



COUNCIL

Communicates

Highlights from City Council Meetings

September 2, 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

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Ward 6

Anette Smith-Lee

alee@petersburg-va.org

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
Councilors Jones, Westbrook, and Smith-Lee were not present at roll call.
2. Closed Session
The purpose of this meeting is to convene in the closed session pursuant to:
 - a. §2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia for the Purpose of Discussion Pertaining to Performance, Assignment, Salaries, and Appointment of Specific Public Officers, Employees, and Appointees of the City of Petersburg, Specifically Including But Not Limited to Discussion of the Performance, Assignment, Salaries and Appointment of a Specific Public Officers, Employees, and Appointees of the City of Petersburg; and
 - b. §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
 - c. §2.2-3711(A)(6) Regarding the Discussion or Consideration of the Investment of Public Funds Where Competition or Bargaining is Involved, Where if Made Public, the Financial Interest of the Governmental Unit Would Be Adversely Affected; and
 - d. §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 Provisions of Legal Advice by the City Attorney,

Specifically Including But Not Limited to Discussion Regarding the Matters of Probable Litigation
e. §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

3. Adjournment

No action taken by Council during or following the Closed Session meeting.

Joint Meeting with Planning & City Council

5:00 pm

1. Roll Call

All present.

2. Determination of the Presence of a Quorum

A quorum was present for both the Planning Commission and City Council.

3. Official Public Hearings

a. Public Hearing and Consideration of an Ordinance to Approve a Request by Chris Winslow of Winslow, McCurry & MacCormac, PLLC, on Behalf of SP-Thirteen Properties, LLC, for a Special Use Permit to Operate an Assisted Living Facility at 36 West Fillmore Street, Parcel ID 022360001, in the R-B Office-Apartment Zoning District

Many people spoke at the public hearing who supported and opposed the Ordinance. Council sent the Ordinance back to the Planning Commission for further review and recommendation.

4. Adjournment

City Council 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. Public Comments
Ken Pritchett

Mr. Pritchett inquired about the status of repairs for the Oak Hill Bridge. The city manager explained that both short-term and long-term solutions were being considered. Mr. Pritchett also raised questions about the repair of the Lafayette Street Bridge and whether a citizens committee would be established to provide input on the use of casino funds. Mayor Parham indicated that a citizens committee would be formed.

Marlo Green

Ms. Green shared that residents of Pocahontas Island attended the South Central Wastewater Treatment Authority meeting, where it was noted that the authority has significant funds, yet none are being allocated to the Pocahontas Island neighborhood. The city manager was present at the meeting. The Pocahontas Island residents requested that once upgrades to the treatment facility are completed, the roads on the island be repaved. Ms. Green also announced a candlelight concert scheduled for September 25 at the Appomattox Event Center. Additionally, she attended a Preservation Virginia meeting focused on the history of the Jarrett House, where efforts are underway to uncover untold stories. A webinar on the topic is being planned.

David Batts

Mr. Batts inquired about the status of the study on repairing the drainage system, noting that the recent storm caused significant damage to numerous buildings. He questioned when action would be taken to address the issue. He also expressed concern that while the city provided a loan for Hotel Petersburg, funds are not being allocated to critical infrastructure improvements.

The City did not loan money to Hotel Petersburg. The loans to Hotel Petersburg, through the EDA, were provided by DHCD and VTC, which Hotel Petersburg will repay. The Stormwater Study (\$2.5M+ grant-funded) is still underway and should be completed in 2026. The City has received over \$100M in grant funding for infrastructure improvements, and upgrades are underway to the main water line, the Poor Creek area, Downtown, and other projects throughout the City.

6. Approval of Consent Agenda (to include minutes of previous meetings):
 - a. Minutes of Previous Meetings:
 - July 15, 2025 Closed Session
 - July 15, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting
 - July 24, 2025 Special Meeting

- b. First Read and to Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Amendment to the FY26 Grants Fund
- c. First Read and to Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of the FY26 Carry Forward Requests From the Previous Fiscal Year
- d. First Read and to Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Purchase Agreement Between the City of Petersburg and Dale Pittman for the Development of 117 Lafayette Street (Portion of Property) Located in Petersburg, VA
- e. First Read and to Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Purchase Agreements Between the City of Petersburg and Daniel Smith Real Estate LLC, for the Development of Lots 4, 6, 9, and 12 Ross Court, Located in Petersburg, Virginia
- f. First Read and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance to Approve a Request by Anthony Lewis, High Stepper Enterprise, LLC, on Behalf of Paula Wynn Harris, for a Special Use Permit to Operate a Stand-Alone Vehicle Repair Shop at 1311 Commerce Street, Parcel ID 024150800, in the M-1, Light Industrial Zoning District
- g. 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 for the Purpose of Updating and Clarifying Sign and Advertising Regulations to Address Ongoing Complaints and Issues Pertaining to Certain Advertising Devices Throughout the City
- h. 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 for the Purpose of Incorporating Additional Landscaping Requirements for New Land Development and Off-Street Parking Areas
- i. 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 for the Purpose of Allowing Municipal Animal Pounds or Shelters in the A, Agricultural Zoning District and Removing a Requirement for an Approved Special Use Permit for Public and Government Buildings and Public Utilities and Services in the City
- j. First Read and to Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance to Approve Awarding a 1.5% One-Time Bonus (Approved by the Virginia General Assembly and Governor) to Employees of the City of Petersburg Department of Social Services
- k. First Read and to Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Amendment to the FY26 General Fund

Approved.

- 7. Special Reports
 - a. Tri-Cities Realtors Association Presentation
- No action taken.

b. Petersburg Transit Modernization Initiative Update - Darius Mason, Petersburg Area Transit, and Danielle McCray, Kimley Horn, and Department of Rail and Public Transportation Representatives

No action taken.

c. UVA Presentation - Innovate Petersburg Fund

No action taken.

d. FY26 Capital Improvement Budget

No action taken.

e. Staff Update on Recreational Substance Retail Uses

No action taken.

f. Petersburg Department of Social Services Presentation on Federal Law Changes Impacting SNAP and Medicaid

No action taken.

8. Monthly Reports

None.

9. Finance and Budget Report

None.

10. Capital Projects Update

None.

11. Utilities

None.

12. Streets

None.

13. Facilities

None.

14. Economic Development

None.

15. City Manager's Agenda

a. Status Update of Project Management Reassignment for the Courthouse Project; Poor Creek Water, Wastewater and Water Tank; Locks Watermain; Police Station; Animal Shelter; Southside Depot; Oak Hill Bridge; Bank Street Hole; Stormwater Study; Wythe Street Bridge; Storm Clean Up; Wilcox Lake Dam; Grass Cuttings, Cemeteries and Others; Former Roper Property, Paving Downtown Parking Lots,

Petersburg Harbor, Mount Vernon Water Tank and Pump Station, Casino, Lead Pipe Replacement, Virginia Linen, and Travel Inn
JMT presented on Conditions of Water / Wastewater Infrastructure in City
No action taken.

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