



COUNCIL

Communicates

Highlights from City Council Meetings

March 3, 2026

Petersburg Public Library

City Council Members

Ward 1

Marlow Jones

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Ward 2

Darrin Hill

Vice Mayor

dhill@petersburg-va.org

Ward 3

Samuel Parham

Mayor

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Ward 4

Charles Cuthbert

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Ward 5

W. Howard Myers

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Ward 6

Anette Smith-Lee

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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

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

Closed Session

3:00 pm

1. Roll Call
Councilmen Jones and Westbrook were not present on roll call.
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
 - b. §2.2-3711(A)(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 Discussion of the Performance, Assignment, and Appointment of Specific Public Officers of the City of Petersburg
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. Public Comments
Cindy Perkins
Ms. Perkins expressed her concerns about the health risks posed by data centers situated near residential areas. She opposes data centers and believes a 125-foot setback is insufficient.

Ajani Sekou

Mr. Sekou shared his concerns about the mismanagement of Habitat for Humanity, where he previously volunteered. He noted that the organization has not built a house in over five years, despite receiving CDBG funds in the past. He also mentioned that while a significant amount of merchandise is coming in, it is not being utilized, and the building is not being properly maintained. He emphasized that people rely on these services, but they are not being delivered. Additionally, he plans to raise awareness of these issues and mentioned that he needs two trash cans for his business.

Anna Cordic

Ms. Cordic addressed concerns about parking arrangements. She explained that the law firm employees she represents have been parking at the site of the new courthouse, where they have paid the City for eight parking spots for many years. They are requesting to transfer their parking permits to the Monroe Parking Lot across the street.

Dr. Rosezelia Weaver-Roy

Dr. Roy expressed gratitude to Council for promoting economic investment in Petersburg, noting that data centers have the potential to generate significant revenue. However, she pointed out that many residents lack an understanding of what a data center is. She also highlighted that Petersburg has been the unhealthiest City in Virginia for many years and emphasized that there is substantial data on the negative impacts of data centers.

Wendy Austin

Ms. Austin congratulated Council on the successful opening and operation of the South Side Depot, as well as on the bond refinancing achievement. She urged Council not to lose sight of the plastic bag tax and expressed hope that it will be revisited. She also shared suggestions regarding the draft zoning process, noting that it has been ongoing for two years and is a publicly vetted document. Additionally, she inquired about what to expect with the development of data centers. She thanked the Council members for their service.

Linda Muhammad

Ms. Muhammad, a spiritual advisor and chaplain at VSU, raised concerns about transportation for VSU students attending Friday prayer (Jumu'ah) in Richmond. Several students noted that the bus routes do not connect, making travel difficult. Since Jumu'ah is mandatory for men, and Uber is costly, they are seeking an extension of the city bus route to Richmond. While Jumu'ah is available at VSU, many students still wish to attend the prayer in Richmond.

6. Approval of Consent Agenda (to include minutes of previous meetings):
 - a. Minutes of Previous Meetings:
 - February 17, 2026 Closed Session Meeting
 - February 17, 2026 City Council Meeting
 - b. First Read and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance to Approve a Request by Ibrahim Al Tamimy, on behalf of 601 E Wythe St LLC, for a Special Use Permit to Operate a Stand-Alone Vehicle Repair Shop/Automobile Service Station at 601 East Wythe Street, Parcel ID 012270012, in the B-2, General Commercial Zoning District.
 - c. First Read and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Amendment to the FY26 Grants Fund Budget.
 - d. First Read and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Amendment to the FY26 Utilities Fund Budget & FY26 Streets Fund Budget.
 - e. First Read and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Amendment to the Code of Ordinance, Section 106-109, Real Estate Tax, to Change Elderly and Disabled Gross Amount; and Section 106-112, Change the Amount of the Exemption.

Approved.
7. Special Reports
 - a. Tax Relief for Elderly and Disabled Presentation - Brittany Flowers, Master Commissioner of the Revenue.
An increase in Tax relief for the elderly was suggested.
No action taken.
8. Monthly Reports
None.

9. Finance and Budget Report
 - a. Department of Finance Monthly Update
All tracking well to budget year-to-date.
No action taken.
10. Capital Projects Update
None.
11. Utilities
 - a. Department of Public Works and Utilities
An update was presented on infrastructure projects, including Poor Creek, Lock's Watermain, Lead Line Replacement, Oak Hill Bridge, Downtown Parking Lots, and Sidewalks.
No action taken.
12. Streets
None.
13. Facilities
None.
14. Economic Development
None.
15. City Manager's Agenda
The city manager clarified that Real Estate Tax bills sent to mortgage companies were also mailed to property owners. Additionally, a public notice regarding this matter had been issued.
16. Business or Reports From the Clerk
None.
17. Business or Reports From the City Attorney
None.
18. Adjournment