



# City of Hampton

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

## Council Approved Minutes - Final City Council Legislative Session

*Mayor Jimmy Gray*

*Vice Mayor Steven L. Brown*

*Councilmember Randy C. Bowman, Sr.*

*Councilmember Carolyn S. Campbell*

*Councilmember Michelle Taylor Ferebee*

*Councilmember Hope L. Harper*

*Councilmember Martha M. Mugler*

*STAFF: Mary Bunting, City Manager*

*Courtney R. Sydnor, City Attorney*

*Katherine K. Glass, MMC, Clerk of Council*

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**Wednesday, May 28, 2025**

**6:30 PM**

**Council Chambers**

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### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gray called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All members of the City Council were present.

**Present:** 7 - Councilmember Randy C. Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Steven L. Brown, Councilmember Carolyn S. Campbell, Councilmember Michelle T. Ferebee, Councilmember Hope L. Harper, Councilmember Martha Mugler and Mayor Jimmy Gray

### JIMMY GRAY PRESIDED

### INVOCATION - Councilwoman Michelle Taylor Ferebee

Councilwoman Ferebee gave the invocation.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG

### MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Gray shared information on many different achievements of students from Hampton City Schools and indicated how proud we are of all of our students.

He encouraged students to return to Hampton and the Hampton Roads area to pursue their careers, be future leaders and be a part of the community.

Mayor Gray also spoke about a regional study about outward

migration of young people and the opportunity that we have to create a region that is attractive to them so that they will want to return to our community.

## CONSENT AGENDA

Clerk of Council, Katherine Glass, read the protocol for the consent agenda and a summary of the consent items.

### Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

1. [25-0154](#) Resolution to Amend the Fiscal Year 2025 Council Approved Budget to Appropriate Certain Previously Received United States Air Force Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program Funds to the Clear Zone Account for Expenditure

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

2. [25-0155](#) Resolution to Request the Virginia Department of Transportation to Program Three Projects into its Six-Year Improvement Plan and to Authorize the Manager or her Designee to Execute and Deliver any Agreement or Other Document Necessary for this Purpose

**Attachments:** [123926,126623,126624 Hampton Agreement Package](#)

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

3. [25-0151](#) Approval of the minutes from the ceremonial session of May 14, 2025

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Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

#### PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS

There were no presentations, proclamations or awards this evening.

#### PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ms. Glass read the protocol for public hearings.

#### Ordinances

4. [25-0158](#) Ordinance Accepting the Bid Submitted by Virginia Electric and Power Company, a Virginia Public Service Corporation, Doing Business in Virginia as Dominion Energy Virginia, for a Non-Exclusive Easement Agreement to Use and Occupy City-owned Property Located within the City for the Purposes Transmitting and Distributing Electric Power to Provide Electric Services to Property Located 187 Hall Road, Hampton, Virginia

**Attachments:** [EXHIBIT 1 - Ordinance - Easement - Hampton to Dominion- 187 Hall Rd. - FINAL](#)  
[Dominion Energy Bid - 5-14-2025](#)

The Clerk introduced the item. Councilwoman Martha Mugler then made the following statement: In accordance with Section 2.2-3112(A) of the Virginia Conflict of Interest Act, I am disqualified from participating in the consideration or voting on this particular item because my spouse is engaged as a paid

consultant for the bidder, Dominion Virginia Power.

City Manager Mary Bunting introduced the item with the following information: The owner of the property located at 187 Hall Road in Hampton, Virginia, contacted the City of Hampton to inquire if the City would allow electrical services to be run across certain City-owned property to serve his property. Per the owner's request, the City agreed to offer a non-exclusive easement for the purposes of transmitting and distributing electrical power across City-owned property to qualified providers to provide that electrical service to his property. To comply with the Virginia Code, the City publicly invited bids for the non-exclusive easement, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the City's ordinance and agreement attached as Exhibit 1 thereto. At the May 14, 2025, City Council meeting, one bid from Virginia Electric and Power Company, a Virginia public service corporation doing business in Virginia as Dominion Energy Virginia, was received, opened and read. City staff recommends accepting Dominion's bid and granting Dominion the non-exclusive easement as set forth in the Exhibit 1 attached to tonight's agenda. City staff also recommends adoption of the non-coded ordinance as presented to Council.

Ms. Bunting added that the public hearing has been scheduled, as required by Virginia State Code.

Mayor Gray opened the public hearing. Since there were no speakers, he closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Councilmember Michelle Ferebee and seconded by Vice Mayor Steven Brown, that this Ordinance-Non-coded be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 6 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper and Mayor Gray

**Recuse:** 1 - Councilmember Mugler

**Resolutions**

5. [25-0153](#) Resolution of the City of Hampton, Virginia Authorizing a Loan from the Commonwealth of Virginia Literary Fund Through The Virginia Board of Education in an Amount Not to Exceed \$20,000,000 to Provide Funding to the School Board of Hampton City Schools for an Addition to Bethel High School

**Attachments:** [Certificate as to Deliver of Note](#)  
[Certificate as to Indebtedness](#)  
[Certificate of Assessed Value](#)  
[Certificate of School Board](#)  
[Certificate of the Clerk of Council](#)  
[Clerk of Court Receipt for Resolution \(City\)](#)  
[General Certificate \(City\)](#)  
[Promissory Note \(Fully Executed\)](#)  
[School Board Resolution](#)

Ms. Glass read the title for the item.

Ms. Bunting introduced the item with the following information: The Literary Fund is a special debt service fund for schools that is created under (article) section 8 of the Constitution of Virginia. The Code of Virginia and the Virginia Administrative Code established this fund for public school construction and renovation through revolving loans. The State Appropriation Act further authorizes the Board of Education to issue loans from the Literary Fund to local school boards that apply for this competitive loan program, provided that they are authorized by the locality and School Board for the purposes of erecting, altering or enlarging school buildings or refinancing prior indebtedness or obligations incurred by the locality on behalf of the School Division which has an application for the Literary Fund Loan for an approved project pending before the Board of Education.

Ms. Bunting announced that the Hampton City School Board, in cooperation with City Council, submitted an application to borrow up to \$20 million from the Literary Fund to build an approximately 38,000 square foot science wing addition to Bethel High School. This will be very similar to the one that was built at Kecoughtan High School to upgrade our Science/Math facilities, and once it is completed, to remove all the remaining portable trailers or portable classrooms from Bethel High School proper.

Ms. Bunting stated that she is pleased that we were able to get this because this fund

comes with an extremely low interest rate of 2%. She also announced that the Board of Education approved the application and granted us access to that loan in the amount of up to \$20 million at the annual rate of 2%, payable over 20 years. The debt will be memorialized in a promissory note and later converted to bonds.

Ms. Bunting continued: We had funded this project in our City FY24 budget and had assumed it would be at a higher interest rate because typically the City cannot get that low of an interest rate, so this is very good news. The funds will be paid to the City on a reimbursable basis, based upon the document provided to the City by the schools. The School Board is anticipated to approve a similar resolution at its meeting to be held on June 4, 2025. Staff recommends Council approve this after conducting the public hearing.

Mayor Gray opened the floor for discussion, but no discussion took place.

Mayor Gray opened the public hearing. As there were no speakers, he closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Councilmember Martha Mugler and seconded by Vice Mayor Steven Brown, that this Resolution be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Glass read the protocol for the public comment period.

Mayor Gray called on the first speaker, Elijah Mackey. His brother, Nasir Mackey, also spoke.

Mr. Elijah Mackey greeted those on the dais, introduced himself and made the following statement: My business is Turtle Tales. Today, I'll be talking about my business (inaudible words). So, I'm Eli and I have a wildlife and endangered species conservation. I do not do Instagram, social media - in my two books. And, sense then, I have spoken at Norfolk City Council and the School Board and also, I've been reading at Discovery Stem Academy and also Sedgfield Elementary, and also, who has been helping me is my brother.

Nasir Mackey made the following statement: As me and my brother work with the

turtles, we go around telling people about the books. We have Turtle Tales (inaudible words) and we help take leaches off of animals sometimes and we'll make sure that the water is clean and if there is any trash, we'll sometimes pick it up and recycle it - see what we can do with it. If not, we'll just put it in the trash where it belongs, not close to creeks, rivers or just out in the open where animals can get hurt because there's a lot of sea turtles that think plastic bags are jellyfish, so they end up eating them and they suffocate because of that.

Elijah Mackey returned to the mic to continue speaking: And also, for future plans for our business, are also winning the Junior Ranger Competition, so I can be on the cover of the Junior Ranger Magazine and also doing things such as interactive workshops, summer camps and also things like a reptile bus so I can take around states in the country and also engage and teach more (inaudible word). Thank you for your time.

Mayor Gray said that both young men signed up to speak, but walked up together. He also indicated that he met Elijah at a youth event and has an autographed copy of the turtle book. He encouraged the brothers that they are doing a good job and are supported by the City. He then called on the next speaker, Marlon BaCote.

Mr. Marlon BaCote greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I'm here tonight to introduce you to the Recovery Community Organization. My name is Marlon BaCote. I'm a PHD candidate in Psychology. I am also a certified substance abuse counselor supervisee and qualified mental health professional and registered peer recovery specialist, but more importantly, as said in the prayer, I was one of those vulnerable in the community. I experienced over two decades of substance use disorder and mental health. Many of you know my mother, Delegate Mamy BaCote. She exhausted her resources, her finances and a lot of mental anguish in trying to get me clean and I found that recovery in the recovery community organization, VARR, which is the Virginia Association of Recovery Residences, has licensed homes under the Department of Behavioral Health and Disabilities Services. There are 33 in the state. There are 17 in Richmond. I live in Richmond and I live in one of those homes and this is the longest clean time I've had since my mother passed in 2020. It's a powerful organization. It's a powerful community based on peer relation. Like I said, there's 33 in the state, 17 in Richmond. There are none in Hampton and Newport News. There's one in Chesapeake and one in Norfolk. I left that information. It is also on the VARR website, that gives the locations of these homes, but one of the owners of one of these homes, well, there are several homes, McShin Foundation, which I am a part of, has 13. They just opened one for pregnant women and children and got a grant, so they pay their rent for six months while these ladies get their lives together so they can have their children in their life. It is a powerful organization and knowing

the power and position that my mother held, I went to recovery centers all across the country and I haven't found anything better than what's in Richmond right now, and I want to bring that here. Like I said, the owner of one of the recovery residences is a Kecoughtan High School graduate. He wants to meet with Council. I will send you all an email to the Council email with his email attached and let's talk about getting some real recovery in Hampton. And, I'm not sure - I'll say this, but I heard that Hampton's drug court closed in Hampton and I was - I'm a part of Hampton drug court. Hampton drug court gave the foundation to where I am now in my recovery and even for the head peer in the state who is the DBHDS (Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services) peer, Alethea Lambert, was a drug court graduate from Hampton. Shame on Hampton if it doesn't have a drug court because I advocate for drug courts and I advocate for recovery and support houses. I brought two people with me from the recovery residences in Richmond.

Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Julian Vanlandingham.

Ms. Julian Vanlandingham greeted those on the dais, introduced herself and made the following statement: I'm from a small town up north called the Northern Neck of Virginia. I have 219 days today clean off of every substance. I'm also in a program called the Journey House Foundation. Well, when I came there, I was broken, bruised, didn't know where I was going. I was completely lost. Little did I know in the seven months that I have that it would change my life for the better. I have found a job. I'm going to meetings and have built a recovery network. So, basically, what I'm trying to get at today is that I think it would be a great idea. It's really helped me in the last seven months. You know, I will be here, in Richmond, it will be eight months at Journey House soon. So, thank you.

Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Jeffrey Gunsallus.

Mr. Jeffrey Gunsallus greeted those on the dais and everyone in the Hampton Roads area, thanked Council for letting those from his group speak and made the following statement: Hard times are not hard to come by and there's a lot of people who have been struggling and found great success in these RCO's (Recovery Community Organizations). I'm currently a member of the one in Richmond which has many of them. I'm from Charlottesville, Virginia. I found my way to RCO Richmond because we have none either, you know, and, it has allowed me and allowed many individuals to have the time to focus on themselves, get themselves back together, become better fathers, sons, brothers, mothers - I mean, all across the board. I mean, I thank God every day for the opportunities presented to me in the people that run these foundations and put these things in place for people to use. I mean, they are vital. It's a necessity in communities, all communities. I mean, not just Richmond, Hampton, Charlottesville, I'd like to see them everywhere because second chances

are hard to come by for a lot of people and when you get one and you make the most of your opportunity, I mean, it's hard to value a life. Saving a life - being a success. So, I mean, it's a great idea. It's helped me. It's helped many other people. The proof is in the pudding. So, thank you all for letting me speak.

Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Johnson Tirado.

Mr. Johnson Tirado greeted those on the dais and staff, introduced himself and made the following statement: I come before you today concerned regarding the upcoming Hampton Music Jazz Festival scheduled June 27th , 28th and 29th at the Hampton Coliseum. I've been producing events in the Hampton area for over 15 years and have more than 25 years of experience in the entertainment industry. For the past several years, I've hosted successful events at the Hampton Roads Convention Center, specifically, the last four years with the 757 Extravaganza, which was a partnership with the Hampton Jazz Festival, Hampton Coliseum. Unfortunately, this year, the opportunity was not extended to me. A new promotional company was brought in to introduce the Hampton Jazz and Music Festival, and they subcontracted the events to be held at the Convention Center to another party with approval from the Hampton Coliseum and Jazz Festival organizers, essentially duplicating the very events I've been producing locally for the last four to five years. As a result, I was forced to move my event to another location because I was no longer able to host the event at the Hampton Roads Convention Center. As a longtime community member and business owner, I've invested significantly in the City, including donating over \$20,000 to local organizations (to local non-profit organizations), student scholarships over the last decade. I feel the way this transition was handled lacked transparency and consideration for the local stakeholders who have consistently supported the enhancement of the festival experience. But, with that being said, I want to make it clear: I would love to be a part of the solution, not the problem. I am committed to working collaboratively and will welcome the opportunity to sit on any boards, committees or planning teams that can help guide these types of decisions in the future. It is my hope that we can work together more intentionally, whether with the Jazz Festival or other cultural initiatives to continue to provide quality entertainment for the residents of Hampton and surrounding cities. To Mayor Gray, City Manager Bunting, Councilman Bowman: Thank you for the prompt and thoughtful response to my concerns when I first reached out to you a couple of weeks ago. Thank you.

Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Shane Lewis.

Mr. Shane Lewis greeted those on the dais and everyone in attendance and made the following statement: I'm speaking on behalf of (I guess) the community on the north side of Andrews Boulevard across from the middle school, Kilgore Middle

School. We all have wood fences there and people are just flying down the road and the traffic noise from the cars going by, motorcycles, you name it. I mean, this is from dusk 'til dawn. I was just wondering, maybe if we could - I've seen a couple of other communities, they have walls, like cement walls or brick walls. I was wondering if the City would be interested in building one for us just to reduce that noise because me, personally, I can't enjoy my outdoor spaces and I've talked to maybe three or four other residents in that area. They don't really like the noise either. And, I've done a little bit of research on sound reduction and just sound in general and some of the - like the World Health Organizations labels noise pollution as like the second most threatening pollution out there right now. So, there's research behind it. I'm just humbly requesting a wall be built and maybe also a reduction in the speed limit for that road as well. That's all I've got. Thank you.

Mayor Gray called on the last speaker, Richard East.

Mr. Richard East greeted those on the dais, introduced himself, and made the following statement: I work for President Williams and Chief Glover over at HUPD (Hampton University Police Department) - no badge, no gun, no radio. I'm a safety guy doing environmental health and safety and emergency preparedness. I don't live in the City of Hampton, but I rush here every morning as quickly as I can and leave with reluctance at the end of every business day. I'm here to talk to you to solicit your support for asking the Director of Public Works and the Director of Traffic Engineering to readdress with VDOT (the Virginia Department of Transportation) and with the Federal Highway Administration regarding the intersection of William R. Harvey Way and Settlers Landing Road. I'm sure all of you have gone across the Booker T. Washington Bridge from downtown Hampton over towards I-64. Those of you who are going to get on eastbound I-64 to go to Norfolk know that the center lane is the one that you get in to go to the eastbound I-64 ramp, except between the hours of 3:00-6:00 PM. There are three lights at that intersection, one for each lane and between the hours of 3:00-6:00 PM, the right most and the left most lights stay turned green intermittently to red, but for three hours, the center lane stays red. Now, I recently got a communication from the Director of Public Works who said that there are 17 signs that tell people not to use the on-ramp - well, it doesn't tell them not to use that center lane and the run up to the stoplight. These are the signs that are there as you approach the intersection and they are just not enough to communicate to drivers to stay out of the lane between 3:00-6:00 PM. If we really wanted people to stay out of the lane between 3:00-6:00 PM, we would put a physical barrier up between 3:00-6:00 PM. Why do we not - might be due to the fact that the red-light camera now issues citations for each of the persons that violates that center lane. I don't think this is right and I think that we can come up with a better solution. Thank you for your time.

Ms. Bunting provided the below comments in response to the public comment period.

Ms. Bunting understood Mr. East's frustration, and shared that the City tried a variety of solutions to the problem of traffic backups in the area which are mainly due to apps re-routing travelers and construction at the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel (HRBT). In addition, this problem has negatively impacted clearance for police and fire vehicles, therefore, the City had to address it somehow. The plan was to do something similar to what the City of Norfolk has done, which is to close the ramp with a hurricane arm from 3:00-6:00 PM. Hampton was denied that opportunity due to complaints received by VDOT and FHWA (the Federal Highway Administration) and was forced to come up with other alternatives. The alternative that exists today was the only one that was approved, signed off on and funded by VDOT.

Ms. Bunting made additional comments about the 17 signs, the ramp and why a barricade will not work. She also shared that staff conversed with the courts and the City Attorney's office about the 3:00-6:00PM extended red-light to ensure that everything the City is doing is kosher. She emphasized that this was the solution that was chosen as a means of a last resort and the only solution the City has been given.

Ms. Bunting paused to remind citizens about a few traffic patterns downtown.

Ms. Bunting indicated that she will have a discussion with the City's Traffic Engineer and Public Works Director about a sound wall and/or sound study and follow up with Mr. Lewis and his neighbors regarding possible solutions to their concerns.

With regard to the Jazz Festival, Ms. Bunting shared that the Festival is put on by Hampton University and the Hampton Coliseum and there has always been a third-party promoter. She announced that the third-party promoter was changed this year for a variety of reasons and then spoke about the logistics of the process this year to include the former promoter's change of interest and also the contract involved. She indicated that the City will be glad to work with Mr. Tirado on other events.

In terms of the substance abuse recovery suggestion, Ms. Bunting indicated that Hampton is always looking to help more people and she would love to connect those in attendance with the Community Services Board (CSB) and Assistant City Manager Obeng who works with community groups interested in expanding services of that nature in Hampton.

Ms. Bunting clarified that Hampton no longer has a drug court, not because Council decided against it, but because the public defender's office and private attorneys stopped referring people to the program when state laws changed and allowed defendants other choices. She spoke about Hampton's Behavioral Health Court Docket which allows people with substance abuse and mental health concerns opportunities to go through that special docket. Ms. Bunting said that it is regrettable that Hampton no longer has a drug court and is something that staff and City leaders fought to keep, however, the state will not fund and support something if there are not enough participants.

Ms. Bunting complimented Elijah and Nasir Mackey on their great presentation and said that she looks forward to purchasing their book and learning about their work.

Vice Mayor Brown shared that there are facilities in Hampton similar to what Mr. BaCote described and then spoke about a program through the CSB which allows people who re-enter into the community after incarceration to reside there until they recover and are able to return to the workforce.

## GENERAL ITEMS

### Appointments

6. [25-0160](#) Consideration of an Appointment to the Community Policy and Management Team (CPMT)
- A motion was made by Vice Mayor Steven Brown and seconded by Councilmember Randy Bowman, Sr., that Aayanna Morales be appointed in the place of Marcy Wright representing Transitions Family Violence Services. The motion carried by the following vote:
- Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

## REPORTS BY CITY MANAGER, CITY COUNCIL, STAFF, COMMITTEES

There were no reports.

## MISCELLANEOUS NEW BUSINESS

There were no items of new business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

**Contact Info:**

**Clerk of Council, 757-727-6315, [council@hampton.gov](mailto:council@hampton.gov)**

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Jimmy Gray  
Mayor

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Katherine K. Glass, MMC  
Clerk of Council

Date approved by Council \_\_\_\_\_