
The regular meeting of the Petersburg City Council was held on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at the Petersburg Public Library. Mayor Parham called the meeting to order at 5:38 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 the 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. A proclamation designating March 2023 as Procurement Month.

Mayor Parham read the proclamation aloud and presented it to Lisa Scott and Eunita Wade.

b. A proclamation designating March 2023 as American Red Cross Month.

Mayor Parham read the proclamation aloud and presented it to Christy Carneal.

6. RESPONSES TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC INFORMATION PERIOD:

Mayor Parham stated, "Responses to previous public information period is under council communicates."

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

a. Minutes:

-February 21, 2023 – Closed Session
-February 21, Regular Council Meeting
-March 7, 2023 – Closed Session

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Council Member Westbrook 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 purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and Elvin Snead towards the sale of City-owned property at 137 Market Street, parcel ID 022-180011.

BACKGROUND: The Department of Economic Development received an application from Elvin Snead on October 31, 2022, to participate in the auction on GovDeals to purchase City-owned property located at 137 Market Street which is currently a vacant residential lot. On November 8, 2022, at the conclusion of the auction, it was determined that Elvin Snead was the highest bidder. He has submitted to staff the required documentation to prove they have the wherewithal to purchase and develop the property. The proposed use of the property is to develop, 1350 square feet single family residential dwelling with three bedrooms and two bathrooms for sale at market rate.

The proposed purchase price for 137 Market Street is \$7,050, which is 75% of the assessed value, \$9,400. 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 137 Market Street is zoned B-3, Business District.

Address: 137 Market Street
Tax Map ID: 022-180011
Zoning: B-3

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommend the City Council make a motion to approve the sale by ordinance.

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

Mr. Moore stated, "This morning it was brought to our attention that under Article 25 Section 3 of the Zoning Ordinance, there is a concern of the lot size in building this particular property. And there may be a way of doing this with the purchase of additional lots. We asked for your consideration, and we consulted with the attorney and city manager. We asked to go ahead and do the public hearing and then table it to try to resolve this issue. Mr. Snead has been working well with us."

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

Seeing no hands, Mayor Parham closed the public hearing.

There was discussion among city council members and staff.

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to table action until the April 18th meeting. Council Member Myers seconded the motion. The motion was not approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Jones, Smith-Lee, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, and Parham

- b. A public hearing for the consideration of an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a

purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and 123 Halifax, LLC towards the sale of City-owned property at 123 Halifax Street, parcel ID 022-180025.

BACKGROUND: The Department of Economic Development received an application from Edwin Jones on behalf of 123 Halifax, LLC on November 9, 2022, to participate in the auction on GovDeals to purchase City-owned property located at 123 Halifax Street which is currently a vacant residential lot. On November 8, 2022, at the conclusion of the auction, it was determined that Edwin Jones was the highest bidder. He has submitted to staff the required documentation to prove they have the wherewithal to purchase and develop the property. The proposed use of the property is to develop two 320 square foot convertible rental spaces using shipping containers that would be dedicated for local entrepreneurs to include a fresh market and restaurant.

The proposed purchase price for 123 Halifax Street is \$10,450, which is 50% of the assessed value, \$20,900. 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 123 Halifax Street is zoned B-3, Business District

Address: 123 Halifax Street

Tax Map ID: 012-260022

Zoning: B-3

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommend the City Council make a motion to approve the sale by ordinance.

Brian Moore, Director of Economic Development, and the petitioner gave a brief overview.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

Julian Greene, 1625 Blair Road, stated, "Ladies and gentlemen, you know about The Avenue in Petersburg. Wilkerson Funeral Home and Bland adjacent to it. The Avenue where various members of various community farmers came and sold their wares. That was the feature site in Petersburg, particular where soldiers and the entertainment for African Americans. That is where the Rialto was located. That is where the Chatterbox was located. You want to put a shipping container there. It is historic. There is an institution here in Petersburg that has asked me to do due diligence because they want the recognition of historic sites. We are talking to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources on that site as well. At this particular point in time, do not want to call on the name of the foundation, but you guys have some eyes. Do not approve of putting a shipping container there on that historic site in the Afro American community where doctors, lawyers, shops, drug stores all were located. Let's not disseminate that site by doing what is being proposed. Thank you."

Roland Stokes, 6100 Dorius Drive (Chesterfield, VA), stated, "I was raised in Petersburg."

Mayor Parham stated, "Mr. Stokes we have to have a Petersburg resident to be able to speak at the meeting."

Mr. Stokes stated, "I see that on the agenda, but it does not come up yet requiring that."

Mr. Williams stated, "That is correct that the residency applies to the public comment period. But the public hearing is open to any citizen with an interest."

Mayor Parham stated, "Please proceed Mr. Stokes."

Mr. Stokes stated, "I was not born in Petersburg, but I was raised in Petersburg. I attended all of the public schools in Petersburg and worked in Petersburg. And I agree with the gentleman. The Avenue is a historic site and we do not need anything there to desecrate the historical site. The City Council needs to get together and decide what we can do to maintain that property and what it is. Thank you."

There was discussion among the City Council and staff.

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

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to table until the April 18th meeting. Council Member Myers seconded the motion. There was discussion on the motion.

Council Member Cuthbert made a substitute motion to deny approval. 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

Council Member Jones stated, "I just want to add again that we all know that is historic and I do not see shipping containers anywhere in the city used for B-3 or anything else. As important as that property is we are still selling stuff for cheap. That is \$10,000 for something in an historic area. We would not do Old Towne like that or anywhere else. So, we got to entertain what we talk about in bringing this stuff up for sale at a marketable price. We do not want The Avenue looking like that at all with shipping containers. If we come back with something else that is one thing, but we do not want that period."

Mr. Moore stated, "We will work with the applicant and reapply. Also, we do have a shipping container that was put in a B-3 area. That is down where Saucy's started. They started out of a shipping container and the shipping container is still there. So, we will try and bring something back for The Avenue. The biggest thing is getting the protection for that historic district. So, we will make sure that we do that. We are going to bring forward to you changing the procedures as far as the sale of properties. We can up that percentage. Because that is usually driven by the auction. So, when the auction open at a certain point that is acceptable to your current standards of 50%, we can change that to 80% or 85%" if that is desired."

Council Member Jones stated, "That is great. One last thing, we cannot operate on facts if the presentation is messed up. I have seen the same picture for two different sales. We cannot come up here with those minor mistakes. That was the same picture from the last sale, and it is the same picture from this sale. That is why no one knew what we were talking about. It is the same picture. We have to do better than that. I operate on facts. We operate on facts. That messed me up. We have to do better. We are paying a lot of money in salaries. You all seen it. We can do better than putting the same picture up twice. Thank you."

Council Member Cuthbert stated, "I would like to follow up on that. I agree 100%. I am looking at page 62 of our agenda and I do not think that is the lot that we are talking about. We really need staff to step up its game and give us accurate information. Mr. Altman, I will direct this comment to you if I may, we really need the administration to serve as a gate keeper to what comes before council. The idea that the city staff would recommend the city council approve putting a shipping container facing the historic Halifax Triangle stuns me. I cannot see how that can be recommended by a knowing staff that we are paying the big bucks too. So, I would ask you, Mr. Altman, to encourage staff to serve more as a gatekeeper or you need to step forward as a gatekeeper. But this should never have happened before city council. Now, keep in mind that this is the historic triangle that I believe is part of the subject of the Downtown Master Plan. Is that right Mr. Altman?"

Mr. Altman stated, "I believe that part of the plan goes over to the Halifax Triangle."

Council Member Cuthbert stated, "Now Mr. VanVoorhees, do you have an image that was sent to you in connection with this agenda item '8b'? It was a three- or four-story artist rendering of what could be. Now, I came across this picture and this is certainly one idea of what the area facing the triangle could look like. It would absolutely revolutionize our appreciation of the historic triangle. This is one approach. I have not discussed it with any members of council and obviously the idea would have to be vetted and refined and

perhaps discarded. But can you imagine what the triangle would look like if it had beautiful modern construction facing the triangle and the triangle was greenspace. Certainly, the potential is tremendous. And to get back to the point, the idea of limiting our future by putting a spell on the Halifax Triangle and setting a standard that shipping containers are acceptable around the triangle. That is way over the edge in my assessment. So, I thank you Mr. VanVoorhees and Mr. Mayor.”

- c. A public hearing and consideration of an ordinance amending the City of Petersburg Code of Ordinance, Appendix B. Zoning, to add definitions of Group Home and Assisted Living Facility.

BACKGROUND: The City of Petersburg Code of Ordinances Appendix B. Zoning includes Article 3. – Definitions, Section 2. – Definitions. The purpose of this section is to define certain terms and words in the City Code Appendix B. Zoning.

Assisted Living Facilities in Single-Family Residences and Group Homes have been established as land uses in the City of Petersburg. However, currently there are no definitions for these uses or related regulations. This is a proposal to amend the Code Appendix B. Zoning in accordance with the attached Exhibit A to include those definitions.

On March 2, 2023, The Planning Commission voted to recommend approval of the Code Amendment, with an amendment to the proposed language to remove the clause "Except where expressly permitted by right in this Zoning Ordinance".

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the City Council amend the City of Petersburg Code of Ordinances, Appendix B. Zoning, to add definitions of Group Home and Assisted Living Facility.

Reginald Tabor, Program Manager of Planning and Community Development, gave an overview of the request.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

Richard Stewart, 129 Rolfe Street, stated, “I heard a young man speak about a group home. Years ago, this same issue was brought up and I think they were building group homes in certain areas in the city. But they said that if the State authorized them to do it the city cannot stop it. Is that still in effect?”

Mr. Tabor stated, “With regard to group homes, my understanding is that as long as they comply with the use that is associated with the residential zoning they are legally allowed. Perhaps, the city attorney has additional information.”

Mr. Williams stated, “That is correct. The Zoning Ordinance would apply under the definition that is described. The group home does place a by right under federal law of fewer than eight individuals. And that is contained in the definition. I think it was in the original definition where it said whether licensed or not, it does not change the actual ordinance, but it was included for clarification purposes.”

Roland Stokes, 6100 Dorius Drive (Chesterfield, VA), stated, “Is the changing of the ordinance so that more group homes assisted living can be added? That is my question.”

Diane Curling, 116 Liberty Street, stated, “Many years ago I worked for the New York State Department of Mental Health. So, my husband and I very much support group homes for the elderly, handicapped, and people who need mental health and drug treatment. And I would just like to say that we were dismayed with the situation on Fillmore Place. And we think that this ordinance amending the Petersburg City Code might help prevent tragedies like that. Thank you.”

Freda Greenhow, 1814 Varina Avenue, stated, “I have a question. I have, I think, a group home directly across the street from me. The lady that owns it called it a sponsor’s home. And I wanted to know if that is the same thing. Because I have one behind me on Chuckatuck as well. Having these houses in the neighborhood,

they become to me personally a problem. The one that is on Chuckatuck, employees smoke pot constantly. The person that they are watching, I have seen them pull them out of the street a couple of times as I was coming past. And when they are on the phone, they are very loud, cursing and belligerent. And I do not know if the owner of that house is, if it is a group home or assisted living. I do not know what it is, but I know that it is a sponsored home. The one that is across the street from me has been there for about a month. And 7:15am, every morning faithfully, instead of alerting the people that their transportation is there they would rather blow the horn. I get up at 7:15am and they still haven't gotten it because he still comes and blows the horn. And now semi-trucks are parking there and it is narrowing the street. So, I do not know if it is a sponsored home or if there is a difference between a group home or an assisted living home. And if there is any type of regulation. I heard earlier that you said that they can be licensed or not. But with these homes in a residential area, is there any type of regulation that can go on with these homes."

Celeste Wynn, 319 East Fillmore Street, stated "I was trying to hold my tongue. There were three group homes on my street on East Fillmore Street. And now there are two. I am in a residential area of course. The Fillmore Group Home closed down and it was kind of like the commercial end of my street. So, it was not primarily residential. I am trying not to take it there but you all or residents would not allow it on High Street. You would not allow it on Marshall Street. You would not allow it anywhere in Walnut Hill. So, what are the regulations for commercial areas? Because I have seen and heard myself of the same issues that she spoke about. People picking up and blowing the horn, outside smoking, and outside yelling at the residents in residential areas."

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

There was discussion among the City Council and staff.

Council Member Cuthbert made a motion to approve and adopt the ordinance recommended by the Planning Commission with the deletion of the phrase in the last sentence, "except where expressly permitted by right in this zoning ordinance." Vice Mayor Hill seconded the motion. There was discussion on 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-13 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A CITY CODE APPENDIX B. ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT – AMENDING ARTICLE 3. – DEFINITIONS, SECTION 2. – DEFINITIONS TO ADD DEFINITIONS FOR ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY, SINGLE – FAMILY RESIDENCE AND GROUP HOME, WITH THE DELETION OF THE PHRASE.

- d. A public hearing and consideration of an ordinance amending the City Code Appendix B. Zoning Text – To amend Article 4-A. "A" Agricultural District Regulations, Section 9. Special requirements, to permit a subdivision that creates one parcel that meets the dimension requirements of lots/parcel in the R-1A District.

BACKGROUND: The City of Petersburg Code of Ordinances Appendix B. Zoning includes Article 4-A. "A" Agricultural District Regulations. The purpose of this district is to provide for the orderly growth and development of relatively large parcels of undeveloped land, and the protection of activities generally considered rural in nature, i.e., crop, dairy or tree farming, the raising of cattle and poultry, and other activities normally compatible with rural or agricultural surroundings.

Article 4-A, Section 2. Use regulations, provides that any building to be erected or land to be used shall be for (1) Single-family dwellings and other uses. Article 4-A, Section 9. Special requirements, provides that (1) No subdivision development shall be permitted in areas zoned agricultural, and any area sought to be subdivided, that is presently zoned agricultural, shall first be rezoned to a residential classification.

The City has received a proposal to create single family lot/parcel from a property zoned A-Agricultural District. The proposed single-family residential use is a permitted use in the Zoning District. However, the current Code requires that the zoning be changed if there is a subdivision of property Zoned A-Agricultural District. The

surrounding uses are agricultural and single family.

Pursuant to the requirements of Title 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, the Planning Commission held a public hearing and considered a resolution recommending approval of the amendment to the City Code Appendix B. Zoning on January 5, 2023, and the public hearing was advertised, in accordance with applicable laws. The Planning Commission voted to recommend approval of the Text Amendment.

This is a proposed amendment to the City Code Appendix B. Zoning to permit the subdivision of a parcel to create not more than one new parcel without having to rezone the property to a Residential District.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the City Council approve an amendment to the City Code, Appendix B. Zoning regarding the Agricultural District Regulations.

Reginald Tabor, Program Manager of Planning and Community Development, gave an overview of the request.

Melissa Wilkins, property owner, gave a briefing of the request with regards to her property at 2344 Wells Road.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

Richard Steward, 129 Rolfe Street, stated, "Some of this land looks like land in Pocohontas. The question that I want to ask, when you say agriculture versus residential can you have pigs, animals, cows, and different things and barns. How does that affect residential areas when you have residential and agricultural? How does those two correspond and do not affect each other?"

Mr. Tabor stated, "Within the agricultural district, single family residence use is permitted. Within residential districts, agricultural use is not permitted. So, properties that are zoned R-1, R-1A, R-2, and R-3 do not permit the agricultural uses that are permitted with animals and farmland with the agricultural district. Properties in Pocahontas for example are zoned residential and not agricultural. So, no agricultural uses would be permitted."

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

There was discussion among the City Council and staff.

Council Member Cuthbert made a motion to deny approval of ordinance. Council Member Westbrook seconded the motion. There was discussion on the motion.

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

23-ORD-14 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A CITY CODE APPENDIX B. ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT – AMENDING ARTICLE 4-A. “AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT REGULATIONS TO PERMIT A SUBDIVISION THAT CREATES ONE LOT/PARCEL.

- e. A public hearing and consideration of an ordinance approving the expansion of the Local Historic District regulations to individual properties listed on the attached list that are also listed on the National Register of Historic Places, therefore requiring a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) before any exterior changes are made.

BACKGROUND: During the November 1, 2022, City Council Meeting the City Council considered an item that would expand the Local Historic District regulations to individual properties listed on a list of properties in the City of Petersburg that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, therefore

requiring a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) before any exterior changes are made.

The item was referred to the Planning Commission for a recommendation. The Planning Commission considered the item and approved a resolution recommending approval of the item with an amended list that includes only the properties on the list provided that have structures.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the City Council approves the amended list of properties by ordinance.

Reginald Tabor, Program Manager of Planning and Community Development, gave an overview of the request.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

Julian Greene, 1625 Blair Road, stated, "I am the Co-Chairman of PALDC, which stands for Peabody Academic Learning and Development Center. The two groups came together and gave birth to PALDC. PALDC has over 25 HBCU's associated and affiliated with them. To include Virginia State university and the Algebra Project that caused the scores to go up tremendously. We are here to say that the oldest African American School in the nation. Just check the dates. At the same time when the buildings were built, they were called twin buildings connected by an arch. Only later to be separated because of a fire. The complex is historic in nature and structure. It is already on the national registry. But how is it recognized? It is recognized as the Peabody. The whole complex is Peabody. Our proposal to the Planning Commission and to everyone in Petersburg, and the citizens can attest to this, is that we have some historic districts in the city, but none exceed Peabody. Why? Education for African Americans in this nation was against the law. We were forbidden to be taught how to read and write. The oldest church in North America, First Baptist Church, started educating the children. When it started it became so large and the capacity could not hold it as large as First Baptist was, they had to find another site in order to do it. I am not going to go through all of the history, but I can. But it came down to Peabody, it said that if we are going to change or modify the ordinance, we propose, the two organizations, that you include the complex of Peabody and have it known as a historic district. The Peabody School Historic District is surrounded by Halifax Street, Wesley Street, Jones Street, and Lee Avenue. Coming from that school is the Chief Judge of the Supreme Court of Virginia, Judge Gregory. One of the most prolific athletes coming out of Petersburg and played basketball, Moses Malone. Football players, Mr. Bolding, artist we have them know some of the young ones. Ms. T and I may not registry with them, but we have Trey Songz. We are here and they are there, and we cannot do the TikTok thing. But we are saying some significant things. We have some significant things coming out of Petersburg that came out of Peabody. Let's not dwell on chasing the golden goose. Because we have been disappointed chasing after the golden goose. I am going to leave that right where it is. Peabody will be able to train the teachers. We have a deficiency in teachers and teachers are leaving. Teachers can get firsthand training right there at Peabody. We are not competing with the school system we are collaborating with them all in the area. Peabody was a school only for Black people which meant that students came from Hopewell, Prince George, Colonial Heights, Ettrick, Chesterfield, and Dinwiddie. So, let's give it what it is due. It should be called the Peabody School Historic District. Let's recognize it for what it is in Petersburg. If we are 70 or 80% African American, then we have to toot our own horn. Let's allow Dr. Jefferson to make a few statements please."

Thelma Jefferson, Co-Chair of PALDC and Executive Director of the Peabody High School National Alumni Association, stated, "The Peabody High School building embodies pride to the highest extent. And for its graduates in the community, it is a tangible monument to the Black history of Petersburg. Through those walls, and Mr. Green has already said walked doctors, judges, professional athletics, politicians, scientists to just name a few. But not only those who went on to have great careers, we had the local Joe and Jane who graduated and found jobs and enjoyed life right here in Petersburg. The school was a beacon in our community, and we want that again. How do we achieve that? By turning it into a haven of opportunities for the community. It can be an educational center offering space for tutoring, computer labs, and the gym can be used by AAU basketball teams. The auditorium could house varies productions and concerts. There are rooms for various civic organizations. There is a full cafeteria. And that space can be an event vendor. Because they closed the building the Peabody High School National Alumni Association had clothes closet which was very

successful and wanted by the community. We can open up a museum showcasing the school's rich heritage and the illustrious alumni. We have a teenage crime problem in Petersburg. One reason is that the people do not have a plan and productive agenda. Keeping all of these things in mind for the space and the buildings, I wholeheartedly support our proposition to include the entire complex on the local listing and name the district the Peabody School Historic District. Thank you."

Richard Stewart, 129 Rolfe Street, stated, "Be careful what you ask for because you might get it. Why I am saying that is that we have been through this. Pocahontas is on the historic registry not the historical district. We denied it and we did not want a historic district. We wanted a historic registry. Jarratt House is all right for \$200,000. Whatever you do to your house once you put it in that historic district it has to be approved by somebody else. You have to have some money and no mouth. When you start to deal with historic property you have to have some money. Right now, this young lady is building this house in Pocahontas. If that would have been a historic district, I do not think she can afford it. She is building a new house over there. She is trying to help preserve Pocahontas. So, when you start talking you have to get an understanding of the difference between historic district and historic register. Because it can cost you money. There was \$200,000 spent on the Jarratt House and not another dime spent on the island. Where is our money? They are getting ready to carry a road through Pocahontas. Money is being provided, so where is our money? You know why. Because we will not let anyone tell us what to do with our property over there. We have three different properties. The Jarratt House was built around 1810 and we had Native Americans living there. The Scott House was built in 1833. The William Walthrow House was built in 1833 and the Stephens House in 1831. Those are historical houses but if they were in the historic district, we could not afford to do the work on them. So, be careful of what you ask for. Get a full understanding between historic district and historical registry and who is in charge of the renovation. Thank you."

Yvette Wilson, 234 High Street, stated, "I hail to you from a historical community down south in North Charleston, South Carolina. My homeboy Mr. Greene and his family and my family all resided in that community called Liberty Hill. I speak to you tonight to take warning to preserve your historical communities. Right now, Liberty Hill is being encroached on by all the northerners and people who do not share that rich history that Liberty Hill provides its residents. The historic school was torn down. Now they have a school where the Native Community can attend. So, those are the type of things that will happen if we do not preserve our history. We are fighting until this day trying to preserve our heritage. We are one of the first communities after the reconstruction period to own our own homes and businesses within. So, I am asking this council to think big and preserve the history that Petersburg celebrates through the Peabody project. Thank you.

Bobby Beverly, Chesterfield resident and works at Cool Springs Elementary School, stated, "I first must say this. Being from Petersburg, Virginia and graduating from the Class of 1978, Virginia State Alumni with my bachelors and master's both in history. So, I have to say this before I get to that. There is only, in my lifetime, four people that are still living that should be talking about anything concerning the history of Petersburg, Mr. Shaw (deceased), Luscious Edwards, Emmanuel Dabney, Mr. Stewart and myself. That is, it in the City of Petersburg. Everyone else, you are being insulting. So, now let me move on. There are a lot of issues with this. I just received it today. As a historian I am looking at it and there are a lot of things wrong with it. I am just going to go over two. Geographically and historically speaking there has never been anyone calling African Africans. There is no such thing. Number two let's go over some things that are not on the list. You do not have Poplar Grove National Cemetery. Why is that important? Because after those men, the United States Colored Troops, were genocide and murdered at that Crater, they were taken out a little bit pass the Millennium Studios. You go past there about two and a half or three miles on the left-hand side you will find a small marker, Poplar Grove. That is where they are buried to this day. The United States Colored Troops were murdered, 219 of them. They were buried with confederate soldiers to this very day. I do not see that on this list. There is more that is wrong with this. But we have to first make sure that when you have someone writing history make sure you get the people that are from the area so we can tell you correctly about our history. Thank you."

Roland Stokes, Chesterfield resident, stated, "First of all, I am familiar with the condition of the Peabody High School building. And the city council is responsible for the security of all properties located on the Peabody High School property. That building needs to be secure and protected. I am a retired assistant fire

marshal for Chesterfield County. Most of the people that live in Petersburg now are seniors and retirees. To increase the tax revenue of Petersburg the city council needs to get creative and develop ways and means to attract young people and their families back into the city area. Formed in 2017, you already heard from the Peabody High School National Alumni Association, which is made up of approximately six hundred graduates of Peabody High School. And I am one of them. I am very proud of that school, and I do not want to see it torn down. It is part of the history of this city. Not only is it part of the history of the city but of the United States. Thank you.”

Joe Battiston, 1 South Sycamore Street, stated, “I am wearing two hats up here right now. I am a member of the ARB (Architectural Review Board), which we discussed this. I find this a little cumbersome because of the different types of properties that have come before us. But I came up because of point of address which happens to be a property that I owned for 33 years. It is 255,000 square feet. That would be extremely cumbersome for someone to come before the ARB and have to abide by. The ARB has two groups. We have guidelines that give us some flexibility to help people improve their homes within reason. Then there are other things that we would absolutely say no to because of the rules by DHR National Park of Interior. Some of those we do not like what we have to do with them. But because there are rules, we have to follow them. If I had to abide by those rules when I owned that property, then it would have been extremely cumbersome, and I would not have had it for 33 years. I actually got to the point where the windows cost me so much money with over seven hundred windows in that building. It would have just broken me if I had to go out and buy new windows every time that the windows were rotting. I got to the point that I was starting to build my own windows to preserve that building. No one has noticed it, but it fits right in. And that was also cumbersome. I am afraid that if we put some of these structures that are not respected some of the ways that these other structures are such as Blandford Church, they are going to get neglected down the road. When I sold the property, I thought that it was going to be converted into an apartment. It is back on the market, so someone is flipping it. They have the right to do that. The only problem is that I do not think that anyone is going to be putting the big dollars into those buildings until they get sold for apartments or another use. And if we turn around and start telling people that they have to put back the exact same windows that were there, which is required by DHR, I am afraid that some of these properties are going to fall into total disrepair. Because it is expensive to follow the rules but if they are going to turn them into apartments or a good use that have tax credits then those are the advantages to it. I spent my own money to have a historic designation on that property. We went for a ‘C-Class’ and they updated us to an ‘A-Class.’ It would be good to have something to say to a new developer on the property. But I don’t think you want to put this burden on somebody that has to maintain it for the upcoming years until it is resold. They are going to have to come before us and spend all this extra money just to maintain it. That is what I have to say. Any questions?”

Eric Williams, 606 Harding Street, stated, “My personal residence is on this list. I do appreciate what you are trying to do here in protecting me in the overall longevity in Petersburg with architectural relevancy and what not. My frustration is that in the evenings after work and on the weekends my hands have calluses from working in the yard and working on this house. I heard that there is an implication to change the way I am able to maintain this house moving forward. No one has reached out to me or knocked on the door or anything. The gentleman here, I do not know what the implications are. May be in the future I can meet with you, or we can have this conversation ahead of time and then reconvene and make a final decision. That is all.”

Bruce Richardson, 844 Miller Street, stated, “I listened to some of the comments, and I heard the comments regarding understanding the differentiation between being on the national historic registry. I will tell you as a real estate broker that we find many instances where properties are designated as historic are sometimes more troublesome and challenging to sell. I am telling you. I took this information from the National Association of Realtors. And I would only ask that you all be cognizant of that. Because the intrinsic concerns from looking at an exterior of a historic is not the same as a typical parcel. And there are many times that State Historic Preservation requirements that shall be adhered to and that can be local ARB requirements that should be adhered to. A community where we have challenges with resale, real estate taxes, and things of that nature, one may see this as an additional layer of challenges. And so, I just ask that you be cognizant of that. Thank you for your time this evening.”

Seeing no hands, Mayor Parham closed the public hearing.

There was discussion among the City Council, staff, and Mr. Battiston.

Council Member Myers made a motion to table until a future date. Vice Mayor Hill seconded the motion.

Council Member Cuthbert made a motion to table until the second meeting in May in order to allow time for council to consider this carefully and to give notice to the effected property owners. Council Member Jones seconded the motion. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Jones, Smith-Lee, Westbrook, and Parham; Voting No: Myers and Hill

- f. A public hearing on the consideration of an ordinance authorizing the City Manager and City Attorney to take all necessary action to facilitate the conveyance of an easement to Dominion Energy at 125 N. Union St. parcel ID 011-250041.

BACKGROUND: This easement is needed to construct, maintain, and operate equipment necessary for the provision of services for the Petersburg Hotel project.

RECOMMENDATION: To approve the conveyance of an easement at 125 North Union Street, parcel ID 011-250041.

Randall Williams, Department of Public Works, and Utilities, gave a brief overview of the request to adopt the ordinance authorizing the City Manager and City Attorney to take all necessary action to facilitate the conveyance of an easement to Dominion Energy at 125 N. Union St. parcel ID 011-250041.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

Seeing no hands, Mayor Parham closed the public hearing.

There was discussion among the council and staff.

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

Council Member Cuthbert stated, "I abstain, and the city attorney tells me that I have to say why. And the reason is, this is my brother's hotel project. Technically it is not a conflict of interest, but I do not think it looks right for me to vote on it, so I am abstaining."

23-ORD-15 AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE CONVEYANCE OF AN EASEMENT TO DOMINION ENERGY VIRGINIA IN FURTHERANCE OF THE HOTEL PETERSBURG PROJECT.

- g. A public hearing on the consideration of an ordinance authorizing the City Manager and City Attorney to take all necessary action to facilitate the conveyance of an easement to Dominion Energy at 920 E. Wythe St., parcel ID 012-340006.

BACKGROUND: This easement is needed to construct, maintain, and operate equipment necessary for the provision of services for the City of Petersburg Public Schools.

RECOMMENDATION: To approve the conveyance of an easement at 920 E. Wythe Street, parcel ID 012-340006.

Randall Williams, Department of Public Works, and Utilities, gave a brief overview of the request to adopt the ordinance authorizing the City Manager and City Attorney to take all necessary action to facilitate the conveyance of an easement to Dominion Energy at 920 E. Wythe St., parcel ID 012-340006.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

Seeing no hands, Mayor Parham closed the public hearing.

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to approve the ordinance as proposed. Council Member Myers 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-16 AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE CONVEYANCE OF AN EASEMENT TO DOMINION ENERGY VIRGINIA IN FURTHERANCE OF THE CITY OF PETERSBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

- h. A public hearing amending the FY23 budget to appropriate additional local match funding to Petersburg Public Schools in the amount of \$,665,419 as well as additional State aid received for the Petersburg Library in the amount of \$43,178 for March 21, 2023.

BACKGROUND: The total budget for Petersburg City Public Schools is \$91,050,600 which includes the following breakdown:

Local Fees: \$66,000
Erate: \$225,000
Sales Tax: \$5,420,137
State: \$42,278,401
Federal: \$55,000
City Transfer: \$10,000,000
Food Service: \$2,927,000
Grants: \$30,079,062

was approved and appropriated by the Council on May 24, 2022. The local match requirement rose to \$11,665,419 for FY23.

Additional State aid received for the Petersburg Library in the amount of \$43,178.

RECOMMENDATION: For the council to approve the ordinance and appropriate additional funding for the schools.

Stacey Jordan, Chief Financial Officer, gave a brief overview of the request.

Jeff Ryder, Finance Director of Schools, gave a briefing on the request.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

Yvette Wilson, 234 High Street, stated, "I am glad that this remedy was provided for the school system. I am hoping that future findings will be beneficial to our school system. I have been an elected official, so I know how hard the monies are hard to find but I know that through diligent efforts on the part of our council and our school board, money will be found. But it is more than money. It is an investment in Petersburg future. I heard you talk tonight about history. I heard you talk about buildings, construction, and property. But your greatest asset is your youth. And if you do not begin investing in them now there will be no future. Because they deserve it. There is no blame for what has not been given or what has not been done. But you need to wake up and look in the mirror like I do. What am I doing to make a difference in where I am living and this world? And I thank you for this resource and I look forward to working with you in the future for funding the school system and all of its employees."

Richard Stewart, 129 Rolfe Street, stated, "It was very important that you all had the discussion last Tuesday with a few of the members of the school board. I am not against it. I think that the schools should be

getting everything that they can get and more. If I had some, I would give them some. What I am saying is that they explained that they had about a \$3 million surplus that had not been spent. But that they needed this; how does this add up with that other amount that you all spoke about last Tuesday.”

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

There was discussion among the city council and staff.

Council Member Cuthbert made a motion that council appropriate the \$43,178 for the Petersburg Library and table the issue of the appropriation of the \$1,665,419 until council’s business meeting on April 18, 2023, to allow council to explore a Memorandum of Understanding with the school board. Council Member Westbrook 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-17 AN ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING ON JULY 1, 2022, AND ENDING ON JUNE 30, 2023, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$43,178 FOR THE PETERSBURG LIBRARY.

- i. A public hearing and consideration of appropriation ordinance for the allocation of the 2nd Tranche of the ARPA funding provided to the city.

BACKGROUND: On March 11, 2021, the President of the United States signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to provide continued relief from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Approximately \$350 billion of The ARPA funding was allotted to assist state, local, tribal, and territory governments in responding to the coronavirus pandemic. The City of Petersburg is due to receive a total of \$20,961,839 which will be delivered in two tranches.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommend the City Council appropriate the funds as presented.

Stacey Jordan, Chief Financial Officer, gave a brief overview of the request to adopt the appropriation ordinance.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

Seeing no hands, Mayor Parham closed the public hearing.

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

23-ORD-18 AN ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING ON JULY 1, 2022, AND ENDING ON JUNE 30, 2023, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,961,839.

- j. A public hearing and consideration of an ordinance to amend and re-adopt the Petersburg City Code to add Chapter 21 to create an “Arts Council.”

BACKGROUND: To prepare throughout the city a plan to reestablish an art scenery and platform for sculptures and fine work germane to the period and modern day. As well as serve as the committee for holiday events and decorative sidewalks and buildings.

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend City Council to approve the ordinance to add Chapter 21 to create an “Art Council.”

Council Member Myers stated, “This is to create an Arts Council to help us to make decisions with respect to how the arts would empower our citizens and create community awareness for the arts in downtown

and throughout the City of Petersburg.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

Seeing no hands, Mayor Parham closed the public hearing.

Council Member Westbrook made a motion to approve the ordinance to create an Arts Council. Council Member Smith-Lee 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-19 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND RE-ADOPT THE PETERSBURG CITY CODE TO ADD CHAPTER 21 TO CREATE AN “ARTS COUNCIL.”

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, “Last time I was here, and I heard the City Council, and I heard the school board talk, I was very excited. But I look in the Progress-Index and I see all of these main events and things happening with the businesses downtown and grocery store downtown. I was asking if the public knew this. When you look at the federal government you have what you call a State of the Union address. Can we have a State of the City address that could invite the citizens, school board and city council to answer questions from them and to explain to them the many things that you all have achieved. Can you do that? Something like a State of the City. The mayor may have to do it and all of city council be there. I think that it would be the perfect thing because you all are on the right track. The other thing that I am concerned about is the speed in Petersburg and violence. Mr. Marlow the other night took my tears because he cried about someone in his organization of which some child got killed. Is there anything being done to improve upon the safety of Petersburg in this area? Because it bothers me, and I hope that something can be done. That speeding on Crater Road and South Crater Road and Sycamore Street and other places, I know that the State Troopers and the Police are doing the best that they can. Is there anything else that can happen to help to improve and stop the speeding down the streets? Because someone is going to get killed. Thank you.”

Pete Stith, 4-H Club, stated, “I am not from Petersburg, but I eat enough at Church’s and the Croaker Spot. I think you should just make me an honorary citizen and give me a key to this place so I can come anytime I want to. I am here because I want to introduce to someone of you and present to others the new director of the 4-H Center. I would like you to give her the whole three minutes. Ms. Dorothy Freeman wants me to tell you, Mr. Mayor, how much we appreciate you being on our board and we look for you to come back. We also brought you some nice peanuts. They are not North Carolina Peanuts; these are Virginia peanuts. And after you eat them put that empty pack on the refrigerator with the magnet so that you can see and remind yourself of the 4-H Center and see us sometime. And before I introduce Dr. Guindon from Florida, I want to tell you I wish you good luck on the casino.”

Kathy Guindon, Director of 4-H Camp, stated, “I am Kathy Guindon, the new director at the Airfield 4-H Center. I moved here and I spent 27 years in the Tampa Bay area of Florida. So, this is quite different, but I miss the seasons and I absolutely love being here. I serve you and your citizens of the Petersburg area. So, again I want to thank you Mayor. I have learned that you used to be on our board of directors, and I definitely want to introduce our 4-H Extension Agent, Ms. Rosella Humbles, who just started recently. I am going to make a plea that all of us in this room tonight and everybody that you all know go home and help me meet the

goals and futures for Airfield. And a lot of that is getting in touch with Ms. Humbles over here in regard to our 4-H Center. My big vision is that 4-H Center is a camp. It is first and foremost a residential summer camp for kids. Tonight, I am sitting here, and I learned that someone in this room said that the greatest asset in Petersburg is our youth. 4-H is to take our youth and help create tomorrow's leaders. They are the people that will be sitting in your chair someday. I have heard that teenage crime is a problem in Petersburg. Guess what, let's get them involved in 4-H. We can get those hands busy with good things and helping to serve and give back to the community. And the best way to do that is to expose them to 4-H. I just learned as my new role here that about 50% of the youth are exposed to 4-H by coming to summer camp. Our camp has not been filled for a very long time. Ms. Humbles, as we got 176 bunks to fill for the week that Petersburg youth are at the center. I am willing to work with you in any way, shape, or form to try and get you here. I do not believe that there is a shortage of children in the sixteen jurisdictions that the Airfield Center serve. And I am super excited to be here. I come to Petersburg on some Friday evenings. Some of my new friends that I met live here, and they are trying to recruit me to some of these good neighborhoods that I have been hearing about. Second, we will continue to do our excellent customer service for our conference and retreat center. You can come out and visit. Actually, one of you has come out and visited already to help us out with trying to improve our center. And moving forward I really want to make Airfield a destination. A destination for you, our local businesses, regional businesses, tourists, citizens, to come out and we are trying to create new and engaging environmental education programs for all ages. We have two hundred acres of wood and 100 acres of water. I firmly believe that it is a really beautiful place that a lot of people do not know exists not very far from here. It takes a team, and I am now part of your team. I look forward to working with you in trying to get some more folks out to Airfield and serving you in any way that we can. If you are in the area, please stop by and visit. We will give you a tour and we will give you lunch. We will do whatever we can. I am thankful to be part of the neighborhood. Thank you."

Mayor Parham stated, "Thank you so much Kathy. We finally have an extension agent. That changes things in Petersburg. Welcome aboard. 4-H Camp was special to me. I went every year in Petersburg. I went when I was a kid and participated in the water Olympics and won the team spirit stick. So, it is things like that I love to get our kids back outside and away from TV and social media and all that stuff. Thank you all for your commitment to serving our community. Mr. Stith, make sure that they get my information so that we can connect them with our Parks and Recreation Director, Marquis Allen. He is not here tonight. But I want to connect that because he is working with our youth along with incorporating schools. Thank you again."

Otis Hill, 2306 N. Whitehill Drive, stated, "Good evening. I am deaf and my name is Otis Hill. I noticed that there are some people that are deaf that live in houses and they have alarm systems for safety. They have carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and gas alarms for safety. They are very important. I contacted the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to see if they have any of those alarms for the deaf in this area and the fire department as well. And neither of them has those to provide for the deaf. So, I am trying to find out where we can get them. The people that have homes in Petersburg can have flashing alarms for the carbon monoxide safety alarm. It is very important for deaf people to have visual alarms. So, I wanted to ask about that and also about HUD houses. And for Section 8 houses as well. There are programs that provide those. Secondly, according to the census in this area if there is a hurricane or something happens, how many deaf people live in Petersburg? Has there been a count of how many deaf people live in Petersburg? Because if a hurricane came for safety purposes, how would they be contacted to be able to know that there is a hurricane or an emergency. So, does the City of Petersburg know where the deaf people live to be able to be contacted if something happens? I would really like to make sure that our police department, who are around highways and streets, know how to communicate with the deaf when they pull them over to find out that something has happened. How do police officers communicate with people that are deaf. Police officers do have visor cards. And I was going to bring some to show to you, but I can bring that in April to see how the police officer or first responder can communicate with deaf people. Those are the three things that I wanted to bring up. So, thank you for hearing me out tonight."

Bruce Richardson, 844 Miller Street, stated, "I am going to lead in by saying that 35.9% of Petersburg residents are own occupant based on the US Census Bureau. That is a little bit over a third. Why is that important? On Saturday, April 1st from 10am to 4:30pm, we will be offering a homebuyer education course right here at the library on the second floor. It is so important because you have many residents who are wage

earners who have not learned the steps nor the process of homeownership. They have been built into a society of believing that rental is the only option. And it is time for that to come to an end. Not only was I born and raised on The Heights in Petersburg, but I also contributed a lot to my community and a lot to the youth. But I think that one of our greatest attributes to our families is the opportunity for homeownership. It is the American dream. It provides a sense of building equity and legacy for your family. So, once again this course is free. There is no cost. Your mayor has blessed us in the past by giving open comments in the past. Hopefully, he can attend this Saturday, April 1st. But this class or course is to encourage city employees, healthcare workers at South Regional Medical Center, law enforcement and firefighters to look at homeownership. There are many in our community that earn a great wage but have yet to pursue homeownership. And I say really the importance of this class is really to learn the process. There are so many that believe I cannot buy a house because I have bad credit. There is nothing further from the truth. There is a second notion of I cannot buy a house because I do not have a prerequisite downpayment assistance. Well come to this course. We are offering \$12,500 in downpayment to those who meet lender eligibility requirements and credit worthiness. And we will give each participant in this course a certificate that is valid for two years. I am not new to doing these courses in Petersburg. We have done them throughout the state. I take a particular interest in doing these courses and giving opportunities to those in the community that reared me and that led to my success. So, it is important. Tell your city employees city manager that this is a free class. I hope that we will see a great attendance. And I will tell you that there are several ways that you can register but there are forms that accompany me tonight. And it is as simple as clicking on a QR Code. And it will tap you right into our registration. I would like to leave several of my forms on the back table. Thank you all again for your time this evening.”

Mayor Parham stated, “Thank you so much Mr. Richardson. We always appreciate all that you do for the City of Petersburg. We were together last summer for the baseball team that you sponsored, and we thank you for your commitment. You see Ms. Joanne Williams in the back. If you can, take that to her and we can put it up on the website for you. And I am going to turn it over to Mrs. Lucas right now, our esteem clerk for a comment.”

Mrs. Lucas stated, “I would like to speak on Mr. Richardson comments. Actually, five years ago on April 1st, I attended his homebuyer’s class at the Petersburg Area Transit. And two months later, I purchased my home. The classes are very informative. It was very easy. There were a lot of questions asked by the participants as well as myself. And you get a book that actually explains everything and has all the answers to it. It was a very informational class and it helped me to purchase my first month.”

Mayor Parham stated, “That is a great testimonial. Thank you, Mr. Richardson. Also, we have Ms. Mary Howard of our housing authority right here. You can give her one as well to pass around to anybody.”

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

Council Member Cuthbert stated, “First, I want to tell council and the public that Councilman Marlow Jones and I will host joint ward meeting at Bethany Missionary Baptist Church, a week from tonight. So, it will be Tuesday, March 28th at 5:30pm. Bethany Missionary Baptist Church is at 613 East Wythe Street. The meeting will take place at the Norma Freeman Hall. Those attending should enter the church door on the west side of the church. All citizens of Petersburg are invited to attend regardless of their ward. The focus of the meeting is going to be on blighted buildings and efforts by the city to eliminate that blight. As well as anything else dealing with local government that the public cares to bring forward. And representatives of the City Manager’s Office, the Petersburg Police Department, Department of Public Works, and Neighborhood Services will be present. There was an ad in the newspaper, and I appreciate the Clerk of Council placing that in the paper this morning. I think there will be another one next Sunday. So, please pass the word. We would love to see you in attendance with questions and issues. And Councilman Jones and I will do our best to address them. The second thing, if you know of any streetlights in Petersburg that are out, take a photograph of them with your cellphone and email me the photograph. And I will forward it on to the city administration. I found ten streetlights within a block of the old trailways bus station that were not burning. I took a photograph of each and forwarded them on to the city administration. So, we can brighten our city and I think address crime in our city in that fashion. The last thing that I want to talk about is blight. And I would ask Mr. VanVoorhees if he

would put up on the screen 132 South Little Church Street. I want to put up six buildings here and just let the public see their condition of them. This is the east side of 321 Grove Avenue. Show the public and council the other views. This is the backside. That is the front. The windows are wide open in the front. And then we have got the west side and those windows on the second floor are wide open. This is a remarkable structure. When you stand in the backyard, and you can look past all the junk that has accumulated you can see the Appomattox River. Let's go to 132 Little Church Street in Blandford. Let's go to 29 Liberty Street. Now this is the back of 29 Liberty Street. Now we have moved into Ward 5. So, this is the back of 29 Liberty Street if you can believe it. Now, let's go to the front. You can recognize the front. Now, let's go to 430 South Sycamore Street. Again, in 5th Ward. This is the back of 430 South Sycamore Street. Let's go to the front. You see many of the windowpanes knocked out. But you do not realize how bad it is until you go around and walk around the back. Let's go to Ward 6 and talk about 503-505 Halifax Street. You got that here in front of you. Now, let's go to 1491 Halifax Street. The blight that you have seen did not develop overnight. And yet over the many years the blight that you just seen did develop the city administration has not asked the court to order the owner to fix up the properties that I have just shown you. Have not brought a single one of them to court. Now, the bottom line is that throughout Petersburg, and it is not just in Ward 4, but as you saw it's in the Blandford area, Ward 5 and Ward 6 and it could well be in other areas of the city. I could bring forward photographs of one hundred buildings that are in pretty bad shape if I had the time to do it. But I just want to make the point. The bottom line is that throughout our city, our city administration needs to address blight much more aggressively by taking property owners to court. Doing so will make our neighborhoods safer. It will make our neighborhoods more attractive. It will increase property values within our neighborhoods. It will increase our real estate revenues received by the city. And it will preserve Petersburg's unique and historic streetscape. The administration just has to do. We have to take the buildings to court or bring the property owners to court. Or otherwise, we will just have more of the same and we will lose what I just showed you pictures of. Mr. Mayor, thank you very much. I do not have anything more."

Council Member Jones stated, "Thank everyone for sitting here this long with us. I want to start off with an apology to you guys for our closed session time. Sometimes it goes long because we have to iron stuff out. There are things that if we were to rush it would be a discredit and disservice to you. I used to be one of the ones that used to sit out there and say that they are back there so long. And I realize that there are some points and some truths and facts before we come out here. We do not wish to keep you guys over the time period that we plan. So, please work with us as we get better. But we do not want to rush important issues back there. There are a lot of questions. So, I apologize on behalf of me and everybody else up here. I know that they feel the same way. I also want to piggyback off Council Member Cuthbert with the blight. I will be introducing a form to the council at the next work session on how to empower citizens to help us to identify and report blight. Not just regular blight but blight that we own as well. And that form will be given to you guys if it is approved by us. Another thing that I want to address is crime in the city. From December 2nd up until this month, we went that long without a homicide. And I would like to thank the citizens for exercising common sense and peace to go that long. And I would like to thank the police department for doing a lot with a little. We have to get that eight-million-dollar budget back to twenty. Same thing with the fire department. We are working on it. The next thing is, I want to thank Judge Martin, Bill Lawson, Circuit Court Clerk, Ex Circuit Court Clerk Benjamin Scott, Coach Michael Scott, Coach Winfield, and Marquis Allen for facilitating middle school football. It was mentioned earlier when that program came back a lot of the crime went down. I would like to also add that I did purchase helmets and shoulder pads and donated it to that program out of my own funds. I was tagged on social media about this young group, and I want to apologize to the lady if she is in here. We have an eight-year-old football team that went to Florida and won the championship. And they deserve to be recognized like everybody else and we skipped over them. So, hopefully we can get them in here and honor those little guys. Because it is important that we show them that we care and that we see them. I will contact her and make sure we can get her in here. But the team is called 'The Burg Boyz.' The age group is eight and under. Lastly, we are putting together a Mother's Day Concert the Sunday before Mother's Day. Other than that, I want to say thank you to my comrades up here who have been assisting me and making this a smooth transition. A lot of people thought I was going to come here and be a rebel and I am. But I am also a team player. I just want the truth. I want the facts and I am going to ask the facts. And I want to speak on the salaries that I saw in the newspaper. I am not going to go into detail about it, but I feel that if you are making that much money as a supervisor you should be here. This City Manager cannot get the word out from all of us fast enough. Faster than it could be if those department heads were here. See the employees that do not make

that money, it is a benefit to them to be able to go home at 5pm and not have to come to a council meeting. You are not making the money. But when you are here, help leadership out so that you can get the sense of direction out to your employees. And that is something that I could have said to you back there, but I am going to say it right here because that is the rebel in me coming out. If they are making that money, we want to see them here. They owe that to you guys. You may have questions for them before it even gets to use. It is called responsibility and accountability. Right now, we are on it with employee accountability. That is why I abstained from these numbers right here. Because I see the numbers, but I do not see the results. I do have to give a special shoutout to the Mayor and Vice Mayor and the City Attorney. The City Attorney reached out to me first when I won the election to give me an orientation. The Mayor and Vice Mayor has been what you think they should be which is a mentor. I am learning this stuff quickly. And not just those two, then I got my friend here beside me. I almost knocked him out in court one day. But we ironed that out. And then I have everybody down here, Myers, Westbrook, and Mrs. Annette. Regardless of what anyone may think on social media and in this room, I was the missing piece to this team. And it is my duty, job, and aim to make sure we get a lead on truth. Thank you.”

Council Member Westbrook stated, “Thank everybody for coming out. Council Member Myers I am going to make my first shoutout. I appreciate you starting the Arts Council. Council Member Jones I am all for definitely for highlighting our youth. That is what I try to do every time that I have this microphone once a month at these meetings. So, I do understand that there is a lot of attention always given to basketball and football. But I am going to keep hollering for the arts and the sport of speech and debate. And I say that because this Saturday, as I mentioned last month, the Petersburg High Forensic Team are going to compete in the state tournament under the direction of Ms. Terri Smith. So, I hope that we can continue to support all the sports and activities of Petersburg youth so that they all can feel inclusive instead of just the main two breadwinners. I do wish those five young ladies all the support in the world and hopefully they bring back some state championships. So, when we honor that football team, we can honor them as well. On the HBCU level we did host the 5th Annual HBCU Speech and National Debate Tournament that has not been held in person since 2019. I do want to thank the city administration. I do not want to single anyone out and miss anybody, but I do have to call one. And that is Ms. Joanne Williams. She helped the administration team of the tournament. She was the one person I could call on. And even while she was in the General Assembly, she helped get a lot of logistics to make sure that Petersburg was represented at that tournament. There are still a lot of negative stereotypes about Petersburg. I am sorry, Ms. Ella too. I hope that we will continue to shine that light over Petersburg. Overall, with that tournament, Howard University did win the national championship. Morehouse, my alma mate, did win the debate portion of it. But Virginia State did win first place in speech in the sweepstakes. Which means that we did accumulate the most points and we won third place in the debate. Next up is just back to the city. I am complementing a lot of what my other council members have said. Spring people just started yesterday. It is time to start worrying about cutting your grass. Hopefully, we will not have to put so much strain on public works and neighborhood services to get out there and stake yards. But hopefully as Council Member Jones said, we have to be a community. Call out your neighbors and say ‘hey, its time to cut that grass before it gets too tall.’ We want to make this city a more appealing and attractive place on the eyes. I know that the police are doing the best that they can. But I am seeing a lot of speeding on the Defense Road and Bayers Lane area. And that is a double line that you are not supposed to cross. And people will go around you on that S-curve and that back to Defense Road. I am like where are you going and what is the rush? We have to continue to make sure that we are hollering to the hills to slow down. To the youth, good luck. By the next time we talk to you, you will be completing your first round of SOLs. I am not one that feels like we should be engaging our youth’s intelligence by a test. It can sometimes be outdated and not all inclusive to everybody. But then again it is a measuring rod. So, I do wish them good luck and hope they get great test scores. So, when the school board comes up here, we can be a little less reluctant to say hey we need some measurables and return on investment on what the city is inputting into our youth. I do know everybody wants the youth to be properly educated. But we have to make sure that we have good stewards of this money. We cannot just be giving out money and there is no return on our investment in how our youth are being measured on SOLs. That is one of the first benchmarks.”

Council Member Myers stated, “I do not have much Mr. Mayor. But I do want to defend Ward 5 as Mr. Cuthbert has pointed out that there are several houses in Ward 5 that are in a dilapidated state. Yes, because they were moved over to Ward 5 from Ward 4. However, I have to say that I appreciate most of my members

on council who served with me when we took down over one hundred houses in Ward 5. And if you ride through Ward 5, I could not even find trash on the ground. And they are over there renovating and revitalizing Ward 5. So, I am very proud of what my tenure has done while I am there. Mary Howard, thank you very much for always being there with me and Mr. Mayor and everyone on council. So, let's not put a lot of emphasis on Ward 5 at this point because we are moving forward."

Council Member Smith-Lee stated, "And so is Ward 6. I have a house that is being built on Washington Street and it is nice across from Golden Skillet. I have two on Halifax Street. Those blighted properties that Mr. Cuthbert showed on the screen, believe me I have been doing my work to try to rectify and get those properties in tack. Ward 6 will have a ward meeting on May 6th at 6pm at Cool Springs Elementary School. And can all the department heads please stand. Lead by example, thank you and good job. The kids are going on spring break, and I am so excited for them. And I will be going on spring break with them. But just be safe when you go. I want to give a shoutout to Blandford 6th grade. I was there and they are going to have a pep rally. Because when I went into the school it was slow. And I was like they need something pumped up. And so, they are going to do a pep rally. If anyone wants to come there, it is going to be the Friday when their last day before they go on spring break. Thank you."

Vice Mayor Hill stated, "Thank everyone for being out today. Something just shocked me today. During our Rules of Council, when we allow individuals to speak. I may have to see something in writing Mr. City Attorney allowing individuals to speak who do not have a business here and who is not on the agenda to present and who is not a resident. I have been on council for eight years. Even in our agenda it reads that you must be a resident or have a business here. But still this is the first time I have seen individuals come to the mic and we allow them to speak. Because I do not think that I can go to Richmond City Council and speak. I do not think that I can go to Chesterfield and speak. So, I am going to need something in writing so that we can be inline. Because if that is the case, we will have everyone in here speaking. This is Petersburg. If you have a business or are a resident, you should be able to speak. I may be wrong, and it may be something dealing with the state. But I have been on council for eight years and that is the first time. I even checked with the clerk, and she said that was the first time. She has been here longer than all of us on council. Mr. Williams, I would like to see something in writing with that. And I am pretty sure you will provide that information. I am not questioning you. Also, Ward 2 will be having a meeting coming up soon. I am just trying to secure a place. Because the place that I normally have they are not open to large crowds. So, I will come back to that. I guess we will have our Retreat in August at some time. I just have some questions on things to discuss during that time. And I do understand the blight situation. I understand Council Member Cuthbert and Jones with blight. I understand Council Member Jones being his code is code enforcement. He has been that missing piece when it comes to that. We really appreciate his words of encouragement and what have you. We work well together. All of us do. I am excited about the houses that are being built in the city. I am excited about the renovation that is being done in the city as well. But we still have some challenges that we must take care of. I never knew some of the houses look the way they looked on the back end. I was very enlightened. But I am excited about some of the things that are taking place in some of the wards including mines as well. Let's just keep up the good work."

Mr. Williams stated, "I did send during the meeting an email to all of council identifying the distinction of the public hearing and public comments. So, you should have that."

Vice Mayor Hill stated, "I appreciate that and thank you."

Mayor Parham stated, "At this time, I would like to recognize our Petersburg Police, Officer Cuba, and Officer Hall. Can you all just come up front for me? Because you all just have a lot of good things going. Chief Christian is not here but his guys are here representing for PD today. I want them to come forward because they have a lot of good things that are going on. Starting out this weekend, Petersburg Police is having what is called a Teen Town Hall right here at Petersburg Public Library. And it is a great event that Petersburg Police is putting on to get those comments from our young people. And building those relationships is keeping our community safe. So, I want to thank you all for that one. Also, while you are standing, they are also having the Petersburg Athletic League that is having before and after care during spring break. During that time, the Housing Authority will be providing transportation. The partnership will continue with a basketball camp with the Kiwanis Club. It is a sunup to sundown program. Thank you, guys, for all you do. You do an excellent job

around here. There is a lot going on starting with the Teen Town Hall and then we are coming back the following weekend with the Donamatrix Weekend of Events. We have Petersburg's own celebrity fitness trainer, Don Brooks, leaving Melrose, California to come to Petersburg to do his Donamatrix Festival. This year he is doing something special. He is doing a gala here at the library. It will be a black-tie gala. All of the proceeds go to our youth with the Petersburg Parks and Recreation. All come out and support Don as he comes home to give back to his city that he loves. Then it is followed by the Donamatrix Training event at the high school the following day on April 1st. Spring is coming so it is time to get out and get active. It will be a great weekend to kick-off what is going to be a ton of events going on. Also, leading into April will be the Petersburg Marathon and 5k. You all can get in shape now and run the marathon or 5k or walk it. You can register right now and there are discounted tickets. Now, I will give the rest of my time to Council Member Jones to do a follow up to Mr. Otis Hill and those smoke detectors."

Council Member Jones stated, "Mr. Hill, there are some photo electric sensor smoke detectors and combination detectors that you can get from Lowe's, or you can order them from Amazon. They were pretty expensive, and they were around \$60 to \$100. They flash and vibrate."

Mayor Parham stated, "And also I am going to look to the City Manager on how many of our residents are deaf so maybe we can provide them with those special smoke detectors to take the burden off of them."

Mr. Altman stated, "During Mr. Hill's comments, I wrote down the questions. So, we are going to look and see if we can do it through Social Services to see if we can identify the number of individuals that we have that are deaf. And Council Member Jones knows as far as the fire department that they have access to give out smoke detectors. We are going to look into that, and I will check with Chief Magann. We will work on that and see what we can do to help."

Mayor Parham stated, "I know we do a smoke detector blitz. But we can work on getting those special detectors for the deaf. We are checking with the Red Cross as well. But we will come up with a way to provide those. Thank you so much for those comments, Mr. Hill."

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. Consideration of an ordinance to amend and re-adopt the City Code to include Section 98-25-Bollards for Historic Properties.

BACKGROUND: N/A

RECOMMENDATION: To approve the ordinance to amend and re-adopt the City Code to include Section 98-25 Bollards for Historic Properties.

Reginald Tabor, Department of Planning and Community Development, stated, "During the February 21, 2023, City Council meeting, City Council requested that an ordinance and an item be brought back for your consideration. Since that time, we have done a little bit of research and looked at bollards and specifications and preliminary cost information. Unfortunately, we have not been able to compile as much information as we would like you to have as you consider this time. And we respectfully request that you table this item until your April meeting. So, we will have enough time to provide additional information.

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to table the item until the April City Council Meeting. 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

- b. Consideration of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to extend the development agreement between the City of Petersburg and Griffin Cigar, LLC for the property at 108 East Washington Street.

BACKGROUND: On July 2, 2019, the City of Petersburg entered into a development agreement with Griffin Cigar, LLC for the development of property located at 108 East Washington Street. The construction timeline was for a period not to exceed three years except by the written consent of the City as approved by Petersburg City Council (letter F). The development schedule calls for the project to be completed within three phases over a three-year period from closing on the building. Closing occurred on August 12, 2019, and as of November 15, 2022, a Certificate of Occupancy has not been obtained.

On December 13, 2022, The City Council approved an extension of one year with an automatic reversion back to the city if the project is not completed by December 13, 2023.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends City Council adopt the resolution based on previous action taken December 13, 2022.

Brian Moore, Director of Economic Development, gave a brief update on the request.

There was discussion among city council and staff.

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, and Parham

23-R-26 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXERCISE THE RIGHT OF REVERSION AND AMEND THE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF PETERSBURG AND GRIFFIN CIGAR, LLC FOR THE PROPERTY AT 108 EAST WASHINGTON STREET.

- c. Consideration of an ordinance approving a Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment – To amend Article 15. – “B-2” General Commercial District Regulations, Section 2. Use Regulations, by changing permitted uses from those in the “B-1” Shopping Center District to those permitted in the “R-3” Two Family Residence District and requiring a Special Use Permit for Multi Dwelling in B-2 and B-3 districts.

BACKGROUND: The City of Petersburg Code of Ordinances Appendix B. Zoning includes Article 15. "B-2" General Commercial District Regulations. The purpose of this district is to provide sufficient space in appropriate locations for all types of commercial and miscellaneous service activities, particularly along certain existing major streets where a general mixture of commercial and service activity now exists, but which uses are not characterized by extensive warehousing, frequent heavy trucking activity, open storage of material, or the nuisance factors of dust, odor and noise associated with manufacturing.

Currently, within the regulations, Section 2. Use regulations. State that “A building or premises shall be used only for the following purposes: (1) Any use permitted in the "B-1" Shopping Center District and "RB" Office-Apartment District.” The RB District permits (1) Any use permitted in the "R-5" Multiple Dwelling District. Currently there are 805 parcels in the City of Petersburg zoned B-2 General Commercial District. These parcels are located along commercial corridors, including Washington Street, Wythe Street, Halifax Street, S Crater Road, County Drive, Wagner Road, and Rives Road. The 2014 Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Plan designates properties zoned B-2 as Commercial, Development Corridors and other uses.

The RB district permits multi-family residential development by-right. This amendment would change the by-

right residential use to Single-Family and Two-Family residence, and require a Special Use Permit for Multi-Family uses.

Pursuant to the requirements of Title 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, the Planning Commission held a public hearing on January 5, 2023 and considered a resolution recommending approval of the amendment to the Code, and the public hearing was advertised, in accordance with applicable laws.

The Planning Commission voted to recommend approval of the Text Amendment.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the City Council schedules a Public Hearing and considers an amendment to the City Code Appendix B. Zoning by changing permitted uses from those in the "B-1" Shopping Center District to those permitted in the "R-3" Two-Family Residence District and requiring a Special Use Permit for Multi Dwelling in B-2 and B-3 districts.

Reginald Tabor, Department of Planning and Community Development, gave an overview of the request.

There was discussion among the city council and staff.

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

23-ORD-20 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT – B-2 ZONING DISTRICT TO AMEND PERMITTED USES FROM RB TO R-3 AND REQUIRING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR USES PERMITTED IN THE R-5 ZONING DISTRICT, INCLUDING MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL USES.

- d. Consideration of approval of a Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Grant Contract and authorization for the City Manager to execute the Agreement.

BACKGROUND: The City of Petersburg is completing the update of the Comprehensive Plan, which includes as required by State Law, Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act water quality protection provisions.

The Bay Act provides a comprehensive, regulatory approach to addressing nonpoint source pollution that includes sound land use management, water quality protection, the protection of wetlands and other environmentally sensitive lands, preserving riparian buffers, maintaining septic systems, and improving development designs. Local governments are responsible for implementation and funding of the program.

This grant provides funding assistance focused on the City of Petersburg Comprehensive Plan Natural Resources/Environmental Stewardship chapter update to comply with the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the City Council approves the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Grant Contract and authorization for the City Manager to execute the Agreement.

Council Member Myers made a motion to approve the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Grant Contract and authorization for the City Manager to execute the Agreement. 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, and Parham

14. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Consideration of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a Special Warranty Deed

between the City of Petersburg and the Petersburg and the Petersburg Redevelopment and Housing for property designated as Lot 4 on the property addressed as 1400 Farmer Street, the location of the Pecan Acres Housing Development.

BACKGROUND: The Petersburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority is proposing to deed the parcel identified as Lot 4 at 1400 Farmer Street, Parcel Identification Number: 046040014 to the City of Petersburg. The property was originally deeded to the Petersburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority by The Vector Company, Inc. in 1973. The property became the location of the Pecan Acres Housing Development.

The Petersburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority is replacing many of the units and funding does not permit property on the redevelopment project site to be located within a floodway. Lot 4 has been identified as being partially located within a floodway. This deed would remove the parcel from the project site.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the City Council adopts the resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute the Warranty Deed.

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to approve the resolution. 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-27 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A SPECIAL WARRANTY DEED BETWEEN THE CITY OF PETERSBURG AND THE PETERSBURG REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR PROPERTY DESIGNATED AS LOT 4 ON THE PROPERTY ADDRESSED AS 1400 FARMER STREET, THE LOCATION OF THE PECAN ACRES HOUSING AUTHORITY.

- b. Consideration of an appropriation for a High Hazard Potential Dam (HHPD) Grant awarded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and allocated by the VA Department of Conservation and Recreation in the amount of \$92,137.50 to be used for design costs associated with the ultimate improvements to bring the Wilcox Lake Dam into compliance with the VA Dam Safety Regulations – 2nd Reading.

BACKGROUND: In 2021, FEMA awarded NDSP funding to DCR to protect American lives and their property from the risks associated with dams. The HHPD Grant Program provides assistance for technical, planning, design, and other pre-construction activities as well as planning and outreach.

DCR recognized the need of the City of Petersburg to get funding assistance for Wilcox Dam, and in turn awarded \$92,137.50 for the estimated cost of the eligible activities mentioned above. There is a city match requirement of \$49,612.50 – the total amount of funding needed for the grant project is \$141,750.00. This grant allocated by DCR is a reimbursement grant requiring the funds be expended by the locality and then reimbursed quarterly.

RECOMMENDATION: Request council adopt the attached appropriation ordinance in the total amount of \$92,137.50.

Darryl Walker, Stormwater Program Manager, gave an overview of the request.

Council Member Westbrook made a motion to approve the ordinance. 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, and Parham

23-ORD-21 AN ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED, SAID ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2022, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2023, IN THE GRANTS FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$92,137.50.

- c. Consideration of a resolution to approve National Opioid Settlement – Teva and Allergan – CVS, Walgreens, and Walmart.

BACKGROUND: In year 2021, the City of Petersburg adopted resolutions 21-R-93 and 21-R-94 authorizing the City's participation in the National Opioid Settlement involving Johnson & Johnson/Janssen and Cardinal, AmerisourceBergen, and McKesson. The Office of the Virginia Attorney General has tentatively reached additional settlements with Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walgreens, and Walmart.

The Settlements require the settling Manufacturers and Pharmacies to pay billions of dollars to abate the opioid epidemic. The Settlements total over \$20 billion. Of this amount, approximately \$17 billion will be used by participating states and subdivisions to remediate and abate the impacts of the opioid crisis. Depending on participation by states and subdivisions, the Settlements require:

- Teva to pay up to \$3.34 billion over 13 years and to provide either \$1.2 billion of its generic version of the drug Narcan over 10 years or an agreed upon cash equivalent over 13 years;
- Allergan to pay up to \$2.02 billion over 7 years;
- CVS to pay up to \$4.90 billion over 10 years;
- Walgreens to pay up to \$5.52 billion over 15 years; and
- Walmart to pay up to \$2.74 billion in 2023, and all payments to be made within 6 years.

As provided under the Agreements, these figures are net of amounts attributable to prior settlements between the Defendants and certain states/subdivisions, and include amounts for attorneys' fees and costs.

The Settlements also contain injunctive relief governing opioid marketing, sale, distribution, and/or dispensing practices.

The specific amount of funds that will be disbursed to the City as a participant will depend, among other things, upon the number of localities participating in the settlement. In order to participate in the settlement, the City must submit all required documentation (including adopting the attached Resolution on or before April 18, 2023).

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the resolution.

Anthony Williams, City Attorney, gave an overview of the request.

Council Member Jones 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, and Parham

23-R-28 A RESOLUTION OF THE PETERSBURG CITY COUNCIL APPROVING OF THE CITY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF OPIOID-RELATED CLAIMS AGAINST TEVA, ALLERGAN, WALMART, WALGREENS, CVS, AND THEIR RELATED CORPORATE ENTITIES, AND DIRECTING THE CITY ATTORNEY AND CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THE CITY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE SETTLEMENTS.

15. CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA:

- a. Presentation of TLC Renewal 2023-2024.

Lakishah White, Human Resource Director, gave an overview of the TLC Renewal.

Key notes:

- The decision for Local Choice is needed by April 5th.
- The Local Choice (TLC) renewal is calling for an 8.8% increase, or \$418,944 to current. It reflects a 1.0% one-time adjustment from TLC.
- LiveHealth Online will include dermatology visits.
- Expanded virtual care options – in-app medical text chat for on-demand 24/7 urgent care as well as scheduled follow-up visits for wellness, prevention, and chronic condition care.
- The recommendation is to choose Option C – Continue with TLC offering the two current plan options (Key Advantage 500) (Key Advantage 1000)
- The contribution would be to keep employees’ contributions as is and the city absorbs the increase. This will allow the city to be positioned to retain and attract new talent.
- Future planning: Provide education on the high deductible health plan and Health Savings Accounts to provide a better understanding of this future option.
- Review the market for potential options outside of TLC.

There was a discussion among council and staff.

Council Member Cuthbert made a motion to table for discussion for the April 4th Closed Session. 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, and Parham

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:

The City Council adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Clerk of City Council

APPROVED:

Mayor