

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL ELECTRONIC MEETING OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF
OF RICHMOND REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY
HELD VIA GOTOMEETING
IN RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021

In Attendance via GoToMeeting:

Board of Commissioners

Veronica Blount, Chairman
Neil Kessler, Vice Chairman
Robley Jones
Basil Gooden
Barrett Hardiman
W. R. “Bill” Johnson, Jr.
Charlene Pitchford
Patrice Shelton

Absent

Jonathan Coleman

RRHA Staff

Cory Wolfe, General Counsel

Guest

Patty Heminover, Bakertilly

Chairman Veronica Blount called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m. with Cory Wolfe serving as Legal Counsel. A quorum was established.

General Counsel Comments

This meeting is an electronic meeting of the RRHA Board of Commissioners conducted in accordance with City of Richmond Ordinance No. 2020-093 (the “Ordinance”), which was ordained under the authority conferred unto the City by Va. Code § 15.2-1413. The Board is meeting entirely by remote means and a quorum of the Board is not physically assembled. The Board is conducting an electronic meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has made it unsafe for a quorum of Board members to physically assemble in a single location. This Board is a “public body” within the meaning of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (Va. Code § 2.2-3700 *et seq.*), as well as Section 1(B)(5) of the Ordinance, in that the members of this Board are appointed to office by the City Council.

Notice of this electronic meeting was published on RRHA’s website on **Thursday, February 18, 2021**. That Notice identified that this meeting will be an “electronic meeting” within the meaning of the Ordinance, that the meeting will be conducted through GoToMeeting, and that members of the public could observe and participate in the meeting. Specific instructions to access the meeting by Internet and by phone were

disclosed in the Notice. The Notice also directed members of the public to a link at which they could register to deliver public comments in real time in accordance with the Citizens' Comment provisions of the Board's Bylaws. All such requests to speak are delivered to Priscilla Jackson, Executive Administrative Assistant.

Members of the public must register in advance in accordance with the Board's Bylaws in order to make public comments during the meeting. To register, members of the public must access an online link by which they can provide the registration information required by the Board's Bylaws. Public comments must be made at electronic meetings of this Board in real time through the GoToMeeting application, either by Internet or by phone. Written comments will not be accepted and will not be included in the minutes of this meeting.

In accordance with the Bylaws, no member of the public may address the Board unless they have registered to speak, or have otherwise been called upon by the Chair to speak. Accordingly, all members of the public are instructed to disable any audio or video broadcasts until and unless the Board has called upon such individual to deliver comments. If a member of the public refuses to disable an audio or video broadcast after having been warned to do so by the Chair, then the individual may be permanently banned from the remainder of the meeting.

Please disable your audio and video broadcasts now.

All members of this body in attendance at this meeting are participating electronically. The members who are participating in this meeting include: (1) Ms. Veronica Blount, Chair, (2) Dr. Basil Gooden, (3) Mr. Barrett Hardiman, (4) Mr. W.R. "Bill" Johnson, Jr., (5) Mr. Robley Jones, (6) Mr. Neil Kessler, (7) Ms. Charlene Pitchford and (8) Ms. Patrice Shelton.

Members are reminded that all voting during this electronic meeting must be conducted by roll call vote. When a motion is on the floor, I will call each member by name, in alphabetical order, to state their vote individually, until all members are polled.

I have no further comments.

Citizen Information Period

No citizens were signed up to speak.

Discussion

Commissioner Jones provided the following comments. He stated that once the Commissioners go into Closed Session, Patty Heminover will facilitate the meeting. The next step will be to narrow down the pool of candidates during this meeting and

then have the semi-finalists to prepare a recorded, structured interview. Those interviews will be shared with the Commissioners on March 9, 2021.

He added that the purpose of this Closed Session is to discuss the candidates only. There can be no conversation about anything other than discussing those candidates. He said “*We can't talk about changing the timeline or anything other than narrowing down the candidate pool*”. He asked that the Commissioners work within these constraints.

Closed Session

At 5:44 p.m., Commissioner Jones asked to go into Closed Session and read the following motion:

I move that we go into closed meeting to discuss specific prospective candidates for employment, particularly specific prospective candidates for the position of Chief Executive Officer, as permitted by Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

1 Motion: (Jones/Hardiman) Move to go into Closed Session.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Absent: Coleman

At approximately 5:47 p.m., Chairman Blount turned the meeting over to Commissioner Robley Jones and the Governance Committee to conduct the Closed Session of the meeting.

At 6:51 p.m., Commissioner Jones asked to come out of Closed Session.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority (the “Board”) convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3711(B) of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, requires a certification by the Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby certifies that, to the best of each member’s knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Board.

2 Motion: (Jones/Hardiman) Move to come out of Closed Session

Motion Carried Unanimously

Absent: Coleman

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Chairman

Interim Chief Executive Officer/Secretary