



COUNCIL

Communicates

Highlights from City Council Meetings

November 6, 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

12:00 pm

1. Roll Call

Present on rollcall: Mayor Parham, Vice Mayor Hill, Councilman W. Howard Myers, Councilwoman Annette Smith-Lee. Absent on rollcall: Councilmembers Jones, Cuthbert, Westbrook.

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 a Proposed City Charter Amendment; Proposed Amendments to the City Code and Zoning Ordinance; A Claim Concerning Utility Taps; Proposed Amendments to the City Code and Zoning Ordinance; the Requirements of Chapter 37 of Title 2.2 of the Code of Virginia; 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)(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.

3. Adjournment

Motions were approved for the first reading and to add Charter Change to the legislative agenda.

A motion was approved to add Tabb Street LLC to the agenda.
Councilman Cuthbert abstained.

Work Session

1:30 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 Proclamation
 - a. Proclamation Honoring Mr. James R. Clark, Sr.
 - b. Proclamation Recognizing Mr. Calvin McIntyre
 - c. Veterans Day Proclamation
 - d. 2nd Accreditation Award to the Petersburg Bureau of Police from the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC) and the Virginia Law Enforcement Accreditation Coalition (VALEAC)
Item d was removed from the agenda.

6. Public Comments

Gary Talley

Mr. Talley congratulated everyone on the elections. He asked why the City had not fixed the Jewish cemetery entranceway, replaced bridges, or fixed the elevators in the Carriage House. Mr. Talley made the comment that the City needs to do things to improve the City.

- The City does not own the Jewish cemetery or the entranceway to the Jewish cemetery. City officials are in contact with the owners, who report that they are waiting on insurance claims for repairs.
- Many bridges in the City require replacement and/or repairs due to decades of flooding damage. The City is seeking grants to repair the bridges and has included bridge repair funds under Capital improvements.
- The Carriage House is privately owned. Code Compliance visits the property weekly and cites owners for code violations. Congresswoman McClellan and Senator Kaine (contacted by the City) have met with HUD (oversees owners/residents in property) to force upgrades to the facility.
- The City is improving many assets, including infrastructure, emergency communications system, and city-owned buildings, primarily with grant funding acquired.

Barb Rudolph

Ms. Rudolph congratulated the Councilors who were reelected and the passage of the casino. She thanked the city manager and finance for ARPA spending on projects.

7. Approval of Consent Agenda (to include minutes of previous meetings):

a. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

September 3, 2024 Work Session

September 25, 2024 Joint Meeting with the Planning Commission

October 1, 2024 Closed Session

October 15, 2024 Closed Session

b. First Reading and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of Acceptance & Appropriation of Funding from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services for the 2024 Operation Ceasefire Grant

c. First Reading and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Appropriation Ordinance for State Aid to Public Libraries Additional Funding

d. First Reading and Schedule a Public Hearing on the Consideration of an Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Deed of Easement with Virginia Electric and Power to Place Equipment on City Property at 1937 Johnson Avenue

e. First Reading and to Schedule a Public Hearing of an Ordinance to Rezone Property at 1425 and 1525 Youngs Road and 1819 and 1827 Boydton Plank Road, Parcel IDs 051070002, 051070001, 051070802, and 051070023, from the R-1 Single-Family Residence and B-2 General Commercial Districts to the RTH Residential Townhouse District

- f. First Reading and Schedule a Public Hearing of an Ordinance for a Special Use Permit for a Vehicle Removal Operator and Associated Vehicle Storage and Tow Lot on Property at 1700 Midway Avenue, Parcel ID 028310001, in the M-1, Light Industrial District
- g. First Reading and to Schedule a Public Hearing of an Ordinance to Amend and Readopt Article 3, Definitions, Article 17, M-1 Light Industrial District Regulations, Article 18, M-2 Heavy Industrial District Regulations, Article 23, Supplementary Use Regulations – Special Uses, and Article 31, Permits, Plats, and Filing Fees, as Set Forth in the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Petersburg Pertaining to Data Center Uses
- h. First Reading and to Schedule a Public Hearing of an Ordinance to Amend and Readopt Article 3, Definitions, Article 14, B-1 Shopping Center District Regulations, and Article 23, Supplementary Use Regulations – Special Uses, as Set Forth in the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Petersburg Pertaining to Gathering and Event Uses, Including Nightclubs (moved to November 19 meeting for consent agenda)
- i. First Reading and to Schedule a Public Hearing of 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
- j. First Reading & Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of Acceptance & Appropriation of the FY25 Cameron Foundation Grant for the Recreation & Leisure Department

8. Special Reports

Councilwoman Smith-Lee

She thanked citizens for their support over nearly 8 years and stated her disappointment on Election Day by one person who referenced her in an inappropriate and slanderous manner.

Councilman Jones

He called out that it was a black man who called Councilwoman Smith-Lee the N word. He encouraged Councilwoman Smith-Lee to keep fighting for the people of Petersburg.

9. Monthly Reports

None.

10. Finance and Budget Report

a. Department of Finance Monthly Update

No action was taken.

11. Capital Projects Update

The Mayor stated the Public Works report was in the Agenda packet.

12. Utilities
None.
13. Streets
None.
14. Facilities
None.
15. Economic Development
None.
16. City Manager's Agenda
Mr. Altman congratulated re-elected council members and said it was a historic moment with overwhelming voter support for approving the casino.
17. Business or reports from the Clerk
Ms. Hill congratulated the Council winners. She reminded everyone that the City is accepting applications for various Boards and Commissions.
18. Business or reports from the City Attorney
None.
19. Adjournment