



# COUNCIL

## Communicates

### Highlights from City Council Meetings

**February 6, 2024**  
Petersburg Public Library

#### City Council Members

Ward 1  
**Marlow Jones**  
[mjones@petersburg-va.org](mailto:mjones@petersburg-va.org)

Ward 2  
**Darrin Hill**  
Vice Mayor  
[dhill@petersburg-va.org](mailto:dhill@petersburg-va.org)

Ward 3  
**Samuel Parham**  
Mayor  
[sparham@petersburg-va.org](mailto:sparham@petersburg-va.org)

Ward 4  
**Charles Cuthbert**  
[ccuthbert@petersburg-va.org](mailto:ccuthbert@petersburg-va.org)

Ward 5  
**W. Howard Myers**  
[whowardmyers@petersburg-va.org](mailto:whowardmyers@petersburg-va.org)

Ward 6  
**Anette Smith-Lee**  
[alee@petersburg-va.org](mailto:alee@petersburg-va.org)

Ward 7  
**Arnold Westbrook**  
[awestbrook@petersburg-va.org](mailto:awestbrook@petersburg-va.org)

Clerk of Council  
**Nykesha Jackson**  
[njackson@petersburg-va.org](mailto:njackson@petersburg-va.org)  
804-733-2323

**Please Note:**

These are not the official minutes of the City Council meeting. The official minutes and agendas can be accessed on the city website: [www.petersburg-va.org](http://www.petersburg-va.org)

Please note that the official minutes are not posted until approved by City Council.

#### CLOSED SESSION

3:30 pm

1. Roll Call  
**All present. Councilmen Jones and Westbrook arrived after the meeting started.**
2. Closed Session  
The purpose of this meeting is to convene in the closed session pursuant to:
  - a. (1)§2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of discussion pertaining to performance, assignment, and appointment of specific public employees of the City of Petersburg, specifically including but not limited to discussion of the performance, assignment, and appointment of a specific public officer of the City of Petersburg; under Section 2.2-3711(A)(7) and (8) of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of receiving legal advice and status update from the city attorney and legal consultation regarding the subject of specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by the city attorney, specifically including but not limited to matters requiring the legal advice of the city attorney; under Section 2.2-3711 (A)(29) of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of discussion regarding the subject matter of a public contract involving the expenditure of funds and terms of scope of such contract where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining or negotiating strategy of the public body, specifically including but not limited to the discussion of the award and terms of a public contract; under Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) for the purpose of discussion regarding the subject of the acquisition and/or disposition of real property where such discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiation strategy of the public body.

3. Discussion and Consideration
  - a. Consideration of a resolution committing funds for water and wastewater improvements necessary to support the Advanced Pharmaceutical Manufacturing (APM) Tech Hub.
4. Adjournment

A motion was approved to return to open session and certify the purposes of the closed session.

A motion was approved to direct the City Manager to issue an RFI for a casino operator.

A motion was approved to direct the City Manager to retain or expand the services of the Robert Bobb Group.

## **COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

5:00 pm

1. Roll Call  
All present.
2. Prayer  
Led by Vice Mayor Hill.
3. Pledge of Allegiance  
Led by Mayor Parham.
4. Determination of the Presence of a Quorum  
Quorum present.
5. Public Comments

### Barb Rudolph

Concerned about ceremonial check presentation made for the library.

### Pat Hines and Supporters

Stated the need for funding for a homeless shelter.

### Jasmine McDonald

Concerned over the behavior of employees at the Family Dollar Store on Halifax Street.

### Genevieve Lohr

Concerned about Petersburg having the poorest health ranking in Virginia, and the large percentage of children living in poverty.

Gary Talley

Concerned about long closed session meetings. He commented on the ceremonial check presentation for the library, and the need for a homeless shelter. He also questioned when the sinkhole on Bank Street would be repaired.

There was a group meeting with state and city officials and the property owners on Bank Street. Engineers explained that repairs to the sinkhole must meet FEMA standards. The owners committed to taking the necessary steps to repair the sinkhole as soon as possible.

David Batts

Complained about debris from the former Ramada Inn left in Lieutenant's Run Stream by his property on Wythe Street.

All debris from the demolition of the Ramada Inn was removed from Lieutenant's Run, and the removal was supervised and approved by DEQ. DEQ must approve the removal of any trees over 6" from waterways.

6. Approval of Consent Agenda (to include minutes of previous meetings):
  - a. Minutes:
    - January 16, 2024 - Closed Session Meeting
    - January 16, 2024 - Regular City Council Meeting
  - b. Consideration of an appropriation ordinance for State Aid to Public Libraries Revenue Funds in the amount of \$34,450. - 1st Reading
  - c. Consideration of an appropriation ordinance for the donation to the Petersburg Public Library in the amount \$19,620. - 1st Reading
  - d. A Public Hearing and consideration of a request from Chase Gibrall, applicant, and representative for Navarrete's Auto Sales, to obtain a Special Use Permit at 2520 Deerfield Drive to operate a used car lot as provided for under Article 23, Supplementary Use Regulations - Special Uses. Section 4, Special Uses Enumerated. Item (22) of the Zoning Ordinance to establish stand-alone used vehicle sales not associated with a new-vehicle dealership or not located upon the same parcel as such new-vehicle dealership, if located upon parcels of less than one acre in area, such to be permitted within the B-2 and M-1 zoning districts only.
  - e. A Public Hearing and consideration of a request from Grand Generation, LLC, owner D. Wyatt for a Special Use Permit pursuant to Article 23, Section 4(20) of the Zoning Ordinance to operate as a vehicle removal operator, vehicle storage lot, or vehicle tow lot, such to be permitted within the M-1 and M-2 zoning districts only. The subject property is located at 1700-1701 Midway Ave and is zoned M-1, Light Industrial District.
  - f. A public hearing and consideration of an ordinance to amend and readopt Article 3, Definitions, and Article 19, Off-Street Parking Regulations, to clarify the requirement of driveways for low density housing at the request of the Planning Commission.
  - g. Consideration to accept a donation in the amount of \$500,000 from People's Advantage Federal Credit Union - 1st Reading
  - h. A request to schedule a public hearing to amend the FY2023-2024 Budget.  
**Approved.**

7. Special Reports
  - a. Presentation and Update from the Petersburg Arts Council.  
No action taken.
  - b. Update from Dr. Kai Donsbach, Chief Operating Officer of the Medicines for All Institute at VCU.  
Removed from the agenda.
  - c. Presentation and Update from JMT.  
No action taken.

Added from Closed Session Agenda: Consideration of a resolution committing funds for water and wastewater improvements necessary to support the Advanced Pharmaceutical Manufacturing (APM) Tech Hub.  
Approved.

  - d. Presentation from Jo Ann Glazier on the Animal Sanctuary.  
Removed from the agenda.
8. Monthly Reports  
None.
9. Finance and Budget Report  
None.
10. Capital Projects Update
  - a. Brief Capital Projects Update  
Randall  
No action taken.
11. Utilities
  - a. Presentation and Update on the Department of Utilities.
  - b. Update and Presentation on the Oakhill Bridge
  - c. Presentation and Update on Lafayette Street  
No action taken.
12. Streets
  - a. Street Operations Update  
None.
13. Facilities
  - a. Facilities Update  
No action taken.
14. Economic Development  
None.

15. City Manager's Agenda  
Gave updates on health insurance pricing and salary compensation study.  
Asked the Treasurer to give Council an update  
No action taken.
16. Business or reports from the Clerk  
None.
17. Business or reports from the City Attorney  
None.
18. Adjournment