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The regular meeting of the Petersburg City Council was held on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at the Petersburg Public Library. Mayor Parham called the meeting to order at 5:25 p.m.

**1. ROLL CALL:**

Present:

Council Member Charles Cuthbert, Jr.  
Council Member Marlow Jones  
Council Member Annette Smith-Lee  
Council Member W. Howard Myers  
Council Member Arnold Westbrook, Jr.  
Vice Mayor Darrin Hill  
Mayor Samuel Parham

Absent: None

Present from City Council Administration:

Clerk of Council Nykesha D. Lucas  
City Manager John March Altman, Jr.  
City Attorney Anthony C. Williams

**2. PRAYER:**

Mayor Parham stated, "Vice Mayor Hill will lead us in our opening prayer."

Vice Mayor Hill led the council meeting in prayer.

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Mayor Parham led council and the citizens in the pledge of allegiance.

**4. DETERMINATION OF THE PRESENCE OF A QUORUM:**

A quorum was determined with the presence of all city council members.

**5. PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATION OF CEREMONIAL PROCLAMATIONS:**

- a. Proclamation for recognizing the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration designating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in the City of Petersburg.

Mayor Parham read the proclamation aloud and presented it to Wayne Crocker, Director of Petersburg Public Library, to hang in the library.

**6. RESPONSES TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC INFORMATION PERIOD:**

Mayor Parham stated, "That is under council communicates."

**7. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA (to include minutes of previous meeting/s)**

- a. Consideration of an appropriation in the amount of \$10,158 from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for the City of Petersburg's Litter Prevention and Recycling Program activities for FY23 – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

\*Audio available upon request.

Council Member Myers made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Council Member Jones seconded the motion. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Jones, Smith-Lee, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, and Parham

**8. OFFICIAL PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

- a. A public hearing on the consideration of an ordinance authorizing the city manager to execute a 2-year lease agreement between Marwaha Real Estate, LLC and the City of Petersburg for emergency telecommunications equipment, cabling, and antennae located on the exterior and in the interior of the property at 30 Franklin Street.

**BACKGROUND:** In the past, the City has leased the “premises” for the emergency telecommunications equipment, cabling, and antennae located on the exterior and in the interior of the property at 30 Franklin Street. The equipment was installed in the 2006/2007-time frame.

\$60,000 (\$2,500 per month for 24 months)

**RECOMMENDATION:** Recommend that City Council approves the lease for the Public Safety Equipment located at 30 Franklin Street.

Randal Williams, Assistant Director of Public Works and Utilities, gave a brief overview on the request.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

Barbara Rudolph, 1675 Mt. Vernon Street, stated, “I have a lot of questions about this one. First to start off with, I did not see this public hearing item earlier on a consent agenda. If you look at most of the other official public hearings on this list, they were on the consent agenda at the last meeting. But I have never seen this one before, so I am kind of questioning how it came out to be a public hearing. I could not find anything on where it came up before. I guess that is a legal question for the city attorney. But responding to what is in the packet. There is something in there and I think that it mentioned 2006, 2007, or 2008. Which made it sound like some of this equipment or antennae was installed in the building then. But it is not clear to me that this is what it is. So, I do not know if this is a new lease going forward or if this is a continuation of something that has been going on for a number of years in that building. Because there needs to be more information on alternatives. Is this new or a continuation? The same concern comes up as did several months ago when the city decided to lease space in that building for economic development and other parts of city government. Since Councilor Myers is the building rental manager its questionable on why the city is doing business with this particular building owner. So, I think those would be good things for the city council to consider. If the equipment does not have to stay, there are other places it can be. We just do not know much about it. If it is permanently installed in that building and cannot be moved that is one thing. If there is some discretion in going somewhere else with it and eliminating this perceived conflict of interest even if it is not on some conflict of interest since the business has been done before. I think all of those are concerns then one other thing is we heard recently that the pipes broke in that building and there was a flood. And the space that the Petersburg offices occupied had to move out. I do not know how serious that was. I did hear unofficially that it was kind of service. So, I don’t know if that has any impact on this either. What is the condition of the building? So, while I know you are not probably going to get up there and answer all of my questions, I hope some of you on council are wondering about some of the same things. Thank you.”

Gary Talley, 2323 Fort Rice Street, stated, “I would like to kind of echo the comments. Is there not a city-owned building that we can use for free and spend that money on upgrading our communication system. Right now, I cannot text to 9-1-1. I can in Colonial Heights, Dinwiddie, and Patrick Henry Counties. But not

\*Audio available upon request.

here. I am not the only deaf person in this city. But if I fell at home by myself stuck, I cannot reach out to get help. Use that money more beneficially to the citizens in the city.”

Mayor Parham closed the public hearing.

There was discussion among city council members and staff.

Council Member Cuthbert made a motion to approve the ordinance authorizing the city manager to execute a 2-year lease agreement between Marwaha Real Estate, LLC and the City of Petersburg for emergency telecommunications equipment, cabling, and antennae located on the exterior and in the interior of the property at 30 Franklin Street. Council Member Smith-Lee seconded the motion. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Jones, Smith-Lee, Westbrook, Hill, and Parham; Abstain: Myers

Council Member Myers stated, “For the record, I am going to abstain, but I do not receive any remuneration with respect to this building. I rent at this building, so I do not receive any funding from this building. So, I want to make the citizens understand why I am going to abstain just for the perception.”

**23-ORD-1 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A LEASE AGREEMENT FOR EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, CABLING, AND ANTENNAE CURRENTLY LOCATED AT 30 EAST FRANKLIN STREET.**

- b. A public hearing to amend the FY23 Budget and appropriate funding to the YMCA (Young Men’s Christian Association)

**BACKGROUND:** The City desires to host afterschool programs to provide enrichment and care for students; and whereas, the city and the YMCA desire to enter into an agreement governing the use of the city facilities.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Recommend that council hold a public hearing to amend and appropriate the resolution.

Mr. Altman gave an overview of the request.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

Seeing no hands, Mayor Parham closed the public hearing.

Council Member Cuthbert made a motion to approve the ordinance appropriating funding to the YMCA (Young Men’s Christian Association). Council Member Jones seconded the motion. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, Smith-Lee, and Parham

**23-ORD-2 AN ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED, SAID ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2022, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2023, FOR THE GENERAL FUND, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$190,960.**

- c. A public hearing for the consideration of an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to extend the Technology Zone Capital Investment Grant for AMPAC Fine Chemicals Virginia, LLC for a period of three years, beginning January 1, 2023, and ending December 31, 2026, in the amount to be approximately \$570,000, including taxes due for year 2021 and 2022 as stipulated

\*Audio available upon request.

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in the Virginia Economic Development Partnership Commonwealth Opportunity Fund Performance Agreement executed in August 2021.

**BACKGROUND:** The City of Petersburg has designated Technology Zone, identified as the I-95 Technology Zone, that provides a combination of State and Local incentives to promote economic development. On September 4, 2018, City Council designated AMPAC Fine Chemicals Virginia, LLC; hereinafter referred to as AMPAC, as being located within the Technology Zone and approved AMPAC to receive the Technology Zone Capital Investment Grant for five (5) years, 2018-2023, in the amount not to exceed \$250,000 per calendar year. AMPAC is requesting the City Council extend the 2018 and subsequent year incentive previously granted to allow them an additional five (5) years to the previously granted five (5) years (maximum allowable ten (10) years) to qualify for incentives for equipment for calendar year 2016 and 2017 equipment that is still in use, and any idle equipment that is placed in use

On May 1, 2021, the Virginia Economic Development Partnership awarded the City a Commonwealth Development Opportunity Fund Grant in the amount of \$640,000 for AMPAC for the purpose of inducing the company to renovate, equip, improve and operate a pharmaceutical manufacturing and processing facility in Petersburg, VA; thereby making a significant Capital Investment, and creating and maintaining a significant number of new jobs. The performance agreement required a local match of a tax credit grant in the amount equal to the machinery and tools tax due from AMPAC for the five years of the facility beginning January 1, 2021, and ending December 31, 2026, which amount is estimated to be approximately \$570,000. The City of Petersburg wishes to extend the Technology Zone Capital Investment Grant for AMPAC for a period of three years, beginning January 1, 2023, and ending December 31, 2026, in the amount to be approximately \$570,000, including taxes due for year 2021 and 2022 as stipulated in the COF Performance Agreement executed in August 2021.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of the request for a period of three (3) additional years (beginning January 1, 2023, and ending December 31, 2026, in the amount to be approximately \$570,000, including taxes due for year 2021 and 2022 as stipulated in the COF Performance Agreement executed in August 2021.

Brian Moore, Director of Economic Development, gave an overview of the request.

Els0 DiFranco, General Manager of AMPAC, gave an update and overview of AMPAC.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

Barbara Rudolph, 1675 Mt. Vernon Street, stated, "Again I just have questions. I apologize but I read this several days ago, but I think that my recollection was that a part of this, the city would be forgoing machine and tools tax. Is that part of the agreement? I think that my comment would be that maybe if that is the policy of how you are going to deal with all the companies that are part of the pharmaceutical cluster, I think that maybe it would good to look at overall if there is a policy direction that the city wants to take. So, instead of coming in and doing something like this it is part of an incentive package. That is what I am trying to get at. I know that you have to do this now, but it is suggested the possibility of doing something like that since AMPAC is going to get what other companies think are concession or special privileges, you may want to think about the implications of that. If that is the direction that you want to take going forward, then you create a policy or statement so that you know how to deal with others. And perhaps it may attract other businesses to come into your pharmaceutical cluster area. Thanks."

Seeing no further hands, Mayor Parham closed the public hearing.

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to approve the ordinance as proposed. Council Member Myers

\*Audio available upon request.

seconded the motion. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Jones, Smith-Lee, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, and Parham

**23-ORD-3 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXTEND THE TECHNOLOGY ZONE CAPITAL INVESTMENT GRANT FOR AMPAC FINE CHEMICALS VIRGINIA, LLC, FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS, BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2023, AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026, IN THE AMOUNT TO BE APPROXIMATELY \$570,000, INCLUDING TAXES DUE FOR YEAR 2021 AND 2022 AS STIPULATED IN THE VIRGINIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP COMMONWEALTH OPPORTUNITY FUND PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT EXECUTED IN AUGUST 2021.**

Mayor Parham stated, "Thank you Mr. DiFranco for all that you do."

- d. A public hearing on January 17, 2023, for the consideration of an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and Joel Erb towards the sale of city-owned property at 469 Byrne Street, parcel 031050039.

**BACKGROUND:** The Department of Economic Development received an application on October 31, 2022, from Joel Erb to participate in the auction on GovDeals to purchase City-owned property located at 469 Bryne Street which was a vacant residential lot. On November 8, 2022, at the conclusion of the auction, it was determined that Mr. Erb was the highest bidder. He has submitted to staff the required documentation to prove he has the wherewithal to purchase the property. The proposed use of the property is to adjoin the property to his adjacent residential property located at 115 Jolly Alley and maintain it as open space. Staff have attached an addendum to the purchase agreement (see attached) that requires the following "The Purchaser agrees that the property located at 469 Byrne Street will remain open space. This agreement shall be incorporated into the Deed of Conveyance of the property from the city to the purchaser and shall run with the land." The purchaser's signature on the Addendum will be provided during the presentation to council prior to the council vote.

The proposed purchase price for the parcel is \$2500, which is 50% of the assessed value, \$5000. The purchaser will also pay all applicable closing costs.

This proposal is in compliance with the Guidelines for the City's Disposition of City Real Estate Property, Zoning, and the City's Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

**Property Information**

The zoning of the parcel at 469 Byrne Street is zoned R-3, a two-family residential district.

Address: 469 Byrne Street

Tax Map ID: 031050039

Zoning: R-3

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommend City Council makes a motion to approve the sale.

Brian A. Moore, Director of Economic Development, gave a briefing on the consideration of an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and Joel Erb towards the sale of city-owned property at 469 Byrne Street, parcel 031050039.

Joel Erb, petitioner, gave a brief update on the request and property.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

\*Audio available upon request.

Seeing no hands, Mayor Parham closed the public hearing.

There was discussion among city council and staff.

Council Member Myers made a motion to authorize by ordinance the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and Joel Erb towards the sale of city-owned property at 469 Byrne Street, parcel 031050039.

Council Member Cuthbert stated, "Mr. Myers would you add a modification to that motion to add provided that there be no requirement that the property be maintained as open space?"

There was discussion among city council and staff.

Council Member Cuthbert stated, "I will withdraw my request to Councilman Myers, and I will second his motion."

Council Member Cuthbert seconded the motion. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Smith-Lee, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, and Parham; Voting No: Jones

**23-ORD-4 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A PURCHASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF PETERSBURG AND JOEL ERB TOWARDS THE SALE OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY AT 469 BYRNE STREET, PARCEL ID 031050039.**

- e. A public hearing for the consideration of an ordinance authorizing the city manager to execute a lease agreement between the City of Petersburg and the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Motor Vehicles for city-owned property located at 1004 Commerce Street.

**BACKGROUND:** This opportunity came from the Partnership for Petersburg's initiatives to bring state agencies into the city. The Department of Motor Vehicles will rehabilitate the entire site and estimate their improvements will total one (1) million dollars. They would be re-locating from their current location in Chesterfield County.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The staff recommends City Council to approve an adopt the attached ordinance.

Brian Moore, Director of Economic Development, gave an overview of the request.

There was discussion among council and staff.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

Jeff Fleming, 1819 Chuckatuck Avenue, stated, "I am all about stuff coming to Petersburg. We want businesses. But there is something that someone is not looking at. If you go back to the map it looks like trucks will be traveling on that road. Who is going to pay for the road maintenance? You have excessive trucks going around that road. You have trouble enough taking care of what we have. If you go back, if I am not mistaken that is the beginning point then the trucks are going to take this route all the way around through our city. How much truck traffic is that? Who is going to help us with road repairs? And like Mr. Cuthbert said we as well are giving away a parking lot that belongs to that building. And if we sell that building, they have no parking. I think that the state can find somewhere else for it. Thank you."

\*Audio available upon request.

Vernel Gannaway, 652 Old Wagner Road, stated, "I am just listening to this, and I am glad to be back. We are not in a situation where we are going back into the giveaway. I understand that people have the opportunity, but we do not need to be going back. When the next one come then they are going to say go to Petersburg and you can get another giveaway. I do not think that we should get into giveaways. Just like the gentleman said, find somewhere else with the need. That is all I have to say."

Gary Talley, 2323 Fort Rice Street, stated, "I am on the same thing. The improvements that you are talking about is repaving a whole lot. As I recall from the meeting the last two weeks ago, the building was a modular building and not even a permanent structure. So, if we lose control of that maybe they can sell and make a bunch of money for themselves, and we will be left out in the cold. If you sell the Titmus building, where are they going to park."

Barbara Rudloph, 1675 Mt. Vernon Street, stated, "I am sorry to be repetitive, but Mr. Cuthbert took the words right out of my mouth. Everything he said about the Titmus building is really and cannot be ignored. I heard Mr. Moore giving information about room for parking on the adjacent property where the Titmus complex is actually. I like what Mr. Williams had to say about tabling it until another meeting because I think more information needs to be put together and shared. Because right now, and I am glad Mr. Williams insinuated that acquisition clause to make us aware that it is a lease leading to potentially give up the property and regretting it later. But you all have a million dollars invested in buying Titmus. The city has to recover some of that, and I know that you are trying to sell that building. I know that you have applied for the Industrial Revitalization Fund Grant. It is still a key piece of the city's real estate portfolio that is in flux. And it seems like as much as having this DMV Operation would be a positive. I think looking at the bigger picture it is short sited to go with that. So, I do hope that it will be tabled, and I hope that the city will come back with more information. I liked what Mr. Cuthbert said about maybe the Department of Motor Vehicles or the state can come up with something then just putting a modular building there as a testing site."

Joel Erb, 414 Harrison Street, stated, "I just want to add to what everyone else has said. I know this property has had particular interest from developers both within Petersburg and those without. Having a property with parking that is adjacent does deliver value at the end of the day. If we were to deliver a lease that was month to month or quarterly or every six months there were periods where it is not currently being used. It has not been sold. We can generate revenue great. But not restricting for the ability to sale that property to be developed and leverage the lot next to it, I think is important and that you should think through it. There is an incredible amount of opportunity for that property. And I say that as a member of EDA but also as a member of the community that we want to make as much money for the city now but also think about the future opportunities of that property long term."

Richard Stewart, 129 Rolfe Street, stated, "There is an old saying, 'welcome to the poor part of the city.' In that part of the city, the church that Reverend Bonner preaches at, poor folks and bootleggers are in that area. How is this going to affect the noise level in that area? How is this going to erode the roads? How is this going to improve the neighborhoods? The neighborhood is on its way down. And the people around there are not going to say anything but sit on their porch and drink their drinks. It is the poor part of town and they do not have a voice. Take in consideration all of the things that go along with that. That is a gold mine. And if that is a gold mine, make sure that the poor people in that area is not affected by the sound and noise. Think twice before you give that property away. Thank you."

Seeing no further hands, Mayor Parham closed the public hearing.

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to table with the direction of the city attorney for further review and then come back with another presentation. Council Member Westbrook seconded the motion. The motion was approved on roll call. There was discussion on the motion. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Jones, Smith-Lee, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, and Parham

\*Audio available upon request.

- f. Request to hold a public hearing on January 17, 2023, on an ordinance to add Section 2-241 to the City Code reserving the right of council to remove appointed members of boards, commissions, and authorities.

**BACKGROUND:** City Council directed that the City Attorney prepare this item for consideration. Provisions of the Code of Virginia prescribe a statutory means of removal of members appointed by City Council to certain boards, commissions, authorities, and other entities unless the appointing authority [City Council] "is given [or otherwise has lawfully reserved] the unqualified power of removal." In order to ensure that Council retains its ability to remove such appointed members at will, it is recommended that Council incorporate this provision into the City Code.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt the ordinance.

Anthony Williams, City Attorney, gave a brief overview of the request to adopt the ordinance.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

Mary Howard, 608 S. Park Drive, stated, "I was sitting here wondering exactly what this was and what would it entail and what kind of protocol this is. And when I see remove somebody that you all appointed at will, this ordinance is crazy to me. Because you all appoint us. And I am saying that because I sit on one of these boards and on it for 12 years. And for one of you all to say I don't want her there anymore, and I am truly qualified, but that gives you the right to say at-will to remove her. What is unqualified power of removal? At-will you appoint us. Why is this necessary? Because you all appoint us. That is what I have to say. So, I don't know this is about, but it seems like something coming around the corner. Is there any other protocol because at-will is saying if you want her removed then you remove. So, what is the protocol behind what reasons which you have legally to do that. And when I say legally, watch what I am saying, to do that after someone has been appointed at-will. Thank you."

Jeff Fleming, 1819 Chuckatuck Avenue, stated, "I am not the smartest knife in the box, but I look up the definition of unqualified. Unqualified definition is without reservation, limitation, total, and so that means if you do not like the way I look then you are off the books. I think that is hogwash. I can understand removing someone for cause because they messed up or made a mistake. But that gives you too much power. I cannot agree with that. You have to have a reason to remove someone. You cannot just go and say I do not like the way that he looks, and I am going to kick him off the board. Thank you."

Gary Talley, 2323 Fort Rice Street, stated, "I am on the same thing. You appoint us you should be able to take us off. I agree with that wholeheartedly. But it has to be for a cause and not because you do not like someone, or they are passing things along that can conflict with what you all think the way we are going. You should have the power to remove us, but it should be with cause."

Barbara Rudolph, 1675 Mt. Vernon Street, stated, "I appreciate the comment the others have made, in particular Mary Howard and Jeff Fleming. I just wanted to comment, and I am sorry that Mr. Williams has left the table but it is kind of ironic that the council has gone, I mean for many years you all have been talking about what is the procedure on how to appoint people for boards and commissions. And Mr. Williams came up with an excellent presentation a couple of years ago and made a lot of recommendations and I don't think that those were ever adopted. Council cannot seem to agree on how to appoint people to boards and commissions. You don't even have a methodology between each board. But the irony is that you all can get together and remove people. The hard part is getting appointed. We have even had conversations that if some members of council did not like a person, then there was no way that they would ever be appointed. That really did not speak to the qualifications of the citizens. It just spoke to they were not in favor with some members of city

\*Audio available upon request.



council. So, I think that if you are going to do this can you back up and look at the whole process and make this part of it. Because right now you have a crazy quilt of ways in putting people on boards and commissions. But we are going to make sure we have ways to take you off. I am struggling to not curse because I think this is crazy. So, please look at this and the information that Mr. Williams gave you a few years ago. The idea was to develop citizens. This just sounds like you all have problems with someone on the boards and commissions and we want to make sure that it is really easy to make a change. Thanks.”

Vernel Gannaway, 652 Old Wagner Road, stated, “I haven’t been here for a while. But just thinking back that there was a problem really to get people on the board. Then you appoint people on the board and then you want to just come dismiss them because of maybe how they look. We have to do better than this. I do not think none of us sitting here are perfect and a lot of us have flaws. How can you make a jurisdiction that the person that have a flaw based on what you say. Thank you.”

Celeste Wynn, 319 E. Filmore Street, stated, “I did not even know that this was on the agenda. But as an appointed member of a board and a community service member, I am trying to do my part as a citizen. As a resident of the City of Petersburg I think that it is very unfair of the decisions that you are trying to make. I was appointed in 2012. I have learned a lot since I have been on the board of my duties and responsibilities in keeping the historical sites in Petersburg beautiful. So, the idea of you all being able to remove someone just on GP purposes is not to be a valid reason.”

Richard Stewart, 129 Rolfe Street, stated, “I think that if you appoint someone to a board you should have the right to remove them. What boards are you talking about? I do not think that you should be on a committee for the rest of your life like the Supreme Court. What I am saying is that if a person commits like some type of crime or some type of violation against the ordinance then they should be removed. No if Joe Morrissey was on one of these committees, would you all remove him? That is what I am saying. You know what I am saying. You have the right to remove someone off a committee but what I am saying is that it has to be a purpose. Thank you.”

Seeing no further hands, Mayor Parham closed the public hearing.

There was discussion among city council and staff.

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to table until council has a workshop to see how they want to further it and look into how they appoint members and the criteria. Council Member Jones seconded the motion. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Jones, Smith-Lee, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, and Parham

**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.

Richard Stewart, 129 Rolfe Street, stated, “I am back here again about Pocohontas. First thing is that we need a stop light. I thank the police. I called them today because someone had broken down on the bridge and it was dangerous. I thank the police department for coming and solving that. Another thing about

\*Audio available upon request.

Pocohontas is that we have homelessness. Councilman Jones had gone and covered the homeless person. The tents and things are still down there. And I believe once the weather gets warm the homeless person is going to come back. Something needs to be done about that. Another thing about Exit 52, you have torn the Ramada Inn down now what are you going to do with it. Also, 'Exit 52', the former Roper Brothers, every day we get somebody that wants to buy the land Is something going on in Petersburg and the people in Pocohontas do not know about it. Why is everyone making these offers to buy the property. With Exit 52 something needs to be done especially with dredging that river and making downtown Petersburg look perfect. Thank you."

Latisha Washington, 2626 Hatchett Road, stated, "I am also a member of the Richmond Association of Black social Workers. And my apologize in advance for if what I am going to ask has already been addressed in other meetings. Just point me in the right direction to find the answer. So, I read in 2022 the City of Petersburg received funding from the American Rescue Plan Act to implement data informed violence reduction initiatives in the system to support community programs. Can you share any progress that the city has made with the initiative so far? The second thing is that the wait list to get into homeless shelters is long and shelters to my knowledge is not immediate. Also, some people may not know where to get sheltered. What is the city's plan to make shelters more accessible to people in immediate need and how will this information be disseminated?"

V.V.K., 135 Old Street, stated, "I have two safety issues. I have a drag strip going down my street. We had accidents and people got hit. I would like to implicate speed bumps or some kind of limit. People do not stop at the stop signs, and I am afraid to walk in the crosswalk. I would like to have these issues resolved with speed bumps or something. I got that from one of my neighbors. If you put speed bumps it will tear up their cars and they will stop speeding. I call my wheelchair a Cadillac, but I do not have any protection. My other issue is that we have been having armed robberies and break-ins. I would like to implement some cameras to catch some of this and shootings. At 2am I hear a shoot out and it was not just a shootout I thought that I was in the Vietnam War or something. I know that cars were going around. Another thing is that some students from the Governor's school is going to refurbish the sidewalks with art or the one at the Artist and Loft Space. That is about it."

Tyson Lafollette, 129 Spring Street, stated, "I am a part of a community organization. Spring Street is the same way, and I would like to request speed bumps to help control the speeding."

Otis Hill, 2306 N. Whitehill Drive, stated, "I am concerned. About six months ago there was a shooting and I heard gun shots and I am concerned for my home. I remember after the police told me that they had a car out there and that they were watching. And about two years after that they stopped going out there watching. And I want to know what happened. I would like to see the police cars come back so that it is more save in that area. It has been happening often and I would like to see the gun violence in that area decrease. So, I am just worried about that."

#### **10. BUSINESS OR REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR OR OTHER MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL:**

Council Member Cuthbert stated, "I have no report."

Council Member Jones stated, "I have no report."

Council Member Westbrook, stated, "I have a very short report. First of all, thanks everyone for coming out and Happy New Year everybody. I would just like to say that I was very impressed with what occurred this past weekend at Virginia State Innovation Summit. Had a lot of people in the area that had great ideas. And I hope that Petersburg can ride that momentum and bring people that really want to change this area with their good ideas. But one thing that was said there is that change really starts at city council meetings. So, to the

\*Audio available upon request.

five people who came tonight and the others who continue to come, please come to city council, and express yourself at the open forum. Because without you we cannot be held accountable as your city council members. Yes, we have a vision, but we work for you. You put us in this space like those people in those committees and board. And with that also to and not because Mr. Atkinson is here, but it was also said that we need to be more or less control our narrative, good bad and ugly but be voices that can be heard. I know a lot of time people use social media and Facebook to get their perception and opinions out. I think we need to write it down and get it to Mr. Atkinson to put in the newspaper. I do know that we are in an internet age, but we still need the newspaper as an avenue to people to get their thoughts out on how we can move this city forward. And then lastly, I would like people to be more involved in what is going on with the Comprehensive Plan meetings that they are holding for the public. Again, everything is in the same vein on how we can move this city forward. We are trying to get a long-term vision. We do want to win today but we do need everybody to come together and to continue to craft this city's forward progress plan. This is my believe that we need ways to definitely continue to hold, retain, and pull back the city's talent that goes elsewhere because they feel like there is nothing for them here. Finally, I would just like to say that February 1<sup>st</sup> here at the library and we are still in final stages, but there will be a showcase between Virginia State and Petersburg High with a speech and debate competition. But it is more of a showcase. We do want to highlight the intellectual sport of conflict and resolution and basically again public speaking and debate. We can support out young people and let them know that even though they cannot play basketball or run football they can use the intellectual sport of the mind and actually have a way to say that I can see myself as a city council member, a leader, and someone upright who wants to speak for my community. And with that, thank you very much.”

Council Member Myers stated, “Yes, I am going to be very brief. First of all, I want to thank Council Member Cuthbert for attending the grievance meeting at the Artist Space to listen to the tenants there and the troubles that they have been having. It was a very well perceived meeting. We also had the presence of our new Cameron Foundation president. It was quite delightful to have her there to see what is going on in Petersburg for herself. Also, I want to thank Ronnell Johnson and Richard Harris and the Department of Public Works for all that they do for the city. I appreciate you, thank you, and Happy New Year.”

Council Member Smith-Lee stated, “Thank you. First, I would like to say Happy Founder's Day to the members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, 100 years of service to all mankind. Thank you to Marquis Allen. Marquis, excellent program and on Sunday. It was just phenomenal. Also, our keynote speaker was Major General Barry Price, US Retired Army. He shared so many things that I did not know. I thought I was a history buff, but he shared so many things about Martin Luther King that I did not even know. That his original name was Michael. Thank you, Mr. Rodney Stith, for putting on an awesome singing with your band. Best wishes because his album is going to drop in February, and he is going to be here. He is home grown in the City of Petersburg. Also, I want to give a shoutout to our former Councilwoman, Treska Wilson-Smith for her presence on the program for the Black History event. So, that is what I wanted to say. Thank you.”

Vice Mayor Hill stated, “I just want to say Happy New Year to everyone. I hope all of us have a prosperous new year. To our city manager, I think because my business is on Sycamore Street, I have been getting complaints of the chair ramp that we put in front of our fiscal management building. A lot of people say that when they come pass, they almost hit it because it is out in the street. So, I think that we need to relook at it. Maybe we can just have one on one side. I am not sure how we do it. I do know that at the end of the street, I think that we have a dip there. A young lady who lives directly across the street says that she seen people hit it especially at night. Maybe we need to put up something that is more visible so that they will not hit it and mess their cars up. So, that is something that I want us to take a look at. I was not here at the MLK event this past weekend. I was doing the speech at another church that day. I am sorry that I missed it. I did celebrate the life and legacy of Martin Luther King. I am so glad that we have the Ramada Inn down now. Of course, they are cleaning it up now. I just want us to be positive about Petersburg. A lot of good things are coming to the city. I always say that we have to be ready, so we do not have to get ready. Just like today you all spoke up. There are certain that you want in the city and certain things that you do not. We are very transparent about

\*Audio available upon request.

bringing those things to you all. We may not always agree but we all have the best interest for the city at hand. Ward 2 will try to have a meeting around the 1<sup>st</sup> of February. We are trying to find a location because COVID is still going on. There are a lot of restrictions with Good Shepherd Baptist Church where we normally have it. Maybe we will have it here. That should be coming out soon. Other than that, I hope everyone has a prosperous new year.”

Mayor Parham stated, “I want to piggy-back on some of the things that was already stated as well. Council Member Westbrook talked about the Big Dipper Innovation Summit that I was able to be a panelist to talk about our urban development in our city along with Mayor Stoney in Richmond, Mayor Benjamin of South Carolina, and Cedric Green of Dominion Energy. It is always good to come together and talk about our similarities and how we are all trying to create opportunities in our localities. Next, I cannot thank Marquis Allen enough for the event here on Sunday. He packed this place out. We had over 300 who came out. It was a very wonderful event. I have never heard anyone speak on Martin Luther King. Growing up as a kid when you talked about Martin Luther King you think of God or ordinary people. But he really showed how Martin Luther King was an extraordinary man but showed him as an ordinary person. To show that there is a place and person for everyone, find your mission. It starts by ordinary people taking a stand and doing something extraordinary. Also, I had an opportunity to attend another great event at Tabernacle Baptist Church with their Martin Luther King event hosted by Community Transformers. They had a day of service there which was really great. They gave out shots, flu vaccines, and CPR training. Also, something else that I had the opportunity to attend was the ribbon cutting of the Hangry Lion, formerly the old Alexander’s Restaurant. I ask everyone to come out and support the Hangry Lion. That is something that is about Petersburg that is really special. We are so much of a foodie town. The city is still right for development and the continued growth of the downtown area. So, that is all I have so we will move on to next item.”

**11. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA:**

\*There are no items for this portion of the agenda.

**12. FINANCE AND BUDGET REPORT:**

\*There are no items for this portion of the agenda.

**13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

a. Discussion and consideration of the Rules of Council.

**BACKGROUND:** See attached Rules of Council.

**RECOMMENDATION:** To approve by resolution after changes have been made, if any.

Council Member Jones made a motion to adopt the rules as proposed except on page 109 for the work session that we move public comments up to number five. Council Member Cuthbert seconded the motion. There was discussion on the motion. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Jones, Smith-Lee, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, and Parham

**23-R-5 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE RULES OF COUNCIL WITH AMENDMENTS.**

b. Consideration of a resolution to amend the Rules of Council and add Conflict of Interest.

\*Audio available upon request.

**BACKGROUND:** Council requested that the City Attorney prepare and present an amendment to the Rules of Council incorporating a summary of the provisions of the Virginia Conflict of Interest Act into the Rules of Council.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Recommend City Council adopt the resolution.

Council Member Cuthbert made a motion to adopt the resolution. Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

Council Member Smith-Lee made a substitute motion to table action on the item until the second meeting in February to get clarification on some items. Council Member Myers seconded the motion. There was discussion on the motion. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Smith-Lee, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, and Parham; Voting No: Cuthbert and Jones

**14. NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Consideration of a resolution in support of resolutions 22-R-49 and 22-R-50 to authorize the execution, delivery, and performance of certain grant documents to accept funds from the Industrial Revitalization Fund allocated by the General Assembly regarding the acquisition and demolition of the former Ramada Inn Building and the Promotion of Redevelopment of the land.

**BACKGROUND:** The City Council of the City of Petersburg, Virginia, a municipal corporation of the Commonwealth of Virginia (the “City”), adopted Resolutions 22-R-49 and 22-R-50, authorizing the interim City Manager to sign and submit appropriate documents for the submittal of the Industrial Revitalization Fund Proposal. The Department of Housing and Community Development, an agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia (the “Department”), has approved the City’s application for \$1,700,000.00 of aggregate funding (the “Grant Funds”) from the Industrial Revitalization Fund, subject to, and conditioned upon the City’s execution of a Memorandum of Understanding, grant agreements for the acquisition and the demolition of the former Ramada Inn Building, and a Deed of Trust, Assignment and Security Agreement (collectively, the “Primary Grant Documents”) and such other documents relating to the Grant Funds (along with the Primary Grant Documents, the “Grant Documents”).

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends the city adopt the resolution.

Brian Moore, Director of Economic Development, gave an overview of the resolution request.

Council Member Westbrook made a motion to approve the resolution. Vice Mayor Hill seconded the motion.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

Barbara Rudolph, 1675 Mt. Vernon Street, stated, “That was a pretty interesting document in the packet. I would really like to know and maybe Mr. Williams can find this out, does the Department of Housing and Community Development, are all the contracts for Industrial Revitalization Fund money that is being given to localities, are they all written like that. Because if you all read it, it is scary. The DHCD and the state have a lot of discretion to take money back from the city. I don’t know is discretion is the right word maybe I should say authority after this is signed. I am not saying that this is wrong or right. I am saying that I hope that you all are aware, and you are not just voting on this because it is an item on the agenda, but that you made yourself aware of this. If there is anything that the state questions about how the money is being spent and how the site is redeveloped then it is all about taking money back from the city, which I as a city taxpayer is concerned about. I believe that I am not the only one that would be concerned about it. And it is a high visibility project. I

\*Audio available upon request.

suggest that you all be cautious about what you are signing and also it would be a good thing to maybe come back and present some of this publicly to talk about. Not just to say these are our plans but to bring some substantive about what is going on to reassure all of us that it is proceeding and that the state will be satisfied and that the money given to Petersburg, \$1.7 million plus \$250,000 leverage money, that the state is satisfied that we have done our part. Thank you.”

Seeing no further hands, Mayor Parham closed the public comments.

The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Jones, Smith-Lee, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, and Parham

**23-R-6            A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION, DELIVERY, AND PERFORMANCE OF CERTAIN GRANT DOCUMENTS TO ACCEPT FUNDS FROM THE INDUSTRIAL REVITALIZATION FUND ALLOCATED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REGARDING THE ACQUISITION AND DEMOLITION OF THE FORMER RAMADA INN BUILDING AND THE PROMOTION OF REDEVELOPMENT OF THE LAND.**

- b.            Consideration of appointments to the Central Virginia Waste Management Authority Board.

**BACKGROUND:**        The Central Virginia Waste Management Authority (CVWMA) is a public service authority that implements solid waste management and recycling programs for thirteen local governments. Since its formation in 1990, the CVWMA has endeavored to provide efficient and economical waste management and recycling solutions for its member jurisdictions. The CVWMA's aim is to meet the local governments' waste management and recycling needs, through improving existing services and programs and expanding into new program areas. A board of directors including representatives from each member locality governs the actions of the authorities and daily operations are coordinated by experienced staff.

**RECOMMENDATION:**        It is recommended that they be appointed to the Central Virginia Waste Management Authority Board with Mrs. Innis as primary and Mr. Williams as alternate.

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to approve the appointment of Mrs. Innis as primary and Mr. Williams as alternate. Council Member Myers seconded the motion. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Jones, Smith-Lee, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, and Parham

**23-R-7            A RESOLUTION APPOINTING TANGELA INNIS AS PRIMARY AND RANDALL WILLIAMS AS ALTERNATE WITH A TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2027, TO THE CENTRAL VIRGINIA WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY BOARD.**

- c.            Consideration of re/appointment to the Petersburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority.

**BACKGROUND:**        The Petersburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority (PRHA) Board consists of seven (7) members who are appointed by City Council to serve four-year, staggered terms. PRHA was created to study blighted areas within the City and to recommend programs for the improvement of such areas; to provide quality housing for low-income families at rents within their ability to pay; and to serve as the duly designated agent of the City to contract with federal agencies for financial assistance in order to undertake urban redevelopment and low-rent housing programs approved by City Council.

**RECOMMENDATION:**        Recommend City Council make re/appointment to the Petersburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority.

Council Member Cuthbert made a motion to adopt the resolution and appoint Michael Maszaros.

\*Audio available upon request.

Council Member Jones seconded the motion.

Council Member Smith-Lee made a substitute motion to appoint Angela Dance. Council Member Myers seconded the motion. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Smith-Lee, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, and Parham; Voting No: Cuthbert and Jones

**23-R-8 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING ANGELA DANCE WITH A TERM ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025, TO THE PETERSBURG REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY.**

Vice Mayor Hill stated, "Have we ever had an alternate?"

Mayor Parham stated, "No."

Vice Mayor Hill stated, "I propose that we have an alternate. Do we have to change the code for that?"

Mr. Williams stated, "We may have to change the code to authorize an alternate."

Vice Mayor Hill stated, "That is okay. When we have this discussion when we have our workshop when it comes to boards and commissions."

- d. Consideration of a resolution amending the fiscal year 2022-2023 of the operating budget for the Sheriff's Department.

**BACKGROUND:** See attached resolution.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Recommend City Council approve the resolution amending the budget.

Mr. Altman gave a brief update on the request.

Council Member Myers made a motion to approve the resolution. Vice Mayor Hill seconded the motion. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Jones, Smith-Lee, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, Parham

**23-R-9 A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT.**

- e. Consideration of an appropriation ordinance for DCJS ARPA – Law Enforcement Equipment and Technology – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

**BACKGROUND:** The City of Petersburg has been awarded a grant from the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services for Law Enforcement Equipment and Technology.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Recommend that Council approve the appropriation ordinance of the DCJS ARPA - Law Enforcement Equipment and Technology Grant.

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to approve the ordinance. Council Member Myers seconded the motion. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Jones, Smith-Lee, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, Parham

**23-ORD-5 AN ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED, SAID ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2022, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2023, FOR THE**

\*Audio available upon request.

**GRANTS FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$749,900.**

- f. Consideration of a resolution to direct the city manager to commence the process to designate a portion of High Street as an augmented fine street and reduce the speed limit in said portion from 25 to 20 miles per hour.

**BACKGROUND:** Councilman Myers received petitions from constituents to designate the portion of High Street to an augmented fine street and to reduce the speed limit from 25 to 20 mph. He has also requested that the City Attorney review and present a proposal to ease the process for the creation of augmented fine streets on non-state-maintained roads throughout the city by eliminating the petition and traffic study requirements if legally permissible.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Recommend approving resolution.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

Kelsi Jewell Stated, "First of all, I would like to thank members of City Council for taking the first step of addressing ongoing speeding on High Street. For years we have had problems with speeders on our street. A traffic study that was performed about six years ago stated that the average rate of speed was 35 mph. As one of the largest residential streets in old town, this is and has been a major issue for the residents on that street. Since I was elected president of the High Street Association in 200, I promised my neighbors that I would advocate for the resident's safety. Over the last year and a half, I have attended work groups on speeding with other citizens throughout the city that were sponsored by Councilman Myers and Cuthbert, the prior city manager and Police Chief Christian and was pleased to see the resolution on addressing reducing speed limit and increasing fines. Once passing my neighbors on the street along with Councilman Myers helped worked together to gather the signatures before you on these two petitions. As you can see there is overwhelming support of this effort. To close while my neighbors are hopeful of the reduced speed limit and increased fines, we do not genuinely believe that these things alone will be the end to our speeding problems. And we hope that the members of city council before us will continue to work with the High Street Association to address this issue going forward. And I will caveat that if you guys will allow 75% of the street to sign for speed bumps we would be more than happy to do that as well. Thank you."

Dale Pittman, 410 High Street, stated, "I have lived in Petersburg for 45 years. This speeding and reckless driving that brings us here tonight has been a long-standing problem where I live on High Street. You know I walk everywhere I go, and I see this all the time. It is a diversity of drivers. Age, gender, race, ethnicity just does not make any difference. If people are treating it like they are Virginia Motorsport any time day or night, it is extremely dangerous if you have small children. We have small children, disabled people, elderly people and I just want to say that the High Street Association worked really hard to keep regular contact on this. Councilman Myers has been to three or more meetings to look at this with us. Chief Christian has been to at least one or two. I really appreciate your consideration to look at this favorably."

Mary Bullock, 311 High Street, stated, "I am very honored to live back in Petersburg. I lived in Petersburg when I was in my 20s which was 40 something years ago. I am really glad to live here. I do want to say that when I told my friends black and white that I was moving from Chesterfield to Petersburg they said why in the world would you do that. I said I love Petersburg and I love old town. So, I am here to help you as a city, and it takes a community to do that. We have a camera at our house, so I have direct access to Davis. I can see cars speeding up and down the street. But they pick up speed down the street. And I have a lot of camera footage especially of people going through the stop sign. But also speeding through the intersection and speeding down High Street. I have a son who you might see walking around Petersburg. He is a 30-year-old male who is totally blind. He has a guide dog that you might see him around town with. Her name is Alice, and she is a yellow lab. You might see him walking with his cane. He has no light perception at all. So, I am

\*Audio available upon request.



particularly concerned about the gentleman that spoke about Old Street. I am an occupational therapist and I have worked in rehab for 33 years. My passion is to help people with disabilities live like everybody else does. So, I am very interested in making Petersburg a safer city especially for people with disabilities. High Street is with parking on one side of the street. So, people are constantly getting in and out of their cars. And so, I want to appeal to you that to reduce the speed limit and increase the fines in my opinion would be a good thing to do. And that is all that I have to say. And I am glad to be here. Thank you.”

Mr. Nicholson stated, “Thank you for allowing us to speak. First, I want to thank Kelsi Jewell for doing a tremendous job as our High Street Association President for these last couple of years in getting things done. Secondly, I have to really thank Councilman Myers for making things happen. And the staff that you have in the city for the sidewalks and other safety issues that we face on our street, their responsiveness has just been spectacular. So, I thank you for that. The speeding on High Street is a terrible particularly as you are heading on High Street East and coming up the hill. The traffic going down there and barely stopping is a great concern for me with the increase of pedestrians in the area. So, thank you for your attention to this matter and let’s hope that we can get it resolved. I also would like to say on an unrelated topic if I may that today on our Board of Directors call for the Barbara Sinatra Children’s Center, as a result of the success with the exhibit that we had with Beverly Johnson at the Petersburg Area Art League, we are now having talk with the Guggenheim and Metropolitan Museum of Art to do an exhibit at those two places because of the success of the 884 people that we had walk through the doors at PAAL. And I thank you all for the support for that and also to Sheriff Crawford. Thank you for letting me throw that in.”

Council Member Myers stated, “I want to say thank you to the city attorney for doing this for me. Council Member Cuthbert thank you for helping with supporting this. I know that this is dear and very important to you. Hopefully, the road that we took to get here today would allow us to extend this without going through this entire process again throughout the City of Petersburg where the need is necessary.

Council Member Myers made a motion to approve the resolution. Vice Mayor Hill seconded the motion.

Council Member Cuthbert stated, “This raises an interesting topic. And that is what do we do about speed bumps. Reduced speed I want it and I am voting for it. Augmented fines I want it and I am voting for it. But it takes police officers to write the tickets and we are short staffed. So, is there something that you can do to kind of self-enforce it. I am sitting here asking myself and I am thinking yes it may well be speed bumps. Speed bumps do not have to have a police officer to jostle the car. The driver jostles the car. And it happens at 2am, 3am, 4am or whenever the car is speeding. So, it is self-executing. Does not take a police officer away from writing a ticket and I am not discouraging it in any type of way, and I thank Chief Christian when it does happen. He has been remarkably responsive whenever I ask the city manager to ask him will he do spot speed enforcing in a particular area. And they do. But it only lasts for a brief while. There is not going to be anyone on High Street to write the ticket that doubles the fine. So, Mr. City Manager do you have any thoughts. We heard from people that speed bumps would be a great idea. I would love to see that happen. Mr. City Manager do you have any response to that.”

Mr. Altman stated, “Yes. It is not going to be the popular response. Just from a basic traffic and engineering prospective speed bumps are one of the last things that are typically utilized. And they are very much discouraged by an engineer in today’s world. They present a set of different issues. But I think that Chief Christian and I have had conversations with regard to trying to establish and purchase some, you know how on Washington Street as you go closer to the Governor’s School there is a speed limit sign that flashes when you go by. There are also enforcement trailers that will indicate your speed. So, we are looking at what we can do from that perspective to try to enforce speed without having an officer out. It allows you to do that in different areas.”

Council Member Cuthbert stated, “Let me respond to that. My understanding is quite different from yours

\*Audio available upon request.

as far as taking photographs of speeders. I think that the state statute allows that only in school zone and during school hours. So, let's say near the Appomattox Governor's School at 2am on a Saturday night, I do not think that we can do that. Do you know the answers to that Mr. Williams off top your head?"

Mr. Williams stated, "I do not think that you can do that for enforcement purposes except for the area that you designate."

Council Member Cuthbert stated, "And I think that it has to be schools and active use. and we certainly cannot do it on High Street because we do not have a school there. So, certainly it is a great idea, and it makes sense. But our big brother in Richmond ties our hands. So, speed bumps maybe the last resort but I am at last resort. This is where it goes speed bumps. Now this resolution that we have before us, I think it says that the city attorney is directed to bring forward recommendations for considerations for council at its next meeting in February to amend these statutes. And that is great but let me try to put some specifics to this. Mr. City Manager may we put this topic on the agenda for discussion at our February 7<sup>th</sup> work session. If last resort means in my mind that it is permissible. Traffic engineers are great titles, but they do not graduate from MIT. So, in any event Mr. Altman lets put this on our February 7<sup>th</sup> work session for discussion of speed bumps at that time."

Mr. Altman stated, "If that is what council chooses. I currently do not have a public works director, but I can bring someone in to discuss speed bumps if that is what council wants to do."

Council Member Cuthbert stated, "We have a motion on the table. So, once we vote on that I would like to make a motion that we discuss this at our work session on February 7<sup>th</sup> if that is permissible."

Council Member Myers stated, "I would be remiss if I didn't thank Kelsi for all that she did to help and everyone on High Street in helping to get this petition signed. Thank you all for what you all did. But Mr. Cuthbert, think about the rumble strips or inverted speed bumps. But they do destroy our apparatus as they fly through the streets to take care of our emergency situations. I guess we can discuss that at our next meeting. But look at the alternatives of speed bumps."

Council Member Cuthbert stated, "Those are good points. Let's vote on this and continue this discussion on February 7<sup>th</sup>."

The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Jones, Smith-Lee, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, Parham

**23-R-10      A RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE HIGH STREET BETWEEN MARKET STREET AND SOUTH STREET AS AN "AUGMENTED FINE STREET" PURSUANT TO SECTION 110-11 OF THE PETERSBURG CITY CODE.**

Council Member Cuthbert made a motion to put on the work session agenda a discussion led by the city manager of speed bumps, dips, rumble strips and any other self-enforcing ways to slow traffic that do not require the act or presence of a police officer. Council Member Jones seconded the motion. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Jones, Smith-Lee, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, Parham

**15.      CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA:**

Mr. Altman stated, "No items this evening but I do want to note that on February 7<sup>th</sup> we will have Davenport here to do a presentation to council on our fiscal strength. Hopefully, that will overshadow the discussion of speed bumps because that is very important, but I just want to let folks know that we will have

\*Audio available upon request.

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Davenport here. Thank you.”

**16. BUSINESS OR REPORTS FROM THE CLERK:**

Mrs. Lucas stated that she has no items.

**17. BUSINESS OR REPORTS FROM CITY ATTORNEY:**

Mr. Williams stated that he has no items.

**18. ADJOURNMENT:**

City Council adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of City Council

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor