

The regular meeting of the Petersburg City Council was held on May 19, 2026, at Petersburg Public Library. Mayor Parham called the meeting to order at 5:13 p.m. The meeting video link is <https://petersburgva.new.swagit.com/videos/388442>

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

Absent: Arnold Westbrook, Jr., Councilor - Ward 7

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. He gave condolences to Council Member Jones on the recent passing of his mother.

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. PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATION OF CEREMONIAL PROCLAMATIONS

a. National Public Works Week Proclamation

Mayor Parham presented the National Public Works Week Proclamation.

Richard Harris, Assistant General Manager for Street Operations in Public Works accepted the proclamation and gave remarks. He thanked Council and City Administration for the recognition and support.

b. National Emergency Medical Services Week Proclamation

Mayor Parham presented the National Emergency Medical Services Week Proclamation.

Fire Chief Wayne Hoover accepted the proclamation and gave remarks. He expressed his pride in his staff and thanked all the other City departments, City Council, and City Administration for their dedication and impressive work.

6. RESPONSES TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC INFORMATION POSTED

There were no items under this portion of the agenda.

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

a. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

- April 28, 2026, Regular Meeting
- May 5, 2026, Closed Session Minutes
- May 5, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes
- May 5, 2026, Work Session Minutes

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

8. PRESENTATION

a. General Assembly Post-Session Update - The Honorable Senator Lashrecse Aird and The Honorable Delegate Kimberly Pope-Adams

Kimberly Pope Adams, Delegate for the 82nd District of Virginia, provided an update on the 2026 General Assembly legislative session. She stated that she served on three committees in the House of Delegates: the Finance Committee, the Agricultural Committee, and the Transportation Committee. Additionally, she served on three commissions: the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission, the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Council, and the Unemployment Compensation Commission. During her time in the House, over 1,000 bills made it out of committee, and she was the chief patron of 12 bills, nine of which would become law on July 1.

Delegate Adams highlighted three bills that she wanted to bring to Council's and the public's attention. The first was House Bill 15, which revised the Landlord-Tenant Act. Specifically, it changed the pay or quit notice period from five days to 14 days. She explained that research indicated that giving tenants more time to pay rent reduced the likelihood of eviction proceedings. The second bill was House Bill (HB) 1448, the Petersburg Parking Authority Act, which passed both chambers with bipartisan support. She clarified that this bill did not mandate the parking authority; it authorized it. The City Council must hold a public comment period and take action to establish the parking authority, and it did not require parking meters.

Delegate Adams stated that she would also like to bring to Council's attention House Bill 218, which addressed employment opportunities at the casino, particularly for those with past convictions. The initial law made it challenging for individuals with certain convictions to find employment, regardless of how old they were. She was proud to announce that as of July 1, the look-back period would be reduced to eight years. Additionally, the application process would allow applicants to explain their past, and they would be allowed to provide character references. Furthermore, the age requirement for working in the casino was reduced from 21 years of age to 18 for positions not on the floor.

Lashrecse Aird, Senator for the 13th District of Virginia, provided an update on the 2026 General Assembly legislative session. She reported that they had been able to pass 19 bills, which would become law on July 1. This year, she had been appointed chair of the Local Government Committee and served on several other Committees, including Senate Finance and Appropriations, the Rules Committee, Transportation Committee, and Education and Health. When they were not in session, they also served on various interim commissions, including the Deeds Commission, which focused on mental health access and resources, the Tobacco Commission, of which she was vice chair, the Women's Health Commission, the Men and Boys Advisory Commission, and the Virginia Housing Commission.

Senator Aird stated that she would like to highlight a few bills, as well as some resources that she hoped the City would receive as part of the support of the state budget. She acknowledged the General Assembly was still working on the budget and hoped to adopt it within the coming weeks. This session saw 2,366 bills come before the House and Senate, with 1,156 sent to the Governor's desk. Many of these bills dealt with issues that citizens would care about, including local land use, accessory dwelling units (ADU), public education, housing, preventing deed fraud, and mandatory tax exemption.

Senator Aird explained that the Governor had vetoed legislation regarding skill games, a proposal for a new casino in Northern Virginia, public sector collective bargaining, establishing a prescription drug affordability board, establishing adult retail marketplace for the use of cannabis, with the total number of vetoes at 13. Despite this, she remained hopeful that they could continue to move forward on these issues in 2027. She reported that they successfully adopted legislation to raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour, which would be fully implemented by 2029.

Senator Aird discussed some of the bills that she had patronized, which shared a common local theme of addressing affordability. She explained that Senate Bill 289 provided greater enforcement tools for localities to address health and safety issues in housing units. Senate Bill 294 required that anyone who requested access to their records regarding their payments and utilities must be entitled to receive that information, and it could be included if they were going through an active eviction process. Senate Bill 3 established a childcare assistance program that was a partnership between the state, local businesses, and the individual seeking childcare.

Senator Aird noted the wage garnishment reform, which put caps on the amount of money that could be garnished per paycheck and removed the ability for the treasurer to make determinations about garnishment penalties, instead requiring a judge to make that decision. Furthermore, she wanted to highlight failure to appear reforms under the safer, cleaner, and more just community's category. This legislation allowed individuals to submit for consideration to the judge, if they had a significant rationale for their inability to appear.

Senator Aird also discussed some of the key investments they hoped to see move forward, once they had a state budget. These included a 1% teacher raise on top of the proposed 2% increase, moving Virginia closer to the national average. Furthermore, she was pleased to report that nearly \$351,000 had been allocated toward legislation to establish or strengthen their internship program for state offices. Additionally, there was language regarding the South-Central Wastewater Authority. She noted that regarding school district funding, as presented in the Senate budget, if the budget moved forward as originally proposed, there were several allocations to Petersburg specifically for supporting their schools, including a \$659,000 add-on for Fiscal Year 27, and \$926,000 for Fiscal Year 28.

Vice Mayor Hill asked when they could expect to see a finalized state budget.

Senator Aird replied that they were currently working through an impasse between the House and Senate regarding a revision to the data center tax exemption. The Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee had committed to adopting a budget by July 1.

Mayor Parham thanked their Delegate and Senator for the updates.

9. OFFICIAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a. A Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance to Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Voluntary Boundary Line Adjustment with Prince George County, Virginia

March Altman, City Manager, stated that the applicant had requested deferral of this item to a future meeting date in order to work out some details between the localities, and he would recommend they support the request.

- b. A Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance Adopting the Petersburg City Public Schools FY26 Budget Amendment

Garry Cozier, Budget Manager, gave a brief summary of the item. He stated that this amendment requested the appropriation of the supplemental revenue from the Fiscal Year 25 encumbrance rollover. The amendment amount was \$2,284,935.16, which was the carryover from the previous fiscal year.

Mayor Parham opened the public hearing. Seeing no speakers, he closed the public hearing.

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to approve the Ordinance Adopting the Petersburg City Public Schools FY26 Budget Amendment. 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: Cuthbert, Jones, Myers, Smith-Lee, Hill, and Parham; no: N/A; abstain: N/A; absent: Westbrook.

- c. A Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance Adopting the City of Petersburg FY27 Operating Budget

Garry Cozier, Budget Manager, provided a brief summary of the item. He stated that he would review the Fiscal Year 27 Proposed Operating Budget. He reviewed the All-Funds summary, noting that the budget was balanced with revenues covering expenses. The total proposed FY26 All Funds budget was \$176,367,632, an overall 15% increase from FY26. He noted that the increase reflected rising costs, new responsibilities, and targeted investments in public safety, infrastructure, and long-term financial stability. The focus was on maintaining current services while planning responsibly for the future.

Mr. Cozier further reviewed the FY27 Budget initiatives, which included the Public Safety Class & Compensation Study, health insurance increases, general employee cost of living adjustments (COLA), and debt service payments for bonded debt, as well as the newly created Casino Incentive Fund. He provided summaries of the proposed General Fund revenues and expenditures, which were balanced at \$119,785,559. He reviewed the expenditures of each budget category, as well as debt, schools, transfers, and non-departmental and outside agencies.

Mr. Cozier next reviewed the Special Revenue Funds, which totaled \$26,223,936 in the proposed FY27 Budget, and the Enterprise Funds which totaled \$30,358,137. He summarized that the budget was intended to balance growth with caution in their investments and responsibilities. It supported essential services, personnel, and infrastructure, planning for the future without overextending their resources.

Mayor Parham opened the public hearing.

Barbara Rudolph, 1675 Mount Vernon Street, expressed concern that there was a significant omission in the budget presentation, which was the casino revenues. She asked for clarity on the plans and projections for the casino funds received by the City. She noted that Danville had a citizen commission that made recommendations to their City Council on how the casino revenues should be spent. She requested Council to share more information on how the casino revenues would be utilized within the budget and how it would be used to benefit the City.

Ajani Sekou, 27 South Sycamore Street, requested that the City create a position for a business liaison to work with small businesses in the City and the City government organization. He said that it would be very helpful to have a dedicated person to explain how the City budget impacted businesses, and vice versa.

Wendy Austin, High Street, Ward 5, expressed her appreciation for the clear and concise budget presentation. She agreed with Ms. Rudolph that there needed to be a separate budgetary consideration for the casino revenues and how the City planned to expend them. She said that considering the major role Public Works played in addressing issues in the City, it was surprising they received the smallest amount of funds. She requested more information about the turf division and \$1.24 million being allocated to that.

Vernel Gannaway, 652 Old Wagner Road, agreed with Ms. Rudolph. He stated that they needed more citizen input on the casino revenues and the casino's role in the City.

Mayor Parham closed the public hearing. He asked if staff would like to address some of the questions and concerns raised in the public comments.

City Manager Altman stated that the City received quarterly gaming revenues from the state, and they had received one so far this year. They were being cautious with their projections for those payments, as the monthly revenues fluctuated and economic conditions could impact them further. He noted that the City was looking at Danville's worksheet and planned to develop something similar to what they had in place. He stated that the \$15 million in the budget was a one-time payment and was intended to pay for capital project costs.

City Manager Altman explained that the turf division was created as part of a mid-year budget amendment last year to invest in downtown and the corridor around the casino. Those were one-time dollars but required investments for maintenance. They were utilizing Golf Course resources and dedicating staff for those operations.

City Manager Altman said that regarding a business liaison, staff was working within their existing resources to create a connection for small business owners and the City. He stated that Ms. Rudolph was correct; the Joint Legislative Audit Review Commission (JLARC) study had estimated \$12 million in gaming revenue and the City had not estimated it to be that high, and they anticipated it would remain lower due to recent economic conditions.

City Manager Altman noted that the Public Works fund was within the General Fund operating budget and was separate from the Streets Fund, Utilities Fund, Stormwater Fund, and all the funding in capital that covered project costs. He said that the operating budget for Public Works encompassed salaries, benefits, and office costs.

Council Member Jones asked for clarification regarding the \$3 million for the class & compensation study.

Mr. Cozier clarified that the \$3 million was for implementation of the study, which would pay for the step increases for public safety pay.

Council Member Jones suggested that Council and staff consider making class and compensation adjustments internally and without paying for outside consultants. He said that they had skilled staff who could work through these issues and make appropriate determinations.

Council Member Jones asked for more information regarding the increase in the Economic Development budget.

City Manager Altman replied that they had included funding for a facade improvement program for businesses and for property acquisition.

Council Member Jones asked if they could consider increasing funding to the Social Services Department in the future.

City Manager Altman confirmed that they could.

Council Member Jones stated that regarding the school's budget, he would like to see plans to rebuild all of their schools. He stated that their City was seeing an unprecedented amount of new construction and growth, and the School Division needed to be able to grow with that. He asked the PCPS Board and Administration keep this in mind for future planning.

City Manager Altman noted that they were still waiting for the state budget to be finalized, at which point they could reevaluate their schools funding and capital improvement planning. He said that they could discuss this at their joint meeting with the School Board in July.

Council Member Jones asked for more information on the Battersea Foundation, which was included in the budget.

City Manager Altman explained that the Battersea Foundation had consistently requested funding from the City to support historic preservation of Historic Battersea and the property, which supported tourism and visitors to the City.

Council Member Jones suggested that they look into similarly supporting Pocahontas.

Anthony Williams, City Attorney, clarified that this item was the public hearing on the budget but would not be voted on tonight. He stated that City Code required the vote take place seven days after the public hearing, which would be at City Council's June 9 meeting.

Council Member Cuthbert asked the City Manager if this operating budget was only discussed with two members of Council at a time.

City Manager Altman confirmed that Council and staff had two-on-two meetings to review the proposed budget and receive comments.

Council Member Cuthbert asked why those discussions were not in public meetings.

Mayor Parham said that the two-on-two meetings with the Finance Department were standard practice. He said that it was intended to allow Council the opportunity to ask their detailed questions without prolonging their public meetings.

Council Member Cuthbert said that they could have one public work session.

Mayor Parham said that this was the public meeting to discuss the budget.

Council Member Cuthbert expressed concern that the public did not get to hear the earlier discussions, questions, and answers. He said that they preached transparency but practiced obscurity.

Vice Mayor Hill called a point of order. He stated that the two-on-two meetings were not intended to obscure anything. The reason behind that method was so that Council could thoroughly review the details of the budget with staff before they voted on the budget at the public hearing. He stated that they could certainly ask more questions during this public hearing, but they did the initial deep dive with staff to ensure they all were well-versed in what was proposed in the budget. He was concerned that Council Member Cuthbert was suggesting Council was doing something nefarious with the way they constructed their budget review process. He reiterated that Petersburg City Council had been following this process for a very long time.

Council Member Smith-Lee noted that she had been on Council for ten years and Council Member Cuthbert was her two-on-two meeting partner for that entire time, with the exception of this year, when Council Member Cuthbert did not want to participate in the meetings.

Council Member Cuthbert stated that was not true. He said that just because they had done it this way did not mean it was a good way to do it.

Mayor Parham clarified that Council took a consensus on whether to continue doing the two-on-two meetings, and Council Member Cuthbert was the dissenting vote and subsequently chose not to participate in the established process. He said that if Council Member Cuthbert wanted to have his own public meeting, he could hold a public ward meeting and have Mr. Cozier and Budget staff go over the budget with him and constituents.

Council Member Cuthbert acknowledged that Council had agreed to proceed in that way, but for the next fiscal year he would like them to do it differently. He said that the two-on-two meetings did not allow for the public to listen, and members of Council did not get to hear each other's concerns or staff's responses. He stated that the discussion should be entirely public, and he hoped they would consider it for the FY28 budget. He clarified that he had submitted his budget questions to staff and received responses, and he had never said he did not want to participate in discussions with City staff.

Council Member Cuthbert asked about page 75 of the proposed operating budget, where there was a line item for transferring \$1,650,000 to the mass transit fund. He asked if that was local funding.

City Manager Altman confirmed that was correct.

Council Member Cuthbert stated that it ran counter to the assertion that Petersburg Area Transit did not cost the City any money.

City Manager Altman clarified that Petersburg Area Transit received the vast majority of its funding from the federal level. He stated that the funding mentioned by Council Member Cuthbert was primarily for purchase of new rolling stock.

Council Member Cuthbert stated that it sounded like a capital improvement purchase rather than an operating expenditure. He said that if that was the case, then it should not be included in the operating budget.

- d. A Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance Adopting the Petersburg City Public Schools FY27 Budget

Garry Cozier, Budget Manager, provided a brief summary of the item. He stated that the Petersburg City Public Schools FY27 Budget had been previously presented to Council. There had been a joint session with Schools, and the locality was required to adopt the budget.

City Attorney Williams stated that this item would be voted on during Council's June meeting along with the operating budget.

Mayor Parham opened the public hearing.

Kenneth Pritchett, Chair of Petersburg City Public Schools Board, stated that the last day of school was May 29 and if their budget was not adopted before that time, they would be unable to give their teachers contracts. He stated that after school ended, those teachers would no longer be employed by PCPS. He expressed concern about the potential unforeseen consequences of not giving contracts by that time.

City Manager Altman stated that they would be doing a budget amendment in July once the state budget was finalized, but there was local funding in the budget to support the PCPS budget. He would recommend the School Division to send out their contracts in advance of Council adopting the budget.

Council Member Jones suggested that Council vote on the school's budget now to make it official.

City Attorney Williams clarified that although Council may wish to adopt the budget at this time, State Code specified that the public hearing must be held at least seven days prior to the approval of the budget. He said that therefore, they must wait seven days after this proceeding to vote on the budget.

City Manager Altman suggested that Council could call a special meeting for May 26, at which time they could adopt the City budget and the Schools budget. He stated that this would allow the School Board to hold a meeting to adopt their budget and finalize their teacher contracts.

Matthias Greywoode, Chief Financial Officer of Petersburg City Public Schools, said that he had a question regarding the operating budget for the City. He said that they had \$13 million allocated, but their request was for \$16 million, which included the comp and class study. He said that they also needed to begin sending out contracts. He said that he wondered if they would receive the necessary funding to cover the comp and class after reconciling the state funding with the amount already allocated.

City Manager Altman stated that they did not yet know what the state budget would include, but their proposed increases may cover a portion of the implementation of the compensation and class study. He stated that their budget amendment later in the year would address what was currently under consideration with the state budget.

Kevin Williams, 1 Hayden Drive, stated that he was a student at Virginia State University, he was wondering if it was possible to suspend the rules of Council and adopt the budget at this meeting.

Barbara Rudolph, 1675 Mount Vernon Street, noted that the budget situation at the state level was not unusual; there had been many other years during which the state did not finalize their budget until late in the year. She said that every locality and school division in Virginia was facing this issue, but they needed to finalize their contracts.

Mayor Parham closed the public hearing.

Vice Mayor Hill asked the Clerk to work with Council to determine their availability for a special meeting to adopt the budgets on May 26.

10. PUBLIC INFORMATION PERIOD

Mayor Parham read the rules of procedure for public comment.

Sheila Coleman spoke regarding legal actions taken against her recently that violated state law, federal law, the City Charter, and the City's purchase agreement. She stated the City sold her a piece of land in 2024, for which she paid the purchase price in full, but she never received the deed. She said that Pender and Coward had told her she had to pay \$1445 for the deed, but did not explain what the fees were for, which violated the law. She had asked the City for assistance with the issues, but there was no response and instead her check was returned to her on May 11, 2026, the same day she had asked City Council for assistance. She stated that this termination did not meet the City's purchase agreement requirements, nor state law, and she was seriously concerned that the City Attorney and Pender and Coward refused to communicate with her attorney to resolve this matter.

Jocelyn Jarrett, 18 Windemere Drive, stated that she was an alumna of Peabody High School, Class of '61. She said that on behalf of the Peabody Alumni, she wanted to emphasize the importance of Peabody to the City's and many people's history. She hoped they could make progress in keeping the building, which was the first Black high school in Virginia and taught generations how to read, write, do arithmetic, and comprehend information. She requested Council to save, renew, restore, and preserve the Peabody Complex through the custodial ownership of the Peabody Academic Learning and Development Center, Incorporated.

Nicole Ventura, Ward 5, expressed concern that the agenda and public notice for tonight's meeting was published without sufficient time for citizens to review. She said that she had expected an explanation for the Carriage House Apartments displacement to be provided at tonight's Council meeting, but it was absent from the agendas. She stated that it had been over a week since the apartments had been red tagged by City code enforcement as uninhabitable, and residents had not received any updates from the City. She requested the City to communicate clearly and publicly with residents and directly resolve the displacement of residents.

Ajani Sekou, 27 South Sycamore Street, stated that he was developing a block of 100 Sycamore Street, which sat between Ward 4 and Ward 5. He stated that this was one of the only segments of road with four lanes, and he was deeply concerned about the pedestrian safety in this area. He requested the City to install rumble strips and pedestrian crossing signs to slow down traffic so people were not at risk of being hit as they crossed the road. He also noted his property had about 40 parking spots he would like to offer to the City if they could find a solution. He asked the City to contact him to discuss some of the issues that needed to be addressed.

Trina Roberts, representing Partners in Wellness Incorporated, located at 700 South Sycamore Street, Suite 10, announced that this year, Partners in Wellness joined with the Healthy Hearts Initiative and Parks and Recreation to provide an in-depth learning experience for the City. She stated that on June 6, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Historic Poplar Lawn Park, they would be hosting their Annual Veg Fest, which was free to the community. There would be food vendors and health presentations. She invited everyone to attend and join their plant-based movement in the City.

Barb Rudolph, 1675 Mount Vernon Street, reiterated the concern raised by Ms. Ventura regarding Carriage House Apartments. She emphasized that this was a serious issue, similar to the conditions at Fillmore Place. These facilities represented a lack of humanity in terms of how the residents were treated. She stated that Petersburg had many group homes and assisted living facilities smaller than these large notorious offenders. Considering these facilities were intended to take care of people with disabilities or impairments, she was deeply concerned that people may be mistreated in residences throughout the City. She emphasized that regardless of income or situation, people deserved to be cared for and not warehoused, neglected, or

victimized. She asked everyone to be vigilant and say something if they saw something that did not seem right.

Kara Stephens, 226 Rolfe Street, announced that Pocahontas Island had a turtle club that met on Saturdays at 9:00 a.m. She invited everyone to join them on their morning walks, which typically were about two miles and a great way to socialize and exercise. She thanked City staff for recently cutting back the trail, but she would note there were some vines growing on the electric poles that may become hazardous. There was also a blind spot near the treatment plant that needed to be cut back. She requested the City to provide trash cans to the area.

Ms. Stephens also asked if the City had addressed the costs of summer school, which she had mentioned previously. She said that students had also mentioned issues with air conditioning, which she hoped they would look into. She said that regarding Carriage House, she knew there was a strong community effort to assist the displaced residents with immediate needs. She asked if the property management for the apartments had been fined or reprimanded at all, which seemed necessary considering the severity of the situation.

Mayor Parham asked if the City Manager could speak to the issues at Carriage House.

City Manager Altman stated that he would like to address the concern, but he could only provide limited information at this time. Since receiving communication from the property owner's attorney, the situation was being handled by City Attorney Williams. He stated that they had utilized City resources to provide assistance to residents of Carriage House. He acknowledged the public concern about this issue, but he did not believe they were in a position to comment publicly at this time.

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

Council Member Cuthbert stated that regarding Carriage House, he believed the number one priority the City should have was the health and safety of their residents. The owner was primarily responsible for the health and welfare of the apartments' residents, and considering they had been receiving federal funds, they should be providing value to the residents.

Council Member Cuthbert stated that regarding the public comment about rumble strips on South Sycamore Street, he agreed there may be potential for rumble strips at the crosswalk in the middle of the block.

City Manager Altman confirmed staff would take a look and see what they could do.

Council Member Cuthbert emphasized the importance of pedestrian safety, particularly in light of the tragic death of Bill Martin, Petersburg's former Director of Tourism, who was hit by a car in Richmond earlier this year. He stated that regarding their budget, he would like for performance raises to be incorporated into the budget in addition to COLA increases.

Council Member Cuthbert asked the City Manager if they were on track to shift stormwater bills from utility bills to real estate bills for July 1 of this year.

City Manager Altman confirmed that they were working towards having something available for Council consideration by June, so that they could make it effective with the first quarter billing of the fiscal year. He said that he and the City Attorney were still working through the details, but they would bring it to Council when they were ready to move forward.

Council Member Jones stated that he hoped they would address the issue raised by Ms. Coleman during public comment. He stated that he truly valued all of the citizens of their City, including City Council members

and their staff. He said that he had debated whether to attend tonight's meeting after the recent loss of his mother. He asked everyone to cherish their parents and to not take them for granted. He said that he was with her when she passed away, which was important to him as a son of a mother. He said that taking care of his mother was never a sacrifice; it was time given back, and he was grateful for that. He stated that he was not here to say goodbye to his mother; he was here to say hello to her freedom.

Council Member Myers announced that he would be holding a ward meeting on May 20, 2026, at Gillfield Baptist Church from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Council Member Smith-Lee gave her condolences to Council Member Jones and his entire family. She congratulated Deputy Chambers for recently earning his bachelor's degree, Chief Hoover's daughter who recently graduated from the University of Alabama, and Chief Christian for receiving his master's degree from the University of Virginia. She congratulated the 12 students from Petersburg High School received their associate's degrees from Richard Bland College. She encouraged everyone to stay focused, true to oneself, and true to others. She was thankful for the City's strength and commitment to doing the best for their citizens.

Vice Mayor Hill extended his condolences to Council Member Jones on the loss of his mother. He stated that while he could not speak on the Carriage House issue, he could speak about exploitation. He said that he was disappointed with how people were taking pictures of the displaced residents from the curb and posting them on Facebook in order to garner attention. He said that some people did not want those very human experiences shared to the world in that manner, and there were other less exploitative ways to share what was going on. He asked everyone to respect each other and consider what was appropriate in these situations. He encouraged everyone to celebrate the good that was happening in the City along with acknowledging the bad.

12. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

There were no items under this portion of the agenda.

13. FINANCE AND BUDGET REPORT

a. Department of Finance Monthly Update

Garry Cozier, Budget Manager, provided the Department of Finance monthly update. He gave an overview of the budget to actuals. The numbers were current through April 30. With two months remaining in the fiscal year, they had completed 83% of the year and were tracking at 77% of spend, which was ahead of schedule. He said that their other funds were also performing well, with most of them on track or ahead of schedule. He said that overall, he was pleased to report that they were doing well and had no concerns regarding the Fiscal Year 26 budget.

14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items under this portion of the agenda.

15. NEW BUSINESS

There were no items under this portion of the agenda.

16. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT AND SPECIAL REPORTS

March Altman, City Manager, stated that he had no report this evening.

17. BUSINESS OR REPORTS FROM THE CLERK

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

18. BUSINESS OR REPORTS FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY


Anthony Williams, City Attorney, stated that Council Member Jones was a very professional individual, a state fire marshal, and a fantastic asset to their Council, but what many people may not know was that he was also a talented singer and songwriter. He said that one of his songs was called "Song for Mother." He said that if anyone doubted the sincerity of any sentiment he expressed, he suggested looking up the song on Google and listening to it, as it would make clear that he meant every word he said.

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 7:45 p.m.

Adopted: 06/02/2026



Mayor, Samuel Parham

ATTEST:



Clerk of Council, Tangi R. Hill