



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, May 25, 2022

1:00 PM

Council Chambers

DONNIE R. TUCK PRESIDED

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

AGENDA

1. [22-0174](#) Resilient Hampton Initiative - Downtown, Phoebus and Buckroe Water Plan Update

Attachments: [Presentation](#)
[Design Workshop Agenda](#)
[Water Plan Overview Document](#)

City Manager Mary Bunting introduced the item and introduced Chief Resiliency Officer Carolyn Heaps to make the presentation.

Ms. Heaps greeted those on the dais and began providing the overview of expanding watershed planning work from the Resilient Hampton Design Workshop. She added that she would also share the status of the planning effort for downtown Phoebus and Buckroe.

Ms. Heaps reviewed the first portion of the presentation which provided information and images related to the resilient Hampton timeline; expanding watershed planning;

the three elements for the water plan purpose (analyzes the landscape and challenges; establishes a vision for the future of the resilient watershed; and identifies and presents projects to achieve the vision); and the water planning principles (work along with the system; have a water-based approach which requires a larger perspective; and have the courage to think big and act small).

Ms. Heaps spoke about the next group of slides which provided the water plan schedule and maps and images related to watershed planning areas; elevation and localized depressions which tell how water moves through the landscape; and the projected annual flood risk in years 2040 and 2080.

Ms. Heaps noted that staff expects to have a draft set of refined projects to share with Council and the public this fall.

Ms. Heaps stated that community data was used as a central piece of the analysis. The community was asked to provide input on the following questions: What community assets do you care about? Where have you experienced flooding? Where does it get too hot? Where could more trees be planted? The next slide highlighted the community feedback synthesis. Some community priorities included prioritizing the working waterfront; incorporating natural based approaches such as creating vegetated shorelines; and addressing stormwater-driven flooding through infrastructure improvements.

Ms. Heaps continued saying that the community feedback provided the foundation for staff to build upon at the collaborative design workshop where more than 100 stakeholders from federal, state and local levels were in attendance. She then spoke a bit about the workshop and shared the goal of it which was to create an initial set of strategies and projects to respond to the challenges and opportunities outlined earlier in the presentation.

The next group of slides provided information about and images related to the Newmarket Creek watershed vision; the work being done to place strategies into landscape (watershed, water's edge and cores and connections); resilient strategies; watershed wide strategies (map); and preliminary project ideas.

Ms. Heaps reminded everyone that we are in the early stages of this process and are still receiving feedback, therefore, additional projects may be added to the list of preliminary projects. In addition, staff has identified a set of policies and programs to come out of this work which will require engagement from the entire community as the City cannot do this work on its own to create the future we are envisioning.

The next group of slides displayed images related to the following preliminary

projects: Mellen Green Street (parking strategy); Long Creek Blueway; Downtown; and beachfront protection.

Ms. Heaps spoke about community meeting participation; reviewed a summary of the initial community feedback; and then shared the next steps in the process. The next steps are to continue to collect feedback from the public on design workshop outcomes; meet with key stakeholders to discuss and test project concepts; refine, develop and prioritize project concepts; and present the full draft plan to Council and the public.

Ms. Heaps also shared how public feedback is being collected and posted online and then opened the floor questions and comments.

Councilman Brown thanked Ms. Heaps for the outstanding report; referenced citizens who have expressed concern about flooding in their neighborhoods; and asked what criteria will be used to determine how the work in various neighborhoods will be prioritized.

Ms. Heaps noted that she is not in a position to make that decision on her own, but recommends staff consider the factors driven by values outlined in the resiliency framework including physical risks (who is most at risk of flooding); consider who has the resources to attach to those impacts on their own; and consider social vulnerability and equity.

Mayor Tuck asked if the strategy related to raising King Street will involve raising a particular segment of King Street or the length of King Street.

Ms. Heaps returned to the image in the presentation of King Street and pointed out the segment of King Street around Brights Creek which is proposed to be raised. The goal is for this work to help with the flooding problem in that area.

Mayor Tuck commended Ms. Heaps on the presentation and opened the floor for additional questions, but none were posed.

Ms. Bunting thanked the citizens for their participation in the process and encouraged others to participate; reiterated that first priority will be to assist those who are in physical danger of harm due to flooding; and noted that staff will keep Council informed as the process continues.

Mayor Tuck asked about funding for these projects.

Ms. Heaps said that has not been discussed in detail, however, there are a variety of

options, one of which is the increasingly available federal funding and grants for these projects.

Ms. Bunting added that there will most likely be use of a combination of funding sources including local efforts, federal funding (following the 3x3x3 study) and state grants.

In response to Mayor Tuck, Ms. Bunting shared that the 3x3x3 study has been approved, but not yet funded. Each congressional delegation was asked to re-emphasize that our study needs to be prioritized with the funding.

Ms. Bunting also provided the following information about the 3x3x3 study at the Mayor's request. Typically, this is a three-year process for \$3 million with three partners (the federal government, the Corps of Engineers and the City). An overview of the stormwater and sea level rise needs for the community is complete. Following approval, localities are allowed to access Corps of Engineering funding of a larger scale. Norfolk is the only city in our region to have received one and have received funds to implement their 3x3x3 plan. She explained that the way to receive funding is through that study. The Corps wanted to promote multi-jurisdictional studies as opposed to every city in the region getting their own. Hampton is the lead as part of the Peninsula study because it is the largest city on the Peninsula with the most issues, however, this study would cover Hampton, Poquoson and Newport News. Ms. Bunting added that the study has been approved for approximately 5 or 6 years, but it has not been put in the budget bill. Efforts are underway to get our congressional delegation to put us in that budget bill so that we can get the work done.

2. [22-0177](#) Briefing on the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program

Attachments: [VCAP - Presentation](#)

Ms. Bunting introduced the item and introduced Assistant City Attorney II Angela King to make the presentation.

Ms. King greeted those on the dais and began briefing Council on the City's potential participation in the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program, also known as VCAP. She also indicated that Robyn Woolsey of the Colonial Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was present and available to answer questions if needed.

Ms. King reviewed the slide presentation which included information about living shorelines; the VCAP framework; the City's participation in VCAP; potential elements associated with that participation; considerations raised during these discussions and potential Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) elements; and

staff's recommendations. Staff recommends continuing conversations with Colonial SWCD staff to move forward with the development of an MOU that is brought to Council at the July or August meeting for consideration and/or approval. Staff also recommends conducting further research options associated with the creation of a local program that could provide additional incentives and support for property owners.

Ms. King opened the floor for questions and feedback from Council.

Councilwoman Brown said that she is excited to see this resilience and conservation work being done and that she appreciates the opportunity to partner with Colonial SWCD. She commended staff for a job well-done.

Mayor Tuck commented that this program would be of great benefit to those trying to create living shorelines, particularly considering the cost of a plant is about \$10.

REGIONAL ISSUES

There were no regional issues.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no items of new business.

Mayor Tuck asked the City Manager to introduce the City's new Fellow from Harvard University, Elena Sokoloski. Ms. Bunting shared that the Mayor was invited to attend the Bloomberg Harvard Institute which led to many opportunities for the City, one of which is a Summer Fellow. Ms. Sokoloski will be with the City for ten weeks with Bloomberg Harvard paying her living expenses and stipend while she is here. Steve Bond, Assistant City Manager, explained her duties. Ms. Sokoloski thanked everyone for the warm welcome she has received.

CLOSED SESSION

3. [22-0179](#) Closed session pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 2.2-3711.A (.1) and (.3) to consider an appointment as listed on the agenda and to discuss the disposition of publicly held real property in the LaSalle Avenue Corridor, Coliseum Central and the Shell Road corridor areas of the City and the acquisition of real property for a public purpose in the Kecoughtan Road Corridor area of the

City, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining or negotiating strategy of the City.

A motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs and seconded by Councilmember Chris Bowman, 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

4. [22-0130](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Citizens' Unity Commission (CUC)

CERTIFICATION

5. [22-0180](#) Resolution Certifying Closed Session

A motion was made by Councilmember Michelle Ferebee and seconded by Councilmember Billy Hobbs, 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 5:06 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 _____