



COUNCIL

Communicates

Highlights from City Council Meetings

May 6, 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

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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

3:00 pm

1. Roll Call

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

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)(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 Actual or Probable Litigation; and

c. §2.2-3711(A)(29) of the Code of Virginia for the Purpose of Discussion Regarding the Subject of 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; and

d. §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

Work Session

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 Proclamation
 - a. National Police Week Proclamation
 - b. The Petersburg Garden Club Proclamation
 - c. Petersburg Learning Collaborative Healthy Hearts Initiative Proclamation
6. Presentations
 - a. Crater Area Coalition on Homelessness (CACH) Continuum of Care
No action taken.
 - b. Crater PDC Community Identity and Assets: Foundations for Future Branding and Economic Development
Moved to another meeting.
 - c. Planning Commission Compensation Presentation and Discussion
No action taken.
 - d. Petersburg Area Transit Disadvantaged Business Enterprise "DBE" Program - Queenie Byrd, Transit Program Manager/DBE Liaison
No action taken.

7. Public Comments

Patty Griffith

Ms. Griffith mentioned that she created an outdoor music program last year, though she did not specify the organization it was for. She added that Petersburg is interested in her program and that she plans to bring it to the Ironworks this summer.

Cory Harris

Mr. Harris emphasized the need for the City to prioritize technology, stating it is the key to building generational wealth. He shared that his non-profit organization had traveled to another city, where they helped 500 young people start businesses. Additionally, he announced he would no longer reside in Petersburg and would be assisting Bobby Beverly. Mr. Harris expressed thanks to Councilman Cuthbert for sending a sympathy card after his father's passing. He also voiced concerns about the City neglecting its high poverty rate, stressing that a focus on technology could help eliminate poverty.

Barb Rudolph

Ms. Rudolph expressed her interest in learning more about Petersburg's budget process and inquired about the schedule for community meetings. She stated the City will begin collecting casino revenue during the upcoming fiscal year and noted that Danville had created a citizen committee to give input on casino fund spending. She suggested that Petersburg establish a similar committee. Additionally, she mentioned that she might not be able to attend the next Council meeting and agreed that the Planning Commission should not receive compensation.

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

a. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

- Minutes of the April 15, 2025 City Council Closed Session
- Minutes of the April 15, 2025 City Council Meeting
- Minutes of the April 17, 2025 City Council Special Closed Session Meeting
- Minutes of the April 23, 2025 City Council Special Joint Meeting with the Petersburg City Schools Board

b. FY25 PCPS Budget Amendment Complete Ordinance

c. First Read & Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Amendment to the FY25 Grants Fund

d. First Read & Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of a Request to Use the Budget Stabilization Fund

e. First Read & Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of Approval of the Proposed FY26 Petersburg City Public Schools Budget

f. First Read & Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of the FY26 Operating Budget

g. First Read & Schedule Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Purchase Option Agreement

Between the City of Petersburg and SUBSTRATE LLC for the Development of 130 N. Union Street and 122-124 West Tabb Street Located in Petersburg, VA
h. First Read & Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance Adopting the FY26 Tax Rate

Approved.

Motion approved to add leftover funds for the Stadium Enhancement Committee to the Consent Agenda. Mayor Parham abstained.

9. Special Reports
None.
10. Monthly Reports
Public Works presented an update on various City projects underway.
No action taken.
11. Finance and Budget Report
None.
12. Capital Projects Update
None.
13. Utilities
None.
14. Streets
None.
15. Facilities
None.
16. Economic Development
None.
17. City Manager's Agenda
The City Manager addressed the error in real estate tax bills, outlined the measures being implemented to prevent future billing mistakes, and offered an apology to the community.
18. Business or reports from the Clerk
None.
19. Business or reports from the City Attorney
None.
20. Adjournment