

The regular meeting of the Petersburg City Council was held on Tuesday, May 7, 2019, at the Union Train Station. Mayor Parham called the meeting to order at 6:33p.m.

1. ROLL CALL:

Present:

Council Member Charles H. Cuthbert, Jr.
Council Member Annette Smith-Lee
Council Member Treska Wilson-Smith
Council Member W. Howard Myers
Council Member Darrin Hill
Vice Mayor John A. Hart, Sr.
Mayor Samuel Parham

Absent: None

Present from City Administration:

City Manager Aretha R. Ferrell-Benavides
City Attorney Anthony C. Williams
Clerk of Council Nykesha D. Jackson

2. PRAYER:

Mayor Parham stated, "At this time Council Member Hill will led us in our opening prayer."

Council Member Hill led the council meeting in prayer.

Mayor Parham stated, "At this time council members I would like to amend our agenda because we have the girl scouts here and we have a closed session. I would like to get the girl scouts now and then we will lead to our closed session. At this time, we have a proclamation of recognition for the 'Girl Scout Week.'"

Mayor Parham stated, "At this time Council Member Myers would like to make an amendment to the agenda."

Council Member Myers stated, "I would like to suspend the Rules of Council and with respect to that I would like to move 'f' as our next agenda item, presentation from Chris Harrison and Associates. And I would like to strike 'D' and 'E' from the agenda."

Council Member Myers made a motion to suspend the Rules of Council and move item "8F" as the next agenda item and strike items "8D" and "8E" from the agenda and moved to the next regular City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hill. There was discussion on the motion. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Smith-Lee, Myers, Hill, Hart and Parham; Voting No: Cuthbert and Wilson-Smith

Council Member Myers stated, "Good evening Mayor Parham, Vice Mayor Hart and distinguished members of City Council, City Manager, City Attorney and Citizens of Petersburg. I stand before you representative of the Economic Development, Tourism, Land Use, and Housing Standing Committee as its Chairman with the Honorable Mayor Sam Parham as Vice Chair. Two weeks ago, at the behest of the Mayor specifically and the majority of City Council, I had the honor of attending a meeting with Vice Mayor Hart, City Manager Ferrell-Benavides and Deputy City Manager Lyons as it pertained to the Ramada Hotel located at 380 East Washington St., at Exit 52. The meeting commenced with respect to the options Mr. Chris Harrison

*Audio available upon request.

was to share and thus the City's outcomes had they not been deemed favorable. I believe in an economic standpoint; we have reached an opportunity that would be beneficial for both parties to move forward with the development of the Ramada Hotel site. Tonight, I present the Developer Mr. Chris Harrison and his team to overview what we believe is an opportunity not only for this developer, but an opportunity to springboard an economic tool for the City of Petersburg along with our Opportunity Zone incentive. Forthcoming you will receive an ordinance that will provide for an additional incentive, should we so desire. However, this ordinance is of no affect unless there is a viable developable project. We have the opportunity to create history here in the State of Virginia as the team will convey, with respect to the Ramada Hotel as the developable project.

I urge that we consider this ordinance in an effort to provide another step closer towards our economic and financial long-term goals. I present to you Mr. Chris Harrison and his team. Thank you very much."

- a. Presentation from Chris Harrison and Associates regarding 380 East Washington Street.

BACKGROUND: The City of Petersburg executed a purchase agreement with Virginia Hotel Development Group, LLC, for the properties at 326, 380 and 400 E. Washington Street on May 16, 2019, for the purpose of constructing a hotel and other developments on the properties. The City secured grant funding through the Virginia Brownfields Restoration and Economic Redevelopment Assistance Fund (VBAF) and other funding through the Virginia Industrial Revitalization Fund (IRF) for the project. Initial abatement and demolition work have started on the project. For several months, work on the project has created. The Developer has agreed to provide an update on the status of the project.

RECOMMENDATION: Receive a presentation from Mr. Chris Harrison, the Developer of the hotel project at 380 E. Washington Street.

Chris Harrison stated that his team will be giving a presentation on C-PACE.

Abby Johnson gave PowerPoint presentation on C-PACE. She stated that it is fixed rate financing.

There was discussion among City Council and Chris Harrison and his team on the project and C-PACE.

Council Member Cuthbert stated, "Mr. Harrison, stated in terms of millions of dollars, how big is your funding gap?"

Mr. Harrison stated, "About three to four million."

Council Member Cuthbert stated, "Three to four million dollars. And Ms. Johnson, what is the likely range of or what is the likely loan that would be made available under your program if we were to go forward with it."

Ms. Johnson stated, "We can pull out all the lighting, HVAC and a lot of the stormwater improvements. You can pull out the boilers, hot water heaters and some of the roof replacement if required and the window systems."

Council Member Cuthbert stated, "In dollar signs."

Chris Hannah stated, "That is a good question. The project that we are doing almost everything that we are doing qualifies as a PACE Initiative. So, we would be eligible for more PACE financing than our shortfall that exist. So, in other words we have easily \$7-9 million dollars in eligible PACE cost. Because we are redoing
*Audio available upon request.

all of the roof and all of the HVAC. We are redoing all of these things that will be more energy efficient. We have the windows. So, almost a majority of our renovation budget qualifies for PACE Program. We have more than enough project cost that will qualify for the shortfall.”

Mr. Harrison stated, “We are able to take that then monetize 100% of those cost.”

Ms. Johnson stated, “So, like the windows. The windows have a life of 40 to 50 years. So, you can put that into the program and you can pay that off in a long period of time. That is a huge expense.”

Council Member Cuthbert stated, “Mr. Harrison, to follow-up on Council Member Smith-Lee’s good questions and Council Member Hill good questions, when will this council and the public see progress on the Ramada Inn?”

Mr. Harrison stated, “We can start as soon as August, if the ordinance is passed.

There was continued discussion among Council, staff and Mr. Harrison and his team.

Council Member Cuthbert asked, “When will you close all the window opening and remove the graffiti?”

Mr. Harrison stated, “We plan to have that done before the month is out.”

Council Member Cuthbert, “I beg your pardon.”

Mr. Harrison stated, “We will have the building secure before the month is out, the month of May.”

Council Member Cuthbert asked, “Why has it not been done before?”

Mr. Harrison stated, “We are putting that together now.”

Council Member Cuthbert stated, “Closing windows and removing graffiti and you are putting it together. How long have you owned the building?”

Mr. Harrison stated, “Well in order to remove we would have to remove the skin of the building and we do not want to do that because that exposes the building.”

Council Member Cuthbert asked, “How long have you owned the building?”

Mr. Harrison stated, “A little over a year.”

Council Member Cuthbert stated, “Why have the windows been closed already?”

Mr. Harrison stated, “We were doing demolition.”

Council Member Cuthbert stated, “I understand but why haven’t the window opening been closed?”

Mr. Harrison stated, “We need the windows open for demoloition.”

Council Member Cuthbert asked, "When did the demolition end?"

Mr. Harrison stated, "We stopped about 90 to 120 days ago."

Council Member Cuthbert stated, "I don't have any other questions. Thank you very much."

There was discussion among council, staff and Mr. Harrison.

Council Member Hill made a motion to direct the City Manager along with the City Manager to develop an ordinance for the C-PACE development opportunity. The motion was seconded by Council Member Myers. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Smith-Lee, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Hill, Hart and Parham

3. CLOSED SESSION:

City Attorney Anthony C. Williams stated that City Council will now move to go into closed session for one purpose pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.A (7) of the Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended, council will be in closed session for the purpose of receiving legal advice and status update from the City Attorney and legal consultation regarding the subject of specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by the City Attorney and matters of actual or probable litigation specifically including but not limited to matters requiring legal advice by the City Attorney.

Council Member Hill stated, "Members of Council we have a very extensive docket today. And I would like to revisit going to closed session after we finish our meeting if it is okay with the council."

Council Member Hill made a motion to revisit going into closed session until after they finish the meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Wilson-Smith. There was no discussion on the motion, which was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Smith-Lee, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Hill, Hart and Parham; Voting No: Cuthbert

4. MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Ms. Jackson led council and the audience in a moment of silence.

5. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Ms. Jackson led council and the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

6. DETERMINATION OF THE PRESENCE OF A QUORUM:

All City Council Members were present.

7. PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATION OF CEREMONIAL PROCLAMATIONS:

a. Proclamation proclaiming May 13-19, 2019, as Senior Kappa Week

BACKGROUND: See proclamation

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend Mayor Parham read and present the proclamation.

Mayor Parham read and presented the proclamation to the Senior Kappa's.

James Norman, President of the Petersburg Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Phi, Incorporated, stated, "Mayor Parham and members of City Council, as members of Kappa Alpha Psi Phi Incorporated we want to thank you all for recognizing us for what we do and for recognizing our Senior Kappa Program. I am James Norman and I am the President of the Petersburg Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Phi, Incorporated. And on behalf of all our brothers in the fraternity across the United States and the world we thank you. Our Senior Kappa's do a great deal of work throughout the community. A large number of our chapter members are Senior Kappa Men. These are brother's who are 60 years or older and brother's who have been members of fraternity for more than 50 years. As Brother Muse wears the white jacket that represents a Kappa of distinction. He has been a member for 50 years. So, again we solicit your support as we move forward in our activities and encourage you to support our endeavors as we try to make Petersburg and the surrounding communities a better place for all of us. Thank you."

Mayor Parham stated, "I would like to congratulate Petersburg Business Owners from the 2019 Business Appreciation Month Celebration on May 1st. In addition to a wonderful event to thank our City's business owners. The night also presented a great opportunity to give awards.

Award winners included:

- Owen Printing Company for Small Business of the year
- Southside Regional Medical Center for Employer of the Year
- Ray Ferguson for Developer of the Year
- Petersburg YMCA for Project of the year
- And Mr. Shelton Smith for Business Person of the year

Please join me in congratulating these 2019 award winning businesses."

8. COMMUNICATIONS/SPECIAL REPORTS:

b. City Assessor Report – Brian Gordineer, AAS, City Assessor

Brian Gordineer, City Assessor, gave a brief PowerPoint presentation.

Key Points:

- High tax rate is not necessarily a bad thing.
- Petersburg has the most affordable housing in the area.
- Petersburg is the lowest residential tax rate in the area.
- Tax bill on average is \$1,134. This is half of what Chesterfield is and is 2/3 of what Colonial Heights is.
- Land Use Program was introduced in 1970s and it is a local option that the state offers. And the program gives reduced taxation to people that have agricultural, horticultural or farm use. The City of Petersburg has 26 properties that cover 1,000 acres.
- If participants are not in the program, they pay \$5,000 a year.

c. City Manager Report – Aretha R. Ferrell-Benavides, City Manager

Mrs. Benavides stated, "Good evening Mayor and Council. You have a copy of my full memorandum report. I would like to highlight a few things on there. Under 'Events and Community Affairs' our River Market has resumed for Spring and Summer 2019 season. As well as the 'Grill at Dogwood Trace' will host a Mother's Day Brunch on May 12th. The Virginia State University Scholarship Gala will be held on Friday, May 17th. You have received an invitation to attend and we ask that each of you let us know if you plan to attend this event. A

*Audio available upon request.

couple of highlights from public works. One is that Grove Avenue traffic signals have been completed. You will see a number of stop signs have been installed. I believe that it is making a difference. We still have work to go and people are adjusting. But, I have gone by there in the evening and night. And so, we are looking better. Another thing I would like to highlight is 47 potholes have been repaired at various locations. That continues and will always be an issue with any City including our City as areas that have large quantities of rain and it has impacts on the roads. But the crew has been working actively to address those. All sections of Blandford Cemetery have been cut at least once. We have started the second rotation on April 18th with the assistance of 4-8 temp workers each day. Meter readings. Just a factual note that I know we will come back at a later council meeting and talk about what is happening. In meter readings we have had over 361 cut-offs. In January (51), February (49), March (109) and April (152). This is an effort in what we focused on with how we increase our collection. And that is to show that we mean business. We had 64 turn-on accounts which represent the new customers or folks being cut back on. Two-hundred and fifty-three meters have been converted from cubic feet to gallons. And then 37-meter parts have been replaced. As we start to monitor our meters we are working to make sure that the necessary repairs happen when we have problems. One big highlight is that the Mayor and members of our community participated in an Eagle Scout Ceremony with Mr. Nicholas Riggs. This was an opportunity where basically he did an upgrade for the Doughboy Statue in Petersburg. One of the things that happens as a boy scout and the mother of an eagle scout, which I am proud of, is that the eagle scout or the boy scout are required to raise the funds for the project. And at the conclusion of his project they had an access fund of \$1,091.15. Which the boy scouts have donated to the City of Petersburg. So, we are in receipt of a check and Mr. Mayor I would like to invite him here for council and do a special recognition of his achievement but also to officially thank him for donating back. And his funds can go towards our continued maintenance. Because the boy scouts will do a project, but it is up to the City's to maintain those projects. Under public safety, police operation of 'No Guns, Safe Streets' is still in effect. We have 99 illegal guns that have been removed from Petersburg streets since 2019. Last but certainly not least something that you will see, and others will see shortly is that one of things that we are working on in taking over the Freedom of Information is providing additional and more information on our website. Our IT Department is now working with us to see how we can be a little more transparent. And one thing that will be available on our website on a quarterly basis is updates on our complete salary compilation. So, our IT Department is working with our website administrator to make sure that we have this information so when residents ask for information via FOIA then we are making that available to all residents so that it is continued to show more transparency. So, that is one of our efforts that are underway. And you will likely see this information available within the next few weeks online. Are there questions for me on the report? Because there is a lot of information and I do it weekly, please feel free to contact me or my staff."

Council Member Wilson-Smith asked, "On page 2, where you say that all City owned parking lots were cleared of litter. What parking lots do we have?"

Mrs. Benavides stated, "I ask Mrs. Innis to come up."

Mrs. Innis stated, "Councilwoman, I do not have the total parking lots that the City owns but we own the parking lot across from the court, across from City Hall and City Hall Annex. These are the three that I know off hand. But I can provide the City Manager with a listing of parking lots that the City owns throughout the City."

Council Member Wilson-Smith asked, "Do we own the parking lot across from Wabi-Sabi?"

Mrs. Innis stated, "No, we do not own that parking lot. That is privately owned."

Council Member Wilson-Smith stated, "Thank you. I have one more question. Of the 361 cut-offs of water and with 64 people having their water cut back on, what happens to the 297 that were left. And do these homes have children in them and if they do is social services involved?"

*Audio available upon request.

Mrs. Benavides stated, "We try to involve social services among cut-offs specifically with children involved. So, if someone water has been cut-off and right now our cut-off range is someone who is at least 90 plus day past due. Some have been cut-off and when they come in and when we talk, or our staff hear of issues. For example, I had a young lady who had a healthcare issue. And so, we make special arrangements, but it is up to the resident to communicate. But we are working very close with Mr. Norris Stevenson and his organization to assist individuals. I received an email about two weeks ago from a young lady whose water was cut-off and she was trying to figure out. And she said that she had small kids. And so, Mr. Stevenson and his team have tried to work with her to identify funding and also other organizations to support. Because my concern is that there is a larger picture and social services has to be involved. Because as we get the water cut back on we do not want to get back to where we came from. So, where the program exist we are tying into those programs. And if you like the information that I may be able to give to you is on a monthly basis how many individuals we have referred or have been supported through social services with our energy assistant program."

Council Member Wilson-Smith stated, "But it still leaves 297 people without water. Do we have any further information on them and do we know the status? Is it senior citizens somewhere that just....?"

Mrs. Benavides stated, "My nicest way to say it is people that have not paid their bills in some cases for years. In some cases, as we get to these folks and we start to research, and I hate to use this but this is a perfect example of a water cut-off or water situation. A gentleman no longer lived in a home three or four years ago. The gentleman thought he cut the water off but didn't. New individuals moved into the home for three plus years and continued water service. And it was not until we cut the water off and pulled the meter that the true people living there came in and set up a water bill. And luckily this gentleman called and found help but otherwise we have to make sure that as we talk about things like this is that you have to cut your water off and you have to keep your receipt. And so, at the point in time when this person found this issue, we cut the water and a new individual came and it has been three or four other residents and owners since the time of the home who have come in and used the water. So, cut-off is a very powerful tool for us because it gives us the chance to see people. But it also gives us the chance to see people getting illegal water. And that can be some of the cases. I cannot tell you what the total is but if a senior citizen comes in or someone with a disability comes in and they say my water is off. We do everything that we can to assist them whether it is a payment plan or other programs that we can find to support them."

Council Member Wilson-Smith stated, "Thank you."

d. Report from Virginia Gateway Region

BACKGROUND: The City is member of the Virginia's Gateway Region. Formed as The Appomattox Basin Industrial Development Corporation (ABIDCO), on April 2, 1960, today Virginia's Gateway Region exists to enhance the economic development opportunities for the cities of Colonial Heights, Hopewell and Petersburg, and the counties of Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Prince George, Surry and Sussex. Virginia's Gateway Region is a private, nonprofit organization that is publicly and privately funded to facilitate new business opportunities, work with existing businesses, advance resources that will enhance the economic viability of the region and foster regional cooperation among the public and private entities that are involved in economic development activities.

VGR's one-stop convenience provides the following site location services for companies looking for a new location and for existing companies with expansion potential:

- Site-selection assistance
- Property information
- Labor market analysis
- Commercial market analysis

*Audio available upon request.

- Financial contacts
- Job-training assistance
- Customized research
- Build-to-suit/design-build coordination
- Access to regulatory authorities
- Employee recruitment assistance
- Coordination of state and local assistance
- Custom region and site tours
- Meetings and introductions with business contacts
- Facilitate discussion with government entities

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the City Council receives the report from the Virginia's Gateway Region (VGR) regarding economic development issues.

Keith Boswell, President and CEO of Virginia Gateway Region, gave an update and report on Virginia Gateway Region regarding economic development issues.

Mr. Boswell stated, "First let me thank you for the invitation to be here tonight. I promise that I will keep my comments to three minutes. I can talk for thirty. This is a great region that I have a pleasure to represent from the Gateway Region of Economic Development Organization. I did want to say one thing to start right off. The City Manager's Office has been a great partner with us. We are shoulder to shoulder with working on initiatives and I really appreciate the efforts that she has been, and her team has been with us. We are great partners. A little bit about myself is that I have been at the Gateway for about one year. I just started my anniversary on the 2nd. I worked 21 and a half years at the Economic Development Partnership where I did a lot of deals and transactions over the course of time. Everything from Biotech to cyber security to manufacturing to working with the federal government. I am going to pass out our annual report and I will leave that with you. It is a five-year plan that we operate under and we have just finished our third year of that plan. We will say that our goal was to have 50 announcements in those five years. We are at 76% with that. VGR is moving in the right region of this economy in the right way. I want to say how important it is for Petersburg to be our center of our region. Our infinity as a region is Petersburg. Petersburg is healthy, and our region is healthy. And that is one of the things that I want you to hear from us. We are very interested in making sure that Petersburg wins. A good win in Petersburg helps all of the regions and all the communities in the region. And that is eight communities. So, I will tell you a couple of things that we are doing in the future and then I will end my comments and perceive questions. We want to work on workforce initiatives. We are partnering right now with John Tyler Community College to have a joint position with an economic development group and a community college to have a position where we focus on the needs of workforce. We don't know how we are going to solve all these needs but if we are not hearing what is out there in the marketplace then there is no way that we can rally all of the programs that already exist and at least think about how to solve these needs and issues. In our community of ten acres and more we are going to characterize each site to say how is it a long and a continuum effective project if somebody ask for that site. There are five tiers. The first tier is that we know about the site and we like it. The fifth tier is all you have to do is pull the permit. Somewhere in there it eliminates risk for businesses and gets people ready to go and we want to make sure that we do that. There were just a couple of things that I wanted to leave you with tonight. Again, I want to appreciate your support and I am looking forward to working with your team. You have a good team and I want to make sure that we have that open communication along the way."

Mayor Parham stated, "At this time I would like council to consider changing our May 21st due to me being out of town on business and for the holiday. Is it possible for members of council to move our meeting to the 28th? Would anyone entertain that? I will be out of town and the City Manager will be out of town. Will anyone consider moving our meeting out a week to that following Tuesday?"

*Audio available upon request.

Council Member Myers made a motion to move the meeting from May 21st to May 28th. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hill. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Smith-Lee, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Hill, Hart and Parham

- e. St. Andrew Street Bridge Presentation – Removed from agenda and placed on May 28th agenda.
- f. Presentation by Billing and Collections – Removed from agenda and placed on May 28th agenda

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

- a. Minutes: City Council Meeting: April 2, 2019
- b. Minutes: Special City Council Meeting of April 15, 2019
- c. Minutes: Regular City Council Meeting of April 16, 2019
- d. Request to schedule a public hearing on request of Lisa Capek for a Special Use Permit pursuant to Article 23, Section 4 (23) of the Zoning Ordinance to operate a Stand-Alone vehicle and truck repair shop at 107 North South Street, T.P. 023-06-0013. The property is zoned “B-2”, General Business District. (May 28, 2019)
- e. Request to schedule a public hearing for consideration of an ordinance authorizing the sale of City-owned property located at 627 (Rear) North South Street, 915 West High Street, 901 Halifax Street, 107-109 West Street (South), 437-37A Harrison Street, 804-806 Bolling Street; 411, 520, 524, 525, 530, 516-518 Shore Street, and 725, 729, 735, 745, and 747 Wilson Street.

Council Member Myers made a motion to approve the consent agenda and set the public hearings for May 28, 2019. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Hart. There was discussion on the motion. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Smith-Lee, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Hill, Hart and Parham

Council Member Hill stated, “Would it be appropriate for us to move an item, ‘9d’ up to after the public comments or is it too late to move it? I am sorry ‘16d’. Is it okay for us to move item ‘16d’ up right before the public information?”

Mr. Williams stated, “If that item is going to be moved I would recommend moving closed session before that item if it is ‘16d’ if I heard that correctly.”

10. OFFICIAL PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- a. A public hearing on an ordinance amending the City Code to authorize Wayfinding/Trailblazing Signage to be installed in City Right of Way within the Historic Downtown Petersburg Area for businesses advertising on interstate High ways in the City of Petersburg.

BACKGROUND: Local businesses within the historic downtown area have expressed interest in advertising on Interstate I-95, however, to do so, the City must allow directional wayfinding signs within the City’s right of way that direct traffic from the Interstate to the business. The current City Code does not have a provision allowing for such signs. Local businesses would like to attract business from the tens of thousands of vehicles that pass through the City along I-95 and I-85 daily.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the City Council considers adoption of this ordinance amending the City Code regarding signage in the right of way.

*Audio available upon request.

Reginald Tabor, Economic Development Manager, gave a briefing on the ordinance amendment.

Ms. Jackson opened the floor for public comments.

Willie Noise, 1508 Circle Drive, stated, "I have been noticing our visitors coming into the City and the things that they have been doing. It must not be any rules or guidelines to visitors. I think that when they come into this City it should be some place that they can check in and I am thinking the tourism department. They are going to have to be really particular and cautious about how they allow people and the places that they are directing them to go if it is not being sanctioned. Right now, I feel that it is not being sanctioned. The same way with the voting thing. I am just saying whomever is in charge they are going to have to go to these places and check with the community and see how they are going to accept it. Because so far tourism is not, or they respect that they are visitors. Think about that."

Zoey York, 245 East Bank Street, stated, "I am here to speak in support of the ordinance. As owning several businesses downtown, we would really love to advertise on the interstate to be able to show the name of our business. And then once they get off make it easier to find not just our business but create the opportunity for other local businesses to participate in the program to bring visitors to local businesses. Of course, some change is always advertised but we would like the opportunity to show what is going on locally in Petersburg. Thank you for considering this I really appreciate your time."

Seeing no further hands, Ms. Jackson closed the public hearing.

Council Member Hill made the motion to adopt the ordinance amending the City Code regarding signage in the right of way of the City. The motion was seconded by Council Member Myers. There was discussion among City Council and staff. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Smith-Lee, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Hill, Hart and Parham

19-ORD-22 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY CODE TO AUTHORIZE WAYFINDING/TRAILBLAZING SIGNAGE TO BE INSTALLED IN CITY RIGHT OF WAY WITHIN THE HISTORIC DOWNTOWN PETERSBURG AREA FOR BUSINESSES ADVERTISING ON INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS IN THE CITY OF PETERSBURG.

- b. A public hearing to amend and readopt Sections 2-174 and 2-175 of the City of Petersburg Code of Ordinances pertaining to the duties of the Collector of Taxes and his/her deputies.

BACKGROUND: Council has directed that these revisions be incorporated into the City's published Code of Ordinances.

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

Mr. Williams gave a briefing on the amendment pertaining to the duties of the Collector of Taxes and his/her duties.

Ms. Jackson opened the floor for public comments.

Ken Pritchett, 1113 Overbrook Road, stated, "I am also current City Treasurer. I have a question to ask you first. How many of you all have had the opportunity to read the letter from Mr. Albert that was sent to you all this morning about this issue. Anybody? I am sorry that you did not get a chance to read it. I will not take time to read it to you, but I will take a couple of items out of it as I go. What we have discovered in the time that I have been the treasurer is that the billing and collections office and the treasurers are separate, but it

*Audio available upon request.

basically still needs to do a lot of operation together. And some of these separations have caused issues that have prevented both sides from getting things done in a timely manner. Since the billing and collection begin more than a year and a half ago issues have rose and we have been working with the City Collector to get us up to speed as a City. This does not happen overnight. We have been fortunate to get a substantial amount of help from a retired treasurer from Brunswick County. And more recently, when the Treasurer's Association of Virginia became aware of the legislative challenge to the City's Charter a volunteer came forward to help the City and she has been a tremendous help. She has helped with the procedures and designating job descriptions for both sides. This person is the current treasurer of Wise County, Virginia and is a CPA and a former auditor of many southwest Virginia localities before becoming the treasurer of Wise County. She has been this for the past 11 years. Some of you have met her. At the General Assembly, I thought as the Semi-Local Government Committee directed us to do we came back with an agreement to work together for the betterment for the citizens of Petersburg. And Mr. Mayor, you, I, Delores Smith and Rosalyn Dance had a nice breakfast together and we thought that we discussed that we would try to work together and go forward. It has only been a couple of months that we have been trying to do what is expected of us by the Local Government Committee by the General Assembly. I have said since I have been in this office that I will work with billing and collecting, you and the City administration. It seems that you all want something, and you have not really bothered to tell me exactly what you want. That would be great and a help to the whole City to get on the same page. I would like to introduce two people who came down from the Treasurer's Association of Virginia. One is the President Elect, Carla de la Pava, who is the current Treasurer of Arlington County and Mr. Allen Albert, who is an attorney of the Treasurer's Association of Virginia. They are available to answer any questions that you may have, and I am sure that there would be some. As the General Assembly did show full support of not changing the charter they are supportive and so is the Treasurer Association of Virginia of the constitutional offices in the state. You cannot just with the stroke of a pen or vote change a City Charter. The only power that the charter gives City Council is the ability to choose the depository institution for the City's funds. So, what I am saying is that my interest has always been in the best interest of the City and the citizens and I suggest that you table this vote to get further legal advice so that we do not have to go back to the General Assembly again. Because that is a long process to change the charter. Thank you very much for your time."

Linwood Christian, 410 Mistletoe Street, stated, "Mr. Pritchett is one of those persons that you may find it hard and a shock when we agree on something. But in this case, I have to agree as far as going back and looking at this. A lot of it has to do with some of the issues that he brought up. Because even I have mentioned that you just cannot do away with the City Treasurer without changing the charter. And we have had a whole lot of other discussions since then. One of the main reasons, and I do not know if any other citizens are going to say something. First of all, it looks bad when elected bodies are going at war like this has been. And that somebody said in the audience that we are still meeting this horse. And what the problem comes from is first of all a lot of these issues that brought about all of this mess really should have been done if we had kept oversight of departmental spending and if we pulled rains in over former City Manager as well as former City Council people. This is where a lot of this mess comes in at. In addition to former City Treasurer's, even before Mr. Brown allowing certain businesses because they were their friends to get away with not paying their taxes. Now, I say that to say this. We do not even know what you are amending as far as the duties of who is supposed to do what. One thing the citizens do know is that all of this came about behind a little pissing contest. I run this, we run that. I do not care how you frame it. I do not know what is more embarrassing, the Ramada Inn or our elected officials going at each other. So, like Mr. Pritchett and maybe not for the same reason, this is something that needs to be tabled. Because you all need to know, what are you hiring somebody or firing somebody or what do we keep paying all this money for confusion for. And if we are going to have confusion let's leave Mr. Pritchett alone to do what he needs to do. Thank you."

Jeff Fleming, 1819 Chuckatuck Avenue, stated, "Normally I come up here. My mother told me don't talk unless you have letters behind your name. Well, I was with a PHD (Public High School Diploma). I guess tonight I will be ESQ (Ever Still Question). I am confounded. We are having a public hearing and the public does not know what the heck we are hearing. The City Attorney cannot tell us what the amendment is. But we

*Audio available upon request.

are having a public hearing on something to be amended on the duties of the treasurer, bill collector and you all are about to vote on it. It makes no sense. We want transparency. We claim transparency. The citizens want transparency. For you to vote on this tonight, that is not transparency. I do not know what you are voting on. He could not present it because he says it is client confidentiality. I can agree with that but why wasn't it written or have someone to present it, so we know what you are talking about. I mean he has esquire behind his name, right? It is not hard to figure out. Just be transparent and give people what they want. Thank you."

Julian Greene, 1625 Blair Road, stated, "Mines is in the form of a query. The query is in a sense that at the beginning of the meeting there was a discussion talking about the development of the Ramada Inn and the PACE Program proposed and suggested to adopt an ordinance in order for them to go forward with the project. Council then after discussion moved unanimously to accept that ordinance. There was no public hearing in the presentation that was just presented tonight. My understanding is this relevant to where we are at this point with the first time hearing it and not knowing how this can apply to other sites and business coming into the City or in the City already. I do not know. It seemingly is confusing. The same as what Mr. Fleming stated. It is a query. The query is what is this matter that the attorney is going to be bringing and you voted on earlier to accept an ordinance that the community was not aware of coming before council."

Mayor Parham stated, "Mr. Greene we did not accept an ordinance. We referred it to the City Manager to report back to us about the ordinance. That was the motion. So, at this point in time if you can keep your comments on this item which is the ordinance of the treasurer. Thank you."

Mr. Greene stated, "I did not know what it was about. There was a lot of noise going on from the members attending. And it appeared to me that they were voting on the acceptance of an ordinance that was presented initially tonight. There was confusion going on in the back. That is why I did not want to leave here and have that question in my mind and not knowing what was going on. Thank you so much."

Seeing no further hands, Ms. Jackson closed public comments.

Council Member Cuthbert made a motion to adopt the ordinance as proposed to amend and readopt Sections 2-174 and 2-175 of the City of Petersburg Code of Ordinances pertaining to the duties of the Collector of Taxes and his/her deputies. The motion was seconded by Council Member Myers. There was discussion on among City Council Members.

Council Member Wilson-Smith made a substitute motion that the give the citizens of the City the opportunity to read the ordinance in the newspaper or stopping by the office. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Hart. The motion was not approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Smith-Lee, Wilson-Smith and Hart; Voting No: Cuthbert, Myers, Hill and Parham

Original motion made by Council Member Cuthbert goes back on the floor.

Council Member Cuthbert made a motion to adopt the ordinance as proposed to amend and readopt Sections 2-174 and 2-175 of the City of Petersburg Code of Ordinances pertaining to the duties of the Collector of Taxes and his/her deputies. The motion was seconded by Council Member Myers. There was discussion on among City Council Members. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Myers, Hill, and Parham; Voting No: Smith-Lee, Wilson-Smith and Hart

19-ORD-23 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND READOPT SECTIONS 2-174 AND 2-175 OF THE CITY OF PETERSBURG CODE OF ORDINANCES PERTAINING TO THE DUTIES OF THE COLLECTOR OF TAXES AND HIS/HER DEPUTIES.

c. A public hearing on new utility rate.

*Audio available upon request.

BACKGROUND: On March 5th, City financial adviser, Davenport and Company along with Jacobson Company made a presentation of the results of the Rate study based on analysis Utility Operating cost and revenue. It was determined that the operating cost-plus Capital Improvement Plan requires \$14,133,274 for FY19-20 plus 12.20% for FY20-21-2022 and 4.95% for 2023. Revenue of this proposal took place in a Council Work Session.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council adopt the proposal to increase Utility Rates for water and sewer and capacity rates by 12.20 Percent for FY2020, 2021 and 2022 and 4.95% for 2023 and approve attached ordinance.

Ms. Jackson opened the floor for public comments.

Michael Packer, 1245 Woodland Road, stated, "I am confused as to what you are doing tonight. I know that there were several suggestions and alternatives given to the folks who have one-inch meters. I do not know if the City will allow individuals that have one-inch meters to switch to a smaller meter. I do not know how much they will charge for that if that was allowed. I know that there was a fourth alternative that was suggested that is as far as this is concerned. Any help that you can give in that regard would be appreciated. Thank you."

Sara Melissa Witiak, 22 Centre Hill, stated, "I know that I have come up here many times requesting some relief for those of us with one-inch meters. I would like to know if there are 5/8 and one-inch meters on the same lines is it at all possible for one-inch to meet the higher pressure if they are all on the same line. Would the pressure challenge the 5/8-inch meters that are also on that line? If they cannot raise the pressure of the one-inch meters to get that advantage of pressure to be claimed, then why are we paying more money? Second of all I have been working on calculating a lot of numbers. Two residents living side by side and one with a one-inch meter and one with a 5/8-inch meter working minimum wage. The person with one-inch meter is going to have to work an extra two weeks every year to pay for the difference in their water bill. That is two weeks that a parent is not supervising their child doing their homework. That is two weeks that a parent is not able to participate in community service activities. That is two weeks that a parent cannot take time out to come to city council meetings to fight for their own cause. Those of you who are going on vacation and have the luxury of changing City Council dates I would like for you to take into consideration that when you are on your vacation and think about what that means for residence of the City. In addition, many of the information has titles on top of the columns so that we could not use that information to understand any of the City's revenue flow and regarding water rates. So, if you are going to be transparent you need to be accurate. Finally, I was instructed during a City Council Town Hall that I should have asked my realtor at the time of purchase what my meter was. I have asked City people to give me some document as to what my meter was at time of my purchase back in 2012. I showed them all of the documentation from when I set up my account. They cannot provide me documentation on what my meter size was at that time. They can only provide me with documentation from April 2019. So, if you cannot provide me with documentation of what my water meter was how are we supposed to make informed decisions and how are we expected to be responsible for your poor management and inhouse keeping. Thank you."

Brandon Martin, 1546 Berkeley Avenue, stated, "I am hesitant to address this issue because it was discussed at the last council meeting apparently but you all decided to take a two-hour closed session at the beginning and I went home. I was tired. Tonight, we have already heard a couple of people talk about the one-inch meter controversy. I am one of those and I remember back to the initial presentation when they talked about 1,100 one-inch meters. It was not of any consequence back then. Later on, things developed and in the next presentation it as 1,700. The last time this stuff came up it was 2,500. I inquired with public works what was the record for mine when I bought my house in 1975. They said sorry the records do not exist. They do not have anything going back to the installation of the new meters by Johnson supposedly. I suspected that the records do not exist because of a disgruntled employee was walking out the door when there was a 10% pay

*Audio available upon request.

cut authorized by this City Council. People were upset, and records disappeared. Unfortunately, you do not maintain records in the City very well. When I came here I met Bill Pollard who ran Colombia Gas. He still had the original tap card for gas service to my house in 1924. I suspect that they still have that record around here. What do you have, probably nothing. Frankly folks you need to step back and not listen to the recommendation that are coming from your staff necessarily just blindly. Put your thinking cap on and reconsider. We do not need another rate increase. Thank you.”

Linwood Christian, 410 Mistletoe Street, stated, “With the fact of not only having a mother who is over 16 and having persons who are in their senior age. Then I go back to the comments to my fellow citizens. That last closed-door meeting that you all had did not make any sense. But yet you show respect for the citizens. I had to go to because I had chemotherapy that I had to go to. I had to go. But I say this, one thing that Mr. Packer said that was in the paper and I hope that you all read it as well as we did. Just like nationally how much longer you are going to continue to build something on the already breaking backs of those. The upper one percent is not doing their share but the little man on the totem pole is carrying the totem pole. I hope you all look at who your constituents are. Many of the landowners I can almost guarantee you over 60% of them do not live in this City. One of my other fellow citizens made a comment and I hope that you all listened because just like you all used to say what is the first thing that you look at when you go into a community. How well are the schools? What if people start asking their realtors what size meter do I have? And they look at that one size meter where here I am fortunate to happen to be able to buy a home but I still have to use other money. And then they look and say wait a minute you all are putting the rest of the City on my back. And again, I go back and say do you think about inequity. We hope that you all look at everybody. Even when we look at some City Council persons that have been on this council they only come to save their businesses. A lot of them don't really live here but I can go back to when Remy Arnold was on City Council. Remy Arnold was Mayor of Petersburg but did not live in the City of Petersburg. So, we have things that are affecting us as citizens and we are tired of it. We have seen the increases and we have seen some other plans. Before long just as now you are not going to have anybody in the City but those that are on Section 8. And if we keep hearing comments that have been made off of City Council how much longer are you going to have us. Because I guarantee that cats and dogs are not going to pay the City water bill around here.”

Jennett Rooney, 1993 Ridgewood Drive, stated, “You have not found all the one-inch meters. There are people that still have one-inch meters that are probably at 5/8-inch rates. And it is also my understanding that there are people that are not receiving monthly bills or no bills at all, so they are not paying. I would just like to know what is going to be done about that. And they are perfectly capable of paying the bills. It is not just poor people. So, what are you doing about that? That is what I heard. So, I would like to know what is going to be addressed. So, those people that can pay the bills are part of the problem if they are not paying their bills.”

Anne Marie Donlon, 19 Centre Hill Court, stated, “I came from New York a couple of years ago and I know what taxes. You are giving them a run for their money. We cannot keep up with the inflation rates. I would ask that you table the proposed while you search for more grant money that you can match in other ways that you can fix the infrastructure. Last summer, I know that there were multiple do not drink your water memos. I am not sure how many come out but there were several. So, for me that is an inferior product. So, I don't think that it is okay to charge us more for a product that is not okay. It needs to be fixed. Maybe we can find grant money and other ways to fix the water structure and infrastructure. Then we can talk about the increase. Thank you.”

Barb Rudolph, 1675 Mt. Vernon Street, stated, “I just want to say that I have heard what a lot of people have had to say tonight. And I went to both public meetings about water and I have been to all the council meetings where it has been discussed. We have heard the same things repeatedly. The sense is that the minds up here at the table including the administration and the folks that worked on this is not going to be changed. I am not going to repeat everybody's points. People have made excellent points about the inequity and how it works. The last meeting, I talked about the many different things in the process that seemed to be

*Audio available upon request.

not fixed, incomplete or unknown. You can go back and read it in the minutes. I am not going to repeat it. It's just unfortunate that I think that this was a foregoing conclusion that whatever was in the rate study that was done by the consultants is what the City was going to do. I know a few of you have tried to leave this open for other studies. Overall the council's direction is to carry on and do what has been decided months ago. I don't think it is the right thing for the citizens. If facts change or you learn more about this or you consider a more fashionable approach and be willing to look at it again. Thank you."

Seeing no further hands, Ms. Jackson closed public comments.

Council Member Cuthbert made a motion to adopt the purposed increase in utility rates for water and sewer and capacity rates by 12.2% for FY2020 only to give administration time to devise and recommend a fairer division of cost between 5/8-inch customers and one-inch customers. The motion was seconded by Council Member Wilson-Smith. There was discussion on among City Council Members and staff. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Smith-Lee, Myers, Hill, and Parham; Voting No: Wilson-Smith and Hart

19-ORD-24 AN ORDINANCE TO AMENDING SECTION 114-136 AND SECTION 114-236 OF THE 2000 CODE OF THE CITY OF PETERSBURG, AS AMENDED, TO INCREASE THE PUBLIC UTILITY RATES FOR WATER AND SEWER COMMODITY AND CAPACITY CHARGES.

- d. A public hearing on an ordinance to adopt and incorporate Section 2-192 of the City of Petersburg Code of Ordinances.

BACKGROUND: Under Section 19(G) of the City Attorney's Employment Contract, City Council has agreed to adopt the language described in the proposed Section 2-192 of the City's Code of Ordinances.

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend City Council approve the Ordinance adopting the proposed Section 2-192 and authorizing the City Attorney to proceed with any necessary Office restructuring.

Mr. Williams gave an update on the request for an ordinance adopting the proposed Section 2-192 and authorizing the City Attorney to proceed with any necessary Office restructuring.

Council Member Myers made a motion to table action until they have further research on the code and ordinance at the next council meeting of May 28th. The motion was seconded by Council Member Wilson-Smith. There was discussion on the motion among City Council and staff. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Smith-Lee, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Hill, Hart and Parham

11. PUBLIC INFORMATION PERIOD: The Public Information Period is established by the Rules of Council to hear input from City residents or owners of businesses in the City. It will last for a maximum of 30 minutes. Speakers will be called in the order that they have signed up to speak. If there are ten or fewer speakers, each shall speak for a maximum of 3 minutes. If there are more than ten (10) people desiring to speak, the time allotted to each person may be adjusted or the number of speakers limited to meet the time limitation. A speaker may speak on items **except those that are listed on tonight's Council agenda**. Any matter brought before the attention of the City Council during the public information period will not be acted upon by the City Council at this meeting.

Cory Harris, 2316 Anderson Street, stated, "I want to talk about African-American history. I think it is time for us to really step up when it comes to our history. I find it amazing that a majority African-American City cannot come together and find a way to educate not just African Americans but whites as well and everyone about our history. What I am trying to understand is why you as a council cannot realize that the citizens of this City are frustrated. Why can't you push aside your emotions and just focus on what the people really want. I

*Audio available upon request.

say to the citizens of Petersburg no matter your political affiliations or no matter if you are white or black it does not matter but it is time for us to come together and make this City better for everyone. We cannot continue down this path. Because we are marked by the State. It is amazing how Petersburg is belittled whether it is on social media, it does not matter. We need to come together. And we cannot come together if you as a body cannot admit your mistakes. You can see mistakes in City Hall and you criticize citizens, but you will not acknowledge what you have done wrong. Tell me how we can grow if we have leaders who are not willing to admit their mistakes. It is time for us to come together. It is time to push this nonsense aside and truly look out for the best interest of Petersburg. Enough is enough. Remove your emotions and focus on the priority. And the priority is what's best for Petersburg and not your friends. Its for Petersburg. We all should work together. This is not about who likes who. This is about Petersburg. It is time for us to see that. They are mocking us in the State. We all should focus on what is best for us. And I say to the citizens of Petersburg, let's come together and find a way to build this City and truly focus on trying to help everyone. Now if you don't want to work with us then you are the problem. Thank you."

Barb Rudolph, 1675 Mt. Vernon Street, stated, "I just want to say that I appreciate those of you who really asked some tough questions of the earlier presenter. The group of people that I am speaking of is the developer Mr. Harrison. I think that it was really good to know that you as council members are listening to citizens. I know from some of the things that we said from Council Member Hill and Smith-Lee that they get beat up by the citizens. And I know that. It is something that we talk about, but the fact is that it seems ti get worse every week. So, I just want to thank you all for showing that kind of passion and interest and really trying to put this man on the spot. Because it was very strange to have them to show up with a solution which I think is inadequate. And all I can do is ask you to please do a lot of due diligence. When an ordinance does come back to the City Council, I would think scheduling a public hearing about it specifically. Even if it is not absolutely required. I recommend that you do that. Because there is a whole lot of interest in this and the citizens and council do not want to get in a position to keep being strung along for a few years and have that fail again. And I know you all agree with that. There is skepticism because the track record is there. If there is not a track record, then one has to say show me. I have heard a lot of excuses tonight. But thank you again for asking the tough questions. I hope that you will also be asking touh questions about the budget. But keep doing what you are doing. Don't just sit here and keep absorbing what people are telling you. And thank you. I am sorry that some of the people that had good comments are not listening and I hope they come back in the room before the public information period is over with. Thanks."

Sara Melissa Witiak, 22 Centre Hill Court, stated, "I would just like to challenge this council to apply for grants to support our City. I am suggesting a number of \$1,040,160. And I can bet where I got that number from. If a boy scout can raise some money while going to school and give a little bit extra back to the City I bet some of you folks up here can spend a little extra time while the working-class folks are earning money to pay their taxes. I bet you can do the same thing too. I would also like to know what is the penalty for cutting a tree on City historic property is. I would also like to request that City Council examine their policy of having a prayer. I am from Maryland which is a birthplace of the separation of church and State. I know that in the newspaper a couple of days ago some of our catholic school students were visiting some of the Jewish sites in the City. We have a mote diverse City than just Christians here. So, we need to either get rid of the prayer or we need to diversify it. And we certainly do not need our City Council Members supporting one religion over another. Another thing that will go along way is to build some trust. So that when we call in with a FOIA request that we get an actual answer. I have gotten FOIA request answers that deal with City's from Vermont in answers to questions about my property. We need answers that make sense. I am a researcher and I know that thinking takes a lot of time and effort. I am willing to contribute some chocolate if that helps or coffee. But I really need you guys to think and not just take the recommendations that are given to you by experts. You would not do it if it was your own finances. Do not do it with our finances. I hope that those of you going on vacation on the 21st have a good time."

Gary Talley, 2323 Fort Rice Street, stated, "I am just going to ask one simple question. When are we

*Audio available upon request.

going to stop doing things better and start doing things well. Thank you.”

Willie Noise, 1508 Circle Drive, stated, “The answer is always there just can you spot it. What is said and what it was you heard. Listen hard. Delay park and ride, street renaming, noise uptown, downtown, east and west. Support vote to restore suspended driver’s licenses, Governor Ralph Northam, the Progress-Index, Senator Rosalyn Dance over Joe Morrissey 16 Senate District seat. Opinion session of Progress-Index. Trump is good as another. Petersburg High School, Chamber of Commerce and VDOT Report on Youngs Road. Marijuana and Petersburg. Discriminate or Legalize for recreation use. ABC Board should have sole control of applications, license to ensure that all money goes to school systems, Petersburg. Crosswalk on Washington Street and Dunlop Street. Is there any snow money? Seniors and vets are the smartest people I know. Give population when comparing other cities to Petersburg. Thank you very much.

Linwood Christian, 410 Mistletoe Street, stated, “A lot of our City employees or our department directors, they go not thanked. And just as we get up here and get them when they don’t do right it is also well to applaud them when they do their job well. One of those persons that I have to always say that we do not thank her enough and that is our own clerk, Ms. Nykesha Jackson. And I did encourage her. That is a hardworking young lady. And I also cannot over look because I brought up a situation to Mrs. Innis during Councilman Hart and Mrs. Smith joint meeting. And I told her about the situation that when you are coming off Wythe and going onto the ramp for 85/95 that the light w. I think publicly to let everyone know that following night that light was on. That light was on. Thank you, Mrs. Innis. I have to thank her very much because it does go to show that are department heads are listening. And I am glad, and I am going to tie this in with a young lady, Ms. Margia Wallace. And the reason I want to thank her is because there was an issue with the last Medicaid sign-up that we had. Some information was not given back so when I talked to her she immediately got on it and the person who didn’t get the communication thanked me because she did contact them. That makes a big difference. And to tie that in on the 25th of this month, and I wasn’t going to do anything, but the Harding Street Neighborhood Association was contacted by Integrity Staffing. They put persons at Amazon. On the 25th at Vernon Johns from 10am to 1pm the Harding Street Neighborhood Association along with working with Councilman Myers and the Petersburg Public School System Advisory Counsel, we are going to have a job fair and Medicaid signup on that day. It was initially going to be Integrity Staffing, but we had a couple of other companies that wanted to come aboard. So, we thank them. We got a call from the people picking up our garbage on last Friday, garbage did not come at all until after 12noon on Saturday. This is the first time in two weeks that they have been in our area to pick up the recycling. So, I don’t know if he did, but I got a call asking why did I get a member of the government to jump on them. Well you come pick up our garbage and you wouldn’t have to worry about someone jumping on you. That maybe something that you want to take back Madam City Manager because that is something that is becoming an occurring thing. Thank you.”

12. BUSINESS OR REPORTS FOR/FROM THE MAYOR OR COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Council Member Cuthbert stated, “Thank you, Ms. Jackson. I want to give council, the city manager, and city attorney a copy of a newspaper article that appeared in the Times-Dispatch at the end of April. The article is titled ‘Richmond City Council moves to Higher Legal Counsel for Potential Suit Against the Stoney Administration.’ Why is this of significance to us? It is of significance to us because it illustrates the problem created by a strong Mayor form of government. We have talked about that before. But, having an elected Mayor and a mayor elected by council helps to build bonds between members of council and it helps to build bonds between the person who drafts and proposes the budget and council. When the power to propose a budget is given to a strong Mayor and there is no link between the strong Mayor’s decision on the one hand and the will of City Council on the other. And that is way Richmond City Council was getting ready to sue the strong Mayor. They could not get along. We are not going to have that problem in Petersburg. We have a good working relationship for many reasons. One is that we got good people on council. We have a good Mayor. We have got good members of council and we work together as a team. We disagree at times, but we try to be collegial as we possibly can. And I want to applaud members of council for that. I think that we all strive for

*Audio available upon request.

that. But this is what happens when you have a strong Mayor form of City government. And we should not ever dream about doing so. Now, let me go to another topic. I would like to get some guidance from the City Attorney as to how we could begin the process to expand the local historic district to include the Trailways Bus Station. The Trailways Bus Station is a very important historic artifact for the City of Petersburg. And I heard on a very good source that someone wanted to buy the sign off of that building and had offered \$7,000 for it. We don't want that to happen. That sign is an integral part of that building. It demonstrates why that bus station was part of the freedom rider circuit back in the 1960s. And it is the last thing that we want to see leave this City. There are no protections over that sign or over the roofs or the bus staging areas once the City sells that property. Mr. Williams, can you tell us how to start this process."

Mr. Williams stated, "Yes, if you would allow me to come back to the next City Council meeting with a proposal on how you might go about doing that I will be glad."

Council Member Cuthbert stated, "That would be great. We just need to move it forward. That would be a big help to all of us and thank you for that. Last thing, Mayor and members of council I would what others think about putting time limits on some of these special reports that we receive from third parties. I am not talking about City staff. I think that we have every reason to listen to what City staff tells us and if City staff feels that they need the time to tell us what is going on then I want them to have that time. But when we get these third-party presenters I think things sometimes or our time is not used as well as it might be used. Let's put it that way. I think that we had an example tonight and it seems that we have an example almost at every meeting. I don't know if can put a limit if five minutes on our visiting presenters, but this is something that I don't think is a proper topic for closed session. Yet, I think all members of council need to weigh in on this. So, I would like members of council to be thinking about that and perhaps others when they have their opportunity to speak tonight during item '12' they can share their thoughts as well. It seems to me we can use out time more efficiently if we put a five-minute limit on these outside speakers. Thank you, Mr. Mayor."

Mayor Parham stated, "Just to piggyback on that time limit we will explore that time limit as to how we want to address questions from members of council. So, we will try to get the time down. Can you propose a way to get around that time and to keep it to a limit?"

Council Member Cuthbert stated, "It all depends on the presentation."

Council Member Wilson-Smith stated, "Actually I didn't have anything. But if you would allow me I would like to make a comment about the strong Mayor. Simply because there is a somewhat of disagreement. That does not mean that I hate anybody up here. It does not mean that there is some friction up here. But we just have a difference of opinion. I believe that the citizens of this City should have a right to choose whomever they want to be the Mayor. It doesn't always mean that you have to have a strong Mayor like in Richmond and choose the person and they do not have to operate in the same capacity according to the wording in the Charter. So, you can have things differently. We can actually do things differently in this City and it doesn't mean you have to be an either or it can always be an in between. It is just a difference of opinion. That is all that I have. That is all that I have."

Council Member Smith-Lee stated, "First I want to congratulate all who were inducted into the Petersburg Athletic Hall of Fame. That event was just an outstanding event two Saturdays ago. A couple of the ones I truly do know, Hal Miles and Michael Moore. They truly helped get the wrestling not only for the kids in Petersburg High School but also in Matoaca. So, we should continue to have people who come through Petersburg to give back. And they have given back. I want to say thank you. Also, please support and help the YMCA because something that I learned at the Hall of Fame is that there was a swimmer and I think his name was Mr. Gooden. He gave us some statistics about the African American youth who died from drowning. It is because they do not get the opportunity to learn how to swim. So, they were asking people who attended the event to just go down to the 'Y' and sponsor a child to learn how to swim for six weeks. So, just think about

*Audio available upon request.

that. Also, one of our own Tiffany Tucker, who is graduating from Virginia State University with a 4.4 GPA. She was named student of the year. It is just amazing. Guess what she came from Petersburg. Her mother went to Petersburg High School. I just want to congratulate all of these people who are doing so well in representing the City of Petersburg.”

Council Member Myers stated, “Mr. Crocker, I want to say thank you. I wasn’t able to attend last Friday’s in celebrating the library. But I want to thank you for all that you do to help educate us here in the City of Petersburg. Also, I want to respond to somebody who comes up to the mic every time and say that we are not doing anything for African American history. If you want to know what we are doing, ask Wayne Crocker. He has been working on a project for the last three or four years. Hopefully it is coming to fruition very soon. But I want to make everyone aware that we are doing all that we can to move this forward with the majority of the citizens in Petersburg and for them to be recognized historically. Thank you.”

Council Member Hill stated, “I would like to personally thank the City Manager for working with some residents in particular with their water issues in Ward 2. I really appreciate your hard work. I want to thank Mrs. Innis and her department for the pothole blitz and the cutting of the grass. But along with that I would like for us to pay attention to the curbs of the grass growing out the curb particularly in Old Towne Petersburg. There was a young lady and I didn’t get her name, but she was pulling grass out earlier today. And I just thanked her for doing it. Let me speak about prayer briefly. We spoke about this a while and one of the citizens came up. We try to get diverse people to the mic. But of course, whenever we do not have anyone I usually will pray. We have had people from all different backgrounds to pray. And for those of us who believe in prayer I wouldn’t try to push anything on anybody who don’t believe in it. But at the end of the day our City was in pearl and if you weren’t here at that time but my vision of being on City Council things did not start to turn around until we instituted prayer. You can say what you want to say about all of the different people that we bring in but things did not really start to turn around in my opinion until we instituted prayer. So, of course that is very near and dear to me. So, to every person that said we probably should then there is 10 saying that we probably should. I want to thank the staff for all your hard work and I thank the citizens for holding our feet to the fire. Thank you.”

Vice Mayor Hart stated, “Good evening everyone. Just a couple of things this evening. One I would like to just say that there is a high interest of people wanting to do business in the City of Petersburg. Be mindful of that. Be understanding and interested in those that want to come here. I speak to those with their staff. One of the complaints is that at some points it takes too long. So, if we can work on ways to speed up that process. I know one thing that I would like to see as far as the housing is that those properties and other things that are other \$5,000, maybe we can do a quick sale instead of the long out drawn process. But that is just me speaking. The other thing is that on Monday the 13th I will be having a Community Forum. And it gives citizens the opportunity to meet along with council for a couple of hours if they choose to attend to come out and talk about a vision for the City. It is going to be from 6pm to 8pm. And it will be right here at the train station. If you have the time come out. You get to voice your opinion of what you would like to see in the City and what we can improve upon and move on from there. It will be a two-hour conversation. But it helps us to provide conversation to the administrative team to move the City forward. So, please come out and let us know what you would like to see in your hometown. Thank you.”

Mayor Parham stated, “Just to comment again on the event at the Petersburg Public Library. It was a spectacular event, and everyone can understand that it has been five years since that huge struggle that Mr. Wayne Crocker led to raise money for that new Petersburg Public Library that serves so many of our children, citizens and seniors here in Petersburg. A lot of times we get blasted by not having anything for them, but we have one of the finest library’s in the region. We have the best YMCA in central Virginia for our kids. We have an award-winning golf course at Dogwood Trace that serves food and serves hundreds of people every month. Like Vice Mayor Hart says there are a lot of people that do business here in the City of Petersburg, but we have to be receptive to that business by not bad mouthing our City. The way I hear so many say not having nothing. I have seen some great events here that are character events that help build our next generation of kids here. I also want to address that we have someone that is on the front page of the newspaper today. And I

*Audio available upon request.

want to thank Mr. Mike Packer. He was on the front page with kids from Saint Joseph learning about the Jewish Synagogue. And Mr. Packer gave those kids a tour and we are the City of many churches. We have over a hundred and forty with various faces. And it is a beautiful thing whenever we can expose our children to different faces here. Thank you, Mr. Packer. A round of applause for him, please. And also, I had the privilege for being there for the 25-year anniversary of Rabbi Dennis Beck-Bernam. It was a beautiful ceremony. Faith-based community is a big part of the fabric of Petersburg. We shall all love and appreciate that and continue to respect and be able to learn about our many types of faiths that we have here in the City of Petersburg. I have no other items.”

13. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA:

No items for this portion of the agenda.

14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Consideration of approval of Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Petersburg Public Schools Budget.

BACKGROUND: The total Proposed Budget for Petersburg Public Schools is \$53,231,577 which includes the following breakdown:

- State Standards of Quality, Lottery Proceeds, Incentive and Categorical Funding: \$27,862,377
- State Sales and Use Tax: \$4,767,200
- Food Service: \$2,799,350
- Federal Funding (JROTC): \$70,000
- Special Revenue (State & Federal grants): \$7,301,200
- Local Funding: \$431,450
- City of Petersburg General Fund: \$10,000,000

RECOMMENDATION: For City Council to approve the appropriation for Petersburg Public School.

There was discussion among City Council and staff.

Council Member Myers made a motion to approve the \$10 million for the school system budget and also allow them to maintain the \$669,000 without refund. The motion was seconded by Council Member Wilson-Smith. Budget

Ms. Jackson opened the floor for public comments.

Barb Rudolph, 1675 Mt. Vernon Street, stated, “I just wanted to say that I think that councilman Hill asked a very good question. I mean that you mentioned that that was money from a prior year that was spent. We are talking about the \$669,000 that was just being discussed. The other thing that I would mention is if the schools are looking for money to put in for teacher raises giving them a break on this money which may or may not been spent it is still one-time funding. They are really looking for a permanent adjustment in their budget to pay for the local share of the teacher raises. I think what you got is kind of like a one-time quick fix or a band-aid. I believe that they also asked for \$1.3 million dollars more than what was budgeted previously. It looks like if you count the \$669,000 and the \$250,000 you are over \$900,000 but you are a short of \$1.3 million and of what you have covered of the \$900,000 and \$669,000 of it is questionable of really being much help possibly. I am saying possibly. I do not know the school’s position on this. I am just looking at this as a passionate observer that understands budgeting. The one-time money being applied to raises for permanent employees is a stock measurement to sure up the budget for the school. Thank you.”

*Audio available upon request.

Linwood Christian, 410 Mistletoe Street, stated, "I have to agree with Mrs. Rudolph said. But I will say this as a single parent if I was not in the school physically, I was on the telephone or with the teachers by email. And one thing I can say again and that this may be a one time fix but hopefully while we are putting a band-aid on it that we make sure wounds are covered and healed. First and foremost, with the exception of Mr. Myers, I don't know about Mr. Cuthbert but most of you all are products of this school system. Most of what few department heads that live in the City are products of this school system. Look at where you are. Can you deny this upcoming generation of what you all are privileged with? Mrs. Wilson-Smith and I know some of our teachers. Let's think about what we produce in this City that are now living, including you Mr. Hill. Let's do more. But having served in the school as Title I Advisory Counsel and President of the PTA we always talked about people looking at our schools' systems before they made a decision to move here. But then on the other hand we start nit picking. Now I will say this, from the time I was in the school system and you talk about the school was old, but I look at how long the school system had to look at the fight that they had. And that was not under you Madam City Manager and some of you were not on City Council. That is how far this stuff goes back. And to be quite honest when you are looking at a battle of elected officials and decisions on whether we fund education especially in a City that is predominantly black. Should be really be having this discussion. It may not be a big one but what you are doing for the schools is okay enough. With that answer let's look for something enlighten of our City, our public-school systems. Thank you."

Veronica Person, 1800 East Boulevard, stated, "I have listened to everything that you all have had to say today. And I also understand that you have a budget that you have to deal with. But you are still not looking at the needs of the students of the City and the needs even of your City. This requires that they bring people in when they move in too. And what they look for is what your school system looks like. And if your school system is not funded we cannot give them the education to be successful. I also heard you say that the school system owed you \$669,000 from 2016. This is 2019. We have new teachers that come into the City that try to teach our children all the time and yet we still cannot retain teachers if we do not fund our budget. It requires that money for teachers to come in. We have teachers that are leaving every year because they are retiring. And if you don't fund the budget for the teacher raises we will not be able to retain enough teachers for our students. And that effects the City also. Not only does it affect the budget it affects the housing and what people do in the City and the representation of the City. So, please reconsider and fund our budget completely. Thank you."

Yvette Wilson, 234 High Street, stated, "I am an advocate for teachers in Petersburg. I have 15 districts in the Southside Region. So, I know the challenges with funding. I sat here last month until 12:00am hoping to hear the teachers share with you what their concerns were about education. I came back tonight and heard projects that are being discussed for the City. And I thought to myself, all of this resource and time that is given to building and structures but are we putting that much emphasis on the children. The young children who come through your system who will be your future. Are you investing in them now so that those buildings can be lived in and further developed, and the City can grow? I have roots here. My father was stationed at Fort Lee and I was stationed at Fort Lee. Something always brought me back to Petersburg. My job presently brings me to Petersburg because all roads meet in Petersburg. So, this was the place that I thought that I had to be. So, in being here I cannot sit silent and not state how important it is to fund education. I have stood in front of podiums for my own children in Richmond City. I have spoken on their behalf and on their peers and on the community as a whole. Because of the need of public education in Richmond City. I sat in the seat and served as a school board member for eight years. So, I know your pain when it comes to funding and I know that you have a responsibility as well as the school board has a responsibility to meet the funding obligations for your public schools. So, I ask that you consider all, and I have heard some personal issues in the past. Someone quoted how much someone made in the school system. That is besides the point. We all know that the state came in and did what it had to do. That is not our issue here. Our issue is funding schools for the young people so that they can be productive citizens just as you were funded when you sat in those chairs somewhere either in Petersburg or somewhere else. I ask that you do give consideration to the school boards recommendation of funding. Thank you."

*Audio available upon request.

Courtney Austin, educator of 19 years in Petersburg, stated, "I am a 1993 graduate of Petersburg High School. My children are products of Petersburg City Public Schools. I am coming to you because my passion is the children of Petersburg and that is why I stay in Petersburg. That is why the good few stays. Why we cannot keep people is because you do not have the money. We don't have the money. I am a 19-year veteran educator and I am not even on Petersburg Public Schools pay scale. Because the funding is not there. We have educators that sell Mary Kay and Paparazzi and they work at Macy's and they work wherever. Because we have to supplement out income to teach. We cannot afford to fully feed our families on the pay that we are receiving. But, yet we still have to come in the classrooms and give 110% every time we get in there. You talk about the gateways that we have in Petersburg and the Ramada Inn that has been torn down since I don't know when. We talk about looking at all that and getting people to come in constantly to look at all of these buildings and yet still your seeds that you are trying to plant you are not pouring into them. I am asking that you consider funding our school system. Fund us so that we can continue to push on and try to give our babies better. I had better growing up. I graduated with your Mayor. We had better, and our babies deserve better, but we cannot get better because we don't have better. And better comes with funding and that is all that I have to say. Thank you."

Seeing no further hands, Ms. Jackson closed the public comments.

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

19-ORD-25 AN ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING ON JULY 1, 2019, AND ENDING ON JUNE 30, 2020, IN THE SCHOOL OPERATING, FOOD SERVICE AND SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS.

Council Member Wilson-Smith asked, "Moving forward is it possible for council to appropriate a line item such as for example all meals taxes will go to the school system. Or all tourism monies will go to the school system."

Mr. Williams stated, "Council can adopt a resolution to appropriate the equivalent of tax collected. I do not think that you want to say those specific funds, but you can say 'our intent is to appropriate the equivalent of the tax collected from these items.'"

Council Member Wilson-Smith stated, "Okay. Thank you."

Council Member Hill made a motion to amend the Rules of Council to extend the council meeting past 12:00am. The motion was seconded by Council Member Myers. There was discussion on the motion. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Smith-Lee, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Hill, Hart and Parham; Voting No: Cuthbert

b. Consideration of approval of Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Operating Budget.

BACKGROUND: City Manager has recommended an operating spending plan of \$106,315,419 for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020. A public hearing was held on April 16, 2019.

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend Council consider the budget appropriation.

Mrs. Benavides gave a brief update on the budget since last hearing.

*Audio available upon request.

There was discussion among City Council Members and staff.

Council Member Cuthbert asked, "Mrs. Benavides is there something that you can bring to us at our next meeting to enact on May 28th?"

Mrs. Benavides stated, "Yes. I will work with the City Attorney and we will bring something back. And because we need to address this we need to decide whether this is the will of council to move forward with allowing the Sheriff to do this. They have trained a person and they are ready to go. I just want to make sure."

There was continued discussion among City Council and staff.

Vice Mayor Hart made a motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Operating Budget as proposed with the following amendments: (1) Increase state reimbursement for Social Services in the General Fund by \$279,760, bringing the total General Fund Revenues to \$76,120,754; (2) Increase Lease Rent of Buildings in Social Services by \$279,760, bringing the total General Fund expenditures to \$76,120,754. The motion was seconded by Council Member Myers.

Ms. Jackson opened the floor for public comments.

Barb Rudolph, 1675 Mt. Vernon Street, stated, "This whole process has been puzzling and vexing to me. We have a revised budget being talked about tonight and there has been constant mentions and feedback from members and one-on-one meetings with council members and all of the things that you have done with this budget. You have gotten a total of 15 minutes from public comments of citizens. And this was after a budget schedule that was set up and was supposed to have two public hearings and all of this feedback and information. You have zero feedback from citizens. Now you have presented something tonight that none of us has seen. I guess under the technicality and I understand the bottom line has not changed but I certainly reviewed a budget line item offline and it sounds to me like the line item budget that you are looking at now is different. I am just really vexed that this is something that would go all through this. And even now we are talking about it and it is after 10:00pm at night when the so-called public hearing took place at the April 16th meeting. That started at like 11:45pm at night. I went back and checked the minutes and five people got to talk. I mean lots of people and I am sure that a few dozen people left when the meeting started but there were still many people at 11:45pm at the last meeting that wanted to talk. Now I look around tonight and see that people have given up and they did not come back. I hope that you as the council and it is within your power to dictate how this process works. I have been paying attention to it for several years and it has never been this much lack of participation from the public or this much basically that we are not interested in what the public says. Think about it even if you all are having one-on-one meetings with the City administration about what to put in the budget. You are not even sharing with one another and creating unified priorities. It is like if Council Member Hill has some people here that he spoke to and he has some suggestions. Who is to say that another council member does not have suggestions. How does all that get reconciled and get built into this budget. I don't know if this is being done so that you do not have to have any more official meetings because the council members are not altogether. I don't know what the rationale is, but I think it is pitiful. And that is just the comment about the process. I am also going to say that shouldn't all the department heads have to work as hard with scrubbing their budgets as Chief Miller did. We have heard at every meeting that it has been Chief Miller and pat him on the back. I am not disagreeing with patting him on the back but why does he have to stand out their alone and be the only one that is supposed to be given. I mean we all mostly think that public safety is one of the priorities. I didn't get the chance to talk at the first public hearing Mayor, so I am going to keep talking for a minute because I have a lot to say."

Mayor Parham asked, "Mrs. Rudolph, can you please bring your comments to a close?"

Mrs. Rudolph stated, "I hear you and I understand that you do not like being and having any

*Audio available upon request.

commentary of contrary to this flip shot process. But I will say that I will send you all a spreadsheet and if you have an interest in facts you will see that there is quite a bit of disciplinary spending in the budget that exceeds what has been done in the past. If I were you I think that you would find some value and question it. It might help you cover more stipends or a raise for council members or any other persons. Thank you.”

Jeff Fleming, 1819 Chuckatuck Avenue, stated, “What letters am I going to put behind my name tonight. How about CPA (Compassionate Person Always)? I am talking about the budget. It is always a difficult thing to do. It is always something that you have to do, and nobody wants to do it. But look at the audience, the citizens are not here, they have left. People are inquiring, and the schools want money, employees want raises and council wants raises. Everybody wants a piece of the pie, but the pie is only so big. Then you have to make hard decisions and I understand. I want to applaud the City administration. They went back and made some changes and we didn’t get what we wanted on the healthcare, but we got a little something. I want to applaud them for that. But we are going to have to do better. Mr. Hill brought up a good point. We stood a 10% cut and stayed here. I do not know how this insurance thing is going to go but some of the guys are ready to go. Other departments are to and the police and fire departments, but I hope they stay. Mrs. Wilson-Smith had an idea of taking all of the food tax and apply it to education. I don’t think that would be a good idea. I am nobody but just an idea in which you have the power to do. Nobody likes taxes, and nobody likes to raise taxes. But how about this as a thought. What about a 1% raise in the sales tax earmarked. You all raised the cigarette tax and I am a smoker. I pay \$0.90 extra for cigarettes and I still do. So, what about a 1% or 2% sales tax. Raise the sales tax for education. Anybody thought of that. Talk to the City Attorney and see if it is legal. That is how you can fund your education. Put a sunset clause on it for public safety tax. That is how we can fund things. That is all. Have a good evening. Thank you.”

Seeing no further hands, Ms. Jackson closed the public comments.

There was discussion among City Council and staff.

The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Smith-Lee, Myers, Hill, Hart and Parham; Voting No: Wilson-Smith

19-ORD-26 AN ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS IN THE ALL FUNDS BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING ON JULY 1, 2019 AND ENDING ON JUNE 30, 2020.

- c. Consideration to extend the timeframe of the Petersburg Preservation Task Force Memorandum of Understanding.

BACKGROUND: The PPTF entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the City on March 20, 2018 for a one-year period. Currently, PPTF manages the Blandford Church and Reception Center, Centre Hill Mansion and The Exchange Building (formerly The Siege Museum).

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend City Council extends the MOU with the Perseveration Task Force until March 30, 2020.

There was discussion among City Council Members and staff

Council Member Myers made a motion to extend the Petersburg Preservation Task Force current MOU for an additional 30 days upon their request. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hill. There was discussion on the motion. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Smith-Lee, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Hill, Hart and Parham

- d. Proposed amendments to the Rules of Council.

*Audio available upon request.

BACKGROUND: See attached.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve amendments to the Rules of Council.

There was discussion among City Council Members and staff.

Council Member Myers made a motion squash any amendments with respect to the standing committees and move forward full force to move this City forward in the right direction. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Hart.

Council Member Cuthbert made a substitute motion to approve the amendments to the Rules of Council as proposed. The motion was seconded by Council Wilson-Smith. The motion was not approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Smith-Lee and Wilson-Smith; Voting No: Myers, Hill, Hart and Parham

Original motion goes back on the floor made by Council Member Myers. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Myers, Hill, Hart and Parham; Voting No: Cuthbert, Smith-Lee and Wilson-Smith

Council Member Wilson stated, "This council also agreed to add to the Rules of Council that we will conduct evaluations of our employees in July of every year. So, we need to add that to this."

Council Member Wilson-Smith made a motion to add to the Rules of Council to conduct evaluations of City employees in July of every year. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hill. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Smith-Lee, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Hill, Hart and Parham

19-R-24 A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE RULES OF COUNCIL TO ADD THAT CITY COUNCIL WILL CONDUCT EVALUATION OF CITY EMPLOYEES IN JULY OF EVERY YEAR.

e. Update on the Street Naming Process.

Janell Sinclair stated, "I am up here to go over the results of the street name change mailings. First, I must apologize. When I initially forwarded the memo to my director I had the wrong date. So, please forgive me for the date inaccuracy. Once I got an email asking to be more precise on the names of the streets and how many mailings that were sent out and then more specific on the responses. So, please accept my apology for that. So, on April 17th, 2019, letters were mailed out. There were 266 letters that were mailed out. And they were mailed out. Thirty-five was mailed to High Pearl Street. These were sent to the property owners. So, there 35 on High Pearl Street, 39 properties on Johnson Road, 59 on North Carolina Avenue, 89 properties on Harding Street, 16 on Porterville Street and 28 on New Street. Since that time, we have received 61 letters back. Twenty-five had no objections to the street name change. Nine reflected that they had objections. There were 17 letters received with no response. So, that means that they did not check either box or either line. And that was one for High Pearl Street, four for Johnson Road, eight for Harding Street and one for New Street. Then we received two letters back that came back with a yellow sticker claiming that it was unclaimed mail. One was no mail receptacle and three stated that the property was vacant and fourteen said no deliverable at the address and then after all of those was added up there was 195 that we did not receive a letter back at all. In the email that I received today, it was asked to inform council of the property address or the property owner's name of who may have not objected or objected to the street name change. I brought some examples with me. When we receive it back we did a return envelope? All of the property owners did was take off the last sheet and check yes or no. But on the last sheet it does not reflect the address nor the property owner's name.

*Audio available upon request.

I just reflect the response. So, I could not accurately reflect the property owner and how they responded to the letter. I could only count the number of responses. As a result of that with the no objections, of the 266 there was 25 owners that did not object. With objections and no responses and returned mail it equaled up to 241. That is 91% that objected to the street name change. With that in the policy with respect to name change it has to be approved by 100% prior to reporting it to City Council for final approval. If the City of Petersburg Department of Public Works and Utilities does not receive a completed questionnaire or hear from a property owner in 30 working days of the letter the department will not proceed with the street name change. So, therefor I will leave the remaining decision on council and if you have any questions I am here to answer them. Thank you.”

15. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

No items for this portion of the agenda.

16. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Consideration of approval of the attached appropriation ordinance in the amount of \$100,000 with carryover capability to fiscal year 2020 with no match requirements or in-kind services required.

BACKGROUND: The City of Petersburg was awarded funding for the purpose of renovating the center section of the historic Southside Depot. The City, in partnership with the National Park Service, intended to use this section to create a visitor contact station. Additionally, the City applied for a Transportation Alternative grant to fund the completion of the Southside Depot Restoration Project. Due to financial constraints the project has not been completed.

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend City Council approve the attached appropriation ordinance in the amount of \$100,000 with carryover capability to fiscal year 2020 with no match requirements or in-kind services required.

Vice Mayor Hart made a motion to approve the attached appropriation ordinance in the amount of \$100,000 with carryover capability to fiscal year 2020 with no match requirements or in-kind services required. The motion was seconded by Council Member Myers.

Ms. Jackson opened the floor for public comments.

Seeing no hands, Ms. Jackson closed the public comments.

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

19-ORD-27 AN ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED, SAID ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2018, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2019 FOR THE SOUTHSIDE DEPOT PROJECT.

- b. Presentation on Stabilize to Revitalize Initiative

BACKGROUND: The city owns over 200 vacant lots, and 8 lots with improvements. The comprehensive plan and the strategic plan for the city is to get these vacant lots back on the real estate roles of the city and in the hands of citizens. In addition, there are lots of private property decaying our communities because they are not stabilized and have several property maintenance violations. This initiative allows the City to stabilize these properties and placing a tax lien to recover the monies spent; and to abate many of the

*Audio available upon request.

property maintenance violations. This is a strategy to aid the Property Maintenance staff in achieving compliance, its implementation allows neighborhoods to be restored one house at a time.

RECOMMENDATION: City Council determine if the City implement a pilot program to allow one home to be stabilized with the cost not to exceed \$50,000.00.

Michelle Peters, Director of Planning and Community Development, gave an overview of the initiative.

There was discussion among City Council and staff.

Council Member Wilson-Smith made a motion to implement the pilot program to allow one home to be stabilized and with the cost not exceed \$50,000. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cuthbert. The motion was not approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Wilson-Smith, and Parham; Voting No: Smith-Lee, Myers, Hill and Hart

c. Consideration of approval of FY2018-2019 Petersburg Public Schools Supplemental.

BACKGROUND: As Petersburg Public Schools has received the exact grant amounts and other adjustments not included within the original budget, the School Board amends the adopted budget on a monthly basis. Petersburg Public Schools is now requesting that Petersburg City Council formally approve and appropriate these budget amendments in accordance with State code.

The summary of net budget amendment as of March 31, 2019 is as follows;

- State revenue has been adjusted by \$595,527
The supplemental appropriation totals \$595,527.

RECOMMENDATION: For City Council to approve the supplemental appropriation for Petersburg Public School.

Council Member Myers made a motion to approve the supplemental appropriation for Petersburg Public School. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Hart.

Ms. Jackson opened the floor for public comments.

Seeing no hands, Ms. Jackson closed the public comments.

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

19-ORD-28 AN ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED, SAID ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2018, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2019 FOR THE PETERSBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

CLOSED SESSION:

City Attorney Anthony C. Williams stated that City Council will now move to go into closed session for one purpose pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.A (7) of the Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended, council will be in closed session for the purpose of receiving legal advice and status update from the City Attorney and legal consultation regarding the subject of specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by the City Attorney and matters of actual or probable litigation specifically including but not limited to matters requiring legal advice by the City Attorney.

*Audio available upon request.

Vice Mayor Hart moved that the City Council go into closed session for the purposes noted by the City Attorney. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hill. There was no discussion on the motion, which was approved on roll call vote.

On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Smith-Lee, Wilson-Smith, Hill, Hart and Parham; Abstain: Myers

City Council entered closed session at 11:56 p.m.

CERTIFICATION:

Mr. Williams stated that City Council now moves to come out of closed session and certify that only public business matters lawfully exempted from an open meeting requirement pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the closed meeting.

Council Member Hill made a motion to return City Council into open session and certify the purposes of the closed session. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Hart.

The motion was approved on roll call vote.

On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Smith-Lee, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Hill, Hart and Parham

19-R-25 A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING, AS REQUIRED BY THE CODE OF VIRGINIA, SECTION 2.2-3712, THAT TO THE BEST OF EACH MEMBER'S KNOWLEDGE, ONLY PUBLIC BUSINESS MATTERS LAWFULLY EXEMPTED FROM OPEN MEETING REQUIREMENTS OF VIRGINIA LAW WERE DISCUSSED IN THE CLOSED SESSION, AND ONLY SUCH PUBLIC BUSINESS MATTERS AS WERE IDENTIFIED IN THE MOTION CONVENING THE CLOSED SESSION WERE HEARD, DISCUSSED, OR CONSIDERED.

City Council returned to open session at 12:30pm.

- d. Consideration of a motion to provide clarification and confirmation of City Council's position concerning actions relating to 10-ORD-101.

BACKGROUND: Since the adoption of 10-ORD-101 by City Council on December 14, 2010, there has been a request for zoning determination letter, an appeal to Circuit Court and a now pending appeal before the Virginia Supreme Court. Council desires to clarify and confirm its position concerning these matters.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve Motion

Sandy Graham, Attorney at Williams Mullen, stated, "We are here this evening on a text amendment on our zoning originally obtained 2010. And the text amendment deals with two modifications and clarifications to two proffers that were made back in 2010. Approval of these two items will allow this item to go forward. We have been trying to get this project going for the past nine months. As you also probably know there has been litigation on this position and so on. I am not going to go over any of that. I just want you to know that this project is at a very important crisis point that we will lose the investors. We are going to lose the lenders if we cannot get this going. This nine-month delay that we have so far, I heard yesterday that it has so far cost \$1 million in interest rate increases over the elapsed times because the rates have gone up. And all the lenders reserve the right to increase the rates. This is a very costly process. If council and the City want this project to

*Audio available upon request.

go forward, we ask that you approve the text amendment that is before you. And I am happy to answer questions.”

Council Member Smith-Lee made a motion to proceed with the consideration of the proffer amendments and waive the public hearing requirements in accordance with 15.2-2302 of the Code of Virginia. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Hart. There was discussion on the motion.

Council Member Cuthbert stated, “I have filed a disclosure statement with the Clerk today pursuant to Virginia Law. Ms. Jackson, do you have that disclosure statement? I stapled the disclosure statement to it. It was in your chair at the beginning. The statute says that I can go into the details of the statement each time this issue arises or else I can refer to the disclosure statement that the clerk is to file and keep on file for five years. I have stapled the statute to the disclosure statement. The disclosure statement basically explains why I have no conflict of interest that prohibits me from voting on this motion or any motion dealing with this property. So, I wanted that said and, in the record, and I appreciate the clerk filing that disclosure statement as she deems appropriate. I also want to hand out a fact sheet that I have prepared. I would like everyone to take a copy and then I want to go over the fact sheet with you. Then I am going to ask Mr. Temi to play an audio recording.”

Council Member Cuthbert went over the fact sheet and recording with City Council and staff.

The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Smith-Lee, Wilson-Smith, Hill, Hart and Parham; Voting No: Cuthbert; Abstain: Myers

Council Member Smith-Lee made a motion to affirm that City council and the City of Petersburg does not support the actions taken by Councilman Cuthbert with regard to (1) his request for a zoning determination letter regarding City ordinance 10-ORD-101; (2) his subsequent appeal to Petersburg Circuit Court of the zoning determination letter issued regarding 10-ORD-101; and (3) his opposition to the appeal of the circuit court’s ruling to the Supreme Court of Virginia concerning 10-ORD-101. Council further affirms that these actions were taken by Councilman Cuthbert solely in his individual capacity rather than in his official capacity as a member of council, without the consent or support of City Council. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hill. There was discussion on the motion. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Smith-Lee, Wilson-Smith, Hill, Hart and Parham; Voting No: Cuthbert; Abstain: Myers

Council Member Smith-Lee made a motion to approve the voluntary proffer amendments to 10-ORD-101 as presented by the developer tonight. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Hart. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Smith-Lee, Wilson-Smith, Hill, Hart and Parham; Voting No: Cuthbert; Abstain: Myers

Council Member Smith-Lee made a motion to set a public hearing for May 28, 2019 on the rezoning proposal 10-ORD-101 based on the recommendation recently received from the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Hart. There was discussion on the motion among staff and City Council. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Smith-Lee, Wilson-Smith, Hill, Hart and Parham; Voting No: Cuthbert; Abstain: Myers

e. Consideration of reappointments/appointments to the Anti-Poverty Commission.

BACKGROUND: The members of the Anti-Poverty Commission shall be persons with human service backgrounds either via education or experience. Those backgrounds shall consist of financial, educational, public housing, business, transportation, police and legislation, the criminal justice system and health and most of all genuine interest in the development and progression of the citizens affected by poverty. Members shall be either residents of Petersburg or employees of some capacity in the City of Petersburg.

*Audio available upon request.

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend Council make reappointments/appointments to the Anti-Poverty Commission.

Council Member Wilson-Smith made a motion to reappoint Dr. Cheryl Riggins, Michael Edwards, Rosezelia Roy and Jonathan Tolbert and to appoint Eugene B. Batiste, Monika Huddleston-Elrod, Linwood Christian, Gloria Frank and Deborah Buford to the Anti-Poverty Commission. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hill. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Smith-Lee, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Hill, Hart and Parham

19-R-26 A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING DR. CHERYL RIGGINS, MICHAEL EDWARDS, ROSEZELIA ROY AND JONATHAN TOLBERT AND TO APPOINT EUGENE B. BATISTE, MONIKA HUDDLESTON-ELROD, LINWOOD CHRISTIAN, GLORIA FRANK AND DEBORAH BUFORD TO THE ANTI-POVERTY COMMISSION.

17. REPORTS/REPONSES TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC INFORMATION PERIOD:

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

18. CITY MANAGER’S AGENDA

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

19. BUSINESS OR REPORTS FROM CLERK:

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

20. BUSINESS OR REPORTS FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY:

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

21. ADJOURNMENT:

City Council adjourned at 12:55 a.m. on May 8, 2019.

Clerk of City Council

APPROVED:

Mayor

*Audio available upon request.