



City of Hampton

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

Council Approved Minutes - Final City Council Work Session

Mayor Donnie R. Tuck
Vice Mayor Jimmy Gray
Councilmember Chris L. Bowman
Councilmember Eleanor Weston Brown
Councilmember Steven L. Brown
Councilmember Michelle T. Ferebee
Councilmember Billy Hobbs

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

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

1:00 PM

Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tuck called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. with all members of the City Council present.

Present 7 - Councilmember Chris L. Bowman, Councilmember Eleanor Weston Brown, Councilmember Steven L. Brown, Councilmember Michelle T. Ferebee, Vice Mayor Jimmy Gray, Councilmember Billy Hobbs, and Mayor Donnie R. Tuck

DONNIE R. TUCK PRESIDED

AGENDA

1. [22-0033](#) Buckroe Beach Paid Parking Program

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

City Manager Mary Bunting introduced the item; shared that the purpose for the preliminary presentation is to provide Council with a summary of available options and information about how things could potentially work; and then noted that no vote will be required today.

Hampton's Virginia Department of Transportation Program Manager, Lynne Keenan, greeted those on the dais and stated that the Public Works Department was asked to look into the possibility of paid parking in the Buckroe area due to concerns related to congestion and the high parking demand during seasonal events, particularly in the summer.

Ms. Keenan reviewed the slide presentation which provided information about existing parking in Buckroe; the existing market for paid parking in the area; local market research about the use of mobile payment apps; additional options available by mobile app company, ParkMobile; regional parking rates for the cities of Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Richmond, Portsmouth and Newport News; proposed hourly rates and revenue projections from those rates; proposed shuttle services; stakeholder engagement and feedback, including feedback from the Buckroe Improvement League; and miscellaneous information related to parking fines, the enforcement area and contract terms.

Ms. Keenan also shared the following information:

Additional considerations proposed by staff include: the requirement of a permit parking program in advance of paid parking; permit parking could be seasonal; potential to send beach customers to other public beaches where parking is unmetered; potential cost for Buckroe residents that do not live close enough to walk to the beach; and case studies suggest that paid parking should not be introduced in areas seeking redevelopment, therefore, this may curb redevelopment efforts in Buckroe.

Some conclusions as a result of this work were that additional research regarding customer expectations and viability in the Buckroe Area is needed before proceeding; increased customer service complaints are expected as a result of a larger permit parking program and paid on-street parking; and fabrication of signs requires 6-8 weeks minimum, therefore, a decision would be needed prior to March 15 to allow signs to be installed ahead of the summer tourist season.

Ms. Keenan noted that this timeline does not support enacting permit parking in the residential area ahead of the summer and then opened the floor for questions.

Mayor Tuck referenced the requirement that permit parking must precede paid parking; the consideration related to permit parking not being required off season; and the permit parking program implementation time from May 1 or May 30 through September. He asked Ms. Keenan to elaborate on whether this is a possibility and if it can be sold to Buckroe residents and associations.

Ms. Keenan shared that this is a concern for staff and that it would be challenging to get a program of that magnitude implemented by the summer. In addition, staff would need to hire a technician to run the program and would need to move forward quickly if Council decided to move in that direction.

Ms. Bunting added that if Council wants to do this this season, staff can make it

work; however, it would be ideal to have more time to do it. She also recommended that residential permit parking be year-round versus seasonal, otherwise it may be too confusing for people. She noted that, in her opinion, paid parking should be seasonal so that people can enjoy the beach without having to pay a fee when demand is not as great.

Mayor Tuck asked if the primary objective is to make money from paid parking at Buckroe; asked about the impact this will have on special events; commented about the various opinions about the potential to send beach goers to other areas; and referenced a concern from a citizen who is on social security and often delivers items to lifeguards and others at Buckroe, but does not have the resources to pay this fee and suggested hours from 9am until 7pm.

Ms. Keenan clarified that the primary objective is to help control congestion and ensure that traffic flows more efficiently in that area. The ancillary benefit is the potential for revenue gain. With regard to the impacts, Ms. Keenan shared that staff is looking into additional options, for example, paid reserved parking on holidays such as the 4th of July or Memorial Day. With regard to user hours, Ms. Keenan shared that the analysis shows the majority of usage between 5 pm and 10pm and the result of reducing hours would be a reduction in potential revenue gain.

Councilwoman Ferebee thanked Ms. Keenan for the information; asked if any consideration was given to seasonal parking passes; asked about statistics related to how many people from out of town park there compared to Hampton citizens; and whether consideration has been given for a reduced rate for Hampton residents.

Ms. Keenan noted that staff has not looked into seasonal parking passes, but will. She also indicated that some research has been done based on an analysis of Virginia Beach using a flat rate for an entire day. Staff will also check into other apps that may be useful.

In response to Councilman Bowman, Ms. Keenan indicated that iPhones are not required for this program and that androids can be used in the process. Councilman Bowman expressed concern about individuals who do not have access to cell phone technology. He also noted that shuttle programs have worked well in the past and said that he hopes staff will consider that as a primary option.

Councilman Brown thanked Ms. Keenan for the presentation; expressed concern about losing patrons and revenue from those who often spend money on amenities and festivals; asked about parking charges in other localities; expressed concern about citizens who cannot afford to pay for parking, particularly during the pandemic; questioned if this is about revenue or mitigating seasonal parking

problems; and the potential for Hampton citizens who already pay license fees to obtain parking decals.

Ms. Keenan shared a few examples of how some localities in our region charge for parking.

Ms. Bunting noted that staff will return to Council with updated data after working through the questions and suggestions posed by Council. She also suggested taking the pressure off of doing this by Memorial Day, but continuing to work with Council and the community on this project.

2. [22-0085](#) River Street Park Redesign Engagement Update

Attachments: [FINAL DRAFT River Street Steering Committee Recommendation Report 20220208.pdf](#)
[Presentation](#)

For the benefit of the public, Ms. Bunting shared that River Street Park is in downtown adjacent to a neighborhood that will be affected by the upcoming work with the express lanes and the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel (HRBT). She introduced Neighborhood Division Manager, Jonathan McBride, to outline how Hampton will work to redesign the park once the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has completed the project.

Mr. McBride greeted those on the dais and began the update on staff's work with the River Street Park neighborhood and the VDOT process.

Mr. McBride shared several slides which indicated the location of the park. He also spoke about the historical context of the property and shared that this neighborhood in the Pasture Pointe area was identified by Council as a housing venture neighborhood sited for reinvestment funds for improvements to the housing stock. In addition, this area was affected by Hurricane Isabel. Staff applied for state grant funding for restoration and worked with VDOT to address the shoreline. Included in the presentation were images of the parcels of land that needed to be addressed.

Mr. McBride noted that a park plan was derived as a result of the events describe above.

The next few slides of the presentation that Mr. McBride shared provided information related to the VDOT project.

Mr. McBride shared that staff worked with VDOT to establish a memorandum agreeing that it would work with staff to put the park back, as well as work out details regarding the cost and redesign of the project. The two phases involved are:

removal/storage developments and the design phase.

The next few slides of the presentation that Mr. McBride reviewed outlined the timeline of the community engagement process and listed the names of staff and committee members of the River Street Park Steering Committee that were involved in the process.

Mr. McBride paused to share that committee member, Philip Egert, who recently passed away, was a leader in the process and that his influence and work in the community will be missed.

Mr. McBride shared the survey results outlined in the presentation. Two significant questions in the survey were related to where survey takers reside and what features of the park they utilize the most.

Mr. McBride provided information about the River Street Park redesign priorities. Priorities include the southern entrance plaza; under the freeway; and the Northside waterfront. Additional information about the priorities and the next steps in the process are outlined in the presentation.

Mr. McBride thanked all involved including staff and committee members. He also recognized a few of the committee members who were in attendance and then opened the floor for questions and comments.

Councilman Bowman commented that he has been to many events at the park which is very personal, quaint and nice and then asked whether VDOT is absorbing the cost of the demolition and replacement project.

Mr. McBride said yes and said that staff is working with VDOT to make sure that the City is made whole in the process. The City is not on the hook for any costs at this point.

Ms. Bunting added that VDOT is committed to covering the costs related to their job, but the City would be responsible for any upgrades or expansions to the park.

Mayor Tuck again acknowledged the committee members in attendance by having them stand. Mr. McBride noted that the committee will also be involved in the spring process moving forward. Mayor Tuck opened the floor for additional questions from Council, but none were posed.

3. [22-0083](#) Briefing on the Community Assessment on Perceptions of Crime and Safety and the ARPA Community Grant Process

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

Ms. Bunting introduced the item.

Director of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Opportunities, Latiesha Handie, greeted those on the dais and began the report on the office's findings and plans moving forward. She shared that the report will provide information related to Hampton's Community Assessment; plans for connecting individuals to services; and funding opportunities.

For the benefit of the public, Ms. Handie shared the mission of the office which is "To create better outcomes for Hampton's youth and young adults ages 14-24 as we strive to provide meaningful alternatives to drugs, gangs and violence while also focusing on addressing unresolved trauma and providing support for returning citizens".

Ms. Handie shared that in late November through early December 2021, the office fielded a survey which was created with researchers at Christopher Newport University's Center for Crime Equity and Justice Research and Policy. The survey aimed to better understand the community's perception of the causes and the effects of crime and safety in Hampton and align the office's work to community needs.

The Director of Christopher Newport University's Center for Crime, Equity and Justice Research and Policy, Dr. Steven Keener, reported on the findings of the assessment. He noted that these are not the perceptions of all Hampton residents; instead, these are the perceptions of the residents who participated in the survey.

The slides that Dr. Keener shared provided information about the demographics of the participants; their primary areas of concern by age group; their perception of crime, police and safety, experiences with racism, prejudice and discrimination; their perception of anxiety and mental health; and their knowledge and use of community resources.

Dr. Keener also shared a list of conclusions and policy implications related to the assessment and highlighted a few of the implications of great concern. They include the perception of safety dropping at night (some cities approach to solving this concern is by increasing street lighting); the overwhelming majority experiencing racism, prejudice and discrimination on a daily basis (anti-racism should be the center of all policy changes); and the concern about being arrested and incarcerated, particularly in communities of color.

Mayor Tuck spoke about the statistical profile that suggests that highly educated individuals are less likely to have a run-in with law enforcement and asked if the sample population had interactions with the law and what would make them fearful?

Dr. Keener spoke about the results which show that individuals who had experiences with racism and discrimination with law enforcement fear potential instances may take place in the future. He also spoke about criminology literature which shows that law enforcement resources are typically located in communities of color creating some disconnect.

The Mayor and Dr. Keener had a brief conversation about individuals' concern about interactions with the law, while simultaneously desiring more police presence to feel safe in their communities. Dr. Keener noted that this type of disconnect is not high in Hampton and expressed the need to educate citizens about ways to systemically address crime and safety such as the use of social services, mental health services and substance abuse resources.

In response to Councilman Brown, Dr. Keener returned to the portion of the presentation related to the participant's level of education and spoke a bit about those statistics. Councilman Brown emphasized the need to determine where the most vulnerable people are in our community in order to put resources in those areas.

Vice Mayor Gray piggy-backed off of Councilman Brown's comments related to the demographics of the respondents, perception of crime and the need for a broader representation of the community and then asked if the assessment is missing important information due to the lack of diversity? Dr. Keener agreed that there will always be a gap and suggested that this work is a starting point for future work in finding concerns and determining how to address them. Vice Mayor Gray noted that these are problems, not only in the black community, but throughout Hampton, and that everyone can be involved in reaching a solution. He reiterated the need for a deeper dive in looking at a broader group of individuals in the community. Dr. Keener agreed.

Mayor Tuck noted that Christopher Newport designed the survey, however, the Office of Youth and Young Adult Opportunities sought out the respondents; therefore, the net may not have been casted wide enough or there was misrepresentation of the ones who responded.

In response to Councilwoman Freebee's question about a representative sample, Dr. Keener said that it is more about the strategy of doing the sampling and determining if we are close to representation of the City based on age, race and education

levels, etc.

Dr. Keener suggested that, moving forward, Hampton should consider the differences across age groups; the gap between knowledge and accessing resources; vulnerable populations; the range of stakeholders; and giving the City access to resources.

Dr. Keener acknowledged a few additional colleagues who worked on the effort and assisted with authoring the final report. Dr. Johnny Finn, Professor of Geography at Christopher Newport University, was also in attendance.

Dr. Keener opened the floor for additional questions. None were posed.

Ms. Handie returned to the podium; thanked those who collaborated on the project; and provided a bit of information about how the survey was fielded and the intent of the survey. The survey was fielded between October 27 until December 15 to allow time to report to the state and receive guidance. It was also fielded between individuals that may have most been impacted or likely to succumb to impacts with violence or trauma in those identified areas of interest. The survey was deployed through a kick-off event at Y.H. Thomas Community Center where members of the community were invited to weigh in so that anything that comes out of it was to form the work and the outline of the department that would be the buy-in and vested interest of those that would most benefit from the survey data. The results are presented in the violence reduction strategies. The survey (and input from community stakeholders) was used to deploy and create the survey questions. The department hopes to continue to deploy the survey in many ways, including in partnership with Mayor Tuck and the facilitation of town halls with high schools in partnership with the Executive Director of Student Support, Trena Hatcher, to ensure that we receive additional invested interest to form our work.

Ms. Handie continued saying that this represents a small portion of the work being done to continue the community assessment and emphasized that it is more about full representation than the number of participants. She also shared that the majority of our population is highly educated African-Americans and we had a mix of participation from those willing to partake in the survey. She reiterated that moving forward, other ways to gain additional feedback will be implemented such as in the previous example with the work being done with high schools.

Councilman Brown expressed the need for full representation in our outreach. He emphasized the importance of centering in on those who may not have the high education level who end up in the dark trenches of domestic violence, crime, trauma, poverty and homelessness. He suggested if a second survey is done, that

staff drill down deeper to receive more data so that when decisions are made related to funding programs and support for the Office of Youth and Young Adult Opportunities, Council can be confident in knowing that those funds are going to a good cause.

Ms. Handie responded saying that while most of the participants may have been highly educated, that does not mean that they have been far removed. She assured Council that she understands diversity, equity and inclusion and that access to opportunity is not always afforded to just those who are highly educated, it can also impact those who are marginalized based on color, race and gender.

Ms. Handie shared that the next step in the process involves determining how to move forward utilizing the information gathered from the survey. She then transitioned into the next portion of the presentation which provided information about the program called Opportunity Connect which mirrors the previous Youth Connect Program. This program will link youth, young adults, community members and families to transformative educational programs, services and activities designed to mitigate violence, drugs and gang participation while addressing unresolved trauma and supporting returning citizens.

Ms. Handie explained that the office will work with individuals, agencies and organizations to provide resources consistent with our mission. Staff will also review voluntary referrals with a committee to connect qualified individuals and families to services and activities. The goal will be to end the cycle of trauma for individuals and families in the community; to stop the needless loss of life by reducing gun violence and gang activity; and to help individuals transitioning from incarceration identify support and overcome challenges.

Ms. Handie spoke about the areas on which Opportunity Connect will focus. Areas of focus include community building and empowerment; education; out of school time activities; employment; mental health; family support; and alternatives to incarceration and reentry. Additional information about each category is provided in the slide presentation. The Office of Youth and Young Adult Opportunities will activate Opportunity Connect through partnerships with Hampton's Family Assessment Planning Team (the Children's Service Act), the Department of Social Services, Probation and Court Services and the Community Services Board to create a system of care and a path to resource sharing.

The final portion of the presentation provided information about grants. Ms. Handie reminded everyone that the common goal of the office is violence intervention, prevention and sustainable reentry which requires additional collaboration between support agencies and grass roots organizations to provide transformative services.

Similar to the Plant Change Mini-Grant, formerly known as the Youth Violence Prevention Mini-Grant established in 2012, Hampton City Council allocated additional funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to issue larger grants through 2025 to support the same target areas of awareness prevention, intervention and reentry.

Ms. Handie announced that applications are available. The grants available through ARPA are larger than \$10,000. Plant Change Mini-Grants are up to \$10,000 per cycle for prevention, reentry and intervention and up to \$2,000 for awareness. Applications are available through staff member, Charone Dew, at charone.dew@hampton.gov.

Ms. Handie opened the floor for questions and comments.

Vice Mayor Gray asked if the grant cycle offers opportunities for non-profits multiple times a year for new programs that emerge throughout the year. Ms. Handie replied yes, and added that the ARPA Grant allows for an open calendar until 2025. Two cycles for the mini-grants are from April - May and September - October. This is based on the fiscal year and how we can fund the smaller grants of up to \$10,000 per cycle for the intervention, reentry and prevention grant and \$2,000 for the awareness grant.

At Vice Mayor Gray's request, Ms. Handie spoke about how the Hampton Community Assessment correlates with the former roadmap. The information provided in the roadmap as being our core areas directly identified through the community survey that people are concerned about unsupervised youth, mental health, socioeconomic anxieties and weapons. In addition, what was determined by the violence reduction strategy in creating the roadmap helped further validate what was found in the community survey.

In response to Councilman Brown, Ms. Handie confirmed that the ARPA Grants can be over \$10,000 and there is a requirement that the organization is a registered neighborhood group or a 501(c) 3 to receive the grant. Organizations may contact the Community Development Department to learn how to become a registered neighborhood group. The Office of Youth and Young Adult Opportunities will also assist organizations with identifying pathways of receiving funds.

Ms. Bunting reiterated that the requirement is that an organization is a registered neighborhood group or a 501(c) 3, one or the other.

REGIONAL ISSUES

There were no regional issues.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no items of new business.

CLOSED SESSION

4. [22-0087](#) Closed session pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 2.2-3711.A (.1) (.3) and (.8), to consider appointments as listed on the agenda; to discuss the performance of City Council appointees; to discuss the disposition of publicly held property in the Downtown and Neil Armstrong Parkway corridor areas of the City where such in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining or negotiating strategy of the City; and to consult with legal counsel employed by the City pertaining to zoning regulation of retail alcoholic beverage control licensees pursuant to §15.2-2286(A)(3) of the Code of Virginia.

At 2:23 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs and seconded by Councilmember Steven Brown, that this Closed Session - Motion be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Weston Brown, Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Ferebee, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Hobbs and Mayor Tuck

5. [22-0027](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Board of Zoning Appeals
6. [22-0074](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Hampton Redevelopment & Housing Authority (HRHA)
7. [22-0089](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Virginia Air & Space Center Board (VASC)

CERTIFICATION

8. [22-0088](#) Resolution Certifying Closed Session

At 4:38 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs and seconded by Councilmember Steven Brown, that this Closed Session - Certification be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Weston Brown, Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Ferebee, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Hobbs and Mayor Tuck

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Contact Info:

Clerk of Council, 757-727-6315, council@hampton.gov

Donnie R. Tuck
Mayor

Katherine K. Glass, CMC
Clerk of Council

Date approved by Council _____