

The regular meeting of the Petersburg City Council was held on July 7, 2026 at Petersburg Public Library. Mayor Parham called the meeting to order at 5:28 p.m. The meeting video link is <https://petersburgva.new.swagit.com/videos/392822>

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
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

Faquawn Green, 1035 Augusta Avenue, stated that on behalf of his organization Rising Stars Academy, he was asking for the help of Petersburg Parks and Recreation to provide track facilities for the community, in particular for the City's youth. He said that track facilities could also help boost revenue for their local businesses and serve as a venue for fundraising events. He said that he was not asking for removal or replacement of any Parks and Rec projects; he was asking for the City to work together with the community to fill in any gaps in their programs, with the goal of reducing crime rates in the City.

Carol Henderson, member of the Impact Nation Church in Petersburg, Virginia, at 630 Halifax Street, where her pastor was Ambassador David Gilliam, Sr. She asked Council if there were any specifics or final plans for the proclamation in order to honor him. She said they were extremely proud of the work he was doing in the City and community and the future vision for Petersburg, so they felt he deserved it.

Otis Hill, 1023 6th Street, signed that he had noticed men working on the road in that area who were doing repairs and installing electric lines underground. As they finished the work, they put coal on the work area, over the holes in various areas all over the road. They did not put enough coal over those holes and now

those areas were sinking. They came back and repaired them, but the same thing happened a few days later. He signed that at Accomack Street, there was a huge hold that was very dangerous. They filled up with water when it rained, so there was a risk of people falling in. He asked Council to please contact the people who repaired the road and have them cover the holes correctly so that it was safe for drivers and pedestrians.

Marlo Green, 301 Rolfe Street, announced that they had a master plan design session scheduled for tomorrow at Emmanuel Worship Center, 236 Grove Avenue, at 6:00 p.m., and she hoped to see some of their City officials there. She spoke regarding accountability in the City, which she felt was the source of tension between her and Council Members. She stated that citizens raised concerns and Council was held accountable for those concerns, and those concerns were not raised out of disrespect. She apologized if anyone felt disrespected by her, but she would bring her concerns to Council as often as possible and would not name-call anyone in order to get things done. She acknowledged that feedback and criticism was difficult to hear sometimes and it was human nature to want to defend one's self as often as possible when criticized. However, she needed Council to remain open to hearing it, even when it was hard, because this was the only way they could grow and improve things in their illustrious City.

Micah Mosley, 3657 South Crater Road, said that he had seen some people complain online about how the electricity companies had been; even when they had low usage, they still felt like they were not in control of their electricity bills. He said that his internship involved working with homeowners to give them information on alternative options. He said that he wanted to provide his information to the public if they needed assistance with this issue. He said that he could be reached at 910-366-8128.

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

a. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

- February 27, 2024 Joint Meeting Minutes
- June 16, 2026 Closed Session Minutes
- June 16, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

b. First Read and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance Amending the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Petersburg for the Purpose of Clarifying the Design Standards for Residential Off-Street Parking Areas

c. First Read and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance Amending the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Petersburg for the Purpose of Clarifying the Criteria for Approval of Certificates of Appropriateness and the Processes for Updates to the Historic Districts Design Guidelines and Appeals of Architectural Review Board Decisions

d. First Read and Schedule a Public Hearing for Consideration of an Amendment to the FY27 Grants Fund

Vice Mayor Hill made a motion to approve the consent agenda.

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, Westbrook, Smith-Lee, Hill, Parham; no: N/A; abstain: N/A.

7. SPECIAL REPORTS

There were no items under this portion of the agenda.

8. MONTHLY REPORTS

There were no items under this portion of the agenda.

9. FINANCE AND BUDGET REPORT

There were no items under this portion of the agenda.

10. CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE

a. W. Bank Street - Brickhouse Run Culvert Replacement Project

Adam Dixon, with Clark Nixon, a JMT company, gave a presentation. He explained that his team surveyed the area of 110 West Bank Street where the building had caved into the open channel and tunnel. He provided images of the channel and inside the tunnel, which showed the scouring and erosion. He stated that they were currently working with the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) to do a historical review of the area to ensure they were following those guidelines. He stated that they were working diligently to meet their deadlines, and once their plans were completed and approved by the City, they would begin construction.

Vice Mayor Hill asked City Manager Altman if they could change the way the road was blocked off on this street to improve the traffic.

March Altman, City Manager, explained that internally, staff had discussed potentially providing parking on the other side of the road and continue routing traffic through the middle of the road to avoid further damage to the road shoulders. He stated that they had weekly meetings with Clark Nixon to ensure they were making progress, working diligently to get this problem resolved.

b. Poor Creek Update -- Benjamin Anderson, JMT

March Altman, City Manager, introduced the item. He explained that there was a lot going on in the Poor Creek area, part of which required a refund of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, which would then be applied to a different project in order to make the best use of that funding while it was available. He said that staff would be bringing that forward in a future meeting for Council approval.

Ben Anderson with JMT provided an update on the Poor Creek projects. He stated that the first two projects were the water main pressure reducing valve (PRV) vaults and booster station and the water tank, both of which were 100% grant-funded and complete. The next two projects were ones that were added recently to the ARPA funding via grant amendment: the Mount Vernon booster station improvements and the Mount Vernon tank replacement project, which were both projected to be completed in 2027. There was also a continuation of the previous water main project at South Crater and Wagner, extending to Brassfield near the casino, all part of improving the water pressure and fire flow capabilities in that area and fully grant funded. The design for this project was complete and was just permitted last week, so they were going to go through construction procurement over the next couple of weeks, and it would be completed by October or November.

Mr. Anderson said that there was also the Prince George Interconnect, which started construction and was expected to be completed before the end of the year. He said that the Poor Creek Force Main project involved about 14,000 linear feet of force main that was being relocated and replaced. Construction was

ongoing and was expected to be completed this fall. He said that the pump station had experienced maintenance issues and required an upgrade, and construction was expected to be completed this fall around the same timeline as the force main. This project was 100% grant funded and had that temporary shifting of funds that City Manager Altman mentioned would be recouped quickly after that process.

Mr. Anderson stated that other projects included the South Crater Interceptor Rehab and the Poor Creek Accelerated Sewer Rehab, which would be completed by October before the ARPA deadline. The Water Main Phase I replacement involved an 80-year-old 20-inch asbestos cement pipe, and that work was expected to be completed at the end of summer. He said that they would move forward with the study for the second phase to replace another aged portion.

Mayor Parham asked if the Locks Water Main Replacement was replacing the entire line.

Mr. Anderson replied that this particular project was replacing approximately 5,000 linear feet from the booster station. This specific section had failed multiple time and had experienced a lot of emergency repairs and high costs, so it was the top priority. He said there was an additional 10,000 or 20,000 linear feet that also needed replacement, which would be handled in the subsequent phases of the project using Utility Bond funding.

Mayor Parham said that it was about \$5 million to replace this portion of the pipe. He asked what the estimate was for the remainder of the pipe.

Mr. Anderson said that construction costs were likely between \$20 million and \$25 million. He said that a route study would be necessary to determine the most efficient route, and the work would likely be broken down into additional phases. He said that they would be working with the City and their engineering consultants in the coming months to begin that second phase.

Council Member Jones stated that this work was something that needed to be done a long time ago. He said that in addition to maintaining what they had currently, Council also had to fix past problems that were never addressed. He asked if they had information on the total gallons of water used in the City.

City Manager Altman said that they had capacity for 2 million gallons, and he could follow up with specific information on daily usage.

Council Member Jones stated that he was concerned about capacity due to the increased development in the City and the current drought conditions. He asked if there was a point at which they would have to limit development because they had met their water capacity.

City Manager Altman stated that they could work with Appomattox River Water Authority (ARWA) to look at regional water usage and consider options for increasing water capacity. He said that they would continue to work with their neighbors to pursue water storage and connection opportunities to ensure they had a consistent and sufficient water supply into the future.

Council Member Jones asked the public to please make sure they had a few extra gallons of water stored in case of an emergency. He emphasized it was important to plan in advance for their households. He asked if these capital projects would result in rate hikes for their utility customers.

City Manager Altman confirmed that over time, utility rates would increase to cover the costs of these crucial infrastructure improvements. He said that they would continue to pursue outside funding to offset the costs, but they would have to contend with rate adjustments over time.

Council Member Jones asked if it was possible to install grates on the storm sewers throughout the City to prevent debris from entering the sewer system.

City Manager Altman acknowledged it was a cooperative effort between the City and residents to ensure the lines were clean, and they would be working toward that in the long term.

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, said that for clarity, with Utilities, Streets, and Facilities, they discussed some major projects this evening and would resume their normal reports at the next meeting. He stated that they were working on conducting a community town hall meeting to receive public input on the future development of City-owned properties in the downtown area. He said that staff planned to bring more information forward to Council in the next few weeks. He noted that in the passage of the state budget this year, there was an ability provided to localities to hold a referendum for a 1% sales tax to fund school construction projects. He said that he would send more information about this to Council, and he asked that they think about whether they should put this issue on the ballot this fall. He announced that Senator Aird and Delegate Pope Adams were conducting a town hall meeting next door, and he encouraged everyone to participate after this meeting concluded.

16. BUSINESS OR REPORTS FROM THE CLERK

Tangi Hill, City Clerk, recognized the Assistant to the City Clerk, Vashay Frenzley, who would be filling in for her during times when she was absent. She reminded Council that on Monday, July 13, there would be a special joint meeting with Petersburg City Public Schools held at the Petersburg High School at 4:00 p.m.

17. BUSINESS OR REPORTS FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY

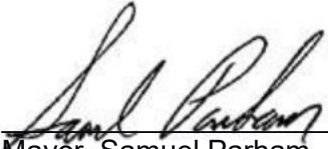
Anthony Williams, City Attorney, stated that he had no report this evening.

18. 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 6:10 p.m.

Adopted: 07/21/2026



Mayor, Samuel Parham

ATTEST:



City Clerk, Tangi R. Hill