

The Special Joint City Council Meeting of the Petersburg City Council and Planning Commission was held on Tuesday, October 4, 2022, at the Petersburg Public Library. Mayor Parham called the Special City Council Meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Mayor Parham stated, "I go over to Council Member Myers first. He wanted to make an announcement for a moment of silence."

Council Member Myers stated, "Yes, Mr. Mayor. Thank you. I would like everyone to assist us in a moment of silence for Denise Johnson who worked for us in Social Services. Thank you."

1. ROLL CALL:

Present:

Council Member Charles H. Cuthbert, Jr.
Council Member Treska Wilson-Smith
Council Member W. Howard Myers
Council Member Arnold Westbrook, Jr.
Council Member Darrin Hill
Vice Mayor Annette Smith-Lee (left at 7:29pm)
Mayor Samuel Parham

Absent: None

Present from City Administration:

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

2. DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION:

- a. Comprehensive Plan Kick-Off and Joint Meeting of the Petersburg City Council and the Petersburg Planning Commission.

BACKGROUND: In accordance with the Code of Virginia, the City of Petersburg is required to present a Comprehensive Plan.

RECOMMENDATION: For informational purposes.

Reginald Tabor, Department of Planning and Community Development, stated, "This evening we have the Berkley Group, a consultant working with the city on the Comprehensive Plan Update, to make a presentation. And we are kicking off the update process this evening."

Kelly Davis, Director of Planning for Berkley Group, gave a PowerPoint presentation.

Key points:

- Berkley Group is a local government consulting firm that specializes in comprehensive planning. They are a Virginia based firm that has had the pleasure of working with many localities in Virginia with the comprehensive planning projects.
- This will be a community driven process with meetings and focus groups.

Caroline Vanterre, Planner with Berkley Group, gave some key points with PowerPoint.

Key points:

- The Comprehensive Plan is a long-range planning documents and decision-making guide. It is a community guided vision for the future.
- It is a showcase of assets and areas for improvement. The guiding framework for the community's planning tools: Zoning ordinance, subdivision ordinance, capital improvements program and other plans and studies.
- It is a plan that is legally required by the Code of Virginia §15.2-2223.
- The comprehensive plan assesses existing conditions, establishes visions and goals, sets direction for future changes, and identified implementation strategies.
- The plan addresses land use, housing, mobility and transportation, community facilities and infrastructure, economy and tourism, education and workforce development, quality of life: arts, culture and parks, historic preservation, environmental stewardship, public safety, and public health.
- The comprehensive plan diagnostic was presented to the Planning Commission in July 2021.
- Code of Virginia Compliance Findings: 1. Update data to reflect current community conditions & conditions analysis; 2. Incorporate a coordinated transportation section with VDOT; 3. Include surveys, studies, and capital improvements completed since the last community update; 4. Goals, objectives and strategies should be included in each chapter and formatted consistently.
- Community Workshops will be on November 17, 2022, December 1, 2022, and January 5, 2023.
- There will be a survey available November 1, 2022 - January 7, 2023.
- There will be a Petersburg Comprehensive Plan website as well to help with participation from everyone in the community.

There was discussion among City Council, staff, and the presenters of the Berkley Group.

Council Member Hill asked if they could include the report from Dr. Roy on the Anti-Poverty Commission to be included in the plan. He also asked to add everyday citizens as well.

Mayor Parham asked if they could add housing authority, social services, and economic development to the report as well.

Ms. Nanterre stated that there will be copies of flyers and information throughout the city so that the citizens will have access to them.

Council Member Hill stated, "On another note we know that Christmas is going, and I don't know if we are going to have our Christmas parade this year, but I want us to be ready so that we do not have to get ready. I also know that we try to decorate our city so for those individuals who are responsible for that the little gingerbread man on the box, they are old, and they are tired. We need to do something different. When you go across the bridge you see nice lit up snowflakes on each pole. We need to do something different. No shade on anybody who put up the gingerbread box, but it is time for us to move into the 22nd century. So, just make sure that we have a team that is ready to decorate and make things nice this Christmas."

Mr. Altman stated, "Understood. A refresh is what I am hearing."

Mayor Parham stated, "Thank you. Thank you to the Planning Commission and the Berkley Group for the presentation tonight."

*Audio available upon request.

3. ADJOURNMENT:

City Council adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Clerk of City Council

APPROVED:

Mayor