



COUNCIL

Communicates

Highlights from City Council Meetings

July 19, 2022

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

3:30pm

1. Roll Call

Absent:

Councilman Arnold Westbrook, Jr.

Vice Mayor Annette Smith-Lee

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 and appointment of specific public officers; and under §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 matter of pending litigation; and a contract issue; Section 106-300 and 302 of the Petersburg City Code; 2.2-3112 of the Code of Virginia; and zoning issues relating to 58.1-3510.4 of the Code of Virginia; and under §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, specifically including but not limited to the acquisition and disposition of real property.

Motion approved to come out of closed session.

Motion approved to accept the resignation of City Assessor Brian Gordineer, appoint Mary Burket as City Assessor, and authorize Mayor to execute a contract with Ms. Burket on behalf of City Council.

Motion approved for request from the Petersburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority for a stipend for up to \$500 for members of the Authority. Funds from federal government.

3. Adjournment

City Council Work Session

- 1. Roll Call
All members present.
- 2. Prayer
Led by Councilman Hill.
- 3. Pledge of Allegiance
Led by Mayor 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 17-23, 2022, as Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week in the City of Petersburg, VA.
 - b. Presentation from Richard Bland College.
- 6. Responses to Previous Public Information Posted
Council Communicates
- 7. Approval of Consent Agenda (to include minutes of previous meetings):
 - a. Minutes of June 21, 2022 - Regular City Council Meeting
 - b. Minutes of June 29, 2022 - Special City Council Meeting
 - b. Consideration of an additional \$500,000 in grant funding for the Fleets Branch Stream Restoration Project – National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)/VA Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Grant Funding.
 - c. Consideration to appropriate additional funding in the amount of \$648,233.48 to the Urban Highway Maintenance Fund per FY 2023 rates approved by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB).
 - d. Consideration of the appropriation of the FY23 Gun Violence Intervention Program Grant for \$189,809 - 1st reading
Consent agenda approved.

8. Official Public Hearings
a. A public hearing on July 19, 2022 for the consideration of an Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and Terry and Cynthia Bradshaw towards the sale of City-owned property at 2902 Nivram Road, parcel ID 080060011.
No public comment.

Approved.

- b. A Public Hearing for consideration and to adopt the PY2022/FY2023 funding recommendations from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Advisory Board.

Public comments:

Barb Rudolph concerned about admin costs, allocation to McKinney Library. Marcus Squires concerned that City did not spend \$200,000 from previous year.

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

Gary Talley asked for in-person presentation from Fire Chief on status of Fire Department. The Fire Chief is not giving any media or in-person interviews at this time. Mr. Talley questioned code violation costs for former Ramada Inn. There were code violation costs collected through the court process. Mr. Talley expressed need for a community center.

Richard Stewart expressed need for stop light on MLK Bridge for ingress/egress on Pocahontas Island. The City is studying traffic needs in that area.

Alexis Clinton introduced No Veterans Behind Organization and talked about need for veteran housing.

Barb Rudolph stated need to revisit selling City properties at 50% of assessed values. She also agreed with Mr. Talley that public information period concerns should be addressed in-person rather than by Council Communicates. The City does address many issues during Council meetings.

Marcus Squires was concerned because police did not respond when he called reporting that he had found a gun shell casing outside his house on Mercury Street. Mr. Squires stated police are telling people not to move into Petersburg.

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

Councilwoman Wilson Smith recognized Sheriff Crawford for being named the national sheriff of the year, and Joanne Williams for winning two Emmy awards for videos produced on First Baptist Church and Ron Walton of Walton Gallery. She also reminded all about Housing Summit and Citizens Academy.

Councilman Cuthbert discussed 301 E. Fillmore Street. The property was cleaned up after his call to Mayor and other city officials.

Councilman Westbrook talked about youth services offered by the faith-based community. He discussed activities from Parks & Rec and urban gardening in Ward 7.

Councilman Myers yielded time for discussion under New Business.

Councilman Hill thanked Public Works for cleanup in the Old Towne area and discussed further improvements for Parks and walking trails.

Vice Mayor Smith-Lee talked about positive outcomes from summer youth city work program, Parks & Rec summer youth programs and VSU STEM summer program.

Mayor Parham announced upcoming events including National Night Out and Positive Vibes. He congratulated City Attorney Tony Williams on his appointment by the Governor.

11. Items removed from Consent Agenda

None.

12. Finance and Budget Report

None.

13. Unfinished Business

None.

14. New Business

a. Consideration of a resolution approving the development agreement for development of 1544 Halifax Street, Petersburg, Virginia, between the City of Petersburg and Ruffing Enterprises, LLC.

Approved.

b. Consideration of an appropriation in the amount of \$4,321 from the Office of the Attorney General Crime Prevention for Seniors Grant Program - 2nd Reading.

Approved.

c. Consideration of a resolution of Support for Smart Scale Applications Submitted by the Tri-Cities Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Crater Planning District Commission and to Authorize the Use of City Owned Property.

Approved.

d. Consideration of a request to install a sidewalk mural along Perry St. at Artist Space.

Approved.

Item 14e, a resolution approving the development agreement for the development of 835 Commerce Street, Petersburg, VA, between the City of Petersburg and Tri-City Habitat for Humanity.

Motion to add item to agenda approved.

Development agreement approved.

15. City Manager's Report
Presentation from JMT on progress/timeline for Poor Creek (Southeastern area of City) water and wastewater upgrades.
16. Business or reports from the Clerk
Ms. Lucas thanked Library for work in making her wedding there special.
17. Business or reports from the City Attorney
None.
18. Adjournment