

The regular meeting of the Petersburg City Council was held on Tuesday, June 21, 2022, at the Petersburg Public Library. Mayor Parham called the meeting to order at 5:53 p.m.

**1. ROLL CALL:**

Present:

Council Member Charles Cuthbert, Jr.  
Council Member Treska Wilson-Smith  
Council Member W. Howard Myers  
Council Member Arnold Westbrook, Jr.  
Council Member Darrin Hill (left the meeting at 6:27pm)  
Vice Mayor Annette Smith-Lee  
Mayor Samuel Parham

Absent: None

Present from City Council Administration:

Clerk of Council Nykesha D. Jackson  
Interim City Manager Kenneth Miller  
City Attorney Anthony C. Williams

**2. PRAYER:**

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

Council Member Hill led the council meeting in prayer.

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

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

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

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

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

\*No items for this portion of the agenda.

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

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

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

a. Minutes:

June 7, 2022 – Closed Session Minutes  
June 7, 2022 – Work Session Minutes

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

\*Audio available upon request.

**8. OFFICIAL PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

- a. A public hearing on the consideration of an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and Ruffin Enterprises, LLC towards the sale of City-owned property at 1544 Halifax Street, parcel 052030005.

**BACKGROUND:** The Department of Economic Development received a proposal from Ruffin Enterprises, LLC to purchase City-owned property located at 1544 Halifax St which is currently a vacant lot. Ruffin Enterprises plan to subdivide the 2.541-acre lot into four half (.5) acre lot to construct four (4), three-bedroom, two full-bathroom single-family residential houses, approximately 1000-1500 square feet, for sale at market rate. The expected completion date will be one year after closing.

The proposed purchase price for the parcel is \$25,000, which is 56.56% of the assessed value, \$44,200. The purchaser will also pay all applicable closing costs. Ruffin Enterprises has provided financial documentation supporting their ability to purchase the property and develop the property.

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

Property Information

The zoning of the parcel at 1544 Halifax Street is B-2, General Commercial District.

Address: 1544 Halifax Street  
Tax Map ID: 05203005  
Zoning: B-2

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Department of Economic Development recommends that the City Council approves the Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and Ruffin Enterprise towards the sale of City-owned property at 1544 Halifax St, parcel 052030005

Brian A. Moore, Director of Economic Development, gave a briefing on the consideration of an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement for property on 1544 Halifax Street.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

Seeing no hands, Mayor Parham closed the public hearing.

There was discussion among City Council Members.

Vice Mayor Smith-Lee made a motion to approve the ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and Ruffin Enterprise towards the sale of City-owned property at 1544 Halifax St, parcel 052030005. Council Member Hill seconded the motion. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, Smith-Lee and Parham

**22-ORD-37 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A PURCHASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF PETERSBURG AND RUFFIN ENTERPRISES, LLC TOWARDS THE SALE OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY AT 1544 HALIFAX STREET, PARCEL 052-030005.**

\*Audio available upon request.

- b. A public hearing on the consideration of an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and William Nicholson towards the sale of City-owned property at 302 Market Street North, parcel ID 010-210001.

**BACKGROUND:** The Department of Economic Development received a proposal from William Nicholson to purchase City-owned property located at 302 Market Street which is currently a vacant lot. He is requesting to add this property to his adjacent residential property located at 209 High Street and maintain it as open space.

The proposed purchase price for the parcel is \$15,000 which is 75.75% of the assessed value, \$19,800. The purchaser will also pay all applicable closing cost. William Nicholson has provided financial documentation supporting his ability to purchase the property.

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

Property Information

The zoning of the parcel at 302 Market Street North is M-1, Industrial

Address: 302 Market Street North  
Tax Map ID: 010-21001  
Zoning: M-1

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Department of Economic Development recommends that the City Council approves the ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and William Nicholson towards the sale of City-owned property at 302 Market Street North, parcel ID 01-021001

Brian A. Moore, Director of Planning and Community Development, gave an overview of the public hearing on an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and William Nicholson towards the sale of City-owned property at 302 Market Street North, parcel ID 010-210001.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

Jeff Fleming, 1819 Chuckatuck Avenue, stated, "The purchase price I have no problem with. I just hope that Mr. Cuthbert uses his same enthusiasm as he has used in the previous ordinance that was passed with this one. That will be where his truth really lies. Thank you."

Bill Hartsock, 239 High Street, stated, "This park has always been the entrance to High Street for the residence. And the residence has taken care of it over the years. Bill Nicholson has done a magnificent job as far as upgrading and taking care of the space. We have used it for public events. The Historic Petersburg Foundation had an event there a couple of years ago to promote historic preservation. I would like to see it remain as a city park. And my primary concern is that if he buys the property will it be attached to his house which is adjacent to it. Should he sell his house what would have to the property at that point. Would it go with the house, or would it be sold separately or what would happen to it? We do not know who he would sell it too if he sells it. And he has made indication that he would at some point to me because I am a real estate agent. So, I am concerned that if he sells the house with the park, we do not know who is going to be the person who is now the owner of it and what they are going to do with it. Are they going to maintain it and take care of it, or will they build something there? Once it is private property then it is out of our control. So, just something to

\*Audio available upon request.

think about before you sell public land that is a key entrance to one of the most historic streets in the city. Thank you.”

Bruce Donald, 533 High Street, stated, “This is not a vacant unkept lot. Communities have invested improvements to the park and provided for its maintenance for many years. And it is enjoyed by many on a daily basis. While it is a try that no formalized relationship exists between the city and the residence of High Street to maintain the park, it is not true that the park was not being maintained. As a long time, resident of High Street and past president of the High Street Association, I can tell you that most of the improvements to the park occurred long before Mr. Nicholson attempted to purchase the park and the adjacent home to it two years ago. Furthermore, the association and the community continued to maintain that park. Over the last five years the High Street Association provided funding of over \$1,600 in pruning services, mulch, and flowers. This does not take into account members time spent and mowing the grass, racking the leaves, and planting flowers and just cleaning up in general. The High Street Association has even placed a doggy bad dispenser in the park. Which I can tell you gets the most use of all the dispenser maintained by the High Street Association. Approving this purchase will enhance the property value of Mr. Nicholson adjacent home but will potentially take away access from the community by Mr. Nicholson or any future owners. The documents provided by the city do not appear to guarantee that the park will continue to be open to the public or event maintained as a green space. Please save our park. Thank you.”

Travis Melson, 217 High Street, stated, “I reside at 217 High Street with my roommates Daniel Bushy and Adam Smith. I want to ask you and I plead for the city to not sell that park. That location is used for a lot of things. I am a life coach and a direct support professional. I take care of young men like these. That park sits in a place and two years ago when I moved here, I observed that park and it gave us a lot of what we needed. It gave my home the emergency exits so that if there is a fire and that they are there, they are able to walk to that park as I did mention that to Mr. Nicholson. He advised me that they can go somewhere else. But they don’t have a lot of that mobility. If I send them out the house and up the street, then they can continue to walk but they are not sure of their surroundings. I cannot send them across the street because of the traffic. So, the park was a safe haven for us to where they could go if there was an emergency or a fire. Because we did have one High Street many years ago. Even if I as a caregiver got sick or hurt, they would be able to go to that park to get help. We trained for two years, and I got them to where they can be able to do that. And taking away that park will take away a part of them. Because again it helps them to be safe in an emergency. I know that you guys say that Mr. Nicholson has been taking care of the park, but I too have been taking care of the park. Since I brought this information to the attention of some of my residents, we have gotten a lot of hate and we have gotten called ugly names by Mr. Nicholson with my young men in the vehicle with me. I just want to say to you guys that this piece of land really means something to a lot of us. Maybe not to him or not to you guys but I watch you guys pray and I watch you pray in the name of the father and son. And I just pray that you take us into consideration. Please save our park and allow these young men to be able to enjoy what little bit of that park is there.”

Francine Knight, 219 High Street, stated, “I too am vested into Petersburg. I graduated from VSU back in 1981 and since have returned to Petersburg because I love Petersburg. One of the first things when I saw High Street was the park. I was like this is very charming. It brings charm to our neighborhood. I have seen the park being used by many. There is walking tours that happen on Saturdays and I see the people assembly there. There are bikers. A lot of people have friendly little furry animals, and they walk their dogs there. Green space is so important to Petersburg. There isn’t enough especially if you live in the downtown area. Mr. Nicholson owning that green space would take away from us because it is being controlled by one person. For the life of me I cannot understand why one person would want to do that, but I guess it is to increase the property value. It is now taking into consideration of the neighbors. You are bringing division and it has already brought division with the neighbors already. You have no idea. It is important to save that park for all of us. Because all of the citizens need to be considered for use of that park. That’s all that I have to say. Please safe the park for us. Thank you.”

\*Audio available upon request.

Melody Chrome, 112 West High Street, stated, "I also own Local Vibe Café. I love that little park. It used to have a bench in it. I used to go for a walk and hang out on the bench. I wish that bench was still there. I have seen lots of people enjoy that park and the bench when it was there. Last night I went by to look at the park when I realized that it might be sold, and that Petersburg might lose this park. I happened to run into some other people that were looking at the park too. I think that they feel same about the park that I do. So, instead of sitting in the park enjoying the park, we were sitting on the bench at 404 Market Street because there is no bench in the park now. So, if that bench was in the park, we would have been enjoying the park. But since there is no bench there then we were just on the side of the sidewalk between the park and Local Vice Café. So, I would encourage you and say let the people of Petersburg keep that park. Thank you."

Risha Stebbins, 610 High Street, stated, "I have lived in my house for over 25 years. That little piece of land has always been a park. And in talking with neighbors, it seems like it has been a park for at least 30 years or more. So, I am concerned that our community people in the neighborhood are just learning within the last week or two about the prospect of this little park being sold. It is truly, as you can hear, a beloved park of our community. It is an important anchor as you enter High Street. And it means so much to us collectively as citizens who all share in ownership of it as public space. So, my concern is that this may be sold to any private individual and no longer be a public space for us. I am not sure if other options have been considered. I do not understand the recommendation to sell it to a private individual. I would suggest that if cannot make a decision to say no tonight to the sale, please table the decision to allow us in the community to work together with our council representative to come up with a better solution that is in best interest of us collectively as a community. Clearly it is recognized and a valued as a public space and I feel like it needs to stay that way. I am willing to participate in whatever problem solving that needs to happen in order to keep it a public space. And to satisfy Mr. Nicholson concern about keeping it a green space. Thank you."

Kathy Walker, 406 N. Market Street, stated, "We are the building that you can see in the background of the photos. I do not have anything elaborate prepared. I just want to say that we brought that building in January 2021 and have this beautiful greenspace right next to it. It is one of the attractions that brought us to Petersburg, and I do hope that you will vote to keep this a public park. Because it does add so much charm to the neighborhood. Thank you."

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

Council Member Myers stated, "I am going to suggest and follow with Risha request that we will have further discussion and no action at this time. Thank you."

There was discussion among City Council and staff.

- c. A public hearing on an appeal by Taiwo Onadipe, applicant and owner of 215 Henry Street, Tax Parcel 011-20-0010, on the decision of the Architectural Review Board (ARB). The property is located within the Centre Hill Local Historic District.

**BACKGROUND:** Mr. Onadipe was issued a Stop Worker Order and Notice of Violation of the Zoning Ordinance Article 35, Section 6, on March 29, 2022, for making exterior alterations without issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA). The owner filed an application to the ARB on March 30, 2022, for alterations already made to the property at 215 Henry Street, specifically removal and replacement of the façade entry door on Petersburg's Historic Design Guidelines Chapter 4, Section B. An appeal of this decision was received by the Clerk of Council on May 12, 2022, requesting that City Council overturn the ARB's denial.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends that city Council uphold the decision of the ARB.

\*Audio available upon request.

Kate Sangregorio, Preservation Planner, stated, "Before I got started, I wanted to invite Bill Hartsock, a member of the Architectural Review Board, to speak."

Mr. Hartsock stated, "I am a member of the Architectural Review Board. I was specifically named in the appeal that was presented to you concerning the rejection of the Certificate of Appropriateness for this property. First of all, I would like to say that I apologized to the applicant for the actions that I took during the council meeting. It was unprofessional and inappropriate. It was on the situation that I was in as a member of the Architectural Review Board (ARB). My passion took over that night from what I should have refrained from saying. But was questioned that for the last two years I have specifically within my role as a real estate agent and also a historic preservation person to concentrate on properties in that particular area. Particular on North Jefferson Street, Henry Street, and Centre Hill Court. I have sold 12 properties in that area to investors who have proceeded or finished renovations on those houses. If you go down Jefferson Street now you would not recognize it from years ago. It has been a real passion of mine to make sure that all of the guidelines for ARB have been followed and that the neighborhood has been restored to the character and the quality that it should be. It is very important not only to me but to the Architectural Review Board that the character of that neighborhood be maintained in historic context. That it has from that early 20<sup>th</sup> century and feel. And I will say that the folks that have worked with me on those houses have done an exceptional job. I can name several, but I will not with respect to some people who are present right now. But it is a neighborhood that needs careful attention. It is a big economic drive because it is so close to the center. The quality of the houses and the architecture of that street and neighborhood is very important. I did sell 217 and 219 Henry Street to a buyer who is working on those houses right now. He has followed the guidelines slowly, so I am hoping that everyone else adheres to the same quality that the rest of the people on that street are following and working with us as ARB to maintain the quality of the neighborhood. So, I hope that you will follow the recommendations of the board to reject this appeal and to make sure that the house at 215 follows the same quality and character as the rest of the houses in the area. Thank you."

Kate Sangregorio, Preservation Planner, gave a brief summary on the request for an appeal for 215 Henry Street.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

Bill Irvin, 26 Perry Street, stated, "Has lived at 26 Perry Street for 29 years. I do with some regularity whether it is Henry Street or North Jefferson Street and other streets, go through and celebrate investment being made. I did see and I believe that you all have in front of you a series of photographs that I will take you through with in short order. Item number one is the entrance through 215 that now exist. In terms of modernization, we even have a mason night front door. Photo number two is 215 at a few years past. The frame is still there. So, we have what you recently just saw and that is the present door. Here is what was recent. On number three I will call your quick attention in terms if you look at the rear end of the work fan. You will see the transom still in place before the complete makeover of the entrance of 215. To the right of the work fan is 217 Henry Street and you can see the trans lights there. And still on Henry Street is number four, at 211 Henry Street. It brings us to the first image photograph in this series of images. That it did have sign lights and it would have had the frame for transom. And here is 211 that is really compliant, and it is best in the neighborhood of brick and mortar. We are going to move quickly over to North Jefferson Street. In terms of distance, if you are halfway, since it is up North Jefferson, and you make the intersection a 'T intersection' with Henry Street. We have some other examples of homes at 121 that is owner occupied and fully restored. The question is on whether the neighborhood is the problem or the property owner in terms of living in a historic district and being compliant with the zoning ordinance. And I will review with you quickly. There is no drawing or no application or apology. It is going to look better when it is painted white. And currently we have before you the current address of 215 Henry Street."

Mayor Parham stated, "Mr. Irvin can you bring your comments to a close and we will move on."

\*Audio available upon request.

Mr. Irvin stated, "Yes. I come to you in support of the ARB's decision regarding 215 Henry Street. Thank you."

Taino Onadipe, owner of the property, stated, "So, pretty much I would like to explain the process on why the door became to what it is now. We originally had plans to keep it and we were just going to restore it. I had my guy to come and sand down the door and repaint and put a lock on it. The very next day someone punched a hole into one of the sides. All they have to do is reach inside and unlock the door. That is where my contractors' tools were missing, and I had to reimburse them. In order to me to eradicate that problem I had to board it up. When were originally had it boarded up it did not look good? So, that is when we put the designs in that you see right now. So, that is when we came about that. I did take the time to talk to some of my neighbor's and they did have problems with breaking in. I am kind of nervous. I am sorry. I cannot remember that particular neighbors address, but he did deal with some break-ins. And it is kind of funny because when I go on social media sometimes, my property was so easily accessible. There were local rappers that shot music videos in my house. That is how easy it was to get in there. I was like okay let me good ahead and do what I need to the property to ensure when the property does get rented out that I do not have to worry about people breaking into it. So, that is the reason why I did that. So, thank you for your time."

Michelle Murrills, 131 South Market Street, stated, "I was at the Architectural Review Board (ARB) that he was at. I also was at the Planning Commission meeting that he got everything changed around that he got zoning wise for his house. He is a really cool guy. He was very excited to be able to have this house. However, the ability to get into a house very easily is what you get when you buy an old house like that. My house has 9-foot floor to ceiling single windows that would take nothing to walk into. It is what you get when are buying an old house the way that it was. The ARB is there to ensure that you keep it the way that it was. It is the reason why myself and the applicant bought houses in the city. And I think that you need to keep what the ARB has said. Thank you."

Beverly Coleman, 18 Woodmere Drive, stated, "I am here to encourage you to uphold the Architectural Review Board decision. I serve on two boards, Historic Petersburg Foundation and Historic Farmers Bank. And I get to talk to a number of people who come to visit the bank and visit Petersburg. And we also get complimented on how well we do with maintaining the original structure of buildings. So, I would like for us to continue to be able to receive those comments. While I am sorry that there was some personality disagreement at the meeting, I am glad that Mr. Hartsock apologized for that. But I do not want to see us become one of those cities or that we regard the ARB as we go ahead and do what we want to do and then ask for forgiveness. So, I encourage you to uphold the ARB's decision."

Larry Murphy, 233 N. Sycamore Street, stated, "I am the chair of the Architectural Review Board. I own 233 and 235 North Sycamore Street. And I have been serving on ARB for about six years and chair for the last year. Obviously, I support, and it was a unanimous decision to deny this particular application by Mr. Onadipe. You have seen the pictures and I do not need to go into them. The ruling was correct. I just want to talk for a minute on the importance of the ARB. It is more than just the fact that a number of people like architecturally correct buildings. It becomes a matter of economics. And in fact, if we don't maintain our historic districts that there are definitely financial implications as far as tax credits and being able to move those particular districts of our fine city. So, the ruling that night was correct. I think that Mr. Hartsock has apologized for some of this comments that were inappropriate in that meeting. But as you can see from the pictures there is definitely not an architecturally correct alteration to that particular building. So, thank you for your time. I am here to answer any questions afterwards, but the ruling was definitely a correct ruling, and it was unanimous, and I would ask that you uphold that particular ruling."

Seeing no further hands, Parham closed the public hearing.

\*Audio available upon request.

Council Member Cuthbert made a motion to uphold the decision of the ARB and deny the appeal. Council Member seconded the motion Wilson-Smith. There was discussion among City Council. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Wilson-Smith, Westbrook, Smith-Lee, and Parham; Abstain: Cuthbert; Absent: Hill; Abstain: Myers

- d. A public hearing on the consideration of an ordinance to authorize the execution of a Deed of Easement to Dinwiddie County for Ferndale Park.

**BACKGROUND:** The City of Petersburg is the owner of the lands located in Dinwiddie County commonly known as “Ferndale Park”, in the land records of the Circuit Court Clerk for Dinwiddie County and further identified as Dinwiddie County Tax Map Parcels 9-15 and 9-15A; and the Friends of the Lower Appomattox River “FOLAR” have approached the City to request that the City convey an easement upon the properties to Dinwiddie County for thirty years for “park purposes only.”

The Petersburg Interim City Manager has consulted with the Dinwiddie County Administrator and obtained his informal agreement with the concept of such a conveyance; and it is the belief of the city that this conveyance would be in the best interests of the City of Petersburg as well as the neighboring localities.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Petersburg Interim City Manager has consulted with the Dinwiddie County Administrator and obtained his informal agreement with the concept of such a conveyance; and it is the belief of the city that this conveyance would be in the best interests of the City of Petersburg as well as the neighboring localities.

Anthony Williams, City Attorney, gave a brief summary on the request regarding Ferndale Park.

Wendy Austin, Executive Director of FOLAR and Heather Barrar, Regional Trails Program Director, gave an update on the request.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comment.

Tina Norr, 120 Leavenworth Street, stated, “I just have a question. Is this the Appomattox Riverside Park? And so, would they own it. I do not understand what this is. That is the best park in Petersburg. And I want to make sure that it stays in Petersburg. So, I do not understand what is happening, so I want to make sure that it is still our park and that we do not give it to them. I do not understand what giving them an easement means.”

Mr. Williams stated, “So, we are not giving anything to FOLAR. We are actually giving an easement to Dinwiddie County so that they can work with FOLAR because it is in their jurisdictions. Petersburg will still own it and it will be required to be maintained as a public park. So, that is our contribution to the effort, but Dinwiddie County will actually just have the authority to work with FOLAR and have them maintain it. So, it is going to be an effort to make it a better place.”

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

There were comments among City Council and staff.

Council Member Myers made a motion to approve the ordinance to authorize the execution of a Deed of Easement to Dinwiddie County for Ferndale Park. Council Member Wilson-Smith seconded the motion. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Westbrook, Smith-Lee, and Parham; Absent: Hill

\*Audio available upon request.

**22-ORD-38 AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF A DEED OF EASEMENT TO DINWIDDIE COUNTY FOR FERNDALE PARK.**

9. **PUBLIC INFORMATION PERIOD:** A public information period, limited in time to 30 minutes, shall be part of an Order of Business at each regular council meeting. Each speaker shall be a resident or business owner of the City and shall be limited to three minutes. No speaker will be permitted to speak on any item scheduled for consideration on the regular docket of the meeting at which the speaker is to speak. The order of speakers, limited by the 30-minute time period, shall be determined as follows:
- a) First, in chronological order of the notice, persons who have notified the Clerk no later than 12:00 noon of the day of the meeting,
  - b) Second, in chronological order of their sign up, persons who have signed a sign-up sheet placed by the Clerk in the rear of the meeting room prior to the meeting.

Patricia Cullinane, 2014 Matoax Avenue, stated, "I am here this evening concerning some issues dealing with fire safety and the equipment. Regarding these issues I have some questions. One, should I as a taxpaying resident feel safe with firefighting resources that have been cut by almost 50%? Two, who is coming to my neighborhood when fire engines are not available due to lack of resources? How long will it take them to get to my neighborhood if a fire engine or any kind of source has to come outside of our neighborhood or outside of or county? Third, in regard to vehicle inspections, why should my car have to be inspected and fire vehicles are allowed to lapse? Finally, where the vehicles fail inspection, and they get a new inspection are they found safe? These concerns frighten me. And I feel the need to have them addressed. I appreciate your time. I know the issues of safety mean as much to you as they do to me. And I am sure that in the future that they will be addressed. Thank you."

Jeff Fleming, 1819 Chuckatuck Avenue, stated, "Good evening. I am here to speak on the situations that are going on with the fire department right now. It has been in the news, and I am quite sure that you have seen it. And I guess there is some miss information being put out there. People do not understand the terminology they are using when they say a fire truck. A fire truck is a ladder truck. Their job is to rescue. A fire engine is to put water on the fire. Right now, the city does not have a fire truck with ladder and rescue capability at this time. That means that anything in Sycamore Towers, Perry Lofts, and a lot of our large apartment buildings we cannot get into. Our staffing levels, we have been crying for staffing. There are certain numbers that NFP1710 dictate for certain types of incidents, and we cannot meet it. We need to hire some people. You are wearing the guys out. There is a draft every day. The way that I see it and others see it we are just rolling a dice away from being national headlines. I do not know who is giving you information but maybe you need to talk to the people who are the boots on the ground. Because we are the guys that do it. We do it day in and day out. When everybody else says everything is fine that is a lie. What can an ambulance do showing up with four guys and no hose, no water, and no ladder. If you are outside, we can render aid but what is someone is inside. What can we do? I am outraged as a citizen, and I am also outraged as a firefighter here in the city. We took an oath to protect the citizens, but you are not giving us the tools to do so. I do not want to be on the national headlines, and I don't think that either one of you do. So, I think that we need to address this and address it soon. Before something happens seriously and I do not want that to happen to anyone. Passion is safety and people will tell you that. Safety is my passion. Thank you."

John Hennessee, 516 Oak Hill Road, stated, "I have come to speak on fire safety. In the early 2000s there was a fire across the street from where I was living. We ran across two of us trying to put that fire out with garden hoses. The first vehicle that arrived with firefighters in it was an ambulance. They proceeded to stand around to watch us try and put the fire out with a 5/8-inch garden hose. If you think that is a wonderful feeling, then you should try it some time. And that is the situation that you are putting us in. In the earlier 80s there were 30 men on a shift with the fire department. They are down to 17 and 18 when they can get it now. You

\*Audio available upon request.

have cut them back. You just approved four more houses for this city. The city is growing, and the fire department is getting smaller. There is something wrong. When I was going to school, they taught me math. And I do not see the math working out with this city. Thank you.”

Richard Stewart, 129 Rolfe Street, stated, “What I am here today about is the traffic light we need coming out the ramp of Pocohontas. Somebody is going to get killed there. Even coming out Joseph Jenkins Roberts Street and Madison Street is very dangerous because during business hours we cannot see around it. Someone is going to get killed there. I even called the Department of Transportation and asked them about the Martin Luther King Bridge. They said that is between the city and them. Because who maintains that area should be responsible for the light. But someone is going to get killed coming out of Pocohontas Island. Because it is dangerous. I know when I was a kid, I used to have a horse and wagon and we had a light. And a light was there until in 1993 when the bridge blew down and they did the new bridge in 2002 and then put the bridge back. We need a light very bad, or someone is going to get killed. Thank you.”

Carol West, 146 McKeever Street, stated, “I am here today because I am a citizen of Petersburg. My grandparents were citizens of Petersburg. And I purchased the property on McKeever Street. For years as a little girl, I saw how that property over there would flood on a regular basis. And I brought it for sentimental values. Because it belonged to my grandparents. Also, the house next door. My father always asked my why did I buy it. Because it was in a flood zone. I am here because I agreed to change it too commercial. Because there is a commercial building next door, and it is for senior citizens. I worry about them from time to time when the flooding comes. I am here in reference to changing that area to commercial. I do not have the funds and the money to solve the flooding problem there at I-95 and I-85. I know that you guys are doing the best that you can with maintenance with trying to keep the ramps and everything straight. But I am telling you I have seen boats that have had to go in and take the rental people out because of flooding issues. And I think that if we do get some big organization in that area, they will have the funds and maybe the city can also help to do something to solve that issue. I think about it from time to time. We do not have too many ways coming in and out of Petersburg. The I-95 and 85 is very important and when that flood comes people have a hard time trying to figure out how to get in that area. I am just here to let you know that I agree with turning that area, McKeever Street, into commercial zone. Thank you.”

Tracie Baines, 1021 West Tuckahoe Street, stated, “My purpose for being here today is to also discuss the safety of where the fire department is concerned. I have two daughters who reside in the City of Petersburg. One resides on the third floor of Pinetree Apartments and the other resides on the third floor of Artistry Lofts. My daughter that lives on Pinetree has my grandson. He also attends Walnut Hill Elementary School. Everything now and then I think about a fire that we had a couple of years ago back on Harrison Street. To where quite a few children were loss. I do not know if anybody remembers. But one of those children went to school with my daughter and if he would have been alive now, he would be around 30, 31, or 32. But he was loss in the fire. I also think about the fire that I saw on TV a couple of months ago in Richmond. I do not think that our city can stand to have anything like that to happen because we do not have the equipment to take care of it. I would be very heartbroken if something in one of my daughter’s apartments complexes and the fire department could not get to them because of faulty equipment or they are arriving in an ambulance. I do not know what we are going to do. Are we going to put hoses on the ambulance or make sure all the citizens have really great water hoses to help fight fires themselves? We are not going to survive like that. We need to make sure that we have the equipment needed to put out fires. Because we do not want to put our citizens at risk, and we definitely do not want to put the children in our city at risk. Because it would be horrible risk if the school catch on fire, or someone would run into a building and yell fire, and it really is a fire, and we cannot get to it and fight it as it should be done. So, let’s try to get together and see what we can do to ensure that the fire department has exactly what they need to take care of our city.”

Gilvia Stith, 2448 County Drive, stated, “My concern is the landfill. I do not think it is right and I think that Petersburg is the only area that charges us to get rid of unwanted items. And I do not think that we should

\*Audio available upon request.

have to place these unwanted items in front of our door and hope that they come to get them which they have done, and it has taken them up to two weeks or more. Even for the recycle cans. And they even miss our regular trash. And when the trash is missed it smells horrible. It is out there for a second week. My trash collection is on Friday and sometimes if I call them, they will come back on Tuesday or Wednesday. I do not think that we should have to be subjective to that. And myself just like everyone else take a lot of pride in beautifying where we live. So, I would not want that outside my door which has been there. My other concern is when is the deadline for this bridge on 460. I do not ever see anyone out there working. I leave home at 5am going to work and I do not see anyone. I come back 12 hours later, and I do not see anyone. So, can someone tell me when is the deadline for that bridge being finished. Thank you.”

John Richardson, 3300 Johnson Road, stated, “I spent the majority of my adult life in public safety in the City of Petersburg. And a lot of my friends are currently on the fire department and on the police department. And I am here to speak up in support of my brothers on the fire department. I would like to know how can an ambulance help fight a fire. Fires do not go out without a water and hoses. Why do the city knowingly risk lives? What other fire department does that? We are no better than we were in my particular area in Camelot back in 2016 when the city tried to shut our fire department down, Company 5. I know Mr. Coleman remembers. I would like to know what the city is doing to protect our investment. We are cutting the fire department by 50%. In case of a fire, who is going to come to my neighborhood if a fire engine is not available if you keep cutting resources. And how long will it take them to get there? I do not know if you remember, a couple of months ago we had a rash of fires and I think that we had to have mutual aid from surrounding jurisdictions to help us put out fires in our city. And last, I would like to know in regard to inspections. I think we had a problem with bills not getting paid for certain fire engines. I know a lot of fire engines; they allowed the inspection sticker to go out no them. And these ones that have failed inspection are they found to be safe now. Like I said we are no better off then we were in 2016, when they were trying to shut our neighborhood fire department down. And I do not know how we cannot pay our repair bills as well. That is my statement and I appreciate you all giving me the opportunity to speak.”

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

Mayor Parham stated, “I see that we have a fire truck outside. So, I want to give Mr. Miller some time to address this and give us a quick update on fire service and the budget and these bills and a few of these concerns.”

Mr. Miller stated, “I will start of with the easy one. The city is financially stable and very shortly Mrs. Jordan, our Chief Financial Officer, will give a report on the city on our stability. We do have a new fire chief, Fire Chief Watkins. And she is addressing some of these challenges. I too have spoken with a number of members of the fire department, and I think that we have some meetings scheduled for tomorrow with her on resolutions in respect of some of our firefighters. It will be coming up this Thursday. So, we have spoken with our neighboring jurisdictions with respect in purchasing another apparatus. These are the experts and not I. I am told that it takes two years from the day that you want to purchase it. It takes two years to get an apparatus in your station from a latter perspective in the office. So, we are looking at purchasing some equipment that will suffice until we get a new ladder. And that is a capital project that our fire chief has spoke with our financial officer about. And we have some meeting coming up about that Mr. Mayor.”

Mayor Parham stated, “Mr. Miller can you give us when the last time we brought fire apparatus.”

Mr. Miller stated, “I believe 2017.”

Mayor Parham stated, “And how many of those did we buy in 2017?”

Mr. Miller stated, "I do not know. It was a capital project that then Mr. Turille and the Robert Bobb Group recommended that we do as a city."

Mayor Parham stated, "Have we been getting those invoices from the fire department. Because I know that there is money in the bank."

Mr. Miller stated, "Mrs. Jordan has been working with our fire chief so I can assure you that there is adequate funding in all of our departments and not just the fire department with paying our bills. I have to credit Mrs. Jordan and Mrs. Innis and Chief Watkins for collaborating and getting those paid. It was a stumbling block with respect to other members of her staff, but she has since corrected that."

Mayor Parham stated, "Thank you Mr. Miller."

Council Member Cuthbert stated, "I want to address three topics. The first one is a comment is one that was made by a member of the public at our June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. A member of the public asked what we can do about making Petersburg an easy target for the homeless. The member of the public was referring to the fact that it is quite for homeless people to come down I-95 and I-85 and take residence on the streets of Petersburg. I salute the member of the public who made this comment. The point that the member of the public was bringing to council's attention was this. She was reminding council that they must take into account the unintended adverse consequences of actions motivated by good intentions. I think that is an important lesson for all of us to keep in mind. Good intentions are one thing and making situations better is a different topic. Let me go to the second topic and that is the High Street Park. This question is really for Tony Williams, our city attorney. If the High Street Park proposed sale comes back before council, will it require another public hearing."

Mr. Williams stated, "Yes. It will be starting from scratch. It would have to be presented as a new item since no action was taken. In addition, you had a list of items that you were concerned about. The process is that you pass the ordinance to authorize the sale, but the sale isn't consummated until you get the development agreement back which you consummate by resolution. So, a lot of the items that you expressed reservations about could be in the development agreement which may require incorporation of deed restriction. But that is if it ever comes back. It may not."

Council Member Cuthbert stated, "Thank you Mr. Williams. We were treated tonight to a series of photographs thanks to Mr. Bill Irvin. They are photographs depicting the transformation taking place on Henry Street and North Jefferson. If you have not driven down North Jefferson in the recent past, I invite you to do so. Thanks to Neighborhood Services for pushing property maintenance and code enforcement structural problems to be corrected. And to private investors. That street, North Jefferson really is undergoing a transformation. I didn't realize the extent of the transformation until I saw the photographs tonight. But that was quite impressive. I think everyone knows where North Jefferson. Everyone knows where Henry Street is. Henry Street has not yet enjoyed the same extent of private investors that North Jefferson has. But North Jefferson is really undergoing an impressive change for the better. And I think that we can all be proud of that. It was not too long that North Jefferson looked extremely bedraggled. But now the properties are in the hands of new owners and the new owners have done a remarkable job of bringing private investment into play. I salute them and thank them for what they are doing along with neighborhood services. Mr. Mayor, thank you."

Council Member Wilson-Smith stated, "I want to first congratulate Mr. Marquis Allen, for a job well done on Juneteenth. We had a wonderful Juneteenth event at Petersburg High School. So, thank you so very much Mr. Allen and the team of Petersburg Parks and Leisure Services. On Sunday, we had another Juneteenth event on Pocohontas Island. I would like to congratulate 'MOVE,' which is the organization that put that on. So, for a whole weekend we had Juneteenth. Someone talked about it earlier about the 21,000 cases in social services. We need to understand what that means when we say that. When we say that the numbers have

\*Audio available upon request.

gone up from 17,000 to 21,000. And just to hear it like that sounds bad. Those numbers have to be broken down. It does not mean that there are 21,000 receiving a check every month from Social Services. There are different entities to social services to make up that number. And we should all understand what that is before we run off and say it the way that it was told to us. Another thing is that every week, sometimes two or three times a week, I send out an email to anyone's email address that I have. And I end my email saying that there is no Petersburg, and I leave the 'u' out of Petersburg, with you 'u.' I do that so that those receiving emails would understand, see, and feel their importance in this city. Because nothing in this city can go on without you. A representative from Hopewell contacted me and said that they think Hopewell should do something similar to that and use the word 'well.' So, they used it and kicked it off. I would like to ask this council to consider a slogan for Petersburg to be, 'There is no Petersburg without 'U''. And lastly, I have an email from someone that I do not know. I do not even know how to pronounce his last name. His name is Paul K-N-E-P-P-E-R. Anyway, he says, 'Good morning councilwoman. Early on in my research of Moses Malone, I was very surprised to find out that there is nothing in Petersburg named after him other than the Petersburg High School Gym. Typically, a person who has accomplished as much as he did at least have a street named after him. I know of many people who have done far less who have received that honor. In researching that question, I came across something that you wrote on a PowerPoint that you wrote on Moses and other distinguished African-Americans from Petersburg receiving the recognition that they deserve. I believe that it is important for young people to be made aware of successful people who look like them and came from where they came from. I applaud your efforts to make that a reality.' He goes on to ask questions on why we didn't do it. I want to read this to you all to get a feel or to help you to see how people outside Petersburg see us and what they think about the things that we do or do not do. I still wish and hope that this council would do the renaming of African Americans who came from here and made a great success of their lives. And I believe that if our young African American teenage boys could see this and know that these people came from the same place, they came from it might make them have a change of heart. Sharing our history and telling our history is important. If we want the guys to put down the guns, let's show them some people that never picked them up. People that grew up just as poor as they are and from the same neighborhoods. Ricky Hunley and his family was just here. And one of the streets that I wanted to rename was after Ricky Hunley, Harding Street. Ricky Hunley and his family just gave the Housing Authority a \$10,000 check and nobody knows it. Not even the young boys who need to know these things. That's it for me tonight. Thank you for listening."

Council Member Westbrook stated, "First of all I would like to start with just some congratulations and acknowledgments. First of all, congratulations the high school student from Petersburg High and the Appomattox Regional Governor School. I wish all of those graduates well as they go forth with their future endeavors. I too would like to congratulate everyone that participated and acknowledge those that put on the two Juneteenth celebrations this weekend. As well Happy Belated Father's Day to all fathers that were out there. I hope that you were celebrated and had a day of rest for you. And then we will move into some things that I would like to call 'Continue the work together for the greater good.' And for today I would like to focus on the youth. Being that this is the first day of summer, I would like to challenge parents as we move to the season of less school unless you have your kids in activities and programs, that we do try to work with our youth to emphasis exercising. Exercise with your children. I would like to hopefully get over that stigma of Petersburg being the unhealthiest city in the State of Virginia. And it starts with exercising with your children. Getting them to understand the power that is being active. And I know that it is not always screened well but cut the time down that the kids are watching television or on the cellphone or tablets. And replace it with a little bit of meditation or some quiet focused time. There is a big push after this COVID pandemic about mental health. And I think that it just starts with being quiet and listening and appreciating nature. And just again cutting down on some of the noise from social media. I would like to thank FOLAR. I know that they were here earlier. I am very interested in Ferndale Avenue Park and the easement with Dinwiddie as they continue to build out that Appomattox Trail. If you listen to people whether it is the bike trail connecting from Hanover to Virginia State or the walking trail from Dinwiddie to Hopewell. It is a growing buzz and people are getting excited about what we are doing. And then finally for our kids, hopefully parents, you read with you kids. I know that Council Member Cuthbert and a lot of us are really on education. Just because school is out does not

\*Audio available upon request.

mean that the schooling stops. Hopefully, we can read with our kids and express the importance of literacy and know that when the school bell rings school does not end. To piggy-back off my next point of Council Member Treska Wilson-Smith, I know she said that there is no Petersburg without 'u,' but I would like to also say that there is no Petersburg without 'p.' And I have 13 adjectives that Petersburg hopefully will get back to standing forward. One of them being purposeful, principle, passionate, have patience, be persistent, stay peaceful, be poised, powerful, personable, philanthropic, promising and most importantly Petersburg proud. I grew up in a time that there was something about saying that we were from Petersburg. I know that it is a 'I am Petersburg.' I hope that we all can get back to being Petersburg proud as we are in this resurgence that we are going through. There are a lot of great things in Petersburg. And finally, my last point is building up that community. I would like to shout out Greenwood Farms area, Western Hill area and Ramblewood and Camelot. Those are areas that I have been canvassing over the last couple of weeks. And it is just good to get out and hear my residents and constituent's voice. Even, if I may not agree with them and even if they think that things are going wrong, I like to listen. One in particular is here to tonight, Ms. Tina. We had a great conversation after the Ward 6 & 7 meeting. And I got to listen to her and understand how I can try to do my job better by listening to residents. And I am very proud of what I see now from when I started. I did mention that I always see the same two or three voices in attendance with the public comment section. But tonight, we were overwhelmed with people who has issues and concerns that they really wanted to express about making Petersburg better. Please keep it up and please come out to city council and please support us. And even if you do not support us tell us what we are doing wrong that we can hopefully agree to disagree but make Petersburg better. And finally, I would like to give a shoutout to former Council Member Mr. Ray Coleman. Thank you for coming out Mr. Coleman and holding your word to me. I appreciate you."

Council Member Myers stated, "Nothing at this time."

Vice Mayor Smith-Lee stated, "I just want to give a shoutout and thank you for all the citizens that came out to Ward 6 & 7 joint meeting. We appreciate your concerns and hopefully that we can resolve a lot of them. Thank you, Pat Hines, and her committee, for putting on the Jazz Festival which was a success. Thank you, Marquis Allen, Ryan Massenburg, Janell Sinclair for putting on an awesome Juneteenth Celebration on Saturday at Petersburg High School. It was phenomenal. Congratulations to the Petersburg Cavaliers East Coast Basketball League for winning the Championship. And they had a lot of support and that is good. Also, thank you for Pocohontas Island. Mr. Stuart I was over there in your neck of the woods on Sunday. And it was really nice, and I really appreciate that Juneteenth celebration. It was a lot of people that I did not know but I met quite a few people and I was excited about it because they were there enjoying themselves. So, thank you. Also, congratulations to the Petersburg High School Class of 2022. What a blessing! That's it."

Mayor Parham stated, "I just want to piggyback on some of those things. All of those things were great. The Halifax Street Jazz Festival and the Juneteenth celebration and Petersburg Cavaliers. We were at their game hosting the trophy there. It was really exciting for the City of Petersburg. But I also want to talk about some of the things that went on today. I want to thank Chief Miller and all his staff for conducting a wonderful job shadowing program kick-off event today. We have over 30 high school students that are participating in our program. Because part of building the City of Petersburg is bringing on the next generation of talent which is exposing our young people to opportunities here within the city. And that is something that was really lacking as I was here as a young kid here. You never heard of those opportunities. Also, I want to congratulate the council and school board as well for getting this turf field finally off the ground for Petersburg High School. We had a groundbreaking event today for the new turf field to be ready for the 2022 football season this September. Also, I want to thank Brian Moore for hosting a wonderful Juen Chamber Luncheon today at Maria's. It was a wonderful event I heard with great turnout. Last Friday, we had the Governor back here for AMPAC Day out at the AMPAC Pharmaceutical Plant. He is really a big cheerleader of the City of Petersburg. He is definitely concerned about helping in any and every way to turn the City of Petersburg around. I know we have talked about Moses Malone. Moses Malone is part of a long string of successful superstars and athletics we have here. I just cannot thank enough of the Quinton Spain and the Frank Mason's of the world that come

\*Audio available upon request.

back and do camps here. Also, Don Brooks who is named one of the top fitness trainers of all time coming right of Petersburg. And doing his Donamatrix event every year. And also, someone who is a big supporter of the city which is Trey Songz. Whenever he can help us with anything he is just a phone call away. So, we always want to recognize the talent that we have especially a lot of the great young men and women that are coming up and continuing to give back to the city. I think that is something that is really missing. Growing up here, I do not know what the gap is of that era and why Moses Malone was not recognized during that generation but that is something that we try and do to catch them while they are living and keep them coming back and giving back to the City of Petersburg. Also, just want to say that we are definitely supportive of our public safety, specifically our fire department. People do not understand that there is a shortage of firefighters going into that field. And that is the importance of this job shadowing program. Which is to get young people interested in serving. I was just reading a fire association in Richmond was screaming danger even in Richmond because they are 47 positions short. Just to let you know the magnitude of the desperate need of people being in public safety right now. Everybody is pulling from somewhere to keep it going. They just came from a fire at a hotel in Petersburg and they did not show up on ambulances they had trucks and they put the fire out. Just to let people know that the City of Petersburg is still marking on. That concludes my comments, and we will move on to the next item.”

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

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

**12. FINANCE AND BUDGET REPORT:**

a. Presentation on Budget and Finance

Stacey Jordan, Chief Financial Officer, gave a brief presentation and update on amounts and figures of the current budget. She stated that the information is available on the city’s website under finance.

Key points:

- The City of Petersburg budget process begins with a projection of revenues in order to develop a budget balanced within resources using revenue trend analysis which is the review of historical revenue results to detect patterns. It can indicate the onset of changes in the newer-term revenue growth rates of a locality.
- This process includes the review of current city finances, as well as previous finances, local and regional economic conditions, and a re-examination of key local economic indicators via the City Financial System.
- An important step of the budget process involves the completion of the financial trend, which represents a 3-year evaluation of past financial and economic indicators. These indicators, over time, may reflect fluctuations, which prove to be extremely valuable as it allows staff to monitor changes in all aspects of the local economy and provides an insight into trends that may impact future decision making.

There was discussion among council and staff.

Mayor Parham stated, “Thank you Mrs. Jordan. I just want to chime right into recognize our chief, Chief Tina Watkins. She was just awarded to make history as Chief Tina Watkins of Petersburg Fire and Rescue as the first female fire chief in its 250<sup>th</sup> history. And she was recognized in Maryland by the African American Firefighters Historical Society this past weekend. So, Chief Watkins we applaud you.

**13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

\*Audio available upon request.

- a. Consideration of approval to extend the lease agreement for one year (June 1, 2022 – May 31, 2023) for a total amount of \$407,385.60 (\$33,948.80 monthly) between P & P Associates, LLS and the City of Petersburg for the property located at 3811 Corporate Road, Petersburg, VA 23803.

**BACKGROUND:** The City of Petersburg’s Social Services Department moved from 400 Farmer Street location in May of 2019 due to mold issues with the building. The Department of Social Services is approaching the end of it’s third year (May 31, 2022) occupying space at 3811 Corporate Road. This extension will ensure that the Department of Social Services will occupy the building for another year.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends that Council approves the lease extension for one year as written.

Norris Stevenson, Director of Social Services, gave an overview of the request.

There was discussion among City Council and staff.

Council Member Myers made a motion to approve the lease extension for one year as written. Vice Mayor Smith-Lee seconded the motion. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Myers, Smithe-Lee, and Parham; Voting No: Wilson-Smith and Hill; Abstain: Westbrook

**14. NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Consideration of a resolution approving the development agreement for development of 1024 Eighth Street, Petersburg, Virginia between the City of Petersburg, and Coastal Virginia Development.

**BACKGROUND:** The Department of Economic Development received a proposal from Coastal Virginia Development to purchase City-owned property located at 1024 Eight Street which is currently a vacant lot. The proposed use is to develop two 1206 square feet single family residential dwellings.

The proposed purchase price for the parcel is \$9,100 which is 50% of the assessed value, \$18,200. The purchaser will also pay all applicable closing cost. Coastal Virginia Development have provided financial documentation supporting her ability to purchase the property.

The City of Petersburg City Council approved an Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute documents related to the sale of city-owned property located at 1024 Eighth Street on May 17, 2022. Following a due diligence period, a Development Agreement has been drafted that requires, in consideration of the City's conveyance of the Property to Coastal Virginia Development, they shall perform the redevelopment of the Property strictly in compliance with the project summary documents and in accordance with the terms in the Agreement.

The Development Agreement shall be referenced as set forth fully in the deed of conveyance of the Property from the City to Coastal Virginia Development. The deed shall include provisions for the reverter described in the Development Agreement.

Property Information

The zoning of the parcel at 1024 Eighth Street is R-2, a two-family residential district.

Address: 1024 Eighth Street

Tax Map ID: 013-230004

\*Audio available upon request.

Zoning: R-2

**RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended that the City Council consider the adoption of a resolution approving the development agreement for development of 1024 Eighth Street Petersburg, Virginia between the City of Petersburg and Coastal Virginia Development.

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

Council Member Myers made a motion to adopt the resolution approving the development agreement for development of 1024 Eighth Street Petersburg, Virginia between the City of Petersburg, and Coastal Virginia Development. Council Member Wilson-Smith seconded the motion. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Westbrook, Smith-Lee, and Parham; Absent: Hill

**22-R-37 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF 1024 EIGHTH STREET PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA BETWEEN THE CITY OF PETERSBURG AND COASTAL VIRGINIA DEVELOPMENT.**

- b. Consideration of a resolution to approve staff to market city-owned real estate property for disposition on the GovDeals Real Estate Website.

**BACKGROUND:** The City of Petersburg authorized for disposition and development an inventory of 269 vacant real estate properties on March 19, 2019. Staff have identified the need to market the properties on GovDeals to assist in the disposition of these properties. Economic Development Staff will oversee the real estate account for the City of Petersburg. Staff will have control over the bidding process and the terms of the sale. Property Listings will include site specifications to include zoning, acreage, and desired end use. GovDeals marketing team will assist with the advertising of the properties and include them on real estate sites (MLS Listing). City Council will have the final approval on all proposals submitted on the Govdeals Real Estate Site

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Department of Economic Development recommends that City Council adopts the resolution to approve staff to market city-owned real estate property for disposition on the GovDeals Real Estate Website.

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

Council Member Wilson-Smith made a motion adopt the resolution to approve staff to market city-owned real estate property for disposition on the GovDeals Real Estate Website. Council Member Myers seconded the motion. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Westbrook, Smith-Lee, and Parham; Absent: Hill

**22-R-38 A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE STAFF TO MARKET CITY-OWNED REAL ESTATE PROPERTY FOR DISPOSITION ON THE GOVDEALS REAL ESTATE WEBSITE.**

- c. Consideration of a resolution of the City Council of the City of Petersburg approving in concept the closure of River Street between 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Street and directing the City Manager to obtain necessary information and documentation to present an ordinance for approval.
- d. Consideration of an ordinance authorizing the interim city manager to execute the Commercial Lease Agreement between Marwaha Real Estate, LLC and the City of Petersburg for the property located at 30 Franklin Street, Petersburg, VA.

\*Audio available upon request.

**BACKGROUND:** The City would like to enter into this lease with the City and Marwaha Real Estate, LLC for the leased property located at 30 Franklin Street, Petersburg, VA, for the period of August 01, 2022, through July 31, 2025, for the amount of \$61,000 per year. This space will be utilized by the Department of Communications, Marketing & Government Relations, and Economic Development.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The City Council review and approve the attached ordinance.

Mr. Miller stated, "Mr. Mayor this is a point of clarification. That is for one year. The lease is for one year with additional years if we need it."

Mayor Parham stated, "Okay it is for one year."

Council Member Cuthbert stated, "I am sorry. I didn't understand everything that Mr. Miller said."

Mr. Miller stated, "Yes, sir I will say it again. The lease is for one year with an option for one year."

Mr. Williams stated, "I think what he is saying is that he is suggesting for one year. If council approves it, then they approve it with that amendment to what is in your package. They are shortening the period. Is that right chief?"

Mr. Miller stated, "Yes. Mrs. Innis is not here so that is why."

Mayor Parham stated, "So, I will entertain a motion now for the amendment to the agreement for one year with the option for another one year."

Vice Mayor Smith-Lee made a motion to amend the agreement for one year with the option for another one year. Council Member Westbrook seconded the motion. There was discussion on the motion. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Wilson-Smith, Westbrook, Smith-Lee, and Parham; Absent: Hill; Abstain: Myers

**\*\**(Item was mistakenly skipped- Item 14c)*** Consideration of a resolution of the City Council of the City of Petersburg approving in concept the closure of River Street between 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Street and directing the City Manager to obtain necessary information and documentation to present an ordinance for approval.

**BACKGROUND:** The City Council of the City of Petersburg adopted an ordinance authorizing the sale of property along River Street and the Appomattox River to establish green space and a location for outdoor events. The sale of the property has been closed, and the property was transferred to the new owner. The property owner/developer owns property located at 240 River Street to the South of River Street, and 277 River Street to the North of River Street.

The property owner/developer is requesting the vacation of City Right of Way (ROW) on River Street, between 3rd Street and 5th Street, to facilitate the planned event space use. The vacation would result in closure of the roadway along River Street between 3rd Street and 5th Street. During the May 3, 2022, City Council Meeting, the City Council requested reports on the impact of the proposed ROW vacation on Street, Public Works, and Public Safety.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of the Resolution. In so doing, Staff recommends the following:

\*Audio available upon request.

1. The property owner/developer be required to submit a formal site plan that illustrates the permanent road closure, demolition, grading, proposed traffic turn arounds, and drainage structure conversions to be reviewed and approved through the City's established Site Plan/Development Review process.
2. The property owner/developer be required to submit a Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) and feasibility study to be completed by a qualified engineering consultant to illustrate traffic circulation following the proposed street vacation/closure and traffic impacts of planned events
3. The completed TIA be reviewed by City Staff, especially Fire/EMS, Police, Transit for consideration during the Site Plan/Development Review process
4. The property owner/developer be required to prepare, submit, and record plats that include easements for all public and private utilities.

Council Member Myers made a motion to approve the resolution with staff recommendations included. Vice Mayor Smith-Lee seconded the motion. There was discussion among City Council and staff.

Council Member Cuthbert made a substitute motion to consider the concept of the closer of River Street between 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Street once the City Manager receives the information necessary information to present an ordinance for approval.

The motion dies due to a lack of second and the original motion goes back on the floor.

Council Member Myers made a motion to approve the resolution with staff recommendations included. Vice Mayor Smith-Lee seconded the motion. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Wilson-Smith, Myers, Westbrook, Smith-Lee, and Parham; Voting No: Cuthbert; Absent: Hill

**22-R-39      A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PETERSBURG APPROVING IN CONCEPT THE CLOSURE OF RIVER STREET BETWEEN 3<sup>RD</sup> STREET AND 5<sup>TH</sup> STREET AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO OBTAIN NECESSARY INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION TO PRESENT WITH AN ORDINANCE FOR APPROVAL.**

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

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

**RECOMMENDATION:**      Paul Johnson and Randall Williams' positions align with the requirements of CVWMA. It is recommended that they be appointed to the Central Virginia Waste Management Authority Board with Mr. Johnson as primary and Mr. Williams as alternate.

Nykesha Jackson, Clerk of Council, gave an overview of the request.

Council Member Myers made a motion to appoint Paul Johnson and Randall Williams to CVWMA for a term ending December 31, 2022. Vice Mayor Smith-Lee seconded the motion. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Wilson-Smith, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, and Parham; Voting No:

\*Audio available upon request.

Cuthbert; Absent: Smith-Lee

**22-R-40 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING PAUL JOHN AND RANDALL WILLIAMS WITH A TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022, TO THE CENTRAL VIRGINIA WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY BOARD.**

**15. CITY MANAGER’S AGENDA:**

- a. City Manager’s Report

Mr. Miller stated, “I cannot thank you enough for all the good things that you have done for myself and members of our staff. But I want to thank the staff tonight, particularly those who have been working with our young folks developing our leaders. Secondly, I want to thank Mr. Randall Williams for filling in as Interim Director of Public Works and Utilities. He has done a very good job. I do not know if Mr. Johnson is here. He went to orientation, and he is officially on board. Again, thanks to council for supporting us on this with the intern program. It is going to pay off for us.”

Mayor Parham stated, “Thank you.”

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

\*No items for this portion of the agenda.

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

\*No items for this portion of the agenda.

**18. ADJOURNMENT:**

City Council adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

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

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\*Audio available upon request.