

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL RETREAT (ADVANCE) HELD JUNE 21 & 22, 2019

A Special Meeting (Council Retreat) of Hopewell City Council was held Friday, June 21 through Saturday, June 22, 2019., at 5:30 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room, Human Services Building, 316 East Cawson Street, Hopewell, Virginia.

June 21, 2019

PRESENT: Jasmine E. Gore, Mayor, Ward 4
Deborah Randolph, Councilor, Ward 1
Arlene Holloway, Councilor, Ward 2
John B. Partin, Jr., Councilor, Ward 3
Brenda Pelham, Councilor, Ward 6
Patience Bennett, Vice Mayor, Ward 7 (arrived at 6:22 p.m.)

John M. Altman, Jr., City Manager
Charles Dane, Assistant City Manager
Tevya Griffin, Director of Development
Aaron Reidmiller, Director of Parks and Recreation
Johnny Butler, City Engineer
Ronnieye L. Arrington, City Clerk

Traci Sampson, Facilitator

ABSENT: Janice Denton, Councilor, Ward 5

ROLL CALL

Mayor Gore opened the meeting at 5:36 p.m. Roll call was taken as follows:

Mayor Gore	-	present
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	absent (arrived at 6:22 p.m.)
Councilor Randolph	-	present
Councilor Partin	-	present
Councilor Holloway	-	present
Councilor Denton	-	absent
Councilor Pelham	-	present

APPROVE/AMEND AGENDA

Councilor Partin moved to approve the agenda, which motion was seconded by Mayor Gore. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Mayor Gore	-	yes
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	absent (arrived
Councilor Randolph	-	yes
Councilor Partin	-	yes
Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	absent

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Councilor Pelham - yes

Motion passed 5-0

ADVANCE

The below is not a word-for-word report of Council's Advance discussions, but rather are a brief synopsis for recordkeeping purposes only.

Tevya Griffin, Director of Development provided Council with an update on Community Enhance Initiative. Mayor Gore also provided information. Mrs. Griffin and Mayor Gore also demonstrated the Opportunity Atlas and explained how it could be of benefit to the City. They also discussed establishing a committee comprised of 7 residents, one from each ward. Each councilor committed to provide the name of a resident from their ward who would be willing and able to serve on such a committee. It was suggested that Councilor Denton may be able to recruit from the Chamber, along with Evan Kaufman, head of Hopewell Downtown Partnership. Mayor Gore suggested to include the churches of Hopewell, as well.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT

Council then discussed the housing crisis in Hopewell, and how wards 1, 2 and 6 had more specific issues with housing, including affordability and low credit scores. Council discussed the need for rezoning and revamping certain areas. They also noted that the laws regarding housing were outdated and needed to be revamped. They requested that Administration come back to Council with a game plan—to use spot blight and code enforcement to aid in determining trouble areas in the City. Council also discussed revising the rental inspection program so that it covered a larger area. Mrs. Griffin advised that the laws would not let the rental inspection program be applied to the entire City, but she said it could definitely be made bigger. Mayor Gore said that many tenants were not aware of their rights, and that perhaps the City could get or prepare a document that listed renters' rights, and disseminate same to the citizens. Councilor Randolph suggested that the City partner with HRHA to receive more federal funding to be used to work with citizens on the path to home ownership.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Council discussed looking at Medicaid expansion, as well as adopting or expanding the Local Foods, Local Places grant, and expand Health Eating Active Living. Council asked if Administration could look into any remaining endowment for the Kepone spill to see if there would be funds that could be used to assist with this area. Councilor Partin asked about extending the River Walk all the way to the Bluffs, and having the trail rebuilt from Appomattox Park to Cameron's Landing. Mr. Reidmiller, Director of Parks and Recreation said they were already looking into doing that.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Council discussed roads, stormwater, curb and gutter, as well as facilities. They requested the Complete Streets resolution so it could be implemented. Johnny Butler, City Engineer, said the Comprehensive Street Plan would be used for ADA compliance, improvement plans for streets and stormwater. Council requested a copy of the Comprehensive Street Plan.

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COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Council addressed the Beacon Theatre, including a definition for what it is and how it should best be handled (e.g., is it a regional theater, should we keep it, should we sell it, how can we enhance its use). Council also discussed establishing a Memorandum of Understanding with the schools regarding the Mallonee Gym and, perhaps, converting it into a youth and family resource center. Councilor Partin suggested extending the hours for the Convenience Center to make it more accommodating for working citizens. Council also discussed erecting a museum, event coordination, as well as a communication tool to keep citizens aware of Council activities.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Council discussed using the Comprehensive Plan as well as the Economic Development Authority plan to advance the City's economic development. They discussed various grants and discounts that would entice businesses to the City (e.g., the Legacy Grant, the Opportunity Zone, the Façade Grant, Enterprise Zone, etc.).

ADJOURN

At 8:48 p.m., Councilor Partin moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Holloway seconded the motion. All councilors responded "aye" to the question. Meeting was adjourned.

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June 22, 2019

PRESENT:

Jasmine E. Gore, Mayor, Ward 4
Deborah Randolph, Councilor, Ward 1
Arlene Holloway, Councilor, Ward 2
John B. Partin, Jr., Councilor, Ward 3
Brenda Pelham, Councilor, Ward 6 (arrived at 10:25 a.m.)

John M. Altman, Jr., City Manager
Ronnieye L. Arrington, City Clerk
Stefan Calos of Sands Anderson, City Attorney
Sandra R. Robinson, newly appointed City Attorney

Traci Sampson, Facilitator
Roger C. Wiley, Esq., VML General Counsel

ABSENT:

Patience Bennett, Vice Mayor, Ward 7
Janice Denton, Councilor, Ward 5

ROLL CALL

Mayor Gore opened the meeting at 9:16 a.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	-	absent
Councilor Pelham	-	absent (arrived at 10:25 a.m.)

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The below is not a word-for-word report of Council’s Advance discussions, but rather are a brief synopsis for recordkeeping purposes only.

Mr. Wiley, General Counsel for VML and invited guest of Traci Sampson, Facilitator distributed a booklet entitled “Sources of Authority for Hopewell City Council, Mayor and City Manager.” The booklet contained cites from the Code of Virginia, Hopewell City Charter, Hopewell City Code, as well as City Council’s Rules. Mr. Wiley and Council discussed the contents of the booklet and its relation to the current form of government of Hopewell, the Council-Manager form of government.

One of the items discussed was the Council agenda and its creation. Council discussed the timeline as set forth in its rules. Council expressed concern that its rules were not being followed, and instructed both the City Manager and the Clerk to adhere strictly to the timeline provided in the

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Council rules. Councilor Pelham moved to enforce Council rules regarding the agenda, which motion was seconded by Councilor Holloway. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Randolph	-	yes
Councilor Partin	-	yes
Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes

Motion passed: 5-0

Mr. Wiley left at 12:40 p.m. Council continued to discuss its rules, communication, and other items related thereto.

CLOSED MEETING

At 1:26 p.m., Councilor Partin moved to go into Closed Meeting for (1) discussion or performance of specific officers, appointees, and employees of city council (mayor, city manager, city clerk, city attorney), in accordance with Virginia Code § 2.2-3711 (A) (1). Mayor Gore seconded the motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Randolph	-	yes
Councilor Partin	-	yes
Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes

Motion passed: 5-0

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

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