

The regular meeting of the Petersburg City Council was held on Tuesday, November 1, 2016, at the Union Train Station. Mayor Myers called the regular meeting to order at 6:30p.m.

REGULAR-SCHEDULED MEETING – 6:30 P.M.

1. ROLL CALL:

Present:

- Council Member David R. Coleman
- Council Member Darrin L. Hill
- Council Member Brian A. Moore
- Council Member Treska Wilson-Smith
- Vice Mayor Samuel Parham
- Mayor W. Howard Myers

Absent: Council Member John A. Hart, Sr. (arrived at 6:33pm and left out sick at 7:18pm)

Present from City Administration:

- City Attorney Joseph E. Preston
- Interim City Manager Tom Tyrrell
- Clerk of Council Nykesha Jackson

2. CLOSED SESSION:

City Attorney Joseph Preston stated that it was City Council’s desire to enter into a closed session under Section 2.2-3711.A (1) of the Code of Virginia under Subsection 7 for discussion of legal matters relating to litigation.

Council Member Moore moved that the City Council go into closed session for the purposes noted by the Assistant City Attorney. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Parham. There was no discussion on the motion, which was approved on roll call vote.

On roll call vote, voting yes: Coleman, Hill, Moore, Wilson-Smith, Parham and Myers; Absent: Hart

City Council entered closed session at 6:33p.m.

CERTIFICATION:

Council Member Coleman made a motion to return City Council into open session. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Parham. There was no discussion on the motion, which was approved on roll call vote.

On roll call vote, voting yes: Coleman, Hart, Hill, Moore, Wilson-Smith, Parham and Myers

Vice Mayor Parham made a motion to certify the purposes of the closed session were authorized under the Freedom of Information Act and that while in closed session only the matters for going into closed session were discussed. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hart. There was no discussion on the motion, which was approved on roll call vote.

On roll call vote, voting yes: Coleman, Hart, Hill, Moore, Wilson-Smith, Parham and Myers

16-R-63 A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING, AS REQUIRED BY THE CODE OF VIRGINIA, SECTION 2.2-3712, THAT TO THE BEST OF EACH MEMBER’S KNOWLEDGE, ONLY PUBLIC BUSINESS MATTERS LAWFULLY EXEMPTED FROM OPEN MEETING REQUIREMENTS OF VIRGINIA LAW WERE DISCUSSED IN THE CLOSED SESSION, AND ONLY SUCH PUBLIC

BUSINESS MATTERS AS WERE IDENTIFIED IN THE MOTION CONVENING THE CLOSED SESSION WERE HEARD, DISCUSSED, OR CONSIDERED.

3. MOMENT OF SILENCE:

- a. Clerk of Council, Nykesha Jackson, led council and the audience in a moment of silence.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

- a. Clerk of Council, Nykesha Jackson, led council and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. PRESENTATION/PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS: (Each presentation will be limited to 10 minutes.)

- a. My Home Initiative Presentation

BACKGROUND: The city owns over 100 vacant lots, and several lots with improvements. The comprehensive plan and the strategic plan for the City is to get these vacant lots back on the real estate roles of the City and in the hands of citizens. The "My Home Initiative" aims to do just that by offering to a citizen, a public servant, an existing homeowner and a developer the opportunity to purchase the vacant lot and within an established time line develop a single family residential unit on the property. The initiative has three categories for citizens, developers or existing homeowners to participate. Purchase the vacant land to construct a home, purchase the corner lot to consolidate with an existing lot, or a developer will have the opportunity to purchase contiguous land for the development of a subdivision. Applicants who participate in this program will be referred to a housing counseling agency, who will take them through the pre-qualification process. The program is a collaborative effort of local government, non-profit organizations, and the financial community.

RECOMMENDATION: For information only.

Michelle Peters (Director of Planning and Community Development), Landis Faulcon (Director of Economic Development) and Richie McKeithen (City Assessor) presented a PowerPoint presentation.

6. CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Minutes: Regular City Council Meetings: October 4, 2016, October 18, 2016; Special City Council Meetings, October 11, 2016, October 17, 2016, October 20, 2016, October 24, 2016.
- b. Request a public hearing on the disposition of publicly-owned property for the express purpose of offering vacant lots to citizens for homeownership, expansion of existing residential lots, and attracting residential investment through the "My Home Initiative (MHI)."

Vice Mayor Parham made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda that scheduled public hearings for November 15, 2016, regular City Council meeting, with an amendment to the code on the October 18th meeting. It should be 16-ORD-31. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hill. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Coleman, Hill, Moore, Wilson-Smith, Parham and Myers; Absent: Hart

7. OFFICIAL PUBLIC HEARINGS: (In accordance with the Rules of Council, public comment will be heard before discussion by Council. Once discussion has started, no further input from the public will be accepted. Each speaker will be limited to three (3) minutes.)

- a. A public hearing for a Special Use Permit pursuant to Article 23, Section 4() of the Zoning Ordinance to have a solar power generation facility at 950 (rear) Winfield Road, T.P. 034-02-0003. The property is zoned R-5, Multiple Dwelling District.

Michelle Peters, Director of Planning and Community Development, stated "I am asking of City Council can please continue this case. This is a new land-use in the State of Virginia as well as the State of North Carolina. In the midst of preparing the package and getting this scheduled for a public hearing there was a seminar and symposium to discuss the pros and cons of having a solar panel farm in a community. I think that it is only to the benefit of the citizens of the City of Petersburg that we have all the information before we come before you to ask that you would grant an approval. If you can please continue that case, this is the recommendation that is coming from the Planning Staff.

Council Member Coleman made a motion to continue the case. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hill. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Coleman, Hill, Moore, Wilson-Smith, Parham and Myers; Absent: Hart

- b. A public hearing for a Special Use Permit pursuant to Article 23, Section 4(12) of the Zoning Ordinance to operate a child care center in a residential district, subject to certain terms and conditions at 2568 N. Stedman Drive, T.P. 039-01-0012. The property is zoned R-1, Single Family Residence District.

BACKGROUND: The applicant has requested to operate a Child Care Center within an existing church located in a residential district. Ms. Jones will be seeking licensure through the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Social Services, but before she can obtain a license she must receive authorization from the City of Petersburg. Ms. Jones is a former correctional officer at Sussex State Prison, and has many years of childcare experience. She has operated an in-home daycare, as well as, a child care facility as recent as last year. Ms. Jones closed her last facility due to limited space and no opportunity to expand. Ms. Jones was presented with an opportunity to once again, own and operate a child care center. The proposed child care center will operate from 5:00 am – 6:00pm, Monday – Friday, and on an as needed basis on the weekends. The child care facility will co-exist with the church, but each will operate independently.

RECOMMENDATION: Following a duly advertised public hearing, Council may affirm the Planning Commission recommendation, overturn the Planning Commission recommendation, table for further consideration, or return the item under consideration to the Planning Commission requesting further review. The recommendation of the Planning Commission was to approve the special use permit request with a vote of 7-0.

Michelle Peters, Director of Planning and Community Development, gave information on the request for the Special Use Permit for 2568 N. Stedman Drive.

Ms. Jackson opened the floor for public comments.

Richard Stewart, 129 Rolfe Street, stated "I am not against this but is there any requirement that they check sexual predators that live in that area but you open these places. You have kids there. I asked this question once before at a meeting years ago and they said I was stupid. Do they check first for sexual predators in the perimeter?"

Mrs. Peters stated "There are no requirements in the zoning that we would check for sexual predators; however a daycare facility is licensed by the State of Virginia. So that very well can be a requirement of the State. But there is nothing in our code that would require us to run that check. The applicant would have to get approval and a license from the department of social services for the daycare."

Seeing no further hands, Ms. Jackson closed the public hearing.

There was discussion among City Council Members, staff and the applicant.

Council Member Wilson-Smith made a motion to allow Ms. Cheryl Jones the Special Use Permit pursuant to Article 23 Section 4(12) of the Zoning Ordinance to operate a child care center in a residential

district at 2568 N. Stedman Drive. The motion was seconded by Council Member Moore. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Coleman, Hill, Moore, Wilson-Smith, Parham and Myers; Absent: Hart

16-ORD-45 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE SPECIAL USE PERMIT PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 23 SECTION 4(12) OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE TO OPERATE A CHILD CARE CENTER IN A RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT AT 2568 N. STEDMAN DRIVE.

- c. A public hearing for the City's issuance of up to \$6,500,000 of its general obligation revenue anticipation notes.

BACKGROUND: The City has ongoing cash flow needs to fund current operations for this fiscal year. It has been advertised as a public hearing for the issuance of a general obligation subsequent resolution at the next Council meeting to approve the formal terms of the issue and approve the winning bidder's proposal.

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend City Council adopts the resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of General Obligation Revenue Anticipation Note in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$6,500,000.

Nelsie Birch, Interim Finance Director, gave brief information regarding the public hearing on the City's issuance of up to \$6,500,000 of its general obligation revenue anticipation notes.

Ms. Jackson opened the floor for public comments.

Seeing no hands, Ms. Jackson closed the public hearing.

There was discussion among City Council Members and staff.

Vice Mayor Parham made a motion to adopt the resolution authorizing the general obligation revenue anticipation notes in the maximum of \$6.5 million. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hill. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Coleman, Hill, Moore, Wilson-Smith, Parham and Myers; Absent: Hart

16-R-64 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTE IN THE MAXIMUM AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$6,500,000.

Council Member Hill stated "Council Member Hart just got drastically ill. I think his daughter is picking him up. He has been in the bathroom and he is not feeling well. He will not be with us today. He is outside right now waiting on someone to pick him up. Let us keep him in our prayers today. Thank you."

8. **PUBLIC INFORMATION PERIOD:** The Public Information Period is established by the Rules of Council to hear input from City residents or owners of businesses in the City. It will last for a maximum of 30 minutes. Speakers will be called in the order that they have signed up to speak. If there are ten or fewer speakers, each shall speak for a maximum of 3 minutes. If there are more than six (6) people desiring to speak, the time allotted to each person may be adjusted or the number of speakers limited to meet the time limitation. A speaker may speak on items **except those that are listed on tonight's Council agenda.** Any matter brought before the attention of the City Council during the public information period will not be acted upon by the City Council at this meeting.

Annie Harris, 1 North Crater Road, stated "I am coming before you guys because we were told by Parks and Recreation that there will not be a Petersburg Christmas Parade. So my business is not just a business where I am serving as a restaurant. It is a dance studio where I service children and parents of the community. We have been in business for six years and now this will be our 6th parade but now we will not be

able to participate in the parade because you are telling us that you guys don't have the budget for the parade or the cost for the parade. I want to know what we can do as a community because everybody is looking forward to this. Thousands of people come out to support the City's parade. If Petersburg doesn't have a City Christmas Parade what kind of cheer or what kind of joy are you going to give the community? I feel as though we should try to fundraise as a community with business owners and other local people that would like to donate towards the cost to meet the budget cost or we can actually have volunteers come out and help. Like law enforcement volunteer to come out for those two hours of time frame to help so that the City can have a parade and the children, community and seniors in the community will be able to participate in the parade as well."

Richard Stewart, 129 Rolfe Street, stated "What I am here for today, I am back again to talk about my neighborhood. Now I want you to listen to that (plays recording). That is vehicles, 18 wheelers, going through our community putting dust and grime. Old folks that are 95 years old cannot breathe. A lady over there is on a respirator. It is terrible and the question is 'Does black lives matter?' I cannot breathe. This is what the old folks are saying now 'I can't breathe. Does black lives matter?' Why Pocahontas the oldest black community in the USA that we have to put up with this kind of stuff right here at our front doors, on our roof. I just spent \$7,000 finishing a roof off. The lime and stuff destroyed it and one of my houses is from 1850 that free Negroes lived there and that it has just about destroyed that. The other day a sweeper came over and made it worse. So it's not just a Petersburg problem it's a regional problem. Dinwiddie, Prince George and Surry and a couple other Cities' Council Members have talked to me and I have showed them the video of our problem over there. So what can you do? My final link is this....This was put in my hand today. The Department of Environmental Quality and they say effective probably sometime this week they will be into Pocahontas and see our suffering because there is concern with what's going on over there. But I want to put the City first. I will not be back again with this dust. The next time I come back I hope to come back and ask you for some money. Thank you."

Cory Harris, 2316 Anderson Street, stated "This is becoming quite redundant. You cannot fix Petersburg without fixing the people. And the citizens of this City, they are angry; their frustrated; and their confused. I have said this before we are not your enemy. We just want our voice to be heard. I tell you a quick story. I was in a car with a woman I was doing work for and she was driving and on Interstate 95 she just fell into tears. She just started crying. The car moved and swayed left and right. We pulled the car over and she was crying with her nine year old daughter beside her. The girl was saying mommy what's wrong. She looked at her child and she was telling her child 'Mommy can't pay the rent, mommy can't pay her phone bill' and that she just wanted to die. Can you imagine being involved with someone who is saying that? Four months ago I talked to Councilman Hart and I talked to someone through social media. And the gentleman said that he didn't know whether he wanted to die or not. And I sent Councilman Hart that information. We have to start focusing on the citizens of the City. I understand what Robert Bobb Group has to do but we cannot neglect the people. This is exactly what we are doing. We are neglecting the citizens of Petersburg. They are your biggest investors and they deserve the respect. They were here with the good, the bad and ugly. They are with you and instead of just throwing powerful words, how about throwing powerful results. Thank you."

Talibah Majeed, 1847 Brandon Avenue, stated "Just like many people in the City I am very disappointed. I am disappointed not just about decisions that were made but the process that was used in making those decisions. There are so many times when I've been in meetings, City Council meetings, and a decision was voted on and passed and then we hear soon after that that a decision has been made to reverses that. And some of the decisions were decisions that the community really expressed their concern about the outcome of the questions. For instance, when there was a vote for a 10% reduction in pay. I personally was not happy with that across the board because it doesn't make since when people making over \$100,000. So what was voted on was that people in a certain bracket over \$80,000 was going to get a 20% reduction. And then later on we find out that now everybody is getting a 10% across the board reduction in pay. So that's what I heard. So if that's not true then we need to hear from you. There have been people during a time of crisis getting promotions and raises. That doesn't make sense and I am not even a political science major. That just doesn't make sense on just a human level, on a practical common sense level. That does not make sense. And it's disappointing to find out that these are the kinds of decisions that are being made when you're the leadership in the community and were sort of stuck with you. It's almost as if you live someplace else. I just can't figure out when you have a change that needs to happen. I am just hopeful that the Bobb Group will

actually help implement that change. My concern is that a really great plan is going to be developed but that the competency to implement that plan is not going to be available. And it seems that competency has been a real issue because otherwise I am not sure how we can explain the City being in such difficulty right now. I am thinking that the Bobb Group may come up with some of the same suggestions that some of us came up with because we are very intelligent and we did research and we love the City. I am hoping that you will allow whatever the Bobb Group comes up to actually be implemented with 100% of your support. Thank you.”

Ron Flock, 1708 Pender Avenue, stated “I like to go off my topic for just a second. You all just gave us an opportunity to speak on something and then we were denied when additional information was added to the equation which is this written resolution. In the month of October, some members of council violated multiple sections of the Rules of Council, the City Charter and Codes of Virginia. Most of all you have violated the trust of the residents bestowed upon you. Let’s not start the month of November with the same or more. Even though the City Attorney is advising you as to what is and what is not illegal. It is solely your responsibility to know, understand and abide by the rules and law that govern your action. It is not the City Attorney fault if council does not abide by the law. It is the ignorance of the law on the part of the Council Members that have allowed for these illegal actions to be taken. I would like to remind each of you in court of law ignorance is no excuse. On another note next Tuesday is Election Day. I just want to make sure that everyone gets out and vote. When you are out there voting at every single polling station there will be someone collecting signatures to remove some of these members of council who are self-righteous criminals who have infected our City Council and our government. If you would like to volunteer please see me after the meeting.”

Leonard Curry, 2014 Woodland Road, stated “I appreciate the work that you have done as Council Members and time you put into your job. The problem is a lot of you seem to be misinformed. So despite the efforts that you are putting into your work, we are not making much progress. Our budget is unclear and we have revenue numbers that are not correct. The City Treasurer comes to you and says there is \$10 million in delinquent property taxes but our budget says there is \$2 million. Not one single member of council asked a single question of the treasurer when he was here. You didn’t say why you have collected 15% of delinquencies and how are you going to collect the other 85%. Are some of the people who owe the money dead or have moved away? Is it uncollectable? As council you should press the treasurer when he comes here. When the Revenue of Commissioner came she said she expected \$40 million but actually she said she only collected \$38 million. That is a \$2 million dollar error rate and that this is more than 5%. No one said why such a large error and how you make so many mistakes. How could you miss \$2 million dollars? Because the budget numbers are not correct I am asking under the rules that are governing the council meeting today that the City provide the following information at the next council meeting. The rules say that if you ask a question you will answer the next time. The first quarter of spending this year, compared to the first quarter last year, and first quarter of revenue of this year compared to last year and the names of the offices in which the offices are making more than \$100,000 a year. I am asking that these numbers be projected on the screen so that everyone in the audience can see the numbers and an explanation behind the numbers. Further, some of the council members at the last meeting stated that they didn’t know what their duties were. I was a journalist in Washington for 38 years covering politics and government. You are overseeing agencies. You are actually an oversight committee. It might help if you went to Senate or House of US Representatives and found out how those committees worked. Or if you can’t get to Washington go to Richmond and see how the Senate and House Committees work there when they are overseeing agencies and what kind of questions they ask the people who are doing work. Some of the council members have conveyed information that is not quite clear and correct. We were told that the Bobb Group had rescued the City of Detroit. The Detroit newspaper said that the Bobb Group worked on Detroit schools and that after firing many teachers and converting public schools into charter schools the schools system had a budget under the Bobb Group that was \$100 million dollars worse before the Bobb Group got there. The San Francisco Chronicle said that the Bobb Group failed in Oakland and that the Washington Post said that Robert Bobb personally was driven out of town because of suspicion of self-dealing. Why don’t we look at the internet to see what other newspapers are reporting before we get these people? That is all I have to say. Do more homework.”

Barb Rudolph, 1675 Mt. Vernon Street, stated “I am looking at tonight as the last meeting before you know some different team members will be part of council which will happen after the next election. I know they won’t be installed until January but it will be a different team so I think it timely for us in the audience who are

really the team owners, since we are the tax payers and we pay your salaries, to do an assessment of how this team is doing. I think we find it lacking, well at least I do. There is very little that citizens are able to derive from these council meetings and one of the problems is that I look back over October, September and August there has been twice as many special called emergency meetings as there have been regular meetings. And those are the meetings that take place often during the day in small places and are consisting almost solely of closed sessions where citizens wait almost an hour to ninety minutes to two hours to just be greeted by no action whatsoever. The conclusion from this is what's the process that this team uses for discussion and decision making? It's not being revealed to the public. All we can see is the results which suggest that this government body is broken. Other speakers have commented upon there's been a lot of decisions that have been made and reversed. They haven't been explained and we are supposed to be satisfied that there is some kind of super-secret confidential things going on that the public cannot be trusted to know about. We don't understand your rationale and don't know what things are approved or rejected. You're hiding behind closed doors and these increasingly frequent special meetings. So we are left to try and kind of fill in the blanks ourselves of what's going on. Now we found that some of the ward meetings when you go to a ward meeting you can engage with the individual councilor and sometimes in the case like of the meeting a couple of weeks ago with Mr. Hart, the Bobb Group was there and it was very interesting. All of that could have been or a part of it could have been shared with the process of selecting these consultants. And it's not ward meeting and specials meetings that are not transparent at all are not a substitute for open discussion at regular meetings. You are the decision making body but we have no idea what your deliberations are and why you are deciding things. It's not right and business needs to be conducted in the view of the public and that's how democracy works. And when I bring this up it's not about political parties, it's not about race, and it's not about what part of the City we live in or how long we have lived here it's just a basic right that people."

Dean McCray, 20 West Bank Street, stated "I want to go off of my presentation for a second too and say I love a Christmas Parade. I own a business in town, McCray Electric, and if anybody here from Park and Recreation I will make any donation up to \$2,500. We are here to show support for Blandford Church, Centre Hill Mansion and the Siege Museum – collectively known as the Petersburg Museums – and are anxious for the City to quickly structure a public-private partnership taking steps to have the sites reopen soon. The Petersburg Preservation Task Force is an incorporated Not-For-Profit group consisting of four dozen community activists who identified this City's preservation challenges and opportunities. We began work five months ago to revitalize the City's tourism marketing and interpretation of its heritage. Nine meetings been convened since the end of May and five meetings have been held over the same period with the members of City Government. In response to the September 30 public notice requesting proposals, the Task Force submitted a strategic plan which includes three major goals: (1) The creation of a public-private partnership to raise funds to manage and operate exhibits and collections at City-owned sites, (2) Tell a more comprehensive story of Petersburg – a diverse people with diverse experiences and (3) Marketing the history of Petersburg through media campaigns that educate people to visit Petersburg. And the PPTF has not been idle – it received funding to operate the museums at least until January 31, 2017. Let me repeat that – the task force has developed a plan and has raised the funds so the museums can be opened and operated for the next 90 days without costing the City a dime. During that period – the task force plans to expand its reach and find other sources that allow the sites to stay open indefinitely. Some members of City government suggested money can be saved by cutting off utilities and maintenance to the museums. As a developer of old buildings, I can tell you – if you cut off the electricity and lock the doors – you will eventually lose the buildings. To cut off the climate control and daily inspection of the sites – you will lose the buildings. Utilities for the three buildings cost about \$17,000 per year – yet if that is considered too much of a burden – the PPFT will pick up the costs; To clear up any confusion regarding our efforts – the Task Force will discuss assuming all costs of operating the museums apart from those costs that are negligible or undefinable due to economic of scale. To show our good faith we have applied for a \$30,000 grant from the National Park Service for the erection of new Civil Rights Trail markers placed in the historic Triangle Business District. It also has fought for release of VDOT and other funds to finish restoration of the Southside Depot as soon as possible. It also identified six key issues needing immediate attention to preserve the City's delicate historic fabric – an important component of this region's economic development. We agree with Vice Mayor Parham saying at the October 18th City Council Meeting he wanted the City to expedite re-opening the museums and provide access to the sites during the holiday. Having these buildings open during this busy period will bolster the City's spirits – and give our City an opportunity to gain back much needed revenue. We look forward to working with the City soon to

continue telling Petersburg's story Thank you all."

Atiba Muse, 104 South Plains Drive, stated "Instead of me Andrea Hutchins is going to be speaking this evening."

Andrea Huntjens, 230 High Street, stated "Just a quick history. I moved here in May with my husband. We are very excited to come to Petersburg and we are very excited to be a part of this community. I opened a small grocery store across from the Siege Museum. This would be a very important component to the revenue of my store which in turn would be revenue to the City. I think it's pretty simple. Today can be the beginning of a new day in the long history of Petersburg. Today the City can take steps to reopen its museums and continue support of its heritage tourism efforts through innovative and collaborative private support. As we mentioned before – the Petersburg Preservation Task Force is an incorporated Not-For-Profit group consisting of four dozen community activists, including myself, who identified this City's preservation challenges and opportunities. We began work 5 months ago working to revitalize the City's tourism marketing and interpretation of its heritage as it specifically applies to these nationally recognized and respected sites. The task force consists of respected members and representatives from Preservation Virginia, Historic Petersburg Foundation, Petersburg Garden Clubs, Friends of the Farmer's Bank, Battersea Foundation, Petersburg /museums Foundation, Virginia Civil War Trails, Virginia Civil Rights Trails, Scenic Virginia, Virginia Film Office, as well as other groups and organizations. The 40 or so individuals engaged in the Task Force represent a level of expertise far surpassing the skills of the few people the City could ever afford to have on its payroll. Additionally they are volunteers – driven by their passion for the legacy of this City. They hope – through numerous activities – to set an example and impart to the City government and the citizenry how to be stewards of the past. They desire to help school children – their parents – all of Petersburg's citizens – embrace telling the story of their heritage and pass this pride on to future generations. No matter who has final responsibility for managing and operating the museums, the PPTF wants to partner with like-minded organizations committed to the long-range sustainability of historic programs. To that end the Task Force has developed a Facebook page and a Go Fund Me site with the goal of raising \$50,000 to keep the museums open until Easter. The GFM site can be reached at <https://www.gofundme.com/petersburg>. We ask all the citizens of Petersburg to visit both sites and to contribute what they can – and make this a truly outstanding grassroots effort. Although the City government has been shaken by the events of the past few months – the people of Petersburg – can work together to share the unique experiences of this historic town. It is up to citizen- activists to find the path forward that leads to success...and success is defined by continuing to share Petersburg's legacy to generations to come. Thank you very much for hearing my vision."

Gloria Brown, 1557 South Sycamore Street, stated "I wanted to follow behind the two speakers to support opening our cherished resources in the City. That's what we have is our rich history to show the visitors that's what bought us here. The people here are just amazed and that is our gem. So when the museums got put into \$230,000 budget cut as the past speaker said if you close down any of these old buildings it's a wrap. Not just the buildings and the museums but all of the other events that we have that really brings Petersburg to the forefront. I would encourage you to support anything that is in your district to bring it back to life. This travel tourism is what Petersburg has to stand on at this time. We cannot close it down or essentially we will close Petersburg down. So that goes into what a follow-up on questions that I had previously that connects to the \$230,000 cut. I asked about the need for over 400 cellphones to employees of the City of Petersburg and why that is necessary. Those cost of those cellphones are \$213,000. So when we can bring in income in tourism we are just so fortunate. We drive up and down Interstate 95 and we have premium signage to advertise Petersburg. We are not utilizing it properly from Interstate 95, 75 miles that way, Interstate 95, 75 going that way and then coming up Interstate 85. We have signage to come to use. The funny thing is that when my family and I visited here to look for our building we drove into the City and saw the trail signs. We actually waited for a bus to pick us up but there was no bus. Now 12 years later its hello. Just to use that I really feel that I have not received an answer on why there is over 400 cellphones. That needs to be eliminated so that this money can go back into the pot. Also the rescinding on the absorbent of the salary raises. I am trying to understand that one too. Why everyone is mute on people getting \$20,000 to \$40,000 raises that equal over to over \$1 million and something dollars but we are putting the money that is bringing revenue and people into the City. I am waiting for a response and a resolution to what toppled over as I continue to say the apple cart. Where is Steve Hicks and Johnson Controls to understand what went down at the meeting to get us

to this place. I feel that the residence deserve to bring that all to a resolve. Thank you.”

9. BUSINESS OR REPORTS FOR/FROM THE MAYOR OR OTHER MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL:

- a. Consideration to approve Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to administer the State of Good Repair Grant for the City of Petersburg.

BACKGROUND: The City of Petersburg is requesting that VDOT administer the State of Good Repair grant that was awarded to the City for roadway maintenance and repairs throughout the City for fiscal years 2015-2019. Traditionally, the State of Good Repair grant is reimbursed to the City once roadwork is completed. This resolution will allow VDOT to pay vendors directly.

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend Council accept the resolution to allow VDOT to administer the State of Good Repair Grant.

There was discussion among City Council Members and staff.

Council Member Coleman made a motion to accept the resolution to allow VDOT to administer the State of Good Repair Grant. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hill. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Coleman, Hill, Moore, Parham and Myers; Voting No: Wilson-Smith; Absent: Hart

16-R-65 A RESOLUTION TO ALLOW VDOT TO ADMINISTER THE STATE OF GOOD REPAIR GRANT.

- b. Consideration of an appointment to the Appomattox River Water Authority Board.

BACKGROUND: The Appomattox River Water Authority consists of the Cities of Colonial Heights and Petersburg and the Counties of Chesterfield, Dinwiddie and Prince George. The Authority is responsible for the operation of the Appomattox River Water Treatment Plant.

The Authority Board includes one (1) Members and one (1) Alternate Member from each of the political subdivisions. City Council has, as have other member jurisdictions, traditionally appointed the locality's chief administrative officer as its representative on the Board and the Director of Public Works as the alternate.

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend Council appoint Tom Tyrrell, Interim City Manager to the Appomattox River Water Authority Board.

There was discussion among City Council Members.

Vice Mayor Parham made a motion appoint Tom Tyrrell, Interim City Manager, to the Appomattox River Water Authority Board. The motion was seconded by Council Member Moore. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Coleman, Hill, Moore, Wilson-Smith, Parham and Myers; Absent: Hart

16-R-66 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING TOM TYRRELL, INTERIM CITY MANAGER, TO THE APPOMATTOX RIVER WATER AUTHORITY BOARD.

- c. Consideration of an appointment to the South Central Wastewater Treatment Authority Board.

BACKGROUND: South Central Wastewater Treatment Authority operates the Petersburg Wastewater Plant, which serves the Cities of Colonial Heights and Petersburg along with the Counties of Chesterfield, Dinwiddie and Prince George.

The Authority Board includes one (1) Member and one (1) Alternate Member from each of the political subdivisions. City Council has, as have other jurisdictions, traditionally appointed the locality's chief

administrative on the Board and the Director of Public Works as the alternate.

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend Council appoint Tom Tyrrell, Interim City Manager to the South Central Wastewater Treatment Authority Board.

There was discussion among City Council Members and staff.

Council Member Moore made a motion appoint Tom Tyrrell, Interim City Manager, to the South Central Wastewater Treatment Authority Board. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Parham. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Coleman, Hill, Moore, Parham and Myers; Voting No: Wilson-Smith; Absent: Hart

16-R-67 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING TOM TYRRELL, INTERIM CITY MANAGER, TO THE SOUTH CENTRAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT AUTHORITY BOARD.

d. Consideration of an appointment to the Riverside Regional Jail Authority Board.

BACKGROUND: The Riverside Regional Jail Authority Board is a seven-member regional jail that oversees the regional jail facility serving the localities of Counties of Charles City Chesterfield, Prince George and Surry and the Cities of Colonial Heights, Hopewell and Petersburg. The City has one member and one alternate to serve on the board.

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend Council appoint Tom Tyrrell, Interim City Manager to the Riverside Regional Jail Authority Board.

Vice Mayor Parham made a motion appoint Tom Tyrrell, Interim City Manager, to the Riverside Regional Jail Authority Board. The motion was seconded by Mayor Myers. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Coleman, Hill, Moore, Parham and Myers; Voting No: Wilson-Smith; Absent: Hart

16-R-68 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING TOM TYRRELL, INTERIM CITY MANAGER, TO THE RIVERSIDE REGIONAL JAIL AUTHORITY BOARD.

Council Member Wilson-Smith stated "I have three items. At our last City Council meeting Mr. Richard Stewart approached the podium with a concern on Pocahontas Island. He returned tonight with that same concern and he has a video which shows the effects of what he is trying to tell us. It is in my opinion quite awful when you have trucks traveling through a residential neighborhood and all of the dust and smoke is traveling through the residence windows on their porches where they live and it makes unsafe living conditions and it makes unhealthy living conditions. I would like to make a motion that we ask or direct our City Manager to please look into what is going on on the island and see what can be done to rectify this situation."

Mayor Myers stated, "Councilwoman Wilson-Smith you do not need a motion to do that. You can direct him to do that."

Council Member Wilson-Smith stated "Okay I don't need to do a motion for that so what you please sir. The second thing that I have is that if you can recall the second meeting in September I presented this council and audience with a PowerPoint. I was very concerned about what we had voted on and our relationship with the citizens. PFM had given us some recommendations and they had followed through and still it left a lot to be desired. My concern was that we passed a higher meals tax and people come to this City for the history that we have. That's something that Petersburg has and it's our strongest suit. We have an organization, Petersburg Preservation Task Force, which you have heard from tonight who is willing to step up to the plate at no cost to this City. Therefore I would like to make a motion that this council approve allowing the Petersburg Preservation Task Force to take over the Blandford Church, Centre Hill Mansion and Siege Museum at no cost to the City and that the City Manager enter into negotiation with the Petersburg Preservation Task Force."

Council Member Wilson-Smith made a motion that this council approve allowing the Petersburg Preservation Task Force to take over the Blandford Church, Centre Hill Mansion and Siege Museum at no cost to the City and that the City Manager enter into negotiation with the Petersburg Preservation Task Force.

Vice Mayor Parham made a substitute motion that the City Manager Tom Tyrrell enter into negotiation with the Preservation Task Force because we do not have anything ahead of us. The motion was seconded by Council Member Coleman. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Coleman, Hill, Moore, Wilson-Smith, Parham and Myers; Absent: Hart

Council Member Wilson-Smith stated "The last thing that I have tonight is concern over the negative publicity over the water bill situation. Because it does not appear that what actually is being told is actually what is and I am wondering and hoping that this City by way of the City Manager could put out some type of statement to the citizens. There may be some citizens that are not getting their water bills but the availability if the water bills are still there. If we can put out a positive statement and if you don't get it you may find it online or you may check with the City or you may come down to City Hall but it remains the responsibility of the citizens. And that way if someone gets something by surprise or something differently it is not a surprise to them. This is something to turn this entire fiasco around. And that's all I have."

Council Member Coleman stated "Thank you. On November 29th at 6:30pm, Ward 6 will have a meeting at A.P. Hill Elementary School. Our current City Attorney will be the guest presenter and you will also get to meet the incoming Ward 6 Council Member."

Council Member Moore stated "Thank you madam clerk and members of council. This is the third meeting I want to talk about in reference at the previous public meeting we had at City Hall it was discussed that the special grand jury submission had been done by the Commonwealth Attorney. Well that is available to the public on the internet and in reviewing that it did not have anything in writing about reviewing Johnson Controls. I guess my question would be is this something that council can vote on to add to that or what would be the process?"

Mr. Preston stated "Mr. Davenport who would be responsible for selecting the special grand jury and implementing that cannot be sanctioned into one section. This investigation is going to go to any financial wrongdoing that is in City Hall. You are not going to be able to limit the scope. I am sure that Johnson Controls has to be one of the top one or two matters that they are going to be viewing because that seems to be one of the top problems and the deal has a lot of questions. I am certain they will be reviewing that deal. Again you cannot tie the grand jury hands they will go wherever the evidence leads them and certainly I am sure that this will be a major part of their investigation. They would never spell out in any order what they actually and specifically will investigate but they would want to give anybody the chance to hide things. There reach is going to be very widespread. It would be very thorough."

Council Member Hill stated "I want to do two or three things. I want to first thank Ms. Dironna Belton for the heavy lifting that she has done during these times. I want to welcome the Robert Bobb Group to Petersburg as well. Also something that Mrs. Brown brought up, I would like to direct the Interim City Manager to just look at the scope of our cellphones. I think that there may be some savings with that. Maybe they can trade them off when someone is on call and they can use one cellphone instead of everyone having cellphones. My next town hall meeting will be announced at the next council meeting. Thank you."

Vice Mayor Parham stated "Ward 3 will be having our ward meeting at Petersburg High School in the cafeteria at 6pm. It will be a joint meeting with Ken Pritchett from the school board. From the school side he has Dr. Ann of Student Success speaking and on the City side we will have the Robert Bobb Group. This will be Monday, November 14th at 6:00pm in Petersburg High cafeteria."

Mayor Myers made a motion to appoint Vice Mayor Samuel Parham to the Battersea Foundation Board. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hill.

Council Member Coleman stated "Before I vote my only objection is that it is Ward 6. Normally a Ward

6 person is on that board. I sat there for a few years.”

The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Hill, Moore, Parham and Myers; Voting No: Coleman and Wilson-Smith; Absent: Hart

16-R-69 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING VICE MAYOR SAMUEL PARHAM TO THE BATTERSEA FOUNDATION BOARD.

Council Member Coleman made a motion that as City Council Members approve the settlement agreement between Ewers and Ethers vs City of Petersburg. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Parham. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Coleman, Hill, Moore, Wilson-Smith, Parham and Myers; Absent: Hart

10. CITY MANAGER’S AGENDA:

Robert Bobb of the Robert Bobb Group presented a PowerPoint presentation.

There was discussion among City Council and Mr. Bobb.

11. CLERK OF CITY COUNCIL’S AGENDA:

No items for this portion of the agenda.

12. CITY ATTORNEY’S AGENDA:

No items for this portion of the agenda.

13. CLOSED SESSION (IF NECESSARY):

No items for this portion of the agenda.

14. ADJOURNMENT:

City Council adjourned at 9:14p.m.

Clerk of City Council

APPROVED:

Mayor