

The Work Session of the Petersburg City Council was held on February 3, 2026 at Petersburg Public Library. Samuel Parham called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The meeting video link is <https://petersburgva.new.swagit.com/videos/373931>

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 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. PRAYER

Vice Mayor Hill led the Council meeting in prayer.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Parham led the Council and the citizens in the pledge of allegiance.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Marlo Green, 301 Rolfe Street, stated that she was here on behalf of OCR Empowerment Group. She said that she wanted to provide an update on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day cleanup. She gave a shout-out to Vanessa Crawford for her parade on MLK Day, as well. She noted that the cleanup was highly successful, with 43 volunteers participating. She wanted to share some of the highlights with Council. They collected 43 tires and filled 42 trash bags. Additionally, they found a toilet, which was a notable discovery. She said that she wanted to thank everyone who helped them clean up the neighborhood, including St. Joseph Catholic School, Virginia State University (VSU), Flavorful Portions, and many community members who came out to help. She also wanted to thank Mr. Randall Williams, Arthur Yates, and Frankie Whittington for their efforts in cleaning up the trash. Their dedication was impressive, and she appreciated their hard work.

Ms. Green said that in other news, they were moving forward with grant work. She said that they would be hosting an invasive species training in March, in collaboration with Friends of the Lower Appomattox River (FOLAR). This training would focus on invasive species, ecology, and nature, and participants would receive a certificate of completion. They were also working on a master plan for the park locations along the trail on Pocahontas Island, with Timmons Group and Marquis Allen leading the effort. She said that she hoped to

have City input and wanted to invite Council members to attend the listening sessions. She stated that finally, she wanted to remind City Council and the public about the upcoming event, Stories by Candlelight, Love, and Legacy, happening on Valentine's Day at 6:30 p.m. at the Appomattox Event Center. They had a string quartet performing, and the event was 85% sold. If they were interested in attending, they should reserve their tickets now, as they had limited availability. The event would be telling Virginia love stories set to music. She thanked everyone for their support and participation as the Empowerment Group approached their two-year anniversary in July.

Barbara Rudolph, 1675 Mount Vernon Street, stated that she wanted to provide a brief preview for the business meeting in two weeks. She explained that she recently spoke with the Assessor, and she must say that the Assessor staff is very responsive and helpful, but they were facing a challenging situation that may be difficult to communicate effectively to the public. She said that as someone who had experienced a significant increase in her assessment, she was one of the unhappy parties. She said that her initial notice indicated a 48% or 49% increase, but after commenting on it on social media, she received a correction notice from the Assessor that increased the amount to 58%. Although the correction was not what she was hoping for, she did notice that the Assessor's Office is offering a lower rate for assessments of garage and basement space.

Ms. Rudolph said that she had outbuildings at her house, which required additional assessments. She was curious to know how the Assessor's Office measures these outbuildings, and she was told that it was either a flyover or a specialized tool. She requested that Council please ensure that this information is shared with the community, as it is essential to understand how the assessments are conducted and why. Without transparency, misinformation can spread, and she did not want to contribute to that. She said that as someone on a fixed income and supporting two households, the additional \$1,100 annual tax burden was particularly unwelcome.

Joyce Vinson, 1608 Kings Road, stated that she was here to speak about the event center or nightclub that the Planning Commission had denied for the space at 2793 South Crater Road. The address she was speaking on was where her church is located, 2787 South Crater Road, which is in the same corridor. She simply wanted to say that she appreciated it when Council honored and respected the vote of the elected officials that had been deemed qualified and certified to make those decisions. She said that in regard to the recent death of a young man, while unrelated to nightlife in Petersburg, the City should be looking towards providing more opportunities for their youth. She said that she knew the facility in question was well-known to Council Member Jones, and she appreciated the contributions of the developer to the youth and City; however, that corridor was not suitable for an upscale nightclub. There were other areas further south that were more appropriate. She requested Council to consider any personal connections they have to the property or the applications and potentially recuse themselves in order to maintain impartiality on the matter.

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

a. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

- January 20, 2026 Closed Session Meeting
- January 20, 2026 City Council Meeting

b. First Read and Schedule a Public Hearing for the Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of One or More Series of General Obligation and Refunding Bonds of the City of Petersburg in the Maximum Aggregate Principal Amount of \$5,600,000 to Refund the City's Outstanding Water and Sewer Revenue Bond, Series 2015 and Pay All Related Costs of Issuance

- c. First Read and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance to Approval a Request by Raymond Akoury, on Behalf of RGC Investment C/O Hotrod Motorsports, for a Special Use Permit for Multiple-Family Dwellings as Authorized and Controlled by the R-5 Multiple Dwelling District Standards at 1325 West Washington Street, Parcel ID 024230005, in the B-2, General Commercial Zoning District
- d. First Read and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance to Approve a Request by Pedro Rosario for a Special use Permit to Operate a Stand-Alone Vehicle Repair Shop at 3857 South Crater Road, Parcel ID 101090005, in the B-2, General Commercial Zoning District
- e. First Read and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance to Approve a Request by Donte Threatt, on Behalf of Sweet Investments VA LLC, for a Special Use Permit to Operate a Nightclub at 2793 South Crater Road, Parcel ID 065110004, in the B-2, General Commercial Zoning District
- f. First Read and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance to Approve a Request by Alexander Graham Jr., on Behalf of the Warrenton Group, to Rezone Property at 2088 Defense Road, 1918 Townes Road, and 1926 Bogese Drive, Parcel IDs 070080002, 069070001, 077010801, Industrial Zoning District with Proffers and to Amend the Existing Proffers for Property at 2233 Halifax Road, Parcel ID 076030800 in the M-1 Light Industrial Zoning District
- g. First Read and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Purchase Agreement Between the City of Petersburg and LDJ Petersburg LLC (Ansal McCal) for the Development of a Sub-Parcel (5.36 Acres) of 3501 Halifax Road, Located in Petersburg, VA Tax Map No.: 092010001
- h. First Read and Schedule a Public Hearing on Consideration of an Ordinance Adopting the FY27 Real Property Tax Rate

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

7. SPECIAL REPORTS

There were no items under this portion of the agenda.

8. MONTHLY REPORTS

March Altman, City Manager, stated that Public Works had been busy with snow removal and related tasks for the past few weeks, so those reports would be presented at Council's March meeting. In the meantime, he would like to thank Public Works staff for all their hard work in clearing the main thoroughfares in the City. He also thanked Petersburg Area Transit (PAT) staff for keeping the warming center open at the transit station. He additionally thanked the individuals and organizations that donated supplies.

9. FINANCE AND BUDGET REPORT

There were no items under this portion of the agenda.

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

There were no items under this portion of the agenda.

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

March Altman, City Manager, stated that he had nothing further to report this evening.

16. BUSINESS OR REPORTS FROM THE CLERK

Tangi Hill, City Clerk, announced that as February is Black History Month, the City of Petersburg would like to extend an invitation to all citizens to attend their Black History concert at the Petersburg Public Library's Event Center, a free event on Friday, February 13, with doors opening at 6:30 p.m. and the show beginning at 7:00 p.m. Flyers are available in the back of the room. Grammy-nominated Avery Sunshine will be performing, along with Micah "Bam Bam" White, who will serve as the Master of Ceremonies, music from the Sounds Funny Band, and spoken word from Dr. Latorial Faison.

Ms. Hill announced that on Friday, February 20 at 7:00 p.m., the City of Petersburg will host its Unity Fellowship Celebration. Dr. John R. Faison, Sr. will be the guest speaker, and the VSU Gospel Chorale will provide musical entertainment. This event is being held in conjunction with Black History Month, a century of commemoration. Their scripture references Psalms 133, verses 1 through 3, which says, "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." VSU would be here with the Divine Nine, and other non-profit organizations within their community. The City invited everyone to come out and celebrate.

17. BUSINESS OR REPORTS FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY

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

18. 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 at 5:21 p.m.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sam Parham", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor, Samuel Parham

ATTEST:

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

City Clerk, Tangi R. Hill