City owned property at 1162 Hinton St, parcel ID 024220039.

e. A request to schedule a public hearing on October 19, 2021 for the consideration of an Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to establish the Tourism Zone Incentive Repayment Assistance Program.

Removed

f. A request to schedule a public hearing on October 19, 2021 for consideration of an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to amend the purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and Miroslaw Wapiarz and David Budych for the property at 915 High Street West, parcel ID 024070019 to extend the reverter date for a period of six months, until April 30, 2022.

g. A request to schedule a Public Hearing on October 19, 2021, and consideration of an Ordinance approving the Special Use Permit petition to install equipment to recover hydrogen gas presently produced as a byproduct of ongoing bleach manufacturing processes at Bleachtech LLC, at 2020 Bessemer Road.

h. A request to schedule a Public Hearing on October 19, 2021, and consider an Ordinance approving amendments to the zoning ordinance regarding solar panels and solar farms.

i. Consideration of FY2022 Petersburg Public Schools Budget Supplemental Appropriation #1 (\$13,284,445) 1st Reading.

j. Consideration of appropriation for the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2021 & ending on June 30, 2022, for the American Rescue Plan Act Appropriation #1(\$10,480,919.50) 1st Reading.

k. Consideration of resolution for ARPA Funding of Hazardous Duty Organizational Pay 1st Reading

Consent Agenda Approved

6. Special Reports

a. Presentation of Community Collaborative COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic from Dr. Bobby DuHart and Dr. Maria Pitre Martin (Superintendent of Petersburg Public Schools) on health concerns.

Mayor Parham shared announcement from Sheriff Crawford about the Faith and Blue event at the Sports Complex on October 9, 2021.

Central Virginia Waste Management Authority Presentation on Trash & Recycling Collection
Presenters: Kim Hines, CVWMA and Bob Pfister, Area President of Meridian Waste,
Working on improving customer service
High driver turn over due to COVID and difficult to get repair parts for trucks

Councilman Hill asked about plans to improve customer service and the need for better service.

Councilman Cuthbert stated he expects company to meet contract requirements and that is not happening.

Councilwoman Wilson-Smith questioned the amount of trash that could be placed at curb by residents and that better communication from CVWMA is needed.

Councilwoman Smith-Lee asked about procedures and communication for picking up trash at houses where residents have disabilities that will not allow them to take containers to the curbs.

Mayor Parham noted a complaint from a resident who had not had trash pick-up for over a month.

b. ERP Update

Gerrit VanVoorhees, IT Manager/Director presented. Enterprise Resource Planning software needed to operate all core products used in the city, i.e. utility billing, tax collection, code enforcement, funding accounting. Software expensive but needed.

Councilman Cuthbert suggested that City budget for updated software.

7. Monthly Reports

None

8. Finance and Budget Report

None

9. Capital Projects Update

a. Capital Projects Update

Andrew Barnes, Interim Director of Public Works presented.

Councilwoman Wilson-Smith asked that an updated paving project list be presented to Council later.

10. Utilities

a. Customer Service Presentation

Randall Williams/Stacy Jordan presenters

Councilman Cuthbert asked about Blandford Cemetery Fund.

City Manager stated collection rates for utilities have improved

b. Delinquent Termination Presentation

Target date, Tuesday, October 26 to begin utility cut-offs for commercial and industrial customers with extremely delinquent accounts and have not been willing to setup payment plan. Waiting on Commonwealth Utility Relief Fund grant opportunity and when funds may be awarded for residential utility relief.

Councilwoman Wilson-Smith requested update on utility relief funds given to Pathways. Questioned if part of the \$520,000 local ARPA funds could be used for utility relief to residents.

11. Streets
None

12. Facilities
a. Grass & NOV Presentation

Scott Flaherty presenter. Grass cutting challenges include shortage of workers, limited access to repair parts and City not having needed equipment.

City Manager discussed need to have adequate staff to not maintain cemeteries. Stated that Blandford Cemetery fund has between \$1M - \$2M. City is only allowed to use interest from the fund to maintain the cemetery.

Councilman Cuthbert opposes using any monies from Blandford Cemetery fund other than interest.

Councilman Hill suggested need to update ordinance and then view with fresh eyes.

Councilwoman Wilson-Smith stated she recalls that the City used some of Blandford Cemetery fund money and that the Robert Bobb group directed Council to put money back into the fund.

City Attorney stated that Councilwoman Wilson-Smith was accurate. Blandford Cemetery fund is required by statute – setup to just draw interest so money is still there to maintain cemetery. Council rescinded the ordinance and all monies remained in the fund for there 10 years. City can now use interest on the fund. This issue will come back to Council before any action can be taken.

Reggie Lantz presented on Street Operations. City maintains 121 acres of streets. There is an emphasis on removing litter. ARPA money includes replacing some of the sidewalks. St. Andrews bridge project near completion.

Councilman Hill asked how the City was trying to fill City job vacancies.

Mayor Parham reported on several job fairs.

Deputy Manager Innis stated she is working with Communications on marketing for vacant positions.

Councilwoman Wilson-Smith asked if notice of violations posted on properties worked.

13. Economic Development
None
14. City Manager's Agenda
 - a. City Manager Needs Assessment
City Manager presented Needs Assessment.
 - b. Presentation and Discussion on ARPA Funds for the purposes of funding Hazardous Duty Organization Pay for City Employees.
Removed from agenda
15. Business or reports from the Clerk
None
16. Business or reports from the City Attorney
None
17. Public Comments
Moved to top of agenda
18. Adjournment