



COUNCIL

Communicates

Highlights from City Council Meetings

March 21, 2023

Petersburg Public Library

City Council Members

Ward 1

Marlow Jones

mjones@petersburg-va.org

Ward 2

Darrin Hill

Vice Mayor

dhill@petersburg-va.org

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

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

4:00pm

1. Roll Call
All present.
2. Closed Session
 - a. The purpose of this meeting is to convene in the closed session pursuant to: (1)§2.2-3711(A)(1) 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 a specific public officer of the City of Petersburg; and under §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 business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community; and under §2.2-3711(A)(29) of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of discussion regarding the subject matter of a 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 public contract.

Motion approved to come out of closed session.

Motion approved to add MOU for Sports Complex at Petersburg High School to agenda.

Motion approved for MOU for Sports Training Facility at Petersburg High School.

Resolution approved for City and Schools to work together on broadband.

3. Adjournment

Regular Council Meeting

5:00pm

1. Roll Call
All present.
2. Prayer
Led by Vice Mayor 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. A proclamation designating March 2023 as Procurement Month.
Accepted by City Procurement Office.
 - b. A proclamation designating March 2023 as American Red Cross Month.
Accepted by Red Cross.
6. Responses to Previous Public Information Posted
Council Communicates.
7. Approval of Consent Agenda (to include minutes of previous meetings):
 - a. Minutes:
 - February 21, 2023 - Closed Session
 - February 21, 2023 - Regular Council Meeting
 - March 7, 2023 - Closed Session**Approved.**
8. Official Public Hearings
 - a. A public hearing and Consideration of an Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and Elvin Snead towards the sale of City owned property at 137 Market Street, parcel ID 022-180011.
No public comments.
Motion approved to table to 2nd Council meeting in April.

b. A public hearing and Consideration of an Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and 123 Halifax, LLC towards the sale of City owned property at 123 Halifax Street, parcel ID 022-180025.

Public Hearing

Julian Greene – opposed to approving containers in historical area.

Roland Stokes – opposed to approving containers. Need plan for historic Triangle.

Motion to deny request approved.

c. A public hearing and consideration of an Ordinance amending the City of Petersburg Code of Ordinances, Appendix B. Zoning, to add definitions of Group Home and Assisted Living Facility.

Public Hearing

Richard Stewart – City is required to follow State code.

Roland Stokes – Questioned if the Ordinance will allow more group homes.

Diane Curling – Hopes code change will prevent future facilities like Fillmore Place.

Freda Greenhow – There are multiple group homes in her neighborhood, operating as businesses. She requested more regulation of businesses like group homes in neighborhoods.

Celeste Wynn – Concerned about commercial group homes on Fillmore Street.

Motion approved.

d. A public hearing and consideration of an Ordinance amending the City Code Appendix B. Zoning Text – To amend Article 4-A. "A" Agricultural District Regulations, Section 9. Special requirements, to permit a subdivision that creates one parcel that meets the dimension requirements of lots/parcels in the R-1A District.

Public Hearing

Richard Stewart – Questioned if farm animals effect residential land zoning?

Motion approved. Councilors Cuthbert and Westbrook voted no.

e. A public hearing and consideration of an Ordinance approving the expansion of the Local Historic District regulations to individual properties listed on the attached list that are also listed on the National Register of Historic Places, therefore requiring a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) before any exterior changes are made.

Public Hearing

Julian Greene/Thelma Jefferson – Peabody complex is historic and should be in a historic district.

Richard Stewart - Pocahontas Island is on the historical register, but not a historical district. When property is located in a historical district, changes must be approved by the ARB.

Yvette Wilson - Preserve history and support the Peabody project.

Bobby Beverly – Stated that as a historian there are many things wrong with this ordinance.

Roland Stokes – City Council is responsible for security of Peabody High School.

Joe Battiston – He stated fear of some properties falling into total disrepair.

Eric Williams – His residence is on the list. He is concerned if he would be able to afford to have his house repaired.

Bruce Richardson – As a real estate agent he finds selling properties in historic districts more difficult.

Motion approved to table until 2nd meeting in May. Councilors Myers and Hill voted no.

f. A public hearing on the consideration of an Ordinance authorizing the City Manager and City Attorney to take all necessary action to facilitate the conveyance of an easement to Dominion Energy at 125 N Union St, parcel ID 011-250041. No public comments.

Approved. Councilor Cuthbert abstained.

g. A public hearing on the consideration of an Ordinance authorizing the City Manager and City Attorney to take all necessary action to facilitate the conveyance of an easement to Dominion Energy at 920 E. Wythe St, parcel ID 012-340006. No public comments.

Approved.

h. A public hearing amending the FY23 Budget to appropriate additional local match funding to Petersburg Public Schools in the amount of \$1,665,419 as well as additional State aid received for the Petersburg Library in the amount of \$43,178 for March 21, 2023.

Public Hearing

Yvette Wilson - Supports school system, invest in Petersburg's future.

Richard Stewart – Questioned \$3M surplus not spent by Schools from City funding.

Funds for Library approved. School's request for funding tabled until April 18 meeting.

i. A public hearing and consideration of appropriation ordinance for the allocation of the 2nd Tranche of the ARPA funding provided to the City.

No public comments.

Approved. Councilor Jones abstained.

j. A public hearing and consideration of an ordinance to amend and re-adopt the Petersburg City Code to add Chapter 21 to create an "Arts Council".

No public comments.

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 – suggested State of the City address and need to address speeding in City.

Pete Stith – Introduced new director of 4-H Center in Wakefield.

Otis Hill – Asked about safety detectors for people who are deaf and how City communicates with deaf residents when there is an emergency.

Bruce Richardson – Announced free classes on home ownership.

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

Councilor Cuthbert

March 28 at 5:30pm Joint Ward 1 & 4 meeting at Bethany Church. Topic is blighted buildings. Asked residents to email photos and locations of streetlights that are out.

Councilor Jones

Apologized for long closed session, but Council stated Council can't rush some issues. He requested forum for citizens to learn how to report blight. Announced a Mother's Day concert at the Library. He stated all Department Heads should attend Council meetings. Thanked Mayor and Vice Mayor for mentoring him. He stated he believes he was the missing piece on City Council.

Councilor Westbrook

Discussed need for funding for the arts. Talked about national HBCU Debate Competition recently held at VSU. Reminded citizens to start cutting grass. Stated there is too much speeding on Defense Rd. And there is a need to see a return on investment from schools.

Councilor Myers

Stated that many blighted houses in Ward 4 are now located in Ward 5.

Councilor Smith-Lee

Announced that several news houses are being built in Ward 6. There will be a Ward 6 meeting on May 6 beginning at 6pm at Cool Springs Elementary School. She asked Department Heads to lead by example.

Vice Mayor Hill

Questioned if people living outside of City with no business ties to the City are allowed to speak publicly at City Council meeting. Asked that agenda items open for August Council Advance.

Mayor Parham

Recognized police for their work with teens, PAL and summer basketball league.

11. Items removed from Consent Agenda
None.
12. Finance and Budget Report
None.
13. Unfinished Business
 - a. Consideration of an ordinance to amend and re-adopt the City Code to include Section 98-25 - Bollards for Historic Properties.
Motion approved to table until April meeting.
 - b. Consideration of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to extend the development agreement between the City of Petersburg and Griffin Cigar, LLC for the property at 108 East Washington Street.
Approved.
 - c. Consideration of an ordinance approving a Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment – To amend Article 15. - "B-2" General Commercial District Regulations, Section 2. Use Regulations, by changing permitted uses from those in the "B-1" Shopping Center District to those permitted in the "R-3" Two-Family Residence District and requiring a Special Use Permit for Multi Dwelling in B-2 and B-3 districts.
Approved. Councilor Myers abstained.
 - d. Consideration of approval of a Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Grant Contract and authorization for the City Manager to execute the Agreement.
Approved.
14. New Business
 - a. Consideration of A Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a Special Warranty Deed between the City of Petersburg and the Petersburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority for property designated as Lot 4 on the property addressed as 1400 Farmer Street, the location of the Pecan Acres Housing Development.
Approved.

b. Consideration of an appropriation for a High Hazard Potential Dam (HHPD) Grant awarded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and allocated by the VA Department of Conservation and Recreation in the amount of \$92,137.50 to be used for design costs associated with the ultimate improvements to bring the Wilcox Lake Dam into compliance with the VA Dam Safety Regulations - 2nd reading.
Approved.

c. Consideration of a Resolution to Approve National Opioid Settlement - Teva and Allergan - CVS, Walgreens and Walmart.
Approved.

15. City Manager's Report
 - a. Presentation of TLC Renewal 2023-2024.
Motion to table to April 4 meeting approved.
16. Business or reports from the Clerk
None.
17. Business or reports from the City Attorney
None.
18. Adjournment