



COUNCIL

Communicates

Highlights from City Council Meetings

April 19, 2022 – Closed Session & Council Meeting
Petersburg Public Library

City Council Members

Ward 1

Treska Wilson-Smith

treskawilsonsmith@petersburg-va.org

Ward 2

Darrin Hill

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Ward 3

Samuel Parham

Mayor

sparham@petersburg-va.org

Ward 4

Charles Cuthbert

ccuthbert@petersburg-va.org

Ward 5

W. Howard Myers

whowardmyers@petersburg-va.org

Ward 6

Anette Smith-Lee

Vice Mayor

alee@petersburg-va.org

Ward 7

Arnold Westbrook

awestbrook@petersburg-va.org

Clerk of Council

Nykesha Jackson

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

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

CLOSED SESSION CITY COUNCIL MEETING 3:30pm

1. Roll Call
All 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 discussion regarding Petersburg Circuit Court Case No.: CL21000495-00; a civil case that is currently pending litigation; meals tax remittance requirements; and a proposal regarding a real property conveyance; and pursuant to §2.2-3711(A)(3) of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of discussion or consideration of the acquisition 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 negotiations strategy of the public body, specifically including but not limited to the acquisition and disposition of real property; and 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 and appointment of specific public officer.

Councilman Cuthbert added motion to add item to agenda regarding a court case settlement.

Approved.

3. Adjournment

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

5:00 PM

1. Roll Call

All 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

None.

6. Responses to Previous Public Information Posted

Council Communicates.

7. Approval of Consent Agenda (to include minutes of previous meetings):

a. A request for public hearing on the consideration of appropriation for the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2021 & ending on June 30, 2022, for the American Rescue Plan Act Loss Revenue Appropriation (\$3,925,000.50). (page 4)

b. Minutes: (page 6)

March 30, 2022 - City Council Closed Session

April 5, 2022 - City Council Work Session

Approved.

8. Official Public Hearings

a. A public hearing on an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to adopt the amendment to the Real Estate Tax Abatement Program for Commercial and Industrial Businesses located within the Enterprise Zone that will allow them to qualify for Real Estate Tax Abatement for a period of Six (6) Years. (page 18)

Presenter: Brian Moore, Director of Economic Development

No Public Comment.

Approved. Councilwoman Wilson-Smith voted no.

b. A public hearing and consideration of naming a private street Civica Way at the request of Phlow Corporation. (page 32)

Presenter: Randall Williams, Interim Public Works Director

No Public Comments.

Approved.

c. A public hearing for the consideration of a resolution by the City Council approving the issuance by the Petersburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority of its multifamily housing revenue bonds for the acquisition, construction, renovation, rehabilitation and equipping of the approximately 98-unit Dorsey Flats Apartments multifamily housing facility located in the City of Petersburg, Virginia. (page 36)

Presenter: Brian Moore, Director of Economic Development

Public Comment

Michelle Murrills

Asked why this project has been before City Council so many times and construction not started . . . why are bonds being approved today.

Approved.

d. A public hearing on the consideration of an ordinance approving Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for PY21/FY22. (page 43)

Presenter: Reggie Tabor, Director of Planning

No Public Comment.

Approved.

e. A public hearing on April 19, 2022, for the consideration of FY2021-2022 #2 Proposed Schools Operating Budget in the amount of \$1,611,079.77. (page 46)

Presenter: Stacey Jordan, Chief Financial Officer

No Public Comment.

Approved.

f. A public hearing on the consideration of the FY2022-2023 City of Petersburg Proposed All Funds Budget. (page 49)

Presenter: Stacey Jordan, Chief Financial Officer

No Public Comment.

Motion to table until May, 2022 meeting. Approved.

g. A public hearing on April 19, 2022, for the consideration of City Council to advertise a maximum tax rate of \$1.27 per \$100 of assessed value. (page 53)

Presenter: Stacey Jordan, Chief Financial Officer

Public Hearing

Gary Talley

Supports reduction.

Approved.

h. A public hearing on the consideration of an ordinance to amend and re-adopt 106-65 of the City of Code pertaining to the collection of delinquent real property taxes on properties where abatement expenses have been incurred. (page 56)

Presenter: Stacey Jordan, Chief Financial Officer

City Attorney – will shorten collection times.

No Public Comment.

Approved.

i. A public hearing and consideration of an ordinance authorizing the installation of a street mural at the intersection of W. Washington & Market Street (corner of the Petersburg Public Library). (page 58)

Presenter: Reggie Tabor, Director of Planning

No Public Comment.

Approved.

j. A public hearing on April 19, 2022, for the consideration of an ordinance of conveyance of easements to Dominion Energy Virginia in furtherance of the Park & Ride Project. (page 80)

Presenter: Randall Williams, Interim Director of Public Works

Public Hearing

Mr. King

What is the purpose of the parking deck?

\$8M given to City by State for cost of deck. Those who commute can park cars and ride bus.

Approved.

k. A public hearing on the consideration of an ordinance to amend and re-adopt Section 94-2 of the City Code pertaining to littering. (page 98)

Presenter: Tony Williams, City Attorney

Public Comment

Michelle Murrills

Glad Councilman Myers asked for the change. How does litter enforcement work for businesses?

Approved.

l. A public hearing on the consideration of an ordinance to amend and readopt Section 2-31 of the Petersburg City Code Pertaining to Salaries of City Council and the Mayor. (page 105)

Presenter: Tony Williams, City Attorney

Approved: Mayor Parham abstained and Councilman Myers voted no.

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

Traffic light on Pocahontas

The traffic light was removed when the Martin Luther King, Jr. bridge was constructed. A study is required prior to installing traffic lights in the city.

St. Andrews Street Bridge

There was a safety issue discovered during final inspection on the bridge. Engineers estimate that repairs will be completed by the end of the summer.

Ms. Seth

Worried about the Homeless – especially veterans. People should not have to panhandle. Petersburg is working with Delegate Taylor and Senator Morrissey on a regional transitional housing project proposed by Councilwoman Wilson-Smith.

Michelle Murrills

Five shooting deaths in Petersburg. There has been no official release from City Council on this – asked what the City will do. Stated Library event & conference room money should have been used for gun violence prevention and retaining police officers. Asked that City address abandoned and blighted buildings. Commended Councilman Myers for his work on blighted properties.

The City held a news conference and announced additional measures for gun violence prevention that included:

- Requesting Council to extend curfew hours
- Additional assistance from state police and federal law agencies
- Zero tolerance for crime

The library is owned by a Foundation. The Foundation voted to build the library event & conference addition. The City did commit some funding for the project since it is used for many city activities. The majority of the funds were raised by the Foundation.

Neighborhood Services is aggressively citing blighted property owners.

Amanda Green

Request tracker not working to report high grass

Petersburg no longer uses GoRequest. To report issues such as high grass, refer to:

<https://petersburgce.portal.iworq.net/portalhome/petersburgce>

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

Councilman Cuthbert

Made motion for City Attorney to proceed with concluding Old Ramada Inn case.

Approved.

Addressing the issue of violence is on the minds of all Council members. Stated that City passed and enforces the firearms ordinance on city property. Would like to see a long-term plan for improving the literacy rate in Petersburg Public schools. Reported how much ARPA money the schools have received.

a. Consideration of a motion to discourage speeding. (page 108)

Public Hearing

Brian Moore (not economic development director)

Lives on Claremont and speeding is a concern. Speeding vehicle hit his truck parked in front of his house.

Bob Rogers

Speeding at Jefferson and corner of Marshall is a problem.

Claudia Bezaka, owner of Ragland Manor B&B on Sycamore Street

Speeding has landed two cars in her yard / one was a DUI. Cars will not stop for seniors trying to cross Sycamore.

Michelle Murrills

She stated that she walks everywhere throughout the city. She believes people who are speeding will still stop for signs.

Richard Stewart

Many vehicles speeding on Roth Street on Pocahontas Island and they don't stop at the stop signs.

Substitute motion: To approve, omitting items 1, 2 and table traffic lights until costs given to Council and table all items on page 2.

Approved.

Councilwoman Wilson-Smith

Concerned about homicides in the City. Would like to explore a gun buy-back program. The literacy rate does need to improve. Year-round schools would help. Need to invest more in children. Encouraged citizens to reach out to School Board members.

Mayor Parham

Mayor asked Councilwoman Wilson-Smith to talk about reopening the training center in Dinwiddie and wrap around services for the homeless.

Councilman Westbrook

Presented on several initiatives that would improve Petersburg.

- Discourse through debate can help with resolution
- City must be open to anyone – highlighted City Parks
- City must have something for everybody
- City must attract and maintain
- Urbanization
- Citizens should come out and voice your concerns to City Council
- Sustainable and livable environment - Will you buy in to littering – will you participate
- Nurture a civil society – can we curb violence in school, putting older people at risk – Can we put the guns down. Working together, conflict resolution.

Councilman Myers

Gave his time to Councilman Westbrook and agreed with Councilman Westbrook's presentation.

Councilman Hill

We hurt just like citizens. We are all in this together – have great police officers. Be mindful of blaming City Council for everything. Many of the blighted properties are being rehabbed. Change is coming. We have jewels in Petersburg. Asked citizens to be part of the solution, not part of the problem.

Vice Mayor Smith-Lee

Ward 6 & 7 joint ward meeting on May 26.

Commended police officers for work.

Congratulated Councilwoman Wilson-Smith for being named "Remarkable Woman" by WRIC.

11. Items removed from Consent Agenda
None.
12. Finance and Budget Report
None.
13. Unfinished Business
None.
14. New Business
 - a. A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Performance Agreement between the City of Petersburg, City of Petersburg Economic Development Authority and Tabb Street Development, LLC. (page 111)
Removed from agenda.

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 - 2nd Reading (page 125)

Approved. Councilman Cuthbert abstained.

c. 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 - 2nd Reading (page 127)

Approved.

d. A resolution adopting Petersburg Area Transit's Transit Strategic Plan. (page 131)

Approved. Councilman Cuthbert voted no because Plan was not included in this agenda packet.

e. A resolution approving the development agreement for development of 301 Rolfe Street, Petersburg, Virginia, between the City of Petersburg and Amanda Green with the proviso that the Deed of Conveyance from the City of Petersburg to the purchaser states that only one single-family dwelling may be constructed on the property that is not subdivided. (page 135)

Presenter: Brian Moore, Director of Economic Development

Approved.

f. Consideration of re/appointment to the Economic Development Authority. (page 145)
Reappoint Richard Taylor

Approved.

g. Consideration of Personnel Policies & Procedures Manual Revisions. (page 150)

Approved.

h. Consideration of appointment/s to the South Central Wastewater Treatment Authority Board. (page 173)

Randall Williams appointed.

Approved.

i. Consideration of re/appointment to the Virginia Gateway Region. (page 177)

Reappoint Mayor Parham and Mr. DeFranco

Approved.

j. Consideration of re/appointment to the Petersburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority. (page 180)

No applicant.

k. Consideration of appointing Tangela Innis as the primary to the Appomattox River Water Authority (ARWA) Board and Randall Williams as the alternate. (page 187)

Approved.

15. City Manager's Report
Thanked Randall Williams and Mr. Thomi Hairston for city cleanup efforts.
16. Business or reports from the Clerk
Ms. Jackson stated she had been Clerk for 16 years and turns 36 on Saturday. She appreciates all.
17. Business or reports from the City Attorney
None.
18. Adjournment