



COUNCIL

Communicates

Highlights from City Council Meetings

November 19, 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

sparham@petersburg-va.org

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

4:00 pm

1. Roll Call
All are present on the roll call except Councilmembers Smith-Lee and Jones.
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 Updates 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 §54.1-4002 of the Code of Virginia, Legal Matters Requiring the Advice of the City Attorney; and
 - b. §2.2-3711(A)(29) of the Code of Virginia for the Purpose of Discussion Regarding the Subject of the Award of a Public Contract Involving the Expenditure of Public Funds and Discussion of the Terms of Scope of Such Contract, Where Discussion in an Open Session Would Adversely Affect the Bargaining Position or Negotiating Strategy of the Public Body; and
 - c. §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 Specific Public Officers of the City of Petersburg.

Following adjournment from closed session, a Resolution Certifying “PPE Casino Petersburg, LLC” as the City’s Preferred Casino Gaming Operator Pursuant to §58.1-4109(A) of the Code of Virginia was approved.

3. Adjournment

Regular Council Meeting

5:00 pm

1. Roll Call
All present except Councilwoman Smith-Lee.
2. Prayer
Led by Vice Mayor Hill.
3. Pledge of Allegiance
Led by Mayor Sam Parham.
4. Determination of the Presence of a Quorum
Quorum present.
5. Proclamations/Recognitions/Presentation of Ceremonial Proclamations
 - a. Richard Bland College to Transition to an Independent Governance Structure
 - b. 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)
 - c. Recognition of Petersburg Fire Department (Francis Road Fire)
 - d. Recognized City Manager and Finance on Bond Rating
6. Responses to Previous Public Information Posted
Council Communicates.
7. Approval of Consent Agenda (to include minutes of previous meetings):
 - a. Minutes of Previous Meetings
-November 6, 2024 Closed Session Meeting
 - b. First Reading and Schedule a Public Hearing on an Ordinance to Amend the City Charter to Add Section 2-1.2 to Provide for Non-Partisan Elections of Members of the Council
 - c. First Reading and Schedule a Public Hearing of an Ordinance to Amend Chapters 3-16 of the City Charter Concerning the Powers and Duties of the Collector of Taxes -
 - d. 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

e. First Reading and Schedule a Public Hearing of an Ordinance to Amend and Readopt the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Petersburg Pertaining to the Regulation of Alternative Financial Institutions/Short-Term Loan Establishment and Small Box Discount Store Uses Within the City -

f. First Reading and to Schedule a Public Hearing to Amend and Readopt the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Petersburg Pertaining to the Regulation of Tire Sale and Service Uses Within the City

g. First Reading and Schedule a Public Hearing for the Consideration of an Ordinance to Amend and Reenact Section 86-31, Limitation on the Number of Pawn Shops, Article II - Pawnbrokers, and of Chapter 86, Secondhand Goods of the Petersburg City Code

h. First Reading and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Appropriation/Grant from the VA Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)/Main Street Program

Approved.

8. Official Public Hearings

a. A Public Hearing for Consideration of an Appropriation Ordinance for State Aid to Public Libraries Additional Funding

No Public Comments.

Approved.

b. A Public Hearing for Consideration of Acceptance & Appropriation of Funding from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services for the 2024 Operation Ceasefire Grant

No Public Comments.

Approved.

c. A Public Hearing for Consideration of Acceptance & Appropriation of the FY25 Cameron Foundation Grant for the Recreation & Leisure Department.

No Public Comments.

Approved.

d. 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.

Public Hearing

Gary Talley

Mr. Talley stated the rezoning should not be approved because it does not conform with the City's Comp Plan.

Approved. Councilman Cuthbert voted no.

e. 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 a M-1, Light Industrial District.

Public Hearing

Owner addressed Council.

Motion adding special use permit approved. Councilman Cuthbert voted no.

f. 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.

Public Hearing

Leonard Curry

Mr. Curry suggested more research is needed on any noise that may be created by Data Centers.

Motion to table until the January 2025 meeting approved.

g. 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

Public Hearing

Michael Packer

Mr. Packer recommended approval of the alternate proposal in the agenda packet.

Leonard Curry

Mr. Curry stated he supports the alternate proposal.

Rick Mattox

Mr. Mattox stated he disapproves of subdividing lots.

Winston Saunders

Mr. Saunders recommended approval of the alternate proposal. He also recommended that the Council exercise patience with more housing development in the City.

The alternate proposal was approved.

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.

Leslie Haddon

FCC has approved a license for 101.5 FM, a 20-mile radius. She is looking for a location and funding.

Michael Packer

Mr. Packer stated that the City should use the casino to attract more businesses while ensuring the highest and best use for properties.

Marlo Green

She requested an update from DCR on using the grant for the former Roper site. She also asked that trees on Pocahontas Island be cut back so people stop dumping.

Bobby Beverly

Mr. Beverly addressed incidents on election day.

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

Councilman Cuthbert

He asked the city manager to begin work with the schools on funding for a new elementary school. He thanked Delta sorority for picking up trash in the City.

Councilman Jones

He discussed duty and responsibility to the children of Petersburg.

Councilman Westbrook

He recognized the Speech and Debate team at Petersburg High. He reminded citizens that leaf collection is underway.

Councilman Myers

He wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Vice Mayor Hill

He discussed the ongoing negativity about the City by some citizens.

Mayor Parham

The Mayor stated that Petersburg should stay the course; the best is yet to come.

11. Items removed from Consent Agenda
None.
12. Finance and Budget Report
None.
13. Unfinished Business
 - a. Consideration of Appointment to the Petersburg Arts Council
Approved.
 - b. Consideration of Appointment to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Citizen Advisory Board
Approved.
 - c. Consideration of Appointment to the Planning Commission
Approved.
 - d. Consideration of Appointment to the Petersburg Redevelopment Housing Authority
Approved.
14. New Business
 - a. Presentation of the 2025 Legislative Agenda
Approved with the addition of a Charter change on Non-partisan Elections. A Resolution supporting Richard Bland College's request to the General Assembly for independent governance was approved.
15. City Manager's Report and Special Reports
The City Manager discussed the upgraded Bond rating.
16. Business or reports from the Clerk
Ms. Hill stated she had just completed 6 months with Petersburg.
17. Business or reports from the City Attorney
None.
18. Adjournment