

The special regular meeting of the Petersburg City Council was held on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, live streamed. Mayor Parham called the meeting to order at 12:18p.m.

**1. ROLL CALL:**

Present:

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

Absent: Council Member Treska Wilson-Smith

Present from City Administration:

Interim City Manager Kenneth Miller  
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. 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 all City Council Members except Council Member Wilson-Smith.

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

- a. Proclamation designating the Month of May as Historic Preservation Month in the City of Petersburg.
- b. Proclamation designating June 15, 2021 as Elder Abuse Awareness Day.
- c. Proclamation designating May 9-15, 2021 as National EMS Week in the City of Petersburg.
- d. Proclamation designating May 16-22, 2021, as National EMS Week in the City of Petersburg, VA
- e. Proclamation designation May 2021 as Business Appreciation Month in the City of Petersburg, VA.

Mayor Parham read the proclamations out loud.

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

Folakemi Osoba, Public Relations Officer, read the questions and answers from the previous meetings.

\*Audio available upon request.

1. How will citizens be involved in the City Manager search?  
**Answer:** If a public forum is planned with the potential City Manager candidates, it will be officially announced through the City's website. Interested residents are encouraged to sign up for the Notify Me alerts at [www.petersburgva.gov](http://www.petersburgva.gov) to receive City announcements.
2. What is the process for Boards and Commissions?  
**Answer:** Once an application is submitted, if there is a vacancy, then council will consider that application for appointment. As some boards have ward requirements, if that ward seat is filled, then that application will not be considered at that time. If the board is on the agenda for consideration and council chooses not to appoint any of the applicants, then solicitation is sent out for new applications for that board.
3. When will the library reopen?  
**Answer:** An official reopening date has not yet been determined.
4. It has been previously stated that the City needed an investment grade credit rating to fund capital projects. Since the City has that rating now, will the school board now have a chance to get the 3 new elementary schools, a middle school/multi-purpose room, and a high school field house they requested?  
**Answer:** The Budget & Procurement Office is in the process of developing a CIP development/approvement process that will be taken to City Council in June. This will lay the foundation for CIP development moving forward. Once this process is approved by City Council, then the strategic conversations begin as it relates to the funding mechanisms for the projects.
5. During a previous meeting, it was announced that money (around \$2M) was moved to another bank account in the mid-west that no one was aware of. Will efforts be made to have the treasurer present to City Council about this move?  
**Answer:** According to the Interim Finance Director, the funds that were moved by the treasurer are still in that same bank. If plans are made for the Treasurer to present it will be announced via the meeting agenda.
6. The Petersburg Library Foundation mentioned during a council meeting that no tax dollars were to go towards the new conference and event center project?  
**Answer:** The agreement was that the audit for FY2019-20 was completed. The stipulation was if there was a surplus for FY2019-20 above the \$1 million that was budgeted, then the City would provide up to \$250,000. This commitment has been fulfilled as the payments have been made to the Library Foundation. The City Council approved an additional \$50,000 to be paid to the Library Foundation from CDBG funding for FY2020-21.

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

- a. ABC Application for Old Townes Alibi
- b. Minutes of May 3, 2021 City Council Work Session and May 6, 2021, Closed Session City Council Meeting and May 12, 2021, Closed Session City Council Meeting.

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

\*Audio available upon request.

**8. OFFICIAL PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

- a. A public hearing and consideration for Petersburg City Public School's FY2021-22 Budget (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)

**BACKGROUND:** The total budget for Petersburg City Public Schools is \$57,833,416 which includes the following breakdown:

- Local Fees: \$82,500
- Erate: \$225,000
- Sales Tax: \$4,948,786
- State: \$32,083,185
- Federal: \$47,000
- City Transfer: \$10,000,000
- Food Service: \$2,928,900
- Grants: \$7,518,045

**RECOMMENDATION:** Hold a public hearing and consideration for Petersburg City Public Schools FY2021-22 Budget and receive public comments.

Robert Floyd, Director of Budget and Procurement, gave an overview on the public hearing and consideration for Petersburg City Public Schools FY2021-22 Budget and receive public comments.

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 ordinance for Petersburg Public Schools operating, food service and special revenue funds appropriation ordinance. The motion was seconded by Council Member Smith-Lee. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Myers, Hart, Hill, Smith-Lee, and Parham; Absent: Wilson-Smith

**21-ORD-27 AN ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED, SAID ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2021, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2022 IN THE SCHOOL OPERATING, FOOD SERVICE, AND SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS.**

- b. A public hearing for the City of Petersburg's FY2021-22 Proposed Operating and Capital Budget. (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)

**BACKGROUND:** The Interim City Manager has proposed an operating spending plan of \$103,613,656 and a capital spending plan of \$18,008,594 for FY2021-22. A public hearing must be held prior to approval by City Council.

**RECOMMENDATION:** To hold a public hearing for the City of Petersburg's FY2021-22 Proposed Operating Budget and receive public comments.

Robert Floyd, Director of Budget and Procurement, gave an overview on the public hearing for the City of Petersburg's FY2021-22 Proposed Operating and Capital Budget.

\*Audio available upon request.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comments.

Barbara Rudolph, 1675 Mt. Vernon Street, stated, "I just want to mention a couple of things and I think that it was already discussed earlier when Kemi was answering the questions about the Library Foundation. I noticed that in the capital budget there is \$500,000 that is unallocated, and I would hope that the council would consider spending first on taking care of the buildings that the City already owns like the Union Station and City Hall and the schools and the parks and so forth. There are so many capital needs of operations and maintenance that I hope that is where the money is going and not toward the library addition. Which is supposed to be covered through fundraising. My other remark is that with the American Rescue Plan Petersburg is slated to get almost \$21 million dollars. That is a huge amount. And to the extent that it comes in during FY2022 it has the potential to slant money that you are talking about in this budget proposal. So, I hope that the City will be ready and very open about the plans and not just what the American Rescue Plan dollars would be used for but how that would affect the City's existing budget. And if money is freed up in the budget and in our regular operating budget what are the priorities of where that money could be redeployed. Because you have a huge opportunity. But the redeployment of that money also needs to be public and not just a decision that is made like we have a win fall and let's just do something with it that has come up. Thank you very much."

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

\*No action for this agenda item.

- c. A public hearing and consideration for the Supplemental Appropriation for Petersburg Public Schools in the amount of \$3,538,588 (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading)

**BACKGROUND:** Once we determine the amounts that would need to be carried over in our grants, and as we receive grant awards for the exact totals, the School Board approved those amendments to the FY2021 appropriation. Petersburg City Council formally approves and initiatives these budget amendments in accordance with State Code when we receive additional funds.

**RECOMMENDATION:** A public hearing and consideration for the Supplemental Appropriation for Petersburg public Schools in the amount of \$3,538,588.

Robert Floyd, Director of Budget and Procurement, gave an overview on the public hearing and consideration for the Supplemental Appropriation for Petersburg public Schools in the amount of \$3,538,588.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comment.

Seeing no hands, Mayor Parham closed the public hearing.

Council Member Hart made a motion to approve the ordinance of a supplemental appropriation for Petersburg Public Schools in the amount of \$3,538,588. The motion was seconded by Council Member Smith-Lee. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Hart, Smith-Lee, and Parham; Absent: Wilson-Smith, Myers, and Hill

**21-ORD-28 AN ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED, SAID ORDINANCE MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2020, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2021 FOR PETERSBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,538,588.**

\*Audio available upon request.

- d. A public hearing regarding a proposed ordinance to amend and re-adopt sections 114-68 and 114-204 and to adopt sections 114-73 and 114-218 of the Petersburg City Code to establish a water and sewer connection fee payment plan program for large scale affordable housing projects.

**BACKGROUND:** A significant cost for newly constructed or substantially renovated large scale affordable housing projects can be the connection fees charged for water and sewer. Revenue generated by such a project do not accrue until after the properties are rented to tenants. The Code of Virginia authorizes localities to aid low- and moderate-income rental properties and other “housing experiments” by means including but not limited to the establishment of payment plans for water and sewer connection fees.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommend that the Council approve this ordinance.

Andrew Barnes, City Engineer and General Manager of Utilities, gave an overview on the proposed ordinance to amend and re-adopt sections 114-68 and 114-204 and to adopt sections 114-73 and 114-218 of the Petersburg City Code to establish a water and sewer connection fee payment plan program for large scale affordable housing projects.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comment.

Seeing no hands, Mayor Parham closed the public hearing.

Council Member Cuthbert stated, “I move that council adopt the ordinance as proposed with two changes. And they are identical changes in the Section 114-73 and 114-218. The change is to change the language that now reads ‘with a minimum of 23 single family units per building in each of those two sections to read with minimum of 210 single family units per building.’ My understanding is that the apartment development now under construction at Perry Lofts will result in 226 units. And so, this change will not disqualify the Perry Street Loft Project from eligibility for this program if later if this is council will to approve an application from Perry Street Lofts to benefit from this ordinance. So, the motion is to adopt the ordinance as proposed except that the minimum number of units be changed from 23 single family unites per building to 210 single family units per building in both Section 114-73 and 114-218.”

Mr. Williams stated, “And if an amendment is being proposed council made want to consider that there is a typographical error that I found in the ordinance. In Section 114-204 the read language that reads, ‘payment plan for water connection’ should say ‘sewer connection’ and at the very end of that sentence where it refers to 114-218 at the very end of the red highlighted language. So, I would ask that if an amendment is being presented if that can be included in the amendment so we can do this one time.”

Council Member Cuthbert stated, “Mr. Mayor, I would like to incorporate the City Attorney’s suggestion into my motion for approval of the ordinance as modified by why I have said and by what the City Attorney has said.”

Council Member Cuthbert made a motion adopt the ordinance with the amended changes as noted. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hart. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Hart, Smith-Lee, and Parham; Abstain: Myers; Absent: Wilson-Smith and Hill

**21-ORD-29 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND RE-ADOPT SECTIONS 114-68 AND 114-204 AND TO ADOPT SECTIONS 114-73 AND 114-218 OF THE PETERSBURG CITY CODE TO ESTABLISH A WATER AND SEWER CONNECTION FEE PAYMENT PLAN PROGRAM FOR LARGE SCALE AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECTS WITH ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS.**

\*Audio available upon request.

- e. A public hearing regarding a proposal to purchase City-owned property at 703 E. Bank Street, 357 University Boulevard, and 351-53 University Boulevard, and the consideration of an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a Purchase Agreement toward the sale of City-owned properties.

**BACKGROUND:** The Department of Economic Development first received interest in these properties from Mr. James Walke and Mrs. Nicole Walke with MLW Housing on December 1, 2020. The initial interest included a variety of properties. Economic Development staff worked to engage and negotiate with MLW Housing to move forward with their proposals, but there was no further correspondence until January 28, 2021. MLW Housing expressed interest in other properties in addition to the ones they already identified. Eventually, through negotiations, the two properties, 703 E. Bank St. and 357 University Blvd, were identified as the two properties they wanted to move forward on.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Department of Economic Development recommends that the City Council does not approve the ordinance approving the sale of City-owned property at 703 E. Bank Street, 357 University Boulevard, and 351-53 University Boulevard to MLW Homes LLC. This is due to the proposed offer price for the three properties not complying with the Guidelines for the Disposition of City Real Estate Property that was adopted by the City Council on December 8, 2020.

Reginald Tabor and Clay Mansell gave an overview on the proposal to purchase City-owned property at 703 E. Bank Street, 357 University Boulevard, and 351-53 University Boulevard, and the consideration of an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a Purchase Agreement toward the sale of City-owned properties.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comment.

Seeing no hands, Mayor Parham closed the public hearing.

There was discussion among City Council, staff, and the developer.

Council Member Cuthbert made a motion adopt the recommendation of the Department of Economic Development and not approve the ordinance approving the sale of City-owned property at 703 E. Bank Street, 357 University Boulevard, and 351-53 University Boulevard to MLW Homes LLC. This is due to the proposed offer price for the three properties not complying with the Guidelines for the Disposition of City Real Estate Property that was adopted by the City Council on December 8, 2020. The motion was seconded by Smith-Lee. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Myers, Hart, Smith-Lee, and Parham; Absent: Wilson-Smith and Hill

- f. A public hearing regarding a proposal to purchase and develop City-owned property located at 427, 429, 431, 432, 438, 440, 450, 452, and 602 Harrison Street and consideration of an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a Purchase Agreement between the City of Petersburg and Chilon Bolton toward the Sale of the City-owned property.

**BACKGROUND:** In 2018, Mr. Chilon Bolton submitted proposals to purchase City owned property located at 427, 429, 431, 432, 438, 440, 452, and 602 Harrison Street to build single family homes. The assessed value of the eight (8) parcels totaled \$61,500 at that time. Mr. Chilon proposed a counteroffer for \$5,000. The City Council approved the proposals and offer price of \$5000 in February 2019. Mr. Bolton provided his earnest deposit of \$500. The Purchase Agreement was executed on February 27, 2019.

Per the requirement of the purchase agreement, the developer had a 120-day due diligence period to provide documentation for staff to draft a Development Agreement to be approved by the Council and included in the

\*Audio available upon request.

deed. Mr. Bolton failed to comply and produce the requested documents (site plans, financial statement, etc.) within the specified timeframe. The purchase agreement expired August 27, 2019 and the closing did not occur for the eight properties.

On June 23, 2020, Mr. Bolton reached out to Carthan Currin, former Economic Development Director. Evidently from the email records available, no actions were taken until October of 2020.

In October 2020, The Department of Economic Development, after researching and analyzing the old purchase agreement, contacted Mr. Bolton to advise him that a new purchase agreement would need to be drafted due to his old purchase agreement expiring and requested he provide a copy of his site plans, business plan, and financial statement. On November 9, 2020, Mr. Bolton submitted the requested items.

On December 8, 2020, the Guidelines for the Disposition of City Owned property were revised and adopted by the City Council.

On December 11, 2020, staff advised Mr. Bolton that the previous proposed purchase price in the amount of \$5,000 does not conform with the new guidelines. Staff responded with a counteroffer in the amount of \$30,750. Mr. Bolton declined the counteroffer and asked for the council member contact information for the specific wards that the properties were located. Staff provided him with this information. The Department of Economic Development staff has had no further communication with Mr. Bolton since December 11, 2020.

**ISSUE:**

The purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and Chilon Bolton expired on August 27, 2019. Also, the applicant's proposed purchase price for \$5,000 does not conform with the revised Guidelines for the Disposition of City Owned Real Estate Property adopted by City Council on December 8, 2020

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Department of Economic Development recommends that the City Council does not approve the proposal submitted by Mr. Bolton until a new purchase agreement is drafted between the City and Chilon Bolton for the purchase of City Owned property located at 427, 429, 431, 432, 438, 440, 452, and 602 Harrison Street with a purchase that conforms with the revised guidelines for the Disposition of City Owned Real Estate Property.

Reginald Tabor and Cynthia Boone gave an overview on the proposal to purchase and develop City-owned property located at 427, 429, 431, 432, 438, 440, 450, 452, and 602 Harrison Street and consideration of an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a Purchase Agreement between the City of Petersburg and Chilon Bolton toward the Sale of the City-owned property.

Chilon Bolton, developer, gave an update and overview on his request.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comment.

Seeing no hands, Mayor Parham closed the public hearing.

Council Member Cuthbert made a motion adopt to approve the Economic Development recommendation to not approve the proposal submitted by Mr. Bolton for the purchase of City Owned property located at 427, 429, 431, 432, 438, 440, 452, and 602 Harrison Street. The motion was seconded by Council Member Myers. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Myers, Smith-Lee, and Parham; Absent: Wilson-Smith, Hart and Hill

- g. A public hearing regarding the proposal to purchase City-owned property located at 1119 West High Street and consideration of an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a

\*Audio available upon request.

Purchase Agreement towards the sale of the City-owned property.

**BACKGROUND:** The Department of Economic Development received a request from the Petersburg Revival, LLC to purchase city owned property located at 1119 West High St which is currently a vacant lot. They are requesting to add this property to their adjacent property located at 1117 West High St and maintain it. In doing so, it will provide them additional acreage and access to the rear of 1117 West High St. The proposed purchase price for the parcel is \$3300 which is 50% of the assessed value, \$6600. To support the proposal, Petersburg Revival, LLC has provided a financial statement to support they have the funding to purchase the property at the proposed purchase price of \$3300. On April 9, 2021, they provided the earnest deposit in the amount of \$330 along with the signed purchase agreement. 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:

Parcel ID	Address	Zoning	Assessed Value
024-080016	1119 High ST W	R3	\$6600

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Department of Economic Development recommends approval of the ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and Petersburg Revival, LLC towards the sale of City Owned property located at 1119 West High Street.

Cynthia Boone, Administrative Assistant to Economic Development, gave an overview on the proposal to purchase City-owned property located at 1119 West High Street and consideration of an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a Purchase Agreement towards the sale of the City-owned property.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comment.

Seeing no hands, Mayor Parham closed the public hearing.

There was discussion among City Council and staff.

Council Member Cuthbert made a motion to table action until the June 15, 2021 City Council Meeting and ask that staff report to council the results of staff’s effort to develop plans with Dr. Fitzhugh for bringing his other properties into compliance with the Petersburg Property Maintenance Code. The motion was seconded by Council Member Myers. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Myers, Smith-Lee, and Parham; Absent: Wilson-Smith, Hart and Hill

- h. A public hearing regarding a proposal to purchase City-owned property located at 105 North Burch Street, 109 Burch Street, 113 North Burch Street, and 115 North Burch Street, and consideration of an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and Little Creek Kung Fu Wudang Daoist Temple of Virginia, INC towards the sale of city-owned property.

**BACKGROUND:** The Department of Economic Development received a proposal from Little Creek Kung Fu Wudang Daoist Temple of Virginia, Inc to purchase City Owned Property Located at 105, 109, 113 and 115 Burch St. Since November 2019, Little Creek Kung Fu has been in operation at 15 N Sycamore St and wish to have the Daoist Temple as an extension of this business.

\*Audio available upon request.

The proposed use is the development of Daoist Temple that will consist of an outdoor, open air training, community and natural space that would be available for the community to use and to study and practice Daoism. They will construct raised garden beds, mediation walkway, add picnic benches, tables, and seating. The proposed purchase price for the property is \$13,200.

The zoning for each parcel is R3. The proposed use meets the current zoning requirements.

Property Information

Parcel ID	Address	Zoning
120-80012	105 N Burch St	R3
120-80014	109 N Burch St	R3
120-80015	113 N Burch St	R3
120-80016	115 N Burch St	R3

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Department of Economic Development recommends City Council consideration of the ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and Little Creek Kung Fu Wudang Daoist Temple towards the sale of City Owned property located at 105, 109, 113, 115 North Burch Street.

Cynthia Boone, Administrative Assistant to Economic Development, gave an overview on the proposal to purchase City-owned property located at 105 North Burch Street, 109 Burch Street, 113 North Burch Street, and 115 North Burch Street, and consideration of an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and Little Creek Kung Fu Wudang Daoist Temple of Virginia, INC towards the sale of city-owned property.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comment.

Patrick Ingram, 836 South Gillfield Street, stated, "I just want to say that Little Creek has done great things for the community. They have been pillars and they have been present, and it is my thought that they are well deserving of consideration for the purchase. Thank you."

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

There was discussion among City Council and staff.

Council Member Cuthbert made a motion to adopt an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase of property located at 105, 109, 113 and 115 North Burch Street. The motion was seconded by Council Member Myers. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Myers, Smith-Lee, and Parham; Absent: Wilson-Smith, Hart and Hill

Council Member Cuthbert read an email that he received from Council Member Wilson-Smith.

**21-ORD-30 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A PURCHASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF PETERSBURG AND LITTLE CREEK KUNG FU WUDANG DAOIST TEMPLE OF VIRGINIA, LLC TOWARD THE SALE OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY AT 105 NORTH BURCH STREET, 109 NORTH BURCH STREET, 113 NORTH BURCH STREET, AND 115 NORTH BURCH STREET.**

- i. A public hearing regarding a proposal to purchase City owned property located at 427 Harrison Street, 429 Harrison Street, 431 Harrison Street, 432 Harrison Street, 437 Harrison Street, 438

\*Audio available upon request.

Harrison Street, 440 Harrison Street, 450 Harrison Street, and 452 Harrison Street and consideration of an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and Project: HOMES toward the sale of City-owned property.

**BACKGROUND:** The Department of Economic Development received a proposal from Project: HOMES for the purchase of City Owned Property located on Harrison St.

**Project: HOMES** propose to construct 10 new, historically appropriate single-family homes in the 400 block of Harrison St in the Poplar Lawn neighborhood. The proposed purchase price for the properties is \$71,400 which is the total assessed value for all the properties. The completed homes will be sold to owner-occupants with incomes between 80-100% of the area median

Project: HOMES project will be supported by Partnership for Neighborhood Revitalization (PNR) initiative of Project: HOMES, along with The Cameron, Cabell and Parsons Foundations, and the Virginia Local Initiative Service Corporation (LISC). The PNR initiative is currently supporting the renovation and sale of six historic homes along Liberty, Harrison and D’Arcy Street in Petersburg, VA. Project: HOMES was founded in 1992 and will celebrate its 29<sup>th</sup> successful year of operation in 2021. Since their inception, they have built, rehabilitated, repaired, and weatherized more than 10,000 homes in Central Virginia. To date, they have renovated or built over 235 homes that have been sold to new homeowners in the Cities of Richmond, Petersburg, the counties of Henrico and Chesterfield. The average sale price of their homes is \$160,637.77.

The properties located in the Poplar Lawn Historic District and will require ARB review. The zoning for each parcel is R3, two family residential district. All properties meet the minimum size requirements for single family residential. One of the properties meet the minimum requirement for two family residential. The proposed use meets the current zoning requirements.

Tax Map ID	Address	Zoning
031-060020	427 Harrison St	R3
031-060019	429 Harrison St	R3
031-050018	431 Harrison St	R3
031-050006	432 Harrison St	R3
031-060013	437 Harrison St	R3
031-050007	438 Harrison St	R3
031-050008	440 Harrison St	R3
031-050010	450 Harrison St	R3
031-050011	452 Harrison St	R3

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Department of Economic Development recommends approval of the ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a Purchase Agreement between the City of Petersburg and Project: Homes towards the sale of City Owned property located at 427, 429, 431, 432, 437, 438, 440, 450, and 452 Harrison St.

Cynthia Boone, Administrative Assistant to Economic Development, gave an overview on the proposal to purchase City owned property located at 427 Harrison Street, 429 Harrison Street, 431 Harrison Street, 432 Harrison Street, 437 Harrison Street, 438 Harrison Street, 440 Harrison Street, 450 Harrison Street, and 452 Harrison Street and consideration of an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and Project: HOMES toward the sale of City-owned property.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comment.

Seeing no hands, Mayor Parham closed the public hearing.

\*Audio available upon request.

There was discussion among City Council and staff.

Council Member Cuthbert made a motion to not approve the ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and Project: HOMES towards the sale of City-owned property located at 427, 429, 431, 432, 437, 438, 440, 450, and 452 Harrison St. The motion was seconded by Council Member Myers. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Myers, Smith-Lee, and Parham; Absent: Wilson-Smith, Hart and Hill

- j. A public hearing regarding a proposal to purchase City owned property located at 1157 West Washington and 1203 West Washington, and consideration of an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and BLW Solutions toward the sale of the City-owned property.

**BACKGROUND:** The Department of Economic Development received a proposal for the purchase of City Owned Property located at 1203 and 1157 W Washington St from Mr. Keith Blowe who represents BLW Solutions. For the property located at 1157 W Washington St, this will be a new construction of a two story, three bedroom, two and a half bath, family rental home with a back and front porch and fenced in back yard. Estimated construction cost is \$175,000. For the property located at 1203 W Washington St, they will renovate the existing structure to a three bedroom, two and half bath family rental home with a front and back porch with fenced in back yard.

The proposed purchase price for both properties is \$20,450 which is 50% of the assessed value of \$40,900. On Friday, April 16, 2021 Mr. Blowe provided staff a cashier check in the amount of \$20,450 along with the signed purchase agreement. They have provided a financial statement showing they have the funds in their bank account to fund the project in its entirety. The estimated completion date is August 2022 for 1203 W Washington St and December 2022 for 1157 W Washington St.

BLW Solutions is a Class “A” Contractor and DHS Certified Project Manager.

Property Information

The zoning for each parcel is R3, two family residential district. All properties meet the minimum size requirements for single family residential. One of the properties meet the minimum requirement for two family residential. The proposed use meets the current zoning requirements.

Tax Map ID	Address	Zoning
024-220019	1203 W Washington St	R3
024-220018	1157 W Washington St	R3

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Department of Economic Development recommends approval of the ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and BLW Solutions towards the sale of City Owned property located at 1157 West Washington Street and 1203 West Washington Street.

Cynthia Boone, Administrative Assistant to Economic Development, gave an overview on the property located at 1157 West Washington and 1203 West Washington, and consideration of an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and BLW Solutions toward the sale of the City-owned property.

Mr. Keith Blowe, representative of BLW Solutions, gave a few comments with regards to the project proposal for the properties.

\*Audio available upon request.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comment.

Seeing no hands, Mayor Parham closed the public hearing.

Council Member Myers made a motion to adopt the ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and BLW Solutions towards the sale of City Owned property located at 1157 West Washington Street and 1203 West Washington Street. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Smith-Lee. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Myers, Smith-Lee, and Parham; Absent: Wilson-Smith, Hart and Hill

**21-ORD-31 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A PURCHASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF PETERSBURG AND BLW SOLUTIONS TOWARD THE SALE OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY AT 1203 WEST WASHINGTON STREET AND 1157 WEST WASHINGTON STREET.**

- k. A public hearing regarding a proposal to purchase City owned property located at 427 Harrison Street, 429 Harrison Street, 431 Harrison Street, 432 Harrison Street, 437 Harrison Street, 438 Harrison Street, 440 Harrison Street, 450 Harrison Street, and 452 Harrison Street and consideration of an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a Purchase Agreement between the City of Petersburg and Joel Erb towards the sale of city-owned property.

**BACKGROUND:** The Department of Economic Development received a proposal from Joel Erb for the purchase of City Owned Property located on Harrison St to provide immediate an ongoing maintenance including wildlife beatification (plantings) to the neglected lots while preserving the integrity, history and architecture that is present on Harrison St and throughout Petersburg. The proposed purchase price for the lots is \$35,765 which is 50% of the assessed value of \$71,350. On April 14, 2021 staff advised Mr. Erb that they will be recommending denial of the proposal to the City Council based. The recommendation of denial is based on a competing proposal from an experienced developer in the City of Petersburg. that includes a higher purchase price, potentially higher property values and tax revenue to the City. On April 19, 2021 Mr. Erb submitted a revised proposal for the development of single family residential.

Property Information:

The properties located in the Poplar Lawn Historic District and will require ARB review. The zoning for each parcel is R3, two family residential district. All properties meet the minimum size requirements for single family residential. One of the properties meet the minimum requirement for two family residential. The proposed use meets the current zoning requirements.

Tax Map ID	Address	Zoning
031-060020	427 Harrison St	R3
031-060019	429 Harrison St	R3
031-050018	431 Harrison St	R3
031-050006	432 Harrison St	R3
031-060013	437 Harrison St	R3
031-050007	438 Harrison St	R3
031-050008	440 Harrison St	R3
031-050010	450 Harrison St	R3
031-050011	452 Harrison St	R3

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Department of Economic Development is recommending that the City

\*Audio available upon request.

Council does not approve ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute the purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and Joel Erb towards the sale of City Owned property located at 427, 429, 431, 432, 437, 438, 440, 450, and 452 Harrison St. The recommendation of denial is based on a competing proposal from an experienced developer in the City of Petersburg. that includes a higher purchase price, potentially higher property values and tax revenue to the City.

Cynthia Boone, Administrative Assistant to Economic Development, gave an overview on the proposal to purchase City owned property located at 427 Harrison Street, 429 Harrison Street, 431 Harrison Street, 432 Harrison Street, 437 Harrison Street, 438 Harrison Street, 440 Harrison Street, 450 Harrison Street, and 452 Harrison Street and consideration of an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a Purchase Agreement between the City of Petersburg and Joel Erb towards the sale of city-owned property.

Joel Erb, developer, gave an overview of proposed project with properties on West Washington Street.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comment.

Seeing no hands, Mayor Parham closed the public hearing.

Council Member Cuthbert made a motion to adopt the ordinance the City Manager to execute the purchase agreement between the City of Petersburg and Joel Erb towards the sale of City Owned property located at 427, 429, 431, 432, 437, 438, 440, 450, and 452 Harrison St. The recommendation of denial is based on a competing proposal from an experienced developer in the City of Petersburg. that includes a higher purchase price, potentially higher property values and tax revenue to the City. The motion was seconded by Council Member Myers. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Myers, Smith-Lee, and Parham; Absent: Wilson-Smith, Hart and Hill

**21-ORD-32 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A PURCHASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF PETERSBURG AND JOEL ERB TOWARD THE SALE OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY AT 427 HARRISON STREET, 429 HARRISON STREET, 431 HARRISON STREET, 432 HARRISON STREET, 437 HARRISON STREET, 438 HARRISON STREET, 440 HARRISON STREET, 450 HARRISON STREET, AND 452 HARRISON STREET.**

- I. A public hearing and consideration of a Special Use Permit petition for a nightclub at 1706 and 1714 E. Washington Street.

**BACKGROUND:** The City of Petersburg received a petition for a Special Use Permit for a Nightclub at 1706 and 1714 E Washington Street.

The property is zoned B-2 and has been previously used as a restaurant.

The City of Petersburg Planning Commission held a public hearing and considered the petition during the April 7, 2021 meeting.

The Planning Commission voted to recommend denial of the petition.

**RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended that the City Council schedules a Public Hearing and considers the Special Use Permit petition for a nightclub at 1706 and 1714 E Washington Street. The Planning Commission recommends denial of the Petition.

Sandra Robinson, Zoning Administrator, gave an overview of the public hearing and consideration of a

\*Audio available upon request.

Special Use Permit petition for a nightclub at 1706 and 1714 E. Washington Street.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comment.

Seeing no hands, Mayor Parham closed the public hearing.

Council Member Myers made a motion to approve the Planning Commission decision to denial the Special Use Permit. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Smith-Lee. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Myers, Smith-Lee, and Parham; Absent: Wilson-Smith, Hart and Hill

- m. A public hearing and consideration of a Special Use Permit petition for a car wash at 2010 E. Washington Street.

**BACKGROUND:** The City of Petersburg received a petition for a Special Use Permit for a Car Wash at 2010 E Washington Street. The property is zoned B-2 and has been previously used as a restaurant. The City of Petersburg Planning Commission held a public hearing and considered the petition during the April 7, 2021 meeting. The Planning Commission voted to recommend approval of the petition.

**RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended that the City Council holds a Public Hearing and approves the Ordinance approving a Special Use Permit petition for a Car Wash at 2010 E. Washington Street. The Planning Commission voted to recommend approval of the Petition.

Sandra Robinson, Zoning Administrator, gave an overview of the public hearing and consideration of a Special Use Permit to operate a car wash at 2010 E. Washington Street.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comment.

Seeing no hands, Mayor Parham closed the public hearing.

Council Member Myers made a motion to approve the Planning Commission decision to approve the Special Use Permit for property at 2010 E. Washington Street. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Smith-Lee. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Myers, Smith-Lee, and Parham; Absent: Wilson-Smith, Hart and Hill

**21-ORD-33 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE PETITION FOR A SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR A CAR WASH AT 2010 EAST WASHINGTON STREET.**

- n. A public hearing and consideration of an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Friends of the Lower Appomattox River, Inc. a Virginia non-profit corporation, ("FOLAR"); Appomattox River Soil and Water Conservation District, an independent political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, ("ARSWCD"); and Petersburg Rotary Club (Breakfast)("Rotary Club") for the conveyance of an easement and a covenant on City-owned property located at 10 N. Jefferson Street and 125 East Washington Street.

**BACKGROUND:** The City of Petersburg received a proposal for an easement between the City of Petersburg and Friends of the Lower Appomattox River, Inc. a Virginia non-profit corporation, ("FOLAR"); Appomattox River Soil and Water Conservation District, an independent political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, ("ARSWCD"); and Petersburg Rotary Club (Breakfast) ("Rotary Club) for the conveyance of an easement and a covenant on City-owned property located at 10 N Jefferson Street and 125

\*Audio available upon request.

East Washington St.

The purpose is for the construction, operations and maintenance of a park and open space. The property is zoned B-3 Central Commercial District. The proposed use is in conformance with the Zoning Ordinance.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the City Council schedules a Public Hearing and considers an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a MOU with the Friends of the Lower Appomattox River, Inc. a Virginia non-profit corporation, ("FOLAR"); Appomattox River Soil and Water Conservation District, an independent political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, ("ARSWCD"); and Petersburg Rotary Club (Breakfast) ("Rotary Club) for the purchase of City-owned property located at 10 N Jefferson Street and 125 East Washington St.

Mayor Parham opened the floor for public comment.

Seeing no hands, Mayor Parham closed the public hearing.

Council Member Cuthbert made a motion to approve the ordinance authorizing the City Manager to execute a MOU with the Friends of the Lower Appomattox River, Inc. a Virginia non-profit corporation, ("FOLAR"); Appomattox River Soil and Water Conservation District, an independent political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, ("ARSWCD"); and Petersburg Rotary Club (Breakfast) ("Rotary Club) for the purchase of City-owned property located at 10 N Jefferson Street and 125 East Washington St. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Smith-Lee. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Hart, Hill, Smith-Lee, and Parham; Absent: Wilson-Smith and Myers

**21-ORD-34 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A MOU WITH THE FRIENDS OF THE LOWER APPOMATTOX RIVER, INC. A VIRGINIA NON-PROFIT CORPORATION, ("FOLAR"); APPOMATTOX RIVER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, AN INDEPENDENT POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, ("ARSWCD"); AND PETERSBURG ROTARY CLUB (BREAKFAST) ("ROTARY CLUB) FOR THE PURCHASE OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT 10 N JEFFERSON STREET AND 125 EAST WASHINGTON ST.**

**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.

JaVonn Brustow, 118 Crater Woods Court, stated, "This morning in the Progress-Index a piece was done on the Commonwealth Attorney investigating Council Member Hart on whether he lives in his ward or not. I just wanted to know why the Commonwealth Attorney chose to not investigate the Vice Mayor regarding her not allegedly living within City limits. This is according to previous citizen complaints. Also, during our last council meeting Council Member Hill stated that he would be open to some input regarding the new City Manager selection process. Something that I appreciated but I see today that one was hired without public consideration anyway. I understand that our Council Members are elected to hire the City Manager. But I think that given our history on how we had to fire a City Manager before for things like using grant money to pay City

\*Audio available upon request.

bills, I think that there are some trust issues there. Not to mention the fact that citizens are directly affected by the persons responsible for executing City services. So, official input by City residents I think would be helpful for guidance as taxpayer's for shaping the overall future of the City moving forward. I also believe that we had street repair on the last council agenda that never happened. I have been curious of about what the plans were that we had for repairing our streets. I met a resident recently new in the country who told me that she thought that she had missed an earthquake because all the streets and sidewalks were broken up. I know that Hopewell announced I believe a 15-year plan for their street repair. But I do not quite recall there being such for Petersburg. And as far as the sidewalks, I know that next to the Andrew Street Bridge Renovation project when it was announced, you could have walked directly into a ditch straight into the creek next to it without any type of railing. Which is pretty concerning not to mention that it is an American Disability Act violation. And just to look out for you all ADA law suits have been flying in recent years across the country. Just for the sake of protecting yourself I think that it would be in the best interest to either establish a plan in addressing this or at least acknowledge it. Of course, hearing it out and making sure that it is done. That is all that I have thank you."

Cory Harris, 2316 Anderson Street, stated, "The first thing that I want to talk about is the characters that keep popping up in our meeting. I do not think that we should automatically assume that this meeting is being hacked. The link is public information, and anyone can join in. So, I think that we should not rush to judgement or automatically assume that our meeting was hacked. The second thing I want to address is the article that I saw this morning about Councilman Hart. The timing of that article is strange to say to the least. I am going to do something that I have never done at a council meeting. I am going to talk about a council member, John Hart. Now the biggest thing that the citizens complain about City Council, but this is quite frankly they believe that you guys are out of touch. There is some evidence to proof that you are. Councilman Hart, I have known him for a long time. And I can say that Councilman Hart is a decent man and that he cares about the community and he is a people person. And how he has been treated in the past five years I do not like. I do not like it at all. This is not coming from Councilman Hart this is coming from me. We still are so lost. We do not understand that importance of image. With something put out in the newspaper like that for malice and that is exactly what it was. It had nothing to do with him not living at the address. It was about quite frankly getting rid of him. Because some of you have been trying to get rid of him for five years. Is this really worth it? Does it help Petersburg? Take care."

Council Member Hart stated, "Thank you, Mr. Harris."

Patrick Ingram, 836 South Gillfield Street, stated, "I just have some concerns because what started in the beginning was a conversation about what is fruitful to the residents of Petersburg. When we started this meeting off by a rush without resident participation to select the next City Manager. And on top of that there are concerns about the selection or decision to have the investigation done on Council Member Hart. It is odd as a resident and a tax paying citizen to find that this investigation has taken place while others have not. There was a Progress-Index article in November, where a council member gave mention on the record their time in the City. That was in the past and we are in the present. In terms of my follow-up and other people's follow-up, we got a response from the Commonwealth Attorney's Office that council member investigations were not their scope. So, that is concerning that it seems and looks dirty. My ask is that if we are wanting to do things that are fruitful to all residents in Petersburg is that we include Petersburg residents. As it relates to Mr. Harris statement regarding being out of touch, it does seem out of touch. To rush in the beginning of the meeting the decision to select a new City Manager and to not provide us the opportunity especially based off the history as it relates to transparency and accountability but more importantly doing the job that needs to be done. Residents should have had the ability to have some say in the decision-making process. If we can make decisions of the budget or being able to provide feedback on a budget proposal or a comprehensive plan, can we provide some type of commentary as it relates to the selection of the next City Manager. I just hope that his individual in which a lot of us have been doing research throughout this meeting and it seems that this person is capable. I just hope that this next City Manager is willing to talk and work for the best interest of every single

\*Audio available upon request.

Petersburg resident. Because the word of the year is equity. We should not be investing thousands of dollars in a library system where we have a school system where people cannot read at a 5<sup>th</sup> grade level. We have to do better, and we have to put our prioritization in place. Thank you.”

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

Council Member Cuthbert stated, “Thank you Mr. Mayor. Mr. Mayor and other members of City Council I want to thank the Mayor for his guidance in leadership in helping us to select out new City Manager. I think we proceeded as a team carefully and deliberately. And in an efficient manner that we carefully watched the City’s funds. We did not engage in an expensive headhunter and we took the initiative ourselves to search within Virginia primarily. Although we had applicants from outside of Virginia. But it made a lot of sense to me for us to focus on Virginia just as we did. We have a tremendous candidate that we have now hired. I look forward to working with him and all that City Council does. I know that he looks forward to working with our City Council and the public. I think that sometimes a few members of the public loose sight of fact that representatives of the public are making these decisions and those representatives of the public are members of City Council. I want to thank the Mayor for his leadership in this challenge. The second thing is that I would like us to address three topics during our work session in June. That is Juen 1<sup>st</sup>. One is the delay in City staff in posting payments to the account that is being paid. This is a tremendous irritant and an ongoing irritant to the public. I understand why it is an irritant when several of my payments do not get timely credited either. So, I think that President Clinton taught us the phrase ‘feel your pain.’ At least that is where I learned the phrase. But whether it is just me or not and clearly it is not just me judging from the volume of complaints that I get from 4<sup>th</sup> Ward constituents. We need to solve this problem and I ask staff to address this problem at our work session on why it is happening and what is the game plan for addressing it correctly. Two other topics on June 1<sup>st</sup>, is that I would like to ask staff to address one is the City’s average utility bill collection rate for the past three months for which data is available. We have not had that information for some time, and it is terribly important to us and we need to be concerned that it will sneak up on us if we do not keep an eye on it. And the last topic that I would like staff to address during that work session is under what circumstances should the City close streets to facilitate filming production. We just closed the streets on Monday but did not close them on a Sunday. The streets where in any significant use on Sunday but they were on Monday and we closed the streets on Monday to facilitate the filming. I would like staff to address that topic also. And Mr. Mayor thank you very much.”

Council Member Hill stated, “I do not have much to bring. I am just kind of baffled on some of the comments. I do understand. We have been doing this for a while. We have hired good City Manager’s and good City Attorney’s and have a great clerk and things of that nature. So, whenever a council person is elected and as you all know, and I understand that you do know. I am assuming that you know that we do speak for the people. That is why we have ward meetings and things of that nature. I just had a ward meeting about a month ago. I talked to my citizens in Ward 2, and we were bargained on this process of a City Manager. I talked to the ones that came out. I do understand that the people who called in and said that they want more transparency. And that is one of the things that I have wanted. I really do. But being that it is as may that you have individuals who seeking employment for the City of Petersburg. And what happens a lot of times when people names get out there and we get applications from individuals and they ask out to please do not disclose my name. Even when they become a finalist. Because we have individuals who would go and seek the names. We have had this done before. People have called around to jobs and things of that nature. Then before you know that individual may get fired or may not get fired. If you put yourself in someone else’s shoes from time to time and see what an individual has to go through in the City of Petersburg versus another locality. And we have had individuals go to other localities and talk about people leaving our City. So, it puts council in a situation when we are making these decisions. Someone said something about council being out of touch. And that is a matter of opinion. I am very in touch with my City that I have grown up in for the last 52 years. I have graduated here and my family lives here. I shop here and my church is here, and I am vested here, and my home is here. With all of that going on and I walk the streets of Petersburg all the time picking up trash and

\*Audio available upon request.

talking to citizens. And I talk to anyone. Even the ones who do not see things the way that I see them. But we have a good gentle man. But I hope that the citizens do not attack him like the way that previous individuals have been attacked in the past. Just because they feel like they did not have any say so in this choice. This is a personnel issue, and we all know what that means. With that being said, welcome Mr. Turille. He is well able and qualified. And I am pretty sure that you all have gotten his bio and all of that by now. I do understand that the citizens want to be involved in things like this. But it puts us in a predicament. I do not want anyone to get fired from any other job because we have let their name out. I want to get questions from the public. The process was moving, and we had some great candidates and this individual rose to the top. And we will see from here on out how things go. I want to thank those who are responsible for cutting the grass and getting the trash up daily. We had a successful block party on Sunday, and I thank all those vendors. And I think that council for pretty much voting unanimously for our new City Manager. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.”

Council Member Hart stated, “Yes, I just want to say thank you to Cory Harris for your comments. I do not know where all of this stuff is coming from. It will all come out. The only thing that council needs to know is that at some time I will be out of here. As you know, I have been unemployed for a while. So, I am looking at other places for employment and to be honest a lot of them are out of state. So, I have given a lot since being on this council and to have this stuff come up for the 6<sup>th</sup> time since I been on council is just amazing. That is all. Thank you.”

Vice Mayor Smith-Lee stated, “First, I want to thank everyone that works so hard in the City who tried to make our City better than what it has been to what it can be and what it will be. And I do want to welcome the newly elected City Manager, Mr. Turille. And Chief Miller thank you. Thank you for just being a foot stool for us to ensure that when Mrs. Benavides left you were there to ensure that we will and have moved on to try to make the best of what we have and what we can get here in the City. John Hart, my heart is heavy because of the fact when people are down everybody matters. When you up people are right there. You had a massive stroke where you could not walk or talk. I was there coming to the hospital day in and day out. The Mayor and all council. When you got out the hospital you could not walk. My husband and his brother-in-law made the ramp for you so that you can walk and maneuver. And the council took it upon themselves to make sure that if the people in your ward needed something we were there for them. But I just want you to know that you just keep your head up because we do not ever know the day, time, or hour that something like this will happen to us. I want you to know that no matter what we serve a good God. And you are going to prevail, and God is going to help you and strengthen you, your body, your mind, and your soul. Just remember you put God first and he will guide you right. So, I am here to let you know that I am here for you from the beginning to the end of your journey.”

Council Member Hart stated, “Thank you.”

Vice Mayor Smith-Lee stated, “That completes my report.”

Mayor Parham stated, “I just want to thank all of City Council for their support. We have always pulled together with this group and have made some great decisions. And I think that still leads today. We were put in this seat to make some tough decisions. And I thank everyone for digging deep to help us carry out the City to move the City forward. We have faced great task that people never thought that we would be able to climb a lot of the mountains that we have in the City. Thanks specifically to Council Member Hart. We came in this thing together and we have been battling it together. And I appreciate all of his sacrifice and his service and we will always have each back. And it is something that a lot of people do not understand. This council is a tight nit group here. We put our minds together and at the end of the day always do what is best for the City. I would like to take this time to welcome Stuart Turille who is starting July 1<sup>st</sup> as the new City Manager. And he just sent out a message that I would like to read to everyone. He says, ‘Thank you for the honor and the privilege of selection as the City Manager of the City of Petersburg. Stuart Turille, a native who grew up in Lynchburg, VA and visited Petersburg many times while growing up in Lynchburg. I know that this City has tremendous

\*Audio available upon request.

potential, and my mission will be to realize to the fullest. The expectations of citizen regarding the role of government have changed. And the government must change to meet them. Local government today must be an island of stability and safe harbor in the sea of storms and trouble as we have seen of the pandemic and the recession in 2008. An organization of leaders and problem solvers whose primary mission is to uplift a community to solve problems and remove obstacles. Not just the immediate problems in the community but the long-term systemic problems. Go-getters, solution providers and not pothole fillers and bureaucrats. We are offering real strategic solutions to deeper issues and lack of access to economic opportunity. Customer service professionals returning hard earned taxpayer's dollars with the highest level of professional service. The operating organization will be a group of people and resources with one primary mission to provide solution and opportunities to overcome obstacles facing our citizens and this community collectively so that we can reach our fullest God giving potential and grow this community upward. I will work in partnership with the City Council to lead this organization and community to achieve its vision in the future. To achieve this, I pledge my total effort and commitment and ask for you support and help. Because it will take a whole community effort to achieve. My first 90 days will be to conduct a needs assessment of organization community leads then prioritize the needs and discuss with council. Also, to reach out to community and listen to you. Then will come my first work plan that I will be accountable. Stuart Turille, Jr.' As you can see Mr. Turille will be ready to come to work and we are planning next week to do a formal introduction and we will get with Mr. Turille and his family and get that arranged. Again, I want to thank council again and out administration in helping us assist in getting to this day. Because time is of essence and we have a tremendous number of things that we need to do in the City and good things that is happening, and we want ride that into the future."

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

\*No items for this portion of the agenda.

**12. FINANCE AND BUDGET REPORT:**

\*No items for this portion of the agenda.

**13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- a. Consideration of renaming the pavilion located at William Spratley Park on Farmer Street after Willie Fobbs.

**BACKGROUND:** Mr. Fobbs is worthy of having the pavilion named in his honor mainly because he was a pillar of the 6 Ward neighborhood. He was a staunch supporter of all hometown sports, adult, and youth alike. Mr. Fobbs was truly an icon to members of the Whop City Committee and inspired them to become better men through his leadership and example. Naming the pavilion will encourage persons to keep the area clean as a memorial to a man who was loved and respected all over the City and especially in Ward 6 neighborhood. The Whop City Committee, Inc will be celebrating Whop City Day on May 29, 2021 and would like the pavilion name to coincide with that event.

**RECOMMENDATION:** City Council approve the renaming of the pavilion at William Spratley Park on Farmer Street to Willie Fobbs Pavilion.

Vice Mayor Smith-Lee read background information on Mr. Fobbs.

Vice Mayor Smith-Lee made a motion approve the renaming of the pavilion at William Spratley Park on Farmer Street to Willie Fobbs Pavilion. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hill. There was discussion on the motion among City Council and staff. The motion was approved on roll call. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Hart, Hill, Smith-Lee, and Parham; Absent: Wilson-Smith and Myers

\*Audio available upon request.

**14. NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Consideration of appointment to the John Tyler Community College Board of Directors.

**BACKGROUND:** The John Tyler Community College (JTCC) Board of Directors consists of 18 members from the participating jurisdictions of the Cities of Colonial Heights, Hopewell, Petersburg, and Richmond and the Counties of Amelia, Charles City, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Prince George, Surry, and Sussex. Petersburg is allocated two (2) representatives.

The duties of the Board include, but are not limited to, the following: serve as liaison agency between the State Board and the governing bodies of local political subdivisions, promote the development of a program of community college education of high quality under the administration and supervision of the State Board of Community College, solicit community participation in program planning and development, and review and approve the regular annual and biennium budgets for the community college. Members of the Board should be acquainted with the need for technical education.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Recommend that City Council make an appointment or reappointment to the John Tyler Community College Board of Directors. Also, to approve resolution with appointee name.

Council Member Hill made a motion to reappoint Kenneth L. Pritchett to the John Tyley Community College Board of Directors for a term ending June 30, 2025. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Smith-Lee. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Hart, Hill, Smith-Lee, and Parham; Absent: Wilson-Smith and Myers

**21-R-44 A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING KENNETH L. PRITCHETT TO THE JOHN TYLER COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A TERM ENDING JUNE 30, 2025.**

Council Member Hill made a motion to reappoint Zelda Tucker-Dugger to the John Tyley Community College Board of Directors for a term ending June 30, 2025. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Smith-Lee. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Hart, Hill, Smith-Lee, and Parham; Absent: Wilson-Smith and Myers

**21-R-45 A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING ZELDA TUCKER-DUGGER TO THE JOHN TYLER COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A TERM ENDING JUNE 30, 2025.**

- b. Consideration of appointment to the Crater District Are Agency on Aging Board.

**BACKGROUND:** The agency is a non-profit, tax-exempt agency that receives its' primary funding under the Federal Older Americans Act of 1965, although they accept the donation of items, services, and monetary contributions from both private and local government entities. At the state level, their funding streams are distributed through the Virginia Department for the Aging. Program that provides information and services on a range of assistance for older adults who those care for them. They provide information on the following:

- Available service in the area.
- Mobility assistance programs, meal plans & housing
- Assistance in gaining access to services
- Individual counseling, support groups and caregiver training.
- Respite care

\*Audio available upon request.

- Supplemental services, on a limited basis

CDAAA is composed of nine (9) members on the board. Each jurisdiction appoints one (1) representative.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Recommend that city Council appoint by resolution Vanessa Crawford to the Crater District Area Agency on Aging Board for a term expiring on May 31, 2025.

Council Member Hart made a motion to appoint Vanessa Crawford to the Crater District Area Agency on Aging Board for a term expiring on May 31, 2025. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hill. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Hart, Hill, Smith-Lee, and Parham; Absent: Wilson-Smith and Myers

**21-R-46 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING VANESSA CRAWFORD TO THE CRATER DISTRICT AREA AGENCY ON AGING BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING ON MAY 31, 2025.**

- c. Consideration of appointment/s to the Community Development Block Grant Advisory Board.

**BACKGROUND:** Members serve in an advisory capacity to the City Council. Reviews, conducts public hearings, and makes recommendations for City Council action regarding requests for projects to be funded from the city's annual CDBG entitlement under this federal program. The City Council makes final approval of project allocations.

**RECOMMENDATION:** City Council make appointment/s to the Community Development Block Grant Advisory Board. Also, to make appointments by resolution.

Council Member Hart made a motion to appoint Kofi Adi for Ward 3 on the Community Development Block Grant Advisory Board for a term ending September 30, 2025. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hill. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Hart, Hill, and Parham; Absent: Wilson-Smith, Myers, and Smith-Lee

**21-R-47 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING KOFI ADI FOR WARD 3 ON THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025.**

Council Member Cuthbert made a motion to appoint Ethan C. Calvert for an at-large seat on the Community Development Block Grant Advisory Board for a term ending September 30, 2025. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hill. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Hart, Hill, and Parham; Absent: Wilson-Smith, Myers, and Smith-Lee

**21-R-48 A RESOLUTION APPOINTING ETHAN C. CALVERT FOR THE AT-LARGE SEAT ON THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025.**

- d. A resolution request for the approval or recognition by City Council for the installation of information signage for historic homes, proposed by the High Street Association.

**BACKGROUND:** Citizens from the High Street Association (HSA) have presented a project to the Architectural Review Board (ARB) for the installation of informational signage on historic houses, focusing on High Street. The project was reviewed by the ARB on October 14, 2020; recommendations were made by the board for changes and further considerations about details. Staff, Terry Ammons (architect to the ARB) and the HAS met to discuss these changes. Mr. Ammons created a prototype post mounted sign which took influence

\*Audio available upon request.

from existing signage in the City to fit in with those existing signs. The Zoning Ordinance, Article 21, Section 5.9 is a signage exemption for "Commemorative plaques and historic markers recognized by the City." The project will be reviewed by the ARB again on May 12, 2021.

**RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended that the City Council adopts the attached resolution.

Kate Sangregorio, Preservation Planner, gave an overview of the request for informational signage for historic houses.

Council Member Hart made a motion to approve the resolution in support of the informational signage program for historic houses. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hill. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Hart, Hill, and Parham; Absent: Wilson-Smith, Myers, and Smith-Lee

**21-R-49 A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE INFORMATIONAL SIGNAGE PROGRAM FOR HISTORIC HOUSES.**

- e. Consideration of a motion to authorize the City Attorney and City Manager to conclude Petersburg Circuit Court Case No.'s CL20-1127, 1128, 1129, and 1130 in accordance with the recommendation of the City Assessor.

**BACKGROUND:** The City currently has litigation in four erroneous real property tax cases. Terms have been proposed by the Plaintiff's counsel which have been proposed by the City Assessor for resolution of the cases.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the motion.

Council Member Hill made a motion to authorize the City Attorney and City Manager to conclude Petersburg Circuit Court Case No.'s CL20-1127, 1128, 1129, and 1130 in accordance with the recommendation of the City Assessor. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hart. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Cuthbert, Hart, Hill, Smith-Lee, and Parham; Absent: Wilson-Smith and Myers

- f. Consideration of a resolution in support of continuing operations at the Riverside Regional Jail.

**RECOMMENDATION:** City Council approve the resolution in support of continuing operations at the Riverside Regional Jail.

Sheriff Vanessa Crawford gave an overview of the request for the resolution of support.

Council Member Hart made a substitute motion to approve support and approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hill. The motion was approved on roll call vote. On roll call vote, voting yes: Hart, Hill, and Smith-Lee; Abstain: Cuthbert; Absent: Wilson-Smith and Myers

**21-R-50 A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONTINUING OPERATIONS AT THE RIVERSIDE REGIONAL JAIL.**

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

- a. COVID-19 Update

\*Audio available upon request.

Mr. Millers stated, "I believe that I have Chief Michalek on. Gerrit, can you unmute him please. Mr. Mayor while we are waiting on Chief Mihalek I have Mr. Lyons on the line who wants to give you a very short presentation."

Mr. Lyons stated, "Just want to bring two quick items to you that we are working on and that staff has taken proactive effort towards the Planning Commission. One of the items focused, specifically on billboards. Currently our zoning ordinance permits billboards in industrial zones and zoning districts. And that was last adopted and updated back in March 2010. But if you ride along the highway and you move along the City there has been a proliferation of billboards along the highways and the City. And then staff is working on a plan and proposal to take to the Planning Commission for us to enhance the process of reviewing and approving those requests about billboards in the City. We want to at least let you know that this is something that we are proactively looking at to go to the Planning Commission that is scheduled for July 7<sup>th</sup> with your approval we will proceeding in that area. The second item relates to multifamily development. Currently the zoning ordinance permits multifamily dwelling in districts, R-4, and R-5. A part of what we are looking at staff has started this process called impact statements. We are trying to determine the impact of what multifamily dwellings have on our City system. More specifically off South Crater Road there was a development there that we all brought to you and talked about the impact on our sewer system. And we want to be able to fully explore the options of multifamily moving forward on our community and again on July 7<sup>th</sup> staff is working to develop a presentation to take to the Planning Commission to talk about these issues and then bring it back to you all for review and consideration. I just wanted to give you those two items as it relates to billboards and as it relates to multifamily development with your consent to the Planning Commission for further review and consideration."

Chief Kevin Michalek stated, "Mayor Parham and Members of City Council, there is a brief overview of our COVID-19 efforts. Providing you a quick comparison of Petersburg cases compared to Virginia. Know that Petersburg is continued to run slightly behind the state for some time through this whole pandemic. Our overall cases of positivity rates are continuedly going down every day. Our average daily cases have dropped by two in the last week. As far as our efforts you can see that the first shot and second shots are all based on general population. So, we are a little behind by that. I will add in that when you take out school children from general population based on 2019 Census, we are at 46% of our citizens receiving one shot and almost 34% fully vaccinated now. Some of our efforts are working with our faith-based communities on the congregations for schools. In June we are working on somewhat a mass vaccination for the students and then after that it is going to be turned over with out contracted pharmacies to continue a weekly basis. Our mobile unit outreach we have restructured and organized that, and it is being sent out more geographically to pull in large populations of our citizens. Where the contractors for the State are hitting our smaller entities such as small apartment complexes. We are working on homebound residents. Information should come out on that in the next couple of days. We are finishing that up today. You see some of our mobile sites that we have been able to get completed in the last few days. That list is continuously expanding. Upcoming events that are not inclusive are many more that we are working on hitting in the next few days or next few weeks."

Mr. Miller stated, "Chief Michalek thank you so much. Mr. Mayor you have the rest of my report already submitted. If there are any questions from council I will be here to answer."

Mayor Parham stated, "After seeing those number Mr. Miller, can we start working on a plan on reopening the City and a partial reopening of the City and what that would look like."

Mr. Miller stated, "Yes, sir. Yesterday we had a meeting of our executive staff members. By Friday, each department because each department is different, has to give me two communications. What it looks like opening from a soft perspective and then a full-blown opening. The one consensus that we reached yesterday without much conversation was the mask for our staff members. They are still going to be a requirement. We have to protect our staff with respect to being able to provide this service. So that is one thing that we came up with yesterday. But by Friday, each staff member and department head must give me their recommendation for

\*Audio available upon request.

a soft opening versus a full-blown opening. We are working on that.”

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

\*No items for this portion of the agenda.

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

Mayor Parham stated, “Mr. Williams any items?”

Mr. Williams stated, “Just one item. Earlier in this meeting council adopted ‘Item 8D’ that was amendments to the City Code regarding water and sewer connections creating an opportunity for payment plans for certain developments. An attorney representing one of the developers who prompted the City to take a look at this called shortly after council had adopted the ordinance and closed the public hearing and adopted the ordinance. He indicated that he had planned to show up with his client and attend the public hearing but unfortunately, they were unable to navigate the technology to do that and they missed their opportunity. And so, he sent an email and I forwarded that to all of City Council and he asked if I would read his statement to Tuesday when we had the opportunity to. I have pulled it up on my screen and he indicated that he wanted me to read, ‘The Perry Street Project mentioned by Charles Cuthbert, is my client Tom Wilkinson and I had hoped that to make this comment that this project like every project has its own unique facts which I know that Tom has made the City aware of the issues that he faces with this tap fee. The way the ordinance is drafted the payment plan cannot exceed five years. This handcuffs City Council as there may be very legitimate reasons for a term which exceeds five years. So, we would ask that the language capping the length of the term be removed from the ordinance and leave the term of the repayment plan at the discretion of City Council with each project being judged on its own facts and circumstances.’ I am not supporting or discouraging council from taking action to correct this. Council does have the ability to have a motion to reconsider and readopt the ordinance at this meeting if it chooses to do so. But it would simply require Section 114-73, Item 1D to have the language struct that says ‘not to exceed five years’ and the same to be done in 114-218. That is council’s option, and you can do nothing and leave the ordinance as it is or a member of the prevailing party, which I think it was unanimous, I think any member can make the motion to reconsider and amend and adopt the ordinance to adopt the corrections in both places. I just wanted to let council know that he made that request. And that is all that I have Mr. Mayor.”

Mayor Parham stated, “Thank you Mr. Williams.”

**17. ADJOURNMENT:**

Council Member Cuthbert moved for adjournment. The motion was seconded by Council Member Hill. There was no discussion. The motion was approved on voice vote.

City Council adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

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Clerk of City Council

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\*Audio available upon request.