



COUNCIL

Communicates

Highlights from City Council Meetings

March 18, 2025

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.

1. Roll Call
All present.

Mayor Parham requested a motion to add discussion of §22.1-92 and 93 to the Closed Session agenda. Approved.

2. Closed Session
The purpose of this meeting is to convene in the closed session pursuant to:
 - a. §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
 - 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)(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 58.1-3221.6 of the Code of Virginia; and Section 106-1 of the Petersburg City Code; and
 - d. §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 or Scope of Such Contract, Where Discussion in an Open Session Would Adversely Affect the Bargaining Position or Negotiating Strategy of the Public Body.

A motion was approved to direct the City Manager and City Attorney to take all actions necessary to review and develop an MOU with “Team Loaded” with terms substantially like those in the draft provided and bring any necessary formal action requirements, including but not limited to necessary supplemental appropriations before Council for consideration during the regular April cycle of Council meetings.

3. Adjournment

Regular Council Meeting

5:00 pm

1. Roll Call
All present.
2. Prayer
Led by Vice Mayor Hill.
2. 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. National Procurement Month - Lisa Scott, Purchasing Agent
 - b. 2025 Armed Forces Day Resolution - Brian Moore, Economic Development Director
 - c. Presentation to William Riggelman, Engineering Construction Manager, Retirement - Jerry Byerly, Public Works Director
 - d. Petersburg Transit Modernization Initiative Update from Darius Mason with Petersburg Area Transit, Danielle McCray and Sarah Sciarrino with Kimley Horn, and Representatives from the Department of Rail and Public Transportation
No action was taken.
 - e. Petersburg Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) - Chloe Griffin, Treasurer, Petersburg Animal Welfare Society (PAWS)
No action was taken.
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:
 - March 4, 2025 Closed Session
 - March 4, 2025 City Council Meeting
 - February 25, 2025 Joint Meeting with the Planning Commission
 - February 18, 2025 Closed Session
 - February 18, 2025 City Council Meeting
 - January 26-27, 2025 Council Advance
 - October 15, 2024 City Council Meeting

Approved.

8. Official Public Hearings
 - a. A Public Hearing for Consideration of an Amendment to the FY25 Petersburg City Public Schools Budget, in the Amount of \$1,900,000
Public Hearing
Barb Rudolph

Ms. Rudolph expressed her concern that the school's "ask letter" is from October 2024 yet is now deemed urgent. She also mentioned that it was agreed in 2020 that any remaining funds from the school budget would be allocated to capital projects.

Gary Talley

Mr. Talley stated he supports the funding requested by the schools.

A motion was approved for the requested \$1.9M budget amendment, including the certification of uncertified teachers, capital improvement program items, five positions for Appomattox Regional Governor's School, two positions at Code RVA, and the assistant athletic director position.

 - b. A Public Hearing for Consideration of an Amendment to the FY25 General Fund Operating Budget
Public Hearing
Barb Rudolph

Ms. Rudolph expressed her desire to see an itemized list of the \$2 million allocated for one-time expenses in Public Works.

Petersburg's Financial Officer noted that all but \$300,000 would be used for these one-time expenses in Public Works.

Approved.

 - c. A Public Hearing to Approve a Request by Capital City Homes, LLC to Rezone with Proffers Property at 208 North Dunlop Street and 901, 905, 909, 915, 919, 921, 925, 929, 933 Commerce Street, Parcel IDs 024140003, 024140005, 024140006, 024140007, 024140008, 024140009, 024140010, 024140011, 024140012, 024140013, from the B-2 General Commercial and M-1 Light Industrial Districts to the R-2 Single-Family Residence District
Public Hearing
Vernelle Gannaway

Mr. Gannaway questioned the income status of the houses, stating that many people can't afford most of the lofts in the City.

Marlo Green

Ms. Green inquired whether the houses would be for sale or rent, as well as the price points.

The developer stated that all the homes will be available for resale and will be market-rate.

Approved.

d. A Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Option Agreement and Convey Property Upon Satisfaction of Terms for 3501 Halifax Road

Public Hearing

Barb Rudolph

Ms. Rudolph expressed concern that this property differs from the one approved in March. While she is not opposed to data centers, she believes more information is needed regarding the property's value before a vote is taken.

A motion to table 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 room prior to the meeting were removed from the consent agenda

Bruce Richardson

Mr. Richardson announced a Homebuyer education event at the Library on Saturday, March 29.

Wayne Carter

Mr. Carter suggested the City build a sidewalk or bike path along Johnson Road from Camelot to the Sports Complex. He stated the ditches do not drain along Johnson Road and recommended building a bike path on the top of the drainage ditches.

Marlo Green

Ms. Green talked about trucks coming in around 6:30 a.m. every morning. She stated that she measured the streets on Pocahontas Island, and none meet standard guidelines for residential areas. She also expressed concern for the conditions on the former Roper site.

Many streets throughout historic areas in Petersburg were not constructed to today's standard recommendations. The City has a grant from DCR to remove the buildings in the floodway and floodplain on the former Roper site. The area will then be converted to green space as per grant requirements.

Vernelle Gannaway

Mr. Gannaway thanked the fire and police departments for assisting him and his wife during an accident late last year. He also stated that there were ongoing drainage issues in Berkeley Manor.

Keri Stevens

Ms. Stevens asked for more beautification on Pocahontas Island and stated that there is a lot of litter on the road leading to the Island.

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

He discussed that the color of the "Redskins House" had been changed and thanked Chief Miller.

112-114 N. Crater Road—He questioned the number of cars in the front and back of the property and stated that a special use permit, which would have allowed the storage of the cars, was denied a year ago.

A timeline was requested for removing the blighted house at 712 Logan Street. Chief Miller stated the house would be removed within the next two weeks.

Councilman Jones

He stated that some issues cannot be resolved overnight. He expressed frustration that many things remain unfixed.

Councilman Westbrook

He reminded citizens to mow their lawns as the grass grows and requested that FOLAR provide an update soon on Patton Park. He noted that plastic bags constitute a large portion of the litter throughout the City and proposed that the City adopt a 5-cent tax on plastic bags.

Councilman Myers

No additional items.

Councilwoman Smith-Lee

She expressed concern for those who have lost jobs with the federal government.

Vice Mayor Hill

He discussed the partnership of the Hero program between VSU and the schools funded by the Cameron Foundation. He stated that VCU also has a similar program in the schools.

Mayor Parham

He thanked Communications for the March newsletter and announced the ribbon-cutting for the new vegan restaurant and the Ward 3 meeting scheduled for March 24.

11. Items removed from Consent Agenda
None.
12. Finance and Budget Report
 - a. Department of Finance Monthly Update
No action was taken.
13. Unfinished Business
None.
14. New Business
 - a. Consideration of an Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Commercial Lease Agreement Between The Wilds LLC and the City of Petersburg for the Property Located at 277 River Street, Petersburg, VA
Approved.
 - b. Resolution Requesting the Commonwealth Transportation Commissioner and VDOT Convey the Title to the Rights-of-Way Within the Corporate Limits of said City to the City Council of Petersburg
Approved.
 - c. Resolution Expressing the Concurrence of the City Council of the City of Petersburg with the Inducement Resolution Adopted by the Economic Development Authority of Henrico County, Virginia, and Approving the Issuance of Revenue Bonds for the Benefit of Southside Regional Medical Center
No public comments.
Approved.
15. City Manager's Report and Special Reports
None.
16. Business or reports from the Clerk
None.
17. Business or reports from the City Attorney
None.
18. Adjournment