

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 11, 2019 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

A meeting of the Hopewell City Council was held Tuesday, June 11, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 300 North Main Street, Hopewell, Virginia.

PRESENT: Patience Bennett, Vice Mayor, Ward 7
Deborah Randolph, Councilor, Ward 1
Arlene Holloway, Councilor, Ward 2
John B. Partin, Jr., Councilor, Ward 3
Janice B. Denton, Councilor, Ward 5
Brenda Pelham, Councilor, Ward 6 (arrived at 5:58 p.m.)

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

ABSENT: Jasmine E. Gore, Mayor, Ward 4

ROLL CALL

Vice Mayor Bennett opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Roll call was taken as follows:

Mayor Gore	-	absent
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	present
Councilor Randolph	-	present
Councilor Partin	-	present
Councilor Holloway	-	present
Councilor Denton	-	present
Councilor Pelham	-	absent (arrived t 5:58 p.m.)

CLOSED MEETING

At 5:31 p.m., Councilor Partin moved to go into closed meeting for (1) discussion of performance of city council employees (city attorney, city manager, city clerk); (2) discussion, consideration, and interview of specific appointees of city council (boards, committees, commissions); (3) discussion of the disposition of real property for a public purpose, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body (HRHA); (3) consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of city council (police); and (4) consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by city council related thereto and regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel, in accordance with Virginia Code § 2.2-3711 (A) (1) [two items], (3), (7), and (8), respectively. Councilor Denton seconded the motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Partin	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	---- (arrived at 5:58 p.m.)
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	yes
Councilor Randolph	-	yes

Motion passed 6-0

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RECONVENE OPEN MEETING

At 7:10 p.m. Council returned to the dais 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 responses resulted:

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

Motion passed 6-0

AMEND/ADOPT WORK SESSION

At 7:10 p.m. Councilor Partin moved to adopt the agenda for the work session. His motion was seconded by Councilor Denton. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 6-0

WORK SESSIONS

WS-1 Conditional Use Permit – 130 Mercer Lane - City Manager John M. “March” Altman, Jr. introduced Tevya Griffin, the Director of Development. Mrs. Griffin presented information to Council regarding this item. She also introduced John Bynum from the Woods Rogers law firm, who presented council with additional information.

WS-2 Conditional Use Permit – operate a duplex in R-2 district – Mr. Altman again introduced Tevya Griffin, who presented information to Council regarding this item. Mrs. Griffin noted that the Planning Commission recommended denial of this request. She also noted that if this item was approved, the Owner would have to add a sprinkler system to the top and the bottom (between the floors). Mr. Jenkins, the owner of the property, came forward and expressed his willingness to abide by the request of the Planning Commission.

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WS-3 Tri-Cities Multimodal Train Station – Johnny Butler, City Engineer, presented Council with information regarding the proposed location of the train station, and its impact to Hopewell.

REGULAR MEETING

Vice Mayor Bennett requested a roll call, which resulted as follows:

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

PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

At 7:40 p.m., Vice Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order, and thanked all for attending. The prayer was led by Rev. Leroy Mashore of John Randolph Pastoral Care, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, led by Councilor Holloway.

CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered routine by Council and will be approved or received by one motion in the form listed. Items may be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion under the regular agenda at the request of any Councilor.

C-1 Minutes: May 20, and May 22, 2019

C-2 Pending List:

C-3 Routine Approval of Work Sessions: 6-25-19: Spot Blight and Community Development Block Grant

C-4 Personnel Change Report & Financial Report: Attached

C-5 Ordinances on Second & Final Reading:

C-6 Routine Grant Approval:

C-7 Public Hearing Announcement: 6-25-19: HRHA, two Conditional Use Permits, rezoning request; 7-9-19: Community Development Block Grant

C-8 Information for Council Review: Minutes: Planning Commission (12-6-2018, 01-10-2019, 3-7-19); Board of Zoning Appeal (May 15, 2019); Appomattox Regional Library System (5-21-19); Electoral Board (3-6-19, 4-10-19, 5-6-19); and Order appointing Board of Equalization members

C-9 Resolutions/Proclamations/Presentations: FOLAR presentation

C-10 Additional Announcements:

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Councilor Pelham moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Councilor Partin seconded the motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 6-0

As part of the Consent Agenda, FOLAR gave a presentation. Aaron Reidmiller, the Director of Parks and Recreation introduced Wendy Austin and Heather Barra, who presented information and a resolution to Council regarding the River Walk. The ten-minute time limit for presentations was insufficient, so Councilor Pelham moved to extend the time limit so that FOLAR could complete its presentation. Her motion was seconded by Councilor Denton. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 6-0

FOLAR RESOLUTION

After the FOLAR resolution was read into the record, Councilor Partin moved that the resolution be adopted by Council. His motion was seconded by Councilor Pelham. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 6-0

Councilor Partin submitted a Transactional Disclosure Statement stating that he was a past board member, but that he was able to participate fairly, objectively and in the public interest.

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PUBLIC HEARINGS

PH-1 School Board Vacancies

ISSUE: Pursuant to Va. Code § 22.1-29.1 (*public hearing before appointment of school board members*), a public hearing is required to receive public comments regarding the nominees for appointment to the School Board prior to Council making the appointment. There are two positions which will expire June 30, 2019, and which will need to be filled. The applicants for these positions are: Cadeidre Alexander, Christopher Reber, ~~Anthony Sylvester~~, Anthony Zevgolis, ~~Johnathan Branch~~, Susan Temple, John Griffin, Jr., Duran Williams, and ~~Lee Bujakowski~~.

Vice Mayor Bennett opened the public hearing at 8:15 p.m. There was no one signed up to speak and no one came forward when the Vice Mayor issue the invitation. Vice Mayor Bennett closed the public hearing at 8:15 p.m.

Councilor Pelham submitted a Transactional Disclosure Statement stating that she was an employee of Hopewell Public Schools, but that she was able to participate fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

Dr. Emily DeCarlo came forward and spoke about the real estate tax deadline, and asking Council if they could assist the citizens by extending the deadline. After discussion between Council and the Treasurer, Councilor Randolph moved to amend the agenda to include item R-5 that will allow the City to extend the penalty date for real estate taxes to June 28, 2019. Her motion was seconded by Councilor Partin. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 6-0

Councilor Holloway submitted a transactional disclosure statement stating that Dr. DeCarlo is her cousin, but that she was able to participate fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Reports of City Manager:

R-1 CDBG Reappropriation - The United States Department of Housing and Community Development (HUD) Richmond Field Office has concluded that funding for two capacity building activities are ineligible and that repayment is required. Tevya Griffin, Director of Development, presented information to Council regarding this item and the request for re-appropriation. Councilor

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Partin moved to reappoint \$62,970 from the Planning Commission account to the CDBG account. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pelham. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 6-0

R-2 FY2019-2020 City Budget Resolution Amendment - City Council requested amended language to the budget resolution. Mr. Altman presented Council with the revised Budget Resolution. After discussion, Councilor Denton moved to approve the revised budget resolution. Her motion was seconded by Councilor Pelham. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 6-0

R-3 Request to Appropriate Capital Improvement Funds and Receipt of Grant for King's Court Park - The Hopewell Recreation and Parks Department was notified on Monday, June 3, 2019, that it had received a \$30,000 grant, provided by the National Recreation and Park Association and Disney, in support of the King's Court Park renovation project. The grant requires a 1:1 ratio in matching funds. To complete the renovation project as designed, \$50,000 is required in capital funding. Aaron Reidmiller presented the background information to Council regarding the requested capital funding. Upon discussion, Councilor Partin moved to appropriate the \$50,000 to match the \$30,000 grant for the Kings Court Park project. Councilor Denton seconded the motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 6-0

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R-4 Tri-Cities Multimodal Train Station - Endorsement for Multimodal train station. Johnny Butler, City Engineer again spoke to Council regarding this item. Upon discussion, Councilor Pelham moved to postpone this item to the June 25, 2019 meeting. Her motion was seconded by Councilor Partin. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 6-0

R-5 Request to extend deadline date for real estate taxes – This item was added by Council upon the request of a citizen, and communication with the Treasurer, to extend the deadline for real estate taxes. Councilor Pelham moved to extend the deadline to 6/28/19 without penalty, per § 58.1-3916. Councilor Partin seconded her motion.

Councilor Partin then made a substitute motion to resolve to extend the deadline for payment of real estate taxes until June 28, 2019, pursuant to §58.1-3916, and that if any tax is not paid by the end of the extension period, any penalties will revert back to the original taxes. His motion was seconded by Councilor Pelham. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 6-0

Councilor Pelham submitted a Transactional Disclosure Form stating that she owed taxes to the City of Hopewell, but that she was able to participate fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

Reports of City Attorney: **Rule 306.** Mr. Calos presented Council with requested revisions to Rule 306. Upon discussion, Council requested additional revisions. Mr. Calos asked if he could make the revisions Council requested and come back to Council. Councilor Pelham moved that Mr. Calos bring Rule 306 back to the next meeting. Councilor Denton seconded the motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Partin	-	yes

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Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	yes
Councilor Randolph	-	yes

Motion passed 6-0

Reports of City Clerk: None

Reports of City Council: Randolph – Mentioned that her IR item had been left off of the agenda. The Clerk requested that Council review the draft agendas to ensure that no items are missed.
Pelham – reminded everyone that school is almost out. Last day is Friday for ½ a day, so be very conscientious about that. She also noted that her granddaughter was graduating. Thanked Dr. Hackney and her staff and the School Board.

Partin – Congratulated and thanked the Vice Mayor for doing a great job.

Bennett – Vice Mayor Bennett thanked Council, the City Attorney, and Staff for their assistance.

ADJOURN

At 9:35 p.m. Councilor Partin moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Denton seconded the motion. All councilors present responded “aye” to the question, and the meeting was adjourned.

/s/ Patience Bennett
Patience Bennett, Vice Mayor

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