

The Work Session of the Petersburg City Council was held on May 5, 2026, at 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/385770>

1. ROLL CALL:

Present:

Samuel Parham, Mayor -- Ward 3
Darrin Hill, Vice Mayor -- Ward 2
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:

Marlow Jones, Councilor – Ward 1

Present from City 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

Shanika McClellan, Executive Director of People's Advantage Helping Hands thanked City Council for the support they had provided for the housing stability program they were offering to citizens of Petersburg. She also presented a recognition to Council Member Myers for collaborating with Petersburg Public Schools and People's Advantage Federal Credit Union to host the housing stability resource fair at the Petersburg Library on April 9.

Vernal Gannaway, 652 Old Wagner Road, thanked Mr. Miller for quickly resolving an issue he had brought to his attention. He stated that he was very proud of what the City had been doing in terms of development. He notified City Council of a concerning situation at Tanglewood Apartments, where a friend's apartment was falling apart and the landlord had not done any necessary repairs. He emphasized that the current state of the apartment was not fit for a person to live in and someone needed to do something about it. He also

suggested that Council create an accountability committee so that citizens could provide important feedback on City issues.

6. PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATION OF CEREMONIAL PROCLAMATION

- a. Recognition of the Partners in Peace Initiative, a Collaboration Between the Virginia State University Honors College and Petersburg Public Schools

Dr. Lisa Hopson, Director of the Honors College at Virginia State University, greeted Council and gave remarks. She thanked City Council for recognizing the Partners in Peace Initiative, which grew out of a unique opportunity afforded to VSU's Honors College as they were one of 30 institutions in the nation selected by the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) to participate in a peace-focused initiative. She explained that VSU made a deliberate choice to make this a hands-on, practical, and community-centered program for Petersburg.

Dr. Hopson stated that the program's intent was to allow students to better understand the impact of Nobel Peace Prize winners by experiencing those lessons themselves, and to bring peace education to those who could benefit from it the most. They decided that 3rd graders should participate in the program because 3rd grade served as an important, pivotal time in children's lives, and Petersburg students deserved investment, opportunity, and affirmation.

Dr. Hopson provided an overview of the work undertaken by the Honors College students and led by Council Member Westbrook, which included peace education principles from the Hill Leadership Institute, a trip to Atlanta to study the lives and legacies of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and President Jimmy Carter, engaged with museums, gardens, and spaces that centered on reflection, wellness, nature, and community.

Dr. Hopson stated that then, they put these lessons in action at Pleasants Lane Elementary School, where their college students were partnered with administrators, classroom teachers, and fine arts educators to weave peace education into every space where students learn and grow. In total, 93 students were impacted, and the response from children, families, and staff affirmed that this work mattered and made a difference.

Dr. Hopson introduced the Honors College students present at tonight's meeting, Ayanna Mimms, Christina Hatcher, Enosh Minnie, and Autumn Gordon, who then discussed their experiences with the Partners in Peace Initiative at Pleasants Lane Elementary. The students expressed their appreciation for the positive benefits provided by the peace education initiative and their eagerness to continue working in close collaboration with the City of Petersburg.

Joseph Rodriguez, Principal of Pleasants Lane Elementary in Petersburg City Public Schools, stated that he firmly believed that schools were more than just a place to learn the basics; they should be a second home where students felt a sense of belonging and growth. Programs that provided their students and community with opportunities to develop and make a positive impact on their lives were essential. Due to the significantly positive impacts, he had requested the continuation of this program at Pleasants Lane Elementary.

Dr. Rodriguez thanked City Council for selecting their school for this opportunity, and they looked forward to continuing their partnership with Virginia State University and the Partners in Peace Program.

Council Member Westbrook thanked the many people who put work into this program, including City staff and particularly their 3rd grade teachers and fine arts teachers at Pleasants Lane. He said that as this was Teacher Appreciation Week, he wanted to further thank all teachers and educators across

Petersburg. He stated that they recently took their students to Maymont Park in Richmond, which was a peaceful yet exciting experience for everyone.

Travis Christian, Chief of Police, stated that the role of a peace agent was simple yet powerful. He said that a peace agent chooses kindness over conflict, shows respect to everyone, helps others feel safe and included, and leads by example, even when it's not easy. He said that to the students, today they were not receiving just a title; they were receiving a responsibility to make their school and community a better place each and every day.

Chief Christian recognized the 3rd grade students from Pleasants Lane Elementary as Peace Agents in the City of Petersburg.

Council Member Westbrook thanked City Administration and City Council for supporting this initiative. He said that he planned to reapply for the Partners in Peace program, and he hoped they could expand it to all schools, with the goal of spreading peace and maintaining positivity in Petersburg.

- b. Proclamation for National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month and World Asthma Day in Memory of Jasiah Rashad Rives

Mayor Parham presented the Proclamation for National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month and World Asthma Day in Memory of Jasiah Rashad Rives.

The Rives family accepted the proclamation and gave remarks. Mrs. Keanna Rives asked that this proclamation serve as a reminder to take asthma seriously, educate oneself and others, and that awareness can make a difference. She hoped Jasiah's life served as a reminder that asthma was serious, awareness was necessary, and every breath mattered.

Council Member Myers gave sincere condolences on behalf of City Council to the Rives family.

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

- a. Minutes of Previous Meetings:
 - March 24, 2026, Special Joint Meeting
 - April 7, 2026, Work Session Meeting
 - April 28, 2026, Closed Session Meeting
- b. First Read and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Voluntary Boundary Line Adjustment with Prince George County, Virginia
- c. First Read and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance Adopting the Petersburg City Public Schools FY226 Budget Amendment
- d. First Read and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance Adopting the Petersburg FY27 Budget
- e. First Read and Schedule a Public Hearing for the Consideration of an Ordinance Adopting the Petersburg Public Schools FY27 Budget

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. 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, Myers, Westbrook, Smith-Lee, Hill, and Parham; no: N/A; abstain: N/A.

10. FINANCE AND BUDGET REPORT

a. Personal Property Tax Follow-Up Report

Lacy Ward, Billing Controller, gave a presentation to Council. He explained that this item was a continuation of the City Council's meeting last month, where they discussed delinquent tax accounts. He provided an overview of the department organizational chart, noting several positions that had been hired in the past few months.

Mr. Ward then provided potential options regarding the City's personal property collection process, including taxpayers paying on time, taxpayers on payment plans, and Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) stops. He explained that DMV stops would require taxpayers with overdue balances to clear their tax debts before renewing their DMV licenses. After stopping in 2023, staff recently reactivated the DMV stops.

Mr. Ward noted that reactivating the DMV stops affected over 6,000 past due accounts with a combined balance of \$4,511,877.91 outstanding. He said that staff was currently handling some customer communications that had resulted from this reactivation, and they hoped the DMV stop would allow them to initiate the conversation and determine a plan for payment. He provided historical data on the usage of the DMV stop program between 2018 and 2026, noting that it was used during four of those years.

Mr. Ward stated that the Commissioner of Revenue has also offered several recommendations to improve collection of overdue personal property taxes. The Collections team was also participating in training sessions with their ERP partner for detailed accounting tasks related to an enhanced effort, creating short-term payment plans, and scheduling monthly meetings with the Commissioner of Revenue to ensure alignment of processes and procedures.

Council Member Cuthbert asked why they had inconsistently applied the DMV stop program.

March Altman, City Manager, said that he was not sure why they had this past inconsistency, but it could potentially be attributed to a variety of internal and external factors. He stated that currently, they were moving forward with reimplementing the DMV stops as the policy for the administration.

Council Member Cuthbert asked if it was a policy decision of City Council to cease the DMV stops.

City Manager Altman replied yes; it could be a policy directive from Council, but otherwise it remained a standard operating procedure (SOP) they had for collection of outstanding property tax owed to the City.

Mayor Parham stated that he did not recall Council ever directing staff to stop doing the DMV stops.

Council Member Cuthbert asked who made the decision to not implement the DMV stops in 2024.

City Manager Altman explained that some of the decision-making process was influenced by the departure of a staff member and the hiring of new staff members, who were adjusting to different roles. He said that he was unclear if there was a deliberate decision made by anyone in the billing and collections or management team to discontinue DMV stops. He stated that he was not aware of any Council request to discontinue DMV stops.

Council Member Cuthbert asked if there was a written protocol in place that outlined the procedures for handling DMV stops.

City Manager Altman stated that he was unsure if they currently had one, but as they were making adjustments to this process, they would be developing standard operating procedures, which would include an SOP for the DMV stops.

Council Member Cuthbert expressed deep concern about this situation. He asked who was the City collector in this situation.

City Manager Altman stated that according to Code, that would be himself.

Council Member Cuthbert stated that this meant this was the City Manager's responsibility, and if it was not being done, they were losing millions of dollars each year. He asked if City Manager Altman had been unaware of the DMV stops.

City Manager Altman replied that he was unaware they had not been doing DMV stops for this period of time. He reiterated that they were now implementing DMV stops as part of the collections process for personal property taxes.

Council Member Cuthbert asked for confirmation that Council would review and consider for adoption a protocol for the City to perform DMV stops.

City Manager Altman confirmed that was correct. He said that staff was working on a comprehensive policy for collection of all back taxes, up to and including putting liens on real estate property.

Council Member Cuthbert asked when Council would review that policy.

City Manager Altman said that they could likely present a DMV policy within the next few weeks. He said that it would take a while longer for the remaining policy pieces to be completed.

Council Member Cuthbert asked if the City was considering applying state income tax refunds for delinquent personal property taxes.

Mr. Ward said that they had not been taking state income tax refunds, but they had been able to implement wage garnishments by way of their third-party collectors and attorneys.

Council Member Cuthbert asked the City Manager if state law permitted the City of Petersburg to seize or insist upon receiving state income tax returns to pay personal property taxes.

City Manager Altman said that his understanding was that there was a provision in the State Code that allowed them to receive funds that would be owed to a citizen in the City due to unpaid taxes. They would certainly explore the necessary avenues to access these funds and have conversations at the state level about how to utilize them.

Anthony Williams, City Attorney stated that he believed the Billing and Collections Department and the Commissioner of Revenue would need to work together to determine how to use the state income tax refunds to pay for delinquent City taxes. He stated that in the previous localities he had worked in, the locality was never directly involved in the exact process.

Council Member Cuthbert asked if the City Manager could follow up with Council when he learned what their capabilities were with regard to taking state income tax refunds. He stated that if the State Code and City Charter authorized the City to collect those taxes, then they should be able to find a way to do it.

City Manager Altman replied that he absolutely would, and he would be talking through it with the Commissioner of Revenue.

Vice Mayor Hill thanked the Finance team for all the hard work they were doing. He asked the City Manager where they were in the process of hiring a Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for the City.

City Manager Altman answered that they just had a second interview with a candidate last week. They were putting together a potential offer and would see if it was accepted.

Vice Mayor Hill stated that while he was not a strong proponent of the DMV stops, it was a tool for the City to use when they had significant amounts of overdue taxes. While past staff turnover and interruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic may have had an impact, they had to remain focused on positive progress. He said that he wanted to make sure the City had completely worked out the DMV stop process before they moved onto state taxes and other tools.

Council Member Smith-Lee thanked the Finance staff for all their work. She noted that 2018 was a particularly difficult time for the City financially, and the years after that were severely hindered by their local situation as well as the worldwide impacts of the pandemic. She stated that moving forward, they had a plan and would do what they needed to do.

8. SPECIAL REPORTS

b. Live! Casino Virginia - Penny Parayo, Senior Vice President and General Manager

Penny Parayo, Senior Vice President and General Manager of Live! Casino, provided a report to Council. She stated that in their first 100 days of being operational, they had welcomed 325,000 guests. They had celebrated approximately 4,100 jackpots and exciting wins with their guests. They had prepared more than 36,000 meals in their quick-service restaurant, Lucky's. They had served over 268,000 drinks across their bars. From an economic impact, she was proud to say they had hired over 600 team members to work at their casino, and they still needed more.

Ms. Parayo said that they had generated about \$6.5 million in gaming taxes year-to-date. They had spent over \$1.1 million on local vendors and 36% of that on local minority businesses. They had collectively contributed 400 volunteer hours year-to-date, and within their local community, they had donated about \$125,000 so far. In terms of what was next, the crane for construction was up and they were looking at the end of 2027 to open their permanent casino.

Ms. Parayo said that in June, they would have updated renderings and an announcement of their first restaurant, which they hoped would be their steakhouse, and they were currently working through that contract. They would continue to work with local businesses, and they were committed to being community partners for the betterment of Petersburg.

Mayor Parham asked if Ms. Parayo could discuss their performance and how it compared to their projections.

Ms. Parayo said that they had exceeded expectations thus far. She said that from a public record standpoint, for the first quarter, they had generated approximately \$34 million in gaming revenue, and they were about 16% above budget. She said that their performance was truly impressive, considering their initial projections. She said that Petersburg was now leading the win per unit per table for the entire state of Virginia. She said that from a market share standpoint they were five out of 13, and their growth was very impressive.

Mayor Parham asked if they were on schedule with their construction and opening date.

Ms. Parayo confirmed that they were on target.

Vice Mayor Hill asked if the casino would consider including Petersburg's name in their commercials, rather than just the interstate exit name.

Ms. Parayo confirmed that they would.

Vice Mayor Hill asked if there had been any update from the General Assembly whether individuals with low-level felony records could be employed at the casino.

Ms. Parayo replied that she believed there was a new law effective July 1 that would require them to only consider the past eight years of criminal history, rather than a lifetime. She said that anyone who may have had their application denied under the current law could reapply after July 1.

Council Member Westbrook asked how the recruitment process was going, particularly with regard to VSU.

Ms. Parayo said that it had been going well so far. She said that they were working with VSU, VCU, culinary schools, Reynolds, Bright Point, and other universities that would partner with them. She said that they were looking forward to bolstering workforce development.

Council Member Westbrook asked if the current parking was adequate.

Ms. Parayo confirmed that yes, they had worked out parking for employees and had adequate parking for guests. However, they could not accommodate bigger trucks, and that continued to be an issue.

Council Member Westbrook asked if the public transportation was sufficient for their current operations and as business grew in the coming months.

Ms. Parayo said that for now, it was sufficient, but as their workforce grew in size, they may explore other transportation options to reach their neighboring localities.

Council Member Westbrook asked if safety measures at the casino were adequate.

Ms. Parayo said yes, she was very proud of the safety measures they had in place. She said that they had been working closely with the Petersburg Police to have off-duty officers working overtime for them. She said that they also employed a lot of technology and other initiatives to enhance their security. She said that their Director of Security was working through some of the inter-jurisdictional pieces right now, but currently she was happy to report that they had only had small issues so far and operated on a zero-tolerance policy for any problematic behavior. She said that this could result in a temporary or permanent ban from the casino.

Council Member Westbrook thanked Ms. Parayo for all of her community engagement thus far and encouraged her to work with local groups to build their relationships.

City Manager Altman said that he wanted to clarify that the City would not receive the entire \$6.5 million in taxes that Ms. Parayo had mentioned. He said that their first quarterly payment from the state, when they received it, would be approximately \$2.1 million in gaming tax.

- a. Rapid REVIVE - Dr. Elle Merkle, Overdoes Prevention Program Coordinator, Virginia Department of Health, Crater Health Departments

Dr. Elle Merkle, Overdose Prevention Program Coordinator with Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and Crater Health Department, gave a report to Council. She had naloxone to distribute to everyone in the room, as well as a roster and form to affirm that everyone had received this REVIVE training. She explained that addiction was a chronic, treatable disease, and successful treatment was extremely effective. Addictive drugs such as opioids or heroin gave a euphoric feeling to the user, but also depressed the central nervous system, which could cause breathing issues and increase risk of death.

Dr. Merkle explained the signs of an overdose and the appropriate response. The signs typically were loss of consciousness and shallow breathing. She noted that a stroke or fall victim typically would have a response when their sternum was rubbed, but overdose victims often were unresponsive to that as well. She further explained that naloxone was the only approved antidote for an opioid overdose, and she reviewed the components of the naloxone kit and administration steps.

Dr. Merkle emphasized that when administering naloxone, they also needed to call 911 and ensure emergency medical services were coming to help. She stated that naloxone was only effective for between 30 and 90 minutes, while the opioid stayed in the system for much longer. She said that the overdose victim needed two rescue breaths, then the naloxone should be pushed entirely into one nostril and dispensed all at once. Then, they should resume rescue breathing with one breath every five seconds, but hands-on compressions were unnecessary.

Dr. Merkle said that if three minutes passed with no response, the second dose of naloxone was necessary. If the person wakes up, they should be encouraged to stay until the EMS arrived. If they had to leave the person, they should position them to lay on their left side, with one hand underneath their head. She had provided information on the other work the Crater Health Department did and a cheat sheet for overdose response.

Council Member Cuthbert asked if it was safe to leave naloxone in a car, and if the heat or cold would impact the efficacy of the medicine.

Dr. Merkle stated that extreme heat would make the medicine less effective; however, it would remain effective if it was frozen and thawed. She encouraged everyone to get more naloxone from the Health Department if their kit was lost or compromised, as long as they had registered with the encounter form.

9. MONTHLY REPORTS

There were no items under this portion of the agenda.

11. CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE

a. Stormwater Study Update - Timmons Group

Aislinn Creel, Senior Project Manager at Timmons Group, provided a brief overview of the completed Citywide drainage study. She began by highlighting three major points. First, they completed a first-pass inventory of over 25,000 individual stormwater system assets; second, they completed the hydraulic modeling of existing conditions in 23 priority neighborhoods, representing all seven wards; and third, stakeholder input and public engagement activities.

Ms. Creel briefly discussed their five key findings and systemic issues identified. These included inaccessible stormwater assets, stormwater collection varies widely, inefficient pipe design/layout, wetland and swamp area impacts, and frequent flooding. She explained that the findings from their modeling of existing conditions can be used by the City to make informed decisions when feasible solutions.

Ms. Creel explained that as rainfall was getting more intense, it was crucial to have current, localized data. In terms of infrastructure, the American Society of Civil Engineers' 2025 Report Card for America's Infrastructure had given a D grade for stormwater nationwide, indicating that this was not just a City-specific problem. She further discussed the impacts of the 55 railroad crossings on stormwater and soil migration.

Ms. Creel summarized the recommendations that resulted from this study. She stated that it was recommended that the City implement a work order system to prioritize proactive routine maintenance, structure recovery, updates to inventory, and alternative analyses, conditions assessments, study opportunities to improve capture and conveyance for large drainage areas, evaluate potential CIP projects in studied neighborhoods to increase pipe sizes, and other specific recommendations for each neighborhood.

Mayor Parham asked why Battlefield Park near Blackwater Swamp was not included in the yellow areas of the study map.

Ms. Creel replied that the inventory stage ended up taking up a much larger part of their study than initially anticipated, so they focused on that rather than detailed models for each area. The selection of yellow areas was not intended to omit certain areas; the prioritization scale ultimately determined it. She noted that they had already secured grant funding for future phases of the study, so reprioritization or inclusion of other areas would be possible.

Mayor Parham asked the City Manager what they could do to clean up that area near Battlefield Park.

City Manager Altman stated that in order to extend the study to that area, they needed to secure additional funding to complete the entire map. In order to address the existing infrastructure, they needed to prioritize Public Works to clean the drains, use a vacuum truck to remove debris, and ensure the storm drains were free-flowing.

Mayor Parham asked if they had the necessary equipment to clean out those areas.

City Manager Altman confirmed that they did. They had a jet truck with a high-pressure nozzle to clean out the road edges, and otherwise they could contract out equipment.

Council Member Westbrook agreed that they needed to expand the prioritized areas, as there were a number of neighborhoods with severe stormwater maintenance issues.

Ms. Creel said that Timmons Group has a vested interest in the city and has assisted with grant applications for additional study. She clarified that the infrastructure inventory was a Citywide initiative, so the City now had that data available in their geographic information system (GIS) database. She said that they had secured funding for phase two of the study, and they would continue this work until the entire City was included in yellow on the map.

Council Member Cuthbert asked about Lieutenant Run and East Wythe, where there was a choke point. He asked if Timmons was going to address a design or funding solution for that problem.

Ms. Creel said that they had not been contracted to provide a solution for East Wythe specifically, and their previous application for grant funding was unsuccessful. However, she understood the City was seeking other funding sources to make that project happen.

Council Member Cuthbert asked if the City Manager had any information on how they planned to address a similar issue at Bollingbrook.

City Manager Altman noted there were several choke points leading to that area. He said that they currently had funding to remove silt from stormwater outfalls near the harbor area, and in the long term, they needed to design a solution for Wythe, Bank, Bollingbrook, and to raise the Norfolk Southern railroad crossings in order to improve stormwater flow. He said that they were trying to secure outside funding sources, but if unsuccessful, they would bring it on as a capital project. He said that the estimated cost for the repairs was approximately \$12 million for Wythe Street.

Council Member Cuthbert said that the residence at 371 Terrace Avenue had a longstanding stormwater issue, and he had been waiting for a solution.

City Manager Altman said that they could revisit that location and see if there was a short-term solution. However, he wanted to emphasize there was a significant amount of stormwater work they needed to do across the City to adequately address the current issues. He said that this first phase of the study provided a roadmap, but they needed to finish it and then prioritize the specific work projects.

Council Member Cuthbert said that storm drains were often filled with trash. He asked if it was possible to strain out the obstructions and clean out the strainer so that they did not need to go into the stormwater pipe system.

City Manager Altman replied that at this point, they should be exploring all possible avenues to keep their stormwater drains clean. He said that first and foremost, they needed to clear them out. He said that once that was done, they must identify the most effective measures to deploy throughout the City to minimize the amount of trash, debris, and leaves that entered the system. The most important aspect was that citizens should not litter or rake leaves into the storm drains.

Council Member Cuthbert asked if the preventive maintenance steps they could take were clearly outlined, and he wondered when they planned to implement them.

City Manager Altman stated that they now had the study in hand, and they would begin to prioritize their efforts, focusing on addressing the low-hanging fruit issues of getting the area cleaned and improving storm drainage and flows in their priority areas. They would explore all methods available to them.

Council Member Cuthbert asked if they would put strainers on the inlets.

Ms. Creel confirmed that yes, their recommendations included proactive maintenance, including trash traps. She agreed with City Manager Altman that they should get all of the system flowing first and establish a maintenance routine first, so that those trash traps did not become a nuisance in themselves. They also emphasized the importance of education and public participation, which was a requirement of their MS4 permit.

Council Member Cuthbert asked City Manager Altman to update Council on their efforts to switch the stormwater fees to the real estate bill.

City Manager Altman said that staff was still working out the details, and they hoped to implement those changes for the next fiscal year. He said that he would like for Council to approve the ordinance at their June meeting.

12. UTILITIES

- a. Department of Public Works & Utilities May 2026 Report

City Manager Altman briefly highlighted a few key points from the Public Works Report for May 2026. He said that one notable item was the new street sweeper, which featured metal brushes that would allow them to more effectively clean gutters and remove debris and growth. He would also like to mention the parking lot renovation behind Maria's City-owned lot, which aimed to support local businesses in the area and alleviate parking concerns for restaurants. They successfully completed their Citywide cleanup event on April 11, repairing over 1,900 potholes as part of their annual Pothole Blitz.

City Manager Altman said that they continued to focus on beautification efforts in downtown and other areas, including maintenance work at Poplar Lawn Park, bridge repair, and tree removal. He said that the Fire Department was currently undergoing improvements at the Market Street Fire Station, including the replacement of the concrete bay apron and interior painting. He said that this work was expected to be completed by July and would undoubtedly enhance the station's functionality and appearance.

Vice Mayor Hill thanked staff and the community for all the fantastic work they were doing to transform the City through cleanup and beautification efforts. He encouraged everyone to take pride in their place in City and keep it beautiful.

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 said that there was no official report, but he wanted to inform Council and the public that near Wythe and Washington and I-95, they were demolishing the old Howard Johnson's and Travel Inn. He said that this would remove the final piece of blight from the interstate interchange in the area, which was a great development. He noted that he had recently had multiple conversations with different visitors to the City who had expressed their pleasant surprise at how welcoming and enjoyable the City was for them. He said that it was heartening to know that others could see the progress being made here, and he applauded everyone who contributed to this positive change.

Council Member Myers announced that he would be hosting a Ward 5 meeting on May 18 at Gillfield Baptist Church at 6:00 p.m.

17. BUSINESS OR REPORTS FROM THE CLERK

Tangi Hill, City Clerk, announced that this week was Public Service Recognition Week. She said that as a result, their Human Resources (HR) Department was working on recognizing their employees. She said that she wanted to inform the public about this, as well as the upcoming Teacher Appreciation Week and National Police Week. She said that National Small Business Week was also taking place, so she encouraged the public to support their local small businesses. She said that she would like to extend a special thank you to her fellow municipal clerks, as this was their 57th Annual Municipal Clerks Week. She said that there was also a ward meeting on May 20.

City Manager Altman said that he wanted to recognize Ms. Camisha Brown, the Clerk of Dinwiddie County, who had been named the Municipal Clerk of the Year.

18. BUSINESS OR REPORTS FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY

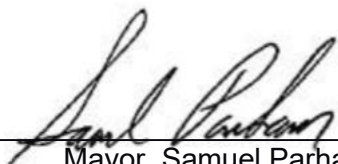
Anthony Williams, City Attorney, wished everyone a happy Cinco de Mayo.

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 7:14 p.m.

Adopted: 5/19/2026



Mayor, Samuel Parham

ATTEST:



Clerk of Council, Tangi R. Hill