

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL HELD APRIL 30, 2019

A Special Meeting of Hopewell City Council was held Tuesday, April 30, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, Municipal Building, and 300 North Main Street, Hopewell, Virginia.

PRESENT: Jasmine E. Gore, Mayor, Ward 4
Patience Bennett, Vice Mayor, Ward 7 (arrived 6:45 p.m.)*
Deborah Randolph, Councilor, Ward 1
Arlene Holloway, Councilor, Ward 2
John B. Partin, Jr., Councilor, Ward 3
Janice Denton, Councilor, Ward 5
Brenda Pelham, Councilor, Ward 6

Ronnieye L. Arrington, City Clerk
John M. Altman, Jr., City Manager
Stefan Calos, Sands Anderson PC, City Attorney

ABSENT:

*Vice Mayor Bennett did not actually take the dais until 7:45 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Gore opened the meeting at 6:36 p.m. Roll call was taken as follows:

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

Mayor Gore asked Stefan Calos to advise how, at some point Council could revise the agenda to go into closed session to discuss City Attorney. He said he would do so. Mayor Gore then turned the Work Session over to March Altman, City Manager.

WORK SESSION

Mr. Altman opened the meeting by requesting that Council open the large binders given to them previously. Mr. Altman also advised Council of a typo regarding the real estate bill, noting that it was due on the 15th, not the 5th. He also noted that the public hearing for the tax rate would be held May 7, 2019. He noted that Council had made a request of him regarding the Office on Youth budget, and said he had provided Council the requested information. Discussion ensued. There were several requests made of Mr. Altman during this meeting, including:

Requestor	Request
Gore	Requested meeting with Altman to discuss the errors in the OYO budget requests.
Gore/Pelham	Who input the budget information for the Office on Youth?
Partin	If we increase the Rainy Day fund by 1%, how much money would we

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Requestor	Request
	have to move into the Fund?
Gore	Last year a \$1M stormwater fund was created. How much of the allocation will be used for neighborhood projects? What percentage will be used for the community?
Pelham	If there is any increase in revenue from any plant expanding, can we do something for the neighborhood infrastructure? Will there be anything additional this year? She asked that any such additional funding be put in a separate account.
Denton	When the Treasurer issues her 30-day report to Council, please include the status of collection efforts.
Gore	Status of any items that had been unfrozen/released due to incomplete CAFR's. Council had frozen certain items and positions until the CAFR's were completed. Mr. Altman advised that he was moving forward and not looking at things that happened prior to his arrival. Gore requested a list of those items.
Partin	Can we look at paving and VDOT funds to see if there remains \$500k, or how much remains for neighborhood road paving
Gore	Any revisions to the budget be provided to Council at the next work session.
Partin	If increased the stormwater fee by \$1, how much money would that be. Could that be used to improve the neighborhood infrastructure?
Gore	Status of collections for wastewater, and information regarding how/if there is new collector and if so, how have collections improved; who is third-party biller?
Pelham	To verify information on budget for schools, Altman to meet with schools and get their budget
Pelham	What company holds the contract for grass cutting for the Cemetery?
Gore	Financial report from Beacon, including breakdown of how \$100k spent for community events
Pelham	Request for all monies paid for litigation, including to Sands Anderson. List all memberships. Request breakdown for non-departmental contingencies from litigation.
Denton	Request financials from June of last year to current for the Beacon, Hopewell Downtown Partnership and the Office on Youth.
Bennett	Immediately after November 30, 2019, request staff to report back to Council re the CAFR's audit findings and actions to be taken re same
Gore	Request CPMT Chairman to come present to Council; request update on Karriem case; request information re CASA actions regarding update and review of their finances
Pelham/Gore	Request information from all requestors of City funds re what was done with the money previously given.
Pelham/Gore	Request internal audit after completion of CAFR's
Pelham	Can donations to colleges be divided equally, regardless of requests?
Pelham	When does contract end with the Shelter? Mr. Dane said they would be coming to Council in May re same

Gore asked about tax relief for the elderly, 65 or older. Commissioner of Revenue, Debbie Reason came forward and said that Hopewell already had this relief, and that it was set based on median

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income. She said that she had based the tax relief on Code of Virginia § 58.1-30.210 and she believed she had already maxed out all of the relief to which we were entitled.

CLOSED SESSION

Councilor Pelham moved to amend the agenda to go into Closed Session for discussion of appointee of City Council (City Attorney). Her motion was seconded by Mayor Gore. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion failed 6-1 (this motion to amend the agenda at a Work Session required a unanimous vote)

ADJOURN

At 9:31 p.m., Councilor Pelham moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Partin seconded the motion. All councilors responded “aye” to the question. Meeting was adjourned.

*Councilor Partin submitted a Transactional Disclosure statement stating that because he is a member of several groups/organizations receiving funding through the draft budget (e.g., FOLAR, SCRCD Council, VSU, Historic Hopewell Foundation, and the Water Renewal Commission), he discussed but did not vote on any items regarding the budget. Councilor Partin further advised that should there have been a need to vote, he would have been able to do so fairly, objectively and in the public interest.

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

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