

The Petersburg City Council held its Council Advance on January 26-27, 2025, at the Live! Casino & Hotel in Hanover, Maryland. Mayor Parham presided. The Advance was called to order on Sunday, January 26, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Council Member Charles H. Cuthbert, Jr
Council Member Marlow Jones
Council Member Howard Myers
Council Member Arnold Westbrook
Council Member Annette Smith-Lee (Late)
Vice Mayor Darrin Hill
Mayor Samuel Parham

Absent:

Present from City Administration:
City Manager John March Altman, Jr.
City Attorney Anthony Williams
City Clerk Tangi R. Hill
Interim Deputy City Manager Kenneth Miller
Police Chief Travis Christian
Fire Chief Wayne Hoover
Director of Government Relations Joanne Williams

Facilitator: Jane Dittmar, Virginia Institute of Government

On January 26-27, 2025, the Petersburg City Council met for their annual ADVANCE. Over a two-day period, the Council discussed plans for enhanced revenue streams that are anticipated due to the passage of the casino referendum and the recent Novo Nordis announcement that will further grow Petersburg's "Tech Hub" (Advanced Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Technology and Innovation Hub).

Besides a briefing from the Casino developer on the project's critical path, the Council spent considerable time on the current challenges facing the public safety system and the additional capacity needed to successfully welcome the new casino. The Council also received a briefing on best practices of successful local governing bodies, reviewed Petersburg Council's current rules and protocols and revisited the current priorities set forth in the 2020 – 2025 Petersburg Strategic Plan.

ADVANCE AGENDA

- Briefing - Casino Plan Update
- Tour of Hanover County, Maryland Casino and review of HR issues and opportunities
- Public Safety Briefings

The Acting Deputy City Manager, and the Chiefs of Police and Fire and Rescue presented Council with an update and a briefing on the challenges faced by Code Enforcement, the Police Department and Fire and Rescue.

The Advance recessed on Sunday, January 26, 2025 at 10:00 p.m.

The Advance reconvened on Monday, January 27, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.

The Facilitator, Jane Dittmar, presented the Roles and Responsibilities of Locally Elected Officials and Tools for High Performance Governance. Tools such as Robert's Rules of Order were discussed, Council procedures and Council norms were reviewed.

The Council reviewed the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan, which serves as the official document tying together community features with the overall vision for its future. It is broken into 4 areas of community policy and development:

- 1) Economic Development
- 2) Good Governance
- 3) Neighborhood Vitality
- 4) Celebrate Petersburg

Members brainstormed each category, the goal statement and companion objectives.

No action was taken by Council during the Advance on January 26-27, 2025. An After Action Summary is being prepared by Jane Dittmar and will be provided to Council and the public at an upcoming meeting.

3. ADJOURNMENT:

The Advance adjourned on Monday, January 27, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

Adopted: 03/18/2025

APPROVED:



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk

