



COUNCIL

Communicates

Highlights from City Council Meetings

October 17, 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 the official minutes are not posted until approved by City Council.

City Council Closed Session

3:00 pm

1. Roll Call

All present. Councilman Jones arrived late.

2. Closed Session

The purpose of this meeting is to convene in the closed session pursuant to:

a. The purpose of this meeting is to convene in the closed session pursuant to: §2.2-3711(A)(3) of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and 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; under §2.2-3711(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 Petersburg Circuit Court Case CL22000681-00; Code of Virginia 2.2-3700 et. seq.; and other matters requiring the legal advice of the City Attorney; under §2.2-3711(29) of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of discussion regarding the subject matter of a public contract involving the expenditures 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 under §2.2-3711 (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 the discussion of the performance, assignment, and appointment of a specific public officer of the City of Petersburg.

Motion approved to return City Council to open session and certify the purposes of the closed session.

Motion approved to authorize the city manager and city attorney to amend the purchase agreement on the Harvell Dam Exchange to facilitate acceptance of the property from either the trust or estate to complete the transactions.

Motion approved to authorize the city manager and city attorney to offer and settle Petersburg Circuit Court Case No.: CL22000681-00 upon the terms specified in closed session. If such terms are not accepted, the city shall initiate the case.

Motion approved to authorize the city manager and city attorney to amend the MOU with Waukeshaw Development concerning the prospective purchase of real property contingent upon the closing of the timing.

Motion approved to authorize the city manager and city attorney to execute the MOU with People's Advantage Federal Credit Union with the proposed amendment to paragraph 2 to indicate 'to the extent permitted under Virginia Law.'

3. Adjournment

Regular Council Meeting

5:00 pm

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. Presentation of proclamation designating the month of October 2023 as Breast Cancer Awareness Month

6. Responses to Previous Public Information Posted
Council Communicates
7. Approval of Consent Agenda (to include minutes of previous meetings):
 - a. Minutes:
 - October 3, 2023 - Closed Session
 - October 3, 2023 - Work Session
 - b. Consideration of ordinance appropriation for 508516-LE ARPA - Law Enforcement Equipment Grant - 1st Reading
Approved.
8. Official Public Hearings
 - a. A public hearing for the consideration of an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a Pilot Operating Agreement with Bird Rides, Inc. to establish a Stand-up Electric Scooter sharing system within the City of Petersburg - 2nd Reading 1-year pilot year / 90-day notice of termination

Jeff Fleming

Raised concerns about safety and costs.

Genevieve Lohr

Raised concern about scooters blocking wheelchair access areas.

Gary Talley

Street conditions are too poor for scooters.

Barb Rudolph

Scooters will not benefit the city.

Michael Edwards

Concerned about the safety of scooters.

Motion to deny approved.

- b. A public hearing and consideration of an ordinance recommending approval of a petition for a special use permit at the property located at 2744 South Crater Road for a hand car wash and detailing use in B-2, General Commercial, District.

Jeff Fleming

Concerned about the number of car washes in the city.

Motion to deny approved.

c. Consideration of a public hearing on the Master Development Agreement between City of Petersburg and the Virginia Development Consortium for "Sycamore Grove" and "Adams North" Projects.

Barb Rudolph

Concerned that the Council packet did not contain complete information on this project.

Jeff Fleming

Concerned a project timeline was not included in the packet.

Gary Talley

Thinks it's a wonderful project but questioned the condition of the infrastructure to handle the project.

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.

Genevieve Lohr

Gave Council data regarding the number of residents in the city receiving social services.

Barb Rudolph

Distributed health insurance cost documents to City Council members, city attorney, and city manager. Concerned that every year the City states it runs out of time to look for a better health insurance provider.

The City is issuing an RFP to health insurance providers for better benefits and lower costs.

Ken Pritchett

Questioned recent court case regarding 1917 Powhatan and requested consensus by the City on restoring duplexes and historic houses with tin roofs.

A judgment was obtained for \$1,750 against the property owner of 1917 Powhatan in January 2023. In September 2023, a default judgment was issued for \$2,100.

Paula Chester

Why are red and green trash cans lined up in front of businesses on Sycamore Street? It's an eyesore.

Residents and businesses should place trash containers at the curb the night before or the morning of collection. Containers should be removed from the curb within a day.

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

Councilman Cuthbert

Discussed employee health insurance process and criminal charges against blighted property owners.

Councilman Jones

Encouraged people to visit Resolution Winery on W. Washington Street. Discussed the mindset behind having guns. Suggested that the city conduct background checks on all future developers.

Councilman Westbrook

Discussed gun culture in Europe.

Councilman Myers

No comments.

Vice Mayor Hill

Stated that the Council has difficult decisions to make and that they are trying to make the best decisions for future generations. All projects should be vetted on whether they will work for Petersburg.

Mayor Parham

Thanked Centene for the NFL event at schools and thanked the School Board for meeting with the bond council on building a new elementary school. Mentioned several upcoming events.

11. Items removed from Consent Agenda

None.

12. Finance and Budget Report

None.

13. Unfinished Business

a. Consideration of an Ordinance approving a Petition to rezone the property located at 3287 County Drive from B-2 General Commercial Zoning District to M-1 Light Industrial Zoning District.

Motion approved to defer until Prince George considers the development.

14. New Business
 - a. Consideration of a resolution to apply for \$975,000 of Industrial Revitalization Funds for The Hotel Petersburg Project for the rehabilitation of 20 Tabb Street. - 2nd Reading
Staff requested this item be removed from the agenda.
 - b. Consideration of appointment/s to the Community Development Block Grant Advisory Board.
Motion approved to table until 2nd meeting in November.
15. City Manager's Report
 - a. A Communications / Presentation Request for Independence Hydrogen to introduce their company before City Council.
16. Business or reports from the Clerk
None.
17. Business or reports from the City Attorney
None.
18. Adjournment