



COUNCIL

Communicates

Highlights from City Council Meetings

March 15, 2022 – Closed Session & Regular Council Meeting
Petersburg Public Library

City Council Members

Ward 1

Treska Wilson-Smith

treskawilsonsmith@petersburg-va.org

Ward 2

Darrin Hill

dhill@petersburg-va.org

Ward 3

Samuel Parham

Mayor

sparham@petersburg-va.org

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

Arnold Westbrook

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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.

Closed Session
3:00pm

1. Roll Call

All councilmembers present.

Council approved adding the acquisition of real property to the closed session agenda.

2. Closed Session:

a. The purpose of this meeting is to convene in the closed session pursuant to 2.2-3711(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 performance, assignment, and appointment of specific public officer of the City of Petersburg; and 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 discussion regarding Petersburg Circuit Court Case Record No.: CL21000495-00

Presented Resolution to the Petersburg High Basketball Team. Returned to closed session.

3. Adjournment

Regular City Council Meeting

5:00pm

1. Roll Call
All Councilmembers present.
2. Prayer
Councilman Hill.
3. Pledge of Allegiance
Mayor Parham.
4. Determination of the Presence of a Quorum
Quorum present.
5. Proclamations/Recognitions/Presentation of Ceremonial Proclamations
6. Responses to Previous Public Information Posted
Council Communicates online.
7. Approval of Consent Agenda (to include minutes of previous meetings):
 - a. Minutes:
February 22, 2022 - Closed Session
February 22, 2022 - Regular City Council Meeting
March 1, 2022 - Special City Council Meeting
 - b. Consideration of an appropriation ordinance of the Middle Atlantic Section Joint Player Development and Junior Golf Committees Grant in the amount of \$3,000 - 1st Reading
 - c. Request to schedule a public hearing on the consideration of naming a private street Civica Way at the request of Phlow Corporation.
 - d. Consideration to appropriate \$9,760.88 received from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for the City of Petersburg's Litter Prevention and Recycling Program activities for the period July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 - 1st Reading
Approved.
8. Official Public Hearings
 - a. A Request to Amend Sec. 106-14. – Permanent Board of Equalization.
Presenter: City Assessor
A need all three members – can appoint an alternate in case there is a resignation.
No public comments.
No comments from Council.
Approved.

b. A Public Hearing and consideration of an Ordinance amending the zoning of the property addressed as 801 S Adams Street, TP# 031300002; from R-B, Office-Apartment District to MXD-3, Mixed Use District.

Presenter: Reggie Tabor

No public comments.

No comments from Council.

Approved.

c. A public hearing on the consideration of appropriating \$3,672,454.51 in Federal State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds through the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) for the COVID-19 Municipal Utility Assistance Program.

Presenter: Randall Williams

Public Comments:

Jeff Fleming

What are guidelines? Will people be helped with this money. Wants money used for the purpose it was given.

Williams commented that City followed state guidelines for distribution.

Approved.

d. A Public Hearing and Consideration of An Ordinance Approving Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan to Comply With the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act.

Presenter: Reggie Tabor

Asked that item be tabled for further discussion with Chesapeake Bay representatives.

Approved.

e. A Public Hearing and consideration of an ordinance approving a petition to rezone property addressed as 3605 Halifax Road, Parcel: 096010003, 3625 Halifax Road, Parcel: 096010004, and 3607 Halifax Road, Parcel: 107020017, from R-1, Single Family Residence and A-Agricultural Districts to M-2, Heavy Industrial District.

Presenter: Reggie Tabor

This property will be used for a crematorium. Property owner asked Council to move forward with rezoning.

Public Comment:

Marcus Squires

Have neighbors been informed? Mr. Squires stated he worked in that area of the city.

Approved.

f. A Public Hearing and consideration of an Ordinance approving a petition for a Special Use Permit to allow for the construction of an office and operation of a crematorium business along a portion of the property addressed as 3605 Halifax Road, Parcel: 096010003, 3625 Halifax Road, Parcel: 096010004 and 3607 Halifax Road, Parcel: 107020017.

Presenter: Reggie Tabor

No public comments.

Approved.

g. A Public Hearing and consideration of an ordinance approving a petition for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to establish and operate a stand-alone used vehicle sales business not associated with a new vehicle dealership at 2306 East Washington Street, Parcel: 003030002

Public Comments:

Jeff Fleming

Too many car lots in City that look bad. Mr. Fleming suggested that more stipulations be attached to the special use permit.

Approved as presented.

h. A Public Hearing and consideration of an Ordinance approving an amendment to the City Code, Chapter 50. Environment, Article II. Noise.

Presenter: Reggie Tabor

Reviewed recommendations from the Planning Commission.

Public Comments:

Jeff Fleming

Ordinance should refer to all city businesses.

Following Council discussion a motion to table was 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.

Richard Stewart

Concerned about Pocahontas Island ingress/egress.

A traffic light study was conducted in 2013. The study recommended the elimination of approximately 9 traffic signals/lights in the downtown/Old Towne area to reduce traffic congestion. The Streets unit in Public Works will investigate the intersection of Fifth and Bollingbrook Streets for possible vision obstructions created by vehicles parking near the corner of those streets.

Michelle Murrills

Concerned about blighted houses on St. Andrews and the City holding owners accountable.

The Code Compliance Division in Petersburg is responsible for the issuance of all construction related permits and the enforcement of the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (<https://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/node/582>) and its related laws and ordinances as mandated by state and local regulations. The houses referenced have been cited many times by code compliance. Often taking an owner who does not follow state and local regulations to court is a timely process.

Marcus Squires

Mr. Squires stated the number of blighted properties was mis-stated in a previous Council Communicates. The number stated in Council Communicates was approximately 700 distressed properties found by Neighborhood Services following a citywide survey. Vacant properties are not necessarily distressed or blighted.

Jeff Fleming

Stated that some Real Estate assessments were too high. He commended two employees from the Assessor's office who came by his house for an onsite assessment.

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

Councilman Cuthbert

Glad to be back to in-person meetings. Discussed community meeting held with residents of Pocahontas Island.

Councilwoman Wilson-Smith

Thanked Council, administration, citizens for acts of kindness for loss of her mother. Referenced the 2019 Council Retreat outline and stated the Mayor would provide guidance on a future retreat.

Councilman Westbrook

Gave a short presentation on What does it take for a City to be great? What do you love about Petersburg and what can you do to make this City great?

Attractive – citizens need to take more pride in your residence/stop littering, change culture on littering.

Notes that Things are happening with the old Ramada Inn, parking deck at Transit near competition.

City must be successful. Honored basketball team and he wants to see better SOL's. City must be sustainable – lack of noise and trash, plenty of shade, need greenery. City must thrive.

Pleased with Metro Business League activities.

Councilman Myers

Requested to suspend rules of Council. **Approved to suspend rules of council.**

Important to keep city clean. Motion made for City Attorney to draft an ordinance increasing the fine for littering and bring back to Council for consideration.

Approved.

Councilman Hill

Congratulated high school basketball team. Commended physical management team led by Stacey Jordan. Ward 2 meeting will be held soon in-person. City should focus on the many positive things happening.

Vice Mayor Smith-Lee

Stated her heart goes out to Councilwoman Wilson-Smith on the loss of her mother. She congratulated the high school basketball team. Councilman Westbrook was thanked for entering a house fire to make sure all people had escaped the fire. Councilwoman received call commending the fire marshal's office.

Mayor Parham

Announced opening of Civil Rights exhibit at the Exchange Building. Recognized Councilman Wilson-Smith on her accomplishment in being named a Remarkable Woman by WRIC News. Gave update on budget in General Assembly and announced that Senator Warner would be in Petersburg to discuss the Pharma Cluster.

11. Items removed from Consent Agenda

None.

12. Finance and Budget Report

None.

13. Unfinished Business

None.

14. New Business
 - a. Consideration of re/appointments to the Planning Commission.
Ms. Chioma Adaku appointed.
Approved.
 - b. Consideration of a motion to authorize and direct that the humanities bill proposal be forwarded to the Virginia General Assembly for Consideration.
Presenter: City Attorney. He has drafted new language.
Motion to table.
Approved.
 - c. Consideration of a resolution to approve revisions to Article V, Vii, and VII of the City's Personnel Policy.
Presenter: City Attorney
Motion to table to next meeting.
Approved.
15. City Manager's Report
Announced water cut-offs for people not paying. Cut-offs have been stopped for over two years.
16. Business or reports from the Clerk
None.
17. Business or reports from the City Attorney
None.
18. Adjournment