

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 9, 2019 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

A meeting of the Hopewell City Council was held Tuesday, October 9, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 300 North Main Street, Hopewell, Virginia.

PRESENT: Jasmine E. Gore, Mayor, Ward 4
Patience Bennett, Vice Mayor, Ward 7 (arrived at 5:35 p.m.)
Deborah Randolph, Councilor, Ward 1
John B. Partin, Jr., Councilor, Ward 3
Janice B. Denton, Councilor, Ward 5
Brenda Pelham, Councilor, Ward 6 (arrived at 5:35 p.m.)

John M. Altman, Jr., City Manager
Charles Dane, Assistant City Manager
Sandra R. Robinson, City Attorney
Ronnieye L. Arrington, City Clerk
Debra McKnight, Assistant City Clerk

ABSENT: Arlene Holloway, Councilor, Ward 2

ROLL CALL

Mayor Gore opened the meeting at 5:31 p.m. Roll call was taken as follows:

Mayor Gore	-	present
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	absent (arrived at 5:35 p.m.)
Councilor Randolph	-	present
Councilor Partin	-	present
Councilor Holloway	-	absent
Councilor Denton	-	present
Councilor Pelham	-	absent (arrived at 5:35 p.m.)

CLOSED MEETING

At 5:32 p.m., Councilor Randolph moved to go into closed meeting pursuant to Va. Code Sections 2.2-3711(A)(1) to discuss and consider personnel matters, including the appointment, assignment, salaries, and performance of specific appointees and to consider prospective candidates for appointment to various boards and commissions of the City Council, including Recreation Committee; (A)(39) to discuss and consider information related to economic development; and to the extent such discussions will be aided thereby; (A)(4) for the protection of the privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business. Councilor Partin seconded the motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Partin	-	yes
Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	--- (arrived at 5:35 p.m.)
Councilor Randolph	-	yes

Motion passed 5-0

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RECONVENE OPEN MEETING

At 7:52 Vice Mayor Bennett moved that Council come out of Closed Session. Her motion was seconded by Councilor Partin. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Partin	-	yes
Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	yes
Councilor Randolph	-	yes

Motion passed 6-0

Immediately thereafter, Council responded to the question pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3712 (D): were only public business matters (I) lawfully exempted from open-meeting requirements and (II) identified in the closed-meeting motion discussed in closed meeting? Upon the roll call, the responses resulted:

Vice Mayor Bennett	-	yes
Councilor Randolph	-	yes
Councilor Partin	-	yes
Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes

ROLL CALL

Mayor Gore requested a roll call as follows:

Vice Mayor Bennett	-	present
Councilor Randolph	-	present
Councilor Holloway	-	absent
Councilor Partin	-	present
Mayor Gore	-	present
Councilor Denton	-	present
Councilor Pelham	-	present

REGULAR MEETING

PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mayor Gore called the meeting to order, and thanked all for attending. The prayer was led by Herbert Bragg, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, led by Councilor Partin.

AMEND AGENDA

Councilor Randolph moved to amend the agenda to remove item **UB-1** from Unfinished Business and bring it back in a Work Session on October 16, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. so Council can discuss this issue. Councilor Partin seconded her motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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Councilor Partin	-	yes
Mayor Gore	-	no
Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	yes
Councilor Randolph	-	yes

Motion passed 5-1

ADOPT AGENDA

Councilor Pelham moved to approve the agenda absent item UB-1. Her motion was seconded by Councilor Partin. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Partin	-	yes
Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	yes
Councilor Randolph	-	yes

Motion passed 6-0

Consent Agenda

All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered routine by Council and will be approved or received by one motion in the form listed. Items may be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion under the regular agenda at the request of any Councilor.

C-1 Minutes:

1. January 24 and 25, 2019

C-2 Pending List:

1. Pending List

C-3 Routine Approval of Work Sessions:

C-4 Personnel Change Report & Financial Report:

1. Personnel Report

C-5 Ordinances on Second & Final Reading:

C-6 Routine Grant Approval:

C-7 Public Hearing Announcement:

C-8 Information for Council Review:

1. ARLS Board Report

C-9 Resolutions/Proclamations/Presentations:

C-10 Additional Announcements:

Councilor Partin moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilor Pelham seconded the motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Partin	-	yes
Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	yes
Councilor Randolph	-	yes

Motion passed 6-0

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PUBLIC HEARINGS

NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item UB-1 tabled until the October 16, 2019 Work Session per vote of Council.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

No one signed up to speak, and no one came forward when Mayor Gore extended an invitation.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Reports of City Manager:

- R-1 CAFR Update** – John “March” Altman, Jr., City Manager, gave Council a verbal presentation on the status of the CAFRs..
- R-2 Priority List** – Mayor Gore introduced this item. Mr. Altman provided Council with information related to the Priority List. By consensus Council agreed that the City Manager and the Mayor would work together on selecting items from the Priority List to be moved to Work Sessions.
- R-3 Request for an allocation of \$95,000 from the City’s General Fund for the contractual operation of the City’s Seasonal Warming Shelter** – Charles Dane, Assistant City Manager, presented Council with information related to this request. He said that although they could operate the shelter for \$88,500, he added funds to ensure the Warming Shelter would be staffed during the off season if there was bad weather. He said that he believed he could do that with \$92,000 - \$93,000, if necessary. Councilor Denton moved to approve the allocation of \$93,000 from the General Fund for contractual operation of the city’s seasonal Warming Shelter. Her motion was seconded by Councilor Partin. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Partin	-	yes
Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	no
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	no
Councilor Randolph	-	yes

Motion passed 4-2

- R-4 Randolph – Limiting IR and CCR items** – Councilor Randolph noted that often Council’s agenda is crowded with too many items that do not allow Council time enough to go through them. She moved that Council set a limit to Council Action Items to be three per councilor per agenda. Her motion was seconded by Councilor Partin. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Partin	-	yes
Mayor Gore	-	no
Councilor Denton	-	yes

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Councilor Pelham	-	no
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	no
Councilor Randolph	-	yes

Motion tied 3-3 (failed)

Councilor Pelham moved to postpone this item and not vote on it until the October 16, 2019 Work Session. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Partin	-	no
Mayor Gore	-	no
Councilor Denton	-	no
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	yes
Councilor Randolph	-	no

Motion failed 4-2

R-5 Partin - New Curb and Gutter Program - Johnny Butler presented information on this item. Upon discussion and questions of Council, it was agreed that Mr. Butler would develop a plan for paving and come back to Council within two weeks with a timeline of what was needed and deliverables. By consensus, Council agreed to this.

Councilor Partin	-	yes
Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	no
Councilor Randolph	-	no

Motion passed 4-2

R-6 Gore – Request to eliminate 3-hour time rule for all Council meetings (new item) – Mayor Gore requested that this item be tabled until the October 16, 2019 work session and/or when Councilor Randolph’s item on limiting council action items is discussed. Her motion was seconded by Councilor Pelham. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

R-7 Denton – Office keys – Councilor Denton introduced this item as a request that all Councilors have a key to the Mayor’s Office. Councilor Randolph moved that the clerk make keys for everyone and that councilors check with the Clerk to ensure the office is not in use by the Mayor. Her motion was seconded by Councilor Partin. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Partin	-	yes
Mayor Gore	-	no
Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	no
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	no
Councilor Randolph	-	yes

Motion tied 3-3 (failed)

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R-7 (cont'd) Councilor Pelham moved that the Clerk hold the key and each councilor call for availability to use the office and coordinate with the clerk. Her motion was seconded by Mayor Gore. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Partin	-	no
Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	no
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	yes
Councilor Randolph	-	no

Motion tied 3-3 (failed)

Councilor Denton moved that the Clerk keep the key to the Mayor's office and store it in a place accessible to all councilors. Her motion seconded by Councilor Pelham. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Partin	-	yes
Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	no
Councilor Randolph	-	yes

Motion passed 5-1

ADJOURN

At 10:33 p.m., Councilor Partin moved to adjourn the meeting. His motion was seconded by Councilor Pelham. All answered in favor.

/s/ Jasmine E. Gore
Jasmine E. Gore, Mayor

/s/ Ronnie L. Arrington
Ronnie L. Arrington, City Clerk