



# COUNCIL

## Communicates

### Highlights from City Council Meetings

January 7, 2025

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**

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Ward 6

**Anette Smith-Lee**

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

Ward 7

**Arnold Westbrook**

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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](http://www.petersburg-va.org)

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

#### Organizational Meeting

3:00 pm

1. Roll Call  
**All were present on rollcall except Councilman Jones.**
2. Determination of the Presence of a Quorum  
**Quorum present.**
3. Business or reports from the Mayor or other Members of the City Council
  - a. Nomination and Appointment of Mayor
  - b. Nomination and Appointment of Vice Mayor
  - c. Consideration of a Resolution to Amend and Readopt the Rules of the City of  
**A motion was approved to re-elect Mayor Sam Parham and Vice Mayor Darrin Hill and adopt no changes to the Rules of Council.**
4. Adjournment

## **Closed Session**

3:30 pm

1. Roll Call  
**All present.**
2. Closed Session  
The purpose of this meeting is to convene in the closed session pursuant to:  
a. §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
3. Adjournment

## **Council Work Session**

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. Special Reports
  - a. Data Center Presentation - Buddy Rizer, Executive Director, Department of Economic Development with Loudoun Virginia Economic Development, and Michael Zuraf, AICP, Director of Planning and Zoning in Stafford County  
Public Hearing on Data Center Land Option  
Barb Rudolph  
Ms. Rudolph questioned the sale price of the land vs the assessed value. She stated that the Council should consider that the land is more valuable than the going rate and that more information about the development from the group requesting the development agreement is needed.  
Professor Witiak  
She stated that power lines have a huge impact and asked for more information before selling the land. A previous drought was referenced concerning the amount of water some data centers may use. The noise level of data centers was also questioned. Council was asked to slow down on the sale of the land.

A motion was approved to suspend the Rules of Council.

A motion was approved to move item 8a up in the agenda: A Public Hearing for the Consideration of an Ordinance to Authorize the City Manager to Execute an Option Agreement and Convey Property Upon Satisfaction of Terms.

Item 8a was approved.

b. Petersburg's Community Forest Revitalization Program Review from the Green Infrastructure Center

No action taken.

## 6. Public Comments

### Professor Witiak

She thanked everyone who had worked on the Farmer Street tree plantings. Some free trees are available, and she asked that the public contact her if they wanted one. She mentioned that one of the proposed sites for a data center is in a major tree area, so a plan for replacing trees is needed. Through VSU, a grant for \$50,000 was received to remove dead trees in Poplar Lawn Park. She asked when there would be an update on the Courthouse project.

### Barb Rudolph

Ms. Rudolph stated that the trees being trimmed by Dominion Power around the power lines look horrible. She asked that the City coordinate with Dominion on tree trimming. Education on trees is important. She stated that the Council did a good job of keeping the organizational meeting low-key, and she was glad the Rules of the Council were not changed.

### Pastor Davis

The Pastor asked who would speak for the little boy. He invited Council members to an upcoming community event at the Library on January 11. He also referenced that the median household income is much lower in Petersburg than in Loudoun or Prince William Counties. He is concerned that children in Petersburg suffer from a lack of education.

### Bobby Beverly

Mr. Beverly read a statement about a November 19 incident, referencing poor leadership in the City and stating that the people of the South are slower.

### Marko Thomas

Mr. Thomas stated he owns property on Grove Avenue and appreciates a study on trees and improving quality of life.

7. Approval of Consent Agenda (to include minutes of previous meetings):
  - a. Minutes of:  
December 17, 2024, Closed Session  
December 23, 2024, Special Meeting
  - b. First Reading and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of Acceptance and Appropriation of the Virginia State University Public Health Institute (VSUPHI) Health Disparities Grant
  - c. First Reading and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of Acceptance and Appropriation of the VDEM Emergency Management Performance Grant
  - d. First Reading and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of Acceptance and Appropriation of the 2024 Operation Ceasefire Grant Program for the Commonwealth Attorney's Office
  - e. First Reading and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of Acceptance and Appropriation of the FY25 DMV Selective Enforcement Police Traffic Services Grant
  - f. First Reading and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of Acceptance and Appropriation of the FY25 DMV Selective Enforcement Alcohol Grant
  - g. First Reading and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance to Amend and Readopt the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Petersburg Pertaining to Providing Additional Flexibility for Placement of Sandwich Board Signs in Downtown Petersburg
  - h. First Reading and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance Recommending Revocation of the Special Use Permit Granted to Michael and Nina Stanley to Operate a Stand-Alone Used Vehicle Sales Lot at 1024 West Washington Street, Parcel ID 024270002 in the B-2, General Commercial District for Failure to Comply with Conditions of Approval
  - i. First Reading and Schedule a Public Hearing for the Consideration of an Amendment and Readoption of Chapter 50, Article II of the City Code Pertaining to Noise
  - j. First Reading and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance to Appropriate Funding for the Sports Training Facility (Fieldhouse) at Petersburg High School in the Amount of \$1,900,000
  - k. First Reading & Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance to Authorize the Refund of Taxes Erroneously Paid for Tax Parcel No: 023150003

The consent agenda was approved. Councilman Cuthbert voted no.

8. Official Public Hearing
  - a. A Public Hearing for the Consideration of an Ordinance to Authorize the City Manager to Execute an Option Agreement and Convey Property Upon Satisfaction of Terms

Moved under 5b.

9. Monthly Reports

None.

10. Finance and Budget Report
  - a. Audited FY24 General Fund Balance Update  
Reported that the ACFR was submitted on time. It reflects an increase of \$9.3M to the fund balance. The APA confirmed that the audit was received.
11. Capital Projects Update  
None.
12. Utilities  
None.
13. Streets  
Reviewed crashes on Crater Road, many caused by driver issues.  
Recommendations will be made to the Council at the February Work Session.
14. Facilities  
None.
15. Economic Development  
None.
16. City Manager's Agenda  
The city manager thanked public works, police, and fire for work during the snow storms.
17. Business or reports from the Clerk  
The clerk stated applications are being accepted for economic development, social services, and CDBG boards.
18. Business or reports from the City Attorney  
None.
19. Adjournment