

June 22, 2021
Regular Council Meeting

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL HELD JUNE 22, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hopewell, Virginia, was held Tuesday, June 13, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Patience A. Bennett, Mayor, Ward 4
 John B. Partin, Jr., Vice Mayor, Ward 7
 Deborah B. Randolph, Councilor, Ward 1
 Jasmine E. Gore, Councilor Ward 3
 Janice B. Denton, Councilor, Ward 5
 Brenda S. Pelham, Councilor, Ward 6
 Arlene Holloway, Councilor, Ward 2

John March Altman, Jr., City Manager
Sandra Robinson, City Attorney
Mollie Bess, City Clerk

Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order and welcomed visitors.

ROLL CALL:	Mayor Bennett	Present
	Vice Mayor Partin	Present
	Councilor Randolph	Present
	Councilor Holloway	Present
	Councilor Gore	Present
	Councilor Denton	Present
	Councilor Pelham	Present

CLOSED MEETING

Motion made by Councilor Pelham and seconded by Councilor Denton to go into Closed Session pursuant to Va. Code 2.2-371 1(A)(1) to discuss and consider personnel matters including, but not limited to, the assignment, performance and salaries of specific appointees, officers, and employees of the City, including the City Manager, City Attorney, and City Clerk; and to consider prospective candidates for appointment to various boards and commissions; (A)(7) and (8) to consult with legal counsel and staff regarding specific legal matters where such consultation in open meeting would adversely affect the City's interest; and to the extent these discussions will be aided thereby, (A)(4) for the protection of the privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business.

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

Motion Passes: 7/0

RECONVENE OPEN MEETING

Motion made by Vice Mayor Partin and seconded by Mayor Bennett to come out of closed session.

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

Motion Passes: 7/0

CERTIFICATION

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO VIRGINIA CODE § 2.2-3712(D): Were only public business matters (1) lawfully exempted from open-meeting requirements and (2) identified in the closed-meeting motion discussed in closed meeting.

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

Motion Passes: 7/0

Motion made by Councilor Pelham and seconded by Councilor Holloway that Council appoint Nelson Gregory Coffey as Chairman for the School Board position.

ROLL CALL:	Councilor Holloway	yes
	Vice Mayor Partin	no
	Councilor Gore	yes
	Councilor Denton	no
	Councilor Pelham	yes
	Mayor Bennett	yes
	Councilor Randolph	no

Motion Passes: 4/3

WORK SESSION

Mayor Bennett turned the meeting over to Director Tevya Griffin for her work session.

MODIFICATION TO THE DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

This is an overview of a request received by James R. Jones Builder, Inc. in care of J. Jones to modify the development standards found in Article 18, Section G, Sub-Section 14 entitled "Erection of a Building." The ordinance any construction in a residential or commercial zoning district to have frontage on a public street of record except when otherwise permitted for a townhouse or in a planned unit development. Director Griffin proceeded to share a power point presentation to explain the details of the request. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on May 6 and recommended approval of this request with a

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vote of 5/0. This is a work session and the next step is for Council to schedule a public hearing either on July 13 or July 27 of this year. It was agreed upon by Council that we will have the public meeting at the July 13 City Council meeting.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS WEBSITE

A brief overview of the updated boards and commissions website was demonstrated by Concetta Manker, from our IT department. Next a presentation was made by Councilor Gore and Acting City Clerk Mollie Bess on the nuts and bolts of the Boards and Commissions site and how the information needs to be revisited and updated. Please let us know by the July 17 meeting if we want to continue to do the appreciation dinner.

REGULAR MEETING

Meeting called to order by Mayor Bennett. Prayer by Councilor Gore, Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilor Randolph.

ROLL CALL:	Mayor Bennett	Present
	Vice Mayor Partin	Present
	Councilor Randolph	Present
	Councilor Holloway	Present
	Councilor Gore	Present
	Councilor Denton	Present
	Councilor Pelham	Present

SUGGESTED MOTION: To amend /adopt Regular Meeting Agenda

Motion made by Councilor Pelham and seconded by Vice Mayor Partin that we adopt the Regular Meeting Agenda.

ROLL CALL:	Councilor Holloway	yes
	Vice Mayor Partin	yes
	Councilor Gore	yes
	Councilor Denton	yes
	Councilor Pelham	yes
	Mayor Bennett	yes
	Councilor Randolph	no

Motion Passes: 6/1

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Partin, seconded by Councilor Pelham to adopt the Consent Agenda.

ROLL CALL:	Councilor Holloway	yes
	Vice Mayor Partin	yes
	Councilor Gore	no
	Councilor Denton	yes
	Councilor Pelham	yes
	Mayor Bennett	yes
	Councilor Randolph	yes

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Motion Passes: 6/1

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Historic Preservation Commission

Councilor Pelham wanted to make known that with those particular minutes, we cannot make a change with those minutes but wanted to make a comment that is placed in the minutes that the comment made by the Councilor that is a part of that particular committee that stated that ward funds, that the public would know that at this or that time there was no such item in the budget, as it was extracted last fiscal year. Councilor Randolph stated that she was the person that Councilor Pelham was speaking of and she would also like to make a comment. She stated that the minutes state Council funds, not City funds, it doesn't refer to where it is ward funds or not. Council funds are what she gets paid and at the time there was no budget discussion, but will pay for out of pocket with Council funds.

Point of Information by Council Gore – Read minutes and it does specifically say ward funds. Asking for clarity on what was said and how are signs being paid for. Director Griffin asked to respond. Director Griffin stated that at the meeting, Councilor Randolph did say that she would pay for the signs through ward funds, we, as staff were going to check with various sign companies to determine a cost, a cost has been determined for those signs. Two bids have been received, one was for \$271 and the other was for around \$800. That bid included front and back (which was not asked for) so that would be reduced. In the reduction, it was \$655. Councilor Gore asked what is the direction moving forward on purchasing the signs? Director Griffin stated that there are department funds available to pay for that. There is some question about whether Councilor Randolph will be paying for signs based on the cost. Clarity on type of sign for minutes – it is a free standing sign that would be placed on the property advertising that this is the Shiloh Lodge that belongs to the City of Hopewell and that there will be a project underway. The HPC will meet on Thursday to approve a design. It will have a simple rendering of a building that looks like the lodge with some writing with the City logo. Councilor Randolph stated that the City Planner let her know that there may be some funds to pay for it and that was after she let him know that she would be willing to pay for it out of pocket.

Point of Order by Councilor Pelham – asking that Councilor Randolph be reminded that there is rule she cannot say disparaging comments about other Councilors. Mayor Bennett stated there is that rule and we need to stay on task and address the item only and not councilors. She asked Councilor Randolph would she like to amend the minutes to reflect your comments and Councilor Randolph said NO, the minutes reflected what was paraphrased by what the meeting said, "I said ward funds, but that is not up for other's interpretation. Councilor Randolph that that comment can be stated in the minutes.

Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order.

Councilor Pelham wanted it noted in the minutes what when Councilor's get paid, it is not Ward Funds, it is the City of Hopewell Funds. Ward Funds are funds designated for each individual ward, Wards I – 7.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Partin and seconded by Councilor Denton that the minutes of the HPC be approved as is.

ROLL CALL:	Councilor Holloway	no
	Vice Mayor Partin	yes
	Councilor Gore	no
	Councilor Denton	yes

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Councilor Pelham	no
Mayor Bennett	yes
Councilor Randolph	yes

Motion Passes: 4/3

REPORTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney Robinson stated that she had submitted and written report to City Council and this is her oral report. Back in May of last year, the City Council transferred to responsibility of the FOIA to the City Attorney's office, subsequent to that action, Council passed a resolution in which it designated the City Attorney's paralegal/legal assistant as the City's FOIA Officer and designated the City Attorney as the Chief FOIA Officer. Also in that resolution there was a requirement that the Chief FOIA Officer report out to City Council on an annual basis of the activity the office had performed over the previous year to demonstrate that the City was in compliance with the FOIA State Statute. With respect to that particular obligation, Attorney Robinson has provided statistical information for your acceptance.

COUNCILOR REQUESTS

CR-1 - ENTERPRISE ACCOUNS FOR RECREATION AND PARKS

Councilor Pelham stated that this is a request to task to address the feasibility of setting up Enterprise Accounts for Recreation and Parks for Community Memberships and Development for grass cutting, trash violations and permits. Asking Mr. Altman to research and bring back to Council for consideration.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Partin and seconded by Councilor Pelham that City Council authorize Mr. Altman and his staff to research the idea of creating an Enterprise Account for Parks and Recreation and the Planning and Development office for the purposes of capital improvements and cost recovery and to bring back a report to City Council within the next four months.

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

Motion Passes: 7/0

CR-2 - ANCHOR POINT COMPLAINTS

Councilor Gore stated that there has been an ongoing issue in Anchor Point, in Eagle Cove regarding the road infrastructure, the landscaping issues were addressed but the road aspect of it was never addressed because of the developer. The road is so bad that it can damage a car at this point. The developer was not required to finish paving that section until the development was completed, so there is a road but not a complete road, meaning the top layer has not been added. The developer has not had any plans to the subdivision so therefore there is no need to do the road. Director Griffin along with Mr. Butler have been hying to contact the developer to get some sort of resolution. There have been complaints about landscaping power lines and the fencing in the area but also city property versus the developer's property.

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Was the developer required to put up some type of barrier for the trash receptacles? Mr. Altman to provide feedback and set dates.

Mr. Altman said that the paving would not be complete in the undeveloped units until construction is completed. The large cement trucks and construction vehicles would begin to wear down the road, so we want to wait until development is completed before it is paving and it will be the responsibility of the developer to pave the entire development once the development is complete.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Partin and seconded by Councilor Gore extend the meeting to finish the current item CR-2.

ROLL CALL:	Councilor Holloway	yes
	Vice Mayor Partin	yes
	Councilor Gore	yes
	Councilor Denton	no
	Councilor Pelham	yes
	Mayor Bennett	yes
	Councilor Randolph	yes

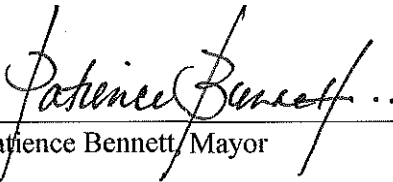
Motion Passes: 6/1

Continued CR-2

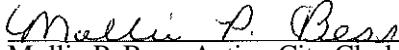
Mr. Altman said that the paving would not be complete in the undeveloped units until construction is completed. The large cement trucks and construction vehicles would begin to wear down the road, so we want to wait until development is completed before it is paving and it will be the responsibility of the developer to pave the entire development once the development is complete. Please have items ready for the meeting addressing your questions or concerns.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.



Patience Bennett, Mayor


Mollie P. Bess, Acting City Clerk