

MINUTES
JAMES CITY COUNTY POLICY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
Building A Large Conference Room
101 Mounts Bay Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185
February 23, 2023
4:00 PM

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Jack Haldeman called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Present:

Jack Haldeman, Chair
Tim O'Connor
Frank Polster

Staff:

Ellen Cook, Principal Planner
Terry Costello, Senior Planner
Paxton Condon, Deputy Zoning Administrator/Planner
Liz Parman, Deputy County Attorney
Sharon McCarthy, Director of Financial Management Services
Cheryl Holland, Budget Manager, Financial and Management Services
Margo Zechman, Senior Budget and Accounting Analyst

C. MINUTES

There was no new business.

D. OLD BUSINESS

1. FY2024 - FY2028 Capital Improvements Program Review

Ms. Costello thanked everyone for being present. She stated that this meeting is to confirm the final scoring and ranking recommendations of the Committee.

Mr. Haldeman stated staff had answered questions via email and no questions for staff remained. He stated weightings and Z-scores by all four Committee members were complete. Mr. Haldeman opened the topic for discussion.

Mr. Polster stated this process was used last year and that Z-scores normalize scores to account for individual weighting preferences and the process was continued for this year. He stated the 32 CIP projects presented are ranked in highest to lowest order.

Ms. McCarthy asked if the ranking was based on the average score.

Mr. Polster stated that was correct.

Mr. Haldeman stated he would have liked to see the Brickyard Landing Parks and Recreation application a little higher, but that he agreed with the current ranking.

Mr. O'Connor stated he was okay with the Brickyard project. Mr. O'Connor asked if the Police firing range expansion project and Office of Economic Development projects should be

moved up in the ranking.

Mr. Polster stated he believed the firing range expansion would be funded regardless of whether the ranking was changed. He asked if the firing range and business-ready projects were going to be funded.

Ms. Cheryl Holland stated the budget plan was established last year but the funding has not been appropriated for FY24. She stated the priorities will be taken to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) to decide. She stated Mr. Polster was correct that the projects had been funded in the past.

Mr. Haldeman stated the funding appropriation for the firing range was an addition to a previously funded amount to complete the project.

Ms. Cheryl Holland confirmed this was correct.

Mr. Polster stated he would like to see the firing range project completed. He stated he had asked if installing a solar facility at the landfill would impact the firing range and that Ms. Grace Boone, General Services Director, stated solar panels would not impact the range.

Mr. Polster made a motion to approve the FY24-28 CIP ranking list and recommendations.

The motion passed 3-0.

Mr. Polster asked if County Administration provided any feedback on adding Fire Station 6 to the list.

Ms. Costello replied no, stating that the issue had not been addressed with County Administration at this time.

Mr. Polster stated he would like the Policy Committee to recommend the BOS consider adding Fire Station 6 to the current CIP listing.

Mr. Haldeman and Mr. O'Connor agreed with the recommendation.

Mr. Haldeman stated he would like to see projects consolidated for efficiency. He stated Chickahominy Riverfront Park has two project applications for paving and one may be considered. Mr. Haldeman stated for the transportation match project and Pocahontas Trail, he would like to see Blow Flats Road added to the scope of work.

Mr. Polster stated the responses received from Williamsburg-James City County (WJCC) Schools were excellent. He stated Mr. Daniel Keever, Chief Operating Officer for WJCC Schools, was consistent regarding space concerns at Lafayette High School and possible rezoning as well as forthright for the Pre-K and kindergarten projects. He stated it was important for the BOS to know that relieving capacity issues in the elementary school still required classroom renovation. He stated fixing the issue requires renovations as well as staffing. He stated these reasons are why the project is highly rated. Mr. Polster asked that the notes from WJCC Schools be made available to the BOS.

Ms. Cook suggested that the answers from WJCC Schools be included as an attachment to the memorandum, to address Mr. Polster's recommendation.

Mr. O'Connor asked if the Committee wanted to send any notes to the Planning Commission and BOS regarding the library.

Mr. Polster stated this was done last year.

Mr. O'Connor agreed and stated the same challenge continues. He stated the project ranking is due to uncertainty regarding the location and funding.

Mr. Haldeman stated it is impossible to rank a new library without that information.

Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Polster agreed.

Mr. O'Connor stated that project also may be impacted if an auditorium is added to the James City County (JCC) Library.

Mr. Polster noted the previous Committee suggestion that an auditorium could be part of the new JCC government complex.

Mr. O'Connor stated conversations during the Comprehensive Plan development regarding complete communities and increasing accessibility can be applied here by locating the new government complex by the JCC Recreation Center.

Mr. Polster stated staff and Ms. Boone should be commended for the Request for Information for the landfill solar project. He stated General Services is exploring renewable energy and solar on parking garages for potential sites. He stated this will assist with the new government complex or other new buildings and relates to the Comprehensive Plan Goals, Strategies and Actions. Mr. Polster stated this was a significant step forward for sustainability.

Mr. Haldeman asked if the Committee should comment on financing.

Mr. Polster stated he believed it would be up to the BOS. He also stated that any potential inclusion of solar would need to be explored as part of design work for County facilities.

Mr. Haldeman confirmed comments regarding Fire Station 6, consolidating projects where possible, and the library would be included.


E. NEW BUSINESS


There was no new business.

F. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Polster made a motion to Adjourn.

Mr. Haldeman adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:20 p.m.


Paul D. Holt, III, Secretary


Jack Haldeman, Chair