

The regular meeting of the Petersburg City Council was held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at the Petersburg Public Library. Mayor Parham called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL:

Present:

Council Member Charles Cuthbert, Jr.
Council Member Marlow Jones
Council Member Annette Smith-Lee
Council Member Arnold Westbrook, Jr.
Council Member W. Howard Myers
Vice Mayor Darrin Hill
Mayor Samuel Parham

Absent: None

Present from City Council Administration:

City Manager John March Altman, Jr
City Attorney Anthony Williams

2. PRAYER:

Vice Mayor Hill led the opening prayer.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Parham led the pledge of allegiance.

4. DETERMINATION OF THE PRESENCE OF A QUORUM:

A quorum was determined with the presence of the city council members.

5. PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATION OF CEREMONIAL PROCLAMATIONS:

a. Presentation of a proclamation recognizing Dr. Daphne Bazile-Harrison.

Mayor Parham and the council presented Dr. Bazile-Harrison with a proclamation of recognition.

b. Presentation of a proclamation recognizing American Red Cross Month.

Mayor Parham and the Council presented Christy Carneal with a proclamation recognizing the month of March 2024 as American Red Cross Month.

6. RESPONSES TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC INFORMATION PERIOD:

Mayor Parham stated that responses are found under council communications.

7. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA (to include minutes of previous meeting/s)

a. Minutes:

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Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Council Member Smith-Lee seconded the motion. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Jones, Smith-Lee, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, and Parham; No: N/A; Abstain: N/A.

8. OFFICIAL PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Items 13.a. under Unfinished Business and 14.a. under New Business were moved under Item 9 Official Public Hearing.

24-ORD-7 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND READOPT ARTICLE 3, DEFINITIONS, AND ARTICLE 19, OFF-STREET PARKING REGULATIONS, TO CLARIFY THE REQUIREMENT OF DRIVEWAYS FOR LOW-DENSITY HOUSING AT THE REQUEST OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION.

- a. A Public Hearing and Consideration of an Ordinance to Amend and Readopt Article 3, Definitions, and Article 19, Off-Street Parking Regulations, to Clarify the Requirement of Driveways for Low-Density Housing at the Request of the Planning Commission

BACKGROUND: Though the City ordinance under Article 19, Off-Street Parking Regulations, states that parking spaces are required for residential development, the issue of developers not installing driveways prior to requesting a certificate of occupancy seems to make clarification necessary for compliance.

RECOMMENDATION: To approve the ordinance to amend and readopt Article 3, Definitions, and Article 19, Off-Street Parking Regulations, to Clarify the Requirement of Driveways for Low-Density Housing

Naomi Siodmok, Director of Planning and Community Development, gave a brief overview of the request.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

Hearing none, Mayor Parham closed public comments.

There was discussion among the city council members.

Council Member Myers questioned if the ordinance being considered addressed parking in front of homes and on curbs. He also questioned enforcement. Planning and Community Development Director Siodmok informed the city council members that an ordinance is in place stating that no person shall park any motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer on the front or side yard of any lot improved with a single family or two-family dwelling zoned for residential use except on a lawfully paved surface. It would be a zoning ordinance violation and enforced accordingly.

Council Member Cuthbert questioned the reason that the ordinance was not uploaded into Municode and who is responsible for doing so. City Attorney Williams stated that his office is currently submitting ordinances to Municode, with the exception of zoning ordinances. Zoning ordinances are submitted by the zoning administrator in accordance with the state code that makes them responsible for the interpretation and administration. Further discussion was held among the city council members.

Council Member Cuthbert made a motion directing the City Attorney to draft an ordinance for consideration of the city council designating the City Clerk of Council as the person responsible for submitting ordinances to Municode. Council Member Myers seconded the motion. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Jones, Smith-Lee, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, and Parham; No: N/A; Abstain: N/A.

Council Member Jones questioned if the ordinance addressed trailers of semi-trucks and recreational vehicles parked on vacant lots. Vice Mayor Hill noted that staff needs to ensure that no one is parking on city owned property without permission. Planning and Community Development Director Siodmok stated that her department can look into enforcing these matters as well. She added that there is a provision in the city code for removal and disposal of vehicles on property that is not public property.

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to approve the ordinance to amend and readopt Article 3, Definitions, and Article 19, Off-Street Parking Regulations, to Clarify the Requirement of Driveways for Low-Density Housing. Council Member Jones seconded the motion. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Jones, Smith-Lee, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, and Parham; No: N/A; Abstain: N/A.

24-ORD-8 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND READOPT ARTICLE 21, SIGN REGULATIONS, TO REGULATE AND ALLOW FOR SANDWICH BOARD/A-FRAME SIGNS.

- b. A Public Hearing for the Consideration of an Ordinance to Amend and Readopt Article 3, Definitions, and Article 19, Off-Street Parking Regulations to Clarify the Requirement of Driveways for Low-Density Housing at the Request of the Planning Commission

BACKGROUND: Currently, Chapter 98 (Streets, Sidewalks, and Other Public Spaces) Article II. Section 98-124(a) and Appendix B. Article 21. Section 6.7 prohibit the use of sandwich board signs per the following excerpts:

Sec. 98-124(a): No person shall place, keep or store, or exhibit or display for sale, any goods, wares, or merchandise, or maintain any advertising signs, on the sidewalks of the city.

Section 6. – Prohibited signs: The following signs shall be prohibited in all districts:

6.7. – All portable signs.

The proposed text amendment seeks to allow sandwich board signs with regulations. This proposal has gone through the Planning Commission through a work session as well as for a vote and recommendation for approval.

RECOMMENDATION: Planning Commission recommends approval.

Naomi Siodmok, Director of Planning and Community Development, gave a brief overview of the request.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

Lisa Walden, 301 Oak Hill Road, stated that the amendment was a great idea for the city as a whole. She expressed concern regarding who would check to see if current businesses are licensed.

City Manager Altman responded that the zoning staff will enforce the ordinance.

Linwood Christian, 633 W. Washington Street, expressed his agreement with the city council and hopes that the ordinance is approved. He added that this is one of the issues as to why businesses do not come to Petersburg.

Seeing no other hands, Mayor Parham closed the public hearing.

There were comments and discussion from the City Council Members.

Council Member Jones expressed his dissatisfaction with the language in the ordinance. He expressed not having the staff to enforce the ordinance. He spoke regarding the danger of having businesses with furniture on sidewalks and broken bricks. Council Member Jones made a motion not to entertain the ordinance

presented.

There were additional comments and discussion from the City Council Members.

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to approve the ordinance to amend and readopt Article 21, Sign Regulations, to Regulate and Allow for Sandwich Board/A-Frame Signs. Council Member Myers seconded the motion. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Smith-Lee, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, and Parham; No: Jones; Abstain: N/A.

Council Member Cuthbert requested that in the future Public Hearing items be listed on the agenda under Public Hearings.

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.

Barbara Rudolph, 1675 Mt. Vernon Street, spoke regarding the STARS project. She noted that it was an interesting presentation, but wished it had been better attended. She asked the city council to consider adding the STAR Project to an agenda or schedule a special meeting for VDOT to make a presentation and allow the public to provide feedback.

David Batts, 1127 High Pearl Street, spoke regarding draining issues and his concern that nothing is being done to address the matter. H

Linwood Christian, 633 W. Washington Street,

10. BUSINESS OR REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR OR OTHER MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL:

Council Member Cuthbert shared a photo of 1751 Sherwood, a dilapidated brick home in Walnut Hill, that the city has been dealing with for more than a decade. He noted that he brought it to the council's attention before bringing it to the public. He reported that the city took the property owner to court on January 12th and the judge gave the owner 6 months to bring the property to code. He added that the building is salvageable and he will be following up in 6 months. Council Member Cuthbert shared an article that appeared on the front page of The Progress Index on March 15th regarding the speed cameras in Richmond. He thanked City Manager Altman and Police Chief Christian for implementing speed cameras in the school zones of Petersburg eight months ago. He reported that he delivered 10 to 12 midday meals through the Meals on Wheels program and expressed his appreciation to those who manage the program. Council Member Cuthbert asked City Manager Altman to bring the city council and the public up to date on the city's efforts to develop a tree replacement plan. He referenced the trees that were removed on the first block of South Sycamore Street.

11. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA:

*There are no items for this portion of the agenda.

12. FINANCE AND BUDGET REPORT:

- a. Consideration of an Ordinance Amending the FY24 City General Fund Budget – 2nd Reading

City Manager Altman requested that this item be considered on the April 2, 2024 city council meeting agenda.

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Presentation and Update on the 2024 Employee Health Insurance

14. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Property Purchase Requirement
- b. Lease Payment Distribution/Funds Allocation Process
- c. Consideration of Appointment(s) to the Planning Commission

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to appoint Alvin Cannon to the Planning Commission, representing Ward 1. Council Member Myers seconded the motion. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Smith-Lee, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, and Parham; No: Jones; Abstain: N/A.

- d. Congressional Community Project Funding (CPF) Grant for Ferndale Park Upgrades

Communications Director Joanne Williams presented the Congressional Community Project Funding (CPF) Grant for the Ferndale Park upgrades. She reported that the grant language is standard and a match is required. She noted that in the past, she has been successful in the city receiving a waiver for the grant match. The due date for the grant application is March 28, 2024.

Council Member Myers made a motion to approve the submission of the Congressional Community Project Funding (CPF) Grant application and match allocation, with the understanding that the match may be waived. Council Member Westbrook seconded the motion. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Smith-Lee, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, and Parham; No: Jones; Abstain: N/A.

15. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT AND SPECIAL REPORTS:

Mr. Altman thanked "Team Petersburg". He spoke briefly regarding the stormwater issues.

16. BUSINESS OR REPORTS FROM THE CLERK:

Ms. Hill stated that she had no report.

17. BUSINESS OR REPORTS FROM CITY ATTORNEY:

Mr. Williams stated that he has no report.

18. ADJOURNMENT:

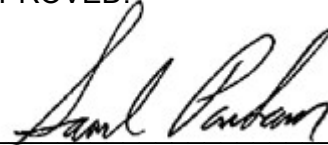
The City Council adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Adopted the 2nd day of April, 2024.

Handwritten signature of Tange R. Hill in brown ink.

Acting Clerk of City Council

APPROVED:

Handwritten signature of Paul Robinson in black ink.

Mayor