

The Special Called Closed Session Meeting of the Petersburg City Council was held on Monday, January 11, 2021, on live stream. Council Member Parham called the Special Called Closed Session Meeting to order at 11:04a.m.

**1. ROLL CALL:**

Present:

Council Member Charles H. Cuthbert, Jr  
Council Member Treska Wilson-Smith  
Council Member W. Howard Myers  
Council Member Darrin Hill  
Council Member John A. Hart, Sr.  
Vice Mayor Annette Smith-Lee  
Mayor Samuel Parham

Absent: None

Present from City Administration:

City Attorney Anthony Williams  
Clerk of Council Nykesha D. Jackson  
Aretha R. Ferrell-Benavides

**2. CLOSED SESSION:**

- a. The purpose of this meeting is to convene in closed session pursuant to §2.23711(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 assignment, appointment, and performance of specific public employees including interim City Manager appointment and pursuant to §2.23711(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 specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by the City Attorney specifically including but not limited to matters requiring legal advice from the City Attorney on FOIA requests received by the City and other legal matters .

Council Member Myers made a motion that the City Council go into closed session for the purposes noted. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hill. There was no discussion on the motion, which was approved on roll call vote.

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

City Council entered closed session at 11:06a.m.

**CERTIFICATION:**

Mr. Williams stated, "The Mayor would entertain a motion to conclude the closed session called this evening to certify in accordance with §2.2-3712 that the Code of Virginia that to the best of each members knowledge that only public business matter lawfully exempted from the opening meeting requirements were discussed and that only such public business matters were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened, heard, discussed, or considered. If any member believes that there was a departure from the foregoing requirements should so state prior to the vote indicating the substance for departure that in

\*Audio available upon request.

his or her judgment has taken place. This requires a roll call vote Mr. Mayor.”

Vice Mayor Smith-Lee made a motion to return City Council into open session and certify the purposes of the closed session. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hill. There was no discussion on the motion.

The motion was approved on roll call vote.

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

**21-R-9 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.**

City Council returned to opened session at 12:07 p.m.

**3. CONSIDERATION AND/OR DISCUSSION:**

a. Consideration and discussion of the Petersburg City Council Rules of Council.

Mrs. Benavides and Mr. Williams presented a PowerPoint presentation on amended changes of the Rules of Council for consideration.

[Rules Powerpoint.pdf](#)

There was discussion among City Council and staff.

Mrs. Benavides stated, “Mayor, I think it would help us if we could also take some time to allow Tony and I to clean this document up and give it to you in your regular format. We would bring it back to you for review and approval on the council agenda on our meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Would that be most appropriate?”

Mayor Parham stated, “Yes. That would be fine to bring it back to us on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Council Member Cuthbert you had your hand up do you have a question about that?”

Council Member Cuthbert stated, “I was going to step into the vacuum when you didn’t respond. I thought that was a great idea. We will vote on it on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January.”

Mrs. Benavides stated, “And you will have a clean document in advance. And what I ask to do for you is for Rule V there will be one augmentation, order of business. You are going to have one that says order of business, regular business meeting, modified business meeting and work session. So that we can show you that it is actually going to be still doing business. Cause I think that when we say work session people will think of our budget hearing. This is actually those presentations that we preidentified that we should be giving you. Like the budget update and things like that that are still business of the City. It will show that in more detail for you.”

\*Audio available upon request.

Mayor Parham stated, "Okay. Thank you. That is, it. I think that concludes it. If there aren't any other questions or concerns, we will end this special called meeting."

**4. ADJOURNMENT:**

City Council adjourned at 1:44 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of City Council

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor