

The regular meeting of the Petersburg City Council was held on December 9, 2025 at the Petersburg Public Library. Samuel Parham called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. The meeting video link is <https://petersburgva.new.swagit.com/videos/363071>.

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 Administration:

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

2. DETERMINATION OF THE PRESENCE OF A QUORUM:

A quorum was present.

3. PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATION OF CEREMONIAL PROCLAMATIONS

a. Presentation of Proclamation to the Family of Deacon Edward Reuben Riley

4. RESPONSES TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC INFORMATION POSTED

There were no items under this portion of the agenda.

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

a. Minutes of Previous Meeting: November 18, 2025 Closed Session Meeting and November 18, 2025 City Council Meeting

Council Member Westbrook made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Vice Mayor Hill 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.

6. PRESENTATIONS

a. Presentation from Virginia Economic Development Partnership

Mayor Parham stated that this item had been tabled until the next Council meeting.

b. FY25 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report

March Altman, City Manager, stated that they had some weather-related issues come up and would present this item to Council in January.

7. OFFICIAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

a. A Public Hearing for Consideration of an Amendment to the FY26 Grants Fund

Garry Cozier, Budget Manager, provided a brief summary of the item. He stated that this item was a public hearing related to a grant received from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources for the City's Planning and Community Development Department. The grant was specifically for the preservation of Center Hill Mansion. The grant included \$24,000 from the Department of Historic Resources and a \$24,000 local match from the City for a total grant amount of \$48,000. Staff had already budgeted for these funds this year.

Mayor Parham opened the public hearing. Seeing no speakers, he closed the public hearing and the matter rested with Council.

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to approve the amendment to the FY26 Grants Fund in the amount of \$48,000. Council Member Westbrook 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: Jones, Westbrook, Smith-Lee, Hill, and Parham; no: N/A; abstain: N/A; absent: Cuthbert, and Myers.

b. A Public Hearing for Consideration of an Amendment to the FY26 General Fund

Garry Cozier, Budget Manager, provided a brief summary of the item. He stated that this item was a public hearing for an amendment to the budget in the amount of \$3.1 million for the Petersburg High School (PHS) Stadium Enhancement Committee, which was part of the sports complex. He said that as a result, they would be amending the budget by \$3.1 million.

Mayor Parham opened the public hearing. Seeing no speakers, he closed the public hearing and the matter rested with Council.

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to approve the amendment to the FY26 General Fund in the amount of \$3.1 million. Council Member Westbrook 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: Jones, Westbrook, Smith-Lee, Hill, and Parham; no: N/A; abstain: N/A; absent: Cuthbert, and Myers.

c. A Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance to Appropriate Funds for the Courthouse Construction Project

Garry Cozier, Budget Manager, provided a brief summary of the item. He stated that before Council was an ordinance for the full amount for the District Courts complex. He explained that this appropriation had

been included in their Capital budget for the first year, but this ordinance covered the full spend, totaling \$80,200,000.

Mayor Parham opened the public hearing. Seeing no speakers, he closed the public hearing and the matter rested with Council.

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to adopt the Ordinance to Appropriate Funds for the Courthouse Construction Project and to authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract for construction with Gilbane for the project. Council Member Westbrook 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: Jones, Westbrook, Smith-Lee, Hill, and Parham; no: N/A; abstain: N/A; absent: Cuthbert, and Myers.

- d. A Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance to Approve an Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Petersburg for the Purpose of Clarifying and Updating Regulations on Recreational Substance Retail Use by Defining Vape Shop and Cigar Lounge Uses and Specifying their Allowance in the City

Jared Crews, Interim Director of Planning and Community Development, provided an overview of the item. He explained that Council had requested staff bring forward this zoning text amendment (ZTA) for consideration. For background, in July of last year, Council had adopted 2024-ZTA-03 which defined recreational substance retail uses in the City, primarily tobacco and vape shops, and limited those uses to the M-1 District. Staff had previously presented to Council some challenges and needs for clarification regarding that ordinance, which they addressed in the updated amendment presented tonight.

Mr. Crews stated that Council had asked staff to create a more direct and clearer ordinance stating that a vape shop was a business that sold vape products, while maintaining a distinction between traditional retail uses that may include cigarette sales. They had achieved this by introducing a definition for nicotine vapor products, which aligned with State Code. They had also redefined recreational substance retail to include vape shops as establishments that sold vapor products. He concluded that this text amendment had been reviewed by the Planning Commission last month, and the Commission unanimously recommended approval.

Mayor Parham opened the public hearing. Seeing no speakers, he closed the public hearing and the matter rested with Council.

Council Member Jones stated that he met with the Berkley Group on Monday regarding the draft ordinance, and he thought they should table this item until next year. He said that he saw language in the presented text amendment that he did not see in the draft ordinance, and vice versa.

Mr. Crews clarified that the latest version of the draft ordinance had been updated to reflect this language. He stated that Council had given very clear direction on what they wanted to regulate and he explained that to the Berkley Group. He said that their draft ordinance did reflect what was included in this text amendment.

Council Member Jones said that he still would like to table the item. He said that he had some issues he wanted to discuss regarding the draft ordinance that would affect this item as well.

Council Member Cuthbert said that this ordinance or a variation of it had been before Council numerous times now, and the longer they waited the more the vape shops would take advantage of the situation.

He said that this amendment would close some loopholes that currently existed in their Zoning Ordinance, and he did not want the perfect to be the enemy of good regarding this issue. He believed this was the right step forward, and if they needed to make future amendments, they could do so.

Council Member Cuthbert motioned to adopt the ordinance as presented. Vice Mayor Hill seconded the motion.

Council Member Jones said that the entire Zoning Ordinance was going to be presented to Council again when they updated it. He said that there were some issues such as the purpose and intent, vape shop operating hours and restrictions, and mandatory licenses and enforcement. He said that those things needed to be in writing in the ordinance. He said that his takeaway from his meeting with the Berkley Group was that they would have to rewrite this text amendment again. He said that he would rather do it once in conjunction with the Berkley Group and not rush it.

Council Member Jones made a substitute motion to table this item until they worked with the Berkley Group on the update to the Zoning Ordinance.

City Manager Altman said that Council Members would be meeting with the Berkley Group in the coming weeks to discuss the update to the Zoning Ordinance. He said that staff could bring this item back to Council in January after everyone had their meetings.

Mayor Parham called the vote on the motion to table the ordinance until January.

The motion was approved on a roll call vote.

On a roll call vote, voting yes: Jones, Westbrook, Smith-Lee, Hill, and Parham; no: Cuthbert; absent: Myers; abstain: N/A.

Vice Mayor Hill thanked the Petersburg Police Department for their recent work in investigating vape shops, which resulted in four arrests. He appreciated their diligence in ensuring no illegal activities were occurring as part of these business operations.

Council Member Jones stated that he believed the Police Department had some important insights into the issues they faced with vape shops and he would like to see that addressed in the language of the text amendment and Zoning Ordinance update, as well.

- e. A Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance to Approve a Request by Rudalma Mata, on Behalf of Ruth Investments, LLC, to Rezone Property at 318 Irving Street, Parcel ID 0006050012 from the M-2, Heavy Industrial District to the R-3, Two-Family Residence District

Jared Crews, Interim Director of Planning and Community Development, provided a brief summary of the item. He stated that this was a request for a rezoning of a 0.11-acre property, which was currently zoned M-2 Heavy Industrial and would be rezoned to R-3 Two-Family Residence to construct a single-family dwelling. It was located on Irving Street, between Bollingbrook and Miller, and the street was a mix of M-2 and R-3 zoning, but all existing development on the street was residential single-family dwellings. The property was comprised of two parcels, which would need to be combined to build on the site. He said that the R-3 District allowed for single-family and two-family or duplex dwellings, but due to the property's size, it would be limited to a single-family dwelling.

Mr. Crews provided an overview of the existing conditions of the property. He explained that from staff's perspective, the parcel was not suitable for industrial development, and it was unlikely that an industrial expansion would occur. Examining the request through the Comprehensive Plan, the parcel was zoned

as a historic core neighborhood, characterized by short blocks, small lots, and residential uses where infill met the size and scale of the existing neighborhood, and the City had planned goals to facilitate diverse and attainable housing stock. Additionally, a small portion of the site had a corridor commercial designation due to its proximity to Bollingbrook, but this designation supported a range of uses that would not be feasible on this site.

Mr. Crews stated that this property would only be allowed to build a single-family home; there was not enough area to build a duplex. The rest of the zoning standards would still apply, including architectural treatment, parking, setbacks, and dimensions. He concluded that this request had gone to the Planning Commission last month, where they had unanimously voted to recommend approval. He noted that the applicant had been unable to attend tonight due to the weather, but she had expressed that if Council had outstanding questions or concerns, they could table it until the next meeting when she was available.

Mayor Parham opened the public hearing. Seeing no speakers, he closed the public hearing and the matter rested with Council.

Council Member Cuthbert made a motion to adopt the ordinance as presented. Council Member Jones 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.

- f. Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Purchase Agreement Between the City of Petersburg and I AM POWER to Purchase the City-Owned Properties at 35 and 17 Bank Street, Located in Petersburg, VA

Mayor Parham stated that the item had been tabled until January.

March Altman, City Manager, explained that they received a request from the applicant to defer any action on this item to the January 20, 2026 meeting. This request was made in response to his own request for additional information, which would enable staff to thoroughly review the project and provide a recommendation to Council. They would readvertise the public hearing for the January meeting.

8. PUBLIC INFORMATION PERIOD

Tangi Hill, City Clerk, stated that there were no individuals signed up to speak this evening.

9. BUSINESS OR REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR OR OTHER MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

Council Member Westbrook stated that he hoped everyone was having a good holiday season. He stated that he wanted to reiterate that this weekend at PHS, under the leadership of Coach Terry Smith, they would be hosting the annual speech and debate tournament. This year's event promised to be bigger and better, with speech portions featuring over 11 categories held at the high school and debate taking place at Vernon Johns. He wanted to extend his gratitude to the Richmond Forum for their assistance.

Council Member Westbrook stated that PHS had a top-notch speech and debate tournament, and he encouraged everyone to attend. If they could not judge, he encouraged them to come out and experience the sport of verbal discourse, conflict resolution, and public speaking. These young students needed their support, and they would have schools from across the state of Virginia visiting Petersburg this weekend.

With that in mind, he said that it was impressive to see the number three-ranked team in the nation, the Petersburg High Crimson Wave, at Virginia State last weekend.

Council Member Westbrook said that he was majorly impressed with the turnout and enthusiasm for the team and their coach, Ty White. He said that it seemed hopeful that they would be going to the state championship this year. He said that he was also hopeful that they could keep the focus on academics for their student athletes. He said that they should be supporting the education of their youth as well as their athleticism. He encouraged everyone to support their area youth in all their pursuits and regardless of their athletic or intellectual abilities.

Council Member Westbrook announced that he and Council Member Smith-Lee had a joint meeting scheduled for January 13 for Ward 6 and 7. They were finalizing some items, and he thought it would be beneficial for everyone to attend. He also wanted to work with their Communications Department to organize a competition among wards to see who had the best decorated house, which would bring more attention to their City beyond the Center Hill Mansion and downtown events.

Council Member Westbrook stated that also to better promote their holiday season, he suggested they also support their annual Kwanzaa celebration. As an avid supporter of Kwanzaa, he hoped more people could understand its significance, particularly in a predominantly Black City. Kwanzaa was a celebration that promoted personal growth, self-improvement, and community building, and he believed it should be recognized and celebrated by everyone. He hoped their Kwanzaa celebration would be advertised more in the coming week, and he encouraged everyone to support their Kwanzaa observers.

Council Member Westbrook said that as a Council, they were working toward their core vision, and he was proud of the progress they had made, including initiatives to reduce vape shops and blighted houses. He believed it was essential that everyone contributed to the overall efforts. He then reported that he had been working with Senator Aird, and he was pleased to hear about her initiative to support Black boys across the state. He hoped Petersburg could play a significant role in this initiative. He said that finally, he was looking forward to Wilcox Lake's development, as his daughter had recently enjoyed sledding there, and he would like to see more children sledding when they had snow.

Council Member Smith-Lee congratulated Jerome Mathis and his coaching staff, as well as his football team, on their first runner-up finish in the regional championship game in Norfolk. She said that the fans were well-represented, which was exactly what they had strived for when they talked about having Wave Pride. She also commended Coach Mathis on his outstanding job with the team and his coaching staff. She believed Coach Mathis was deserving of the Coach of the Year award.

Council Member Smith-Lee congratulated Ty White and his coaching staff, as well as his basketball team, on their impressive performance. She said that the turnout at Virginia State College was impressive, with standing room only. She even noted that the college had not seen such a large crowd. It was a wonderful event and the team played very well. She also extended her congratulations to Coach Harrison, who coached the girls' basketball team. Although she was unable to attend their game tonight in Prince George, she wished them well.

Council Member Smith-Lee stated that as Council Member Westbrook mentioned, they would be holding a meeting here at the Petersburg Public Library for Wards 6 and 7 on January 13 at 5:00 p.m. She encouraged everyone to join them. She extended her gratitude to Pat Hines for her efforts in establishing the homeless shelter. It had been a significantly cold winter, with two rounds of snow in the past week, and they truly appreciated her dedication. She encouraged everyone to please donate to the cause as they were able.

Vice Mayor Hill acknowledged Public Works for keeping the streets clear and safe during the freezing and inclement weather. He thanked Council, staff, and residents who made the effort to attend today's meeting.

Sometimes, hard decisions need to be made, and they must continue to push forward to achieve their goals. He said that they had a lot on their plate, and it was essential that they stay focused. He would also like to extend congratulations to their football and basketball teams. He had the opportunity to attend the basketball game on Saturday, and it was clear that the community was enthusiastic about the teams. He encouraged everyone to buy their tickets in advance for the rest of the season to make sure they got seats.

Vice Mayor Hill thanked all the individuals who attended their business roundtable last Monday. They received a great response from these initiatives, and he looked forward to hosting more in the future. He reported that their Christmas parade was a huge success, and he gave his thanks to the Recreation Department's efforts in organizing the event. He would like to extend his gratitude to everyone involved in making the parade a hit, including those who helped with decorations and area cleanup. The atmosphere was festive, with many businesses already decorating their spaces.

Vice Mayor Hill congratulated Council Member Smith-Lee for her retirement from public office on December 31 of this month. He commended her on this well-earned milestone. They were grateful for her service and wished her well. He said that finally, he believed the Mayor would be speaking about the upcoming ribbon cutting ceremony for their new courthouse on December 16 at 11:00 a.m. As they concluded their last official meeting of the year, he would like to express gratitude to all City employees and residents who had supported the City throughout 2025. He said that he looked forward to a successful 2026.

Mayor Parham stated that it was a great honor to be part of Council Member Smith-Lee's retirement luncheon at Bellwood. He noted that it was his first time visiting that campus and it was good to see how much she meant to the community. It felt like all of Petersburg was there and it was a great event.

Mayor Parham thanked Richard Harris, who has been doing an exceptional job keeping everything clear and safe on City streets and sidewalks. Despite the challenging weather conditions, he and the Public Works staff worked tirelessly to clear the ice and salt the streets, and it looked great. He hoped their staff could get some rest tonight.

Mayor Parham said that as Vice Mayor Hill mentioned, on December 16, they would have the groundbreaking for the courthouse complex. This was a remarkable achievement for the City Council, as it addressed a need that has been discussed for over 25 years. He thanked the City Council for their efforts in making this project a reality.

Mayor Parham stated that this Friday, December 12, at 4:00 p.m., the Southside Depot project, which had been underway for 10 years, was finally opening as a visitor center and tourism site. He encouraged everyone to come and get Petersburg T-shirts and hats and other swag to mark the completion of this amazing renovation. He knew that Council Member Cuthbert had been working very hard on this project, and they would be there to celebrate it.

Mayor Parham thanked Marquis Allen and the Parks and Recreation staff did an amazing job with the Christmas parade. The illumination and tree in the art park were great features. The kids enjoyed the parade, and Santa Claus made an appearance. Then the Holiday Homes Tours, which took place on Sunday, were phenomenal, and the Petersburg Symphony Orchestra were excellent, and he thanked them for all their efforts.

Mayor Parham stated that finally, he would comment on the games at Virginia State. The University was surprised at the overwhelming turnout for the Petersburg game and wanted them to come back. He said that Petersburg's athletic program was truly impressive, and he would like to build upon Council Member Westbrook's comments. Coach White had been instrumental in growing local Division I athletes. He said that Coach White's approach was to develop young men into exceptional student athletes, which aligned with the

culture they wanted to maintain in Petersburg. He said that he believed this was an important aspect to keep moving forward.

Mayor Parham stated that as they concluded their last meeting for the year, he wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year..

10. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

There were no items under this portion of the agenda.

11. FINANCE AND BUDGET REPORT

There were no items under this portion of the agenda.

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Consideration of an Ordinance to Approve an Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Petersburg for the Purpose of Updating and Clarifying Sign and Advertising Regulations to Address Ongoing Complaints and Issues Pertaining to Certain Advertising Devices Throughout the City

Jared Crews, Interim Director of Planning and Community Development, stated that staff initially brought this matter back in September to refine the ordinance and address some confusing and difficult-to-enforce aspects. He said that Council had requested clarification, and they brought it back in October for further discussion. As a result, it was sent to the Planning Commission, where it received a recommendation of approval with a 5-1 vote and one abstention. He noted that much of this language had been incorporated into the new draft Zoning Ordinance, which was also incorporating best practices for signage.

City Manager Altman asked if Council's previous concerns had been addressed within this draft ordinance.

Mr. Crews confirmed that was correct; the last remaining question was one that Mr. Williams had brought up for additional clarity. They were now seeking to incorporate this clarity into the full ordinance with Berkley.

Council Member Cuthbert made a motion to adopt the ordinance as presented. Council Member Jones 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.

- b. 2026 Legislative Agenda

March Altman, City Manager, provided an overview of the item. He stated that the information on this item was included in the Council's packet for this evening. He said that although Ms. Williams was not present, he would briefly outline the key points. He said that they were seeking state funding to replace the Wythe Street Bridge, with a budget amendment of \$12 million. They were also working with the Governor's Office to identify additional funding.

City Manager Altman stated that they had included Council's request regarding the Parking Authority Act to be included in the legislative agenda. He said that, as they had discussed regarding the pharmaceutical

training facility, they were requesting funds from the General Assembly to begin design work on this project. The City had already funded the feasibility study, which had been completed. They aimed to continue moving this effort forward in conjunction with the state's efforts to support pharmaceutical development in the Commonwealth, particularly in the City of Petersburg.

City Manager Altman said that finally, he would like to address the 599 funds, which supported their Police Department. As they may recall, this funding was tied to the annexation moratorium bill. Since the City could not annex any more territory, they were given additional funding for police in exchange. However, 30% of the overall funding provided went to County police departments.

City Manager Altman explained that each year, he asked the General Assembly to review the funding formula to provide additional support for Cities, particularly those that were distressed, to help ensure adequate police protection without diverting the funds from Counties. Staff had met with their senator and new delegate to discuss the legislative agenda, and they were expected to submit bills in support of this agenda.

Council Member Jones asked if there was any possibility of prioritizing a tax on all vape shops in Virginia localities, with the intent of using the tax to assist their police departments and their school systems. He asked if that could be added to the legislative agenda.

City Manager Altman replied that if it was Council's desire, they could certainly add that to the legislative agenda.

Council Member Jones made a motion to add to the legislative agenda the ability to tax vape shops. 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.

c. Adoption of the FY2027 Budget Calendar

Mayor Parham stated that the item was tabled until January.

13. NEW BUSINESS

a. Consideration of a Joint Resolution to Change the Name of Petersburg Community Corrections to Gateway Justice Services

March Altman, City Manager, explained that this was a request from Ms. Loving, who had asked the Council to support a Resolution to rename the Petersburg Community Criminal Justice Board to the Gateway Community Criminal Justice Board. The request was to create a name that was more inclusive of both Petersburg and Dinwiddie, which made up the Board. He said that this was the request before the Council this evening, and they would greatly appreciate the Council's support.

Council Member Jones said that he would like to retain Petersburg's name in their regional organizations as much as possible because it denoted their importance as a locality.

City Manager Altman explained that this was also part of an effort to secure funding from Dinwiddie County to support their office. He said that for years, they had served both communities but Dinwiddie had not been financially participating, and he had been discussing with County leadership this potential for County support.

Council Member Jones made a motion to approve the joint Resolution to change the name of Petersburg Community Corrections to Gateway Justice Services. Vice Mayor Hill 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.

b. **Consideration of Appointment to Fill an Unexpired Term on the Petersburg Arts Council**

Mayor Parham stated that Council Member Myers had previously recommended Jennifer Murphy James to serve on the Petersburg Arts Council.

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to appoint Jennifer Murphy James to fill an unexpired term on the Petersburg Arts Council. Council Member Jones 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.

14. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT AND SPECIAL REPORTS

March Altman, City Manager, thanked their citizens who braved the weather this evening and attended tonight's meeting. He thanked Richard Harris and the crew at Public Works for their outstanding job in clearing the streets after their two recent snows. He greatly appreciated their efforts. He thanked Mr. Allen and his crew for the fantastic parade on Saturday and the tree lighting. Additionally, he would like to thank Mr. Fagan and his group, Ms. Williams, Richard Harris, and Public Works, Mr. Allen, the Police Department, and Fire Department. He appreciated their efforts in making downtown look its best and making Saturday a special day.

City Manager Altman also thanked Petersburg Area Art League (PAAL), for helping them find a location for their new Christmas tree. It looked wonderful, and they were planning to partner with PAAL and their Tourism Office at Southside Depot in the future. He said that he thought Council Member Westbrook had a great idea, and he had already begun discussing a light decorating contest with staff on Saturday. He believed that they could certainly host a holiday light event for both homes and businesses.

City Manager Altman further thanked Commonwealth Lighting for their work on the lighting in downtown. They had done an outstanding job, and they were looking forward to building on that next year. Finally, as their last meeting of the year came to a close, he said that he would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He looked forward to seeing Council again on January 6.

15. BUSINESS OR REPORTS FROM THE CLERK

Tangi Hill, City Clerk, wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. She congratulated Council Member Smith-Lee on her retirement.

16. BUSINESS OR REPORTS FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY

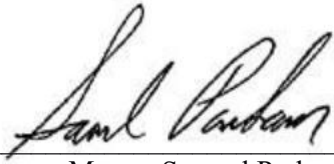
Anthony Williams, City Attorney, stated that he had nothing to report this evening.

17. ADJOURNMENT

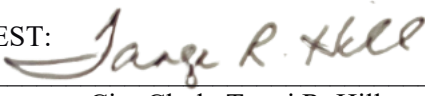
Mayor Samuel Parham made a motion to adjourn. All members of the Council present voted in the affirmative. Meeting adjourned.

The City Council adjourned its meeting at 6:24 p.m.

Adopted: 01/06/2026



Mayor, Samuel Parham

ATTEST: 

City Clerk, Tangi R. Hill