

The Closed Session Meeting of the Petersburg City Council was held on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at the Petersburg Public Library. Mayor Parham called the Closed Session Meeting to order at 3:06 p.m. The meeting link is <https://petersburgva.new.swagit.com/videos/363060>.

1. ROLL CALL

Present:

Arnold Westbrook, Jr., Councilor – Ward 7
Annette Smith-Lee, Councilor - Ward 6
Samuel Parham, Mayor – Ward 3
Darrin Hill, Vice Mayor – Ward 2

Absent:

Charles Cuthbert, Jr., Councilor – Ward 4 (Late)
Marlow Jones, Councilor – Ward 1 (Late)
W. Howard Myers, Councilor – Ward 5

Present from City Administration:

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

A quorum of the City Council was present.

2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Motion to Direct the City Attorney to Withdraw the City's Appeal in the Petersburg Circuit Court Case No.: 25-409

Mayor Parham entertained a motion to direct the City Attorney to withdraw the City's Appeal in the Petersburg Circuit Court Case No.: 25-409.

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to direct the City Attorney to withdraw the City's Appeal in the Petersburg Circuit Court Case No.: 25-409. Council Member Smith-Lee seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on the motion.

The motion was approved on a roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting Yes: Westbrook, Smith-Lee, Hill, and Parham; No: N/A; Abstain: N/A; Absent: Cuthbert, Jones, and Myers.

CLOSED SESSION

The purpose of this meeting is to convene in the closed session pursuant to:

- a. §2.2-3711(A)(3) of the Code of Virginia for the Purpose of Discussion or Consideration of the Acquisition of Real Property for a Public Purpose and the Disposition of Publicly Held Real Property Where Discussion in an Open Meeting Would Adversely Affect the Bargaining Position or Negotiating Strategy of the Public Body, Specifically Including But Not Limited to the Acquisition and

- Disposition of Real Property; and
- b. §2.2-3711(A)(7) and (8) of the Code of Virginia for the Purpose of Receiving Legal Advice and Status Update from the City Attorney and Legal Consultation Regarding the Subject of Actual or Probable Litigation and Specific Legal Matters Requiring the Provisions of Legal Advice by the City Attorney, Specifically Including But Not Limited to Discussion Regarding the Legal Requirements of 15.2-953 of the Code of Virginia; Petersburg Circuit Court Case No.: CL25000409- 00; and Other Probable Litigation and Legal Matters Requiring the Advice of the City Attorney; and
 - c. §2.2-3711(A)(6) of the Code of Virginia for the Purpose of Discussion or Consideration of the Subject Matter of the Investment of Public Funds Where Competition or Bargaining is Involved, Where, if Made Public Initially, the Financial Interest of the City Would Be Adversely Affected; and
 - d. §2.2-3711(A)(29) of the Code of Virginia for the Purpose of Discussion Regarding the Subject of Award of a Public Contract Involving the Expenditure of Public Funds, and Discussion of the Terms or Scope of Such Contract, Where Discussion in an Open Session Would Adversely Affect the Bargaining Position or Negotiating Strategy of the Public Body; and

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to enter into Closed Session for the purpose stated. 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: Westbrook, Smith-Lee, Hill, and Parham; No: N/A; Abstain: N/A; Absent: Cuthbert, Jones, and Myers.

The Council entered Closed Session at 3:09 p.m.

Council Member Cuthbert arrived.

Council Member Jones arrived.

CERTIFICATION

Mr. Williams stated, "The Mayor would entertain a motion to conclude the closed session called today to certify in accordance with §2.2-3712 that the Code of Virginia that to the best of each members knowledge that only public business matter lawfully exempted from the opening meeting requirements were discussed and that only such public business matters were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened, heard, discussed, or considered. If any member believes that there was a departure from the foregoing requirements should state prior to the vote indicating the substance for departure in which he believes has occurred. This requires a roll call vote Mr. Mayor."

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to return the City Council to the open session and certify the purposes of the closed session. Council Member Smith-Lee 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.

2025-RES-056 A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING, AS REQUIRED BY THE CODE OF VIRGINIA, SECTION 2.2-3712, THAT TO THE BEST OF EACH MEMBER'S KNOWLEDGE, ONLY PUBLIC BUSINESS MATTERS LAWFULLY EXEMPTED FROM OPEN MEETING REQUIREMENTS OF VIRGINIA LAW WERE DISCUSSED IN THE CLOSED SESSION, AND ONLY SUCH PUBLIC BUSINESS MATTERS AS WERE IDENTIFIED IN THE MOTION CONVENING THE CLOSED SESSION WERE HEARD, DISCUSSED, OR CONSIDERED

The City Council returned to the open session at 5:30 p.m.

Mayor Parham entertained a motion to add a motion to authorize the City Manager and City Attorney to settle a disputed claim concerning a utility account to the agenda.

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to add a motion to authorize the City Manager and City Attorney to settle a disputed claim concerning a utility account to the agenda. Council Member Westbrook seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on the motion. The motion was approved by an affirmative vote of all present.

Mayor Parham entertained a motion directing the Clerk to advertise and include this item on the agenda for the Council's December meeting for a Public Hearing, second reading, and consideration for adoption of an Ordinance to Appropriate Funds for the Courthouse Construction Project.

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion directing the Clerk to advertise and include this item on the agenda for the Council's December meeting for a Public Hearing, second reading, and consideration for adoption of an Ordinance to Appropriate Funds for the Courthouse Construction Project. Council Member Smith-Lee seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on the motion. The motion was approved by an affirmative vote of all present.

Mayor Parham entertained a motion to authorize the City Manager and City Attorney to settle a disputed claim concerning utility account no: 7716508 – service no: 9512195 consistent with the terms of the December 5, 2025, correspondence.

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to authorize the City Manager and City Attorney to settle a disputed claim concerning utility account no: 7716508 – service no: 9512195 consistent with the terms of the December 5, 2025, correspondence. Council Member Smith-Lee seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on the motion. The motion was approved by an affirmative vote of all present.

3. **ADJOURNMENT:**

City Council adjourned at 5:31 p.m.