

The work session meeting of the Petersburg City Council was held on Tuesday, November 6, 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/319401>.

1. ROLL CALL:

Present:

Samuel Parham, Mayor – Ward 3
Darrin Hill, Vice Mayor – Ward 2
Marlow Jones, Councilor – Ward 1
Charles Cuthbert, Jr., Councilor – Ward 4
W. Howard Myers, Councilor – Ward 5
Annette Smith-Lee, Councilor - Ward 6
Arnold Westbrook, Jr., Councilor – Ward 7

Absent:

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. PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATION OF CEREMONIAL PROCLAMATION

a. Proclamation Honoring Mr. James R. Clark, Sr.

Mayor Parham read a proclamation recognizing Mr. James R. Clark, Sr. and declaring November 17, 2024 as James R. Clark, Sr. in the City of Petersburg.

b. Proclamation Recognizing Mr. Calvin McIntyre

Mayor Parham read a proclamation recognizing Mr. Calvin McIntyre for his award as Mr. Health and Fitness 2024.

c. Veterans Day Proclamation

Mayor Parham read a proclamation recognizing November 11, 2024 as Veterans Day and urging all residents to honor the nation's veterans.

- d. 2nd Accreditation Award to the Petersburg Bureau of Police from the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC) and the Virginia Law Enforcement Accreditation Coalition (VALEAC)

The item was moved to the November 19, 2024 meeting agenda.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gary Talley, 2323 Fort Rock Street, congratulated Vice Mayor Hill on his election win and said the City needed to move forward positively. He also raised concerns about the Jewish temple at Blandford Cemetery that had not been fixed, and the two bridges that are out. He also expressed concern about the elevators not working at Carriage House.

Barb Rudolph, 1675 Mount Vernon Street, congratulated Vice Mayor Hill and Council Members Cuthbert and Smith-Lee on their election victories. She also thanked the City Manager and Finance staff for their report later on the agenda, which included ARPA spending.

7. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA (TO INCLUDE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS):

- a. Minutes of Previous Meetings:
 - September 3, 2024 Work Session
 - September 25, 2024 Joint Meeting with the Planning Commission
 - October 1, 2024 Closed Session
 - October 15, 2024 Closed Session
- b. First Reading and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of Acceptance & Appropriation of Funding from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services for the 2024 Operation Ceasefire Grant
- c. First Read & Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Appropriation Ordinance for State Aid to Public Libraries Additional Funding
- d. First Read & Schedule a Public Hearing on the Consideration of an Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Enter into a Deed of Easement with Virginia Electric and Power to Place Equipment on City Property at 1937 Johnson Avenue
- e. First Reading and to Schedule a Public Hearing of an Ordinance to Rezone Property at 1425 and 1525 Youngs Road and 1819 and 1819 and 1827 Boydton Plank Road, Parcel IDs 051070002, 051070001, 051070802, and 051070023, from the R-1 Single-Family Residence and B-2 General Commercial Districts to the RTH Residential Townhouse District
- f. First Reading and to Schedule a Public Hearing of an Ordinance for a Special Use Permit for a Vehicle Removal Operator and Associated Vehicle Storage and Tow Lot on Property at 1700 Midway Avenue, Parcel ID 028310001, in the M-1, Light Industrial District
- g. First Reading and to Schedule a Public Hearing of an Ordinance to Amend and Readopt Article 3, Definitions, Article 17, M-1 Light Industrial District Regulations, Article 18, M-2 Heavy Industrial District Regulations, Article 23, Supplementary Use Regulations – Special Uses, and Article 31, Permits, Plats, and Filing Fees, as Set Forth in the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Petersburg Pertaining to Data Center Uses
- h. First Reading and to Schedule a Public Hearing of an Ordinance to Amend and Readopt Article 3, Definitions, Article 14, B-1 Shopping Center District Regulations, and Article 23,

Supplementary Use Regulations – Special Uses, as Set Forth in the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Petersburg Pertaining to Gathering and Event Uses, Including Nightclubs

- i. First Reading and to Schedule a Public Hearing of an Ordinance to Amend and Readopt Article 25, Supplementary Height, Area, Bulk, and Design Regulations, and Article 28, Changes and Amendments, as Set Forth in the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Petersburg Pertaining to Administrative Clarifications on Development of Contiguous Nonconforming Lots Under Common Ownership and Requirements for Public Notice
- j. First Reading & Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of Acceptance & Appropriation of the FY25 Cameron Foundation Grant for the Recreation & Leisure Department

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. 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, Jones, Myers, Westbrook, Smith-Lee, Hill, and Parham; no: N/A; Abstain: N/A.

8. SPECIAL REPORTS

There were no items under this portion of the agenda.

9. MONTHLY REPORTS

There were no items under this portion of the agenda, but Council Member Smith-Lee and Council Member Jones commented on the occasionally negative tenor of public discourse.

10. FINANCE AND BUDGET REPORT

Budget Manager Garry Cozier provided an update on the first quarter budget to actuals and earned interest. He began with an overview of ARPA funds, explaining that the American Rescue Plan Act came about during the COVID-19 pandemic. He noted that the total award was just over \$20 million, with \$15 million spent so far and \$5 million remaining.

He detailed allocations, stating that \$9 million was budgeted for infrastructure, with \$5.3 million spent and \$4.5 million remaining. For public safety, \$2 million was budgeted and spent, leaving \$10,000 available. Economic development had a total budget of \$2.4 million, with \$1.7 million spent and \$768,000 remaining. He highlighted that administration still had \$117,000 left.

Mr. Cozier emphasized the importance of obligating funds by December 31, 2024, as any unallocated funds must be returned. He also mentioned that the funds must be spent by December 31, 2026. Moving to budget to actuals, Mr. Cozier reported that departments were tracking well, under 25% for the fiscal year, with all funds performing as expected except for Dogwood, which had revenues to counter expenses. Lastly, he provided an earned interest update, noting that the total earned year-to-date was \$639,662, tracking at about a 5.1% interest rate.

Council Member Cuthbert said if they had not delayed for nine months with the cash in the LGIP, they would have probably made another \$1.4–\$1.5 million. He said that he wrote to the City Manager about it, first on September 13th of 2023, and it wasn't until June of 2024 when the transfer was made. He noted that it was not made by City administration, it was made by the Treasurer, and he applauded them for making that transfer and cited that as the reason they have this cash. He emphasized that they really need to be more tuned in to maximizing revenue and not miss opportunities to earn revenue.

Mr. Altman confirmed for Council Member Cuthbert that the police station was still going into the Farmers Street building.

Council Member Cuthbert asked how they managed to spend \$101K on the Wilcox Lake Dam rehabilitation but not change its appearance.

Mr. Altman explained that the design work for rehabbing the lake was necessary due to the growth into the dam, and simply cutting and grubbing the overgrowth would affect the structural integrity of the dam. He said they therefore had to pay for some design work to prepare for the actual rehabilitation of the dam. Mr. Altman mentioned that they have requested grant funding to move forward with the actual work on the facility, specifically the dam itself.

Council Member Cuthbert said that he hoped the grant money came through because he much preferred spending that money than ARPA funds.

Mr. Altman agreed, adding that Ms. Williams had been working hard on grant funding.

Council Member Cuthbert stated that he would like to see her have more time in her position to work on grants, as she could perhaps leverage even more funding.

Mr. Altman stated that she works a lot of overtime, and the City gets a lot of value from that.

Council Member Cuthbert asked Mr. Altman to bring back information at their November 19 meeting regarding the possibility of support for Ms. Williams so she has more time to pursue grant funding.

Mr. Altman responded that he would bring that forth as part of next year's budget proposal, which may not be possible mid-year.

Council Cuthbert asked if they would have to wait that long.

Mr. Altman emphasized that it's more than just Ms. Williams' position—they have other needs such as establishing a structure around overall tourism.

11. CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE

There was no staff presentation for the capital projects update and report.

Mr. Altman stated that he had a written report to provide.

12. UTILITIES

There were no items under this portion of the agenda.

13. STREETS

There were no items under this portion of the agenda.

14. FACILITIES

There were no items under this portion of the agenda.

15. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

There were no items under this portion of the agenda.

16. CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

City Manager Altman congratulated the reelected Council Members and said that it was a historic night for Petersburg, with an 80% approval for the casino. He said they would begin to look at how to move forward, as they would need to get the facility constructed and open.

Vice Mayor Hill congratulated the reelected Council Members and recognized Council Member Smith-Lee in particular, stating that he had known her from the time he was young. He noted that the individual who had caused her such consternation was not a resident of Petersburg yet showed up here and was vocal—and they needed to be careful about listening to outside noise that was harmful to the City. He commented that the Council had been steadfast and unmovable, and they were not looking back.

17. BUSINESS OR REPORTS FROM THE CLERK

Tangi Hill, City Clerk, congratulated the reelected Council Members and said she was looking forward to working with them over the next four years. She also recognized the citizens of Petersburg for their approval of the casino and encouraged residents to get their applications in for serving on committees.

18. BUSINESS OR REPORTS FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY

Anthony Williams, City Attorney, said that he had no report this evening but recognized the City residents for their approval of the casino.

19. ADJOURNMENT

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

The City Council adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Adopted: 04/01/2025

APPROVED:



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk