

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 14, 2020 CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

A regular meeting of the Hopewell City Council was held Tuesday, April 14, 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 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, Assistant City Clerk

ROLL CALL

Mayor Gore opened the meeting at 5:42 p.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. At 5:44 p.m., Mayor Gore requested a roll call, 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 5:47 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. Councilor Denton seconded the motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 7-0

RECONVENE OPEN MEETING

At 7:37 p.m. Councilor Partin moved that Council come out of Closed Session. Her motion was seconded by Mayor Gore. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

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

Motion failed 7-0

**motion failed due to quorum not maintained or achieved*

REGULAR MEETING

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

Mayor Gore thanked everyone for joining the meeting. Herbert Bragg, Director, Intergovernmental & Public Affairs prayed, after which Councilor Denton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AMEND/ADOPT AGENDA

Councilor Denton moved to amend the agenda by moving R-2 up to before the Unfinished Business. Her motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Bennett. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 6-1

Councilor Pelham moved to amend the agenda to remove UB-4 from the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mayor Gore. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion failed 4-3

**Per the City Attorney, vote needed 2/3 majority to pass*

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. March 24, March 31, April 7 and April 9, 2020

C-2 Pending List:

- 1. Pending List
- 2. Pending List - Top Priorities

C-3 Routine Approval of Work Sessions:

C-4 Personnel Change Report & Financial Report:

- 1. Personnel Change Report

C-5 Ordinances on Second & Final Reading:

C-6 Routine Grant Approval:

C-7 Public Hearing Announcement:

C-8 Information for Council Review:

C-9 Resolutions/Proclamations/Presentations:

C-10 Other Announcements:

Councilor Denton moved to amend the Consent Agenda to remove C-2. Her motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Bennett. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 4-3

R-2 The Local Choice (TLC) Annual Insurance Renewal- Jennifer Sears, Director, Human Resources discussed the upcoming renewal for Health Insurance. She notified Council that there would be a 6.3% increase in the healthcare premium for the new year. Jennifer presented slides that showed the proposed rates for premiums and Early Retirees. She recommended Council to take action and to approve that the City absorb the 6.3% increase to prevent City Employees from paying an increased premium.

Councilor Denton moved to approve the City Administration’s recommendation to keep employee premiums the same for 2020-2021 and for the City to absorb the costs of the increase. Her motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Bennett.

Councilor Randolph moved to amend the motion to also add to maintain cost sharing for the retirees. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 7-0

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

UB-1 Setting up a special account for the Francisco Landing project proceeds.- Charles Dane, Assistant City Manager discussed the request of wanting to put the funds into a separate account instead of the general fund account. Councilors ask questions in regards to what type of account they wanted to place the funds into.

Councilor Pelham moved to postpone UB-1 to some future date no later than December 2020 for discussion. The motion was seconded by Councilor Partin. Upon roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 6-1

UB-2 DHR Historical Marker – Kippax Plantation Archaeological Site- Councilor Denton approached the City Manager about using her Ward Improvement Fund and to get approval from Council to submit an application for a Historic Highway Marker.

Councilor Pelham moved to apply to place a Historic Highway Marker to recognize the Kippax Plantation Archaeological Site and the graves of Jane Rolfe Bolling and Thomas Rolfe and son of Pocahontas. The motion was seconded by Councilor Partin.

Councilor Randolph amended to add granddaughter of Pocahontas. Councilor Partin moved to limit discussion and call for the vote. His motion was seconded by Mayor Gore. Upon roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 7-0

UB-3 Request to transfer funds- Councilor Partin is requesting to split his Ward funds between the City Engineer Citywide paving program and the City Stormwater Department.

Councilor Partin moved to move \$4,678.50 to the City Engineer paving program and \$4,678.57 to the Stormwater Department. His motion failed due to lack of a second.

Councilor Partin moved to have UB-3 become UB-1 for next meeting agenda. His motion was seconded by Councilor Randolph. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 6-1

UB-4 Request to transfer funds- There was no discussion by Council due to prior vote to have this item removed. At the advisement of the City Attorney, this item was skipped.

UB-5 Request for Council to take action for the Vice Mayor to continue as the point of contact for the Clerk’s Office

Vice Mayor Bennett moved to request for action for the Vice Mayor to continue as point of contact for the Clerk’s Office. Her motion was seconded by Councilor Randolph.

Councilor Pelham moved to make an amended motion to place the Mayor back in the role or have the Mayor and Vice Mayor as point of contact together. The motion was seconded by Mayor Gore. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion fails 4-3

Vice Mayor Bennett moved to limit discussion and call for the vote. Her motion was seconded by Councilor Randolph.

At 10:15 p.m., Vice Mayor Bennett moved to adjourn the meeting. Her motion was seconded by Councilor Pelham. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion fails 4-3

ADJOURN

By rule of Council, this meeting ended at 10:30 p.m.

Jasmine E. Gore, Mayor

Camisha Brown, Assistant City Clerk