

The regular meeting of the Petersburg City Council was held on Thursday, January 3, 2019, at the Union Train Station. Mayor Parham called the meeting to order at 6:30p.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
Assistant City Attorney Rashaad Bey
Clerk of Council Nykeshia D. Jackson, CMC

2. PRAYER:

Mayor Parham stated, "Now at this time Reverend Darrin Hill will lead us in prayer."

Reverend Hill led the City in prayer.

3. CLOSED SESSION:

Assistant City Attorney Rashaad Bey stated that City Council will now move to go into closed session for one purpose pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.A (1) of the Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended, council will be in closed session for the discussion or consideration of interviews of prospective candidates for employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, discipline or resignation of specific public officers, appointees or employees of any public body; under Subsection 3 for the discussion of disposition of publicly held real property and under Subsection 7 for consultation of legal counsel pertaining to specific legal matters requiring the provision legal advice by such counsel.

Council Member Myers moved that the City Council go into closed session for the purposes noted by the City Attorney. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Hart. 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, Myers, Hill, Hart and Parham

City Council entered closed session at 6:35 p.m.

CERTIFICATION:

Mr. Bey 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. 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

19-R-05 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.

4. MOMENT OF SILENCE:

a. Clerk of Council, Nykesha D. Jackson, led council and the audience in a moment of silence.

5. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

a. Clerk of Council, Nykesha D. 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:
(Each presentation will be limited to 10 minutes.)**

There are no items for this portion of the agenda.

Mayor Parham stated, "For tonight's Positive Petersburg Story I want to talk about today what happened with The Cameron Foundation, Virginia LISC and Project: HOMES. They hosted a key ceremony to celebrate the sale and new homeownership of the newly renovated house on Liberty St. in the Poplar Lawn Historic District. The house at 135 Liberty St. was a vacant and severely blighted historic property. After extensive renovations, the once unlivable home has been brought back to life less than a year after announcing plans to rehabilitate the home. The Liberty St. project marks the first vacant property to be renovated and sold through the "Partners for Neighborhood Renewal – Poplar Lawn," or PNR, initiative. Thank you to the City's partners in this initiative – LISC Virginia, project: Homes, The Cameron Foundation, Rebuilding Together, Historicorps, and Preservation, Virginia. We are so excited to welcome the new homeowner, Mr. Williams, to Petersburg, from Newark, New Jersey. This renovation brings a great sense of optimism about the revitalization coming to this historic neighborhood. Thank you."

Ms. Jackson stated, "Before we go to communications and reports, I would like to put a recommendation the table. Our next regular council meeting is on January 15th which is a holiday for the City, in which we will be closed. So, the next date is January 17th, that Thursday if it is available with everyone on their schedule."

Council Member Wilson-Smith stated, "I do not have a motion. I have discussion. We just agreed that it will be the following Tuesday after the holiday."

Ms. Jackson stated, "I can check the train station to see if it is available for that date."

8. COMMUNICATIONS/SPECIAL REPORTS:

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

Mr. Gordineer presented a PowerPoint presentation update on the City Assessor's Office.

Key points:

- Have a seven-member engaged team and five of them are full-time employees and two are through the Social Services View Program.
- They have implemented technology and paperless processes.
- They have taken a property information audit.
- The office is receiving all information from Circuit Court electronically.
- All appeals are done electronically and through the use of tablets.
- Conducted income and expense survey.
- They are happy to be working with the other departments in collaborating with the geosystems.

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

Mrs. Benavides stated, “Mayor and Council you have a copy of my report. I do have one special note that I need to make an exception. Number two says that the Petersburg City Government will be closed on Tuesday, January 15th. That is not MLK Day. That is his actual birthday but not the day we celebrate which is the actual day on the 21st. So, our actual date of closure is January 21st. We will make all the changes to documents and everything. But the federal holiday is January 21st and not the 15th. That is his birthday. Thank you.”

Mayor Parham stated, “Based on that information the meeting will stay on January 15th.”

Council Member Wilson-Smith asked, “Social Services Remedial Project, can you explain what that is please.”

Mrs. Benavides stated, “Absolutely ma’am. The remediation project is mostly based on what people have heard is that we have discovered mold in some areas and other issues. We are working with vendors to remove and eliminate. Some of the difficult that we have ran across is that you sometimes find out more than you have anticipated and so we are working with our Department of Public Works to go through and fix and take care of much as possible. The remediation process includes cleaning and removing of all material that may have been exposed to water damage. At this time, we are anticipating February. My concern is that when we started this project we hoped that it would be a quick turnaround, but I don’t believe any projects have a quick turnaround. Because you never know until you get into there and see how much you are going to have to deal with. So, what we will do is that if you allow us to at the next council meeting when our Public Works Director is back, I would like to give you an update on our game plan and where we are and what we have discovered so that you will know. This project, like with many older buildings, you have a tendency to have wet walls and wet walls if they are not addressed with preventive maintenance along the way can get out of control. If you don’t mind I would like to do a full presentation. In fact, prior to the next council meeting I will provide a memo with an update to all council members.”

Council Member Wilson-Smith stated, “Another question I have is that I am seeing the authorization has been confirmed for Westview Childhood Education Center roof replacement project. Under that line or the same line with the schools, are you aware that Petersburg High lost heating for about 45 minutes because of the boiler at the school.”

Mrs. Benavides stated, “Absolutely. The Superintendent and I have lunch at least once a month and we talk about some of their issues. Each year they put together a capital plan. And part of that capital plan they have identified some areas that we need to address. One is the boiler at the high school and then there are some other areas. We have not in the past few years had money to allocate towards capital budgeting. As we start to look at it if it becomes an emergency we are going to have to find the money. We don’t have funding available to replace the boiler. We are looking at a multi hundred-thousand-dollar event. But what we do want to do is look at our budget for next year is that we are looking at making recommendations where part of our money will go towards capital projects for them. We are monitoring it and we are working with our Public Works staff and I have given them the notice that this may become a bigger issue. But the Superintendent has brought that to my attention that we are on borrowed time with that boiler system.”

Council Member Wilson-Smith stated, "Is there an emergency plan for it if it goes out again and they cannot get it back?"

Mrs. Benavides stated, "We would have to replace it. We would have to identify funding from the City and pay for it to be replaced. So, it will have to be fixed. It actually is something that needs to be replaced and we can keep putting band-aid on it. We are asking them to go through it and give us a capital plan but also to give us the priorities of that plan. But, the boiler is a costly thing and it is going to go out eventually. So, this is not a when it happens thing."

c. City Attorney Report – Rashaad Bey, Assistant City Attorney

Mr. Bey stated that he has no updates or items.

d. Public Safety Update – Kenneth Miller, Public Safety Managing Director

Chief Miller stated, "Good evening Mayor and Council. Two small items. One presentation and one response. Mr. Cuthbert you asked two meetings ago with the respect to Redflex. I have given each Council Member a copy of the Redflex report. On page two of the report it will give how much monies the program generated. One the breakdown of how much Redflex takes and then the last column will show the amount of monies that has been given to Petersburg with respect to that program."

Council Member Cuthbert stated, "Chief, so over the life of this program from late 2012 through November of 2018, the City has received \$1.1 million dollars through the Red-Light Camera Program. Is that correct."

Chief Miller stated, "That is correct sir."

Council Member Cuthbert stated, "That is great. Thank you and that is goodness."

Chief Miller stated, "The second piece is that I want to thank Vice Mayor Hart and the City Manager. We started our program, the City Manager and I, and we did some riding around in our City to see some infrastructure problems with respect to the roadways. They asked me to come up with a project. And in speaking with Vice Mayor Hart as our committee chairperson, I wanted Lieutenant Sloan to give you a four-slide presentation with respect to how we plan to tackle some of the service problems of our roadway."

Lieutenant Sloan gave a PowerPoint presentation from the Police Department on the roadway and project by Chief Miller.

Key points:

- The looked at the frequency of dump trucks and tracker trailers that come through the City on a daily basis.
- Debris falls from these vehicles if they do not have ample coverings of the debris that is on the trucks.
- The summons that will be issued will not be issued to the driver but to the company that is in violation.
- Funds will be disbursed by to the general fund to fix the road ways.

Vice Mayor Hart thanked Chief Miller for the report and the provided information.

Vice Mayor Hart made a motion to accept the project on behalf of the Police Chief and his team. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cuthbert. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Smith-Lee, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Hart and Parham; Absent: Hill

- e. Monthly Financial Report – Michael Rogers, Chief Operating Officer

Mr. Rogers went over the financial report in a PowerPoint presentation. He stated that the first quarter was and looking ok. He stated that the cash flow was doing well, and that the RAN was important and helping the City out.

There was discussion among City Council and staff.

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

- a. Minutes: Regular Meeting: November 20, 2018
- b. Minutes: Special Meeting: November 27, 2018
- c. Minutes: Special Meeting: December 13, 2018
- d. Minutes: Special Meeting: December 18, 2018
- e. Request to schedule a public hearing to amend Sec. 106-61. – Assessments generally
- f. Request to schedule a public hearing to create Sec. 106-66. – Deadline for appeal of assessment to City Assessor and Sec. 106-67. – Deadline for appeal of assessment to the board of equalization.
- g. Request to schedule a public hearing to create Sec. 106-68. – Assessment of new buildings substantially completed, etc.; extension of time for paying assessment.
- h. Request to schedule a public hearing for a Special Use Permit to operate a stand-alone used vehicle sale locate at 2128 West Washington Street.

Council Member Myers made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda and to schedule a public for January 15, 2019. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Hart. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Smith-Lee, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Hart and Parham; Absent: Hill

10. OFFICIAL PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- a. A public hearing on the Special Use Permit from P I Tower Development.

BACKGROUND: The Zoning Ordinance requires that City Council must take action once a recommendation is forwarded from the Planning Commission. This use in the Zoning Ordinance requires a Special Use Permit. The applicant is requesting to have a 175' monopole communications tower at this location with 4 antennas.

RECOMMENDATION: Following a duly advertised public hearing, council may affirm the planning commission recommendation, overturn the planning commission recommendation, table for further consideration, or return the item under consideration to the planning commission requesting further review. The recommendation of the planning commission was to approve the special use permit request with a vote of 9-0.

Michelle Peters, Director of Planning and Community Development, gave a brief presentation on the request for a Special Use Permit for P I Tower Development.

Mr. Shumate, Project Manager of property, thanked city council and staff for the opportunity to consider the Special Use Permit and the opportunity to service the Petersburg community.

Ms. Jackson opened the floor for public comments.

Willie Noise, 1508 Circle Drive, stated that he had a problem with someone flying a model airplane and not a drone. The person was 100 yards away from where he was, and the plane crashed 10 feet from him and that they need to check on restrictions and the law or silence in flying drones or airplanes.”

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

There was discussion among City Council Members and staff.

Council Member Cuthbert made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the Planning Commission with the provision that the provider shall submit the performance bond as stated in paragraph 15 and further the provision if the bond required in paragraph 15 is not sufficient to cover the cost of dismantle and removal then the owner of land shall be responsible as paragraph 16 states. 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: Cuthbert, Smith-Lee, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Hill, Hart and Parham

19-ORD-1 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR P I TOWER DEVELOPMENT WITH THE PROVISION THAT THE PROVIDER SHALL SUBMIT THE PERFORMANCE BOND AS STATED IN PARAGRAPH 15 AND FURTHER THE PROVISION IF THE BOND REQUIRED IN PARAGRAPH 15 IS NOT SUFFICIENT TO COVER THE COST OF DISMANTLE AND REMOVAL THEN THE OWNER OF LAND SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE AS PARAGRAPH 16 STATES.

- b. A public hearing on proposed Memorandum of Understanding regarding a Revenue Share Agreement.

BACKGROUND: The Cumberland Industrial Facilities Authority has proposed to offer revenue sharing agreements with Virginia localities that participate in or contribute to economic development projects in the Cumberland region and invites localities benefited by HB222 to join Cumberland in similar agreements.

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend Council consider approval of the MOU.

Mrs. Benavides stated, "At our previous council meeting, we had this discussion of taking this issue to our Economic Development Committee. Unfortunately, our snow storm delayed us in actually discussing this issue with that committee. So, I do believe that we have another committee scheduled and we will be prepared at the conclusion of that committee meeting to come back with our Economic Development Team and come with a recommendation for this. And our next meeting is January 16th."

Council Member Myers made a motion to table until after discussion at the January 16th meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Hart. There was discussion among City Council Members. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Smith-Lee, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Hill, Hart and Parham

- c. A public hearing on an ordinance to amend the map of the Central Business District Enterprise Zone.

BACKGROUND: The City of Petersburg Central Business District Enterprise Zone, totaling 922 acres was applied for and approved by the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2005. The Zone was reauthorized in 2014, for an additional ten years to 2024. The purpose of the Enterprise Zone is to incentivize the development or redevelopment of underperforming or vacant property.

The size of the zone is restricted to not more than 7% of the total acreage of the jurisdiction. The current acreage of the zone is 922 acres, and the maximum acreage is 1035 acre. Therefore, the Zone can be increased by a maximum of 113 acres. The properties proposed for inclusion in the zone include vacant properties that could be developed to add significant jobs and private investment.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the City Council considers approval of an ordinance to amend the Map of the Central Business District Enterprise Zone.

Mr. Tabor, stated, "Following a conversation and meeting with the Department of Housing and Community Development which administers the Enterprise Zone Program, we would request that this public hearing be rescheduled until we iron out some details that we need to iron out with the department."

Vice Mayor Hart made a motion to table until they receive further details. The motion was seconded by Council Member Myers. There was discussion among City Council Members. 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. A public hearing on the Petersburg 2019 Legislative Agenda.

BACKGROUND: The City of Petersburg is impacted by legislative action taken by the U.S. Congress and the Virginia Legislature. This is a list of legislative priorities to be advocated through the City's U.S. and Commonwealth legislative delegations and the City's legislative partners.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the City Council considers approval of the 2019 Legislative Agenda.

Mrs. Benavides stated, "Mayor and Council, what we have is that in our last meeting we went through each of these issues and I believe that we voted on them. But one of the requirements and the only thing that required a public hearing was the item that we had a special public hearing for. But it was on here to allow the citizens to speak on the issue. But council has voted to approve all of these at our past council meetings with some changes."

There was discussion among City Council Members and staff.

- e. A public hearing on a request to vacate the right-of-way in Commonwealth Medical Park I.

BACKGROUND: The right-of-way was established for a road that was envisioned from S. Crater Rd. to a proposed road from Medical Park Boulevard. The city has no plan to build the road and Commonwealth Medical Park I, LLC has requested to vacate the right-of-way and merge into adjacent lots owned by them to allow future development of office buildings similar to surrounding area.

RECOMMENDATION: The Public Works Department recommends the right-of-way be vacated.

Ms. Jackson opened the floor for public comments.

Rich Riley, President of Cavalli and Commonwealth Medical Park, stated, "When we built the medical park in 2007, the City was going to build a road from the where the Walmart traffic light is and turn that property and our property over to the hospital. Obviously, we are 11 years later and clearly it was never going to happen. That was a whole different world back then and it would take so much land if it happened today. We have asked for it to be abandoned. We gave it to the City and we didn't get any money for it at the time so that we can continue our development of more office buildings."

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

Council Member Cuthbert made a motion to adopt the recommendation of the public works department and abandon the right-of-way. 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-ORD-02 AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE THE RIGHT-OF-WAY IN COMMONWEALTH MEDICAL PARK I.

- f. A public hearing on a request to vacate the right-of-way of Hemlock Circle and a portion of Juniper Road in Pecan Acres.

BACKGROUND: The Timmons Group has submitted a request for the Petersburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority to vacate the right-of-way of Hemlock Circle and a portion of the right-of-way of Juniper Road, at the cul-de-sac, as part of the Pecan Acres, Phase I redevelopment.

RECOMMENDATION: The Public Works Department recommends the right-of-way be vacated.

Ms. Jackson opened the floor for public comments.

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

Council Member Myers made a motion to approve the request to vacate the right-of-way of Hemlock Circle and a portion of Juniper Road in Pecan Acres. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cuthbert. 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-03 AN ORDINANCE TO VACATE THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF HEMLOCK CIRCLE AND A PORTION OF JUNIPER ROAD IN PECAN ACRES.

g. A public hearing on the disposition of 453 Harding Street.

BACKGROUND: The City-owned property at 453 Harding St is the former Harding Street Recreation Center, and it has been utilized by Virginia State University as a Hydroponics Center. Prior to VSU utilizing the property, the facility was vacant and not in use, and it was in need of repair. Virginia State University has been leasing the property from the City and they would like to acquire the property to enable additional development of the property along with additional capital investment.

RECOMMENDATION: City Council considers authorizing the City Manager to dispose of vacant City-owned property at 453 Harding St, Parcel ID 031-040056.

Council Member Myers made a motion to table until January 15th. 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

h. A public hearing on the disposition of 723-725 Harding Street.

BACKGROUND: The vacant City-owned property at 723-25 Harding St. is adjacent to 721 Harding St. The owner of the property at 721 Harding St. has been maintaining the property at 723-25 Harding St. for five years. The owner of the Property at 721 Harding St. would like to purchase the City-owned property to expand their parcel at 721 Harding St.

RECOMMENDATION: City Council considers authorizing the City Manager to dispose of vacant City-owned property at 723-25 Harding St., Parcel ID 031-260024.

Ms. Jackson opened the floor for public comments.

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

Council Member Myers made a motion to authorize the City Manager to dispose of vacant City-owned property at 723-25 Harding Street. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hill. 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-04 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO DISPOSE OF VACANT CITY-OWNED PROPERTY AT 723-25 HARDING STREET.

i. A public hearing on the My Home Initiative Program.

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. The “My Home Initiative” aims to do just that by offering to a citizen, a public servant, an existing homeowner and a developer the opportunity to purchase the vacant lot and within an established time line develop a single family residential unit on the property. The initiative has three categories for citizens, developers or existing homeowners to participate. Purchase the vacant land to construct a home, purchase the corner lot to consolidate with an existing lot, or a developer will have the opportunity to purchase contiguous land for the development of a subdivision. Applicants who participate in this program will be referred to a housing counseling agency, who will take them through the pre-qualification process. The program is a collaborative effort of local government, non-profit organizations, and the financial community. This program targets public service employees, and first-time homebuyers. Although there is a target market, any one meeting the requirements is allowed to participate.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends City Council hold a public hearing for the initiative.

Mrs. Peters gave an update and presentation on the My Home Initiative Program.

Ms. Jackson opened the floor for public comments.

Willie Noise, 1508 Circle Drive, stated, “The whole concept sounds good but I’m always looking for the negative in it. The mention about partnership. More than one person getting together and putting their money together and doing a project like housing and stuff like that. This is good for starter people and home stuff like that for our citizens in Petersburg. But somewhere down the line it is going to get out of hand and developers are going to come in and take advantage of that. I just want to know what kind of other restriction you are going to have to prevent that because if these developers keep on and they take up the choice property eventually that’s going to be develop or corporation or whatever. Regular people are not going to be able to get in there. They pick the choice of land and stuff like that. So, we have to watch that real close. So, it’s a good idea. Don’t leave any loopholes for them.”

Barb Rudolph, 1675 Mt. Vernon Street, stated, “I also went to the event this morning and was very impressed as the Mayor mentioned and Mrs. Peters all the different partners that were involved in developing this house into something desirable to number of buyers. Because they say they sold the house in 30 days, which I think is pretty good for Petersburg today. So, my reaction is pretty much like what’s not to like about this idea. I think there is a lot to be flushed out. Actually, Mr. Noise brought up a good point that if it’s in the spirit of cooperation of different groups and nonprofits that it doesn’t involve into something where some developer or some advantage is denied because of the way that this is setup. I don’t certainly think that’s any bar to explore this and work it out. I hope people from the City took advantage of the group and this Poplar Lawn Revitalization Project and maybe even put out dealers to some of those partners and say could we go further, and can you help us in this direction. Question I have remaining from Mrs. Peters presentation is, I think she is mostly talking about building new property and new houses. I wasn’t sure if it was only on vacant lot or it could involve renovations too. So, it sounded like it was both, but I am not sure. Anyway, again it’s what not to like. I hope that we can make something out of it and I hope that it does benefit those like the City employees that are targeted. Because any program like that that helps folks who are not at the higher salary levels is also a good thing. Thank you.”

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

Council Member Myers made a motion to adopt the program and initiate “My Home Initiative.” 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

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 share two stories about two individuals. The first individual had a troubled past, but he got himself together. He got a fiancé and prepared himself to get married. He went to the hospital on four different occasions. They thought he had the flu but in fact he had bacteria meningitis. He died. When I was in a meeting with Mr. Rogers, I got over 30 calls that day. Didn't know what it was about. His fiancé died the day of his funeral. She was stressed about her future and she couldn't keep her house. Her daughter was knocking on my door screaming for me. He has picked himself up by his boot straps over and over and over again. So, he decided to do something to earn extra money and it cost him his life. So, a little girl doesn't have her father and doesn't have a mother. That's what is going on in Petersburg. The next gentleman spent 47 years working for the City of Petersburg. Never made an enemy a day in his life. Worked odd jobs because he couldn't pay the bills. Now he is dying. And that gentleman is my father. He picked himself up by his boot straps. He gave everything for the City. So, some of you who believe for four years that I have gotten up here because I was upset about a stupid marketing campaign, you do not know me. I got up here because of my father. The man who had given everything. My hero. My life. Do not ever question my loyalty to Petersburg again."

Willie Noise, 1508 Circle Drive, stated, "Welcome again, Honorable Mayor and Members of Council. I am happy to be here and see you guys. I reflected back over the years and people that been here and the attitudes of those that came and gone. The ones that changed their attitudes which is good. I want to thank Councilman Hill, especially by being a man of the cloth and all of that, which we need. We didn't have it spirituality in the council and due to a certain few people, we thought that it was needed, and we brought it back, which is good. We haven't brought it back in the schools or any of the other places or daycare's or nothing like that, but somewhere you all need to take a vote that prayer do not be taken out of the City Council meeting. You all jump around and change things and amendments and all of that. But let's make something permanent. And then things that are permanent study them and take advantage of ratification and changes and amendments. You want perfect, but you have to make a ruling that you made it. Examine it, look at it, study it and find out all the faults in it and if it needs to be modified or whatever don't hesitate to do it. We are three days behind already. Let's pray for more wisdom and those that got it lets pray that they get more of it. Waste is a terrible thing. I would like to hear a report on last year and compare it to this year in what you want to do. I have one that which is on the small print on the thing here. I have down here running the City and not following it. I would like for you all to think about that. There has been a lot of already set patterns and sometimes you have to change things. This is the first time that I noticed so few of people are in here. I thought it was a yolky dok or something that you all were trying to ease one in on us. I am glad to see you all working together. The new year is coming so we got to set an example for everybody else. Right now, Dinwiddie, Colonial Heights, Hopewell and all of them and Congress and Mr. Trump, we have to meet them halfway because they sure are not coming this way. Maybe we have to get out there on 95 and go a little past Richmond or somewhere and voice. Delegate Dance, never heard a report of the meeting of what you guys said. Never had that meeting but I see on here when you all were talking about it. So that was a meeting that I missed. Readdress and revisit some of the stuff. In particular one is the public information period."

Barb Rudolph, 1675 Mt. Vernon Street, stated, "Congratulations to Mayor Parham and Vice Mayor Hart for being reelected. Hopefully the good works that have happened in recent times will continue with you all working together effectively. Support your administration as a group and support one another. It looks positive and I hope it continues that way. Don't be like Hopewell people were on their council. But don't be afraid on working towards the citizens an actual other way of participating which is to televise or in some way video and live stream the Petersburg City Council Meetings. And since you all have been pretty well behaved in recent years I do not think that there is anything to hide from the public unlike a couple of people on the neighboring City Council's. Being a new year, I just want to mention a couple of items that you should beware of or an opportunity to stay on top of. And you have heard about them from me before. I like to bring things up repeatedly at times which is the Ramada Inn Hotel Project. A few meetings ago we heard that there was action

to extend the closing date for Mr. Harrison's company to January 31st. I took the opportunity today to ask an official from LISC at this housing ceremony and she said that the LISC loan had been approved. That's the construction loan for the project but there is still other missing piece that has to be done before January 31st. If that doesn't happen I know that the letter from the state department of Housing and Community Development indicated that they might not be able to guarantee some of the state money past that point. So, if this is going to fall apart please pull the plug on it and put it out of its misery and take down the building and find something else to do with it. It is now at the point that I look back at the newspaper article from four years ago when they stated that the property was blighted and being demolished. It looks ten times worse now. It is much more of a deterrent to people when they come off the interstate or wherever they are coming from. I am not telling you something that you do not know but it's dragged on long enough. I hope that this individual and his company can work it out and I think they are at the point that it's going to be get it down or get out of the way. My other issue that I mentioned more recently is the landfill and CFS. I don't believe CFS is ever going to care about the citizens than they do about their own bottom line. So, I believe that the City of Petersburg arrangement with CFS refuse and recycle through the Central Virginia Waste Management Authority expires at the end of this fiscal year which would be June 30, 2019. So, I don't see any reason to reengage in that provider. They have served use and it has been substandard and dangerous to some of us in the City. But that's another area that you as a council can direct the City Manager and Deputy Lyons as they represent on the CVWMA and take a hard line and make sure that we are not taken advantage of and that their adequate preparation are made to find another provider without undo cost of consumers in Petersburg. And that we are not getting huge increase in our refuse and collection fees because of poor planning. I will probably bring it up until I am satisfied. Thank you."

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

Council Member Cuthbert stated, "Thank you. I want to share an article that was printed in the Progress-Index on December 17th of last year. I made copies for everybody and I would like you to take a look at it. The title to the article is 'PG Opposing Virginia American Water Company Service Hike.' And it starts off dateline 'Prince George – The Virginia American Water Company wants to put higher prices on its water and sewer services, but Prince George County is not going to have it.' Well, we will see that is if the Board of Supervisors vote to protest the significant rate increase will make a difference. I have news for the world that I don't think their vote is going to make a difference. And if you look at the last paragraph of this article it says, 'they (Board of Supervisors in Prince George County) voted unanimously to send comments to the SCC for consideration.' Well you know how much wait that is going to carry. The lesson is that we, this City Council, has done exactly the right thing in declining selling our water and sewer system. We have control over these water and sewer increases. I am they will come, and I am sure that the public will be nipping at our ankles about it and I suspect that we will have no option but to adopt the hike but at least we will be serving as a sounding board for the public and we can explain to the public why this is necessary. And no one will have to go to Richmond to the Virginia State Corporation Commission and be ignored. So, I consider this a back-end Petersburg success story. Thank you."

Council Member Wilson-Smith stated, "I like to say Happy New Year to everyone. Thank you for coming out to your City Council Meeting. This meeting belongs to you and this City belongs to you. I would like to make a motion to this council. We have listened to the financial update and January will be six months from the being of the fiscal period. So, we can have a financial workshop where we look at everything about the finances from July through January or the end of December. So, we can see where we are halfway. See it to the point of totally understanding every aspect of it. The cashflow, where is the City, is it in the general fund? I think that it would be advantageous for us to have a financial workshop open to the public where we can ask questions and learn ourselves. Because there are so many aspects to this of the finances of the City that I think that we still need to be in the learning mode. So, I would like to make a motion that this council have a financial workshop during the month of February to include all finances from July 2018 through the end of December 2018."

Council Member Wilson-Smith made a motion that council have a financial workshop during the month of February to include all finances from July 2018 through the end of December 2018. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cuthbert. 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

Council Member Smith-Lee stated, "Good evening everybody and thank you all for coming out and Happy New Year. I would like to say congratulations to Mayor Samuel Parham and Vice Mayor John Hart. Congratulations on your positions and I am quite sure that we are going to continue to do our best on City Council. Also, I want to say congratulations to the Petersburg High School boys' basketball team for the winning the Bill Lawson Tournament during the Christmas holiday. Also, Ward 6, Cool Springs Neighborhood Watch had a Christmas dinner. And Bossie Bonner and the citizens there made me feel real special. So, I want to thank them for making sure the neighborhood is safe and secure. And that is it."

Council Member Myers stated, "Happy New Year to everyone and I have nothing at this time."

Council Member Hill stated, "Happy New Year to everyone. I just want to apologize for me leaving the council meeting. My daughter tire was flat on her car and she was stranded on the side of the road. So, I had to leave. But she is safe now. We all have these District 19 Community Services Board sheets and I would like to make the following recommendation."

Council Member Hill made a motion that City Council appoint Daphne V. Turner, Gary Talley and Antonio Morgan to the District 19 Community Services Board. 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-6 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING DAPHNE V. TURNER, GARY TALLEY AND ANTONIO MORGAN TO THE DISTRICT 19 COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2022.

Council Member Hill stated, "Also, council this is something that we don't want to do but at this point of time we probably have to do given the nature of what is going on with this particular site and building. I am talking about 127 West Bank Street."

Council Member Hill made a motion to direct the City Manager and staff to take action to demolish the building of 127 West Bank Street and place a lien on the property if owed taxes and for the demolition fees of that building. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Hart. There was discussion on the motion.

Council Member Cuthbert made a substitute motion to table the matter until the January 15th meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Wilson-Smith. There was discussion on the motion. The motion was not approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert and Wilson-Smith; Voting No: Smith-Lee, Myers, Hill, Hart and Parham

The original motion goes on the floor to demolish the property at 127 West Bank Street.

Council Member Hill made a motion to direct the City Manager and staff to take action to demolish the building of 127 West Bank Street and place a lien on the property if owed taxes and for the demolition fees of that building. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Hart. The motion was not approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Smith-Lee, Myers, Hill, Hart and Parham; Voting No: Cuthbert and Wilson-Smith

19-ORD-05 AN ORDINANCE DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER AND STAFF TO TAKE ACTION TO DEMOLISH THE BUILDING OF 127 WEST BANK STREET AND PLACE A LIEN ON THE PROPERTY IF OWED TAXES AND FOR THE DEMOLITION FEES OF THAT BUILDING.

Council Member Hill stated, "Ward 2 will be having a Town Hall meeting soon. Probably in late February or early march. Thank you."

Vice Mayor Hart stated, "Good evening everyone and Happy New Year to you. Just a few things. I too would like to know the progress of the Ramada Inn and where we stand with moving forward with that. It has

been stated earlier that this has become the huge issue for the issue as in what we are going to do with that property. So, I would like to get an update on that especially as it relates to possible grants and loans that he may or may not be able to receive. The other thing is that I want to thank the community for attending the Christmas dinner at the Masonic Temple. We had 215 participants and 25 volunteers and also the food that we didn't finish we took to the CARES Shelter. I want to thank you all for your support for reappoint up today. So, thank you for that. And also, I want to ask of council that somewhere in the near future that the seven of us to sit down to work towards a plan of what we would like to see for the City, so the administration team can implement. Thank you."

Mayor Parham stated, "Good evening everyone. Again, shall I say Ward 3 Meeting on the last week of February on either that Monday or Thursday. I will be checking with schoolboard chairman Ken Pritchett on which day suits him, but we are look at the 25th or 28th. Also, I would like to thank at this time for Mr. Tony Williams for stepping up to be our new City Attorney. This has been a huge journey that we have been on which is been stacking a highly qualified and highly competent staff on hand. And we are definitely another step closer to that. So, thank everyone for digging in with me and the interview process. We have done a lot of interviewing during this time and it's good to see everything come together. We should really be able to take off and take Petersburg to the next level. Because for so long, we have had our pieces and I think that this is the strongest team that we have ever had in my time here at Petersburg. Again, thank you and I look forward to a wonderful 2019."

13. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA:

No items for this portion of the agenda.

Ms. Benavides stated, "One item that I have is that one of the things that we have been working on is feasibilities and working with our economic development committee. I've got some opportunities that are coming through to do and to look at no cost feasibility studies to look at some of the outline for development within the City. It would actually give us an idea on revenue projections and overall assessments of our land. I would like to get council support on moving forward with some of these types of activities."

Council Member Myers made a motion to give the City Manager direction to do a feasibility study for the City of Petersburg. 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

14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Consideration of Petersburg 2018 Tourism Plan.

BACKGROUND: Tourism in Petersburg offers a brilliant blend of history, natural beauty, a vibrant old-town atmosphere with a desirable and walkable downtown lifestyle.

While tourism in Petersburg has always been an omnipresent entity, recent financial obstacles forced the City to prioritize other aspects of our community. This resulted in a reduction of resources allocated for tourism. We understand that our tourism assets are a large part of what makes up Petersburg. There is something here for everyone.

This Tourism Plan will enable City Council and Petersburg City staff to make strategic decisions regarding increasing tourism opportunities. Contributions from local businesses, tourism operators, regional stakeholders and community members have been collated to develop clear methods for Council to consider and implement. The City of Petersburg Tourism Plan is an integral step in working toward a sustainable tourism program for the future of our City.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the City Council considers approval of the 2018 Tourism Plan.

Council Member Myers made a motion to table until the January 15th meeting. 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

- b. Update on lease agreement for 275 River Street (Harbor Area.)

BACKGROUND: The City of Petersburg has received a request from Waukeshaw Development to lease City-owned property at 275 River Street along the Appomattox River to utilize as event space.

RECOMMENDATION: City Council considers authorizing the City Manager to execute a lease of City-owned property at 275 River St, Parcel ID 011-020006 and Parcel ID 011-020006.

Council Member Myers made a motion to strike through this agenda item. 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

15. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

No items for this portion of the agenda.

16. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Consideration of appropriation of Cameron Foundation Grant for Transportation Plan.

BACKGROUND: The City is collaborating with Sports Backers RVA, FOLAR, the Crater Planning District, and the Crater Health District to create policy improving our Transportation and connectivity network to be a part of the City's Comprehensive 2019 plan update. The money was received to off-set the cost of this initiative to create connectivity from our neighborhoods to the existing trail, and other City assets. The goal is to change the City of Petersburg health outcomes by encouraging our citizen to walk and bike using sidewalks, and shared paths.

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend Council approve the attached appropriation ordinance in the amount of \$4,000.

Vice Mayor Hart made a motion to accept the ordinance in the amount of \$4,000. The motion was seconded by Council Member Wilson-Smith. 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-06 AN ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED, SAID ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2018, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2019, IN THE "CREATING AN ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN FOR THE CITY OF PETERSBURG" GRANT FOR THE CITY OF PETERSBURG.

- b. Consideration of an appropriation of the Cameron Foundation Grant for the Jarratt House.

BACKGROUND: The City has been working to restore the Jarratt House for a few years. The project originated from the actions of Preservation Virginia in including the house on their list of most endangered historic sites. Kathleen Morgan, the Preservation Planner at that time, kicked into high gear to save the oldest house on Pocahontas Island, and the only brick structure on the Island. A grant was awarded to the City from the Cameron Foundation to stabilize the property, and Community Development Block Grant funds have also been appropriated for this project. The Cameron grant was awarded two years ago but the money was never spent. Prior to stabilizing the structure, a Historic Structures Report had to be completed before plans could be presented to the

Virginia Department of Historic Resources for review and consideration. Since that time, the scope of work has changed to finish a permanent stabilization rather than the original temporary fix. The City is now positioned to spend the grant money on stabilizing the structure and preparing it for build-out and for a use to be determined.

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend Council approve the attached appropriation ordinance in the amount of \$81,060.00.

Council Member Myers made a motion to accept the ordinance in the amount of \$81,060. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Hart.

Ms. Jackson opened the floor for public comments.

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

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-07 AN ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED, SAID ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2018, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2019 “THE CAMERON FOUNDATION GRANT FOR THE STABILIZATION OF THE JARRATT HOUSE IN THE CITY OF PETERSBURG”.

17. REPORTS/REPONSES TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC INFORMATION PERIOD:

Kemi Osoba, Public Relations Officer, read comments and responses from previous public information at the November 20, 2018, regular council meeting.

1. What can be said about the extended time for monies to be removed from the customer’s bank account?
Payments made with a customer’s bill pay option through their bank is received as a physical check to the Office of Billing and Collections from the bank. Once received, processing can take place.

In addition, it is a responsibility of the City Treasurer’s Office to electronically receive customer payments made online through the City’s website.

Questions concerning billing and collections can be directed to 804-733-2349 or emailed to citycollector@petersburg-va.org

18. CITY MANAGER’S 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 10:20 p.m.

Clerk of City Council

APPROVED:

Mayor