

## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL HELD AUGUST 13, 2019

A Special Meeting of Hopewell City Council was held Tuesday, August 13, 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  
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

John M. Altman, Jr., City Manager  
Charles Dane, Assistant City Manager  
Ronnieye L. Arrington, City Clerk  
Debra McKnight, Assistant City Clerk  
Stefan Calos, Sands Anderson PC, City Attorney

### ROLL CALL

Mayor Gore opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Roll call was taken as follows:

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

### CLOSED SESSION

At 6:32 p.m. Councilor Partin moved to go into closed meeting pursuant to Va. Code Section 2.2-3711(A) (7) and (A) (8) to consult with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice, and be briefed by staff members pertaining to probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body. His motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Bennett. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Randolph	-	yes

---

**August 13, 2019  
Special Meeting**

Mayor Gore	-	yes
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	yes
Councilor Partin	-	yes

**Motion passed 7-0**

**RECONVENE OPEN MEETING**

Council convened into Open Session at 6:57 p.m. and 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 vote resulted:

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

**Motion passed 7-0**

**ACTION ITEMS FROM CLOSED**

Councilor Partin moved to authorize an offer letter and for the City Manager and City Attorney to perform all acts necessary to acquire parcels of land necessary for the Riverwalk Project, Phase 2, including the filing of pleadings to effectuate condemnation. Councilor Denton seconded his motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

**Motion passed 7-0**

**August 13, 2019  
Special Meeting**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

Mayor Gore asked Councilor Randolph who called this Special Meeting to introduce the subject of the meeting. Councilor Randolph turned the meeting over to the City Attorney for her input on whether or not anyone could “ban” someone from the Municipal Building and/or file trespass charges. Sandra Robinson, City Attorney, opined that only the owner of a property could ban someone from that property. Thus, unless City Council vested that authority in someone, only they could ban someone from City property. Ms. Robinson also stated that she had met informally with the Commissioner of Revenue and advised her of these findings, but would need a motion from Council to formalize the discussion. Upon extended discussion, Councilor Pelham moved to end debate. There was no objection, so discussion was ended. Councilor Pelham then moved that only City Council can ban someone from City Property. Councilor Holloway seconded the motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

**Motion passed 4-3**

**SB-1 Offices of the Treasurer and Commissioner of Revenue**

Councilor Randolph discussed items related to the issue between the two Constitutional offices. There was extended debate and discussion. Councilor Randolph moved that an internal audit be performed for the Treasurer’s Office to get the training or whatever else they may need to get the Treasurer’s office where it needs to be. Her motion was seconded by Councilor Partin. Upon additional debate. Councilor Pelham amended Councilor Randolph’s original motion to request that a forensic audit be conducted for the whole city, either by department, or as a whole.

Councilor Partin then made a substitute motion to postpone the decision on an audit, and to allow the City Manager and the Finance Director to obtain quotes on the various types of audits. His motion was seconded by Councilor Denton. The City Attorney advised Councilor Partin that he first needed to make a motion requesting that Council allow him to make a substitute motion. Councilor Partin moved to be allowed to make a substitute motion. His motion was seconded by Councilor Denton. Upon the roll call the vote resulted:

Councilor Holloway	-	no
Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	no
Councilor Randolph	-	yes
Mayor Gore	-	no

**August 13, 2019  
Special Meeting**

Vice Mayor Bennett	-	no
Councilor Partin	-	yes

**Motion failed 3-4**

Council then went back to the amended motion made by Councilor Pelham, and seconded by Vice Mayor Bennett. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

**Motion passed 4-3**

**SB-2 Work Place Safety**

John M. Altman, Jr., City Manager advised Council that he was currently working with staff on creating a workplace safety policy, but that currently there is no such policy. He also advised that there were videos regarding work place safety that employees can watch regarding an active shooter situation, but there have been no drills or anything else. Vice Mayor Bennett moved for staff to look at resources to add to HR to better support constitutional offices and staff to address issues that were brought out tonight, and to move forward with the employee satisfaction (climate) survey. Her motion was seconded by Mayor Gore. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

**Motion passed 6-1**

**SB-3 Remote Participation Policy**

Mayor Gore asked Councilor Randolph if she wanted to speak on this item. Councilor Randolph stated that the item was brought forward by the City Attorney on behalf of Councilor Denton. Councilor Denton then spoke up and stated that she requested this item so that she would be able to attend the 8-20-19 meeting while out of town. Council discussed the item. Councilor Pelham moved to use August 20, 2019 as the testing ground, and then to approve the

**August 13, 2019  
Special Meeting**

Policy when Councilor Denton returned. The City Attorney advised that the Policy had to be approved before Councilor Denton could make use of it. Councilor Pelham withdrew her motion. Councilor Partin moved to adopt the electronic participation policy before Council. His motion was seconded by Councilor Randolph. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

**Motion passed 7-0**

**SB-4 Litigation item (if any)** – This item was addressed by Council immediately upon coming out of Closed Meeting and is listed under Action Items from Closed.

**ADJOURN**

At 9:22 p.m., Councilor Partin moved to adjourn. His motion was seconded by Mayor Gore. All council replied “aye” to the question. The meeting was adjourned.

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

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