

MINUTES OF THE MAY 12, 2020 CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

A regular meeting of the Hopewell City Council was held Tuesday, May 12, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was scheduled to be held by electronic communication only, pursuant to Va. Code § 2.2-3708(A)(3).

PRESENT: Jasmine E. 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
Charles Dane, Assistant City Manager
Sandra R. Robinson, City Attorney
Camisha M. Brown, Assistant City Clerk

ROLL CALL

Mayor Gore opened the meeting at 5:33 p.m. Roll call was taken as follows:

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

CLOSED MEETING

At 5:35 p.m., Councilor Pelham 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, and performance of specific appointees and employees and consideration/discussion of prospective candidates for employment and appointment; (A)(3) and (A)(6) to discuss the investment of public funds for the acquisition of real property for a public purpose where bargaining is involved, and discussion in open meeting would adversely affect the City's bargaining position and financial interest; (A)(7) and (8) to consult with legal counsel and be briefed by staff regarding probable litigation and specific legal matters where such briefing and consultation in open meeting would adversely affect the City's litigating posture; 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 Randolph	-	yes
Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Partin	-	yes
Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	yes

Motion passed 7-0

RECONVENE OPEN MEETING

At 7:45 p.m. Councilor Pelham moved that Council come out of Closed Session. Her motion was seconded by Mayor Gore. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Randolph	-	yes
Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Partin	-	yes
Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	-- (not on call)

Motion passed 6-0

CERTIFICATION

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:

Councilor Randolph	-	yes
Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Partin	-	yes
Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	-- (not on call)

ROLL CALL

At 7:47 p.m., Roll call was taken as follows:

Councilor Randolph	-	yes
Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Partin	-	yes
Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	yes(arrived back on call at 7:47 PM)

REGULAR MEETING

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

At 7:52 p.m. Mayor Gore called the meeting to order, and thanked all for attending. The prayer was led by Herbert Bragg, Director, Intergovernmental & Public Affairs, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, led by Councilor Randolph.

AMEND/ADOPT AGENDA

Councilor Denton moved to remove item UB-2 and to end the meeting at 10:10 to address citizens and to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilor Partin. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 4-3

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. April 28th Minutes

C-2 Pending List:

C-3 Routine Approval of Work Sessions: April 30, May 5, May 14, May 19, and May 21

C-4 Personnel Change Report & Financial Report:

1. Personnel Report- May 1, 2020

C-5 Ordinances on Second & Final Reading:

C-6 Routine Grant Approval:

C-7 Public Hearing Announcement:

1. FY21 Budget Public Hearing

C-8 Information for Council Review:

C-9 Resolutions/Proclamations/Presentations:

1. Child Abuse Prevention

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

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

Motion passed 6-1

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

UB-1 Forensic Audit Timeline/Quote (BP) – Council discussed the potential of having a Forensic Audit. Councilor Pelham moved to appropriate between \$150-200,000 for forensic audit that will commence sometime in July 2020. The motion was seconded by Mayor Gore.

Councilor Denton moved to make a substitute motion. Her motion was seconded by Councilor Randolph. Upon the roll call the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 4-3

Councilor Denton moved to have two Councilors, preferably Councilor Pelham and Councilor Randolph, have a meeting with the City Manager and auditor and bring back recommendations to Council at the next meeting. Her motion was seconded by Councilor Randolph. Vice-Mayor Bennett made an amendment to include all of Council. Councilor Denton and Randolph accepted the amendment.

After discussion by Council, Councilor Pelham moved to substitute the motion to set aside \$100,000 as an initial deposit for the Forensic Audit pending the outcome of the 2018 CAFR audit. The motion was seconded by Councilor Holloway. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 4-3

There was discussion by Council and Councilor Pelham requested to withdraw her motion.

The current motion originally moved by Councilor Denton, amended by Vice Mayor Bennett and seconded by Councilor Randolph to have all of Council meet with the City Manager and Auditor and bring back recommendations to the next Council meeting. Councilor Partin requested a call for the vote to end discussion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 7-0

After the call for the vote passed, Council voted on Councilor Denton's amended motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 7-0

Councilor Pelham moved to move the agenda item the Reports of the City Attorney up and discuss. The motion was seconded by Councilor Denton. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 7-0

Reports of City Attorney: 1 Place Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requests and Liens with the

City Attorney- Sandra Robinson, City Attorney, stated to Council that due to her office being fully staffed, they would be able to take on the responsibilities of processing FOIA requests and Liens. Councilor Randolph moved for Council to vote on placing FOIA and Liens with the City Attorney's Office. Her motion was seconded by Councilor Pelham. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Randolph	-	yes
Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Partin	-	yes
Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	-- (not on call)

Motion passed 6-0

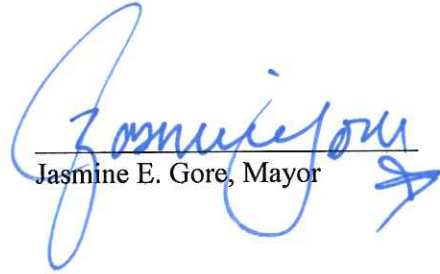
At 10:10 PM, each Councilor was given the opportunity to speak to citizens to provide information and/or provided updates to citizens located in their Ward.

ADJOURN

The Zoom call was terminated at 10:26 PM.



Camisha M. Brown
Camisha M. Brown, Assistant City Clerk



Jasmine E. Gore
Jasmine E. Gore, Mayor