

The work session meeting of the Petersburg City Council was held on Tuesday, October 1, 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/316493>.

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
Annette Smith-Lee, Councilor - Ward 6
Arnold Westbrook, Jr., Councilor – Ward 7

Absent: W. Howard Myers, Councilor– Ward 5

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:**

Bruce Snow, 239 South Adams Street, stated that he and his wife, Laura Inouye, own two properties on Central Park, specifically 109 and 111 Central Park. He stated that they are here to alert Council to a serious danger in Poplar Lawn Park due to several diseased trees that threaten both property and human safety. He said that recently, part of a large tree fell across the sidewalk in front of their house at 109 Central Park, which is frequently used by postal workers and delivery people. Mr. Snow said he has repeatedly informed the City about these dangerous trees, with two already fallen and another about to fall. He said he is concerned about potential city liability and property damage, as well as the danger to human life, and requested prompt action to address and remove these hazardous trees.

Barb Rudolph, 1675 Mount Vernon Street, stated that she would revisit what she brought up at the last meeting and said there had been a misunderstanding about what she said. Ms. Rudolph said that 35 out of 38 cities in Virginia either voted for their city councils or mayors at large, stating that this was an either/or statement and clarified there were not 35 cities that elected Mayors at large. She said that Mr. Williams referenced a different number from the VML handbook, noting 22 cities elected Mayors at large, compared to the 21 she researched earlier. She said this difference did not change the fact that Petersburg is an outlier.

Ms. Rudolph said that the Mayor had raised the point that Petersburg has a ward system, which was implemented over 50 years ago when conditions were different. She said that in 1972, the ward system was introduced after Petersburg annexed parts of Prince George and Dinwiddie, increasing the white population by over 7,000 and the black population by over 200. Ms. Rudolph said that by 2010, the black population in Petersburg had increased by 5,472, while the white population had decreased by 18,845. She said this shift left over 25,000 black residents and fewer than 5,000 white residents.

She said that the current demographic of around 77-78% black residents suggests that a white-dominated City Council is no longer possible, and an at-large election would ensure that City Council remains representative of the community.

Cheryl Brown, 1860 Westover Avenue, thanked public works for the excellent job they did in making the entrance of Petersburg look beautiful. Ms. Brown said she had previously mentioned the issue and was thankful that the fire department acted promptly. She said she was grateful for the efforts of the Walnut Hill Fire Department in saving her grandchild's life. Ms. Brown said she wanted to formally request that residents of Petersburg be officially acknowledged as part of the City's governance. She said there should be a spot on the city's website for residents to submit and aggregate information.

She said she had spoken with Zeb Smith about potential funds coming into the City and suggested a participatory budget be implemented for transparency. Ms. Brown said she would like to see a portion of the budget, usually \$1 to \$5 million, designated for public voting. She said this would ensure more transparency and avoid political issues. She said there should also be a survey at ward meetings to assess and track the importance of various issues. Ms. Brown said this would help measure progress and resolve matters effectively. She said she believed this would not be difficult to implement with today's technology. She thanked Council for their service.

Otis Hill, 1025 Wythe Street, stated that the City needs safety equipment for the deaf for hurricane alerts. He said the deaf community has expressed a need for flashing alert boxes, similar to those used in Frankfort, Kentucky. He said these boxes cost about \$600 each, and there are approximately 600 boxes in Frankfort. He said they could potentially contact Frankfort to inquire about their supplier or for assistance. Mr. Hill said he has a picture of the alert boxes and would provide it to the deputy for review. He said this equipment would enhance safety, especially during the night when residents are unaware of approaching hurricanes.

Ms. Kira Stevens, 226 Rolfe Street, Pocahontas Island, stated that there have been several issues with recent flooding and drains not draining, with some of the main roads impassable during storms. Ms. Stevens said that the whole City is suffering from lack of road maintenance and insufficient infrastructure, and she did not want Petersburg to become like some of the towns in North Carolina, Florida, and Georgia where there is no access, no bridges, and no roads.

Ms. Amanda Green, 301 Rolfe Street, Pocahontas Island, said she would reiterate what her neighbor just said and thanked Council for approving the resolution at their last meeting. She said that Mr. Altman had indicated he was working with DCR to get some clarification on the floodplain where the road is currently proposed. She said that they have become somewhat desensitized to the flooding, and perhaps they did need the casino to help with funds for those improvements.

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

- a. Minutes:
 - July 30, 2024 Special Meeting
 - September 3, 2024 City Council Closed Session
 - September 17, 2024 City Council Closed Session

- b. First Reading and Schedule a Public Hearing to Consider 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
- c. First Reading and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance to Amend and Re-Adopt the FY25 Petersburg City Public Schools Budget to Allocate Additional Funds for Food Service Upgrades, to Include Capital & Operational Improvements
- d. First Reading and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance to Utilize the Budget Stabilization Fund to Fund Emergency Repairs
- e. First Reading and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of Acceptance & Appropriation of Funding from the Virginia Department of Elections for the 2024 Election Equipment Grant
- f. First Reading and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing the Issuance & Sale of General Obligation and Refunding Bonds of the City of Petersburg
- g. First Reading and Schedule a Public Hearing for Council to Resolve to Reallocate \$279,552.95 of CDBG-CV Funds for Critical Home Repair
- h. First Reading and Schedule a Public Hearing on an Ordinance to Amend and Re-Adopt Section 21- 2 of the Petersburg City Code Pertaining to the Petersburg Arts Commission

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with Item b removed. Council Member Cuthbert 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, Jones, Westbrook, Smith-Lee, Hill, and Parham; no: N/A; Abstain: N/A. Absent: Myers.

7. SPECIAL REPORTS

- a. Update from Planning and Community Development Regarding Signs (Window, Poorly Maintained, Flashing Lights, and Sandwich Board), Housing Resources, and the Ice Machine at 1916 S Sycamore Street

Planning Director Naomi Siodmok said there were a few items from their September 3rd meeting that needed to be addressed, including sandwich board signs and a housing resource. She said at the end of 2023, staff discovered that the City's sign ordinance was inequitably enforced. Ms. Siodmok said under two sections of code, sandwich board signs were illegal. She said staff worked with the Planning Commission and legal departments to develop an ordinance allowing sandwich board signs with proper permits. Ms. Siodmok said this approach helps ensure the City's liability and safety.

Ms. Siodmok said staff and the Planning Commission preferred to keep sandwich board signs legal due to their benefits to local businesses. Ms. Siodmok said removing the language from the code would make them illegal again. She said most local businesses supported the regulations. Ms. Siodmok said these regulations ensured safety and esthetics, applying to the whole City. She said businesses were required to keep signs on their property.

Ms. Siodmok shared a video with news coverage regarding the signs. She said the matter was forwarded to Planning Commission for further action, stating that the current focus was on maintaining equitable sign enforcement and ensuring the safety and appearance of the City.

Council Member Cuthbert said he did not mean to indicate opposition to sandwich board signs. He said a restaurant business, which was not at the corner of activity but at a distance, wanted to place a sandwich board sign at a high foot traffic corner. He said the ordinance at the time required the sign to be in front of or beside the business it was promoting, which did not work for this owner. He said the owner wanted to place the sign at Old Street and North Sycamore, a more active corner. Council Member Cuthbert said he had no problem with the idea and believed it was great. He encouraged creative thinking to allow sandwich board signs to be placed somewhere other than in front of the business, addressing the visibility issue for the business owner.

Ms. Siodmok responded that businesses on those side streets used to assemble their sandwich board signs right at the end of Sycamore and Old Street, and if that was something Council would be open to, they could potentially just have an exception added to the code where businesses on Old Street are able to have signs at that location.

Council Member Cuthbert said another way to handle it is by allowing one sandwich board sign, which can be placed anywhere. He said he's not trying to tie anyone's hands, and he doesn't think the City wants to either. He suggested considering different options and requested that the Planning Commission bring back a recommendation as soon as possible, as it affects the lifeblood of businesses. He clarified that the motion by Council is no longer to rescind zoning regulations associated with sandwich board signs and asked Ms. Siodmok to bring back options so they could see exactly what was in front of them. He noted that this is a work session, and unless rules are suspended, they can't pass a motion.

Mayor Parham said the spirit of the motion was to amend the constraints to allow for some exceptions on the Old Street corridor. He said the aim was to support new restaurants that haven't yet attracted much traffic, and they needed a creative way to advertise for that slower end of the street to help those businesses stay in operation.

Vice Mayor Hill said his business is further up the street, but he would not want those signs in front of it. He said if there are any restrictions, they should pertain to the business in question, and the signs should be placed in front of the business they advertise and not elsewhere. He noted the potential future development at the bottom of Sycamore Street, suggesting that the placement of signs should consider possible future businesses or apartments. He emphasized the need for permits to avoid liability issues if someone were to trip over a sign. He said the signs should not obstruct pedestrian pathways, mentioning a particular establishment where customers must walk in the street to navigate around a sign. He stressed the importance of safety in sign placement.

He said while some businesses thrive, others struggle, and there is a competitive atmosphere where businesses seek any advantage to attract traffic. He said Council Member Cuthbert's suggestion to consider options and make a decision was prudent. He said the Council does not intend to eliminate the signs entirely but to ensure they do not pose safety hazards or interfere with other businesses or residences.

Ms. Siodmok said their current language requires sandwich board signs to be outside the establishment unless the business is in an alleyway, allowing it to be brought to the main road. She said they also require a 36-inch clearance for accessibility. Ms. Siodmok said sign maintenance was brought up at a Council meeting, and they found language in the zoning ordinance requiring all signs to be kept in good structural condition. She said they are

addressing this issue by sending letters to businesses with decaying signs. She said window signs and flashing signs are addressed by the ordinance, which excludes unilluminated signs inside buildings from being considered signs. Ms. Siodmok said this makes it difficult to enforce window sign regulations. She said flashing signs are strictly prohibited. Ms. Siodmok said the current sign ordinance does not comply with recent Supreme Court rulings due to content regulation. She said they are updating the zoning ordinance, including sign regulations, to address concerns about window signs and improve street character.

Ms. Siodmok said that the ice machine at 1916 South Sycamore was approved by the previous zoning administrator. She said it was considered allowable despite not meeting the 45-foot setback requirement from the centerline of Sycamore Street, south of Halifax Street. She said the approval was given in February 2023, and the investment had already been made.

Ms. Siodmok said that the housing resource guide had multiple contributors and includes information from the Community Development Block Grant administrator, the communications team, and feedback from several organizations like LISC and the Cameron Foundation. She said the guide provides resources from the tri-cities Habitat for Humanity, Virginia Credit Union, and Home of Virginia—including websites, hours, locations, and services they provide. She said there are additional resources aimed at helping homeowners and renters, offering information on grants, social services, and nonprofits addressing housing injustice.

Council Member Jones stated that the three options originally presented were not to do it at all, to proceed with the second option they had already approved, or to issue permits, which he had expressed support for. He said his concern regarded the rusty poles and the improvements needed along East Washington Street and Crater Road, and making these changes would significantly improve the appearance of both vacant and occupied properties. He asked about the 36-inch clearance, and the response was that it was for walkability and handicapped accessibility, ensuring someone in a wheelchair could navigate through. He said he was glad to hear this, but he also pointed out that sidewalks cluttered with living room furniture would violate this clearance, posing a danger. He emphasized that this issue needed to be addressed as well.

Ms. Siodmok said she would work with Mr. Altman on the issue, noting it was a right-of-way item.

Mr. Altman mentioned a previous community where she had implemented separate sidewalk display guidelines to ensure public safety while allowing sandwich boards and cafe seating. He emphasized the importance of maintaining public safety on the sidewalks while accommodating business displays. He stated that in some locations, businesses temporarily placed items on the sidewalk, such as during deliveries, which could complicate enforcement. He stated that he could bring back some options to address these concerns and suggested a fair permitting process that treated furniture and signs equally, as businesses could include sidewalk items in their permit applications.

Ms. Siodmok acknowledged the urgency of addressing the issue and mentioned that the upcoming zoning ordinance update would likely cover sidewalk right-of-way regulations. She suggested that waiting for the zoning update could be a viable option.

Vice Mayor Hill asked how they were dealing with the flag sign issues, as there are some that are worn out, but the poles are still in place.

Ms. Siodmok said staff has been notifying people to remove their flag signs, and there is a code section that staff is working to improve. She said for the most part, people have been receptive and have removed the flag signs without needing any further process or violation, but that has mostly been through conversations. She said there was an example of a vacant church next to

the Food Lion in the Walnut Hill community, which had many flag signs out front even though it wasn't operational. She said now that the flag signs are gone, it looks much cleaner and better, as they are not tangled up in front of the business. She said they have been working on enforcing this and want to ensure they have good standing as they move forward.

Council Member Cuthbert mentioned that his constituents did not want to wait for the new zoning ordinance to be presented for a solution to their request. He asked when a proposal with several options for sandwich board signs would be brought back to the Council. He suggested options like maintaining the current status, allowing signs anywhere in front of the business, and placing them on corners without detracting from adjacent businesses. He clarified that his constituents felt constrained by the prohibition of sandwich signs not placed directly in front of their businesses. He reiterated that he wanted options presented to eliminate this restriction.

Ms. Siodmok said she appreciated the clarification, because she was under the impression that the interest was removing zoning regulations. She thanked everyone for wanting to see more options and flexibility for sign locations and said she would see what could be done to start the conversation. Ms. Siodmok said that usually, the process involves a discussion with the Planning Commission on the topic, and staff presents the requests from the Council to the Planning Commission. Ms. Siodmok said that during the next meeting, if the Planning Commission is ready, they would draft the language for a hearing on it. She said it would then come to the Council the following month, and this process typically takes about three months before it reaches the Council.

Council Member Cuthbert suggested that they put things together for their November 6, 2024, agenda, which is a special joint meeting.

Mr. Altman stated that they could discuss it to make sure they are unified, but he would like to have a set of display guidelines as they do for sidewalks downtown; he said that the same was true for sidewalks, which are regulated by a second set of guidelines. He added that staff would discuss what they could do moving forward, noting that this doesn't necessarily have to go through the Planning Commission and could come directly to Council to expedite the process.

Mr. Altman said that even though Council requested that the ordinance be amended, staff hasn't gone through that process with them. He said that if the allowance of sandwich board signs in front of a business is currently allowed, it is still allowed because staff hasn't brought anything back to Council that would eliminate it otherwise. He added that they needed to have options to allow some flexibility.

8. MONTHLY REPORTS

There were no items under this portion of the agenda.

9. FINANCE AND BUDGET REPORT

a. Department of Finance Monthly Update

Budget Manager Garry Cozier reported that the finance team projected \$1.4 million in interest for FY25, based on \$30-35 million deposited into the LGIP at a 4% interest rate. He said that from the first 90 days, the return was about 5.5%. Mr. Cozier said that on September 18th, the Federal Reserve lowered interest rates by half a percentage point and that subject matter experts expect several reductions in the next 12 months. He said that on September 20th, a cash flow analysis revealed that an additional \$7 million could be deposited into the LGIP, which was completed. Mr. Cozier said the additional deposit should yield almost \$200,000 for the last nine months of the fiscal year at a 3.75% interest rate.

He said the Finance team aims to shield the City from significant revenue projection decreases by using an interest rate of 4% in the budget, despite a current return of 5.5%. Mr. Cozier said that finance and treasury negotiated an overnight sweep with the demand account, which was interest-bearing. He said the City received \$458,371 in interest from the LGIP and \$144,100 from the overnight sweep account to date. Mr. Cozier said projections for the next nine months are about \$1.1 million from the LGIP and \$370,483 from the interest-bearing account, totaling over \$2 million in interest, which is favorable compared to the budgeted \$1.4 million. He said most departments are tracking well, with no significant outliers, and expenditures are at 18% for the year. Mr. Cozier said a detailed report is available on the City's website. He noted that the Finance department received an award from the Government Finance Officers Association for their budget presentation, which had multiple criteria.

Council Member Jones thanked Mr. Cozier and recognized the hard work and accomplishments of the Finance team, adding that the award was significant to the community. He said it was important for department heads to communicate clearly with the community, and using acronyms such as LGIP without explanation could confuse the public. Council Member Jones said he wanted to ensure transparency about where the money was going and said the community needed to know the purpose and destination of these funds.

Mr. Cozier explained that LGIP stands for Local Government Investment Pool, with localities around the state putting their available monies into this pool to yield returns and make their money work for them. He noted that the interest rates fluctuate with government changes and said that by depositing available funds into this account, they maximize their budget.

Mr. Altman noted that the fund is managed by the Virginia Department of Treasury.

Mayor Parham congratulated the Finance team on the award.

10. CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE

There were no items under this portion of the agenda.

11. UTILITIES

There were no items under this portion of the agenda.

12. STREETS

Vice Mayor Hill said that a previous speaker from the public mentioned flooding, noting that the older infrastructure and Poor Creek would help address flooding on the southern end of the City. He said they were aware of areas like Bank Street that typically flood and understood the cause. He said it was important to maintain grass cutting and trash removal, as these factors contribute to flooding, particularly during heavy downpours.

He said recent efforts to spray for weeds were commendable but insufficient if done too late in the season. Vice Mayor Hill said it was disheartening to see weeds growing through cracks all summer. He said there was a need to establish an effective plan to address grass cutting and trash removal early in the spring, continuing through summer and into fall, and asked staff what that was. He said the plan should ensure ongoing attention to these issues to prevent flooding and maintain the City's appearance.

Director of Public Works Jerry Byerly stated that he had a proposal to take to Mr. Altman for his review, and after any comments from Mr. Altman, staff would bring it to Council. He said there was a piece of equipment they had looked at that Colonial Heights had recently purchased, which essentially cleaned the grass on the top of the curb and down in the gutter. He said it was a street sweeper, but instead of a

bristle brush like the ones they had, it used a wire brush that cut the grass and made the curb look slick, just like when it was new. He said that this apparatus, sold by Atlantic Machinery, worked really well for localities such as Colonial Heights. He said that part of the proposal would go to Mr. Altman as far as spraying, and they had talked to Jamie at the golf course and would be working with him.

Vice Mayor Hill commented that he felt they needed to take a different approach with that.

Mr. Byerly said they also had a contractor lined up, and they hoped to start spraying pre-emergent in areas like Sycamore and the main sidewalks to kill weeds before they came up.

Vice Mayor Hill asked if, per the City's code, it was the residents' responsibility to take care of their sidewalks and curbs.

Mr. Byerly explained that where the curb comes up and goes over at the edge of the street, the back side of that curb, the utility strip, the sidewalk, the grass—that's the responsibility of the residents, and the curb to the center line of streets is the City's responsibility. Mr. Byerly also stated that he had worked with Ms. Siodmok and an arborist who had identified 34 trees in the Sycamore Street Park that need to be cut because of their condition. He said that he had also emailed Mr. Allen at Parks and Rec and would be working with him to get quotes for those trees and try to find the funding to get them taken down.

Mayor Parham discussed the sidewalk replacement project in the street operations division. He mentioned that Mr. Jack Crocker and his wife were hosting a National Garden Week event at their home on Brandon Avenue. With many guests expected for that, Mayor Parham inquired about resources to redo the fractured sidewalks before the event, emphasizing its national exposure. He said he had sent pictures to the City Manager and would provide the exact address, with the event taking place in spring of 2025.

Mr. Altman stated that he would make sure to get someone out there to take care of it.

Council Member Cuthbert thanked the team for the work done on Montebello, mentioning a large fallen tree that had added to the abandoned look of the neighborhood. He expressed concern about two parking lots, particularly one in front of the historic courthouse. He noted that despite requests for cleanup, weeds were still growing, and some concrete bumpers were askew and looked neglected.

Mr. Byerly responded that they had fixed those about a month ago, but if they're back out of maintenance again, staff will readdress them.

Council Member Cuthbert said that the other City parking lot of concern was the one closest to the Dixie Restaurant, and there were weeds there taller than he was as well as a considerable amount of trash at the Sycamore Street edge.

Mr. Byerly agreed to take a look at it.

Council member Jones praised the quick and effective response of the City departments involved in the old DMV building collapse and said he appreciated their hard work. He then addressed the issue of the sidewalk near Blandford sixth-grade school, emphasizing that it was a City issue and a potential lawsuit situation. He mentioned that on the first day of school, children and parents were tripping over it. Council Member Jones insisted that the repair needed to be done immediately.

Mr. Byerly responded that staff had already looked at it and obtained a quote for \$196,000 and were trying to find the money, noting that the City had already spent all but \$23K of its sidewalk money.

Mr. Altman stated that they were trying to find the money but only received \$500K in VDOT allocation for sidewalks, so they may need to turn to City money. He said they technically needed to go through a budget process, but if he couldn't find available funding, he would come back to Council with a request.

Council Member Jones recalled a previous statement about securing funds to tarp and board up Peabody School. He noted that the windows are still not boarded, despite the code requiring vacant buildings to be boarded up and painted black. Council Member Jones emphasized the importance of marking buildings with an "X" to indicate safety, a practice used in Colonial Heights. He stressed that Peabody, Titmus, and similar buildings are potential hazards if the fire and police departments may not be fully aware of their unsafe conditions. Council Member Jones urged action, questioning why only the annex building had been addressed, despite earlier assurances.

Mr. Altman acknowledged the need for funding to board the windows, stating that he was not entirely sure of the specific building requiring tarping but emphasized the importance of addressing that. Mr. Altman confirmed that a structural engineer had assessed the building and that a report was forthcoming. He assured Council that a presentation to them would occur soon. Mr. Altman stated that environmental issues, including asbestos, were under review. He promised to work with the fire chief to ensure proper boarding and marking of the building.

Council Member Jones proposed tagging and striping all dilapidated properties in the City for safety, whether privately or City-owned. He praised Colonial Heights for their effective measures and expressed concern for the need for immediate action at Peabody. He stated that the windows should already have been boarded up and painted black. Council Member Jones also emphasized the need for speed bumps on the main strip of Berkeley Manor.

Mr. Altman responded that the issue had been discussed earlier in the week and said the team is collaborating with the City Engineer and Dominion on the lights around the frontage road. He also noted that they plan to conduct a traffic study, particularly focusing on the speed humps in that area.

Council Member Jones stated that a few traffic studies have been done there, and they needed the speed humps immediately. He stated that the lights were definitely needed in the old part of Berkeley Manor, as the new subdivision is very dark—and they are about to increase traffic even more.

Mr. Altman indicated that a new section, as discussed with the Vice Mayor, had a proffer. He mentioned they were working with the developer to install the lights. He noted some sections of the subdivision were already developed, and they were releasing the bond for those because the lights were installed. Mr. Altman explained they were collaborating with Dominion to assess the space needed for more lights along the perimeter and frontage road from Normandy.

Council Member Jones explained that there had been a light where the doctor's office was, but when the pole was removed, the light was never replaced. He stressed that the issue was simply a matter of reinstating the light. He continued by addressing the flooding in Berkeley Manor, noting that the front part always floods. Council Member Jones praised the park project undertaken by Mr. Marquis Allen and Mr. Altman, which widened the driveway and added traction for better access. He acknowledged that during this project, they discovered and resolved a long-standing issue—finding a manhole cover that had been buried for over 20 years, causing persistent flooding. Council Member Jones expressed gratitude, highlighting that the inadvertent discovery during regular maintenance work had led to fixing a significant problem, resulting in smooth water flow even during heavy rains.

Mr. Altman noted that Scott Flaherty, who had recently retired, had been involved with that work.

Council Member Jones responded that he didn't recall Mr. Flaherty being there, but it was a big team effort that became somewhat of an archeological mission. He reiterated the importance of expediting these projects to address increased traffic.

Council Member Cuthbert asked what the City's policy is on installing speed bumps, as they seem to be a great idea in the appropriate locations, but he had never been able to get the City to install one.

Mr. Altman explained that staff had presented a process and a policy to the Council about a year ago, which the Council approved. He mentioned that if provided with the correct locations, he would coordinate with Mr. Byerly and staff to ensure they work through the process to get a recommendation back to the Council. Mr. Altman noted that if there is a recommendation from the Council or a vote to establish a speed bump, they would report back to authorize the installation. He recalled discussions about several locations and asked to be reminded so they could address them.

Mayor Parham Thanked the public works staff for keeping a lot of our main streets open during bad weather, working late nights and early hours.

13. FACILITIES

There were no items under this portion of the agenda.

14. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

There were no items under this portion of the agenda.

15. CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA

There were no items under this portion of the agenda.

Mayor Parham reported that he had received a text from Nicole Loving stating that she had an excellent recovery event, and that Howard Myers had sung "Amazing Grace" for her.

16. BUSINESS OR REPORTS FROM THE CLERK

Tangi Hill, City Clerk, said that she had no report this evening.

17. BUSINESS OR REPORTS FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY

Anthony Williams, City Attorney, said that he had no report this evening.

18. ADJOURNMENT

The City Council adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Adopted: 03/04/2025

APPROVED:



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk