

The regular meeting of the Petersburg City Council was held on Tuesday, June 16, 2020, in live stream. Mayor Parham called the meeting to order at 12:51p.m.

1. ROLL CALL:

Present:

Council Member Charles H. Cuthbert, Jr.
Council Member Annette Smith-Lee
Council Member Treska Wilson-Smith
Council Member Darrin Hill
Vice Mayor John A. Hart, Sr
Mayor Samuel Parham

Absent: Vice Mayor John A. Hart, Sr.

Present from City Administration:

City Manager Aretha R. Ferrell-Benavides
City Attorney Anthony C. Williams
Clerk of Council Nykesha D. Jackson

2. PRAYER:

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

Council Member Hill led the council meeting in prayer.

3. CLOSED SESSION:

*No items for a closed session.

4. MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Mayor Parham led the meeting into the moment of silence.

5. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

6. DETERMINATION OF THE PRESENCE OF A QUORUM:

A quorum was determined with the presence of all City Council Members.

Mayor Parham stated, "Good Afternoon Everyone. For our Positive Petersburg moment today, I want to thank our public safety team for delivering PPE door-to-door this past Friday to some of our City neighborhoods. And I also wanted to recognize Councilmember Annette Smith-Lee for planning and executing a great event on Sunday to celebrate our PHS graduates. Along with Council Member Cuthbert, Council Member Hill and many community organizations, there was a great drive-thru style celebration for our PHS seniors. Lastly, I want to mention the Feed Your City Event that will be hosted this Saturday, June 20th at noon. The location is 41 South Union St. in Petersburg. This event is hosted by Multi-Platinum Recording Artist, Trey Songz. The event will provide fresh groceries and essential PPE supplies for community members

*Audio available upon request.

via non-contact drive-thru lanes. As well as Councilwoman Wilson-Smith has an event on Friday for Juneteenth at 6pm on the corner of Sycamore and Bank Street called Corlings Corner. Again, that is at 6pm on Friday. Thank you.”

7. PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATION OF CEREMONIAL PROCLAMATIONS:

- a. Proclamation recognizing DeMolay International 101st Anniversary

Mayor Parham read the proclamation out loud.

8. REPORTS/RESPONSES TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC INFORMATION PERIOD:

Folakemi Osoba, Public Information Period, read comments and responses from previous public information.

1. What is the process (or consequences) for dilapidated properties that receive more than 2 citations? **Answer:** The process for Code Compliance is to send a Notice of Violation and the property owner has 30 days to abate the violation(s). If that does not happen then Code sends a Notice of Citation that acts as a bill in which the owner must abate and pay the fines on the property within 10 days. If that does not happen, another Notice of Citation is sent after which the property owner is brought in front of the court for a warrant in debt. This acts as a lien on the property that, if not paid, the property can be taken to auction and sold to a new owner.
2. Why aren't these properties seized (by the City or State) after receiving multiple citations? **Answer:** The process detailed in answer #1 is what is currently followed. In the past, this was not case. Now, with the use of civil fines, Code Compliance can do more. Seizing a blighted property is a lengthy and arduous process and would require the City to pay fair market value.
3. With Code going through a transition (from Planning to Neighborhood Services) what is the status of code officers and staff? **Answer:** Code Compliance is working with staff through transitioning to new processes and procedures that have now been transcribed and codified into policy manuals. Code is also endeavoring to hire new staff to manage the current workload.
4. Is an accurate record kept of the code analytics? EXAMPLE: how many times one address receives citation, how many times the City must cut the grass, etc.? **Answer:** Yes, Code Compliance uses a system called Government Outreach which logs all properties in violation and includes a history of their violations on record.
5. Addresses provided to be reviewed: Halifax Street - 1235, 1237, 1308, 1310/1312 (grass), 1314, 1322, 1330, 1407, and Talley Street – 1414. **Answer:** These have all been visited and cited.
6. How are blighted properties secured? Example: windows, doors, protected from anyone entering/squatting, etc. **Answer:** Code requires that any vacant building/structure be adequately secured via the use of boarding up windows and entrances so that no one can get inside. If they do not comply, the City will step in and do this for them and charge the cost back to the property owner as part of their property bill.
7. Who manages delinquencies in Petersburg? **Answer:** Delinquencies are managed through the Billing and Collections Dept.

*Audio available upon request.

8. Is there an update on the status of tax delinquent properties that should have been auctioned?

Answer: An auction is scheduled for June 25, 2020 at 11am at Union Train Station (103 River St.). More information can be found at jasonadunn.com/upcoming-auctions/

9. There is an alley way behind Church of The Lord Jesus Christ at 941 Stainback St. with trees hanging across the alley that could cause damage.

Answer: This is a private alley for the homeowners to gain access to their properties from the backyard and is not maintained by the City. The trees and vegetation are the responsibility of the property owners.

India Adams-Jacobs, Assistant to the City Manager, gave responses from the May 19, 2020, City Council Meeting.

Question from Council Member Hill: When will the striping along Sycamore and Washington Street be completed?

Answer: In December 2019, striping was completed in front of the financial management building prior to opening for a total of 12 new spaces striped along the financial management building. The remaining striping along Sycamore and Washington Street to Old Street should be completed by public works and utility staffing by December.

9. COMMUNICATIONS/SPECIAL REPORTS:

a. City Manager's Report

Mrs. Benavides stated, "Mayor and council each of you should have received a copy of my City Manager's Update along with some additional updates that Mr. Lyons will go over shortly. Included in my update is information on some things that have occurred. If you have any questions, given the length of the meeting, I am free to answer any questions, but I will turn it over to Mr. Lyons."

Mr. Lyons stated, "Early this week I sent a report via email that gave an update on a length of properties that are being worked on by facilities. I talked about the fire station and I talked about billing and collections. We also talked about the quotes that we talked about in working on the old Commission of Revenue space. We are also talking about carpet squares as it relates to old billing and collection space that will ultimately be a customer service space. In addition to that we gave an update on the temporary cooling that we have to address at the Circuit Court. In addition to that we talked to you about the challenges in terms of the repairs for the City Hall suite that talks about the dollars and cents associated with getting that done. Also, we gave you an update about the tiller that is behind the old courthouse. That was to be repaired. We gave you that information. In addition to that I sent to you electronically the update in terms of where we are on the Jarratt House update. In addition to that earlier to that I sent an update to each of you all the annual paving services schedule that is going on throughout the City. So, I wanted to make sure that you got that. That includes the information right now to supplement what the City Manager has already spoken to as it relates to her report."

There was discussion among City Council and staff.

b. Risk Management Update PowerPoint Presentation

Twain Bridges, Risk Manager, gave a PowerPoint Presentation.

Key points:

*Audio available upon request.

- Processes for risk management planning, identification, analysis, monitoring and control.
- Decrease the probability and impact of events adverse to the City or municipality.
- Risk keys to success are communication, train, explanation of expectations, and inspect what you expect of others.
- Completed CPR training for City employees with 60% penetration rate.
- Instituted mandatory safety training on a quarterly basis.
- Completed driver safety training for transit operators with MVA's.
- Created work-flow process to remedy aging claims.
- Worked with City employees educating them on workers compensation and how it impacts them personally.

There was discussion among City Council and staff.

c. Update on the City of Petersburg LED Street Light Enhancement

Temidire Okeowo, Capital Improvement Project Manager, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the City of Petersburg LED Street Light Enhancement.

Key points:

- The purpose is to increase lighting, ensure safety, and enhance landmarks.
- There are 81 light fixtures that have been factored in the cost of conversion.
- There are 3,118 basic light fixtures that have been factored in the cost conversion.
- The total conversion investment will cost \$503,581.36.
- If all lights are converted in a 1-year period, the payback period would be 3.9 years.
- The City currently pays \$40,146.97 monthly on light bills for the streetlights.
- The prospective LED monthly bill will cost \$29,509.82 and the monthly savings will be \$10,637.15 and yearly savings after full conversion will be \$127,645.80.
- The department is recommending starting in the Ward 4 downtown area because of the businesses.

Mr. Lyons stated, "One of the things Mayor and City Council Members, as Mr. Temi went through the options very quickly, at some point in time we have to make some decisions on the option that we think is right for the City. I think that will be an opportunity for you all to engage and give us some feedback in that process. One of the things that I also want to make sure you understand too is that as Mrs. Innis and many of you all have gone into your individual wards, there are elements in your existing ward that you want to start with. Our goal is to sit down with you and then be able to tell how we work that back towards Dominion. These are just the change out of lights. If we have to add other lights, we have to figure out what that means and what is the cost that would be associated with that equally across the board. So, a part of this is to bring this to you and secondly get your feedback from you collectively and then pool that and come back with a final decision on a recommendation and then we can lay out a timeline on what we got. If you have additional issues and questions if you can forward that information to me so we can lay out a timeline for that process. You can forward that information to Temi and Mrs. Innis. We have to be mindful that there is a difference with public and private property. And so, that will be the deliberating things that Mr. Temi and Mrs. Innis would have to pass that to Dominion and then Dominion tells us what the cost is to incorporate those changes."

There was discussion among City Council and staff.

d. Information on the Department of Neighborhood Services.

Frank Poulin, Director of Neighborhood Services, gave a PowerPoint presentation.

*Audio available upon request.

Brad Shupp, Property Maintenance Official, gave information pertaining to the PowerPoint presentation.

Key points:

- Looking for two more recruitments to break up the code enforcement so that they can get more done.
- Will be doing a rental registry within the City.
- 1,063 Code Enforcement Violations have been sent out. 650 were vacant letter and 413 were notice of violations.
- There are \$41,950 Civil fines due to the City and \$7,500 criminal fees due to the courts.
- Vacant property registry started with 357 vacant homes. Removed 107 from the list because they were occupied homes and then added 127 new vacant homes.
- Working with the developers in the community to come up with new innovations and ideas.
- GORrequest app is available for anyone to download to phones to report vacant, failing apart and abandoned homes.

There was discussion among City Council and staff.

Mrs. Benavides stated, "I want to start out with a special introduction. Part of our expansion of our organization, we talked about our student ambassador's program of our high school students. Another program that we began last year was the recruitment for the local government fellowship program. This allows to bring in a recent graduate student into an organization and give them meaningful expertise where they will be doing a one-year rotation with three months starting in different units of government. We did our interviews and selection of this program and we are really excited. We have some really good candidates. One who is here today who has started, and I would like to introduce you to him. His name is Jackson Miller. Jackson Miller is a recent graduate of Harvard John F. Kennedy School of Government and Public Policy. He has an undergraduate degree from New York University. What is unique about him is that he is our local candidate who has been selected and who has come on board. Part of the reason he came on early is that we have a lot of things going on with COVID-19. Programs and things that are coming in that need to be tracked. Part of the information that they had to present to us was what would their policy be with everything going on with COVID-19. So, Jackson in his presentation, we were all thrilled by his presentation, but we also found it to be very meaningful. We would like to share this with you all today. As he starts on his first rotation which will be in the City Manager's Office, he will be helping and guiding us into the future and as we start to look at policy decisions necessary for COVID-19. I think one of the highlights for us in his interview and one of the most interesting facts about him is that he is a well-polished person but he foreign in several languages to include Mandarin, Chinese, Portuguese and we will see what else we can get out of him. But we do believe that we are very excited to have him on board and I want him to share this as we kick off this with both Ms. Tyus and the Chief on our COVID-19.

Mr. Miller gave a PowerPoint presentation.

Key points:

- COVID-19 amplifies systematic social inequities in the City of Petersburg and Crater Health District.
- Petersburg unemployment claims are still on the rise.
- Petersburg exhibits higher poverty and employment rates, particularly along racial lines, than Commonwealth-wide figures.
- COVID-19 risks exacerbating racial wealth gap.
- High rates of obesity and high blood pressure render Petersburg residents more vulnerable to subsequent outbreaks of COVID-19.

*Audio available upon request.

Mrs. Benavides stated, "Mayor and Council, I just want to highlight that this is a presentation that he gave to us last week. I wanted to share with you because it goes with some of the things that Ms. Tyus will talk about. We are receiving funding from a number of sources. How we utilize the funding that comes in to move our community forward is very important. We have to have someone that is not only tracking the expenditures but making sure that the expenditures go to things that are meaningful to you City Council. You are going to have two items on your agenda today that talk about COVID-19 funding. That is something that is very important from an economic development standpoint and from a community standpoint. Ms. Tyus is going to talk to you now a little bit more about what she is working on from a community outreach and we will move back to that conversation.

e. COVID-19 Report

Darnetta Tyus, Deputy City Manager, and Deputy City Manager Chief Miller, gave a PowerPoint presentation on updates of COVID-19.

Chief Miller gave an update on the rising numbers of COVID-19 cases.

Ms. Tyus gave an update on COVID-19.

Key points:

- As part of Governor Northam's Health Equity Pilot Program, the City of Petersburg received 20,000 pieces of COVID-19 PPE to distribute throughout vulnerable areas in the community and hand sanitizer.
- They delivered the sanitizer and PPE to the public housing areas.
- They served 500 to the senior citizens in the City of Petersburg.
- Council Members have initiatives and events that are being planned in order for them to distribute PPE's and sanitizer in their wards.

Council Member Hill stated, "I just want to thank her for her hard work and dedication with everything that is happening."

Mayor Parham stated, "Thank you Ms. Tyus for the presentation and all that you do."

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

- a. Schedule a public hearing on the revised Mass Transit FY21 Budget (Suggested date July 7, 2020) – 1st Reading
- b. Request to schedule a public hearing to consider the rezoning of adjacent parcels at 2045 Squirrel Level Road from A-Agriculture to M-2 Heavy Industrial, and 2100 Defense Road from R-1 Single Family Residential to M-2 Heavy Industrial (Suggested date July 7, 2020)
- c. Request to schedule a public hearing to consider approval of a Special Use Permit to allow the construction of a Telecommunication Tower/Facility on the property of Four Square Construction at 1 Four Square Industrial Drive to provide wireless telephone services. (Suggested date July 7, 2020)
- d. A request to schedule a public hearing on the Petersburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority Board of Governance (Suggested date of public hearing July 7, 2020)

Council Member Hill made a motion to approve the consent agenda and to schedule the public hearings for July 7, 2020. The motion was seconded by Council Member Smith-Lee. There was discussion on the motion. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Myers, Smith-Lee,

*Audio available upon request.

Hill, Hart and Parham; Voting No: Wilson-Smith

11. OFFICIAL PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- a. A public hearing for an ordinance for a proposed tourism development project, and to authorize other actions consistent with Virginia Tourism Gap Financing.

BACKGROUND: The City of Petersburg City Council established the Petersburg Tourism Zone pursuant to the Virginia Code Section 58.1-3851 by adopting 16-ORD-6 on February 2, 2016. This ordinance is in furtherance of the goals set forth in the City's Comprehensive Plan, Vision 20/20. Compliance with the Virginia Code Section 58.1-3851 requires approval and certification by the Comptroller of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the execution of a Performance agreement between the Developer and the City of Petersburg.

A Tourism Development Financing Program, administered by the Virginia Tourism Corporation, is a two-tiered gap financing program for qualified tourism development projects in Virginia. The Tourism Development Financing Program provides gap financing to support tourism-related development in designated Tourism Zones through a partnership between a Project Developer, the Locality and the Commonwealth of Virginia. The program requires a Performance Agreement between Commonwealth of Virginia, the Locality and the Developer, as well as a Tourism Development Plan.

Once the Project is completed and generating income, the Locality with the Virginia Department of Taxation performs quarterly reviews of Sales and Use taxes collected from the Tourism Development Project. Once percent of the quarterly Sales and Use tax revenue generated from the Development Project is the amount each of the three partners contributes toward the debt service of the project until the debt is fully paid.

The Hotel Development Project at 20 West Tabb Street is a qualified tourism development project seeking to participate in the Virginia Tourism Development Financing Program. The total cost of the project is approximately \$_____, and it will generate approximately _____ part-time and _____ full-time jobs. As a qualified Tourism Development Project, the Developer is eligible to apply for up to 30% of the total project costs for gap financing.

RECOMMENDATION: To schedule a public hearing.

Mayor Parham stated, "Mr. Williams can we have the public hearing on this and delay action?"

Mr. Williams stated, "Yes. I just wanted to bring one item to council's attention and that is that when this item was moved forward previously Councilman Myers did make one minor but important adjustment to it. It was to just change one word. He was not comfortable with the word endorsed and asked that it be changed to support. At your table there is a version of the ordinance that reflects that one change to the ordinance. I would ask that if council is inclined to approve this after the comments today that the revised version that you have in front of you use the word support instead of endorsed if adopted."

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

Seeing no hands, Mayor Parham closed the public hearing.

Council Member Myers made a motion adopt the ordinance with the revision of changing the word "endorsed" to "support". The motion was seconded by Council Member Smith-Hill. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Wilson-Smith, Myers, Smith-Lee, Hill, Hart and Parham; Abstain: Cuthbert

*Audio available upon request.

20-ORD-29 AN ORDINANCE TO SUPPORT A PROPOSED TOURISM PROJECT, AND TO AUTHORIZE OTHER ACTIONS CONSISTENT WITH VIRGINIA TOURISM GAP FINANCING.

- b. A public hearing on the consideration of an ordinance to increase the number of voting at-large members on the Planning Commission from two (2) to four (4) and thereby increase the total number of voting Planning Commissioners from nine (9) to eleven (11).

BACKGROUND: The Code of Virginia, Title 15.2, Chapter 22 defines the formation of local Planning Commissions in the Commonwealth.

The City of Petersburg Municipal Code Sec 82.32. – Composition: appointment qualification terms and removal of members indicates that:

1. The number of voting members of the planning commission shall be nine. They shall be appointed by the City Council with one member being appointed from each ward and two members at-large for staggered terms of four years. All voting members shall be residents of the City qualified by knowledge and experience to make decisions on questions of community growth and development. At least one-half of the members so appointed shall be owners of real property.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the City Council approves an ordinance increasing the number of voting at-large members on the Planning Commission from two (2) to four (4), and thereby increase the total number of voting members on the Planning Commission from nine (9) to eleven (11).

Mrs. Benavides stated, “This is an administrative process and we are looking at our composition and a request that we make adjustments to the board.”

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

Marcus Squires, 1701 Monticello Street, stated, “I understand that more seats are needed but is council providing proper oversight for all of the boards, authorities, commissions and other organizations that council has the authority to appoint members on to. Other cities tend to have government operation programs which are overseen by their councils. We currently do not have proper oversight in the City over its different authorities, boards, executive committees and commissions which are meeting in the City. One for example would be the Planning Commission and the Community Development Block Grant in this City. We really need our staff to help council with these different efforts of authorities in this City. If there is not proper oversight who is to say what is going on in these organizations. Who is the watch dog and who is watching these organizations while they meet? We have the Petersburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority not meeting in the proper room at times. Who is watching over these organizations? FOIA laws are more bark then bite. We really need to step up to the plate. And I understand that we need to add more members to this one organization. But we need to look at everything as a City that we are supposed to be administering. Thank you.”

Linwood Christian, 410 Mistletoe Street, stated, “What I am concerned about, unlike Mr. Squires I do not see the need to expand this board anymore. I am wondering just what is the purpose for expanding it to 11. I was kind of shocked that it is at 9 when I was under the assumption that the Planning Commission was one of those boards that was appointed by wards. And we only have seven wards. And with that being the case we should only have seven members on this board. But now it is up to 11 or you are trying to get it to go to 11. And I am really wondering what is the purpose? Who wants this done? Why do they want it done? And I was looking through the charter to make sure that the Planning Commission was not one of those boards that was in the charter. Because like everything else when various council members are so whatever about council rules, do not be breaking the rules to fit whomever. I really oppose this move because it just seems suspect. I

*Audio available upon request.

am going to call it what it is. Thank you.”

Barb Rudolph, 1675 Mt. Vernon Street, stated, “I do not think that it has been explained on why it needs to go from nine to eleven. That is very large. I mean someone or somebody got left off who some person or persons on council wants to be on the Planning Commission. There is no other way to say it. Let’s just make it bigger without any rationale and just leaving it up to people to wonder what is going on. Thank you.”

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

There was discussion among City Council Members and staff.

Council Member Cuthbert made a motion to not increase the members from nine to eleven on the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Council Member Myers. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Wilson-Smith, Myers, Smith-Lee, Hill, Hart and Parham

There was discussion among City Council and staff.

Council Member Myers made a motion to remove William Irvin and James Norman. The motion was seconded by Council Member Smith-Lee.

Council Member Cuthbert made a substitute motion to go with the recommendation of the City Attorney and inform Ronald Moore and Michael Edwards that there were no seats available when they were appointed to serve the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Council Member Wilson-Smith. There was discussion among City Council and staff. The motion was not approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Wilson-Smith and Hart; Voting No: Myers, Smith-Lee, Hill, Parham

Council Member Myers original motion goes back on the floor.

Council Member Myers made a motion to remove Ronald Moore from the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hill. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Myers, Smith-Lee, Hill, Hart and Parham; Voting No: Cuthbert, Wilson-Smith

12. 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.

Linwood Christian, 410 Mistletoe Street, stated, “Couple of things that I would like to bring before council’s attention that has come before mine. I am disappointed. I do not know whose was planned first but I am kind of disappointed that even though he is from our area that we are having the even by Trey Songz on the same day that we are having the even by Councilwoman Treska Smith. Again, this shows that we are once again pulling citizens in one direction. And then people are saying that you didn’t support this, and you didn’t do that. Also, the recent protest or the march that we had, to me I think it was a slap in the face to the City of Petersburg. Because we do not have that type of police department anymore that you are seeing that has been coming on the television. What I do suggest is that we sit down with our current chief and try to improve

*Audio available upon request.

on the gangs that we have already made. Because the time that we should have been marching we were not. And it bothers me that a citizen got up there when they were talking about the death of their loved one about their loved one at the City jail about ten years ago, that did not happen at the hands or while they were in custody of the police. And so, it just did not present a good image to the City. And also, when I heard our City Attorney when the question was asked about when we are going to be able to meet in person, from what I understand is that the state has already began to go into Phase 2. There can be up to 50 people to gather. So, I have to raise the question that City Councilwoman Treska Smith asked, when will the citizens be able to come to a council meeting in person. And last but not least one of these things, there are just a few other things that I am concerned with regarding this Department of Neighborhood Services. Because Mrs. Treska Wilson-Smith said something about a top-heavy budget. This goes to show that this is a top-heavy budget. When we can put our recreation department back into commission, we are putting other things in place that are really not for the benefit of our citizens. That is all that I have to say. Thank you.”

Jeffrey Fleming, 1819 Chuckatuck Avenue, stated, “I would like to speak on the format of this meeting. I think we need to find something that works a little better. I think we need to look at a better format if we have to continue having meetings as such as this. Half the meeting I cannot hear what is going on. There is background sounds. There is mumble and the mics do not work. If we have to continue this, I think we have to find a better format because this is just not working. That is all.”

Marcus Squires, 1701 Monticello Street, stated, “My first question is in regard to the workshop that was previously held. Where was our capital assets manager for that workshop? I mean we have this huge list of means in our City, but we are not covering them all. My next question is when will ‘we’ the citizens be updated on when will work start on the Jarratt House and the Southside Depot. I heard Mr. Lyons stated that he sent emails out to council and other staff members but we the citizens have not heard anything about this. And we are saying that we have this all-star team here but yet we still have people who are not fully qualified in very important positions. We need a council that will expose the issues at will and not be afraid to point out nepotism in our system of government here. If the Robert Bobb Group were to return, how would they grade our current administration? How would they grade operations? Are we going to see an update on what we have followed through with regarding the Robert Bobb’s Report? Has our council asked the City Manager and her staff to investigate grants which will be available for the reinvestment of our City’s infrastructure? What ever happened to the historical blight survey. We had 50 people come out and we engaged them. We went around the City and we went and looked at issues with historical blight. And one of being the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr safe house. What is going on with the survey? And some other large assets that are still not really being worked on are the Peabody and Titmus Optical Assets which the City owns. Are these assets not important? Why not look at bringing a regional, national or vocational trade school to the Peabody site. We could use the workforce innovation and opportunity act for technical assistance in this endeavor. And again, I will say that we definitely need government opts board to look at our boards and commission. I mean you have the Economic Development Authority, which is in charge of Roper Lumber Yard. Another City asset that has been given over by council to this authority. Which this asset that belongs to the City, which is on the historical Pocahontas Island that is continuing to fall apart. No one is making the Economic Development Authority accountable for this but at the same time we are making private citizens as well as developers accountable for their structures. Yet, no is making the City accountable for their assets that are falling apart. I think that it should have been spoken on at this so-called workshop that was recently held here in our City. Thank you and have a great one.”

Barb Rudolph, 1675 Mt. Vernon Street, “I think Jeff Fleming had some good comments to make about the meeting format. It is really difficult for everyone watching it because we miss a lot. I am going to make a recommendation that maybe you should check with what Colonial Heights is doing. We had another citizen who recently attended their meeting and recorded that they are meeting in person and still with all the distancing requirements in tack. They are taking care of the public’s health along with taking care of the public accessibility. Which we are not really getting with this. My other question is that it was very interesting

*Audio available upon request.

presentation that the young man gave earlier in the meeting where he talked about COVID-19. And that he explored the demographics of who COVID is affecting. But he ended with three budget alternatives relating to reduced funding and how to count COVID. I felt like it was a disconnect because I was seeing things like 20, 30 and 50% cuts. It was a lot different than what the City is presenting. So, I hope we can get that explained on what is really the magnitude of the revenue shortfall resulting from the current virus pandemic. Thank you.”

Michelle Murrills, 131 S. Market Street, stated, “And I am the person that Mrs. Rudolph was just talking about that went to the City Council Meeting over at Colonial Heights last week. And I just want to say that the citizens of Petersburg are currently being shown up by the City Council of Colonial Heights. They have continued to have in person evening meetings since the beginning of the year. It is ridiculous that Petersburg, a bigger and better City, has not been able to figure out how to have council meetings that the public can easily attend and understand. No matter what anyone says these online meetings are not the same as in person. It is very hard to understand. Even though I have very large speakers and an updated computer, I cannot imagine somebody who does not. This is supposed to be a public forum but how can it be when it is hard to hear and see. And what about those citizens who do not have internet access. They have no recourse to not involve themselves in City operations. If one is kept from being involved with the City then there is no point in caring about the City which leads to apathy, litter, violence, etc., which is exactly what the citizens of Petersburg do not want. We need to have these council meetings for everyone to have equal access to the government. If you are wondering how Colonial Heights is doing it. They have a police officer to greet everybody before going in the room. They are asked if they are sick and they have their temperature taken. If you lie you are informed of this which is illegal. And if anyone has a fever or say that they are sick they are asked to leave. And we can afford to have this as that is what the Cares money is for. A police officers pay to cover the council meeting during the COVID-19 would be a perfect thing to spend the money on. When the federal government does their auditing in the next few years, money that the City has spent, if they don't like the answer that Petersburg gives, they will be transferring the grant money over to loan money. Personally, I would rather keep the money as a grant then to give it back later. I have heard that the City of Petersburg wants to keep it constituents in the dark as much as possible, but this is an election year and I know that live meetings are something that voters want. And I would think that it is something that everyone on council would want. I just hate the fact that Colonial Heights is showing up to Petersburg. We are better than that. Thank you.”

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

Council Member Wilson-Smith stated, “I sent you all, Council Members and City Manager, an email to discuss Juneteenth and making it a holiday for the City employees in Petersburg. So, I would like to put that to a motion and ask.”

Mayor Parham stated, “Councilwoman Wilson-Smith, the Governor just made the announcement today that it is a holiday. So, we do not have to make a motion. Everyone will be off for Juneteenth.”

Council Member Wilson-Smith stated, “Okay. Well that is good. Thank you. And speaking of Juneteenth, I would like to make it clear that what the City is doing with Trey Songz is actually not interfering with Juneteenth on Juneteenth Day. My event is just not my event. It is sponsored by my self and the City. It is a one-hour event only from 6pm to 7pm. It is downtown in hopes that the restaurants would get support while people were down there. And it will conclude downtown for just an hour. There is another Juneteenth event on Saturday at First Baptist Church from 1pm until 4pm. And that may be where people see the conflict. But there is no conflict for the one on Friday and I wanted to make that clear. I also wanted to ask about the CDBG Board. We have some applications in now for that board. So, what is that procedure for us to get that started. How many people are we looking at that would actually be placed on that board. Are we doing it by ward? Two people per ward or one person per ward. I need some guidance. Because I have been asking people to apply to boards and commissions. I would need someone to contact me and tell me what is what. And the last thing is that when we voted on the CDBG money, there was \$25,000 allotted for CARES but CARES is closed. My

*Audio available upon request.

question is will we reallocate that money? What happens to it? Can we allocate it somehow? The person in charge of it has any suggestions on how to disburse it?"

Mayor Parham stated, "CARES is not closed but they are temporarily renovating."

Mrs. Benavides stated, "We will get more information on the CARES funding and reach out to them. But you do have the right to reallocate. We will follow up with CARES to see if they will be unable to fulfill what they are committed to with their CDBG money, so that if you choose to reallocate it will be available. And we will bring that back to you at the next meeting."

Council Member Wilson-Smith stated, "Thank you. And someone will get back with me about the board too?"

Mrs. Benavides stated, "I will ask our clerk. Ms. Jackson is there a set number?"

Ms. Jackson stated, "It says twelve. But everyone that is currently on the board term has expired in 2016."

Mayor Parham stated, "At this time, will council in support of moving that board under Darnetta Tyus being that the board deals with the Community Block Grants."

Mrs. Benavides stated, "I think that what we are working with to make more sense is that the CDBG will still be the liaison but I know that because she deals with community affairs we are missing out on a lot of boards and commissions appointments. We should never be at the point where we have had terms expired. And so, in conjunction with recruitment of people I would like to see the community affairs help us in recruiting not just for that board but for all boards. Because we do not want this to happen again where we have these many vacancies."

Ms. Jackson stated, "And just to throw this out there, the problem that we have been having is that we put it in the newspaper and we put it on Facebook and say that we are accepting applications for these boards but we have minimal people that actually apply. Unless it is someone that you know personally, and they may put one or two applications in. But like with some of the people their term expires, and they may respond, and some will not respond upon notice. But we do put it out there on social media and to the public to get people to apply. We may need to do an informational session to explain the boards to the public so that they understand it better."

Council Member Cuthbert stated, "First of all tomorrow night I have got a ward meeting at the historic Pocahontas Chapel at 6:30pm. And I am looking forward to that. I will be distributing the PPE allocation that the City has given to me. Also, there will be the chief and representatives of City staff there. And I am looking forward to the opportunity to interact with the citizens of Petersburg especially the citizens of Pocahontas. The entire community is invited. I appreciate Ms. Tyus help in making that possible. Also, I want to thank Council Member Annette Smith-Lee for the remarkable organization that she displayed in putting together the high school graduation program on Sunday. There were an amazing number of moving parts there and we all came together, and everyone worked like years on a watch. I am sure that it was a lot of work that Mrs. Smith-Lee put in to make all that happen. I have good news on 256 Grove Avenue. You may remember 256 Grove Avenue. It is the one that we struggled with about a year and 15 months ago when stabilize to revitalize was an issue. That was going to be the subject. The good news is that I was able to get deed into the name of one of the brothers. And he then signed a listing contract and was able to bring a new homeowner to Grove Avenue. Bank financing has been arranged to carry out the rehab. So, I am looking forward for that house to look a lot better and increasing the City's tax revenue in the process. Finally, in speaking of the tax revenue, I want to thank Jason Dunn's Office for preserving through the COVID-19 and scheduling a sale on June 25th. It is

*Audio available upon request.

Thursday, June 25th at the Union Train Station at 11:00am. At that time, another property in distress on Grove Avenue will be sold. And that is the Runway House at 321 Grove Avenue. It is on the river side of the street and it is the pressed brick 1880 Victorian house. It has potential and gigantic structure issues. Immediate action is required and this is not a do it your self-project and it is not one that you see on TV where someone is to move the closet around and flip the house and make a lot of money. It will also be the vacant lot next door to 321 Grove Avenue that is being sold. I think the rehab of that house would be a great step forward for Grove Avenue. So, Mr. Mayor thank you very much. I appreciate.”

Council Member Myers stated, “There are a couple of things that I want to say. Charlie, I want to say that you and argue back and forth for the best reasons for the City of Petersburg. But I cannot think of anyone to argue back and forth then to have you here. So, I want to make it very clear and for the other two that is up for election, too. So, I want to make it clear that Howard Myers need them on board. We have come a long way, the City of Petersburg. And for some of you all that are listening, don’t think that we have been you should have been in my shoes. So, I know who work and who do not work. And I look at the messages on Facebook and I don’t respond. And I don’t care to respond. Because it is ignorance as far as I am concerned. If you really don’t know who is going to have the best interest of the City at heart. I say thank you all for being a part of what it is that we have in moving forward. I guess this weekend there will be a giveaway, Mr. Mayor that I understand.”

Mayor Parham stated, “Yes, it will be a ‘Feed Your City Challenge.’ It will be a nationwide challenge being brought here by Petersburg’s own, Trey Songz along with Pusha T of Norfolk. He did it in Norfolk. So, Pusha T raised the bar and Trey Songz stated that he was going to have a challenge in his hometown. It is very grateful for Trey remembering he is from Petersburg. He is one of our native sons. I hope that everyone will come out and support.”

Council Member Myers stated, “I say that because you and I and members of council need to show up out there. I have received calls that there are truck loads that will be coming down. Howard Myers cannot always attend all of these events. I am sorry I could not attend your event Annette, but I had to go to sleep. I needed some rest. There are folks calling me from Richmond wanting to come down to help you all to distribute. I wanted to make sure that I mentioned it to the Mayor. I wanted to make sure that all of you know and participation would be greatly appreciated. Thank you all for what you all do.”

Council Member Smith-Lee stated, “Thank you for supporting the City of Petersburg. It is a good thing and a good place. It has not always been good or bad but had the end of the day the common goal is to make sure that we bring economic development here so that we can have more revenue to do the things that we need to do to get this City back to what it has been before. But I also want to congratulate Petersburg High School Class of 2020. Let’s give them a hand because they have been through a lot with not being able to have a prom and award ceremonies and everything that comes with being a senior. It can put a little damper on your spirits. So, that is the reason why we wanted to do something to let them know how special they are. And that no matter what we have their back. So, I want to thank Charlie Cuthbert. Thank you so much for coming around and greeting the students and handing them out their bags and everything. And I appreciate your support.”

Council Member Cuthbert stated, “It was an honor to be a part of the effort. I enjoyed every moment of it. I met some good people and I worked with people that I already knew. And it was a fun event. It really was and I am grateful for you setting it up.”

Council Member Smith-Lee, “Thank you Charlie. You and I had two events. The Buffalo Soldier had their rides and they were at the Benedict Club and they gave Darrin and I a chance to speak. And I appreciate you coming out and doing the things that you did. And I know your daughter graduates. And I know she is feeling some of the things that she was looking forward too. You being her father and explaining to her that all

*Audio available upon request.

things are not bad and you have to find the good in everything. And Kemi, thank you. Darnetta, thank you all for wrapping hamburgers and hotdogs. That is what the community is all about, giving back. Not all about the negative things. But what about the good things that these kids and the people in the City of Petersburg do. John Hart and I are going to have Joint Ward Meeting on July 28th at 6:30pm in the Cool Springs Parking Lot. It is going to be put out on Facebook and it is going to be put out in the paper. Also, there was a bear in Ward 6. My brother and I hear some noises. And he was like Annette that sounds like a deer and I was like that sound like more than a deer. And so, I didn't go outside because I didn't know what it was. But I did reach out to the Richmond Wildlife Center. So, I am waiting to hear back from them. Because we cannot kill it. But I do want to make sure that the citizens in my ward know some of the things that they need to do to keep safe. But thank you for your support. And Treska I will be out there on Friday to support you and also to support Trey Songz. Thank you."

Council Member Hill stated, "Good evening everyone. I want to thank everyone for tuning in. I would like to make an announcement. Ward 2 will be having a drive-up town hall meeting on Tuesday at 6:00pm at the Petersburg School Board Office. Same as what the other council people. You will not have to get out your cars. We will have loudspeakers. We will probably have transmitters so that you can tune in to your radio station to hear. I will have someone in the parking lot to bring you the mic so that you can ask your questions. So, that will be Tuesday the 30th at 6pm at Petersburg School Board Office on South Boulevard. I want to thank Dr. Pitre-Martin and Russell Lawrence for allowing us to have our meeting there. Also, I want to thank Annette Smith-Lee. Her and I were hanging out the other day with the Buffalo Soldiers. We gave comments on behalf of the City along with giving out bags to our PHS Class of 2020. The Mayor came by along with Councilman Cuthbert to the event as well. This coming Tuesday, June 23rd we are voting that day. It is the primary, so make sure that you go to your voting polls and vote. Also, do not forget to do your census report. Please tell the people in your neighborhood to do their census. I would like to thank all the workers in the City of Petersburg for their hard work. I know that things are difficult, but we just have to be safe in all that we do and what have you. So, this is not a competition and do understand that this is trying times. We are trying to get out to the community the best way we can. That is why we are trying to have these ward meetings. I would advise everyone to wear mask. Because we have a lot of people that do not wear mask and that is dangerous. I have a sign on my business door that says no mask no service. So, that way you cannot come in my business if you do not have a mask. Please make sure that you adhere to those things. Madam City Manager, two things that I may want you to report on at your earliest convenience. I know that it has been addressed at one time. But I know that we can do a better job. I did talk to Ms. Tyus. But what is your procedure. The grass is growing in the cracks of the sidewalks all throughout our City. Not just in the downtown area but all throughout our City. A lot of times when you shoot them with chemicals, they turn brown and stay there. So, we need to get somebody to come through there and weed eat it and then spray it. We have been talking about this for a while, so I just need to know what is the procedure from here on out. We need to get that taken care of especially with the amount of rain we have been having. Also, I know in our last meeting we had the Commissioner of Revenue come in and voice some concerns. I would like to get an update on that on how our billing and Commissioner of Revenue are working together. I did speak to her and she said that things have gotten better. So, I just want a report from your end on some of the things that have been taking place. We need a smooth transition because we all have to work together. I would like to have a special thanks for their voice in police brutality. Like Linwood Christian stated, we do not have those concerns in Petersburg anymore. We have a great police force with great leaders. I like the way that we handled people protesting in the City. Most of the people that are out there are not citizens of Petersburg. My question was why you don't go to your City. They wanted to get more traction and they didn't want to do it in their City. For all the people that are protesting and exercising their 1st Amendment rights. Sometimes you have to ask the question of why my City and why not yours. We thank the community of Colonial Heights for opening their arms to our citizens as we marched across the bridge and had prayers. That just baffles me. I would like to thank our workers and everyone for doing a wonderful and hard work and I concur with Council Member Myers. When he was Mayor we went through a whole lot. We are looking better, and the future is still bright for Petersburg. There is still light at the end of the tunnel and I like the direction in which we are going in. Thank you."

*Audio available upon request.

Mayor Parham stated, "I just want to thank the City Manager, Mrs. Aretha Ferrell-Benavides, Lionel Lyons, Darnetta Tyus and the rest of the team for all the hard work. We had the Flow Corporation in town last week along with AMPAC Pharmaceutical. And we have a chance to turn the pages of Petersburg to the future with a huge deal with making Petersburg the Pharmaceutical Capital of the nation. And with this deal that we have with dealing with the federal government. Their president and all their top grasp want to do all their business in Petersburg. At this time, we have to get ready. They told us that we have to move very fast because they are looking to break ground next year. And they are depending on us and our council to take the necessary steps to be successful. Because this is a game changer for our City and this is something that people dream of. And the pandemic is having a major corporation to come and start production that has funded and have the possibility of having a \$800 million dollar contract right here in the City of Petersburg. Which it creates jobs and education. So, it is a huge deal. I would like to thank all of our staff. I know that you get the hits from time to time from not having too many people. But we have the people in place to move the City forward. And if you cannot see it when driving through here and you see what is going on with the Code presentation and you see what is going on with public works in keeping clean water safe and paving the streets. Like Linwood Christian said, we had it in our police force over 10 years ago and now we have a good chief and deputy chief and a great force that has passion her for the citizens here in Petersburg. And if you do not see it in social services and what Ms. Darnetta Tyus has done over there in bringing them in compliance. A lot of people that are just getting here do not understand that we had a City that had sunk and on the verge of receivership. And now we are a City that is on the rise. So, despite any of the negative energy and comments, I want to say thank you to staff, including Mr. Williams as well. All the deputies, Kemi, Tex, Gerritt and everyone that makes this happened. Our economic development team of Carthan Currin and Kelly Evko, thank you for stepping and getting the ground running a hundred miles per hour and taking Petersburg into the future. So, again we have a big weekend lined up and I encourage everyone to come out and support where you can. I know that this council is a busy council and a working council. I am blessed to have each and every one of you all. Thank you all for your efforts in making the City of Petersburg a better place."

14. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA:

*No items for this portion of the agenda.

15. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Request submitted by Equity Plus, LLC to rezone the privately owned property at 2557 North Stedman Drive, Tax Parcel 036-090001 from A-Agriculture District to PUD – Planned Unit Development District, to allow for a development that includes 168 single-family dwellings, named Eagles Landing.

BACKGROUND: The City of Petersburg received a request to rezone the privately owned property at 2557 North Stedman Drive, Tax Parcel 036-090001 from A- Agricultural District to PUD – Planned Unit Development District, to allow for a development that includes 168 single-family dwelling, named Eagles Landing. The homes will be placed on separately deeded lots of approximately 5,000 square feet each, which allows for ample front and rear yard space. Based on the topography of the site, wetlands, etc. the development will have ample open space. Additionally, residents will have access to the club house and recreational amenities of our neighboring development at 2557 N. Stedman Dr. Tenants would have an option to purchase the homes after 15 years.

The City of Petersburg Planning Commission held a public hearing and considered the request to rezone the property during the September 4, 2019 Planning Commission meeting. The Commission voted to move the request to their next meeting.

*Audio available upon request.

The City of Petersburg Planning commission again considered the request during the February 4, 2020 meeting and voted to recommend denial of the rezoning request.

The City Council considered the request to rezone the property during the February 19, 2020 City Council meeting and voted to continue the item.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the City Council considers the rezoning request.

Reginald Tabor, Interim Director of Planning and Community Development, gave a briefing of the request for rezoning.

Council Member Myers made a motion to support a resolution or ordinance to accept the project. The motion was seconded by Council Member Wilson-Smith. There was discussion among City Council and staff. The motion was not approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Wilson-Smith and Myers; Voting No: Cuthbert, Smith-Lee, Hill and Parham; Absent: Hart

16. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. A resolution to establish guidelines for the maintenance, review, certification and distribution of certified ordinances and resolutions adopted by City Council.

BACKGROUND: This memorializes recent discussions by Members of Council regarding maintenance, review, certification, and distribution of certified ordinances and resolutions adopted by City Council.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt resolution

Anthony Williams, City Attorney, gave a briefing on the resolution recommended to be adopted by council. He stated that there was a request from a council member to add additional information with respect to Municode and that he will pass that information out.

There was discussion among City Council Members.

Council Member Cuthbert made a motion to adopt the resolution as modified with paragraph 6 and adding paragraph 9. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hill.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comment.

Seeing no hands, Mayor Parham closed the public comments.

There was discussion among City Council Members and staff.

Council Member Myers made a substitute motion that it be tabled until further discussion comes about with respect to the system or the implementation of the system. 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, Smith-Lee, Hill and Parham; Voting No: Cuthbert; Absent: Hart

- b. Consideration of approval of CDBG-CVI Cares Act appropriation in the amount of \$371,969 for the Coronavirus Pandemic due to the City of Petersburg behind a HUD CDBG Entitlement Jurisdiction.

*Audio available upon request.

BACKGROUND: The City of Petersburg is a HUD CDBG entitlement jurisdiction. As an entitlement jurisdiction and due to the coronavirus pandemic, the City of Petersburg's CDBG entitlement program has received CDBG CV CARES Act funding totaling \$371,969.00. To receive these funds, the City is required by HUD to amend the PY2019 CDBG Annual Action Plan. These funds will be used to prepare, prevent, and respond to the pandemic in an expedited manner, while meeting CDBG national objectives. Project activities may include the following:

- Carry out job training to expand the pool of health care workers and technicians that are available to treat disease within a community.
- Provide testing, diagnosis, or other services at a fixed or mobile location.
- Increase the capacity and availability of targeted health services for infectious disease response within existing health facilities.
- Provide equipment, supplies, and materials necessary to carry-out a public service.

The Coronavirus Resiliency Project will be managed in partnership with subrecipients of Petersburg CDBG-CV funding. The initial partner and subrecipient will be the Petersburg Health Department. The allocation will total \$275,000 and focused activities will include testing, contact tracing and other critical services for low to moderate income citizens in the greater Petersburg area. The City will allocate the remaining \$96,969.00 in funding for the Coronavirus Resiliency Project efforts, including alternative housing strategies for self-isolating and quarantining when necessary.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the City Council schedules a public hearing and adopts the amendment and associated appropriation.

Reginald Tabor, Interim Director of Planning and Community Development and Cathy Parker, CDBG Coordinator, gave an overview of the appropriation ordinance.

Council Member Myers made a motion to approve and appropriate in the amount of \$371,969 for the Coronavirus Pandemic due to the City of Petersburg behind a HUD CDBG Entitlement Jurisdiction. The motion was seconded by Council Member Smith-Lee.

There was discussion among City Council Members.

Council Member Cuthbert made a substitute motion to direct the City Manager to make a modified budget to City Council when council next meets.

There was discussion on the motion.

Motion dies due to lack of second.

Original motion goes back on the floor from Council Member Myers.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comment.

Seeing no hands, Mayor Parham closed the public comments.

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

20-ORD-30 AN ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED, SAID ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2019, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2020, FOR THE

*Audio available upon request.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUND.

- c. Consideration of an appropriation for Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020 - \$2,734,818

BACKGROUND: Congress passed, and the President recently signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020. This Act provides funding for a number of different programs to address the COVID-19 pandemic. A primary component of the CARES Act is \$150 billion in assistance to state, local, territorial, and tribal governments for the direct impact of the COVID-19 pandemic through the establishment of the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF). Allocations were sent to states based on population.

These funds may be used for qualifying expenses of state and local governments, The CARES Act provides that payments from the CRF only may be used to cover costs that:

1. Are necessary expenditure incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19); and
2. Were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020 (the date of enactments of the CARES Act) for the State or government; and
3. Were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020 and ends on December 30, 2020.

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend City Council authorize appropriation of the funds as allocated and certified.

Patrice Elliott, Finance Director, gave a quick overview.

Council Member Hill made a motion to approve and authorize the appropriation of the funds as allocated and certified in the amount of \$2,734,818. The motion was seconded by Council Member Smith-Lee

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comment.

Barb Rudolph, 1675 Mt. Vernon Street, stated, "Thank you. I am sorry that I didn't raise my hand in time on the other one. But I believe from reading through the materials off this grant there is capability to use for small businesses on some of the issues that Council Member Cuthbert was bringing up. I do not know what the City folks have planned but that should be part of the consideration. And certainly, the amount can be larger. The other thing that I mentioned was that Council Member Wilson-Smith said something about helping people with their taxes. And from my reading of the FAQ's on this grant, that is not allowed. The broader topic is that there is a lot of restrictions and potentials. In the latter category of potential, it does say under FAQ's may fund payments be used to work on utility fees, if not can fund payments be used as a direct subsidy payment to offer utility account holders. I am bringing this up for the water cut-off issue. It says that if determined to be a necessary expenditure a government could provide grants to an individual facing economic hardship to allow them to pay their utility fees and thereby continue to receive essential services. I do hope broadly that you will take a closer look at all the information on this grant because I do think that this is a lot of money and it could be very valuable. Also, think Council Member Myers mentioned that it is federal money so they will be looking for how it is spent and want it back. Thank you."

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

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

*Audio available upon request.

20-ORD-31 AN ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED, SAID ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2019, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2020, BUT WITH EXPENDITURES NO EARLIER THAN MARCH 1, 2020 AND FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2020 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2021 BUT WITH EXPENDITURES NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 30, 2020.

17. CITY MANAGER'S AGENDA:

Mrs. Benavides stated, "I just want to announce to you that we have reopened billing and collections with limited access. Residents are required to have on face coverings to enter. But we realize that this is the end of the year for a number of bills. Ms. Elliott and staff are working to keep the doors open."

Ms. Elliott stated, "So, we are following the state as well as guidelines in the approach to reopen. We do have face shields that we are utilizing and mask. We are honoring the social distancing. We are taking customers by appointments as well as the Commissioner of Revenue office. Thank you."

Council Member Cuthbert stated, "Madam City Manager, what is the time? I thought you had a great idea of moving the stormwater charge from the utility bill to the real estate bill. I think that is a fabulous idea and I think that is the way that it should be. But that is not where it is right now. What is the timetable for making that change?"

Mrs. Benavides stated, "I think that we would probably have to do an ordinance to make that move. I know that the idea came from the City of Hopewell. That is something that they are doing. So, if I can work with our City Attorney to see about publishing it and what the council member is mentioning is that you have the option and you cannot change, but you can move the stormwater charges to your real estate taxes versus your utility bill. So, what we are looking at doing is having an ordinance to make that change. So, I will work with the City Attorney to bring that on board and bring that back to council. So, he will have to do some research on it."

Mr. Williams stated, "Yes, this is the first that I have heard of it."

Council Member Cuthbert stated, "Is it reasonable to think that at the first meeting in July, which is July 7th that this will be an agenda item?"

Mrs. Benavides stated, "Yes, sir. I know that if it is an ordinance, we will have to schedule a public hearing and find out whatever else is needed. But we will have information and the steps and then we will do that."

Council Member Hill stated, "We have to find a way to streamline our agenda somehow. Because this is too much. It is hard to sit here for eight hours and keep this up without being frustrated. We know that we have business, but we have to do better than this. We have to be more efficient than this. So, if you have questions, please ask your questions to the appropriate directors or City Manager prior to the meeting, please. Unless something comes up that you have never heard of before. Thank you, Mr. Mayor."

18. BUSINESS OR REPORTS FROM THE CLERK:

*No items for this portion of the agenda.

19. BUSINESS OR REPORTS FROM CITY ATTORNEY:

*No items for this portion of the agenda.

*Audio available upon request.

20. ADJOURNMENT:

City Council adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

Clerk of City Council

APPROVED:

Mayor

DRAFT