Special Meeting March 1, 2022

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL HELD MARCH 1, 2022

A Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hopewell, Virginia, was held on Tuesday, March 1, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Patience Bennett, Mayor, Ward 7

John B. Partin, Vice Mayor, Ward 3 Deborah B. Randolph, Councilor, Ward 1 Arlene Holloway, Councilor, Ward 2 Jasmine E. Gore, Councilor, Ward 4 Janice B. Denton, Councilor, Ward 5 Brenda S. Pelham, Councilor, Ward 6

Mollie P. Bess, City Clerk

Mayor Bennett opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and requested a roll call.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Bennett - present

Vice Mayor Partin - present Councilor Randolph - present

Councilor Holloway - present (virtual) Councilor Gore - present (virtual)

Councilor Denton - present

Councilor Pelham - present (virtual)

Mollie Bess, City Clerk, asked Councilor Holloway to state a reason for joining the meeting virtually. Councilor Holloway answered that it was by poll of Council; she opted to join in this manner.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Partin and seconded by Mayor Bennett to allow Councilor Arlene Holloway to participate virtually in tonight's meeting. At the roll call, the vote of the four Councilors present on the dais resulted:

ROLL CALL: Mayor Bennett - yes

Vice Mayor Partin - yes Councilor Randolph - yes Councilor Denton - yes

Motion passed 4-0.

Councilor Pelham was asked to state her reason for joining the meeting virtually (personal matter not specified).

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Partin and seconded by Mayor Bennett to allow Councilor Brenda Pelham to participate virtually in tonight's meeting. At the roll call, the vote of the four Councilors present on the dais resulted:

ROLL CALL: Mayor Bennett - yes

Vice Mayor Partin - yes

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Councilor Randolph - no Councilor Denton - no

Motion failed 2-2; Councilor Pelham was not allowed to participate, and she wished a great meeting to Council and disconnected.

Councilor Gore was asked to state her reason for joining the meeting virtually (on her way commuting to the meeting as of this moment).

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Partin and seconded by Mayor Bennett to allow Councilor Jasmine Gore to participate virtually in tonight's meeting. At the roll call, the vote of the four Councilors present on the dais resulted:

ROLL CALL: Mayor Bennett - yes

Vice Mayor Partin - yes Councilor Randolph - yes Councilor Denton - yes

Motion passed 4-0.

CLOSED MEETING

Mayor Bennett asked for a motion to go into closed session.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Partin and seconded by Councilor Randolph to enter into a closed meeting pursuant to Va. Code Section §2.2-3711 (A) (1) for discussion of personnel matters pertaining to specific Council appointees, terms of employment and to interview prospective candidates for employment of the City Attorney position. There was no discussion. At the roll call, the vote resulted:

ROLL CALL: Mayor Bennett - yes

Councilor Randolph - yes

Councilor Holloway - yes (virtual)

Vice Mayor Partin - yes Councilor Gore - yes Councilor Denton - yes

Motion passes 6-0

RECONVENE OPEN MEETING

Motion made by Vice Mayor Partin and seconded by Councilor Randolph to come out of closed session. At the roll call, the vote resulted:

ROLL CALL: Mayor Bennett - yes

Councilor Randolph - yes

Councilor Holloway - yes (virtual)

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yes (arrived after closed session)

Vice Mayor Partin Councilor Gore

Mollie Bess, City Clerk

Motion passes 5-1	Councilor Denton	-	no
CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO VA. CODE §2.2-3712 (D): Were only public business matters (1) lawfully exempted from open-meeting requirements and (2) identified in the closed-meeting motion discussed in closed meeting? At the roll call, the responses resulted:			
ROLL CALL: Motion passes 6-0	Mayor Bennett Councilor Randolph Councilor Holloway Vice Mayor Partin Councilor Gore Councilor Denton	- - - -	yes yes yes (virtual) yes yes yes
<u>AJDOURNMENT</u>			
Councilor Gore made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Vice Mayor Partin. At the roll call, the vote resulted:			
ROLL CALL: Motion passes 5-1.	Mayor Bennett Councilor Randolph Councilor Holloway Vice Mayor Partin Councilor Gore Councilor Denton	- - - -	yes yes yes (virtual) yes yes no
Meeting adjourned.			
			Mayor Bennett