



# COUNCIL

## Communicates

### Highlights from City Council Meetings

**April 18, 2023**

Petersburg Public Library

#### City Council Members

Ward 1

**Marlow Jones**

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

Ward 2

**Darrin Hill**

**Vice Mayor**

[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**

[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 the official minutes are not posted until approved by City Council.

#### Closed Session Meeting

3:00 PM

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)(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; and under §2.2-3711(A)(7) and (8) of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of receiving legal advice an 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 matters requiring the legal advice of the City Attorney.  
**A motion was approved to end the closed session.**
3. Adjournment  
**Approved.**

## Regular City Council Meeting

5:00 PM

1. Roll Call  
**All present.**  
  
**The Mayor held a moment of silence in honor of Richard Stewart.**
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 presentation from Interface Studio, LLC on the Downtown 2040 Master Plan for Petersburg, VA.  
**No action was taken.**
6. Responses to Previous Public Information Posted  
**Council Communicates.**
7. Approval of Consent Agenda (to include minutes of previous meetings):
  - a. Minutes:  
-April 4, 2023 - Closed Session Meeting
  - b. A request to schedule a public hearing on the consideration of an appropriation ordinance for grants for Poor Creek Service Area, South Central Wastewater Treatment Plant, Lock's Watermain, & Emergency Public Safety Communications System, Virginia Tourism Corporation Marketing at the May 16, 2023, regular city council meeting.  
**Approved.**
8. Official Public Hearings  
**Will be held on April 25, 2023.**
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.

**Cheryl Brown**

Thanked City for the newsletter. Commented that the City is cleaner and presents better.

**Otis Hill**

Mr. Hill gave Council members smoke detector information designed for the deaf.

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

Councilman Cuthbert

Announced Wards 1 & 4 joint meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 27 at 5:30 pm. Acknowledged the death of Richard Stewart. Thanked Neighborhood Services for progress being made on Grove Ave. and N. Jefferson St.

Councilman Jones

Special recognition of Richard Stewart. Thanked residents for believing in him and Council. Stated that the intent of the Council is to be most effective. A reminder of the Mother's Day concert at the Library on May 7.

Councilman Westbrook

Discussed the uptick in trash in sections of the City. Asked the public to assist Public Works in cleaning up trash and cutting grass. Stated that the river trail has too much graffiti and it should be removed. Asked about the policy for memorials placed in front of houses and city right-of-ways. Would like to see more residents volunteering. He gave condolences to Richard Stewart's family. Thanked Tri-City Habit for Humanity for demolishing a blighted house on Summit Street and plans to build a new house on the property.

Councilman Myers

No comments.

Councilwoman Annette Smith-Lee

Spoke of Richard Stewart and that he will be missed. Announced May 13 as VSU graduation.

Vice Mayor Hill

Thanked Public Works and Police Department for hard work for Governor's visit. Spoke of the encouraging words of Richard Stewart about Petersburg. Stated that

the 5K Run held in Petersburg was a success. Petersburg is on the move. Stay positive.

Mayor Parham

Richard Stewart will be missed. Stated that over 2,000 people attended the Jazz Festival at Richard Bland. Announced Ward 3 meeting on April 24. Thanked Public Works for keeping the City clean. Thanked Police Department for keeping the City safe. The first baseball game at Sports Complex for Richard Bland is on April 19.

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 Chapter 98 - Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places, to include Section 98-25 - Bollards for Historic Properties.  
**Motion approved to amend and readopt City Code.**
14. New Business
  - a. Consideration of a Resolution Approving the Development Agreement for development of 703 Bank Street, 716 Wythe Street, and 801 Bank Street, Petersburg, Virginia Between the City of Petersburg and New Light, LLC.  
**Motion approved to table. Councilman Myers voted no.**
  - b. Consideration of a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to amend the development agreement between the City of Petersburg and Tri-Cities Habitat for Humanity for the property at 835 Commerce Street.  
**Approved.**
  - c. Consideration of a Resolution affirming the commitment to fund the locality share of projects under agreement with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and provide signature authority to the City Manager to execute all agreements and/or addendums for any approved projects with (VDOT).  
**Approved.**
  - d. Consideration of an appropriation ordinance for the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Fire Programs Fund - Aid to Localities, Funding Carryover - 2nd Reading.  
**Approved.**
  - e. Consideration of a resolution approving the submission of the grant application, the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority Cooperative Agreement

and authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents on behalf of the City.

Approved.

15. City Manager's Report  
Commended City departments for work making Governor's visit a success. Thanked Parks & Rec for successful events.
16. Business or reports from the Clerk  
None.
17. Business or reports from the City Attorney  
None.
18. Adjournment