

**March 29, 2022
Special Meeting**

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

A Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hopewell, Virginia, was held Tuesday, March 29, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 300 North Main Street, Hopewell, Virginia.

PRESENT: Johnny Partin, Vice Mayor (Ward 3) – (Remote)
Deborah Randolph, Councilor (Ward 1)
Arlene Holloway, Councilor (Ward 2) – (Remote)
Jasmine Gore, Councilor (Ward 4)
Brenda S. Pelham, Councilor (Ward 6)
Janice B. Denton, Councilor (Ward 5)

ABSENT: Patience Bennett, Mayor (Ward 7)

STAFF: J. March Altman, Jr., City Manager
Mollie P. Bess, City Clerk

ROLL CALL

Councilor Gore opened the Special meeting around Redistricting at 6:30 p.m. Roll call was taken as follows:

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	Mayor Bennett	-	Absent
	Vice Mayor Partin	-	Present (Remote)
	Councilor Randolph	-	Present
	Councilor Holloway	-	Present (Remote)
	Councilor Gore	-	Present
	Councilor Denton	-	Present
	Councilor Pelham	-	Present

City Clerk ask Vice Mayor Partin to state the reason that he is joining virtually, his response was Family Vacation in Sonoma County, California. Vote is taken to allow/deny Vice Mayor Partin to join remotely.

Motion made by Councilor Denton and seconded by Councilor Randolph to allow Vice Mayor Partin to participate electronically.

Roll Call:	Councilor Randolph	-	yes
	Councilor Gore	-	yes
	Councilor Denton	-	yes
	Councilor Pelham	-	yes

Motion Failed: 4– Ayes
0 – No

City Clerk ask Councilor Holloway to state the reason that she is joining virtually, her response was medical. She clarified that she was at her residence. Vote is taken to allow/deny Councilor Holloway to join remotely.

**March 29, 2022
Special Meeting**

Motion made by Councilor Randolph and seconded by Councilor Denton to allow Councilor Holloway to participate remotely.

Roll Call:	Councilor Denton	-	yes
	Councilor Pelham	-	yes
	Councilor Randolph	-	yes
	Vice Mayor Partin	-	yes
	Councilor Gore	-	yes

Motion Passes: 5 – Ayes
0 – No

WORK SESSION

WS-1 – REDISTRICTING

City Manager March Altman started the meeting by addressing City Council and stating that this work session was called to discuss Redistricting. There are six scenarios that have been developed since the initial meeting for consideration. The goal this evening is discussion of the scenarios and to possibly get a recommendation on one so the process to move forward can begin with all of the necessary ordinances that will need to be done and paperwork submitted to the Attorney General's office. We need to have our ordinance in place and have the public hearing before we can submit the package to the Attorney General. Looking for any questions, comments, preferences over the six scenarios so that we can narrow them down. We would like to be in a position that at the 2nd meeting in April to have the public hearing in order to move forward with our Ordinances to adopt new wards.

Ms. Griffin, Planning Director approached the podium with the idea that we have 6 maps and maybe go to each Councilor with the top 3 and then we can narrow down to 3 maps to work with.

Councilor Gore stated she would go in order of the dais to collect the top 3 wards from each councilor. The choices were as follows:

Councilor Randolph – Map 2, Map 6, Map 3
Councilor Denton – Map 2, Map 4, Map 3
Councilor Pelham – Map 6
Vice Mayor Partin – Map 1, Map 2, Map 4
Councilor Holloway – Map 6
Councilor Gore – Map 6

City Manager Altman stated that the tally indicated that Map 6 has the most votes with a total of 4 votes for Map 6.

Councilor Gore stated that Map 6 has the most votes, so Council will start with Map 6. Councilor Randolph had no comments to make on Map 6. Councilor Denton stated it was her least favorite but had no particular concerns. Councilor Pelham wanted Langston Park added to Map 6. Councilor Holloway has no objection to Councilor Pelham's request to move Langston Park to Map 6. However, after much discussion with Mr. David Thompson and Ms. Tevya Griffin, it was decided that

**March 29, 2022
Special Meeting**

this was not able to be moved because of the census blocks. Vice Mayor Partin had no further comments or questions. Councilor Holloway said that she consented to Twin Rivers being added to Ward 2 and Dellrose being added to Ward 2. Councilor Gore asked if there are any other last minute comments, questions or concerns. There is one change and this is to include Langston Park and that has been accepted. Councilor Gore asked Mr. Altman what was the next step that he needed done and he explained that if Map 6 is the direction we are go in, they can begin to prepare all of the ordinances necessary for drawing the lines around the wards. If we target the second meeting in April to do the public hearings, then we can put this on the agenda for the April 12th for Council to say “Yes”, with all members present, with the Mayor being able to chime in. Councilor Gore stated that if Map 6 is in the majority right now, and we say move forward with planning for Map 6 unless there is an objection with the tally of the Mayor. Councilor Pelham asked if citizens would get to vote on the maps and it was explained that it would be a Council decision as to which map they went with.

It was decided to go with Map 6 as long as the Mayor has no objections and to hold the public hearing on April 26. Signatures on petitions have to be in by the 21st of June, so that is the need for having to get this completed. Nothing that is done tonight will change anything until after this upcoming election. Councilor Gore – just to clarify, the city’s boundaries, you are going to wait until after this November’s election to give new boundaries? The new lines will be used for City Council elections this year, the sooner we get his done the sooner we can get letters out to everyone.

Recap – If Map 6 is decided on tonight, Mr. Altman will talk to Mayor Bennett and confirm if she has any issues or is objecting to it and if she does not we will move forward with the public hearing to be held on April 26. Once the map is adopted Councilors/others can start to gather signatures based on the new lines.

Wrap-up – Mr. Altman will check with the Mayor to see if she has any objections to this, if she does we will put back on the agenda for April 12 for Council to make a decision.

Motion by Councilor Randolph and seconded by Councilor Denton to adjourn.

ROLL CALL:	Councilor Denton	-	yes
	Councilor Pelham	-	yes
	Councilor Randolph	-	yes
	Councilor Holloway	-	yes
	Vice Mayor Partin	-	yes
	Councilor Gore	-	yes

Motion Passes: 6 – Ayes
0 – Nays

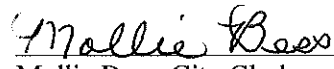
Meeting Adjourned

Update given by City Manager Mr. Altman on the chemical release that happened this morning at Atvan6. There was a release from one of their oilium tanks, which is sulfuric acid back at the river along their pier. There was a cloud of acid in the air, we had an engine on site along with the fire chief and battalion chief, because the winds were not blowing, it was stationary. The engine was positioned so that we could provide a mist shower over the cloud to prevent it from moving toward City Point. Advan6 began to pump down the about of olium from one tank to the other, when that happened, the pressure created a vacuum going in the pumping direction which slowed the leak almost to nothing. After a debrief with the

**March 29, 2022
Special Meeting**

fire chief at 5:00 p.m. today, we had taken our firetruck off scene and marked it back in service for the City. There was an environmental clean-up company on scene to clean up any matter that had fallen onto the ground. There was ultimately no threat to the community and it was contained on site at Honeywell, nothing escaped the site. All citizens should sign up for the Code Red alert system, our nixel system, also for FOIA list, and follow up on our social media sites. Kudos to or police and fire department for the quick response.


Patience Bennett, Mayor


Mollie Bess, City Clerk