



COUNCIL

Communicates

Highlights from City Council Meetings

June 18, 2024

Petersburg Public Library

City Council Members

Ward 1

Marlow Jones

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Ward 2

Darrin Hill

Vice Mayor

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Ward 3

Samuel Parham

Mayor

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Ward 4

Charles Cuthbert

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Ward 5

W. Howard Myers

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Ward 6

Anette Smith-Lee

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Ward 7

Arnold Westbrook

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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

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

Closed Session

3:00 pm

1. Roll Call

All present on rollcall except Vice Mayor Hill and Councilman Jones.

2. Closed Session

The purpose of this meeting is to convene in the closed session pursuant to:

a. §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

b. §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 Regarding the Legal Requirements of Title 2.2 Chapter 45 §§2.2-4500-4519 of the Code of Virginia Regarding the Investment of Public Funds Act; a Delinquent Real Property Tax Collection Case; the Terms of a Proposed Memorandum of Understanding with a Constitutional Officer; a Zoning Inquiry from the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services; and Other Matters Requiring the Legal Advice of the City Attorney; and

c. §2.2-3711(A)(29) of the Code of Virginia for the Purpose of Discussion of 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 Bargaining Position or Negotiating Strategy of the City.

Motion to return to open session approved. Councilman Cuthbert was not present during the vote.

Motion approved to add the Department of Behavioral Health letter for 2624 Park Avenue to the agenda for Council's consideration.

Motion approved to authorize the Board of Zoning Appeals to act on behalf of the City Council to confirm to the Department of Behavioral Health whether or not the applicant complies with local ordinances.

Motion approved to add the delinquent Real Property Tax matter regarding 220 Perry Street to the agenda for Council's consideration.

Motion approved to authorize the City Manager to escrow the current payoff amount for delinquent taxes pending resolution of the amount owed for tax year 2018 as requested by Attorney Jason Dunn.

Motion approved to add the Treasurer's MOU to the agenda for Council's consideration.

Motion approved to authorize the City Manager to execute the Treasurer's MOU on behalf of the City.

3. Adjournment

Regular Council Meeting

5:00 pm

1. Roll Call
All were present on rollcall except Vice Mayor Hill, who arrived at 9:00 pm.
2. Prayer
Led by Councilwoman Smith-Lee.
3. Pledge of Allegiance
Led by Mayor Parham.
4. Determination of the Presence of a Quorum
Quorum present.

5. Proclamations/Recognitions/Presentation of Ceremonial Proclamations
 - a. 2024 "Happy 71st Birthday to the Chevrolet Corvette" Day
6. Responses to Previous Public Information Posted
Council Communicates
7. Approval of Consent Agenda (to include minutes of previous meetings):
 - a. Minutes:
 - June 4, 2024 City Council Closed Session Minutes
 - June 4, 2024 City Council Work Session Minutes
 - b. Approval of Resolution to Authorize the Grant Application for the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act Funds
 - c. A Request to Schedule a Public Hearing on the Consideration of Appropriation for the Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2024, and ending on June 30, 2025, for Gant 521288-FY25-School Resource Officer Grants - SRO
Approved. Councilman Myers abstained.
8. Official Public Hearings
 - a. A Public Hearing for the Consideration of the City of Petersburg's FY2024-25 Proposed Revised Operating Budget
Public Hearing
Barb Rudolph
Ms. Rudolph stated that Finance made a good presentation. She has some concerns about the Turf Division but has adopted a wait-and-see attitude on this matter. Ms. Rudolph questioned the resources for increases and why there are so many job vacancies in the city.

Professor Witiak
The professor stated she was glad to see raises but concerned about the vacant positions. Filling positions should be a priority.

Lisa Walton
Ms. Walton stated she was concerned about vacancies and suggested that HR may need to reclassify some positions. She was also concerned that no comprehensive financial report was presented, as in past years. There were concerns over grants not being clear. She is concerned about the new courthouse and that no new school was included in the budget.

Chris Green
Mr. Green questioned improvement funds from HUD to the Housing Authority. He stated that some Pecan Acres residents are being evicted or displaced by tearing down old buildings.

Tamicka Warren
She was concerned about Victim witnesses and no parks for children.

Cheryl Brown

She questioned if citizens could make recommendations on the use of the unassigned fund balance.

City Council and the City Administration welcome suggestions. City Council makes the final decision on how to use the fund balance.

Mary Howard

Ms. Howard wanted on the record that the statements by Mr. Green regarding Pecan Acres and Pin Oaks were incorrect. (Ms. Howard is Chair of the Petersburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority.)

Motion to adopt the May 21, 2024, budget and agree to discuss the \$1.4M to reduce the real estate tax rate on July 16 was not approved.

Motion to adopt the current proposed FY 24/25 budget was approved. Councilmembers Cuthbert and Westbrook voted no. Councilman Jones abstained.

b. A Public Hearing for the Consideration of an Ordinance to Approve Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funding for Project Year 2024/Fiscal Year 2025

Public Hearing

Bill Nicholson

Mr. Nicholson supported the recommendation and reviewed how PAAL would use the funding.

Laverne Talley

Ms. Talley asked Council to approve the CDBG list.

Marquis Allen

Mr. Allen gave a short presentation of what Parks and Rec have accomplished during the past year and reviewed upcoming goals.

Motion approved to reappropriate all FY 24/25 CDBG funds to Parks & Rec except for the required admin fees. Councilman Cuthbert voted no.

c. A Public Hearing for the Consideration of an Ordinance to Approve the Rezoning of Property Located at 303, 309, 315, 323, 419, and 431 West Washington Street from R-3, Two-Family Residence District and B-2, General Commercial District to RB, Office-Apartment District

Public Hearing

Professor Witiak

She supports the denial of the rezoning and stated there is a need to protect residential areas.

Approved. Councilman Myers abstained.

d. A Public Hearing for the Consideration of an Ordinance to Approve Amending and Readopting Article 25 Supplementary Height, Area and Bulk Regulations, as Set Forth in the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Petersburg, to Introduce Design Standards for New Construction
Public Hearing

Professor Witiak

She stated that mechanical structures should be placed so that they can't be seen by surrounding houses.

Approved.

e. A Public Hearing for the Consideration of Approving the Director of Public Works to Prohibit or Regulate the Stopping, Standing, or Parking of Vehicles Upon Any Street or Alley, Not Expressly Regulated by an Ordinance of the City Council, by Causing Official Signs to be Erected Indicating the Restriction
Public Hearing

Professor Witiak

She questioned not having a Safety Commission and asked Council not to approve.

Motion was not approved.

f. A Public Hearing for the Consideration of Approving the Director of Public Works, In Lieu of Not Having a City Traffic Engineer, is Hereby Authorized to Temporarily Designate Parking Areas in Hazardous or Congested Places and to Temporarily Remove Parking in Any Emergency Situation. Permanent Removal of Parking Shall be Subject to the City Manager's Approval
No public comments

Approved. Councilman Jones abstained, and Councilman Myers voted no.

g. A Public Hearing for the Consideration of Appropriation for the Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2024, and Ending on June 30, 2025, for the Grant ID-NG911-080-B (NG 911 Funding)

Public Hearing

Barb Rudolph

Ms. Rudolph stated there appeared to be a disconnect in the agenda packet. The City Manager noted it was in the wrong place.

Approved.

h. A Public Hearing for the Consideration of Appropriation for the Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2024, and Ending on June 30, 2025, for the Grant Number CR-C01/06-23 (Emergency Medical Dispatch)

No public comments

Approved.

i. A Public Hearing for the Consideration of an Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Purchase Agreement Between the City of Petersburg and Nuwave Development Towards the Sale of City-Owned Property at 4 Ross Court (Parcel 031-040035), 6 Ross Court (Parcel 031-040036), 9 Ross Court (Parcel 031-040045) and 12 Ross Court (Parcel 031-040039)

Public Hearing

Barb Rudolph

Ms. Rudolph expressed concern that city property is sold at 50% of the assessed value. She stated that she recalled Council previously discussing raising the percentage.

Marlo Green

She agreed with Ms. Rudolph and thought the threshold was 70%.

David Batts

He stated that all property for sale owned by the City should be advertised to all.

Motion to table until July 16 meeting approved.

j. A Public Hearing on June 18, 2024, for the Consideration of an Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Purchase Agreement Between the City of Petersburg and J.C. Bynum Construction LLC Towards the Sale of City-Owned Property at 741 Blick Street, Parcel ID 031-240016

Public Hearing

Marlo Green

Ms. Green stated that developers should be required to build houses for purchase instead of rental properties.

Barb Rudolph

Ms. Rudolph stated that this developer had bought city properties in 2019, and extensions had to be given. She expressed her concerns that many disconnects should be checked before the developer purchases additional city properties.

Lisa Waldon

Ms. Waldon stated that it was positive to see improvements in homes. She thought the city should raise the threshold before city property is sold.

A motion to continue this item to the business meeting in July failed.

Motion to sell property approved. Councilman Myers abstained.

Mayor Parham left the meeting at 9:19 pm. The Vice Mayor returned to Council and presided over the meeting.

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 removed from consent agenda

Stacey Phelps

He was not allowed to speak since the subject matter is in court, and he does not live in Petersburg.

Barb Rudolph

Ms. Rudolph stated she had lived in Petersburg for 44 years in 3 different wards. She questioned the RFP for trash collection and asked that citizens be informed of any new rates.

Kera Stevens

Ms. Stevens was concerned about the amount of dumping on the river trail on Pocahontas Island. She also stated there was brush and overgrowth on the trail. The Colonial Heights side of the trail is maintained. She does not feel comfortable using the Petersburg trail.

Marlo Green

She has created a monthly e-newsletter for Pocahontas Island. Ms. Green asked about possible sources of funding to complete the Jarratt House, the gap in the MLK bridge, and the Roper site clean-up.

The City talked with the Cameron Foundation about possible funding for the Jarratt House. The gap in the MLK bridge is normal. It was checked by VDOT. The City has received a grant from DCR to remove buildings and clean up the floodplain areas on the former Roper property.

David Batts

Mr. Batts was concerned that the City gave Hotel Petersburg \$2.2M and did not give him money to complete a house or fix stormwater issues.

The City did not give Hotel Petersburg \$2.2M. The \$2.2M was a grant from the Virginia Tourism Corporation.

Cheryl Brown

Ms. Brown stated that vacant positions on the city website should be updated and that there are qualified people for many city jobs who live in the city.

10. Business or reports from the Mayor or other Members of City Council

Councilman Cuthbert

He reminded everyone of his upcoming Ward 4 meeting on Pocahontas Island and said it was helpful for him to visit areas in the city scheduled for action before Council.

Councilman Westbrook

He thanked Randall Williams for his work for the City, and he reminded everyone that June was Men's Health Month.

Councilman Myers

No comments.

Councilwoman Smith-Lee

She thanked Richard Harris and Jim Reid for being persistent on all issues in Ward 6. She also announced the time for Colonel Taylor's funeral.

Councilman Jones

He thanked people who wanted to make a difference in the City. He thinks all departments mean well, but there are some gaps. Following the Compensation Study, he will ask that all department heads live in the city.

Vice Mayor Hill

He said the City is moving in the right direction and asked everyone to speak positively about the city.

11. Items removed from Consent Agenda

None.

12. Finance and Budget Report

None.

13. Unfinished Business

None.

14. New Business

a. Approval of Change Orders for the Southside Depot Project, in the Amount of \$294,940.78, as a Result of Change Orders for the Project Exceeding 25% of the \$2,281,441 Original Contract Price

Approved. Councilman Jones voted no.

b. Resolution to Amend the Procurement Guidelines in Accordance with the Use of Construction Management Contracts Per 2.2-4382 of the Code of Virginia with Respect to Design-Build or Construction Management Contracts
Approved.

15. City Manager's Report and Special Reports

a. STARS Study Presentation

Moved Up in the agenda

No action taken.

16. Business or reports from the Clerk

None.

17. Business or reports from the City Attorney

None.

18. Adjournment