



COUNCIL

Communicates

Highlights from City Council Meetings

January 16, 2024

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

whowardmyers@petersburg-va.org

Ward 6

Anette Smith-Lee

alee@petersburg-va.org

Ward 7

Arnold Westbrook

awestbrook@petersburg-va.org

Clerk of Council

Nykesha Jackson

njackson@petersburg-va.org

804-733-2323

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

All present. Councilman Jones arrived during the meeting.

2. Closed Session

The purpose of this meeting is to convene in the closed session pursuant to:

a. (1)§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; under Section 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 specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by the city attorney, specifically including but not limited to matters requiring the legal advice of the city attorney; under Section 2.2-3711 (A)(5) of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of discussion regarding the subject of a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community; and under Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) for the purpose of discussion regarding the subject of the acquisition and/or disposition of real property where such discussion in an open meeting would

adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiation strategy of the public body.
Motion approved to end the closed session meeting and adjourn.

3. Adjournment

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

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 Proclamations
 - a. Presentation from Civica to discuss the latest business updates from the Pharma Company.
No action was taken. Visit: <https://civicarx.org/>
 - b. Presentation from the City Assessor's Office regarding the upcoming FY2025 Reassessments.
No action was taken.
 - c. Presentation on the Health Hub
Sheryl Garland – VCU Health
Council indicated support for the project.
6. Responses to Previous Public Information Posted
Council Communicates.
7. Approval of Consent Agenda (to include minutes of previous meetings):
 - a. Minutes:
 - December 12, 2023 - Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
 - January 2, 2024 - Closed Session Minutes
 - January 2, 2024 - Organizational Meeting Minutes
 - January 2, 2024 - City Council Work Session
 - January 9, 2024 - Closed Session Minutes

- b. Consideration of an appropriation ordinance for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024, and ending on June 30, 2025, for the Edward Byrne JAG Grant in the amount of \$33,140. - 1st Reading
- c. To conduct a public hearing for consideration of an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a Lease Agreement toward the Lease of a city-owned property at 301 North Sycamore Street.
- d. To conduct a public hearing for the consideration of an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a Purchase Agreement toward the Sale of a City-Owned Property at 101 West Washington Street.

Approved.

8. Official Public Hearings

- a. A public hearing for an ordinance approving a Comprehensive Plan Amendment to amend and readopt the future land use map from the proposed land use of Low Density Residential to Medium/High Density Residential at 235 Medical Park Boulevard.

Removed from the agenda.

- b. A public hearing for an ordinance from Sayed Shah Owner, representative of S Shah Properties LLC, to obtain a Special Use Permit at 112 N Crater Road and 114 N Crater Road as provided for under Article 23, Supplementary Use Regulations-Special Uses. Section 4, Special Uses Enumerated. Item (22) of the Zoning Ordinance to establish stand-alone used vehicle sales not associated with a new-vehicle dealership or not located upon the same parcel as such new-vehicle dealership, if located upon parcels of less than one acre in area, such to be permitted within the B-2 and M-1 zoning districts only.

Public Hearing

Jeff Fleming

Stated that businesses should abide by the rules. He indicated the applicant is parking cars on the property now without a permit. He opposes this application.

Vernelle Gannaway

He agreed with Mr. Fleming and stated that poor-quality establishments should not be allowed in Petersburg.

Motion to deny approved.

- c. A public hearing from Barry Jones, owner, Capital City Homes, RVA, to rezone properties from M-1, Light Industrial, District to B-2, General Commercial, District with the intention of building eight (8) single-family dwellings. The properties are contiguous to one another and are vacant lots, addressed as follows: 901, 905, 909, 915, 921, 925, 929, 933 Commerce St and 208 N Dunlop Street and further identified respectively as 024140003, 024140005, 024140006, 024140007, 024140008, 024140009, 024140010, 024140011, 024140012, and 024140013.

No public comments. Motion to deny approved. Councilman Myers abstained.

d. A public hearing and the consideration of an ordinance to amend and re-adopt Article 24 Nonconforming Uses and Article 25 Supplementary Height, Area and Bulk Regulations, as set forth in the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Petersburg and as requested by the Planning Commission, to allow the rehabilitation and continuation of residential structures and four-units or less with a certificate of nonconforming use, development of nonconforming lots, and the rehabilitation of existing neighborhood commercial structures with a certificate of nonconforming use.

Public Hearing

Ken Pritchett

There is housing stock sitting that could have been restored by now, but the ordinance was a challenge. He asked Council to approve.

Jeff Fleming

Stated that trailer parks in Petersburg are in horrible condition.

Joe Battiston

When these homes were purchased, owners thought they could renovate as a duplex.

Jasper Lewis

He has owned and rented property on West High for over 30 years. In 2020 they decided to renovate, but COVID hit. He cannot renovate the house as a duplex with the current ordinance.

Michelle Murrills

Asked Council to approve.

Amended motion (below) approved. Councilman Myers abstained.

1. Rejects Agenda Item 8d "Article 24-Noncompliance and Nonconformity" in Council's Agenda package for its January 16, 2024, meeting, and
2. Sends to the Planning Commission the alternate version titled, "Alternate Article 24-Noncompliance and Nonconformity" for study and recommendation, and
3. Initiates a proposal to rezone the north side of West Washington Street from Davis Street west to the west boundary of 431 West Washington Street to RB Office-Apartment District and sends this proposal to the Planning Commission for study and recommendation.

9. Public Information Period

A public information period, limited in time to 30 minutes, shall be part of an Order of Business at each regular council meeting. Each speaker shall be a resident or business owner of the City and shall be limited to three minutes. No speaker will be permitted to speak on any item scheduled for consideration on the regular docket of

the meeting at which the speaker is to speak. The order of speakers, limited by the 30-minute time period, shall be determined as follows:

- a. First, in chronological order of the notice, persons who have notified the Clerk no later than 12:00 noon of the day of the meeting,
- b. Second, in chronological order of their sign up, persons who have signed a sign-up sheet placed by the Clerk in the rear of the meeting room prior to the meeting removed from consent agenda.

David Batts

Mr. Batts stated that he owns two properties on Wythe Street that flooded. He is concerned about trees and other debris in Lieutenant's Run near the former Ramada Inn site. **DEQ controls whether certain vegetation/trees can be removed from any waterways. All debris from the Old Ramada was removed by the demolition contractor.**

Paul Gillespie

Stated that trash is not being collected per schedule on Steadman Drive off County Drive. He is also concerned that he has paid his property taxes, but DMV has no record, so he cannot purchase DMV decals. **For trash collection concerns, contact Central Virginia Waste Management @ 804-340-0900 or CustomerService@cvwma.com.**

Vernelle Ganaway

He stated ongoing problems with water bills and personal property taxes being mailed late and payments not recorded. He also mentioned drains in his area needed cleaning and flashing lights needed on the Rives Road bridge. **Contact Paul Mullins, Treasurer, regarding payments/checks being recorded:**

pzmullin@petersburg-va.org

Public Works has been cleaning stormwater drains, but with the extremely wet fall and winter, many drains must be cleaned more than once monthly. Report debris in stormwater drains at:

<https://petersburgce.portal.iworq.net/portalhome/petersburgce>

A VDOT study of Rives Road is scheduled to be completed this spring. Following the study, VDOT will apply for Smart Scale funding to make improvements at the bridge and exits.

Ken Pritchett

Questioned the leaf pick-up schedule for January, bumps on the Johnson Road Bridge and repaving Birdsong Road near the Sports Complex.

Leaf pick-up was delayed due to the weather but collection resumed in late January. Public Works is inspecting the Johnson Road bridge. Birdsong Road repaving has not been scheduled.

Genevieve Lohr

She is concerned about police officers working in flood conditions and roads not being closed prior to flooding. The Hopewell Comfort Shelter was mentioned, and Petersburg's plan for the homeless was questioned.

Closed Road signs are placed at all spots that normally flood during heavy rain before the rain begins. When flooding starts, Public Works crews and police move the signs onto the roads. Some roadways are main routes through the City, so closing roads before flooding begins could cause other traffic congestion. The Petersburg Transit Center is open as a comfort station from 6 am to 6 pm, Monday through Saturday.

10. Business or reports from the Mayor or other Members of City Council

Councilman Cuthbert

No report.

Councilman Jones

Asked that the City spend \$1,000 to order smoke detectors for residents. Discussed low voter turnout at the November election in Petersburg. Asked Public Works to investigate stream debris, trash collection, Johnson Road Bridge and Rives Road lights. Announced a Ward 1 meeting near the end of February.

Councilman Westbrook

Asked that Health Hub information be included in the next newsletter. Noted:

- Campbell's bridge area should be reopened in February;
- Willcox Lake trails are being cleaned, and new signs installed;
- More community clean-ups are needed;
- Asked citizens to support small local businesses;
- Asked for volunteers for social services;
- Neighborhood watches;
- Pot Hole Blitz;
- Promote Black history events during February.

Councilman Myers

No report.

Councilwoman Smith-Lee

Stated that a comfort shelter was opened last year by a local non-profit. Thanked AKAs for the day of service at Cool Springs Elementary School.

Vice Mayor Hill

Organizing a citywide Ward meeting at the Library with all Department Heads available to distribute information and answer questions from citizens. Reminded Council members not to go over the 5 minutes allotted for updates.

Mayor Parham

Announced Job Fair on January 31 at VSU. Thanked police officers and the new group of fire recruits that started work in early January.

11. Items removed from Consent Agenda
None.
12. Finance and Budget Report
None.
13. Unfinished Business
 - a. A public hearing on an appeal by John Brockwell, applicant of 21 W. Washington Street, Tax Parcel 022-03-0001, owned by Labrodor Properties LLC/John Brockwell, on the decision of the Architectural Review Board (ARB). The property is located within the Courthouse Local Historic District.
The building owner gave an update on replacing the roof.
 - b. Consideration of amendments to the City of Petersburg Rules of Council.
City Attorney: Several changes to the rules. Addition of a remote participation policy. Must follow state code.
Approved.
14. New Business
 - a. Consideration of an ordinance for an SRO Grant Initiative Program in the amount of \$278,561 - 2nd Reading
No public comments.
Approved.
 - b. Consideration of appointment/s to the Appomattox River Water Authority (ARWA) Board.
City Manager and Director of Public Works appointed.
Approved.
15. City Manager's Report
None.
16. Business or reports from the Clerk
None.
17. Business or reports from the City Attorney
None.
18. Adjournment