

The work session meeting of the Petersburg City Council was held on Tuesday, July 2, 2024, at the Petersburg Public Library. Mayor Parham called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The meeting video link is <https://petersburgva.new.swagit.com/videos/309426>.

1. ROLL CALL:

Present:

Council Member Marlow Jones
Council Member W. Howard Myers
Vice Mayor Darrin Hill
Mayor Samuel Parham

Absent:

Council Member Charles H. Cuthbert, Jr
Council Member Annette Smith-Lee
Council Member Arnold Westbrook, Jr.

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.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Parham 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:

Craig Tucker, 1215 McKenzie Street, said, "Good evening. Council. I am the President of a New Foundation, Incorporated. We are nonprofit in the City. Our mission is community and neighborhood development, working with our City leaders, other groups, and organizations to improve our community and our neighborhood. I come to thank my Councilwoman, Miss Annette Smith-Lee, personally for the funds, and you Council for providing us the funds to improve our park on Farmer Street. It's a beautiful place now. It looks better. I invite everybody to come by and look at it. I just wanted to thank y'all personally for listening to us and providing us with the funds to fix our park for the children. Thank you."

Otis Hill, 203 2nd Street, said "Hello, Council Members and Ms. Hill. I did want to respond to Tangi Hill. They had a picture that was copied about a local park by the name of Cameron Park, and it's right across the street of Graham. I'm sure you're familiar with where that is. That picture that was sent, it was actually a few pictures, showed that there were several holes in the pavement and on the track field that was right around the grass area. There are cracks, there's holes, there's roots that are coming up all over, and it's really difficult to walk through. So, I'm hoping that perhaps someone can go out and just take a look around and perhaps fix and attend to these cracks, so that people in the community can attend the park and go on walks safely. It really does not look very good. It just looks unkept. It needs to be cleaned up. I think it happened after the flood, which ended up ruining quite a bit of the area in that park. So, I'm hoping that I can get your opinion on what you think about that and how we can approach

that situation. Thank you.”

Genevieve Lohr, 19 Guarantee Street, said “Hey folks. Good to see everybody. All right, so I just have a couple, just brief comments. Recently, I was talking to somebody involved with the Community Services Board, and they were sharing about the need for permanent supportive housing. I don't know if anyone's familiar with permanent supportive housing. PSH is a really important program in which those who are not able to live completely by themselves are able to have support so that they're able to have their own residents. So, this support includes funding support, but it also includes a case manager who's able to assist them. Well, she was sharing with me that there is a significant need for more permanent supportive housing units in the region. They have the funding to provide housing for dozens more people, but they don't have the apartment capacity. They're not able to find landlords who are willing to work with them. So, the reason I bring this to the City Council is that other localities have been able to make this part of their planning process, or zoning, perhaps. So, where, when new developments happen, there's an allocation for permanent supportive housing. That's part of that, and I think that that's something that Petersburg should really consider. There's a need for permanent supportive housing for the residents who live here. And there is a growing number of apartments. I just recently read there were more coming to Petersburg. I think that's great, but we should do everything we can to make sure that the people who are in need are getting the support and services that they need. It's not a problem for landlords. They're going to receive their rent. There actually is additional support in place that provides funding if there are damages to the property, et cetera, and there's somebody checking in on this individual. I mean, there's a lot of support there. And so, it's not losing anything for a landlord or property owner, and it really does make a big difference for our community members. So please consider that if that's something that planning can look at, zoning, whomever it is. I just urge you to do so and to investigate the need for requiring permanent supportive housing units anytime there's a new development. Thank you.”

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

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

- a. Minutes of Previous Meetings:
June 18, 2024 – City Council Closed Session
June 25, 2024 – City Council Special Meeting
- b. A Request to Schedule a Public Hearing for the Consideration of an Ordinance to Adopt Section 2-193 of the Petersburg City Code Pertaining to Staff in the Office of the City Attorney (1st Reading)
- c. A Request to Schedule a Public Hearing for the Consideration of an Appropriation Ordinance to Accept Funding from Virginia Department of Fire Programs – Aid to Localities for FY24 (1st Reading)
- d. A Request to Schedule a Public Hearing for the Consideration of an Appropriation Ordinance for the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services – Four-for-Life Grant, Carryover of Funds from FY24 to FY25 Budget for \$135,183.36 (1st Reading)
- e. A Request to Schedule a Public Hearing for the Consideration of an Appropriation to Carry Over the Virginia Department of Emergency Management – Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program Funding from FY24 to FY25 Budget (1st Reading)
- f. A Request to Schedule a Public Hearing on an Appeal by Victoria Glazer, Applicant and Owner of 104 Marshall Street, Tax Parcel 022260001, on the Decision of the Architectural Review Board (ARB) Regarding the Installation of a Fence Located Within the Poplar Lawn Historic District (1st Reading)

- g. A Request to Schedule a Public Hearing and Consideration of an Ordinance to Approve Amendment and Readoption of Article 3, Definitions and Article 23, Supplementary Use Regulations, Special Uses Pertaining to Recreation Substance Retail Uses (1st Reading)
- h. A Request to Schedule a Public Hearing and Consideration of an Ordinance to Approve Adoption of Article 38, Site Plan Review, and Amendment and Readoption of Article 31, Permits, Plats, and Filing Fees as Set Forth in Zoning Ordinance of the City of Petersburg Pertaining to Site Plan Review Standards and Fees (1st Reading)

City Attorney Williams stated, "Mr. Mayor, I would make a recommendation that Council consider amending the June 25 minutes to reflect that Councilman Cuthbert left the dais, but he did not leave the stage. He remained five or six feet behind me behind the curtain during that meeting, and did not leave the building until after Council adjourned. I think it's important, for the purpose of accuracy, to include that in the minutes."

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to adopt the consent agenda with the amendment of the June 24, 2024 minutes to reflect that Councilman Cuthbert left the dais, but he did not leave the stage. He remained five or six feet behind me behind the curtain during that meeting, and did not leave the building until after Council adjourned.

Council Member Myers seconded the motion.

On roll call vote, yes: Jones, Myers, Hill, and Parham; no: N/A; abstain: N/A.

The motion carried.

7. SPECIAL REPORTS:

City Manager Altman stated, "No, sir Mr. Mayor, no items this evening under special reports, or monthly reports."

8. MONTHLY REPORTS:

There were no items for this portion of the agenda.

9. FINANCE AND BUDGET REPORT:

City Manager Altman stated, "The Finance and Budget Report, we're closing out the year. So, we'll have that for you, not at your August meeting, but your September meeting. We will have a report on the closing of FY 24."

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 said, "Good evening, Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council. The status for Utilities Division: there were 21 water utility work orders done, 28 wastewater work orders, 242 meters work orders, 307 billing work orders (including nine terminations, 163 new services and 54 reads and locks)."

"The monthly update from Streets. The signage was moved per Council's request last month on Squirrel Level Road southbound. There's a bridge clearance warning sign. Vegetation was removed in front of that, and the bridge clearing warning sign was moved on Defense Road, East Washington Street, at Slagle Avenue, there's emergency response. Traffic signal was knocked down. Apparently, was a wreck on the 22nd took out the control box for the light, so the light was out of service. It took them about three days for the contractor to get that back up. Streets responded that night, at one or two o'clock in the morning, put out manual stop signs and for traffic safety. Streets also is working on roadside vegetation removal on Jefferson Street between East Wythe and East Washington, Defense Road between Baylor Lane and Squirrel Level Road, and Banister Road and Defense Road. Drainage improvements for Powhatan Avenue, including drop ins and catch basins to be inspected and cleaned. The curb and gutter to be inspected and cleared of any obstructions of vegetation. Street sweeping will occur between South Boulevard and Johnson Avenue. Back to the vegetation removal, we have the General Manager of Streets is in contact with Jamie at the golf course. He has certified people that can spray. We're going to be working with him to get some free and done, and get at least one of our people trained, maybe two."

"So lastly, Facilities and Grounds is busy. Union Train Station had installed a rental AC unit. Remolding is in progress of the Fiscal Management Building's break room and a print room. The Southside Depot, AC repairs, catch band and returned. City Hall Annex AC units being installed. Petersburg Library sprinkler system has been repaired."

"We've mowed along Park, Westover Avenue, Sports Complex, AP Hill, Lake Road Ballpark, Cameron Field, Mount Vernon parking lot, Farmer Street Fire Station, McKenzie Street Playground, Farmer Street Playground, Albert Jones Fields, old social services, voter registration, old Timmons parking lot, North Boulevard sidewalks, old hospital parking lot, the old train station, Pocahontas Playground, Martin Luther King Bridge, Jefferson Street Playground, Fort Bross, Patton Park. Also, the AC was repaired at Blandford Church. At the health department, a drain pipe was repaired under a sink in their clinic. At the Sports Complex, several broken drain pipes in the men's restroom were repaired."

"The drainage study is still progressing. Data collection is winding down, and the modeling phase has begun. The construction project is ongoing on North White Hill drainage improvements. There's path forward for successful floodplain management review and approval to reestablish the sinkhole. Culvert replaced at West Bank Street. And there have been meetings with us and a property owner. The CFPF round four applications were submitted to DCR for award. Three of those five grant applications submitted were awarded. 95% of all stormwater reviews and inspections accomplished within timeframe established by the Virginia Stormwater Management Regulations. We had one stormwater site plan reviews completed, and 13 stormwater and soil erosion building permit reviews were completed."

Mayor Parham stated, "Alright, thank you for the presentation, Mr. Byerly. I want to thank you for replacing lights at Graham Road and Crater Road; as well as Crater Road and Merrick Road. I noticed we have those two sets of new red lights there. But we still have an issue that I always wonder how we can fix, even with the new lights. If you are on Crater Road, most time when I'm there sitting at that light on Crater Road, or that Merrick red light, is never any traffic going there. It runs a complete cycle before it changes. Is it possible to get the strips on there that notifies when that light needs to change, instead of just going through the normal light cycle? I was hoping, when they replaced them, that we would get some of those sensors there to similar areas that we have on Crater Road, that we're just not sitting there waiting for traffic, that most of the time do not come."

Mr. Byerly stated, "I will check with our streets folks tomorrow and see what we can do."

Vice Mayor Hill stated, "I talked to the City Manager earlier today. Just want to know what is the plan that we have in store for the curbs. You mentioned something about spraying, not spraying in people yards, but actually spraying the curb. What is the plan? Because, you know, we got a lot of weeds everywhere. So, what's the plan?"

Mr. Byerly stated, "We're meeting with Jamie this week to schedule a time for our staff to work with his staff to start spraying. Hopefully next week. I can't promise that, but hopefully next week, if we get the sprayers and the herbicides in by the end. So, probably two of our people and one of his to go out and work together."

Vice Mayor Hill stated, "So are we cutting and spraying or we just spraying? What are we doing?"

Mr. Byerly responded, "I'll have to check with streets folks and see. I know we plan to spray. I guess on a case by case, if it's high enough that we weed eat it, and then spray it. It would be more effective if you can do that."

Vice Mayor stated, "Okay, because we need to get on that. And then also, I do know Mr. Altman, we need to call the State and let them know that we need more attention to our exit and entry ramps. We got to get on top of that. Because, we only have like, four or five major areas coming in and coming out of the City, but some of them need attention. I know VDOT, they take care of that. But as they come into the City, then that's when we need to take on because our gateways need to be a priority. So please take care of that immediately. Thank you."

City Manager Altman replied, "Yes, sir."

Councilman Jones stated, "Mr. Byerly. Where is Randall at? You gave him the day off?"

Mr. Byerly responded, "I don't think he's got anything tonight. New Money. He hadn't spent it all yet."

Councilman Jones stated, "He probably needs some of your money. I got a couple of questions. Since we're talking about lights, let me start with that first. The same thing the Mayor said, and Vice Mayor was saying about lights. Rees road is another one. Rives Road and Crater Road. You sit there forever, and then when it changes, it changed for like five seconds, and it's going back to another two cycles. Since we're talking about lights, I'm still interested in the lights in Berkeley Manor on Old Wagner Road that we talked about, Mr. Mayor and City Manager, and the license and new brick amenities subdivision that is going out to Old Wagner Road. It's dark. You may not have been out there."

City Manager Altman responded, "So, as we talked, the lights on, we will call it the Frontage Road. They're out and there need to be some place there. And then in a new section of Berkeley Manor, those street lights were not installed by the developer at all. So, we reached out to the developer to see if they can come back and install them. But Parallel Path, we're going to reach out to Dominion to see what the cost would be. So, we're going to work on both of them because it is rather dark out there in the evening. As I commented to you the last meeting, if it wasn't for the solar lights in the individual yards in the new section of Berkeley Manor, you wouldn't be able to see anything. So, we'll take care of that for you."

Vice Mayor Hill stated, "Councilman Jones, if I may ask. So, when it was Ward Two, and I was making a deal with Ryan Homes, that was one of the things that we asked for. They said they was going to do. So, it's really on them. So, Mr. Altman, get with Councilman Jones and help them to get with him. And because they supposed to put those lights in there, that was one of the things that we fought for, because we had to fight for Berkeley Manor Estates, the first one. We had to put lights there, and they didn't want to put them in the second one. So, if you need any help with it, just let me know."

Councilman Jones stated, "So, the first set that we're talking about is right where the Medical Park is. They had lights right there and that pole got knocked down. They put a pole back up, and then never replaced the lights."

City Manager Altman added, "Then as you go into the first intersection, and turn right, there's nothing around that corner along with Frontage Road. We need to have some lighting there also that leads into

the new section of Berkeley Manor Estates.”

Councilman Jones asked, “Do we have a timeline on it? Can you let us know something at the next meeting?”

City Manager Altman responded, “We’re going to work with Ryan to get them to do the work in the subdivision. If I remember correctly, was a proffer condition as part of the rezoning. And then we’ll work with Dominion to get some existing lights replaced, and if we need to get some new lights installed. We’ll work with them and find out what their timeline is.”

Councilman Jones asked, “The one that was there and not there anymore, that’s not on Ryan’s Home that is on Dominion?”

City Manager Altman replied, “That is on Dominion.”

Councilman Jones stated, “So my next question, if we can go back to that slide where you did the vegetation. What kind of vegetation did you remove?”

Mr. Byerly responded, “The grass and weeds along the curb line and along the street.”

Councilman Jones said, “That’s what I thought.”

Mr. Byerly added, “Expansion joints in the curb and expansion joints in the sidewalk.”

Councilman Jones stated, “That’s what I thought. Jefferson Street, I want y’all to visualize Jefferson Street between East Wythe Street and East Washington Street; Defense Road between Bells Lane and Squirrel Level Road; and Banister Road at Defense Road. I’m glad we’re getting it done, but these are streets that’s hardly ever traveled compared to. Go back to the traffic light where you fixed on East Washington Street. Go back to that slide.”

Mr. Byerly stated, “Pardon me. Part of what we did on Defense Road. Well, that was weeds and grass.”

Councilman Jones said, “I want to show you something. Now, along that curb in that first picture, that’s what you got up along those streets, right? That is the vegetation along the curb, right?”

Mr. Byerly responded, “That was some of what we got. I don’t have the pictures with me, but they were like shrubs and stuff that were out over the edge of the curb into the roadway. Matter of fact, one of our vehicles got scratched up by it on I think Defense Road.”

Councilman Jones said, “I believe what I want to show everybody in here is our main streets. And I think the Vice Mayor mentioned this before. Our main streets, and it’s not beating down on your efforts, but our main streets, Washington and Crater, East Washington and East Wythe, going all the way down. The main streets, where everybody come into the City, and the first thing they see is that. They don’t travel down Defense Road as much, or Banister Road as much. I mean, we know we need to get that stuff up. But I’m just saying we need to really focus on our main streets, where people are coming to the City and leaving the City. This is what they see. Imagery is everything. And they don’t travel those back roads like that a lot. They travel these roads all right. So, when you do this the next time, show us some before and after pictures and what you’re really talking about.”

City Manager Altman said, “So one, I’d say you’re right. Mr. Byerly’s crew is working with Mr. Jamie Fagan’s crew at the golf course. He has a certified sprayer that can spray and kill the grass. We want to get some of the folks in Public Works certified so then they can go and spray the curb line here and kill that so it doesn’t come back. The items on Defense Road were actually in response to a citizen comment that came at the previous Council meeting. So, we went out there and cleared that from a site distance perspective. We are working towards having the plan for Wythe, Washington, Halifax, Wagner,

Crater, all of our main corridors that those curb line areas are cleared of weeds and growth. We want to get out there and spray it, so we can kill it so it doesn't come back. Right now, we're cutting it, and we're having to go back and continue to cut it. So, we're trying to find a permanent solution. You're exactly right, our main corridors make a statement about who we are. We want to have that create a positive impact for people who are coming in and out of the community. So, we're working towards making sure all that happens."

Councilman Jones stated, "And I see this on every main corridor, and not just me, everybody sees it. Let's get off with that horse. My next question. City Hall, nope, Southside Depot, we installed AC there?"

Mr. Byerly responded, "I think we installed a portable unit at Southside Depot. We're waiting on the parts to fix the permanently installed one, I believe."

Councilman Jones stated, "Union Street Train Station, we rented an AC unit for that, right? Right? City Hall don't have one. It's being installed. Is it installed yet?"

Mr. Byerly responded, "It's the annex. And you got to remember, my reports got to be in like, two weeks prior. I assume it's done, but I can't confirm."

Councilman Jones said. "But you just gave reports saying it's being installed. It's not installed yet."

Mr. Byerly responded, "Again, this is as of two weeks ago."

City Manager Altman added, "He had to submit the report two weeks ago."

Councilman Jones said, "I understand that, but I'm just going off what he said. He said it's being installed. I mean, you told us that Union Street, you rented one. Southside is installed. City Hall Annex is being installed. Which tells me it's not installed yet, but it's in the process of it right."

Mr. Byerly responded, "As of two weeks ago, when I had to submit this, it was being installed. I do not know if they've completed that yet. I believe they have, but I have to confirm it."

Councilman Jones responded, "Mr. Bradley, but you just."

Mr. Byerly responded, "Yes, it's required to be in two weeks ahead."

Councilman Jones said, "I'm getting somewhere with this. Just listen. You said as of two weeks ago, we're here today, two weeks later, and you telling us, as of two weeks ago has been installed. You didn't check to see if it's installed yet. And I'm getting somewhere everybody. There are people in the City Hall Annex! Nobody is in the South Side Depot! Nobody is in the Union Street Train Station! But they got air conditioning keeping walls cool! This is where I'm getting at! Why is it being installed? And why is it two weeks ago? And why haven't we checked to see if these people got air conditioning in there today before you got up and say it's being installed? This is where I'm getting at, y'all. This is where I'm getting at. Don't take it the wrong way, Mr. Byerly. I know you going to take it anyway. But here's the thing, I always talk about prioritizing. We do the back streets over the main streets. There are people in the City Hall Annex. They don't make as much money as you make. They come home, probably from no air conditioning, or paycheck to paycheck, and they got to come to a hot dog on place to work. Come on, we just want to care for them. Like, come on, this is what I'm talking about. I don't need no excuses, man. I just want to make that point that we got to prioritize the people now. We did good. We gave them raises. We cut the insurance in half, but it's hot as heck out there. And I bet your office is cool."

Mr. Byerly responded, "My office is relatively cool. There's a fan in there, but it's relatively cool."

Councilman Jones said, "Yeah. Well, you got a fan but theirs is being installed. Two weeks ago, it was being installed, and we don't know today if it's installed or not. Somebody worked nine to five today, hot as hell. That's all I'm saying. Listen, thank you for everything that you're trying to do. Just keep on doing till you get it done. That's all I'm saying. Thank you. Mr. Byerly."

Mayor Parham stated, "All right, one last thing I want between the City Manager and Mr. Byerly to check into as well is on 460. You know, we had a fatality out there on 460. The lighting is terrible on 460. Can we look at seeing what we can do to, at least, get some lights coming into the City. The area is so densely populated in those areas where you have people walking, trying to cross 460, to get to the store. People are trying to cross a busy highway, and traffic really can't see people trying to cross. We definitely need to look at how we can invest and light up that 460 corridor. Do some crosswalk lights. If you all can see, what can we do on that busy 460 highway to not have another fatality like we had a few days ago."

City Manager Altman responded, "I think step one certainly would be lighting the corridor with street lights, better street lighting. And then looking at corridor improvements, like crosswalks. We can work through that and see where that takes us. But yeah, definitely."

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:

Economic Development. Mr. Moore thanked everyone for coming out Sunday.

Mayor Parham thanked him for Sunday. He noted that the Department of Economic Development sponsored the Corvette Birthday Celebration at the Harbor. He thanked all the citizens that came out to support that event.

15. CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

Zoning and Subdivision Ordinance Rewrite Presentation

Naomi Siodmok, Director of Planning and Community Development, stated "I just wanted to give you a quick update. We are revising our Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Ordinance, and we just recently kicked it off. I'm here today just to talk about where we are now and the timeline for the future. So, background, we just adopted our Comprehensive Plan. We jumped right in with the Berkeley Group, the Consultants on the Comprehensive Plan, to implement what's in that plan through the kicking off our Zoning and Subdivision Ordinance update."

"I want to talk about what zoning is before I hop in what we are doing so far. So zoning is what governs how we develop our land physically and what kinds of uses you can have. For example, it can say how tall your house can be, or where your fence can be located, if you can operate a business, or what use you can have on your property. So those are some of the examples of what zoning can do for properties in Petersburg."

"Then we're also looking at our Subdivision Ordinance at the same time. The Subdivision Ordinance tells us how we can regulate land, how it's divided and assembled, how big a block can be, if green space might be required when you're subdividing and breaking down property and doing the new development, or if there might be street design standards for when you're implementing maybe like

street like requirements, sidewalk requirements and so forth for new developments. So, our Comprehensive Plan outlined multiple strategies that can be implemented through the update to our zoning ordinance and our subdivision ordinance. So, I just listed a few here.”

Our Comprehensive Plan stated that we should allow for adaptive reuse and creative reuse of different structures and opportunities for new housing and nontraditional areas. We should look at reducing parking minimums and requiring bike rack installation, or creating an overlay district to regulate the uses and design of our gateways and gateways and corridors, and then support missing middle housing. This graphic here shows what that is. It is housing types that you don't usually see that have kind of disappeared over time. You see our single-family homes in the City. You see our high rise or our apartment buildings in the City. but there's so many different in between that allow for different affordability for people to live; whether it's a duplex or a town home. We want to make sure we're supported of those in our zoning.”

“So, we had our kickoff with our consultant team and my staff. We met on April 29th, really just to start talking about how we're going to do engagement. We talked about how we can identify any concerns with what we have existing that doesn't allow align with state code, and get initial feedback. We've already had some engagement. We went to the Juneteenth Pop Up. We did a pop-up event, which was really great. Actually, I was super excited for the amount of engagement we got there. And we've also had two focus groups in tandem with that engagement. We talked with first city staff at one meeting. Another meeting, we spoke with some of the local developers, business owners, Crater Planning District, as well as the Main Street Organization. Here you can see one of the boards that resulted from our engagement event on Juneteenth. We gave the community an opportunity to say, what is a high priority versus a low priority for them when it comes to what you can do in the City of Petersburg. It was great. We even had children get involved, which is super fun. We just kind of rephrase the questions in a way that made it understandable to them. They would just say, yes, that's important, or no, that's not important to me. It was a great opportunity, and we're able to encourage people to participate through some of the freebies that we provided. We had Petersburg water bottles. Thanks to HR for letting us use some of their water bottles. We also had Petersburg drawstring bags. Our next event is a pop up as well, at National Night Out. So that's going to be at 227 Shore Street from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. We're super excited that we've been allowed to have a stand at that event. We're also going to have two more focus groups to get initial feedback, with tourism and recreation organizations; as well as housing and school organizations. We'll have up to seven planning commission work sessions as well throughout this process. Other milestones, our diagnostic reports, these are just our technical documents, where we worked with the consultants to go through our current Zoning and Subdivision ordinance to see how it relates to our State Code, as well as our Comprehensive Plan for compliance and any necessary revisions. We have a visual preference survey that's live. So, I'll have a QR code at the end of this slide for people to scan if they're interested.”

“Here's the schedule. It's going to take a bit of time to get this done. Our timeline is about a two-year timeline. We are on schedule right now to meet the August 24 deadline, to complete our initial pop ups, our visual preference survey, our focus groups. So, we're doing great so far, and we definitely plan to stay on schedule as the project moves forward. We'll work the best we can to speed it up as much as possible. But prior to the start of this process, we shortened it a little bit with communication with consultant, and this is what they're able to work with us on. Next key date, we do have a Council and Planning Commission combined work session coming up in September. So, September 25 at 6pm you'll be here with the planning commission, and we'll get started on our conversation on these ordinance updates. And then, as I mentioned, we do have our visual preference survey up. It allows community members and people who work in Petersburg a chance to give feedback on different visual appearances of different districts in the City. So, what do you want our single-family district to look like, our mixed-use district and so forth? So please do take the time to take the survey to help contribute to the process. Let me know if you have any questions.”

Councilman Jones stated, “I first want to say thank you for you and your team coming down to East Washington Street for the tree project. I appreciate that and resources that came with you. Go back to

the engagement slide. It looks like to me, everything on here is high priority. My question to you is, how are you going to prioritize that?"

Ms. Siodmok responded, "If everything on here is a high priority, that is not an issue. As you can see, reducing parking requirements sort of got a mixed response on that one. We got most people saying that's important, but sort of a mixed response. So, it's really going to help us kind of see what are people going to want to see in the written results. And we can do all of these things. We just wanted to get feedback. Are these things important to you?"

Councilman Jones said, "Okay, so we're on the same page. The people have spoken and all of this is high priority, and we do it all."

Ms. Siodmok responded, "All of this is a high priority for me too. I'm excited to move all this forward. This is just one of the boards. We had another one with feedback too that looked very similar to this."

Vice Mayor Hill stated, "I just want to say that the event that we had on that day was very exciting. You know, it was very engaging. Your team did a great job interacting with everyone. I didn't get a chance to do the board because it was a line there. The Mayor just cut everybody and jumped up saying, "I'm going to fill out the board". I said, "Well, you are one of the policy makers. Why do you have to fill out the board?" But he said, "I'm going to put my stickers up here too." So, I thought it was great. Is there anything that we're missing that we may need to take a look at? I'm pretty sure that you covered mostly everything. But is there anything that you can think of, out of the box, right now that we need to try to capture."

Ms. Siodmok responded, "Sure. I will say right now we're really emphasizing design. That's the biggest thing that we want to see out of this zoning ordinance update. Something with a variety of uses. It's going to front the street. It's going to be attractive and active. It's going to make Petersburg just an engaging environment. So right now, you might go on a quarter corridor, like Crater Road and see there's parking in the front the building's really far set back. How can we create requirements for the road? How can we make requirements for the new construction that better engages with that environment and with the people that might be in it?"

City Manager Altman said, "So just a couple items, Mr. Mayor and Members of Council, I want to remind everybody tomorrow night at nine o'clock, our fireworks down at the Harbor area. We hope everyone can come out for that. And then I want to recognize Mr. Hill. He has been relentless with us, and I appreciate his staying on top of us. So, this evening, we had them at the last meeting, but Mr. Hill left early. Mr. Tally, so this evening we have the long-awaited smoke detectors that they have been talking about for the last year. So, I want to thank Councilman Jones for arranging this. So, if you gentlemen can stay after we adjourn for a little bit. We've got a couple things for you. Hopefully we came through for you. But do want to give Councilman Jones a thank you for that. And if you'd like to say anything, Councilwoman Jones, I'd give you my some of my time."

Councilman Jones stated, "Thank you. I appreciate that. Mr. Talley and Mr. Hill, we heard your call for it. We know there's a lot more people in the condition that you're in. So, this is just a small token of our appreciation for your patience. Actually, Councilman Cuthbert helped with this as well. And this is a gift from all of us to you guys. We know the City Manager has already assigned the Deputy Chief to get more and our Fire Marshal will help make sure these get installed. So, if you have friends that are deaf or anything like that, that need one, then you let us know. We will make sure we get it installed for you. But we're going to give you these. We'll help you install it. So, we want to present it to you. Deputy Chief McGann, we're going to get you to help install these for these guys. If you can get the address. It's important that you check them, just like you check the regular smoke detectors. We want to make sure nothing happens to you on our watch, so we got them here. And thank you, Mr. City Manager, thank you City Council and Councilman Cuthbert, who is not here. We appreciate you guys. We're one team, and we heard your call. Thank you."

16. BUSINESS OR REPORTS FROM THE CLERK:

City Clerk Hill said, "Council, I do ask that you check your emails. I did forward to you an email from Mr. Hill, referencing Cameron Park. Mr. Hill spoke of the photos tonight. So those pictures are in your email. Also check your email for information regarding upcoming conferences. Please let me know, if you have not responded, if you plan to attend, and that's it. Happy Fourth.

17. BUSINESS OR REPORTS FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY:

There were no items for this portion of the agenda.

18. ADJOURNMENT:

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to adjourn. All members of the Council present voted in the affirmative. Meeting adjourned.

The City Council adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Adopted the 17th day of September, 2024.

BY



Samuel Parham, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tangi R. Hill, Clerk to the Council