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The regular meeting of the Petersburg City Council was held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at the Petersburg Public Library. Mayor Parham called the meeting to order at 5:11 p.m.

**1. ROLL CALL:**

Present:

Council Member Charles Cuthbert, Jr.  
Council Member Treska Wilson-Smith  
Council Member W. Howard Myers  
Council Member Arnold Westbrook, Jr.  
Council Member Darrin Hill

Mayor Samuel Parham

Absent: Vice Mayor Annette Smith-Lee

Present from City Council Administration:

Clerk of Council Nykesha D. Jackson  
City Manager Stuart Turille  
City Attorney Anthony C. Williams

**2. PRAYER:**

Mayor Parham stated, "Council Member Hill will lead us in our opening prayer."

Council Member Hill led the council meeting in prayer.

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

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

**4. DETERMINATION OF THE PRESENCE OF A QUORUM:**

A quorum was determined with the presence of six city council members. Council Member Smith-Lee is absent.

**5. PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATION OF CEREMONIAL PROCLAMATIONS:**

a. A proclamation designating May 2022 as Business Appreciation Month.

Mayor Parham read the proclamation aloud and presented it to the Economic Development Director, Brian Moore.

b. A proclamation designating May 15-21, 2022, as National Public Works Week in the City of Petersburg.

Mayor Parham read the proclamation aloud and presented it to the Bill Riggleman of the Petersburg Public Works Department.

**6. RESPONSES TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC INFORMATION PERIOD:**

\*Audio available upon request.

Mayor Parham stated, "That is under Council Communicates."

**7. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA (to include minutes of previous meeting/s)**

- a. Minutes:  
April 28, 2022 - City Council Closed Session  
May 3, 2022 – Work Session Meeting Minutes

Council Member Hill made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Council Member Westbrook seconded the motion. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, and Parham; Absent: Smith-Lee

**8. OFFICIAL PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

- a. A public hearing on the consideration of an appropriation for the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2021, and ending on June 30, 2022, for the American Rescue Plan Act Loss Revenue Appropriation (\$3,925,00.50).

**BACKGROUND:** The City Council approved at the November 3, 2021, City Council meeting the resolution for certain projects to be funded by the American Rescue Plan Act.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Recommend that Council accept and appropriate the Loss Revenue ARPA funds to be spent in FY2021-22.

Brian A. Moore, Director of Economic Development, gave a briefing on the consideration of an appropriation for the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2021, and ending on June 30, 2022, for the American Rescue Plan Act Loss Revenue Appropriation (\$3,925,00.50).

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

Seeing no hands, Mayor Parham closed the public hearing.

There was discussion among City Council Members.

Council Member Hill made a motion to approve the ordinance appropriation for the Loss Revenue ARPA funds to be spent in FY2021-2022. Council Member Westbrook seconded the motion. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Wilson-Smith, Westbrook, Hill, and Parham; Abstain: Cuthbert and Myers; Absent: Smith-Lee

**22-ORD-27 AN ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED, SAID ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2021, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2022, FOR THE GRANTS FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,925,000.50.**

- b. A public hearing on the consideration of authorizing the City Manager to execute a Deed of Utility Easement, including compensation in the amount of \$2,034.73, on behalf of the City of Petersburg for the purpose of acquiring a utility easement on property located at 1546 Baxter Road, Prince George, VA 23875 as part of the Prince George Water System Interconnection project.

\*Audio available upon request.

**BACKGROUND:** As part of the Water system interconnection, a metering vault will have to be constructed outside of the Right-of-Way of Baxter Road. This easement acquisition will allow for the construction of the vault on private property.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Department of Public Works and Utilities recommend that Council approve this action.

Andrew Barnes, Public Works and Utilities, gave an overview of the public hearing on authorizing the City Manager to execute a Deed of Utility Easement, including compensation in the amount of \$2,034.73, on behalf of the City of Petersburg for the purpose of acquiring a utility easement on property located at 1546 Baxter Road, Prince George, VA 23875 as part of the Prince George Water System Interconnection project

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

Gilvia Stith, 2448 County Drive, stated, "I am trying to understand this. Are you all talking about passing money to people like myself on our water bill? I am trying to understand what you are talking about. I am sorry that I did not understand it."

Seeing no further hands, Mayor Parham closed the public hearing.

Mr. Barnes stated, "This is an easement acquisition. So, this money will ultimately be paid to a resident that owns property that we are seeking interest in. Currently, there is not the ability within the public right-of-way to locate this. We will have to utilize some private property off to the side of the street. So, this money will be conveyed to a private resident by the city, but it is for an interest in property."

Council Member Myers made a motion to approve the authorization of the City Manager to execute a Deed of Utility Easement, including compensation in the amount of \$2,034.73, on behalf of the City of Petersburg for the purpose of acquiring a utility easement on property located at 1546 Baxter Road, Prince George, VA 23875 as part of the Prince George Water System Interconnection project. Council Member Hill seconded the motion. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, and Parham; Absent: Smith-Lee

- c. A public hearing on the consideration of an ordinance amending the City's Zoning Ordinance to permit Micro-Brewery, Micro-Cidery and Micro-Winery in the B-1 Zoning District.

**BACKGROUND:** The City Council of the City of Petersburg adopted 21-Ord-18 on March 23, 2021, to amend the City's Zoning Ordinance and add the definition of Micro-Breweries, Micro-Wineries, Micro-Distilleries, and Micro-Cidery.

This is an Ordinance to specify the Zoning Districts in which the uses are permitted.

**RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended that the City Council holds a Public Hearing and approves an amendment to the City's Zoning Ordinance to permit Micro-Breweries, Micro-Cideries and Micro-Wineries in the B-1 Zoning District.

Reginald Tabor, Director of Planning and Community Development, gave an overview on the consideration of an ordinance amending the City's Zoning Ordinance to permit Micro-Brewery, Micro-Cidery and Micro-Winery in the B-1 Zoning District.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

\*Audio available upon request.

Seeing no hands, Mayor Parham closed the public hearing.

Council Member Hill made a motion to adopt the ordinance amending the City's Zoning Ordinance to permit Micro-Brewery, Micro-Cidery and Micro-Winery in the B-1 Zoning District. The motion was seconded by Council Member Myers. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Wilson-Smith, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, and Parham; Abstain: Cuthbert; Absent: Smith-Lee

**22-ORD-28 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE PETERSBURG ZONING ORDINANCE PERMITTING MICRO-BREWERY, MICRO-DISTILLERY, MICRO-WINERY AND/OR MICRO-CIDERY BUSINESSES IN THE B-1 ZONING DISTRICT.**

- d. A public hearing to consider an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and Coastal Virginia Development towards the sale of City-owned property at 1024 Eighth Street, Parcel ID: 013-230004.

**BACKGROUND:** The Department of Economic Development received a proposal from Coastal Virginia Development to purchase City-owned property located at 1024 Eight Street which is currently a vacant lot. The proposed use is to develop two 1206 square feet single family residential dwellings.

The proposed purchase price for the parcel is \$9,100 which is 50% of the assessed value, \$18,200. The purchaser will also pay all applicable closing cost. Coastal Virginia Development have provided financial documentation supporting her ability to purchase the property.

This proposal is in compliance with the Guidelines for the Disposition of City Real Estate Property, Zoning, and the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

**Property Information**

The zoning of the parcel at 1024 Eighth Street is R-2, a two-family residential district.

Address: 1024 Eighth Street

Tax Map ID: 013-230004

Zoning: R-2

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Department of Economic Development recommends that the City Council approves an Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and Coastal Virginia Development towards the sale of City-owned property at 1024 Eighth Street, Parcel ID: 013-230004.

Brian Moore, Director of Economic Development, gave an overview on the public hearing on the consideration of an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and Coastal Virginia Development towards the sale of City-owned property at 1024 Eighth Street, Parcel ID: 013-230004.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comment.

Seeing no hands, Mayor Parham closed the public hearing.

There was discussion among City Council and the petitioners.

Council Member Wilson-Smith made a motion to approve an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to

\*Audio available upon request.

execute a purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and Coastal Virginia Development towards the sale of City-owned property at 1024 Eighth Street, Parcel ID: 013-230004. Council Member Hill seconded the motion. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, and Parham; Absent: Smith-Lee

**22-ORD-29 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A PURCHASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF PETERSBURG AND COASTAL VIRGINIA DEVELOPMENT FOR THE SALE OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY AT 1024 EIGHTH STREET, PARCEL ID 013-230004.**

e. A public hearing for Petersburg City Public School’s Fy22-23 Budget.

**BACKGROUND:** The total budget for Petersburg City Public Schools is \$91,050,600 which includes the following breakdown:

- Local Fees: \$66,000
- Erate: \$225,000
- Sales Tax: \$5,420,137
- State: \$42,278,401
- Federal: \$55,000
- City Transfer: \$10,000,000
- Food Service: \$2,927,000
- Grants: \$30,079,062

**RECOMMENDATION:** To schedule a public hearing for Petersburg City Public Schools FY2022-23 Budget (1<sup>st</sup> reading of ordinance)

Dr. Julius Hamlin, Deputy Superintendent, gave a brief overview of the Petersburg City Public Schools FY2022-23 Budget.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

Seeing no hands, Mayor Parham closed the public hearing.

Mayor Parham stated, “Mr. Williams, do we have to have another meeting being that we do not have the ordinance to appropriate tonight?”

Mr. Williams stated, “Correct.”

Mayor Parham stated, “Can we schedule a meeting on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May to appropriate. Dr. Hamlin, is that soon enough? Because we did not have the appropriation in the packet.”

Dr. Hamlin stated, “On behalf of school division, is there anyway that you can do that sooner. Our issue is building issue contracts. Is there any possibility that there can be a special hearing prior to that?”

Mayor Parham stated, “What’s the soonest that we can advertise?”

There was discussion among staff regarding a new date.

Mayor Parham stated, “The quickest is the 24<sup>th</sup>, which is next week.”

\*Audio available upon request.

There was discussion among City Council and Dr. Hamlin.

Council Member Cuthbert stated, "Dr. Hamlin, when we meet on the 24<sup>th</sup>, can you tell council please what the additional cost would be to run Petersburg City Public Schools year around rather than just from whenever in May to some time in September. Everything I read and I am sure you are a believer that we lose a lot during the summer. And I know that my good colleague, Councilwoman Treska Wilson-Smith, has been an advocate of year around school. And I would like to see if you can help educate council as to what the additional cost would be and perhaps also what if any grant programs are out there that in the future the school system might apply for to make that possible. We are all strapped for cash, and we are all extremely sympathetic. But we have limited means, and we have to rob Peter to pay Paul. I thank Councilwoman Treska Smith for raising the issue. It doesn't mean that it is financially feasible at any time, but it would be helpful if we got what the cost would be and what the grant opportunities might be. The other thing Dr. Hamlin, when we are together on May 24<sup>th</sup>, if you would share with council what the school system plans are for addressing what I am sure has taken place, which is the loss of easy reading ability that our students have suffered during the COVID lockdown. I am sure that we were to test our students again for their literacy the scores would likely be worse than they were before. They were last tested before COVID hit. So, if you can share with council what the school system plans are for addressing that change for the worse and how much money is anticipated to be used for that purpose. That would certainly give me greater insight into the opportunities that we ae offering our children and the opportunity that we are giving them to achieve the maximum potential."

Dr. Hamlin stated, "Yes. And no problem at all."

Council Member Wilson-Smith stated, "I did want to ask prior to the meeting if our city manager could look at our finances and see if we could do the \$11 million. It is one million more. Like I have said before that if we continue to give the schools \$10 million dollars every single year. We expect different results. That is not going to happen if we cannot put something else into our children and provide more from us. So, I am asking city manager and finance people if you could somehow find a way and if not, at least we tried. But find a way to give the schools \$11 million that they are asking for as opposed to the \$10 million that we have settled upon year after year. And to echo what Councilman Cuthbert is saying, yes, we do need to go to year around schools. It helps the city as a whole and not just the school system. And we all have to work together in order to create a better city. So, year around schools do wonder for our children because it gives their stability, and it means that they are not out of school June to September in which they are actually losing everything that they learned and then they go back in September and have to learn it all over again. It is just a commonsense thing. Hopewell is doing it. If you need any help, I can give you it."

Dr. Hamlin stated, "Yes, ma'am we will be talking."

Mayor Parham stated, "Thank you Dr. Hamlin and we will get that scheduled for the 24<sup>th</sup>. And we will make sure that the appropriation ordinance is in check, and we will take it from there."

- f. A public hearing and consideration of an ordinance approving amendments to the Comprehensive Plan to comply with the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act.

**BACKGROUND:** The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regulates compliance with the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act. The Act requires that jurisdiction Comprehensive Plans include provisions regarding the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act. The city has been working with DEQ to develop amendments to the City's Comprehensive Plan to comply with the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act.

The proposed amendments as provided to the City Council have been reviewed and approved by DEQ.

**RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended that the City Council holds a public hearing and

\*Audio available upon request.

approves an amendment to the City's Comprehensive Plan to comply with Chesapeake Bay Act requirements.

Reginald Tabor, Director of Planning and Community Development, gave a brief overview of the request.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

Seeing no hands, Mayor Parham closed the public hearing.

There was discussion among City Council Members and staff.

Council Member Hill made a motion to approve the amendments to the City's Comprehensive Plan to comply with Chesapeake Bay Act requirements. Council Member Myers seconded the motion. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, and Parham; Absent: Smith-Lee

**22-ORD-30 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE PETERSBURG COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO INCLUDE CHESAPEAKE BAY PRESERVATION ACT CONSIDERATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS.**

- g. A public hearing and consideration of an ordinance amending the City's Zoning Ordinance to permit Micro-Brewery, Micro-Cidery and Micro-Winery in the B-1 Zoning District. (Duplicate of Item 8c)
- h. A public hearing and consideration of an ordinance authorizing the vacation of Right of Way along River Street between 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Street.

**BACKGROUND:** The City Council of the City of Petersburg adopted an ordinance authorizing the sale of property along River Street and the Appomattox River to establish green space and a location for outdoor events. The sale of the property has been closed, and the property was transferred to the new owner.

The vacation would result in closure of the roadway along River Street between 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Street. The property owner owns property located at 240 River Street to the South of River Street, and 277 River Street to the North of River Street.

The owner is requesting the vacation of City Right of Way on River Street, between 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Street, to facilitate use of the recently acquired property along River Street and the planned event space use.

**RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended that City Council approve the ordinance to amend and re-adopt 106-65 of the City Code pertaining to the collection of delinquent real property taxes on properties where abatement expenses have been incurred.

Reginald Tabor, Director of Planning and Community Development, gave an overview of the consideration of an ordinance authorizing the vacation of Right of Way along River Street between 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Street.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

Seeing no hands, Mayor Parham closed the public hearing.

Council Member Cuthbert made a motion to table motion pending receipt of a report from Public Works

\*Audio available upon request.

as to what effect abandoning the public street have upon traffic and public safety. Council Member Hill seconded the motion. There was discussion among city council. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Wilson-Smith, Westbrook, Hill, and Parham; Voting No: Myers; Absent: Smith-Lee

- i. A public hearing for the purpose of considering an ordinance to authorize the City Attorney to proceed with condemnation of a portion of parcel 065-110004, 2793 South Crater Road.

**BACKGROUND:** The city received Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) funding for the South Crater Road Area – Signal Coordination project, to make improvements to the traffic signals along South Crater Road from the Flank Road to Rives Road. The city’s engineering consultant Kimley-Horn has developed plans to construct new traffic signals and pedestrian crossing. 153 square feet (0.004 acres) of permanent signal easement and 37 square feet (0.001 acres) of temporary construction easement is required from parcel 065-110004, property owner – BHY Investment 2, LLC, a Virginia limited liability company, to construct improvements. Kimley-Horn subconsultant, KDR Real Estate Services, determined value of the easements required and negotiated with BHY Investment 2, LLC. The property owner initially agreed to negotiated amount but now refuses to sign any documents.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Public Works Department recommends proceeding with the eminent domain process.

Andrew Barnes, Public Works and Utilities, gave a brief overview of the request.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

Seeing no hands, Mayor Parham closed the public hearing.

Council Member Hill made a motion to approve the ordinance to authorize the City Attorney to proceed with condemnation of a portion of parcel 065-110004, 2793 South Crater Road. Council Member Myers seconded the motion. There was discussion among city council and staff.

Council Member Myers made a substitute motion to table until May 24<sup>th</sup>. Council Member Hill seconded the motion. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, Smith-Lee and Parham; Absent: Smith-Lee

Council Member Hill stated, “In the future, I would ask that the City Attorney and maybe the City Clerk get together and maybe look over before we get these proposals. Because I know with her institutional knowledge, we can check some of this stuff before it hits. So, at the agenda meeting we need to make sure that we do not debate for five or ten minutes because then we are going to end up tabling it. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.”

- j. A public hearing for the consideration of changing the ordinance and City Code for curfew hours for the City of Petersburg.

**BACKGROUND:** See attached.

**RECOMMENDATION:** City Council to approve the attached ordinance regarding the change of curfew hours in the code.

Travis Christian, Police Chief, gave a brief overview of the request.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

\*Audio available upon request.

Seeing no hands, Mayor Parham closed the public hearing.

There was discussion among City Council and staff.

Council Member Myers made a motion to approve and for the City Attorney to go to the state and Attorney General Office and ask for special dissertation in order to help enforce these issues. Council Member Hill seconded the motion. There was discussion among city council. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, and Parham; Absent: Smith-Lee

**22-ORD-31 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND RE-ADOPT SECTION 74-1 OF THE PETERSBURG CITY CODE REGARDING CURFEW FOR MINORS.**

9. **PUBLIC INFORMATION PERIOD:** A public information period, limited in time to 30 minutes, shall be part of an Order of Business at each regular council meeting. Each speaker shall be a resident or business owner of the City and shall be limited to three minutes. No speaker will be permitted to speak on any item scheduled for consideration on the regular docket of the meeting at which the speaker is to speak. The order of speakers, limited by the 30-minute time period, shall be determined as follows:

- a) First, in chronological order of the notice, persons who have notified the Clerk no later than 12:00 noon of the day of the meeting,
- b) Second, in chronological order of their sign up, persons who have signed a sign-up sheet placed by the Clerk in the rear of the meeting room prior to the meeting.

Gilvia Stith, 2448 County Drive, stated, "After just hearing this curfew that you all proposing to impose it kind of makes me wonder if the Governor and the City of Petersburg is contemplating doing something like this for our youth. Why can't we do this for the homeless as well. I sat there and I was thinking about the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment and the ordinance vacancy law that was put on the books. And when did it become acceptable for our homeless to be out here and the curfew can be for them as well. But if we are to do that and ask our police department to impose this then we definitely have to get really busy with our Governor and the city to find places for these people to go. We can clean up the city and we can put a trash can on every corner. And we can beautify the city by picking up the trash but if you are going to leave the unfortunate out there with no place to go, then it is a big difference in the murders that are taking place. But we have to clean up the entire city. And I just opened with that with what was said. But I wanted to say initially that the beauty in the city, I felt really good on Saturday. I do Lyft transportation and I was picking up and dropping off. There were two proms going on in the City of Petersburg at the Petersburg Civic Center. The police department was well organized and how they interacted with everyone with asking them do they know where they are going and who are they are picking up. I just want to say that the beauty in that but when you come right around the corner you see the same thing. My big heart is for mental health and for the homeless. I do not know where we are with that because outside of coming to the council meetings I am not hearing where there is any progress. And even having the opportunity to speak to some of these people. I just want to ask you Mayor, and no offense, does you or anyone on your board take the ties off and put on the mask and gloves and go out and talk to some of these people and find out when they decided to be homeless and what can be done to remove them from the streets. Thank you."

Michelle Murrills, 131 S. Market Street, stated, "I am happy to see that the city is putting together the roundtable discussion about comforting violence here in Petersburg. I believe that it is a bit little too late, but it is something. I do find it interesting that there is not a list of people that are going to be on the panel for discussion. Are we not allowed to know who will be there until the event? I hope this is not another rehashing of introducing and having talking points while nothing is getting down. I can definitely say we are all tired of listening to city officials talking about doing something when nothing gets down. I still believe this city still does

\*Audio available upon request.

very little but shrug its shoulders and say that it is Petersburg. Why do I think this? Because every day I talk to people who are the ones most effected by the violence especially in Ward 5. They feel that they are the ones left behind, the ones that no one care about. If no one cares, why should they care. You want them to say something if they see something. But why should they and put their lives on the line when they know this city does not have their back. Do you know who does have their back, Pastor Belinda Baugh. She is the one person who has come to each of these shootings and helps victims and their families. She is the person who put together the only march here in Petersburg. Two of you thought that it was important enough to show up to her event after all it got you in front of the cameras. But no one else is willing to invite her to the meeting with the Governor nor to the discussion next week. I get she can be controversial, and she may not get along with everyone on council. But the mayor said that we must all cone together to solve the problem of violence. I would have thought that the governor would have liked to have heard from someone who is actually on the streets helping with the violence and not just those who just want to discuss it. I was told that the governor invited some faith-based leaders yet none of them have admitted that they were there more less they have not come to any of the shootings and Pastor Baugh has. She should have a seat at the table even though the prevailing thought is that if city council does not like you, it doesn't matter what you can bring to the table. Another thing that you should have included at both of the meeting with the governor and the discussion next week are people under the age of 35 and preferably under the age of 20, the path to fixing the problems with Petersburg begin with inclusivity. Nothing that you say or do will help. How is anyone going to take you seriously if you are not including those that are most effective. I implore you to listen to what I have said and please do not shrug your shoulders this time. The city is in real need of help, and it is depending on you. Thank you."

#### **10. BUSINESS OR REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR OR OTHER MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL:**

Council Member Cuthbert stated, "Thank you, Mayor. Three things. Girst councilman Myers and I had a really great town hall meeting. And I am proud to say that we had three times as many people in our meeting as our attendance in city council meetings. But more important there was an awful lot of collaboration that took place during that meeting and especially at the conclusion of the meeting. A lot of people were talking and working together and forming subgroups on an adhoc volunteer basis and getting to know each other recognizing and sharing a common interest in working towards solving community problems. And it was very gratifying to see Councilman Myers agree. I was very pleased to see the spirit of the people of Petersburg and how they are coming to work together to help solve problems. Second thing, I had a funny experience that I want to share with you. I was down the office Saturday night working. The City Council job does require a lot of daytime work. And I was writing a brief. So, the phone rings about a quarter to six on Saturday evening. And I recognized the name on my cellphone, and it was a constituent. My constituent called and his name is not Bobby, but we will call him Bobby. Bobby says, 'Charlie, this is Bobby.' I said how are you. He says to me, 'I need to come cut grass.' And here I am got my head deep into a brief in writing and this constituent is calling me to cut his grass. So, I am scrambling mentally trying to figure things out. What is going on here? I said, 'Bobby, help me understand what it is that you want?' He said, 'My grass. We had a lot of rain, and my grass is really tall.' I said, 'Bobby, this is Charlie Cuthbert your council member. I will do a lot of things for a vote, but I have never cut a constituent's grass before. And he said, 'Oh. I thought I was calling my yard man Charlie. I am sorry.' So, in any event, I guess the point is that I am accessible if you need me. But I don't cut constituent's grass. The last thing turns into a very serious topic. And that is the murder of our collective friend Willie Noise. The man charged with murder was convicted within the past ten days. It was a bench trial. That is a trial by the judge. I think that the man knew better than to ask for a jury trial. And sentencing is set for June 23<sup>rd</sup>. So, that is an open court room event if you want to go to Petersburg Circuit Court to see what happens in terms of sentencing. It will take place on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. That is what I have to say. Thank you, Mr. Mayor."

\*Audio available upon request.

Council Member Wilson-Smith stated, "Thank you. Thank you all for coming to your council meeting. We are here because of you, and we are here to serve you. So, thank you for being here. I want to ask or talk a little bit about changing the appearance and the attitude in the city. And I think that slowly but surely, we can turn things around in this city if we do some specific things. If you notice that if a car is loud in the City of Petersburg, when they get to that bridge in Colonial Heights you notice that they turn it down. There is a reason for that. That's because Colonial Heights does not tolerate that. We need to not tolerate it. We need to not tolerate people riding up and down our streets with the music so loud that it wakes you up in the middle of the night or shatter your windows. That is something that we can do in our city that doesn't take a lot of time, but it is something that will change the appearance and the attitude of the city. We could look at some type of ordinance to make the guys to pull their pants up. If their underwear is showing, that appears to me to be awful. It appears to me to say that it is alright. It is alright if my grandmother sees underwear as you walk down the street. And it is really not alright. It is disrespectful but that is what we tolerate. So, we need to do something to where we do not tolerate these things. We have an ordinance in place to stop people from parking all over the front lawn, but it is not being enforced. We need to enforce the ordinances that we have. These three measures would help us greatly in changing the attitudes of the citizens of Petersburg. The next thing I want to ask or talk a little bit about is our history. If you notice that the people who are getting killed are African American youngsters. And the one's who are going to jail are African American. We need to promote badly the African American history in the city so that the youngsters wouldn't bare arm. There are people you can look up to. Did you all know that Ricky Hunley who played for a professional football team, don't ask me which one because the only team I know is Pittsburg Steelers. And I do not mention any other team other than Pittsburgh Steelers. He didn't grow up rich or have a lot of money, but he never picked up a gun or a knife. That says a lot to the children and African American youth who are in a position now who do not know about that. He was here a couple of weeks ago, him and his siblings donated a \$10,000 check to the Petersburg Housing Authority, and you do not know it. That is history and that is something that our youth need to be made aware of. In the Virginia Magazine that is currently out they have Moses Malone in it. There was a Hopewell Magazine, John Randolph Magazine, that they put out. They had a two or three page spread on Moses Malone. Our children do not know. These are the type of things that help to change the attitudes of the youth within our city, and these are the type of things that we need to pay attention to. Lastly, is a request to the city manager. Please come back at the next council meeting with an update on where we are with the CDBG funds, what we are not receiving and why not. And where we are in the entire process at our next council meeting. And that is all that I have for today. Thank you."

Council Member Westbrook stated, "Thank you. I am going to start out with an old song quote and many of you may have heard it before. It is called self-destruction and it is from 1989. Today's topic self-destruction, 'it really ain't the rap audience that is bugging/ it is one or two suckers ignorant brother's trying to rob and steal from one another/ you get caught in the mid so to crush the stereotype here is what we did/ we get ourselves together so that you can ignite and fight for what is right/ not negative because the way we live is positive we do not kill our relatives.' I started out with that because in the midst of everything as I was trying to say tonight, I get caught up in my emotions and think where is the state of media? Where is the state of music? Where is the state of our culture? Where is the state of Petersburg? And I do not want to feel like we are in a self-destructive state, but these are things that were talked about in 1989 and unfortunately in 2022 we are still dealing with so much inner turmoil, and I feel like that this is a total buy from the community. And not forgetting those who are under privileged and disadvantaged like the homeless and definitely not forgetting out youth and how to reach and not talk down on our youth. So, I started out with that and now I will move on with my remarks. This marks six months complete that I have been on city council. I understand that leaders need to get results. So, I try my best to play my part as a leader now of Petersburg. That started with last month I had the Ward 7 meeting on April 27<sup>th</sup>. I had a great turnout. But that turnout is only really on how we go forward. Next week we are having a joint meeting, myself, and Vice Mayor Annette Smith-Lee for Ward 6 & 7 on May 27<sup>th</sup> at Cool Springs Elementary. And please do not get it twisted. Even though it says Ward 6 & 7 joint meeting it is for the entire City of Petersburg. We represent the whole city. As well, as I will be supporting Mayor Parham and School Board President Ken Pritchett on Monday at their meeting as well. I call out these two

\*Audio available upon request.

meetings because hopefully I would like to see more youth to come out to hear your voice and let your voice be heard by everyone and not just amongst yourselves. As well as getting out in the community I picked strategic areas. And I was thankful for Manager Miller for helping me out with issues concerning Ferndale Avenue and issues with speeding and public safety that they had, Seaboard Street with their water drainage issues and blighted homes. And I am very happy as it was mentioned that we did have our city cleanup this past Saturday. But I would like to hopefully make this a quarterly thing. I hope that it is not just a one and done type of issue. I do not know how to get that in, but I would like hopefully city manager to at least once a quarter that we have that type of cleanup. Where people can come out and build up the beautification of Petersburg. I was one of those two people that was at the unity walk on April 30<sup>th</sup>. But I was not there for a camera. I was there for the youth and being a person that wanted to listen. I thank Councilwoman Treska Wilson-Smith for developing a plan to combat violence. I think that we all as council are trying to find our own ways and angles to do that. And also, I thank city leaders and former city leaders for pouring into me their knowledge and wisdom with my direction on my walk of council. Many of you are helping me out on my journey. And that includes coming up with that plan of positivity to officially move Petersburg forward which is my job. But again, it is not just for 7<sup>th</sup> Ward but for the entire city. And hopefully as well make Petersburg one of the leaders of the region. Whether it is our partners in Chester, Dinwiddie, Prince George, or Colonial Heights. Let Petersburg be that leader that we are as a whole for the tri-city region. And people can see the things that we are doing for our youth and the things that we are doing for our violence and the things that we are doing for our constituents overall and the services that we want to give them. It is a staple and measuring rods for all of them to follow. And sometimes the hardest part in being a leader is letting go and trusting ones that we train to make the call themselves. And I thank again our city manager who are training the staff. I have seen Chief Miller have these training sessions that we really feel like we are empowering each department to do their job. And then once they do their job then we as city council and officials can come in and just not let them be on their own but be there for them. And one of those city leaders that I am calling out today is one of our faith-based leaders, Bishop Reeves. And if you are familiar with Good Shepherd Baptist Church on South Crater Road, they are actually back open. They opened back around easter. So, please go out to wherever you do want to serve your faith whether it is Catholic, Christian, Baptist, Buddha, or whoever you are and through that higher God you serve. And hopefully pray for the peace of the city. Only April 3<sup>rd</sup> Bishop Reeves had community development series. We will definitely not plagiarize his words, but his three points were, 'Can you align with the identity of that community?' Because everyone is needing of a since of belonging. And again, I would like to challenge the City Manager or maybe even the school board. What happened to the City of Petersburg being the City of Readers? Like where is our theme that everybody can get behind and get that sense of belonging. Because if it is the bloods or the crips or certain neighborhood everyone is looking for that certain family to be a part of. We do need a sense of identity that everyone can get behind. Number two, when they know how the community operates and are encouraged to participate, we can start to change things. But they need to know how this community operates because they learn behaviors. So, we need to make sure that we are showing them property behaviors for them to follow. And finally, once they learn the customs of that community, we also have to understand that not everyone is going to behave. Unfortunately, that is just a part of life with the good there is the bad. But we do need to keep pushing the positive. There are people out here that says why focus on the positive when there is so much in Petersburg. And my response to them is instead of being bitter why not just try to be better. You can have the negative all you want but I am going to stick to the positive and keep highlighting the positive. So, my points that I have away from Bishop Reeves is to stay focus and avoid being side tracked. This is mental health awareness month. I don't believe that it is just a coincidence that after COVID mental health is just really now a talking point and it is more popular. Just at Virginia State this past weekend, commencement speaker said that this next generation will be the generation that normalizes going to therapy and having therapist. I think that those things are important because we do need to talk out. There are some traumas that are keeping us in a cycle that we are looking back into 1989 and are we still going into self-destruction. Do your part and act on the message. As I keep saying all hands-on deck. I might not agree with you, and I might not even have to like you, but we are all on the same team and I am trying to win a championship. And if you watch good championship team, they argue amongst each other sometimes, but they learn how to play together. So, it is not about me trying to make friends, but it is about me having allies.

\*Audio available upon request.

Even if I disagree, I would like to learn to disagree with some of my council members at this table. But we continue to move forward and get on the same message. Again, everyone has to buy in. Opportunity is for all, and it is made possible by you. It is from the youth to the elderly. That includes the churches, the nonprofits, and the sororities and fraternities. That included civic groups and concerned citizens because again people know that it takes a village. Do not lose sight of the way forward. I feel like that the things that are going on now is a distraction. I do feel like that. They are unfortunate distraction of gun violence, but I still would call it a distraction at the same because there are bigger things and better things that can be going on that we can highlight in Petersburg. Again, if those people want to continue to be negative then use that opposition to reach our goals. Again, I say, bitter is not where we are going. Because in this time these distractions, whether it is high gas prices. I do would like to send my prayers out to mothers of young children right now. As many of you know there is a formula shortage. I do not know what I can do to help out except to get on this microphone to say that if you can help mother's that have babies that need the formula that they do need support as these shelves are empty. Other things are still happening. And if you do still want to come back to the gun violence, I call out in the last four days that in Winston Salem, North Carolina that seven were injured. This is not just something that is just going on in Petersburg. Yes, we have to address it on our level. But this gun violence I do not want to pick a fight with the NRA but whose putting these guns into our community. Because I read the report a few weeks ago, and that Police Chief Christian was getting guns off the street. We were up to 70 that last time I checked. They are still getting out there and they are still getting used in broad daylight. And that is just alarming. But is it really just the guns or is it also fentanyl that is in our neighborhoods? I came from a place where I won't say that marijuana was normalized with the rap music, but it was made to say that it was cool. And in this day and age fentanyl, lean and being on narcotics is made to look cool and I cannot go after the big-name record companies and wave a magic wand on this small Petersburg City Council, but I can call it out. And say parents keep your kids in the house but listen to the music that they are listening to. Watch the video games. Again, in my era I came from they put the stamp on it that said mature audience only. But now with all these game like Halo and Grand Theft Auto it is cool to rob cars and shoot people. I guess in a weird way they say that this is society, and I can go and do it for real. We have to draw this line between fantasy and reality and help our kids understand that reality doesn't work like a video game. And my last thing, social media is cool and if we are going to use TikTok we have to meet them where they are. So, let's use our social media platforms to reach the youth because they are our future. Let's get out the self-destruction that we have been in for a long time. Thank you."

Council Member Myers stated, "First of all I would like to thank the staff for the City of Petersburg Public Works Department for all that you do and particular the Police Department in all that they do as well. I do not have much to say, and I try not to. I try not to mix running for office and sitting up here on city council. But when someone says that I need a camera to make myself look good and I am out here walking the streets with my constituents it is just unbelievable to me. Because if you want to sit up here then do the right thing and listen to the voice of the people. I have been here for 12 years and the transformation in Ward 5 has exceeded any other in this entire City of Petersburg. And I think everybody can agree on that. The Mayor and I just cut the ribbon over at Virginia Avenue School which has been promised for years and we finally got it done. We have 46 houses going up in Ward 5 and they are affordable housing for everyone. I fought for Artist Space, 225 affordable apartments in Ward 5. I am not campaigning here. I am just saying do not say that I need a camera to do something when we are walking with people whose family have been victimized. I walked with Pastor Baugh, and she was not invited because the mayor was not giving out the invitation. And Pastor Baugh walks based on an initiation of mines and not hers. And our current sitting city manager can verify that because we put it together. So, therefore do not get up in front of the public and talk about something that you know nothing about. Thank you."

Council Member Hill stated, "Just want to thank everyone for coming out tonight. I want to thank law enforcement for the hard work and our first responders. I want to thank those who cleaned up this past weekend. It was a great success even in the rain. The meeting with the governor it was his list, and it was not the city list. It was not for the city to give out invitations. We were not even invited to it. The City Council was

\*Audio available upon request.

not invited to it. Only the mayor was invited to it. So, I just want to clear that up for residents that are out there. We have done prayer vigils in the past. We have marched and used our voice to get the word out to individuals. We have talked to people in their neighborhoods about violence and things of that nature. And then there are people that would like to remain anonymous that they are talking to individuals who know of certain things that are going on in the community. I know that they send me text and things through Facebook that I send to the police chief. People are trying to fight this good fight and trying to get people to put down the guns. People are talking but we need them to talk more on those who see things and know what is going on. We ask that you continue to say something. What have the city council done as far as dealing with all this crime? Well, recently through the efforts of council, more especially Councilman Cuthbert. He put out an initiative that you cannot bring weapons into our public places like city hall and this building. Even at our events like the parade you will see signs and things of that nature. Our job is to do policy and procedure and what have you. So, we put legislation in for that and then through the efforts of our police chief we have state and federal law enforcement here in the City of Petersburg. You may have seen them riding through the city and some in unmarked cars and things like that. I rode up on some of them so just watch your speaking and things of that nature. As a government we are doing all that we can. One thing is that I like the fact that the governor came down from what I understand and everything that I received from it that he is throwing his full support behind us with his police officers. So, we need that relationship with him. That is why us having the kids to go home early and things like that. You may say that they may shoot during the daytime. But at least the kids are not on the street when someone is out there shooting. So, we are doing all that we can. If you know of some things that we can do, please let us know. We are looking at some things at the recreation department so that the kids will not be idle this summer. So, we just look forward to getting ideas. My philosophy has always been do not bring me a problem that you do not have a solution too. Bring me the solution. We all see the problems but bring me a solution. We admonish those who may support us. And we admonish those who do not support us. But as a whole our city is looking better financially. Things have changed and we are on the rise. The whole country is dealing with this violence. I stay up day and night praying for our city. You just don't know, and I have fasted for our city. It is disheartening, you do not know which one of those people are members of our family that were shot. You do not know which one of those people are locked behind it. So, be careful in the way you point fingers because three fingers may be pointing back at you. I thank you all for coming out. I am very proud of our city in light of everything that we have gone through. Thank you, Mr. Mayor."

Council Member Westbrook stated, "Sorry everyone for being long winded. But I did want to close with saying Happy Belated Mother's Day to all the mothers out there. We do love you. And in advance, Happy Father's Day and Happy Memorial's Day coming up. I would like to give praise to Dorothy Patterson who was 'Teacher of the Year.'"

Mayor Parham stated, "I just want to thank each of you all for serving on City Council. It is quite a stressful job. I do not think people understand the magnitude of the responsibility. But I am just asking each of you all to take care of yourselves. I know Vice Mayor Smith-Lee is out so keep her in your prayers. And we have seen the magnitude of the avalanche and wave of issues that we are confronting here in this city. And it is important that you take care of your mental health as well as physical health. But thinking of that, I was so happy today in seeing Ms. Genevieve Lohr. I just want to recognize her. Can you please stand? She is one of our social workers for Petersburg Police. I just want to give you a snit bit of the things that she do. Outside in Councilman Westbrook area and I was outside a gentleman walked up to me and said I am homeless, and I am under the bridge, and I do not have anywhere to go. I placed a phone call to Chief Christian and said we have a gentleman here that needs some help. And him along with Genevieve came and got that gentleman a place to stay and got him in the system so we can get him some help. I want to thank you Genevieve for what you do in helping everyone. We can get them all one at a time. The magnitude of what we are dealing with is so huge and we try to do what we need to do and play our part. So, thank you chief and Genevieve for helping that gentleman out. Next, up we are celebrating Public Works Week and I want to thank our public works department along with our Deputy City Manager, Tangela Innis. We were out there on Saturday in the rain picking up trash. We did not cancel it. Public Works staff hung out there with us. We got soak and wet picking

\*Audio available upon request.

up trash. What we did was we got the city cleaned up good. So, I would like to thank our public works staff for doing that. They go above and beyond and for those who joined us. We would love to see more city support from our residents. Because when we have these things, everyone can come out and talk about what we are not doing but when we have events it is important that you roll up your sleeves and come out and support us and help keep our city clean because it is a team effort. Also, this weekend we had the opening of two businesses that was really great. I would like to welcome Petersburg Jewelry Store which is down in Old Towne. We have our own jeweler now that can fix your jewelry and sell jewelry. He has a wonderful place not too far from Maria's. I was happy to be there on his ribbon cutting. Also, Appomattox Event Center, Ms. Cynithia Martin opened up a business there for events. She redid the Black Swann, and it really is a beautiful facility. I would like to thank Councilman Myers as well. The Governor had called me last minute and said he wanted to come to town to do a roundtable discussion to talk about how we can help Petersburg. I know at that same time I had Ms. Ann Holtin in town for a tour of the Civica Plant. Thank you, Councilman Myers, for going and meeting with Ann Holtin on that. Next, we are dealing with our job program that is coming up. I want to thank Chief Miller. One of our big initiatives is getting our young people back to work. We can keep them working to keep them out of harms way and show them how they can have careers right here in the City of Petersburg. If you are not going to college, we want you to come here and work in our city. Chief and I are putting together a job shadowing program this summer to hire over 30 kids to work and pay them to work here in the city. It is a huge thing. So, give a round of applause to our staff for taking that on. Because we have to figure out a way to groom our young people to fill the positions here in our city. We cannot rely on outsiders to solve a lot of our issues. We have to groom that next generation to come up and be the leaders. I know that several people have spoke on the roundtable event that I am doing with school board Chairman Pritchett. It is a Ward 3 Town Hall Meeting on how the city and the schools will come together to start the conversation on confronting gun violence in our community. It is not something that we are going to get all the answers asked but this is going to be some ongoing discussions. The thing is we want to hear from our young people who are in our schools and in our community to get their perspective. I know a lot of times, we as an older generation, are trying to figure it out. So, let's get together with some of our youth. The roundtable is setup, and we have a moderator which is Mrs. Terri Smith who is a Petersburg High School teacher. We will have Ms. Nicole Loving there and Chief Christian; Bishop Darrin Gay from Higher Way Ministries, Interim City Manager Kenneth Miller, Dr. Julius Hamlin the Superintendent, Marquis Woods, a 12<sup>th</sup> Grader at Petersburg High School; Jermain Woods, the parent of Marquis Woods; Tylik Lawrence, who is a 12<sup>th</sup> Grader at Petersburg High School; Jaguandra Robinson, who is the parent; Sean Miller of the Boys & Girls Club; Reverend Jamison McLaughlin, Marquis Allen of Parks and Recreation, Tori White who is a behavior specialist, Delisha Pitt who is a parent and also Marissa Scott who is an 11<sup>th</sup> Grader at Petersburg High School. I encourage everyone to come out and listen. Because in this time, we want to do more listening with listening to our young people so that we can best help them to address the issue and pave a way for a brighter future here in the city. That is all my items, and I will move on to 'Item 11.'"

**11. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA:**

\*There are no items for this portion of the agenda.

**12. FINANCE AND BUDGET REPORT:**

\*There are no items for this portion of the agenda.

**13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- a. A resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute the performance agreement between the City of Petersburg, City of Petersburg Economic Development Authority and Tabb Street Development, LLC.

\*Audio available upon request.

**BACKGROUND:** The City Council adopted the ordinance 21-ORD-70 on November 3, 2021, to establish the Tourism Finance Program under the Tourism Zone. The Tourism Finance Program allows qualifying businesses that are located within the Tourism Zone to apply fifty percent of their meals and lodging taxes to their revolving loan payment on a quarterly basis. Tabb Street Development has met the criteria for this program.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Department of Economic Development recommends that the City Council approves the resolution authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Performance Agreement between the City of Petersburg, City of Petersburg Economic Development Authority and Tabb Street Development, LLC.

Brian Moore, Director of Economic Development, gave an overview of the request.

Council Member Hill made a motion to approve the resolution authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Performance Agreement between the City of Petersburg, City of Petersburg Economic Development Authority and Tabb Street Development, LLC. Council Member Westbrook seconded the motion. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Wilson-Smith, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, and Parham; Abstain: Cuthbert; Absent: Smith-Lee

**22-R-31 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF PETERSBURG, CITY OF PETERSBURG ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND TABB STREET DEVELOPMENT, LLC.**

**14. NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Consideration of appointment to the Petersburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority.

**BACKGROUND:** The Petersburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority (PRHA) Board consists of seven (7) members who are appointed by City Council to serve four-year, staggered terms. PRHA was created to study blighted areas within the City and to recommend programs for the improvement of such areas; to provide quality housing for low-income families at rents within their ability to pay; and to serve as the duly designated agent of the City to contract with federal agencies for financial assistance in order to undertake urban redevelopment and low-rent housing programs approved by City Council.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Recommend City Council make an appointment to the Petersburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority.

Council Member Cuthbert stated, "Mr. Mayor, I would like to table this matter until council's business meeting in September and also at council's retreat in the summer of 2022, I would like for us to discuss the Petersburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority. In the direction of which council would like it to go. I think it is well past time that we as a council put our heads and thoughts together as to what direction we can give the Petersburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority. And I think our selection of members of that board is one way we can help accomplish the vision that we as a council have for the Petersburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority. There are two parts to my motion. One that we table the matter until council's business meeting in September and two that at council retreat of the summer 2022 that council will discuss the Petersburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority in the direction of which council would like for it to go."

Council Member Cuthbert made a motion to table action until City Council Meeting in September and also at Council's Retreat they have a discussion on Petersburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority in the direction in which council would like it to go. Council Member Wilson-Smith seconded the motion. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, and Parham; Absent: Smith-Lee

- b. Consideration of approval to extend the lease agreement for one year (June 1, 2022 – May 31,

\*Audio available upon request.

2022) for a total amount of \$407,385.60 (\$33,948 monthly) between P & P Associates, LLC and the City of Petersburg for the property located at 3811 Corporate Road, Petersburg, VA 23803.

**BACKGROUND:** The City of Petersburg's Social Services Department moved from 400 Farmer Street location in May of 2019 due to mold issues with the building. The Department of Social Services is approaching the end of its third year (May 31, 2022) occupying space at 3811 Corporate Road. This extension will ensure that the Department of Social Services will occupy the building for another year.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends that Council approves the lease extension for one year as written.

Council Member Myers made a motion to table until the next meeting. Council Member Hill seconded the motion. There was discussion on the motion.

Council Member Wilson-Smith asked Mrs. Innis can information be brought back on whether the current employees in the Social Services Department can work from a smaller location and can the exact amount that the city will be paying per year back when the item comes back on the agenda.

Mrs. Innis stated that she will bring that information back to the next regular meeting.

Mr. Miller stated that Mr. Stevenson is on vacation and that they will provide information when he comes back.

The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, and Parham; Absent: Smith-Lee

- c. Consideration and approval of the installation of STOP Signs at 10 intersections. Nine of the intersections do not require a traffic study and will be installed by July 31, 2022. The remaining intersections (S. Sycamore St & Fillmore Street) requires a traffic study due to the intersection being located on a state road and will be installed by October 15, 2022.

**BACKGROUND:** Over the last several months, City Council has been trying to address the speeding issue in the City of Petersburg. There have been several meetings with the city leaders discussing recommendations. Residents have voiced concerns in Ward meetings and in the Public Information Period at City Council meetings. Public Works has informed Council that best practices recommend traffic studies be completed by traffic engineers prior to installing the STOP signs and STOP signs should not be used for speed control. 10 intersections have been recommended for STOP signs by Council based on Police Department recommendations based on the data they had and reviewed. It should be noted that the City Attorney stated that a traffic study is required to install a STOP sign on a state designated road. 9 of the 10 intersections recommended by Council are not located on state roads and therefore technically do not require a traffic study.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Public Works has informed Council on numerous occasions that speed studies should be completed by traffic engineers before installing STOP signs and STOP signs should not be used for speed control. City Council has requested that STOP signs be installed at 10 intersections in the city. The City Attorney has indicated that a traffic study must be completed for one of the ten intersections due to it affecting traffic on a designated road (Sycamore Street). Public Works also strongly recommends a traffic study be completed on Graham Road at the Pine Ridge Road intersection. As Council chooses to forgo traffic studies, Public Works will install the STOP signs as directed by Council.

Mr. Miller stated, "I have reviewed the motion and I have no objections to it."

Council Member Cuthbert stated, "The City Manager was referring to the motion that I believe that everyone

\*Audio available upon request.

has in front of them. It says May 16, 2022, revision. This motion reflects the good input and very helpful and constructive input of a number of members of council. And I am grateful to them. I am thinking of Councilman Myers and Councilman Westbrook and Council Member Annette Smith-Lee. I am grateful to each of them for helping to perfect this motion and have it address many of our problems that we see, and our constituents see. I have asked the City Attorney if I can incorporate this motion by reference and he advised that it would be best for me to read it. So, let me read it and I apologize if it is long.”

Motion read aloud and provided by Council Member Cuthbert:

I move that Council adopts the schedule of stop sign installations and dates on page 417 of Council’s agenda packet for Council’s meeting on May 17, 2022.

In addition, I move that Council directs the City Manager to install stop signs at the following locations by July 31, 2022:

1. At the intersection of Ferndale Avenue and Spring Street (making this a four-way stop).
2. At the intersection of Ferndale Avenue and Elm Street (making this a four-way stop).
3. At the intersection of Ferndale Avenue and Bayard Street (making this a four-way stop).

In addition, I move that Council directs the City Manager as follows:

1. As to whether to designate residential through streets as “augmented fine streets” (as *Virginia Code* section 46.2-878.2 and *Petersburg City Code* sections 110-10 *et seq.* allow), Council directs the City Manager, upon receipt of a petition satisfying Petersburg City Code section 110-11<sup>1</sup>, to conduct traffic studies and such other investigations as the City Manager may deem material and then to present a staff report to Council for Council’s consideration. The City Manager is directed to complete these tasks within sixty days after receipt of any such petition.
2. As to whether to adopt an ordinance and otherwise to do what is necessary to decrease the speed limit from 25 MPH to 20 MPH along streets where speeding is a special problem (as *Virginia Code* section 46.2-1300 allows), Council tables this matter until receipt of a citizen petition asking that such an ordinance be adopted as to a particular street.
3. As to whether to freshly paint existing pedestrian crosswalks in the city, Council directs the City Manager to prioritize locations throughout the city where this work is needed and then to see that such work is completed before November of 2022, all within a budget of \$100,000.
4. As to whether to install more speed limit signs along the streets where the city installs new stop signs, Council directs the City Manager to use his best judgment to do this.
5. As to whether to install solar-powered (and not merely battery-powered) signs on South Sycamore Street, where it crosses I-85, to display the motorist’s current speed in real time, Council directs the City Manager to use his best judgment as to whether to do this.

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<sup>1</sup> Petersburg City Code section 110-11 states:

Upon receipt by the city manager of a petition signed by at least 75 percent of all residential structures having lot frontage upon a residential through street, the city manager shall cause such traffic studies and other investigation as he shall deem material to be conducted and shall thereupon present such petition together with a city staff report to the city council for consideration ....

\*Audio available upon request.

6. Finally, Council directs the City Manager to recommend to Council, at Council's meeting on June 7, 2022, whether to place and operate a photo speed monitoring device in the school crossing zones for all public schools in Petersburg, including the Appomattox Regional Governor's School, as well as for St. Joseph's Elementary School, for the purpose of recording violations of the speed limit, as permitted by Section B of *Va. Code* section 46.2-882.1<sup>2</sup>.

Section B of *Va. Code* section 46.2-882.1 states:

B. A state or local law-enforcement agency may place and operate a photo speed monitoring device in school crossing zones for the purposes of recording violations of § 46.2-873 and in highway work zones for the purposes of recording violations of § 46.2-878.1.

In turn, *Va. Code* section 46.2-873 states:

A. For the purposes of this section, "school crossing zone" means an area located within the vicinity of a school at or near a highway where the presence of children on such school property or going to and from school reasonably requires a special warning to motorists. Such zones are marked and operated in accordance with the requirements of this section with appropriate warning signs or other traffic control devices indicating that a school crossing is in progress.

B. The maximum speed limit shall be twenty-five miles per hour between portable signs, tilt-over signs, or fixed blinking signs placed in or along any highway and bearing the word "school" or "school crossing." ....

C. Such portable signs, tilt-over signs, or blinking signs shall be in a position, or be turned on, for thirty minutes preceding regular school hours, for thirty minutes thereafter, and during such other times as the presence of children on such school property or going to and from school reasonably requires a special warning to motorists.

Council Member Cuthbert made a motion to approve the motion stated above in its entirety. Council Member Myers seconded the motion. There was discussion on the motion. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, and Parham; Voting No: Wilson-Smith; Absent: Smith-Lee

- d. Consideration to extend the Petersburg Preservation Task Force Memorandum of Understanding.

**BACKGROUND:** The PPTF entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the City on June 15, 2021, for a one-year period. Currently, PPTF manages the Blandford Church Museum and Reception Center, Centre Hill Mansion Museum, and The Exchange Building Museum (formerly The Siege Museum).

**RECOMMENDATION:** Recommend City Council renew MOU with PPTF until June 22, 2025.

Council Member Myers made a motion to table action on this item until June 21, 2022. Council Member Hill seconded the motion. There was discussion on the motion. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, and Parham; Absent: Smith-Lee

- e. Consideration of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to amend the development agreement between the City of Petersburg and Amanda Green for the property at 301 Rolfe Street, parcel ID 022-150801 to remove the clause that prohibits the property to be subdivided.

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\*Audio available upon request.

**BACKGROUND:** The City of Petersburg City Council approved 21-ORD-74 an Ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute documents related to the sale of city-owned property located at 301 Rolfe Street on November 16, 2021. Following a due diligence period, on April 19, 2022, the City Council approved Resolution 22-R-22 approving the Development Agreement with the proviso that only one single-family dwelling may be constructed on the property and that the property is not subdivided. The deed shall include provisions for the reverter described in the Development Agreement.

Ms. Green is requesting that this clause in the deed be removed.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Department of Economic Development recommends that the City Council consider the resolution authorizing the City Manager to amend the development agreement between the City of Petersburg and Amanda Green for the property at 301 Rolfe Street, parcel ID 022-150801 to remove the clause that prohibits the property to be subdivided.

Brian Moore, Director of Economic Development, gave an overview of the request.

Amanda Green, petitioner, gave a briefing of her request in regard to the clause in the deed to be removed.

There was discussion among City Council Members and Ms. Green.

Council Member Cuthbert made a motion to table action until Ms. Green presents council with a written plan specifying the number location and design of the houses that she intends to build on the property.

The motion dies due to a lack of a second.

Council Member Myers made a motion to approve the resolution authorizing the City Manager to amend the development agreement between the City of Petersburg and Amanda Green for the property at 301 Rolfe Street, parcel ID 022-150801 to remove the clause that prohibits the property to be subdivided. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hill. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Wilson-Smith, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, and Parham; Voting No: Cuthbert; Absent: Smith-Lee

**22-R-32 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO AMEND THE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF PETERSBURG AND AMANDA GREEN FOR THE PROPERTY AT 301 ROLFE STREET, PARCEL ID 022-150801 TO REMOVE THE CLAUSE THAT PROHIBITS THE PROPERTY TO BE SUBDIVIDED.**

**15. CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA:**

a. City Manager's Report

Mr. Miller stated, "Just a few items. I want to say thank you to the city's finance team and the city's ACE Team. As they did some really good work with the California Inn. I am really impressed with the ACE Team. Mr. Mayor, I want to thank all members of council with respect to our children this summer. And hiring these children is going to be a really good game changer for us. We have got some really great things working with these young folks. Mrs. Innis, thank you for going to the school with me today to pass out some applications. Mr. Mayor the plan is well on its way. Thank you so much, I have given you all my weekly report."

**16. BUSINESS OR REPORTS FROM THE CLERK:**

Ms. Jackson stated that she does not have any items for this portion of the agenda.

\*Audio available upon request.

**17. BUSINESS OR REPORTS FROM CITY ATTORNEY:**

Mr. Williams stated, "At the last closed session, Council asked for a review of the interim city manger existing contract. And instructed me to prepare an addendum to that contract to address fair compensation of his first performance. I have passed out what that addendum is. I apologize for the pen and ink change. I could not read my own handwriting. But there is one handwritten change and before it gets executed, if council includes it in the agenda and adopts it tonight, I will have it typed up before we sign it. I suggest that council consider adding it to the agenda and adopting it."

Mayor Parham stated, "I will entertain a motion to suspend the Rules of Council to add this to the agenda tonight."

Council Member Myers made a motion to suspend the Rules of Council. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hill. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, and Parham; Absent: Smith-Lee

Mayor Parham stated, "Next we will add to the agenda the addendum to enter for the city manager."

Council Member Hill made a motion to add to the agenda the addendum for the city manager. The motion was seconded by Council Member Myers. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Myers, Westbrook, Hill, and Parham; Absent: Smith-Lee; Voting No: Wilson-Smith

**18. ADJOURNMENT:**

City Council adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of City Council

APPROVED:

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Mayor

\*Audio available upon request.