

The Closed Session Meeting of the Petersburg City Council was held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at the Petersburg Public Library. Mayor Parham called the Closed Session Meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL:

Present:

Council Member Charles H. Cuthbert, Jr.
Council Member W. Howard Myers
Council Member Arnold Westbrook, Jr.
Vice Mayor Darrin Hill
Mayor Samuel Parham

Absent:

Council Member Marlow Jones
Council Member Annette Smith-Lee

Present from City Administration:

City Manager John March Altman, Jr.
City Attorney Anthony Williams
Acting City Clerk Tangi R. Hill

Mayor Parham stated there is an additional item to be added to the Closed Session. He asked to entertain a motion to add to the Closed Session agenda discussion of legal requirements for procurement under the Virginia Public Procurement Act and legal requirements associated with easement requests and funding for the Hotel Petersburg project.

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion that the City Council add a discussion of legal requirements for procurement under the Virginia Public Procurement Act and legal requirements associated with easement requests and funding for the Hotel Petersburg project to the closed session agenda. Council Member Westbrook seconded the motion.

On roll call vote, voting yes: Myers, Westbrook, and Parham; Absent: Jones and Smit-Lee; Abstain: Cuthbert. Council Member Cuthbert stated his abstention was due to the Hotel Petersburg is his brother's project.

2. CLOSED SESSION:

- a. The purpose of this meeting is to convene in the closed session pursuant to §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 specific public officer of the City of Petersburg; pursuant to §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 discussion of Petersburg Circuit Court Case Numbers CR23000979-00, CR23000980-00-00, 23000981-00, and other matters requiring legal advice of the City Attorney; and pursuant to §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.

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion that the City Council go into closed session for the purposes noted. Council Member Westbrook seconded the motion.

On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, and Parham; Absent: Jones and Smith-Lee; Abstain: N/A.

The City Council entered closed session at 3:04 p.m.

Council Member Smith-Lee arrived at 3:52 p.m.

Council Member Jones arrived at 4:30 p.m.

CERTIFICATION:

Mr. Williams stated, "The Mayor would entertain a motion to conclude the closed session called today 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 state prior to the vote indicating the substance for departure in which he believes has occurred. This requires a roll call vote Mr. Mayor."

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to return the City Council to open session and certify the purposes of the closed session. Council Member Myers seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion.

The motion was approved on roll call vote.

On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert. Jones, Myers, Westbrook, Smith-Lee, Hill, and Parham; Absent: N/A; Abstain: N/A

24-R-15 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 open session at 6:01 pm

Council Member Myers made a motion to approve a letter dated March 20, 2024. Council Member Jones seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion.

The motion was approved on roll call vote.

On roll call vote, voting yes: Jones, Myers, Westbrook, Smith-Lee, Hill, and Parham; Absent: N/A; Abstain: Cuthbert. Council Member Cuthbert did not respond to the roll call nor stated a reason for abstention.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Amendment of FY24 City General Fund Budget (2nd Reading)

City Manager Altman introduced the item. He stated that a Public Hearing was held at the Council's February 20, 2024 meeting. He requested that Council adopt the proposed budget amendment as

presented amending the budget from \$84,202,469 to \$88,083,817.

Discussion from Council was held.

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to adopt the amendment of the FY24 City General Fund Budget.

Additional discussion was held by Council.

Council Member Smith-Lee seconded the motion. Additional discussion was held by Council.

The motion was approved on roll call vote.

On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Jones, Myers, Westbrook, Smith-Lee, Hill, and Parham; Absent: N/A; Abstain: N/A

Council Member Jones questioned the \$650,000 allocation to Southside VA Emergency Crew. City Manager Altman explained that the initial contract was for \$350,000, and there was an increase of \$300,000 for additional services, a fourth ambulance during the day, and a third ambulance at night. The City amended the budget for the full amount of the contract as Southside is the primary EMS provider until such time the City builds its rank and staff is ALS certified and paramedic. At the current time, the City is not in position to be first out. City Manager Altman did not want to feed into the rumor that the City is trying to take over Southside. He does not feel that there will be a time that Southside is not in the mix, but the City will be able to provide more services out of the fire department for EMS services that what is currently provided.

ADJOURNMENT:

The City Council adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Adopted the 16th day of April, 2024.



Clerk of City Council

APPROVED:



Mayor