



COUNCIL

Communicates

Highlights from City Council Meetings

February 18, 2025

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.

1. Roll Call

All 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 58.1-3221; 58.1-3524; 58.1-3706; 58.1-3819 and 58.1-1001 of the Code of Virginia; 15.2-2288.1 of the Code of Virginia; and Petersburg Circuit Court Case No.: CL24-715; 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; 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 a Specific Public Officer of the City of Petersburg

3. Adjournment

Approved.

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. Proclamation Honoring Chief T. C. Hairston
 - b. Proclamation Honoring Harry L. Batts
Special Presentation: FBI Trilogy Award presented to Petersburg Police.
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:
 - February 4, 2025 Closed Session Minutes
 - January 21, 2025 City Council Minutes
 - January 7, 2025 City Council Work Session Minutes
 - September 17, 2024 City Council Minutes
 - July 16, 2024 City Council Minutes**Approved.**
8. Official Public Hearings
 - a. Public Hearing and Consideration of an Ordinance Revoking a Special Use Permit Granted to Michael and Nina Stanley for a Vehicle Rental Business, Auto Body, and Vehicle Repair Shop at 1036 West Washington Street, Parcel ID 024270001 in the B-2, General Commercial District for Failure to Comply with Conditions of Approval
Public Hearing
Jeff Fleming
Mr. Fleming recommended approval, but there would be an auto rescind on the violation.
Motion approved to deny revoking special use permit, but the permit would be rescinded for future violations

b. Public Hearing and Consideration of an Ordinance to Approve a Request by Virginia Electric & Power Co. DBA Dominion Energy to Rezone with Proffers Property at 3345, 3339, and 3311 West Washington Street, Parcel IDs 027010001, 027010003, and 027010004, from the R-2 Single-Family Residence and B-2 General Commercial Districts to the M-1 Light Industrial District

Public Hearing

Marlo Green

Ms. Green stated she supports the Dominion plan.

Jeff Fleming

Mr. Fleming conveyed his approval for the Dominion plan.

Leonard Davis

Mr. Davis asked how the plan would affect his business across the road.

Motion with stated proffers approved.

c. Public Hearing and Consideration of an Ordinance to Approve a Request by Fortune Founders LLC for a Special Use Permit with Conditions for Multiple-Family Dwellings as Authorized and Controlled by the R-5 Multiple Dwelling District Standards at 25 South Crater Road, Parcel ID 012260023, in the B-2, General Commercial District

Public Hearing

Jeff Fleming

Mr. Fleming stated that this property has a bad past. The current plans do not include kitchens in the rooms, and hot plates could be used, causing fires. Changing this former hotel into apartments must meet code. He does not recommend approving the plans.

Gary Talley

Mr. Talley stated he agrees with Mr. Fleming.

Barb Rudolph

Ms. Rudolph stated she agreed with Mr. Fleming. She has concerns with studio apartments and no recreation. She does not think this would be attractive to the community with very few improvements over the previous hotel.

Keri Stevens

Ms. Stevens agrees with Mr. Fleming. She said this was more about chasing the money than improving the area.

Cheryl Brown

Ms. Brown stated she thought condos may be a better idea.

A motion to deny the special use permit was approved.

d. A Public Hearing for Consideration of an Appropriation Ordinance to Amend the FY25 Streets Fund Budget, Increasing the Urban Highway Maintenance Funding for Street Operations

Public Hearing

Jeff Fleming

Mr. Fleming asked the number of repairs for \$64,000. He also stated the pipeline replacement paving on Crater Road is poor. The City Manager explained the pipeline

paving on Crater Road was temporary until the pipeline was completed, and he explained the \$64,000 would be used for pothole repairs.

Approved.

e. A Public Hearing Amending the FY25 Grants Fund Budget to Accept and Appropriate Ordinances for Several Grants

Approved.

f. Public Hearing for the Consideration of an Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Purchase Agreement Between the City of Petersburg and PBURG ROE PROPERTIES LLC Towards the Sale of City-Owned Property at 125 West Tabb Street (Parcel 011230037)

Public Hearing

Jeff Fleming

Mr. Fleming supports selling the property but believes the purchase price is too low.

Paula Chester

Ms. Chester agreed with Mr. Fleming and suggested pushing the sale of Halifax Street properties.

Barb Rudolph

Ms. Rudolph stated the same concerns as Mr. Fleming and asked why Hotel Petersburg had not been allowed to purchase the parking lot property.

Gary Talley

Mr. Talley agreed that the sale price was too low.

Marlo Green

Ms. Green questioned the low sale price and suggested keeping the lot and converting to paid parking.

Denise Tipton

Ms. Tipton said she supports the sale because parking is essential to the success of a business. She also stated the lot would be open to the public.

Andrea Mathews

Ms. Mathews supports selling the parking lot.

Keri Stevens

Ms. Stevens questioned if the lot would only be for certain businesses.

A motion was approved to allow the City Manager to create a purchase agreement for the parking lot sale for \$25,000.

Councilman Cuthbert voted no.

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 the consent agenda

Paula Chester

Ms. Chester expressed concern about the Oak Hill Road bridge not being repaired.

Bill Hartstock

Mr. Hartstock was concerned that the Sycamore Grove Development had not moved forward.

Keri Stevens

Ms. Stevens reported that no parking signs had been placed on Rolfe Street for a day without residents being notified.

Marlo Green

Ms. Green reported on the OCR Community Empowerment Group, a non-profit that had been formed. She also asked about the City investigating relocating the extension to Pocahontas Street.

Jeff Fleming

Mr. Fleming asked that residents stay off the roadways during the upcoming snow storm.

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

Councilman Cuthbert

Announced Ward 4 meeting to discuss data centers on February 27.

Councilman Jones

He voiced concerns about residents supporting businesses outside of the City but not Petersburg businesses.

Councilman Westbrook

He asked that the City inspect trees around Willcox Lake and announced that casino jobs would soon be up on social media.

Councilman Myers

He thanked Public Works for work on the waterline breaks and new sidewalks.

Vice Mayor Hill

He announced the upcoming Pothole Blitz and asked that signs be removed from the right-of-way.

Mayor Parham

He thanked Phlow for the company event held at Hotel Petersburg and that the Phlow plans to expand in Petersburg. The ribbon-cutting for the Old Bus Station will take place on February 27.

11. Items removed from Consent Agenda

None.

12. Finance and Budget Report

a. Department of Finance Monthly Update

No action taken on the report.

13. Unfinished Business
None.
14. New Business
 - a. Appointments to the Social Services Advisory Board
Approved.
 - b. Appointments to the Economic Development Authority
Approved.
 - c. Resolution to Extend Personal Property Tax Due Date
Public Hearing
Jeff Fleming
He approves of extension.
Barb Rudolph
She approves of the extension. Ms. Rudolph stated that online bills are different from paper bills. While the paper bill is correct, she prefers to pay online.
Marlo Green
Ms. Green said someone needs to be held accountable for late billing and that quality assurance is needed.
Brittany Flowers
She stated late billing has happened too many times.
Extension approved.
15. City Manager's Report and Special Reports
The City Manager encouraged everyone to stay off the streets during the snow storm. He reported that Davenport would present a comprehensive investment plan in March.
16. Business or reports from the Clerk
None.
17. Business or reports from the City Attorney
None.
18. Adjournment