



City of Hampton

22 Lincoln Street
Hampton, VA 23669
www.hampton.gov

Council Approved Minutes - Final City Council Legislative Session

Mayor Donnie R. Tuck
Vice Mayor Jimmy Gray
Councilmember Eleanor Weston Brown
Councilmember Steven L. Brown
Councilmember Linda D. Curtis
Councilmember W.H. "Billy" Hobbs
Councilmember Chris Snead

STAFF: Mary Bunting, City Manager
Cheran Cordell Ivery, City Attorney
Katherine K. Glass, CMC, Clerk of Council

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Tuck called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m. All members of the City Council were present.

Present: 7 - Councilmember Eleanor Weston Brown, Councilmember Steven L. Brown, Councilmember Linda D. Curtis, Vice Mayor Jimmy Gray, Councilmember Billy Hobbs, Councilmember Chris Snead and Mayor Donnie R. Tuck

DONNIE R. TUCK PRESIDED

INVOCATION - Councilmember Chris Snead

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG

Mayor Tuck welcomed Boy Scout Troop 1151 and invited them to lead the Chambers in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Tuck noted that today was Hampton's annual Scout Youth in Government Day. Today the Scouts became "City Planners" for a day, participating in exercises that had them creating their perfect Hampton, discussing what they loved and what could be improved within the City, and going on a photo scavenger hunt with clues from Hampton's past to help them identify sites that look different today. Their comments will be included in the City's 2040 Community Plan.

Mayor Tuck thanked the Clerk's Office, who assists in making the event happen every year, and Ms. Tolu Ibikunle, City Planner, and Ms. Ana Elezovic, City Planner,

who ensured that the Scouts had an educational and fun day. There was additional support from the Hampton Police Division; Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services; Hampton City Schools; and, Hampton Roads Transit.

Mayor Tuck welcomed Lt. Col. Claude Vann, USAF (Retired), and Hampton City School Board member Dr. Richard Mason.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Katherine K. Glass, Clerk of Council, read the protocol for the Consent Agenda and a summary of the items therein.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Motion made by Councilmember Curtis, seconded by Councilmember Hobbs, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Councilmember Weston Brown, Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Curtis, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Snead and Mayor Tuck

1. [18-0302](#) Consideration of appointments to Hampton Employees Retirement System Board (HERS)
Item deferred to the City Council Office due back on 3/27/2019.
Aye: 7 - Councilmember Weston Brown, Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Curtis, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Snead and Mayor Tuck
2. [19-0079](#) Resolution Authorizing the Appropriation of \$2,734,074 in Fiscal Year 2019 State Funds for the Operating Fund of the School Board of the City of Hampton, Virginia as Anticipated from the Commonwealth of Virginia
Item approved.
Aye: 7 - Councilmember Weston Brown, Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Curtis, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Snead and Mayor Tuck
3. [19-0082](#) Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of \$185,000 in the Capital Projects Fund from the Sussex Sidewalk Completion Bond Project to the Transportation Initiatives Bond Project

Item approved.

Aye: 7 - Councilmember Weston Brown, Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Curtis, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Snead and Mayor Tuck

PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ms. Glass read the protocol for Public Hearings.

4. [19-0040](#) Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Use Agreement Between the City of Hampton, the Y.H. Thomas Community Center, Inc., The 200+ Men Foundation, Inc., and The Hampton Roads Committee of 200+ Men, Inc. to Use a Portion of the Y. H. Thomas Facility Located at 1300 Thomas Street

Attachments: [Draft Use Agreement](#)

Vice Mayor Gray recused himself from discussion and vote on this matter, as he is a volunteer and current President of the local chapter of the Hampton Roads Committee of 200+ Men, Inc. Although he does not receive financial benefit, he wishes to avoid any appearance of impropriety.

City Manager Mary Bunting stated that this Use Agreement allows for the use of a portion of the Y.H. Thomas facility. The 200+ Men Foundation, Inc. and its affiliate, the Hampton Roads Committee of 200+ Men, Inc. are organizations of men that focus on influencing and building better communities by encouraging, inspiring, and enabling African American young people and adults to reach their highest potential. This is a charitable, non-profit organization exempt from taxation. The City has traditionally rented space at the Y.H. Thomas facility to organizations of this nature in furtherance of its dedication to providing positive community resources that benefit the local community and the City as a whole.

Ms. Bunting stated that this proposed Use Agreement is for five-years, and the rent to be charged is based solely on utility consumption and is \$1,218 per year. This is a non-exclusive use, meaning that the area may be used by other community groups in consultation and coordination with the Y.H. Thomas Community Center Board and Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services staff. Staff recommends approval.

Mayor Tuck opened the Public Hearing.

Mr. Bruce Williams greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: This

is a milestone for 200+ Men and our regional organization, which will be 22 years old in March. It is a milestone because it establishes a home, a headquarters in an esteemed, historical city, in the center of the region, in which we are able to provide the services that we have. Presently, we are involved throughout the entire region. We're doing a scholars academy, which we have, which we intend to bring here. Last night, we were in Virginia Beach at the Green Run High School with a presentation by Sojourner Truth. We will, this year, again have our scholars breakfast at Hampton (Roads) Convention Center, only one of two places we currently hold the breakfast. We intend to do a lot of things here, and having a home means we now go to another level as an organization. As a personal note, since my brother-in-law was one of the people who was very much a part of the Y.H. Thomas Community, Ernest Ferguson, this is kind of like coming home. I'll be telling him that when I call him in Kentucky. So I rise and support this hearing, this ordinance, and wish for your vote. Thank you.

As there were no additional speakers, Mayor Tuck closed the Public Hearing and called for a motion.

Prior to the matter being introduced, Vice Mayor Gray made a statement concerning his involvement in 200+ Men and recused himself from discussion and voting on this matter.

The City Manager read the title and summarized the item.

Following the public hearing with one speaker, Bruce Williams, a motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs and seconded by Councilmember Linda Curtis, that this Resolution be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Councilmember Weston Brown, Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Curtis, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Snead and Mayor Tuck

Abstained: 1 - Vice Mayor Gray

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Glass read the protocol for Public Comment.

Ms. Veronica Davis greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: When Calvin Pearson decided to form an organization to erect a monument honoring the arrival of the Africans, he asked me to help him form this group. He said we need a website and we need a name. I said Project 1619 and I will design your website, and you can also use Virginia Roots as your starting bank account.

But - and there's always a "but" with me - if I do these things, I'm going to ask the following: that Tucker Cemetery be included in all events related to the celebration of 1619, that my research on the 20-and-odd slaves be shared in public forums invited by the City, and I'm happy that my wishes have been carried out tonight, and it gives me great pleasure to introduce the Charity Family as a part of that research. When I met this family in 2007, I was amazed at just listening to one of their family members tell me about her family history. The traditions that this family has carried out, I have observed myself over the past 10+ years. Watching them come together every Sunday at the same homestead for Sunday Soul Dinner. Watching them at holidays exchange gifts - and I'm not talking about five or six people - no, no, no, no, no - we're talking about 50+ people, okay? When we speak of holidays, we're speaking of each and every holiday you can think of, and we're not talking about a half an acre of land, we're speaking of two and three acres of land. So, with that in mind, when the elder, the eldest person of the family has their birthday, the family comes together and they listen to the family history as it is passed down to the youngest generation. Those who are unable to attend, they receive a videotaped presentation of that family history. In 2009, the City of Hampton recognized the Charity Family, along with the Tucker Family, at an event at Mill Point Park. At that time, they were presented with a cup bearing the City Seal. I am begging that we not let this monumental year go by without us once again recognizing this family. In addition, we have information on other indentured servants, of the other 20-and-odd indentured servants, and where those families went. And for tonight, ladies and gentlemen of our Council, and citizens of Hampton, formally known as Jamestown, I present to you, the Charity Family - first African-American Family of America.

Ms. Gloria Barksdale Harver greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: It is a pleasure to be here. Years ago, our cousin Edna produced this book of the Charity Family, dating back to the 1600s. She went back to our great-great-grandfather, who lives in Charles City, Virginia. We found out that she had found a Mr. A. Charity listed in Surry - titheable, and penned his way for his passage. As we progressed as a family, we found out that we were considered as the first colonial family, we were considered as free people of color, and we were considered as one of the first families of Virginia. During that research, later on, we decided that since she started with Charles City, Virginia, that we went further back, because in her introduction, she talked to us about Surry County, and like it was stated, the family in Surry were connected and have these gatherings, and we were learning more and more about our Surry family. And as we did that, we wanted to produce another book, which takes us back to 1600, and include all those, so we're doing a new book, which is dedicated to Edna Charity Lucas. This is before we had the computers and the technology, so it's amazing that she was able to do a book this thick - 900-and-some pages - for the Charity families of Virginia. As we enter into learning more information about the 1600s, we saw different history stating that

we were the colonial families, and the first family. We saw different history stating that in 1619, the indentured African Americans mingled with the Indians and had children and so forth and so on, and we're eventually called the mixed culture, and of course the Indians considered the Europeans as "boat people." So as we continue, we wanted to make sure that we are recognized as one of the first families of Virginia from this day forward. Thank you.

Mayor Tuck acknowledged that many of those present from the Charity family had traveled a great distance to be here today. He asked that they please stand.

GENERAL ITEMS

REPORTS BY CITY MANAGER, CITY COUNCIL, STAFF, COMMITTEES

Ms. Bunting noted that each year the City holds budget input sessions for the public. There will be three sessions this year, as the first had to be cancelled as the City does not yet have all the information necessary from the General Assembly. Those sessions will be as follows:

- March 7, 6:30 p.m. at Kecoughtan High School
- March 9, 9 a.m. at Phoebus High School
- March 12, 6:30 p.m. at Hampton High School

MISCELLANEOUS NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Brown stated he and Councilwoman Brown participated in a great discussion on Christianity and the Black Community hosted by Joynes Road Church of God. There was a thorough, historical perspective on Christianity and the Africans that came to America over 400 years ago. He invited citizens to review the exciting events happening over the next few months to honor the Africans First Arrival.

Councilwoman Brown echoed Councilman Brown's statements and encouraged citizens to participate in future events.

Councilwoman Curtis stated that she attended the 1619 Unity Service at St. John's Episcopal Church. It was videotaped, and she encourages citizens to view the recording. The two main speakers were Dr. Jeffrey Smith, Hampton City Schools Superintendent, and Dr. Chester Brown, who is the Pastor Emeritus at Hampton Baptist Church. They gave two amazing perspectives on relations.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Donnie R. Tuck
Mayor

Katherine K. Glass, CMC
Clerk of Council

Date approved by Council _____