

The Closed Session Meeting of the Petersburg City Council was held on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at the Petersburg Public Library. Vice Mayor Hill called the Closed Session Meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. The meeting video link is <https://petersburgva.new.swagit.com/videos/326235>.

1. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Council Member Marlow Jones (Late)
Mayor Samuel Parham (Late)

Present from City Administration:
City Manager John March Altman, Jr.
City Attorney Anthony Williams
City Clerk Tangi R. Hill

2. CLOSED SESSION

The purpose of this meeting is to convene in the closed session pursuant to: a). §2.2-3711(A)(7) and (8) of the Code of Virginia for the Purpose of Receiving Legal Advice and Status Update from the City Attorney and Legal Consultation Regarding the Subject of Actual or Probable Litigation and Specific Legal Matters Requiring the Provision of Legal Advice by the City Attorney, Specifically Including But Not Limited to Discussion Regarding Petersburg Circuit Court Case No.: CL24000772-00; House Bill 2232; 15.2-967 of the Code of Virginia Title 15.2 Subtitle IV Chapters 42 through 76 of the Code of Virginia; Title 56 Chapter 22.1 of the Code of Virginia; b). §2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia for the Purpose of Discussion Pertaining to Performance, Assignment, and Appointment of Specific Public Employees of the City of Petersburg, Specifically Including But Not Limited to Discussion of the Performance, Assignment, and Appointment of a Specific Public Officer of the City of Petersburg; c.) §2.2-3711(A)(3) of the Code of Virginia for the Purpose of Discussion or Consideration of the Acquisition of Real Property for a Public Purpose and the Disposition of Publicly Held Real Property Where Discussion in an Open Meeting Would Adversely Affect the Bargaining Position or Negotiating Strategy of the Public Body, Specifically Including But Not Limited to the Acquisition and Disposition of Real Property; and d). §2.2-3711(A)(29) of the Code of Virginia for the Purpose of Discussion of the Award of a Public Contract Involving the Expenditure of Public Funds, Including Interviews of Bidders or Offerors, and Discussion of the Terms or Scope of Such Contract, Where Discussion in an Open Session Would Adversely Affect the Bargaining Position or Negotiating Strategy of the Public Body.

Council Member Cuthbert made a motion that the City Council enter closed session for the purposes noted. Council Member Westbrook seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on the motion. The motion was approved on roll call vote.

On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Myers, Westbrook, Smith-Lee, and Hill; no: N/A; Abstain: N/A.

The Council entered Closed Session at 3:08 p.m.

Mayor Parham arrived.

Council Member Jones arrived.

CERTIFICATION

Mr. Williams stated, "The Mayor would entertain a motion to conclude the closed session called today to certify in accordance with §2.2-3712 that the Code of Virginia that to the best of each members knowledge that only public business matter lawfully exempted from the opening meeting requirements were discussed and that only such public business matters were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened, heard, discussed, or considered. If any member believes that there was a departure from the foregoing requirements should state prior to the vote indicating the substance for departure in which he believes has occurred. This requires a roll call vote Mr. Mayor."

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to return the City Council to open session and certify the purposes of the closed session. Council Member Smith-Lee seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on the motion. The motion was approved on roll call vote.

On roll call vote, voting Yes: Cuthbert, Jones, Myers, Westbrook, Smith-Lee, Hill, and Parham; No: N/A; Abstain: N/A

2025-RES-2 A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING, AS REQUIRED BY THE CODE OF VIRGINIA, SECTION 2.2-3712, THAT TO THE BEST OF EACH MEMBER'S KNOWLEDGE, ONLY PUBLIC BUSINESS MATTERS LAWFULLY EXEMPTED FROM OPEN MEETING REQUIREMENTS OF VIRGINIA LAW WERE DISCUSSED IN THE CLOSED SESSION, AND ONLY SUCH PUBLIC BUSINESS MATTERS AS WERE IDENTIFIED IN THE MOTION CONVENING THE CLOSED SESSION WERE HEARD, DISCUSSED, OR CONSIDERED.

City Council returned to open session at 5:26 p.m.

Mayor Parham entertained a motion to add to the agenda to accept the proposed settlement of Petersburg Circuit Court Case CL24000772-00.

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to add to the agenda to accept the proposed settlement of Petersburg Circuit Court Case CL24000772-00. Council Member Westbrook seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on the motion. All members of the Council voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to accept the proposed settlement of Petersburg Circuit Court Case CL24000772-00. Council Member Smith-Lee seconded the motion. There

was no discussion on the motion. The motion was approved on a roll call vote.

On roll call vote, voting Yes: Cuthbert, Jones, Myers, Westbrook, Smith-Lee, Hill, and Parham; No: N/A; Abstain: N/A

Mayor Parham entertained a motion to add to the agenda a motion to authorize the City Manager to contract for a feasibility study exploring options, maximizing the to the bill potential for The Health Hub project and address community benefits and tackle to the project success, the opportunities and potential challenges for the site.

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to amend the agenda to add a motion to authorize the City Manager to contract for a feasibility study exploring options, maximizing the to the bill potential for The Health Hub project and address community benefits and tackle to the project success, the opportunities and potential challenges for the site. Council Member Smith-Lee seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on the motion. All members of the Council voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Mayor Parham entertained a motion to authorize the City Manager to contract for a feasibility study exploring options, maximizing the to the bill potential for The Health Hub project and address community benefits and tackle the project success, the opportunities and potential challenges for the site

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to authorize the City Manager to contract for a feasibility study exploring options, maximizing the to the bill potential for The Health Hub project and address community benefits and tackle the project success, the opportunities and potential challenges for the site. Council Member Myers seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on the motion. The motion was approved on roll call vote.

On roll call vote, voting Yes: Cuthbert, Jones, Myers, Westbrook, Smith-Lee, Hill, and Parham; No: N/A; Abstain: N/A

Mayor Parham entertained a motion to add to the agenda, to rescind the previously adopted resolution regarding the Pocahontas right away, extension to the agenda all those in favor.

There was no discussion on the motion. All members of the Council voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Mayor Parham entertained a motion to rescind the previously adopted resolution regarding Pocahontas right away extension to the agenda.

Council Member Myers made a motion to rescind the previously adopted resolution regarding the Pocahontas right away, extension to the agenda. Vice Mayor Hill seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on the motion. The motion was approved on roll call vote.

On roll call vote, voting Yes: Jones, Myers, Westbrook, Smith-Lee, Hill, and Parham; No:

Cuthbert; Abstain: N/A

Council Member Cuthbert requested to add to the agenda a motion that the Council directs the City Manager to explore the feasibility of moving the extension of Pocahontas Street to the north out of the flood plain in order to get the heavy truck traffic off Roth Street.

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion adding to the agenda that the Council directs the City Manager to explore the feasibility of moving the extension of Pocahontas Street to the north out of the flood plain in order to get the heavy truck traffic off Roth Street. Council Member Smith-Lee seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on the motion. All members of the Council voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Council Member Cuthbert made a motion that the Council directs the City Manager to explore moving the extension of Pocahontas Street to the north out of the flood plain, in order to get the heavy truck traffic off Roth Street and to report to the Council with his recommendations at the March work session. Council Member Smith-Lee seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on the motion. The motion was approved on roll call vote.

On roll call vote, voting Yes: Cuthbert, Jones, Myers, Westbrook, Smith-Lee, Hill, and Parham; No: N/A; Abstain: N/A

Council Member Myers made a motion to rescind the Pocahontas right of way extension resolution of September 17, 2024, Petersburg City Council approved resolution supporting the extension of the Pocahontas right of way. The resolution authorized the South Central Wastewater Authority to construct a hard surface roadway through the city owned former Roper site. The roadway proposed in 2020. Would intersect the former Roper property, which is primarily situated within the FEMA designated floodway and flood plain. The Virginia Department of Recreation and Conservation DCR has noted legal and environmental regulatory impediments that challenge the feasibility of this construction. Petersburg City Council must uphold state and federal environmental policies and ensure responsible and sustainable development that aligns with long term natural flood plain restoration. Not following floodway and flood plain requirements will jeopardize the \$2.2 million grant awarded to the City by DCR for environmental restoration efforts that must be addressed by a motion to rescind the Pocahontas right of way extension resolution of September 17, 2024. Vice Mayor Hill seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on the motion. The motion was approved on roll call vote.

On roll call vote, voting Yes: Jones, Myers, Westbrook, Smith-Lee, Hill, and Parham; No: Cuthbert; Abstain: N/A

3. ADJOURNMENT:

City Council adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

Adopted: February 4, 2025.

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul P. P. P.", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read "Jange R. Hill", written over a horizontal line.