



COUNCIL

Communicates

Highlights from City Council Meetings

July 16, 2024

Petersburg Public Library

City Council Members

Ward 1

Marlow Jones

mjones@petersburg-va.org

Ward 2

Darrin Hill

Vice Mayor

dhill@petersburg-va.org

Ward 3

Samuel Parham

Mayor

sparham@petersburg-va.org

Ward 4

Charles Cuthbert

ccuthbert@petersburg-va.org

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.

No Closed Session Meeting

Regular Council Meeting

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. Proclamations/Recognitions/Presentation of Ceremonial Proclamations
 - a. National Night Out Proclamation
6. Responses to Previous Public Information Posted
Council Communicates.
7. Approval of Consent Agenda (to include minutes of previous meetings):
 - a. Minutes:
 - July 2, 2024 City Council Closed Session
 - b. Resolution Approving the City's Participation in Proposed Opioid Settlement Against Kroger and Related Entities
 - c. Consideration of an Ordinance to Appropriate Funding for the Sports Training Facility (Fieldhouse) at Petersburg High School in the Amount of \$500,000.00 (1st Reading)
Missing items from the Ordinance – Council can make

Approved with amended ordinance.

8. Official Public Hearings

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

Marlo Green

Presented June newsletter for Pocahontas Island. Ms. Green expressed concern over overgrown vegetation on the Appomattox River Trail and the former Roper property.

Alena Daniels

Ms. Daniels presented handouts regarding the Oak Hill bridge to council members. She addressed Council about safety issues.

The city manager is working with the city's financial advisors to find ways to finance a new bridge. The City is applying for a federal grant for bridge replacement in November 2024.

Terry Wilson

Mr. Wilson also expressed concerns about the bridge being closed.

Roshana Griffin

Ms. Griffin expressed concerns about the bridge being closed.

Barb Rudolph

Ms. Rudolph stated that a better answer was needed other than "we are working on it." She also mentioned that the trees in the median on Crater Road looked much better following trimming.

As stated above, the City is continuing to look for funding to replace the Oak Hill bridge. The cost is approximately \$3.5M. The City has included budget amendments to the General Assembly for the past two years. The GA did not fund. A federal grant for bridge replacement will be submitted in November 2024.

Calvin Marlow

Mr. Marlow expressed concerns regarding the bridge not being repaired. He stated he would continue to call WTVR.

Elaine Taylor

Ms. Taylor asked how tax dollars are spent. Below is included in the current year's Budget that can be viewed on the city website: <http://www.petersburg-va.org/DocumentCenter/View/8429/FY24-25-Adopted-v2?bidId=>
Page 44 – Where Your Tax Dollar Goes



Kirra Stevens

Ms. Steven expressed concerns about the vegetation and trash on the Appomattox River Trail on Pocahontas Island.

Lorenzo Harding

Mr. Harding stated concerns regarding the need for more traffic controls throughout the City. He was also concerned about litter, more roadblocks needed by police to address crime, and people overdosing.

10. Business or reports from the Mayor or other Members of City Council Councilman Cuthbert
Mr. Cuthbert thanked Public Works for its efforts to fix the broken water line and Marlo Green for her attention to problems on Pocahontas Island.

Councilman Jones

Mr. Jones stated that the upgrades to Farmer Street Park were impressive. He has a team working on the appearance of Route 36. He is concerned about speeding in the city and needing trail cameras on Pocahontas Island. People who addressed the Oak Hill bridge were thanked. The city manager was asked to create a matrix showing where tax dollars go. (See chart above that is included in the current year budget.) There was concern that two fire stations and the Commonwealth Attorney's office don't have working HVAC units.

Councilman Westbrook

Mr. Westbrook expressed concern about overgrown vegetation throughout the city and asked that signs noting curves in the road around Willcox Lake be posted. Boars Head and International Paper are hiring in Ward 7.

Councilman Myers

Mr. Myers thanked all for their encouragement in moving the City forward.

Councilwoman Smith-Lee

Ms. Smith-Lee thanked Public Works for quickly repairing the water main break. She reminded all about Petersburg's old infrastructure and thanked Parks and Rec for the upgrades at the Farmer Street park.

Vice Mayor Hill

Vice Mayor Hill thanked Public Works and residents for their patience during the water main break. He thanked Parks & Rec for youth activities and asked citizens to talk about the positive things happening in Petersburg.

Mayor Parham

The Mayor discussed the \$1 billion in infrastructure needs throughout the City and asked the city manager to continue looking for funding to replace the Oak Hill bridge.

11. Items removed from Consent Agenda

None.

12. Finance and Budget Report

None.

13. Unfinished Business

- a. Resolution Supporting the Submission of Smart Scale Applications to the Virginia Department of Transportation for Transportation Funding by the City of Petersburg and the Tri-Cities Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
Public Hearing

Barb Rudolph

Ms. Rudolph asked if all the Smart Scale recommendations would be submitted as a package and about the cost. She also stated that there should be another public input session.

The Smart Scale study will be submitted as a package, but federal transportation may decide to fund only parts of the project in the first round of grants. VDOT determines the number of public input sessions.

Mary Howard

Ms. Howard reminded everyone that Washington and Wythe were two-way streets before the City changed them. She expressed the need for the casino revenues to the City to fund infrastructure.

Ms. Chestnut

She is concerned about roundabouts and two-way streets.

Approved.

b. Consideration for Approval of the Purchase Agreement by Ordinance to Approve the Purchase Agreement for the Sale of City-Owned Property at 101 West Washington Street

Approved with Purchase Agreement to include that property shall not be sold to a non-profit.

c. Disposition of City-Owned Properties Sales Offers from 50% to 100% of Assessed Value

Approved, including that the sale price of city properties can be negotiated.

14. New Business

a. Planning Commission Annual Report Presentation

No action taken.

15. City Manager's Report and Special Reports

The city manager reported that action would be taken on the Oak Hill bridge, and a master plan for infrastructure needs would be developed.

16. Business or reports from the Clerk

The Clerk stated there would be a special meeting on July 30, no August meeting, and the subsequent work session would be held on September 3.

17. Business or reports from the City Attorney

None.

18. Adjournment