

The Closed Session Meeting of the Petersburg City Council was held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at the Petersburg Public Library. Mayor Parham called the Closed Session Meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. The meeting link is <https://petersburgva.new.swagit.com/videos/343259>.

1. ROLL CALL

Present:

Council Member Howard Myers
Council Member Annette Smith-Lee
Vice Mayor Darrin Hill (Late)
Mayor Samuel Parham

Absent:

Council Member Charles Cuthbert (Late)
Council Member Marlow Jones
Council Member Arnold Westbrook (Late)

Present from City Administration:

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

Mayor Parham entertained a motion to amend the Closed Session agenda to include the acquisition of real property.

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to amend the Closed Session agenda to include the acquisition of real property. Council Member Smith-Lee seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous affirmative vote of all present.

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 the Legal Requirements of §15.2-2013 of the Code of Virginia and Actual or Probable Litigation; and
- b. §2.2-3711(A)(29) of the Code of Virginia for the Purpose of Discussion Regarding the Subject of Award of a Public Contract Involving the Expenditure of Public Funds, 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; and
- c. §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.

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to enter into Closed Session for the purpose stated. 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: Myers, Smith-Lee, Hill, and Parham; No: N/A; abstain: N/A.

The Council entered Closed Session at 3:05 p.m.

Council Member Cuthbert arrived at 3:06 p.m.

Council Member Westbrook arrived at 3:07 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

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

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to return the City Council to the 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 a roll call vote.

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

2025-RES-023

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

The City Council returned to the open session at 5:21 p.m.

Mayor Parham recognized Council Member Cuthbert.

Council Member Cuthbert made a motion to suspend the Rules of Council and add an ordinance to rescind 23-ORD-51 concerning the North Adams and Sycamore Grove projects to the agenda. Vice Mayor Hill seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous affirmative vote of all present.

Mayor Parham noted that the item was added to the agenda. He opened the floor to receive public comments concerning the rescission of 23-ORD-51. Hearing no one, Mayor Parham recognized Council Member Cuthbert.

Council Member Cuthbert made a motion to adopt the ordinance to rescind 23-ORD-51 concerning the Adams North and Sycamore Grove projects. Vice Mayor Hill seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous affirmative vote of all present.

Mayor Parham recognized Council Member Myers.

Council Member Myers made a motion to direct the City Manager to allocate, as part of the City's budget, the amount of \$1 million; these funds will serve instrumentally to improve the landscape and visual pathway from downtown to the casino site; it will include the following: façade grant access, parking lot improvements, sidewalk, streetscape, vegetation and landscaping. Council Member Westbrook seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous affirmative vote of all present.

Mayor Parham recognized Council Member Myers.

Council Member Myers made a motion to appropriate the amount of \$32,090 to the Virginia Community Resource Center for the purpose of a collaboration with CACH to disseminate funding for homeless prevention to Petersburg residents only. Vice Mayor Hill seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous affirmative vote of all present.

3. ADJOURNMENT:

City Council adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

Adopted: June 3, 2025

APPROVED:

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

Mayor

ATTEST:

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

City Clerk