



# COUNCIL

## Communicates

### Highlights from City Council Meetings

**May 7, 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)

#### 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

3:00 pm

1. Roll Call  
**All were present on rollcall except for Councilman Jones.**

2. Closed Session  
The purpose of this meeting is to convene in the closed session pursuant to:
  - a. §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 Actual or Probable Litigation and Specific Legal Matters Requiring the Provision of Legal Advice by the City Attorney, Specifically Including but not Limited to Discussion of a Disputed Claim Concerning Stormwater Utility Payments; the Legal Requirements of 58.1-4109 and 2.2-4300 ET. SEQ. of the Code of Virginia; Virginia Attorney General Opinion 2010 VA. AG Lexis 35 as it Relates to Fees and Penalties; Title 58.1 Chapter 39 of the Code of Virginia as it Relates to Collection of Delinquent Real Property Taxes; §58.1-4109 of the Code of Virginia Regarding the Process for Selection of a Preferred Gaming Operator; and §2.2-4600 ET. SEQ. as it Pertains to the Requirements of the Virginia Public Procurement Act and Other Matters Requiring the Legal Advice of the City Attorney; and
  - b. Pursuant to 2.2-3711(A)(3) of the Code of Virginia for the Purpose of Discussion or Consideration of the Acquisition of Real Property for a Public Purpose and the Disposition of Publicly Held Real Property Where Discussion in an Open Meeting Would Adversely Affect the Bargaining Position or Negotiating Strategy of the Public Body, Specifically Including but not limited to the Acquisition and Disposition of Real Property; and

c. Pursuant to 2.2-3711(A)(29) of the Code of Virginia, for the Purpose of discussing the Award of a Public Contract Involving the Expenditure of Public Funds, Including Interviews of Bidders or Offerors and Discussion of the Terms or Scope of such contract, Where Discussion in an Open Session Would Adversely Affect the city's Bargaining Position or Negotiation Strategy.

3. Old Business
  - a. Consideration to Adopt the FY2025 Tax Rate Ordinance  
A motion was approved to keep the current tax rate. Councilmen Cuthbert and Westbrook voted no.
4. New Business
  - a. City of Petersburg Special Audit  
Moved to the next Council meeting.
5. Adjournment  
Approved.

### **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

#### Shelia Coleman

Ms. Coleman updated the Council on her company's affordable housing projects in the City.

#### Julie Nickerson

Ms. Nickerson is a resident of Carriage House apartments. She listed many ongoing problems with the complex.

#### Dr. Pamela Strauss

Dr. Struss talked about services offered by the Greater Richmond Community Mediation Center.

Barb Rudolph

Ms. Rudolph expressed concern about the process of selecting Cordish as the destination resort developer/operator.

William Jones

Mr. Jones expressed concerns about the city's casino selection process.

Sherry Johnson

Ms. Johnson expressed support for City Council and the positive things happening in the City.

Genevieve Lohr

Ms. Lohr expressed concern that more funding is not available for Parks & Rec, that city employees' cost of living is increasing, and that no raises are reflected in the budget.

City Manager Altman stated that the Council has cut the cost of employee health insurance and that funds are being set aside for increases in employee salaries based on the Comp Study, which is scheduled to be completed this summer.

Carol Harris

Ms. Harris requested the Council's support for the football league, the Burg Boys.

Jenn Lowery

Ms. Lowery is concerned that a casino would take business away from small businesses and non-profits.

Anthony Coleman

Mr. Coleman expressed support for the casino because of the jobs and business it will bring to the City.

Paula Chester

Ms. Chester thanked the Council for the improvements she has noticed in Petersburg and expressed her support for the casino and the tax revenue it will bring to support many city projects, including a new school.

6. Approval of Consent Agenda (to include minutes of previous meetings):
  - a. Minutes:
    - Minutes of April 16, 2024 - City Council Special Meeting Closed Session
    - Minutes of April 16, 2024 - City Council Work Session
    - Minutes of April 24, 2024 - City Council Special Meeting Closed Session
    - Minutes of May 1, 2024 - City Council Special Meeting Closed Session
  - b. 2024-CPA-01: A Request to Schedule a Public Hearing and Consideration in Accordance with Section 15.2.2225 of the Code of Virginia to Repeal the City of Petersburg Comprehensive Plan 2040 and Adopt a New

Comprehensive Plan Titled PetersburgNEXT, which Includes Updates to Demographics, Transportation Improvements, Land Use, and Other Relevant Information. The draft plan can be viewed online at <https://petersburgvanext.com>.

- c. Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services – Four for Life Grant (First Reading)
- d. A Request to Schedule a Public Hearing for the Consideration of the City of Petersburg's FY2024-25 Proposed Operating Budget Ordinance (First Reading)
- e. A Request to Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance to Appropriate the Budget for Petersburg City Public Schools for FY2024-25 (First Reading)
- f. A Request to Schedule a Public Hearing for the Acceptance of the 525776-FY24-Community Corrections & Pretrial Services One-Time Funding in the Amount of \$22,793 (526361)
- g. A Request to Schedule a Public Hearing and Consideration of an Ordinance to Authorize David Breidenbach; G. Grattan, LLC and Hereinafter "Virginia Green" to Donate and Provide Maintenance Services to the Property at the Intersection of Woodland Road and Oakridge Road
- h. A Request to Schedule a Public Hearing for the Consideration of an Ordinance to Adopt the Tourism Development Plan
- i. A Request to Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance to Adopt the Tourism Development Plan Developed in Conjunction with the Commonwealth of Virginia's Tourism Development Financing Program, to Endorse a Proposed Tourism Project, and to Authorize Other Actions Consistent with the State Tourism Gap Financing.

**Approved.**

- 7. Special Reports
  - a. Presentation on Upcoming Agenda Item - Formally Adopting Approved Zoning Items Without Ordinances  
**No action was taken.**
  - b. Partnership for Petersburg Fund Presentation  
**No action was taken.**
- 8. Monthly Reports  
**None.**
- 9. Finance and Budget Report
  - a. FY2023-2024 City of Petersburg Budget vs Actuals  
**No action was taken.**
- 10. Capital Projects Update  
**None.**

11. Utilities
  - a. New Utility Bill Format  
No action was taken.
12. Streets  
None.
13. Facilities  
None.
14. Economic Development  
None.
15. City Manager's Agenda  
None.
16. Business or reports from the Clerk  
None.
17. Business or reports from the City Attorney  
The City Attorney commended the Council on its integrity.
18. Adjournment