



COUNCIL

Communicates

Highlights from City Council Meetings

June 3, 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.

Special Council Meeting

3:00 pm

1. Roll Call
Mayor Parham, Councilman Jones, and Councilman Westbrook were absent on roll call.
2. Prayer
Led by Vice Mayor Hill.
3. Pledge of Allegiance
Led by Vice Mayor Hill.
4. Determination of the Presence of a Quorum
Quorum present.
5. Official Public Hearing
 - a. A Public Hearing for the Consideration of an Ordinance to Appropriate Funding for the Sports Training Facility (Fieldhouse) at Petersburg High School in the Amount of \$300,000.
Public Hearing
Barb Rudolph
Ms. Rudolph expressed that the ordinance will be approved. She suggested it would be beneficial for the City to issue a resolution stating that it has fulfilled its commitment to the Field House. Citing the Library Event Center as an example, she noted instances where the City had to allocate additional funds. She also inquired whether Bruce Smith would contribute \$3.5 million.
Approved.

6. Unfinished Business
 - a. Consideration of the Approval of the Proposed City of Petersburg FY26 Operating Budget.
A motion to accept the proposed budget was approved. Councilman Cuthbert voted no.
7. Adjournment

Closed Session

3:30 pm

1. Roll Call
Mayor Parham and Councilman Westbrook were absent on roll call.
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)(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

Council Work Session

5:00 pm

1. Roll Call
Vice Mayor Hill and Councilman Westbrook were absent on roll call.
2. Prayer
Led by Councilwoman Smith-Lee.
3. Pledge of Allegiance
Led by Mayor Parham.
4. Determination of the Presence of a Quorum
Quorum present.
5. Public Comments
Marlo Greene
Ms. Greene stated her desire to use visual aids during public comments, suggesting that the public could submit them a few days in advance of the council meetings. She also requested an explanation as to why visual aids are currently not permitted. Additionally, she mentioned an unusual visit to her home by someone placing red tags and stated that she does not want City personnel knocking on her door in the future. She also noted that the property at 1206 W. High St. needs to be red-tagged.

Amanda Wyatt

Ms. Wyatt, a resident of Pocahontas Island, owns a house that has been red-tagged. She expressed her thanks to Code Compliance for working with her to have the debris removed.

Barb Rudolph

Ms. Rudolph expressed her agreement with Marlo Greene regarding the use of presentations. She also requested information about Sycamore Grove. Additionally, she shared concerns about the salary compensation study, noting that it has been ongoing for over two years. She mentioned a lack of information on current staffing and salaries in the budget and requested that this be included in the final version. She emphasized that employees should be informed about the salary study first.

Bobby Beverly

Mr. Beverly addressed the Council regarding Cory Harris, stating his contributions through his non-profit organization, which has donated thousands of dollars, yet receives little recognition or respect. He emphasized the need for greater collaboration between the City and its residents and suggested that Mr. Harris deserves an apology. He also mentioned Mr. Harris' virtual museum work with Dr. Farley and expressed concerns about historical inaccuracies, clarifying that Petersburg was not the first to observe Memorial Day, but rather that it originated

in South Carolina. He concluded by thanking the Council for their efforts and urged them to address the situation with Cory Harris.

Professor Witiak

Professor Witiak called for greater transparency, particularly regarding the cancellation of Sycamore Grove, for which no clear explanation has been provided. He also emphasized the need for greater transparency regarding the courthouse project. She pointed out that more time has been spent discussing sandwich board signs than the courthouse project.

6. Approval of Consent Agenda (to include minutes of previous meetings):
 - a. Minutes of Previous Meeting(s): - May 20, 2025, City Council Closed Session Minutes.
 - b. First Read and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Purchase Agreements Between the City of Petersburg and URBAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION for the Development of 135 Franklin Street, 116 and 120 N. Jefferson Street, Located in Petersburg, VA.
 - c. First Read and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Purchase Agreement Between the City of Petersburg and Anthony Jackson for the Development of 723 Harding Street, Located in Petersburg, VA.
 - d. First Read and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Purchase Agreement Between the City of Petersburg and Barber Construction for the Development of 201 Graham Street and 617 S. Sycamore Street, Located in Petersburg, VA.
 - e. First, Read and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance to Approve an Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Petersburg Pertaining to Short-Term Rental Uses in the City of Petersburg.
 - f. First, read and Schedule a Public Hearing to amend and readopt the City Ordinance Pertaining to the Planning Commission to add Language Clarifying the Ability to compensate Planning Commission Members.
 - g. First Read and Schedule a Public Hearing for Michal Knick to Appeal a Decision Made by the Architectural Review Board Regarding 224 E Fillmore Street in the Poplar Lawn Historic District that Determined the Windows Should be Repaired when Possible and Replaced if Necessary with Wood Clad in Aluminum - the Applicant Seeks to Replace All Windows with Wood Clad in Aluminum.
 - h. First Read and Schedule a Public Hearing to Approve the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds for Program Year 2025 - 2026 and Fiscal Year 2026 as Recommended by the CDBG Advisory Board.
 - l. First, read and schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Amendment to the FY26 Grants Fund.

Approved.

7. Special Reports
 - a. LISC Petersburg - Jane Ferrara, Executive Director of LISC Virginia.
No questions or action taken.
 - b. Presentation of the Recommended Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Fund Subrecipients for Program Year 2025 - 2026 and Fiscal Year 2026.
No action taken.
8. Monthly Reports
None.
9. Finance and Budget Report
None.
10. Capital Projects Update
None.
11. Utilities
 - a. June Presentation.
No action taken.
12. Streets
None.
13. Facilities
None.
14. Economic Development
None.
15. City Manager's Agenda
 - a. Discussion on Amending the City of Petersburg Zoning Ordinance to Remove the Requirement for a Special Use Permit for Public or Government Buildings and to Allow Animal Pounds in A, Agricultural District Regulations.
No action taken.
 - b. COPS and SAFER Grant Presentations.
Council agreed to proceed with the grants.
 - c. Multi-Year Strategic Plan Finance Update - Davenport & Company, LLC.
Moved to June 17 meeting.
16. Business or reports from the Clerk
None.

17. Business or reports from the City Attorney
None.
18. Adjournment