

The work session meeting of the Petersburg City Council was held on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at the Petersburg Public Library. Mayor Parham called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. The meeting video link is <https://petersburgva.new.swagit.com/videos/306940>.

1. ROLL CALL:

Present:

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

Absent:

Mayor Samuel Parham

Present from City Council Administration:

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

2. PRAYER:

Vice Mayor Hill led the Council meeting in prayer.

"Thank you. Let us pray. To God our fathers once again we come before you praising your holding your righteous name. We thank you for this day. We thank you for the blessings that the day. Now Lord, we ask that Your Holy Spirit will move on this council and do these chambers and what our citizens Heavenly Father as we deliberate, the business owner today Heavenly Father, we ask that blessings upon our administration we accept blessings upon our citizens Heavenly Father, we ask that blessings upon this council and especially Heavenly Father, give us wisdom of Solomon Heavenly Father to deliberate and do Your will. Lord we act that blessings upon our citizens in a special way that you can keep all of us from our hurt harm in danger, that I see no accidents caused no accidents and being no accident as this is our prayer and your darling son, Jesus Christ name we pray, Amen."

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Vice Mayor Hill led the Council and the citizens in the pledge of allegiance.

4. DETERMINATION OF THE PRESENCE OF A QUORUM:

A quorum was present.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Barb Rudolph, 1675 Mount Vernon Street, said, "Good evening. Council and Vice Mayor Hill. What I wanted to ask you tonight has to do with the agenda, if you would defer acting upon the item on the consent agenda, which is the meeting minutes from May 21. And I'm asking that specifically because I believe that those minutes are lacking in certain detail that was important to what happened in that meeting. I look at the minutes as an official record of what happens at council meetings, I realized we have the video archives we can look at but when I look back for stuff, the first place I go is the minutes and go through and when I see what happened. Well, I'm just going to give you a few examples from the last meeting. When we were talking about the ACFR for fiscal year 23. Vice Mayor Hill asked a

question of the auditor about what was the what in his opinion was the main the biggest issue we should be looking at? I'm paraphrasing. But it was a good question. There's nothing about that question in the minutes nor the response. So that whole conversation has been omitted. Then later in the meeting during public hearings, on the topic of the gap financing for the Hotel Petersburg, Counselor Jones asked some questions I believe the substance of which was if we didn't get the gap financing, how would that impact the project and when the hotel could be completed and opened? Kind of an important conversation? All of that was omitted. The question wasn't in there and none of the commentary from the consultant. So that concern me and then as I'm reading through this, I got to a public comment period and read the summary of my comment which said Barb Rudolph spoke regarding the RFP process for the casino. That's all it said. And I did speak for three minutes in council communicates, which is usually not that informative. It said more. It said Ms. Rudolph expressed her concern over the cancellation of the RFP for the casino, reverting to old information and the lack of transparency in the selection of a casino operator, which does summarize some of my points. It certainly says a whole lot more than what's in the minutes. I looked back over previous minutes and there actually was more of an attempt to transcribe what I and other people said. So, I hope that you will take this to heart and perhaps allow this set of minutes to be approved at the next meeting after it's been revised. Thank you."

Hearing no one else, Vice Mayor Hill closed the public comment period.

6. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA (TO INCLUDE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING/S):

- a. Minutes of Previous Meetings:
May 21, 2024 – City Council Special Meeting Closed Session
May 21, 2024 – City Council Regular Meeting
May 28, 2024 – City Council Special Meeting
- b. An Ordinance to Approve the Rezoning Request of Property Located at 303, 309, 315, 323, 419, and 431 West Washington Street from R-3, Two-Family Residence District and B-2, General Commercial District to RB, Office-Apartment District
- c. An Ordinance to Approve Amending and Readopting Article 25 Supplementary Height, Area and Bulk Regulations, as Set Fort in the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Petersburg, to Introduce Design Standards for New Construction
- d. An Ordinance to Approve the Director of Public Works to Prohibit or Regulate the Stopping, Standing or Parking of Vehicles Upon Any street or Alley, Not Expressly Regulated by an Ordinance of the City Council, by Causing Official Signs to be Erected Indicating the Restriction
- e. An Ordinance to Approve the Director of Public Works, in Lieu of Not Having a City Traffic Engineer, is Hereby Authorized to Temporarily Designate Parking Areas in Hazardous or Congested Places and to Temporarily Remove Parking in Any Emergency Situation, Permanent Removal of Parking Shall be Subject to the City Manager's Approval
- f. An Ordinance to Approve Community Development Block Grant (CDGB) Funding for Project Year 2024/Fiscal Year 2025
- g. To Conduct a Public Hearing on June 18, 2024, for the Consideration of an Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Purchase Agreement Between the City of Petersburg and Nuwave Development Towards the Sale of city-Owned Property at 4 Ross Court (Parcel 031-040035), 6 Ross Court (Parcel 031-040036), 9 Ross Court (Parcel 031-040045) and 12 Ross Court (Parcel 031-040039)
- h. Request to Hold a Public Hearing for the Consideration of the City of Petersburg's FY2024-25 Proposed Revised Operating Budget

Council Member Cuthbert stated a point of order that items A B, C, D, E and F should all be identified as first reading and scheduled public hearing. He added that just the wording of the agenda appears that you would be adopting those but I think each of those should be first reading and scheduled public hearing for B C, D, E and F.

Council Member Myers made a motion to approve the consent agenda, with respect to items B, C, D, E, and F noted as first reading and to set a Public Hearing for June 18, 2024. Council Member Westbrook seconded the motion. The motion was approved on roll call vote, Yes: Cuthbert, Jones, Myers, Westbrook, Smith-Lee, and Hill; No: None; Abstain: None.

Council Member Jones asked the Director of Technology Gerrit VanVoorhees if he could please turn his mic up a little bit. Council Member Jones asked if the mic can be controlled individually, all or nothing. He said, "I should not have to check to put my lips on the mic. We have a lot of money here for this to be happening."

Vice Mayor Hill asked Council Member Jones if he wanted to go sit in his chair.

Council Member Cuthbert asked City Attorney Williams if there is some way, we should modify the consent agenda in the future to indicate that what we're doing is scheduling a public hearing rather than adopting an ordinance.

City Attorney Williams responded that preceding each of those items on the agenda, it should just read first reading slash scheduled public hearing. He added that would take care of it.

7. SPECIAL REPORTS:

a. Sycamore Street – Tree Recommendations and Concept Design for Petersburg

Naomi Siodmok, Director of Planning and Community Development, presented the Sycamore Street - Tree Recommendations and Concept Design for Petersburg. She stated that previously she come before Council all because some trees had been removed on Sycamore Street. It was requested that staff take a look at opportunities to replant trees on Sycamore Street and what it could look like in terms of stormwater management, or tree design, taking into consideration that those trees were removed because of their impacts on the sidewalk, the pruning that was done on them, as well as the impacts to the visibility of businesses. She reported that staff worked with the Green Infrastructure Center to come up with an initial concept to share with Council. She reported that she will also provide Council some next steps that we have as well.

Ms. Siodmok informed Council that the Green Infrastructure Center are partners that are working with Staff through the Department of Forestry grant that the City received. The purpose of the grant was to take a look at creating a tree ordinance, a tree master plan and a tree maintenance plan. In addition, they agreed to help with this additional concept as well. She reported that they came out to the site and took a look at Sycamore Street, between Washington and Wythe and took a look at the existing conditions. There were initial conflicts between trees and lighting. She noted that they had pedestrian access complex, due to a tree right in the middle of one of the crosswalks. There was also limited soil volumes and debris in the drainage. This was taken into consideration when making concepts about how there can be a less significant impact on the sidewalk, integrating traffic calming, and how to integrate stormwater management.

Ms. Siodmok provided Council with the existing conditions as following: there's no green infrastructure; there's impacts such as urban heat island effect, meaning the temperatures higher because of the pavement and the lack of shading; and there's limited visual interest for pedestrians, no bike lanes, damage sidewalks.

She reiterated that the proposed design is just conceptual. She added that there's still work that

would need to be done if we were to move forward with implementation. She said, "Taking into consideration how to address those concerns, such as pushing the trees out into the street to create traffic calming, as well as to increase the visible already have businesses potentially having bioswales as well to manage more stormwater, and have less impact on our existing infrastructure, increasing walkability. Having that shade infrastructure as well, traffic calming and looking at bike lanes. She showed a conceptual design plan of this as well, identifying potential trees where these bump outs could go. Having these located near intersections, so they kind of narrow the crossing area for pedestrians and so forth. Here you can see the discussion about these tree bump outs. She showed an example of one in place in Lancaster, Virginia. It's really an opportunity to provide more landscaping, greenery, and water management, as well."

Ms. Siodmok presented a conversation regarding specifically bioswales. She noted that this would increase the stormwater retention that we could have on the street, decreased flooding, filter pollutants. She said, "A black gum tree is great for bioswales because it can handle a lot of water and flooding. It is a great fall color. The honey locust is another option, because it doesn't have an awkward teenage phase, it would grow in a way that's going to have the least amount of impact on the visibility of businesses on the corridor. Its leaves are spaced out enough that will allow visibility. Another option is the Eastern Redbud because this is an understory tree, it's flowering, it's attractive, but it would still add benefits to the landscape as well."

Ms. Siodmok provided next steps. She reiterated again, that this is a concept. She said, "Staff had the conversation, looking at the option. To move forward, a formal design is needed, with community engagement to make sure people are on board and interested. Staff will have to look at where the utilities are located. Staff will also look at opportunities for grants that could help with this project. There's so many tree grants out there. However, once you get to the point where you're doing infrastructure, you have to look at different grant opportunities for stormwater management. The City has worked with the Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grant, as well as a Stormwater Local Assistance Fund. She stated that the Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grant just closed in April. However, there is an opportunity to look at it in early 2025, if Council wants to wait that long. There's no match required, but one is encouraged. Another grant is the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund. That will open back up August 1. It will require a 50% match."

Ms. Siodmok introduced Assistant Public Works Director Randall Williams. She said, "If Council have any other questions of Public Works. We have been working together on this project."

Vice Mayor Hill recognized Councilman Jones, followed by Councilman Cuthbert.

Council Member Jones thanked Mr. VanVoorhees for the mic.

Council Member Jones stated that he had a couple of questions. Council Member Jones said, "Trees, I love trees. I talk to trees. I touch them and communicate with trees. I do everything but climb them. Trees. I'm looking at what you presented. One of the things you presented was having trees in the street and from that picture look like it's going to be the same mess that we got in front of the fiscal management building. An accident waiting to happen. We got people now they can hardly drive in the city. And that thing is going to cause an accident and this will too. I am not against the planting of trees. Let me make that clear. But how in the world are we focusing on trees just on Sycamore Street when dog on East Washington Street been damaged and ignored for years! Coming from Fort Lee there is not a single tree in that median! And we have flooding there. That's a problem. Put some trees in the median. I'm going to say no to this unless you include East Washington Street coming from Fort Lee or Camp Gregg- Adams Fort Gregg- Adams coming into the city because it looks messy down there. There is not a single tree down there or anything. I'm going to say no to that. I'm going to say no. Also, you got blindsides. You got trees on the corner. You blocking people's vision with that? Um, one of my questions was who's paying for it? Well, you already shared that with us. So, that's cool. Um, why are we focusing on trees instead of focusing on the trees that can benefit everybody, like fruit trees, and in parks and places like that, that will

help the homeless and help feed the people. People can food all kinds of stuff. I mean, we are not talking about trees that people can eat off we're talking about trees that people can see. You know, if you don't eat the right fruit and vegetable, you're aint going to be able to see anyway. So why are we not talking about planting trees we're we can eat off of. Down the line, you know, we're need trees that we can eat off of. We need trees that's going to benefit everything. Not just for some light. You know. Sycamore Street aint the only street in this city. We got a lot of people coming from Fort Lee through Petersburg, and they hit the gas hard. It's nothing there to say slow down and look at this beauty. You know what I'm saying now, Naomi?"

Ms. Siodmok responded, "Sure. And I have a few responses to your comments really quick."

Council Member Jones replied, "I hope one of them is that we're going to put some trees on East Washington Street."

Ms. Siodmok replied, "I will address that."

Council Member Jones said, "Because I got a group of business owners that is out here, right now, that is plotting, not plotting, but planning to plant trees and beautify East Washington Street on their own and they shouldn't have to do that. They shouldn't have to do that. You know, we're going to talk about planting trees on Sycamore Street and then shortening the streets because it's already small anyway, so we want to shorten the width of the streets. We got fire trucks we got to get down the street we got police. If they are on a chase, you putting them in danger too. I don't think um, this should be just for Sycamore Street is what I'm saying to you. This needs to carry on. I'm tired of East Washington Street being ignored everybody in here! I'm tired of East Washington Street being ignored! It's been looking like that since Kmart left them down there! Put a tree or five of them down do something or we got as a faded welcome to Petersburg sign coming from Fort Gregg-Adams. That's pitiful! It's pitiful! It's the worst looking place in the city because we ignoring it! I'm tired of being ignored! That's all I got."

Ms. Siodmok explained that the focus on Sycamore was because the trees were taken out of Sycamore. Staff wanted to bring attention to how we can create the next model segment of how trees could look in the City of Petersburg. She reported that Staff is taking a look at Washington Street and Wythe Street right now in terms of funding through grants to make modifications, having it to go two ways, each way in coordination with I-95. She added that since there is anticipated construction, it could be of concern to plant trees and then six years later have to remove those trees because of those improvements.

Council Member Jones responded, "So we're going to wait six years before even doing the thing. I keep hearing we anticipate this, we're anticipating that. This was before I even got on council that I've been looking at East Washington Street look like that. And I'm tired of it. Everybody had got to be tired of riding down the street looking like that man. You know. What you got?"

City Manager Altman addressed Council Member Jones. He replied that the part of what Ms. Siodmok and the Green Infrastructure Group is looking at is overall trees in the City. He noted that the section that she mentioned is the piece that's been focused on by the STAR Study, which is the section from the city limits, at the Battlefield Park, essentially to where Kmart used to be, through all the way to about where the railroad track is and splits open into, how many ever lanes. He added that Staff should be able to look at it because it is the gateway into the community for the soldiers and the rest of the community coming into Old Town. He also added that there is a wide median that serves as a stormwater piece with black gums, because the stormwater gets redirected to the center median. City Manager Altman stated that the City may want to work with the business owners along the corridor on how to place the trees and create a nice entrance into the community.

Council Member Jones replied, "And with all due respect, Mr. City Manager, I want everybody to understand that down East Washington Street there's a clear space and place where trees can

grow and then be beneficial. But what we're talking about is planting trees on concrete and asphalt, that's going to be maintaining and fixing, like you said, yourself and concrete is already tore up. And we're going to put trees there in, the roots going to grow. You got businesses there and nobody's thinking about your roots going under, they're attacking, the trees go to water. It goes to water. So, you're going to have concrete problems down the line. And I'm not saying not to do it on Sycamore Street. I'm just saying, there's a clear space for a tree to say, "put me right here". Y'all going to take them trees up off of Sycamore Street and put them on East Washington Street! You know, what you do with them. Throw them away probably. What did we do with those trees?"

City Manager Altman replied, "The trees were cut down."

Council Member Jones replied, "See." He said "thank you."

Ms. Siodmok thanked the City Manager Altman for clarification. She informed Council that Staff is going to be doing a tree master plan, which will help identify locations throughout the whole city. She remarked that it's great to hear the feedback from Council. Staff is working with Green Infrastructure on the tree master plan.

Council Member Jones asked, "Will I be off Council before y'all put a tree down there".

Vice Mayor Hill replied, "You will be on Council."

Council Member Jones asked, "Will it be my last year before they put a tree down there. Somebody to tell me."

City Manager Altman replied, "I don't think so. I don't think it'd be last year."

Council Member Cuthbert said, "It is my sense that this is the beginning of the conversation. I am delighted that the conversation has begun and staff has made a good start. I agree that East Washington Street could use some TLC and that trees would be a great way to do it. I looked at the four different species that were suggested, of street trees. I like the brilliant red color of the Black Gum. For the greatest visual impact, it might be wise to make the line of trees consistent and not have any meenie miney moe, down the street, but all one species so that it would really pop. That's an architectural term that I learned "pop". Thank you, Ms. Siodmok for your presentation."

Ms. Siodmok stated that there's concerns with the community forester that if we don't have species diversity, that might impact the whole street should disease or something come through. She added that there could be more of a concentration that has that visual impact.

Mr. Williams stated that the same group that looked at Sycamore Street, also looked at East Washington Street. However, this is the first presentation that was completed. He noted that there are some gas lines and infrastructure. He reassured Council that area is not being ignored. He added that there are other things to layer with respect to Washington Street and some of the other streets. Mr. Williams added that the decision was made to cut the trees down because some were tearing up the sidewalks. He commented that he would not mind taking down trees if sidewalks are wanted.

Vice Mayor Hill asked Mr. Williams if there was any way to uproot the trees as opposed to cutting them down. He stated that Staff will look at other ways of doing it, but in the meantime, the trees are being cut as far down as possible.

Vice Mayor Hill said to the Public Works Director Jerry Byerly to start cutting grass in the mediums, like today. He added that he has made this request for over a month for Crater Road. He commented that it is like the fifth time he has said this and he is tired of hearing himself. He told them to cut and spray and not spray a whole bunch of weeds.

Mr. Williams replied that he spoke with the contractor that maintains the medium is suppose to provide him with a schedule this week. He added that the city is also looking at a new piece of machinery, a street sweeper with tools that will cut and sweep.

Vice Mayor Hill reiterated that Staff needs to get that done now. He addressed Mr. Byerly. He added that the trash is starting to build up too. He emphasized that it needs to be done like tomorrow. He added that the City has contractors and employees, so we just need to get on it like asap.

Vice Mayor Hill questioned the existence of volunteers, like the beautification committee, that use to assist in beautifying areas like Sycamore in front of the arrow. He said that he wanted to put the areas like that, the area behind the old library, and the roundabout on Staff's radar. He and the Mayor have discussed this.

Vice Mayor Hill noted that the Mayor Parham was not present due to his daughter's graduation.

Mr. Williams stated that the beautification contract expired for approximately 38 locations throughout the City. The plan is to have the contractors that are under contract do grass cutting for those private lots maintain those areas while we put out another contract for beautification.

b. Update on McKenney Building as an African American History and Cultural Center and Archive

Petersburg Public Library Director Wayne Crocker presented an update to council on whether McKenney Foundation is with the repurposing of the former McKenney library as an African American History, Cultural Center, and Archive. The McKenney Foundation has done a lot since they last came before Council and moving toward this end goal. He noted that periodically they would like to come before Council with updates. He thanked Council for their support to the McKenney Foundation. The old library, the McKenney builder, has a new roof. He introduced the board members of the McKenney Foundation and asked those present to stand.

Mr. Crocker introduced Mr. Gil Entzminger, the principal of Enteros Design. He stated that Interiors Design was the architectural firm that designed the new library. He announced that there will be a community meeting on next Tuesday, June 11, at 6 PM, in the Wellness Center on the second floor. Mr. Crocker thanked the Council once again, especially Councilman Myers, who has been a real champion for this effort.

Mr. Entzminger noted that this is just a preliminary study. He added that there is a lot of further development will have to happen before the project becomes a reality or before the designs are finalized. He provided an understanding of some of the historic significance of the building that make it important to the history of the City. The building was constructed in 1859 by John Dodson, who was the first elected mayor for the City of Petersburg. It was once the primary residence for Billy Mahone, the famous general and Virginia Senator. In 1923, it was bequeathed to the City of Petersburg by Clara McKenney. And then in 1924, it opened as the city library. In 2024, Petersburg Library will be celebrating its 100th anniversary. The library was expanded in 1958, with a major addition that expanded the library, shelving and stacks areas. And in 1960, it was a major focal point for civil rights in the City, and it was desegregated on November 7, 1960. And the facility served as the main library for the City of Petersburg from 2020 until 2014, when the new library was constructed.

Mr. Entzminger stated that they're trying to preserve as much of the existing and minimize modifications. He provided renderings showing the building with minimal alterations to the exterior just preserving and restoring the exterior components of the building and a final rendering. He provided a professional cost estimate for the project, with a detailed estimate in the report provided to Council. Mr. Entzminger stated that the basic construction cost, including a 10% contingency and

6.38% of escalation, would be roughly \$5,986,248. He is suggesting some important components to it that would be required to make it suitable for the archives and exhibit conflict functions. The key component of that is the foundation waterproofing in the building that's about \$279,944. The structural reinforcing for the archives that would be needed to accommodate the archive shelving, another \$109,171. He stated that the construction cost is roughly \$6,375,003.63. He noted that there are other costs that would be associated with the three options for the different types of shelving that could go in the archive space, all would have varied capacity. The least expensive being \$192,000. In addition, there will be costs associated with furniture, technology, audio visual systems, exhibits, design fees, and other miscellaneous soft costs. These that would be associated with the project totaling about \$1.2 million, bringing the total cost to about \$7,833,919. He noted as the project moves forward, additional designs, budgets and estimates will be provided. He stated that the McKenney Foundation is currently developing funding strategies for the project. The purpose of this presentation was to provide Council with an initial overview and current status of the project.

Council Member Jones asked what kind of archives, records, what is going to be in here. He asked is it going to be where we can research things, history stuff, archives on everything about Petersburg and the people in Petersburg.

Mr. Crocker stated that it could potentially hold the artifacts of the City of Petersburg that are in attics and basements of those waiting for the right place, with the right conditions to store them. He added that there are many artifacts that the City does not currently own, especially as it pertains to African Americans in the City, that could be housed in this facility.

Council Member Jones stated "this is real big". He reiterated "this is real big". He thanked everybody. He said "we're moving forward as a City if you don't see it. This is proof. Because back in 1784 to 1789, Mr. Dawson was the first mayor of the City. And when Mr. Billy Maholm was living in this place, won't nothing black coming around that place, unless you were the topic of discussion on a poster board or a flyer that they were looking for you or they were going to sale you. And here we are. I am sure he's turning over in his grave because he fought for the institution of slavery. He fought for it. And we done took his house and made it something where we can learn, all of us black and white, can learn about all history, especially ours. My hat's off to us for doing this. This is a movement forward for everybody, especially Petersburg. all of us. Tell the story and tell it right, everybody, black history, white history, everything. Tell it all. Thank you."

Vice Mayor Hill thanked Mr. Crocker. He told Mr. Crocker that he always does a great job. Vice Mayor recognized Mr. Walker and others of the Foundation in attendance. He stated that a gentleman, who is a historian, who received an honorary doctorate at Virginia State University. Vice Mayor said that he was at the commencement and they gave him an honorary doctorate. He commented "so that's walking history right there".

c. CDBG Advisory Board Presentation of Recommended FY24-25 Subrecipients and Updates

CDBG Advisory Board Chairman Kofi Adih presented the recommended FY24-25 subrecipients and updates. He explained the purpose of the Community Development Block Grant CDBG program and its funding use. He also shared the composition and purpose of the Advisory Board. He recognized members of the advisory board present. He recognized Jennifer Murphy James, the CDBG administrator since November. Mr. Adih challenged Councilman Jones and Councilman Westbrook to make appointments from their wards to the advisory board.

Mr. Adih informed Council that this year, there was a total of 21 subrecipients, with a total requested amount of \$4,336,326. The largest amount requested was \$1,500,000. The Petersburg CDBG allocation was \$582,410. He CDBG Advisory Board recommend funding to the following organizations for a total of \$494,482:

Alamo Addiction Recovery Center, Inc. for rehabilitation of residential and non-residential structures in the amount of \$31,500.

Petersburg Area Art League for rehabilitation of residential and non-residential structures in the amount of \$18,500.

City of Petersburg Parks, Recreation, Special Events, and Volunteerism for public facilities improvements in the amount of \$212,069.

City of Petersburg Department of Public Works for emergency repair to Farmer Street Pool House roof in the amount of \$2,000.

CDBG for administration in the amount of \$116,482.

Project Homes Citywide Critical Repair for rehabilitation of residential and non-residential structures in the amount of \$113,931.

Public Services recommendations totaling \$87,360 are as follows:

Downtown Churches United for public service in the amount of \$14,560.

River Street Market for public service in the amount of \$14,560.

Lending Helping Hands for public service in the amount of \$14,560.

Healthy Start Loving Steps for public service in the amount of \$14,560.

YMCA for public service in the amount of \$14,560.

Pretty Purpose for public service in the amount of \$14,560.

Mr. Adih stated that this year the application process was fully online through Microsoft 365 Suite. The advisory board added 3 board members and hired a full time CDBG Administrator. He added that there was an allocation of over \$200,000 to the City of Petersburg Parks, Recreation, Special Events, and Volunteerism for park renewal. The advisory board also networked within the community.

Councilman Jones reassured Mr. Adih that he was going to take care of his ward appointment. He commented projects, program services, that improves the lives of residents. He noted that he felt it was so fair and admirable what the Board did this year, which is public service. He added that everybody who applied received the same amount. Council Member Jones said, "you're not picking and choosing, saying this one is getting 10,000 More than that one, and that one is getting 5000 Less, this is so fair. And we appreciate that.". Council Member Jones asked Mr. Adih to explain for the people and public, "how did they advertise about this grant? Who can apply? And when can they apply?"

Mr. Adih explained that they advertised via the city's social media feeds and in the newspaper. He added that a public hearing of need was held that was advertised weeks in advance. There are also other meetings as well. They also get out and engage within the community.

Council Member Jones said, "You also mentioned code enforcement and demolition, which is some things that we talk about a lot. The City is in need help with getting a lot of these structures knocked down that's been sitting like this for 20 years, dilapidated and all along Harrison Street and some of it is in some in every ward. How can we get help with this fund to help us with code enforcement and demolition of dilapidated properties? Because imagery is everything. We got our kids leaving

their homes riding on school buses to school seeing a whole lot of hell along the streets.”

City Attorney Williams stated that he knows the City has used CDBG funds in the past to address demolitions. He added that in previous years they did about 13 demolitions using CDBG funds.

Mr. Adih added that demolition has been done in the past, they need to apply. Applications open up in January, and close in March.

City Manager Altman added that there's funding allocated towards Neighborhood Services, to assist with building demolition in the current year's budget and previous year's budgets that we've got. He added that the City must spend that because if you don't spend it all in one year, you have a time period, you have to spend and as long as meet our timeliness requirement for overall expenditures during the year. He added that there is funding available, I believe in the proposed recommendation to assist with that also.

Council Member Jones asked if the CDBG Admin was \$100,000. He asked is that for the salary for the new administrator or is that spread out. He said that it looks like we're applying for our own grant to pay for stuff. He asked how does CDBG administration apply for CDBG Grant.

City Manager Altman explained that the funding formula allows each community to utilize a certain portion of the percentage of the funds to support the administration of the program. He added that it can go toward salaries, office supplies, advertising. He noted that the city can utilize CDBG dollars as opposed to using general fund dollars to accomplish these efforts.

Council Member Jones asked for confirmation that only one church applied.

Mr. Adhi responded, “yes”.

Council Member Cuthbert asked City Manager Altman a follow up to his comment that there is an unspent prior allocation for code enforcement and demolition.

City Manager Altman replied by saying “not necessarily for code enforcement. However, in the past, the City provided funding, if we haven't spent it all we can continue to spend it within a certain period of time before we have to reallocate funds. The effort is we have funding in the current year CDBG budget towards funding available from CDBG for demolitions, and we have in your proposal \$95,000 for demo work and the proposed CDBG budget. I think in the past we've allocated \$100,000. I don't think it's been consistently the same amount, but I do remember \$100,000 was allocated I think two years ago.”

Council Member Cuthbert questioned that we're now at June 4, 224, is there an unspent allocation for demolition?

City Manager Altman replied that he was not sure if there was an unspent allocation nor what that amount is. He added that if there is an unspent allocation, it does not have to be spent by June 30 because the key for HUD is a timeless requirement that in May you have to hit for a certain percentage of the funding expended. He added that if you hit that, then you use some projects carryover. He provided an example of a support project of houses and the rehab goes past a budget year. The timeliness piece comes in with HUD. So, you don't have the funds disappear on June 30, like the general fund. They can be spent through the next fiscal year.

Council Member Cuthbert responded “yes, but the city can't apply for additional funds for demolition through CDBG. If we haven't spent our allocation totally within the current fiscal years, I think”.

City Manager Altman responded “you can apply it”.

Mr. Adhi commented that there is a drawdown schedule. He added that the City Manager is correct, that you have to draw down a certain amount of the allocation so that you won't be penalized by HUD. He added that as long as you have that certain drawdown percentage, you can carry over to subsequent program years.

Council Member Cuthbert responded that we're short on staff in code enforcement. He added that we have been short on staff in code enforcement for the past eight years, and this is a source of money. He asked if any of the money for the upcoming CDBG budget proposed for code enforcement.

Mr. Adhi replied, "negative". He added that in the past years, code enforcement was funded. He stated "to be honest, we're under the recommendation that for those type of operations, we propose that to come out of the general fund and out of the general budget. We have funded code enforcement for two years in a row, and as you stated, is still under staff." Mr. Adhi added that the board felt that it was time to go in a different direction, instead of funding code enforcement year after year after year and still seeing the same systemic problems.

Council Member Cuthbert responded, that he feels kind of like a blind man in a cave trying to figure this thing out. He stated that all he knows is the City has been short staff in code enforcement for eight years and he sees no movement toward changing that. He said that maybe it is not due to CDBG money, because we got a surplus, apparently, but we still don't have the staff. He asked Mr. Altman how do we address it. He asked Mr. Altman how do we solve it. He commented that he thinks its time to solve this problem, rather than talk about it.

City Manager Altman replied by saying, "So the question, I think, really the vacancies that are in code enforcement, and filling those, and then the discussion of adding additional positions. The class in comp study will address salary disparities within the market to help raise that up; then two the additional positions. Yes, a funding source for additional positions could be CDBG funding. But it sounds as the committee is determined that they're not sure that's the right source of funding; or they don't get a bigger pot bang for the buck on a project there. So, then we would need to look at if we want to add additional positions, how many would we want to add and work that into the general fund budget for the upcoming years. I think most importantly, we've got to work on filling the existing vacancies we have now and getting an established steady workforce, and then begin to add positions over time."

Council Member Cuthbert commented, that while he agrees that there is no sense in funding additional positions, if we've got the money to pay for positions that are remaining unfilled. He added that we just got to increase the RPM on this code enforcement.

City Manager Altman replied, that he heard what Council Member Cuthbert was saying. He added that we can adjust salaries, we can reduce costs on health insurance, but we can't make people apply for the jobs. He commented that we've got a recruitment effort that we would need to look at on how to recruit people into doing and having done code enforcement. He said, "You are kind of like the bad guy. I mean, you're the guy out there telling everybody what they can and can't do. And that's not everyone's cup of tea. So, it's getting people to apply. We can't control that piece of it, but we can address salaries and address the insurance to make the positions more attractive to people. But also creating an environment where there's support for those individuals that are doing those jobs. So, they can go out and have the confidence to go out and do it, enforce it, and then make those improvements whether it be through rehab or demolition and improve the community. So, we're working on those items. Council approved the reduction of the health insurance to make that more affordable. The class and comp study is going to help with the compensation piece from a regional competitive perspective. Now, we just need to be able to recruit people to come in.

Vice Mayor Hill said, "Okay, hold on, before we go any further. Do we have any other questions for the CDBG?"

Council Member Cuthbert replied, "Well, before we leave that I'm going to finish this off."

Vice Mayor Hill replied, "I'm not going to leave that right there. But I just wanted any more question towards him?"

Council Member Cuthbert replied, "I beg your pardon. You don't want to talk about this anymore?"

Vice Mayor Hill responded, "No, I said I don't want him just standing up there. We're talking about what we can do. So, any more question towards him? Thank you, Mr. Kofi. I appreciate you. I appreciate you. And then now we can go ahead because you're addressing to him. Go ahead. You can go."

Council Member Cuthbert said, "Yeah, thank you, Mr. Altman, we got to have a plan, because all I've heard is talk. And it's, it's really, we got to fill these positions with people who do the job and do the job well. How many code inspectors do we have now? Just one?"

City Manager Altman replied, "No, we've had some we added some positions recently, I don't know the total number of vacancies we have off the top of my head. But we have added some additional positions. Recently, I saw some PDFs come through. But again, at the end of the day, I can't make people apply for the job, right. So, I get I understand what you're hearing. I don't disagree with you. We need to have more people. We've got some pieces to put in place that I think will help us attract individuals. But again, we can create the environment, we just have to have people willing to apply for the position.

Council Member Cuthbert asked, "If we, you have exhausted efforts to lure people away from let's say, nearby municipalities."

City Manager Altman answered, "The salary piece is going to help us. We are a little bit behind the curve. That's where that's going to help us. I can I can say that. Well, that's something when we're talking about luring, that's where the adjustment in the class and comp of the salaries will help us potentially in that manner.

Council Member Cuthbert stated, "That is something you got control over. I for one will be very grateful if we have a full staff in code enforcement that enjoys doing the work and does the work well. I certainly don't want non performers in there. But I think the carrot that's going to attract the talent is going to be that that paycheck. Greed. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Vice Mayor."

Vice Mayor Hill said, "Thank you, Councilman Cuthbert. And until that point, we have had, I know that Public Works and all the agencies have had job fairs, and everything. And we tried to be more enticing as a City overall, and we're going to be doing something upcoming in our budget, that should reflect that. And we're working on the health piece, the insurance piece. So prayerfully will be even more enticing than what we are now. And you know, one of our main concerns is also keeping individuals here, who's here now, but also attracting new talent. And it was well so we have some things coming up in the budget that should address those things throughout the whole city. Thank you, members, thanks to the CDBG fund and we will address that again."

8. MONTHLY REPORTS:

There were no items for this portion of the agenda.

9. FINANCE AND BUDGET REPORT:

FY2023-2024 City of Petersburg Budget vs. Actuals

Garry Cozier, Budget Manager, presented the FY2023-2024 City of Petersburg Budget vs. Actuals as of May 31, 2024. A copy was provided to Council.

Mr. Cozier reported that right now the City is at 74% of total projected revenues. He noted that is important to note that we're still expecting revenues to come in after the fiscal year close that will be accrued back to this fiscal year. So, in July and up to August, we still claim money for FY 24, even though FY 25 has already begun. And that's just simply due to the time in certain programs and timing to where we receive money from the federal government and the Commonwealth.

Council Member Myers left the dais at 6:27 p.m.

He reported that the General Fund expenditures, are right now at a total 88% of all the expected funds. There is a spending freeze currently underway. So only necessary purchases and purchases related to public safety are being approved right now. There's still a remaining balance as of May the 31st of \$10 million unspent dollars. All the other funds revenue category, most of the major funds are on track. Mass Transit is waiting for federal funds. Expenditures for the other funds are pretty much tracking pretty good. Street's revenue well exceeds expenses. Public utilities revenue well exceeds expenses. Stormwater, we don't have many expenditures. The Dogwood revenues exceed expenditures also. Mass Transit is overall 62%, which is on track for the year. 92% of the Year is gone with us being in the last month of our fiscal year. He said, "So, these numbers are really good."

Council did not have any questions of Mr. Cozier regarding this report.

10. CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE:

There were no items for this portion of the agenda.

11. UTILITIES:

Public Works Monthly Report

Jerry Byerly, Public Works & Utilities Director, presented the Public Works monthly report. He reported that water utilities completed 7 work order, wastewater completed 18, water meter work orders completed 176, and utility billing completed 289. He added that there were 75 water terminations. 168 new services, and 46 read and locked. Mr. Byerly added that water utilities were out tonight on a water leak tonight. He added that they prepared a leak today, did a new tap today, and now they've got a 16 inch main they're working on tonight. He commented that "those guys are busy."

He reported that East Washington Street and West Washington Street are in a state of good repair. The funding repaved both ways and included new roadway markings. Mr. Byerly provided the initial paving list for next budget year funding proposed total is \$2,045,720. The list includes East Fillmore Street - \$325,000, South Crater Road to Rives Road to City Limits - \$291,674, Madison Street to East Washington Street to Bollingbrook Street - \$315,328, Birdsong Road to Flank Road to Johnson Road - \$205,177, Cox Road to Spring Street to Seaboard Street - \$9,422, Ferndale Avenue to Spring Street to Seaboard Street - \$18,367, South street to Farmer Street to Lee Avenue - \$247,909, Rives Road to South Crater to Corporate Road - \$362,286, South Sycamore to South Boulevard to South Crater Road (VDOT Funding Shortage \$58,897). He noted that the final paving list will be adjusted to match approved funding level for FY25.

Mr. Byerly reported that the Streets Division has 14 vacant positions, so we're operating at about 55% operational capacity. He stated, "So to your point, Vice Mayor about picking up trash. We'll move the inmates out of the graveyard tomorrow at Blandford and get trash picked up along Crater. We will lose a day mowing at Blandford. That's a pretty hot topic in summertime."

Mr. Byerly reported that Facilities and Grounds did an electrical service receptacle install at Pleasant

Lake Picnic Pavilion. They removed a historic original cast iron fence from the Comstock Castle at the Old Hospital site and placed it in storage. Dead trees were removed from Poplar Lawn/Central Park. He reported that they're working on a plan to get trees removed and replaced with a species that is not so prone to disease like the ash trees. The high grass hotline is staffed for this grass season. The mowers and equipment had been reworked or worked, blade sharpened, and fluids changed. He reported that mowing season is now in full swing. Mr. Byerly reported that the Petersburg Legend Park Tennis Courts nets and poles have been reinforced and new screening has been installed around courts. The modernization of the Fiscal Services building has begun (painting, carpet, new lighting, and new flooring). The new roof is being installed at the Health Department.

Mr. Byerly said, "The Stormwater Division has begun its Citywide Drainage Study. The data collection inventory phase is winding down and they're about to start the modeling phase. The Construction bid phase is about to begin on multiple projects, including North Whitehill Drainage Improvements – Phase I, Fleets Branch Stream Restoration Project, and Wilcox Dam maintenance has been rolled over into the dam improvement construction project." An engineer submitted an application for approval for the path forward for a successful floodplain management review to reestablish the sinkhole/culvert replacement on West Bank Street. They submitted on 5/16. He reported that we had a 30 day window to review and approve or deny. External consultants were retained to satisfy the DCR requirements. He stated that round four application is being considered by DCR for award. The City has multiple projects that are running. The EPA dispute has been resolved in our favor and consent decree was assigned by all parties. He added that they have successfully submitted the City's Bay Act Local Improvement report to the DEQ by March 15. He reported that 95% of all stormwater reviews and inspections were completed within a timeframe established by the State, 41 stormwater site reviews were completed, and 17 stormwater/soil erosion building permits were reviewed and completed.

Vice Mayor Hill asked Mr. Byerly for the total number of employees and vacancies

Mr. Byerly replied that he was not sure, but can email that number to the Council or Manager to distribute to Council.

Vice Mayor Hill asked about the work being done by the inmates at the cemetery.

Mr. Byerly replied that the bulk of the morning work is done by the inmates at the cemetery. He said, "Streets are at half capacity. We have people picking up trash on the streets every day. If there are areas that we need to concentrate on, we will have to put the inmates out on streets. They're not fixing potholes, patching streets, fixing curb and gutters, and type thing. So, we can bring them out of the cemetery. But we'll lose a day of mowing if we do that."

Council Member Jones said, "Thank you, Mr. Vice Mayor. Mr. Byerly, how you doing?"

Mr. Byerly replied, "I'm good, sir. You?"

Council Member Jones replied, "All right. Can you go back to the first slide? About the work orders? While he is going back to that slide, I want to piggyback on the question Vice Mayor asked you. He asked you how many employees you had working for you? How long have you been here?"

Mr. Byerly replied, "11 months."

Council Member Jones said, "11 months. And before that you were here before? Right?"

Mr. Byerly replied, "Yes, sir."

Council Member Jones said, "You've been here 11 months. And you can't tell us and this is not beating you down. I want to make sure I let you know that. But you can't tell us how many employees working for you."

Mr. Byerly replied, "No, sir."

Council Member Jones asked, "Why is that?"

Mr. Byerly replied, "we had at least one released today. I believe paper said and one on Friday. So, I can't give you an exact number. I don't know exactly."

Council Member Jones asked, "Aren't you the Department Head?"

Mr. Byerly responded, "Yes, sir. I am."

Council Member Jones asked, "So, why can't you tell me how many people are working for you?"

Mr. Byerly replied, "Because I don't know."

Council Member Jones asked, "Why don't you know?"

Mr. Byerly replied, "I answered 100 emails this morning sir. I spent my day out on a water leak. We've got problems with two tanks. We're working on it several meetings and I did not do a head count on how many people I have."

Council Member Jones asked, "Do you have meetings with your people?"

Mr. Byerly responded, "Yes, on a regular basis"

Council Member Jones said, "I find it hard to believe I did his whole city we can only do seven work orders in one month."

Mr. Byerly responded, "That's all that's all. They did more than seven they did."

Council Member Jones said, "I would believe it even better if you knew how many worked for you."

Mr. Byerly responded, "They did more work than seven work orders. There are other things to be done as well."

Council Member Jones said, "Why am I looking at a number seven right here."

Mr. Byerly responded, "There were seven work orders assigned to them, and they completed those. But they did more work than those seven work orders. Not everything done is based on the work order."

Council Member Jones said, "I think you need to grow a relationship with your people. And no disrespect to you. There's a lot of people that work hard for you."

Mr. Byerly responded, "I understand that. I talk to them."

Council Member Jones said, "But you don't know who they are. It's like having a big church congregation and you don't know the members."

Mr. Byerly responded, "Pardon me. I didn't say I didn't know who they are. I don't know the exact number of people and I don't know the exact number of vacancies".

Council Member Jones asked him to give him a guesstimate of how many.

Mr. Byerly replied that there was, the last time he looked, about 90 slots in the department. He commented, "Roughly." He stated that there are 14 missing from streets, probably 8 from utilities. He added "we're about a third down from that."

Council Member Jones said, "I'm going to get off that horse. I want to go to the next thing. Paving. I know, we talked about paving a long time ago. Right? And I'm seeing streets. Go to that page with the paving on there. And that looks good. Appreciate that, looks real good. Thank you. But go to the list, please. Yeah, some of those streets have been paved two and three times. And you got Berkeley Manor, which is an area who pay high taxes like everybody else. But this is a high taxpaying area. And we haven't had the streets paved yet since I've been I've been out there. I've been out there for 20 years. And I haven't seen one street in Berkeley Manor paved, maybe Normandy. But that's it. And I got a problem with that. And we need we talked about getting it added to this list. And you said you were looking into it. And it's not added to that list. And you don't have to answer that right now. Just want to bring it to your attention. Berkeley Manor needs to be paved. It hadn't been paved since he'd been built."

Mr. Byerly replied, "And the month after you asked me that question, I came back with a cost to do the areas that council asked for that night. And those were higher than the total for that was more than the whole budget for this year. So, none of the streets like the one you just saw Washington would have been paved this year."

Council Member Jones stated, "so that brings us back to prioritizing. What gives these streets more priority over others? I don't understand. I asked for this thing a long time ago."

City Manager Altman replied, "Part of it is these streets have been in the queue for a long time. So, what you run into is if we insert all the streets in Berkeley Manor would pretty much take the budget, all the budget and all the streets off. So, these folks have been waiting in line to get their streets paved. If we go in and insert streets and kind of cut in line, if you will that creates some problems. So, we're trying to work through a process. There are some ways, we've got a city engineer on board now. We've been working to fill that position for quite a while. And there's some programs that he's knowledgeable of that may allow us to increase the funding that we can get to do more paving, and each year. And we've also had a conversation about instead of just always just doing complete repays doing some slurry seal, which will stretch our dollars and get more surface done in the in this community. So, there are some things that we're looking at, to stretch our current dollar, but also some programs to leverage our dollars to get more dollars. We certainly can have that conversation with counsel about priorities. But staff doesn't want to kind of cut people off that have been waiting in line for a while."

Council Member Jones said, "At one time we used to have, in the city, a paving schedule. And you will see paving done on a regular basis in all areas. And now we got a lot of streets, not just Berkely Manor, but in all the wards, have been neglected. You know, and it's sad because it looked like to me, we're just throwing some streets out there to just to say we put some pavement down. Now, I'm going to get off of that horse. My next thing is the fiscal management building. That building is a disgrace for our safety. It's missing ceiling tiles, you got mold growing in it. I don't know if the sprinkler system work. Snakes are in there. All kinds of stuff. So, what kind of modernization we do unto another didn't turn it down. Mr. Byerly? What you going to do, put a doorbell on it. What we doing to it?"

Mr. Byerly replied, "Let me get back to the slides so that I can answer your question. They are doing painting, carpet, new lighting, and new flooring."

Council Member Jones replied, "Okay. Thank you."

Mr. Byerly added, "And the sprinkler system I believe was inspected in April."

Council Member Jones asked, "Can you provide us with a copy of that report, the sprinkler report, with the deficiencies?"

Council Member Jones said, "Not today, but when you can."

Mr. Byerly responded, "Pardon me, but I'm old. If I don't make a note, I'll forget it."

Council Member Jones said, "Next thing, real quick, Wilcox Dam. I don't know if y'all rode past this thing. But the trees are growing almost off to the s-curve."

City Manager Altman replied, "So the that that particular issue, we have a grant. We've engaged the Timmons group to develop a plan to do the dam restoration. We just can't go out there and start cutting trees, because that'll affect the dam itself. So, we're working through the plan. We have the grant through DCR, to develop the plan, to stabilize and fix the dam. And then we'll come back and apply for the funding to actually implement the plan. So, we're working towards stabilizing the dam at Wilcox Lake to make sure that it's in good condition and then fix it permanently. And at that time, we'll take the trees down as part of that process."

Council Member Westbrook said, "Thank you, Mr. Byerly. Just to pick up where he left off and City Manager, Mr. Altman. Being on the Wilcox Lake Conservancy, we've been talking about, in the last a week, the Governor has made a concerted effort about dam restoration, or safety in Virginia. So, please talk to Mr. Kenneth Lewis. I think there is some extra money or attention can come from Governor Youngkin's office about dam improvement. And I think that would be really good for Wilcox Lake area. I'll make sure that I get you that at the end of the meeting. I'm going to speak with Mr. Williams next week. But one of my main concerns, I'm not going to go down a litany of things, but when you're getting off of Squirrel Level Road, and you make a left onto Defense Road, right by the lay yard, I have an issue with first of all the trees on the right hand side. So, if you're traveling back toward the city, towards Ramblewood, the height sign of the underpass is covered up because of the trees. And even where it's placed. I would say I'm not a good estimate. But I would give it about 100 yards, that you've already made the left. And then you see the sign for the height of the of the underpass. And what usually happens is usually like at least once a month, tractor trailer will make that left, and then they see the sign and they try to turn around in the open area right before the underpass and get stuck. Can we do something about moving that sign back closer to the actual intersection, so that the trucks don't make a left turn? But until that, can we cut back that growth? Because it is covered when you make that left off of Squirrel Level on to Defense Road."

Mr. Byerly replied, that he will get the streets in the morning to get the trees in front of side cut back. He commented that is a quick thing we can do that. Then after they do that, they will do an assessment to see if the sign needs to be moved. He added that they can obviously move it up.

Council Member Westbrook asked, "Council Member Smith-Lee, if you don't mind, can I put you on the spot?"

Council Member Smith-Lee replied, "No."

Council Member Westbrook said, "Well, I am. There is an issue at Pleasants Lane about a drainage sinkhole that Council Member Smith-Lee alerted me to. So, I'm bringing that up Pleasants Lane. I will get with Mr. Williams next week. We're going to have a meeting."

Council Member Smith-Lee replied that it was behind the school.

Council Member Westbrook said, "It is behind the school. I will actually show Mr. Williams and everything. So, while we're in an open forum, I'm just bringing it to your attention. Thank you, Mrs. Smith-Lee."

Mr. Byerly asked, "Is that on school property?"

City Manager Altman asked, "Is that in the courtyard?"

Council Member Smith-Lee responded “Not the one in the courtyard. I think they want to do a garden.”

City Manager Altman replied, “I think we sent some pictures inside the courtyard, there was an issue.”

Vice Mayor Hill asked City Manager Altman to get back to him about the sinkhole on Bank Street, where the old DMV use to be.

City Manager Altman responded, “Unfortunately, as our friend in the front row knows, that one is on private property. Currently, the owner is working to get that resolved. They are working with their engineer to get that resolved and fixed, but it's on private property. We keep pushing the owner to get it resolved as much as we can. The state DCR has gotten involved. I think we have a meeting coming up here shortly to talk about it again with everybody.”

Mr. Byerly added, “I believe their initial plan was submitted us on the 16th for our review.”

Vice Mayor Hill said, “For safety measures, we need to be trying to work with them to help push them along. We've done other projects where we have worked with other developers and things of that nature. So, we need to be trying to work to get that done.

City Manager Altman responded, “Absolutely. The initial plan they submitted DCR rejected the design. So, they had to go back and reengage their engineer to come back with a better design.”

12. STREETS:

This report was provided under the Public Works & Utilities Monthly Report.

13. FACILITIES:

This report was provided under the Public Works & Utilities Monthly Report.

14. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

There were no items for this portion of the agenda.

15. CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

There were no items for this portion of the agenda.

16. BUSINESS OR REPORTS FROM THE CLERK:

City Clerk Hill said, “One thing that was brought to my attention tonight and something that's actually on my to do list, is to advertise for vacancies for boards and commissions. So, if counsel please, I will be advertising for vacancies for boards and commissions so that we can go ahead and get some applicants to fill those positions.

17. BUSINESS OR REPORTS FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY:

There were no items for this portion of the agenda.

Council Member Cuthbert announced that he will be holding a ward meeting at the Pocahontas Historic Chapel on June 20th at 5:30 pm. He will be getting a notice out about that. He asked the Clerk of Council to do it. He said, “But since our next council meeting is only two days before June 20. I thought it would be prudent to say something about that tonight. So, if you're interested, I hope you will be come to the meeting on June 20. We're going to talk about the Jarratt House. We're going to talk about the

heavy truck traffic that is now going down Roth Street. And how to divert that to a path that does not impose on the Pocahontas community. The historic Pocahontas Chapel on Witten Street.”

Council Member Jones announced that he will be holding a meeting for Ward 1 on, Thursday, June 20, 2024, at 6pm to 8pm. The meeting will be held at the Finger Taste Restaurant, located at 1600. East Washington Street. He said, “Some of the things we're going to talk about is what can we do as citizens that we can do on our own without waiting for the city to do for us. So, a lot of things, a lot of responsibility we have as citizens that we can go ahead and do. I know I stay hard on the city and us about doing things. But there's a lot we can do on our own. So, I invite you guys to come. And you're going to be in a restaurant you've never been in before. And you're going to see his Washington Street now and you're going to see it in the future on what we plan to do with it. So, I just want to welcome you guys to that. And also want to say congratulations to the Class of 2024 of Petersburg High School. My daughter's graduating this Saturday with the rest of the team. And so, we just want to wish them luck and y'all see these guys give them some words of advice and words of encouragement. That's how I got here. But people didn't give me no money. But they talked to me. They gave me words of encouragement. This is why I am who I am today. So, I want to say thank you. And we want to thank those young folks and see them all well. Thank you.

Vice Mayor Hill said, “We have a report. We had a giant of a person who passed in our community, Dr. Colonel Porcher Taylor. I'm going give the floor to our Annette Smith Lee who was the godchild to the Colonel Taylor. She's going to give some information on dates.”

Council Member Smith-Lee said, “Colonel Porcher L. Taylor, Jr.’s wake will be on June the 28th at 6pm at Good Shepherd Baptist Church. He will be funeralized on June the 29th, which is Saturday at noon at Good Shepherd Baptist Church.

Council Member Westbrook said, “I would think it would be remised if we didn't announce, please come out and support. Ms. Pat Heinz and the Halifax Triangle Jazz Festival going on this weekend, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Hopefully, the weather will be very permittable so that everybody can come out and enjoy themselves. Bring your chairs. Just come out for a good community event. I'm glad did Ms. Hines pulled it off again, with the help of everybody involved. I don't want to miss anybody. So, I'll just call her out. And one last thing. Ward 7 is tentatively planning a meeting as well on June 20. More information to come.

Vice Mayor Hill said, “Okay, June 20. You're going to have staff?

Council Member Westbrook replied, “Tentatively.”

Vice Mayor Hill said, “But he has his on June 20. So, you guys. Okay. So, everybody's going to be all over. Okay. All right.”

Council Member Smith-Lee said, “Juneteenth is going to be on June the 15th at the Petersburg Sports Complex.”

Vice Mayor Hill said, “Yes, thank you. Juneteenth, we celebrate that on the 15th at the Petersburg Sports Complex. Thank you. I just remind our clerk it's been a we just, I know you're recording and you're doing a lot of writing right now. Just record the spirit of our conversations that we have in our meetings. I think that will suffice that which Ms. Rudolph was talking about when we record things of that nature. But also, I want to say that we enjoy having you here. We thank you for being here. And I know it's a learning curve that we all going through. So, we appreciate everything that you're doing thus far. We appreciate you. With that being said, Can I entertain a motion to adjourn?”

18. ADJOURNMENT:

Council Member Westbrook made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Smith-Lee seconded the

motion. On roll call vote, Yes: Cuthbert, Jones, Westbrook, Smith-Lee, and Hill; No: None; Abstain: None.

The City Council adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Adopted the 18th day of June, 2024.

BY



Samuel Parham, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tangi R. Hill, Clerk to the Council