



# COUNCIL

## Communicates

### Highlights from City Council Meetings

**October 1, 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 except Councilmembers Myers, Jones, and Smith-Lee.

##### 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 Petersburg Circuit Court Case No.: CL23-210; and
- b. §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.

Motion approved to direct the city manager to have staff initiate a zoning ordinance text amendment to regulate title lenders, payday lenders, used tire shops, and vape shops and expedite Council's consideration of the ordinance by scheduling a joint public hearing with Council and the Planning Commission on or before November 6.

##### 3. Adjournment

## Work Session

5:00 pm

1. Roll Call  
All were present except Councilman Myers.
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  
Bruce Noe  
Mr. Noe stated concerns about liability for the City of dead tree limbs and trees in Poplar Lawn Park.

### Barb Rudolph

Ms. Rudolph presented a slide that clarified her statement from the previous Council meeting that of 38 cities in Virginia, either 35 of those cities voted for Council at large and for the Mayor at large or both. She stated the VML Handbook has a different number. She expressed concern that the ward system implemented in 1972 was no longer needed since the white population had decreased.

### Michelle Brown

Ms. Brown thanked Public Works for cleaning the entrance at Exit 52. She asked Council to acknowledge residents as governing the City and asked that an area of the website be dedicated to citizen complaints, dock information, and management. She stated that citizens want to know where the money is spent before the City spends it.

Citizens can log complaints and follow progress on the website homepage under Report A Concern: <https://petersburgce.portal.iworq.net/portalhome/petersburgce>. In preparing the yearly budget, citizens are given the opportunity to view the proposed budget online and express concerns about how funds are spent at public hearings before the budget is adopted by City Council. The yearly budget can be viewed at: <http://www.petersburg-va.org/1204/Budgets>.

### Otis Hill

Mr. Hill expressed concern that safety warning equipment is needed for hearing-impaired residents.

Kara Stevens

Ms. Stevens stated that stormwater drains are blocked throughout the City and that infrastructure improvements are needed.

Petersburg is completing a \$2M+ grant-funded stormwater study. Preliminary findings indicate that stormwater cannot get to the Appomattox River during heavy rains because of the need to dredge the harbor and waterway to the river. The City is seeking additional grant funding to begin removing silt, vegetation, and trees in the former harbor. Dredging the harbor to the river is estimated to cost over \$50M.

Marlo (Amanda) Greene

Ms. Greene thanked Council for approving a road through the floodplain on Pocahontas Island. She stated that she realized the road would have to be raised because of the floodplain. She noted that flooding is significant throughout the City.

6. Approval of Consent Agenda (to include minutes of previous meetings):
  - a. Minutes
    - July 30, 2024 Special Meeting
    - September 3, 2024 City Council Closed Session
    - September 17, 2024 City Council Closed Session
  - ~~b. First Reading and Schedule a Public Hearing to Consider an Ordinance to Amend and Readopt Article 25, Supplementary Height, Area, Bulk, and Design Regulations, and Article 28, Changes and Amendments, as Set Forth in the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Petersburg Pertaining to Administrative Clarifications on Development of Contiguous Nonconforming Lots Under Common Ownership and Requirements for Public Notice~~
  - c. First Reading and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance to Amend and Re-Adopt the FY25 Petersburg City Public Schools Budget to Allocate Additional Funds for Food Service Upgrades, to Include Capital & Operational Improvements
  - d. First Reading and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance to Utilize the Budget Stabilization Fund to Fund Emergency Repairs
  - e. First Reading and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of Acceptance & Appropriation of Funding from the Virginia Department of Elections for the 2024 Election Equipment Grant
  - f. First Reading and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing the Issuance & Sale of General Obligation and Refunding Bonds of the City of Petersburg
  - g. First Reading and Schedule a Public Hearing for Council to Resolve to Reallocate \$279,552.95 of CDBG-CV Funds for Critical Home Repair
  - h. First Reading and Schedule a Public Hearing on an Ordinance to Amend and Re-Adopt Section 21-2 of the Petersburg City Code Pertaining to the Petersburg Arts Commission

Motion approved to accept the Consent Agenda with the removal of Item b.

7. Special Reports
  - a. Update from Planning and Community Development Regarding Signs (Window, Poorly Maintained, Flashing Lights, and Sandwich Board), Housing Resources, and the Ice Machine at 1916 S Sycamore Street  
The Director of Planning presented an update on the issues. No action was taken.
8. Monthly Reports  
None.
9. Finance and Budget Report
  - a. Department of Finance Monthly Update  
No action taken.
10. Capital Projects Update  
None.
11. Utilities  
A handout was presented. No action was taken.
12. Streets  
Council members expressed concern for high grass and traffic-calming measures. No action was taken.
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  
None.
18. Adjournment