



# COUNCIL

## Communicates

### City Council Members

**Brian A. Moore**

Mayor

[bmoores@petersburg-va.org](mailto:bmoores@petersburg-va.org)

(804) 733-2323

Ward 4

**Horace P. Webb**

Vice Mayor

[hwebb@petersburg-va.org](mailto:hwebb@petersburg-va.org)

(804) 733-2323

Ward 7

**Treska Wilson-Smith**

[treskawilsonsmith@petersburg-va.org](mailto:treskawilsonsmith@petersburg-va.org)

(804) 733-2323

Ward 1

**Carl (Mike) Ross**

[mross@petersburg-va.org](mailto:mross@petersburg-va.org)

(804) 733-2323

Ward 2

**Ken Pritchett**

[kpritchett@petersburg-va.org](mailto:kpritchett@petersburg-va.org)

(804) 733-3675 (home)

(804) 733-2323

Ward 3

**W. Howard Myers**

[whowardmyers@petersburg-va.org](mailto:whowardmyers@petersburg-va.org)

(804) 733-2323

Ward 5

**David Ray Coleman**

[dcoleman@petersburg-va.org](mailto:dcoleman@petersburg-va.org)

(804) 733-2323

Ward 6

City Manager

**William E. Johnson, III**

[WJohnson@petersburg-va.org](mailto:WJohnson@petersburg-va.org)

(804) 733-2301

### **Please Note:**

These are not the official minutes of the City Council meeting. The official minutes and agendas can be viewed on the City website: [www.petersburgva.gov](http://www.petersburgva.gov)

## Highlights from October 14, 2014

### City Council Meeting

#### **4. Presentations/Proclamations/Recognitions**

- a. An update by Thomas Hawthorne, Administrator of VDOT's Richmond District, on the U.S. Route 460 project. **No action required.**
- b. Presentation by Patricia Hines, President of Triangle Center for Development, Inc. on a proposed development project in the Halifax Triangle area. **No action required.**
- c. Presentation by Jay Ell Alexander, Public Information Officer, regarding ways for the public to stay involved and be informed of events in the City. **No action required.**
- d. Presentation by Darryl Walker, Stormwater Program Manager, on the status of the Stormwater Utility Funding Program. **Presentation made by Steven Hicks, Director of Public Works and Utilities. No action required.**

#### **5. Consent Agenda**

- a. Minutes of the regularly-scheduled meetings held on September 2, 2014. **Approved.**
- b. Request to schedule a public hearing on the City's Public Utilities Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Fiscal Years 2015-2019. Note: A public hearing on this matter was scheduled for October 14, 2014; however, it is recommended that the public hearing be rescheduled for November 25, 2014, so the Public Utilities CIP can be presented to the Petersburg Planning Commission. **Approved for November 25, 2014 City Council session.**
- c. Request to schedule a public hearing on a proposed Ordinance amending Chapter 26 of the Code of the City of Petersburg, pertaining to massage parlors. **Approved for November 25, 2014 City Council session.**
- d. Request to schedule a public hearing on a proposed Ordinance amending Chapter 22 of the Code of the City of Petersburg, pertaining to vacant Commercial and Industrial Buildings. **Approved for November 25, 2014 City Council session.**
- e. Request to schedule a public hearing on a proposed Ordinance amending Chapter 38 of the Code of the City of Petersburg, pertaining to the Technology Zone. **Approved for November 25, 2014 City Council session.**

#### **6. Public Hearings**

- a. A public hearing on the proposed disposition of a portion of publicly owned property addressed as 100 Ballpark Drive. **Approved.**
- b. A public hearing on the City's proposed Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Years 2015-2019. **Approved.**

#### **8. Business or reports for / from the Mayor or other members of City Council**

- a. Consideration of the adoption of the Capital Improvement Plan for fiscal years 2015-2019. **Approved.**
- b. Consideration of a Resolution approving the issuance and sale of General Obligation Bond Series in order to finance the costs of various Petersburg Public School capital projects. **Approved.**
- c. Consideration of the re-appropriation of Capital Grant Branding, Market, and Outreach funds for Petersburg Area Transit. **Approved.**
- d. Consideration of the appropriation of the FY14 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) award received by the Police Department. **Approved.**
- e. Consideration of changing to the dates of the City Council meetings schedule for November 2014. **Approved for City Council meeting to be scheduled for Tuesday, November 25, 2014.**
- f. Consideration of appointment/s to the Petersburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority Board. **Approved.**



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## **8. Business or reports for / from the Mayor or other members of City Council – continued**

Councilman Ken Pritchett: Ward 3 Ward Meeting date change to Monday, October 27, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at Vernon Johns Junior High School. Speaker will be the City Assessor Richie McKeithen.

## **9. City Manager's Agenda**

City received the VML Green Government Challenge Gold Certification for successfully implementing environmental policies and taking practical actions to reduce carbon emissions at the Virginia Municipal League Conference last week in Roanoke, VA.

## **10. Clerk of City Council Agenda**

No agenda.

## **Public Information Period Questions**

1. Please explain the increase in the water bills? Are there initiatives in place to assist residents with their water bills, late fees or other household utilities?

City Council has always considered any increase in rates charged to our customers an issue of concern. With that in mind, City Council, along with the City Manager's Staff in Public Works / Utilities have held Work Sessions to discuss projected rate increases for water and sewer as recent as April, 2014. The FY14 Budget outlined a five-year plan to curtail rate increases at the bare minimum and City Council has only supported a minimum increase this past year and the year we are in now.

Rate increases discussed and adopted are to cover operating expenses to continue providing good, safe, and clean water and wastewater to our citizens. Just this year alone, the cost to purchase water from ARWA and for wastewater treatment from SCWA has increased 12%. Water and sewer rates will continue to increase due to federal and state regulations requiring the City to maintain and replace aging infrastructure through its Capital Improvement Program.

With regard to assistance to customers in need of help paying their bills, our Billing Office located in the first floor of the City Hall Annex Building at 103 W. Tabb Street has an updated list of possible assistance groups (examples include City Social Services, local Churches, Good Will, etc.). Their phone number is 804-733-2349 and they stand by to assist any and all customers of our City.

The City's Department of Social Services also offers Fuel Assistance. The purpose of Fuel Assistance is to help eligible households with the cost of home heating. It is designed to help offset this expense rather than to pay all of it. This program can also help with furnace re-starts, late charges, delivery charges, installation charges, and connection or re-connection fees.

To be eligible for Fuel Assistance, there are certain income guidelines and living arrangements that must be met. The household must be responsible for paying the heating bill. The Petersburg Department of Social Services accepts applications from the second Tuesday in October through the second Friday in November. Applicants should expect notification of their eligibility determination by late-December. For more information contact: Kim Willis Miles, [kimberley.miles@dss.virginia.gov](mailto:kimberley.miles@dss.virginia.gov), 804-861-4720, ext. 3080.

2. Response to statement that citizen's questions are not answered during City Council session.

The Council Communicates is sent out following the City Council session and is a brief recap of the session. This information is sent out generally within 3-5 days following. Also, questions asked during the Public Information period are answered at the next Council session under the City Manager's report.