

MINUTES OF THE MAY 20, 2020 CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting of the Hopewell City Council was held Tuesday, May 20, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was scheduled to be held by electronic communication only, pursuant to Va. Code § 2.2-3708(A)(3).

PRESENT: Jasmine Gore, Mayor, Ward 4
Patience Bennett, Vice Mayor, Ward 7
Deborah Randolph, Councilor, Ward 1
Arlene Holloway, Councilor, Ward 2
John B. Partin, Jr., Councilor Ward 3
Janice B. Denton, Councilor, Ward 5
Brenda Pelham, Councilor, Ward 6

John M. Altman, Jr., City Manager
Sandra R. Robinson, City Attorney
Camisha M. Brown, Interim City Clerk

ABSENT: John B. Partin, Jr., Councilor Ward 3

ROLL CALL

Mayor Gore opened the meeting at 6:03p.m. Due to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), the meeting was held via Zoom Video Communications. Council was allowed to either call in on the telephone, or were able to video in using a smart phone, computer, laptop, or tablet. Citizens were able to watch the meeting live via YouTube. Mayor Gore waited a couple of minutes for everyone to get logged in or to call in. Mayor Gore requested a roll call, as follows:

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

SPECIAL MEETING

Mayor Gore presented the minutes from August 13, 2019 where Council had a discussion with the Commissioner of the Revenue and Treasurer's office about a situation brought to Council's attention. She stated that the motion was originally made by Councilor Randolph and was amended by Councilor Pelham that Council would obtain quotes to conduct a forensic audit in the respective departments. March Altman, City Manager, gave a brief introduction for Mr. Ed Herbst. He is a manager for Ernst & Young and has been with the company for 6 years. Prior to that he worked with the FBI for 26 years. He recently conducted an audit for the City of Petersburg. Mr. Ed Herbst introduced his staff that were on the call to assist him. Mr. Herbst presented a PowerPoint presentation to Council. He discussed that the departments Council wanted looked at were Accounting for cash collections, wastewater facility finances, Stormwater fund and the Beacon. Councilor Denton asked if the Treasurer's office would be included. Mr. Herbst asked Council if there were any specific concerns they wanted to discuss. Mr. Herbst continued to present and discussed fraud risk assessments vs. forensic or compliance audits, benefits of a Fraud Risk assessment, Fraud Risk Methodology and the process to conduct a fraud risk assessment. After Mr.

Herbst presentation, Council had the opportunity to ask Mr. Herbst questions in regards to what was presented. Mayor Gore requested Mr. Altman reach back out to Mr. Herbst at a later time for Council to receive an update.

ADJOURN

Meeting was terminated at 7:15 p.m.

Jasmine E. Gore, Mayor

Camisha M. Brown, Assistant City Clerk