



# COUNCIL

## Communicates

### Highlights from City Council Meetings

**December 13, 2022**

Petersburg Public Library

#### City Council Members

Ward 1

**Treska Wilson-Smith**

[treskawilsonsmith@petersburg-va.org](mailto:treskawilsonsmith@petersburg-va.org)

Ward 2

**Darrin Hill**

[dhill@petersburg-va.org](mailto:dhill@petersburg-va.org)

Ward 3

**Samuel Parham  
Mayor**

[sparham@petersburg-va.org](mailto:sparham@petersburg-va.org)

Ward 4

**Charles Cuthbert**

[ccuthbert@petersburg-va.org](mailto:ccuthbert@petersburg-va.org)

Ward 5

**W. Howard Myers**

[whowardmyers@petersburg-va.org](mailto:whowardmyers@petersburg-va.org)

Ward 6

**Anette Smith-Lee**

**Vice Mayor**

[alee@petersburg-va.org](mailto:alee@petersburg-va.org)

Ward 7

**Arnold Westbrook**

[awestbrook@petersburg-va.org](mailto:awestbrook@petersburg-va.org)

Clerk of Council

**Nykesha Jackson**

[njackson@petersburg-va.org](mailto: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](http://www.petersburg-va.org)

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

#### Closed Session City Council Meeting Agenda 3:00pm

1. Roll Call  
**Councilwoman Wilson-Smith absent.**  
**Councilman Cuthbert present by phone.**
2. Closed Session:
  - a. The purpose of this meeting is to convene in the closed session pursuant to: (1) §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, as of actual or probable litigation, specifically including but not limited to the requirements of Code of Virginia Title 58.1, Subtitle IV, Chapter 41, Article 1 through 11; and Petersburg Circuit Court Case Number CL22-787; and (2) Under subsection §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; and (3) Under subsection §2.2-3711(A)(5) of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of discussion concerning a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the businesses or industry' interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community; and (4) Under subsection §2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of discussion pertaining to performance, assignment, and

appointment of a specific public officer of the City of Petersburg.

Motion to conclude closed session and convene open session approved.  
Councilwoman Wilson-Smith abstained.

Motion approved to add a resolution of City Council of the City of Petersburg selecting a preferred casino gaming operator pursuant of Chapter 41 of Title 58.1 of the Code of Virginia subject to the city being qualified as an eligible host city and further review; consideration; and ratification of the nine (9) items listed in 58.1-4107(b) of the Code of Virginia.

3. Adjournment

**Regular City Council Meeting Agenda**

5:00pm

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.  
Presentation by The Cordish Companies on entertainment/casino/housing complex.  
Public Comments.

Richard Taylor  
Transformational opportunity for City.

Mike Packer  
Mixed feelings at first, but not now. Nothing like this has come along in modern history in Petersburg. Will bring revenue City needs.

Jeff Fleming  
Questioned impact on current infrastructure.

Richard Stewart  
Concerned about increase in crime and poverty.

Michael Edwards

Once in a lifetime opportunity. Keep an open mind.

Gary Talley

Not for or against. Any comparable info for small town like Petersburg. Tax revenue could be awesome. How will casino effect downtown.

Celeste Winn

Member of the school board. Supports casino. Tax revenue from casino is an avenue for new school.

Barb Rudolph

Need more specific information – about \$14M per year in tax revenue. How will Cordish bring Petersburg people into these jobs?

Tommy Hairston

Supports. Bringing people to the City will help the City.

Kai Haskett

Supports. There is nothing in Petersburg now. \$14M is just a number. Cordish stated they will help the community. Can't compare to Las Vegas.

Earl Beasley

Petersburg does not even have the simple things. Supports casino.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA, SELECTING A PREFERRED CASINO GAMING OPERATOR PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 41 OF TITLE 58.1 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA SUBJECT TO THE CITY BEING QUALIFIED AS AN ELIGIBLE HOST CITY AND FURTHER REVIEW, CONSIDERATION AND RATIFICATION BY COUNCIL OF THE NINE (9) ITEMS LISTED IN §58.1-4107(B) OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA.

Approved.

6. Responses to Previous Public Information Posted  
**Council Communicates.**
7. Approval of Consent Agenda (to include minutes of previous meetings):
  - a. Minutes:
    - October 25, 2022 - Special City Council Meeting
    - November 15, 2022 - Closed Session
    - November 15, 2022 - Regular City Council Meeting
  - b. Consideration of an Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a Deed of Easement to Prince George County for the purpose of a sanitary sewer force main realignment. **(moved)**
  - c. A request to schedule a public hearing to amend the FY23 Budget and appropriate funding to the YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association) – **January 17**

Motion to remove item b from consent agenda and approve the remainder of the agenda - approved.

8. Official Public Hearings

a. A public hearing for the consideration of an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and ILM Group towards the sale of City-owned property at 118 West Street West, parcel ID 024-290024.

Moved to January 17 Council meeting - approved.

b. A public hearing for the consideration of an Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and Entrusted Visions, LLC and Abe Development, LLC towards the sale of City-owned property at 1022 High Pearl Street, parcel ID 044-070009.

No Public Comments.

Approved.

c. A public hearing and consideration of an ordinance approving an amendment to proffers previously adopted with the zoning for the properties located at 1200, 1220, 1225, and 1255 Harrison Creek Boulevard.

Tabled and sent to Planning Commission for recommendation – approved.

d. A public hearing on December 13, 2022, for the consideration of an Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and SFG Developers towards the sale of City-owned property at 421 Jefferson Street South, parcel ID 022-390009.

Public Comments.

Richard Stewart

Question - if a house is in a historic district and you make repairs, do you have to repair the house according to the requirements of the historical district?

Approved. Councilman Cuthbert no.

e. A Public Hearing and consideration of an Ordinance authorizing the vacation of Right of Way along River Street between 3rd Street and 5th Street.

Applicant asked to move to January 17, 2023 Council meeting - approved.

Tribute to Councilwoman Treska Wilson-Smith for her 12 years of service on City Council.

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

Barbara Hoosier

Submitted a petition for an elected Mayor – questioned why Council has taken no action. Commented on City renting building for social services for over \$400,000 per year.

City Council is not required to take action on a petition submitted. The Commonwealth of Virginia pays 85% of the rent on building where social services is housed.

Richard Stewart

Commented on no stop light on MLK bridge leading to Pocahontas Island. He is stated there are homeless living under the MLK bridge.

Barb Rudolph

Recognized contribution of Councilwoman Wilson-Smith. Questioned if City does not sell land it owns, then what will be done with the properties.

The City has sold many properties and is advertising properties for sale on GovDeals.

Jeff Fleming

Stated that he feels there is one councilmember who treats all as being in a courtroom and that maybe that councilmember does not want to the City to improve.

Cory Harris

Thanked Councilwoman Wilson-Smith for her service. Stated city priorities should be crime and poverty, and that he is done with the politics in Petersburg.

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

Councilman Cuthbert

Questioned status of removing Solomon's Porch sign since case to keep sign was lost in VA Supreme Court.

City must be aggressive on recruiting supply chain companies for Pharma Cluster expansion. Former hospital site should be marketed to supply chain pharma companies.

Addressed Ms. Hoosier's petition on elected mayor. He does not support.

Councilwoman Wilson-Smith

Thanked Council and audience for honoring her service. Recognized Sheriff Crawford on her recent nationwide appointment. Stated the City still needs processes, procedures, and policies. Stated she never said she did not want

to help former council member John Hart, but she did not think proper procedure was followed even though city attorney stated there were no violations of procedures or law.

Councilman Westbrook

Thanked non-profits in City. Asked citizens to register their dogs as required by law. Concerned about attendance in school and social promotion.

Councilman Myers

Asked for update from Public Works on transformer that went out at Albert Jones field. Stated that he will miss Councilwoman Wilson-Smith.

Vice Mayor Smith-Lee

Commended Calvary Temple Church for keeping area of City clean around the church.

Mayor Parham

Thanked Councilman Wilson-Smith for her service. Asked citizens to attend meeting with The Cordish Companies on December 19 to ask questions about the entertainment/casino complex.

11. Items removed from Consent Agenda
  - 7b. Consideration of an Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a Deed of Easement to Prince George County for the purpose of a sanitary sewer force main realignment.  
**Approved.**
12. Finance and Budget Report  
**None.**
13. Unfinished Business
  - a. Consideration of an Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and Harold Beasley towards the sale of City-owned property at 215 Jones Street South, parcel 023-280005.  
**Approved.**
  - b. Consideration of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to exercise the right of reversion and amend the development agreement between the City of Petersburg and Griffin Cigar, LLC for the property at 108 East Washington Street.  
**Approved.**
14. New Business
  - a. Consideration of a resolution supporting the efforts to use the Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool (RAFT) to enhance resiliency in Petersburg.  
**Approved.**

b. Consideration of a “Fleets Branch Stream Restoration” Project – Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU).

Approved.

c. Consideration of a resolution supporting the Virginia America 250 Commission.

Approved.

d. Consideration of a resolution of support for Richard Bland College transition to an independent governance structure.

Approved.

15. City Manager's Report

a. Presentation on Code Enforcement Efforts.

No action required.

b. Presentation from Dominion Energy on Smart Meters.

No action required.

16. Business or reports from the Clerk

None.

17. Business or reports from the City Attorney

None.

18. Adjournment