

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL ELECTRONIC MEETING
OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF
RICHMOND REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY
HELD VIA GOTOMEETING IN RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 2021

In Attendance via GoToMeeting:

Board of Commissioners

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

RRHA Staff

Ben Titter, Associate General Counsel

Guest

George Martin, McGuireWoods

Chairman Veronica Blount called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. with Ben Titter serving as Associate 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 **Friday, March 26, 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) Mr. Jonathan Coleman, (3) Dr. Basil Gooden, (4) Mr. Barrett Hardiman, (5) Mr. W.R. "Bill" Johnson, Jr., (6) Mr. Robley Jones, (7) Mr. Neil Kessler, Vice Chair (8) Ms. Charlene Pitchford and (9) 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.

Closed Session

At 5:36 p.m., Commissioner Basil Gooden asked to go into Closed Session. Commissioner Robley Jones read the following motion:

I move that we go into closed meeting to discuss the performance of specific public officers of RRHA, particularly the performance of Commissioner Veronica G. Blount as Chair of this Board as permitted by Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

At 6:58 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: Shelton

Adjournment

3 Motion: (Gooden/Hardiman) Move to adjourn.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Absent: Shelton

DRAFT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Chairman

Interim Chief Executive Officer/Secretary