



COUNCIL

Communicates

Highlights from City Council Meetings

September 20, 2022

Petersburg Public Library

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

Arnold Westbrook

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Clerk of Council

Nykesha Jackson

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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
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 matters requiring the provision of legal advice by the City Attorney, specifically including but not limited to Petersburg Circuit Court Case No.: CL15-780; the requirements of §58.1-3510.4 of the Code of Virginia relating to short term rental properties; under §2.23711(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 of real property; and §2.2-3711(A)(29) of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of discussion regarding the subject matter of public contract involving the expenditure of funds and terms or scope of such contract where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining or negotiating strategy of the public body, specifically including but not limited to the discussion of the award and terms of a public contract.

Motion approved to end closed session.

3. Adjournment

Regular City Council Meeting

5:00 PM

1. Roll Call
All 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
None.
6. Responses to Previous Public Information Posted
Council Communicates.
7. Approval of Consent Agenda (to include minutes of previous meetings):
 - a. Minutes:
 - September 6, 2022 - Closed Session Minutes
 - September 6, 2022 - Work Session Minutes
 - b. A request to Schedule a Public Hearing and Consideration of an Ordinance Approving an Amendment to the PUD and Proffers for the Harrison Creek Properties. **Public Hearing will be on November 15, 2022.**
 - c. A request to schedule a public hearing on the amended and appropriate FY22-23 All Funds Budget on October 18, 2022.
Approved.
8. Official Public Hearings
 - a. A public hearing and consideration of an ordinance approving the rezoning of the property located at 2655 Stedman Drive from Single-Family Residence District (R-1A) to Mixed Use District-3 (MXD-3).
No public comments.
Approved.
 - b. A public hearing and consideration of an ordinance approving the rezoning of the properties located at 513 Old Wagner Road, and 525 Old Wagner Road, from A - Agricultural District to R-1A -Single-Family Residence District. Reggie Tabor presented. Out of compliance with agricultural zoning. Planning Commission recommended rezoning.
Public Comments
Chioma Griffin– member of Planning Commission and ask that recommendation be upheld. Plan is to build single homes on property.
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.

Barb Rudolph

Stated that there was a serious problem with real estate tax bills – old assessments were used with the new lower tax rate. If not corrected could cost the City up to \$2.5M over the year. There is no evidence that City is dealing with this. Current quarterly taxes are due in 10 days. No one wants to learn that they owe the City more money. Be forthcoming about this. She stated she did not know the exact process that caused the mistake.

City officials became aware of this issue shortly after real estate tax bills were mailed. The City is working on a solution that will not be burdensome to taxpayers. This will be announced soon.

Richard Stewart

He has been receiving calls about river development and 3rd & 5th Streets being closed. What is the city ordinance for closing these streets? Joseph Jenkins Roberts Parkway usually floods. He thanked police for patrolling Island.

The development referenced is on the south side of the river harbor. That area will be used for events. The City conduct studies on street closures. Any suggested or needed street closures would come before City Council.

Michael Moore-Storrs

Residents on Varina Avenue are asking for City Council to reconsider speed deterrence between Bermuda and Johnson Road. Residents submitted petitions to the Department of Public Works. After two years, no resolution. Accidents are happening in that area. Residents purchased speed bumps and Public Works removed them. He stated he was told by Public Works that Mayor Parham had rejected the speed bump proposal.

The City Attorney later in the Council meeting confirmed that Council had not taken any action on speed bumps.

Gary Talley

Stated that he had found information requested on the fire department elsewhere. Mr. Talley asked about code violations concerning Mr. Harrison (former owner of the Ramada Inn) and asked why the City paid Harrison more for the property. He wanted to know the complete story.

The City Attorney has provided Mr. Talley with a copy of the court order on the former Ramada Inn.

Chiomo Griffin

Asked that Council uphold the Berkeley Manor project.

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

Councilman Cuthbert – offered tribute to the late Mayor Florence Farley. He thanked the preservation planner for mailers to property owners in historic districts explaining the process to make outside changes to properties. Announced that the man convicted of killing Willie Noise had been sentenced to life in prison. Stated that Virginia Gateway Region was working to recruit supply change industries for the pharmaceutical cluster and locating them outside of the City. Petersburg will need to be aggressive, visionary, and plan for attracting the supply chain industries and expansions of the pharmaceutical cluster within the City.

Councilman Wilson-Smith

Announced Citizens Academy on October 15. Topic is voting and where to vote following redistricting. Thanked city employees, Tamara Johnson and Janelle Bland for coordinating the employee health events.

Councilman Westbrook

Acknowledged the passing of Dr. Farley and Wilbert Bland. Reminded all that early voting starting on 9/23/2022. Talked about success of Tri-Cities Elite Tutoring and Dining with Dads at Walnut Hill Elementary. Stated that more parents should consider attending PTA meetings and that lunch and hall monitors are needed at Pleasant Hill Elementary. Announced that fraternity is holding an essay contest for high school students – deadline October 21.

Councilman Myers

Thanked Mayor Parham for all he does for City of Petersburg. Talked about progress happening at this time and Council helping to move City forward.

Councilman Hill

I-95 Bridge on Crater Road, lots of trash in that area. VDOT is responsible for removing the trash but asked that the City clean-up the ramp areas. He requested a timeline on bridge completion. Stated speeding is a problem on Holly Hill Drive and that there is a need for a stop sign at Newport and Holly Hill – don't need study. Talked about the passing of Wilbert Bland Sr. and Marva Hicks. Thanked Council and staff for the long way City has come.

Vice Mayor Smith-Lee

Thanked Communications for the newsletter, Sheriff Crawford on success of comedy basketball game, VSU for allowing Petersburg High to play football on its field and congratulated the Petersburg High Basketball team for receiving their letterman jackets. Thanked Paul Johnson (Public Works) and Jim Reid (Neighborhood Services) for work done. Thanked Mayor Parham for the outstanding job on turning the City around and keeping the City on-track.

Mayor Parham

Confirmed speed bumps were not before Council. Announced he presented proclamation for Mr. Bland at funeral. He thanked City staff for hard work. Thanked the Director of Communications & Government Relations for assistance in submitting and winning the BBEDA grant. Difficult to compete with other localities until Poor Creek water and wastewater upgrades are completed. Must have sites ready for development because businesses are ready to locate in Petersburg. Stated the City Manager is addressing the the issue with the real estate tax bills.

11. Items removed from Consent Agenda
None.
12. Finance and Budget Report
None.
13. Unfinished Business
None.
14. New Business
 - a. Consideration of appointment/s to the Appomattox River Water Authority (ARWA) Board. Appoint CM & Deputy CM
Combined vote for a, b, f, g.
Approved.
 - b. Consideration of appointments to the South Central Wastewater Treatment Authority Board.
 - c. Consideration of an update to the Title VI Program and Resolution for Petersburg Area Transit's Title VI Program.
Approved.
 - d. Consideration of appointment to the Brightpoint Community College Board of Directors.
Motion to table approved.
 - e. Consideration of an appointment to the Petersburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority.
Motion to table approved.

- f. Consideration of appointment to the Riverside Regional Jail Authority.
- g. Consideration of appointment and reappointment to the Crater Youth Care Commission Board.
Clerk announced this opening needs to be readvertised.
- h. Consideration of the appropriation of the FY23 Gun Violence Intervention Program Grant for \$190,000 - 2nd reading
No public comment.
Approved.
- i. Consideration of the appropriation of the Virginia Commission for the Arts Grant in the amount of \$4,500 - 2nd Reading
No public comment.
Approved.
- j. Consideration of an appropriation for the FY23 SRO-SRO Grant in the amount of \$211,428 - 2nd Reading
No public comment.
Approved.
- k. Consideration for the appropriation of the unused FY22 funds provided by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management - Emergency Management Performance Grant to the FY23 budget -\$1,717.27 - 2nd reading
No public comment.
Approved.
- l. Consideration for the appropriation of the unused FY22 funds provided by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs – Aid to Locality to the FY23 budget in the amount of \$96,735.31. - 2nd Reading
No public comment.
Approved.
- m. Consideration for the appropriation of the unused Virginia Department of Emergency Management – Radiological Emergency Preparedness Grant to the FY23 Budget in the amount of \$3,949.98 - 2nd Reading
No public comment.
Approved.
- n. Consideration of an Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to execute the Extension of Lease Agreement between P & P Associates, LLC and the City of Petersburg for the property located at 3811 Corporate Road Petersburg, VA.
Motion to table approved.

o. Consideration of a resolution approving the development agreement for development of 2902 Nivram Road, Petersburg, Virginia between the City of Petersburg and Terry and Cynthia Bradshaw.

Approved.

p. 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. - 2nd Reading.

No public comment.

Approved.

15. City Manager's Report

Explained the real estate billing issue and working on solutions.

16. Business or reports from the Clerk

None.

17. Business or reports from the City Attorney

None.

18. Adjournment