



COUNCIL

Communicates

Highlights from City Council Meetings

September 3, 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

whowardmyers@petersburg-va.org

Ward 6

Anette Smith-Lee

alee@petersburg-va.org

Ward 7

Arnold Westbrook

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

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

Closed Session

3:00 pm

1. Roll Call
Councilman Jones and Councilwoman Smith-Lee were absent on rollcall. All other Councilmembers were present.
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 Regarding the Legal Requirements of an Existing Contract and a Proposed Contract; Section 10-2-13 of the Petersburg Zoning Ordinance; and Petersburg Circuit Court Case No.: CL24-563; and
 - b. §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; and
 - c. §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
d. §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 Public Body; and
e. §2.2-3711(A)28 of the Code of Virginia for the Purpose of Discussion of Information Subject to the Exclusion in Subdivision 11 of § 2.2-3705.6 by a Responsible Public Entity or an Affected Locality or Public Entity, as those Terms are Defined in §33.2-1800, or any Independent Review Panel Appointed to Review Information and Advise the Responsible Public Entity Concerning Such Records.

A motion was approved to add to the agenda to direct the city manager to amend zoning ordinances for sandwich boards and sheds.

A motion was approved to rescind the zoning ordinance text for sandwich boards and sheds that are not regulated.

3. Adjournment

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

Paula Chester

Ms. Chester requested stats related to crime and casinos.

Text taken from a Google search on crime related to the Danville casino:
“While some residents were concerned that the casino would result in increased crime, that has not been the case, according to Danville Police Department Assistant Chief Henry Richardson.”

Brandon Riley

Mr. Riley asked about the status of the Harding Street Recreation Center. The City is exploring several options for the future use of the Harding Street Recreation Center. VSU occupied the building for many years. When VSU vacated, the building needed many repairs inside and a new roof.

Bertha Hicks

Ms. Hicks inquired as to why the Oak Hill Bridge was closed. The bridge was closed because it was not safe for traffic. The City is continuing to seek funding for a new bridge estimated to cost \$3.5M.

Marlo Greene

Ms. Greene stated that she would like the City to address the noise, smell, dust, and truck traffic to the South Central Wastewater Treatment Plant. She suggested moving forth with a proposed roadway through the former Roper property.

The City is discussing building a road in a floodway with DCR (VA Department of Conservation & Recreation) and gathering data from South Central to accurately account for the number of trucks entering the plant each year.

Kara Stevens

Ms. Stevens stated many of the same concerns as Ms. Greene. She also asked about cutting the vegetation on the Appomattox River Trail on Pocahontas Island.

Please see the answer above regarding the road. The Friends of the Lower Appomattox River (FOLAR) have regular clean-ups along the river's trails. Concerns for vegetation on City property being cut should be reported on the City website under Report A Concern on the Homepage:

<https://petersburgce.portal.iworq.net/portalhome/petersburgce>

Professor Witiak

Professor Witiak requested better plans regarding the casino proposal by Council.

Barb Rudolph

Ms. Rudolph suggested that Council members move to floor level at the library event center instead of on the stage to better interact with residents. She also expressed concern over the condition of Union Station.

The current configuration of the cameras and audio in the event center would have to be changed, and/or additional cameras and audio outlets would have to be added. This would be a substantial cost.

6. Approval of Consent Agenda (to include minutes of previous meetings):
 - a. Minutes of Previous Meetings:
 - City Council Meeting of June 18, 2024
 - b. First Reading and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of Acceptance & Appropriation of the FY25 Victim Witness Grant
 - c. First Reading and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of Acceptance & Appropriation of the FY25 Witness Protection Grant
 - d. First Reading and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of the Carryover of Funds From FY24 for Approved Projects to FY25
 - e. First Reading and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of Acceptance and Appropriation of the FY25 Community Corrections & Pretrial Services Grant
 - f. First Reading and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of Acceptance and Appropriation of Funding from Virginia Department of Fire Programs - Aid to Localities for FY 24
 - g. First Reading and Schedule Public Hearing for a Proposed Closing to Public Use & Travel of a City Street and Right-of-Way Off of Cottonwood Drive (Pecan Street) and Juniper Road Between Cottonwood Drive and Juniper Road Within the Petersburg Redevelopment & Housing Authority
Approved.

7. Special Reports
 - a. Presentation and Discussion Regarding Critical Home Repair and COVID Funds from the Community Development Block Grant Advisory Board
No action taken.

 - b. Discussion: Noise Ordinance Tabled March 15, 2022
Pulled from the agenda.

 - c. Discussion: Zoning Permit Application
No action taken.

 - d. Discussion of Proposed ROW Extension Through the Roper Property
No action taken.

8. Monthly Reports
None.

9. Finance and Budget Report
 - a. Finance & Budget September Update
No action taken.

10. Capital Projects Update
None.

11. Utilities
 - a. Department of Public Works & Utilities Report
Referred to agenda packet for the report. No action taken.
12. Streets
None.
13. Facilities
None.
14. Economic Development
None.
15. City Manager's Agenda
None.
16. Business or reports from the Clerk
Reported that Applications for Boards and Commissions are open.
17. Business or reports from the City Attorney
None.
18. Adjournment