



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 Chris L. Bowman
Councilmember Steven L. Brown
Councilmember Hope L. Harper
Councilmember Billy Hobbs
Councilmember Martha Mugler

STAFF: Mary Bunting, City Manager
Courtney R. Sydnor, City Attorney
Katherine K. Glass, MMC, Clerk of Council

Wednesday, October 9, 2024

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Tuck called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All members of the City Council were present except for Councilman Hobbs who wasn't feeling well.

Present: 6 - Councilmember Chris L. Bowman, Councilmember Steven L. Brown, Vice Mayor Jimmy Gray, Councilmember Hope L. Harper, Councilmember Martha Mugler and Mayor Donnie R. Tuck

Excused: 1 - Councilmember Billy Hobbs

DONNIE R. TUCK PRESIDED

INVOCATION - Councilman Chris Bowman

Councilman Bowman gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Tuck recognized Margaret Wilson who was recently recognized with the Virginia Restaurant, Lodging and Travel Hospitality Hero Award. Mayor Tuck noted that Ms. Wilson has also been a tour de force in our City, particularly in the Aberdeen gardens community.

A brief video was shown of Ms. Wilson's award presentation.

Mayor Tuck shared a bit of information about Ms. Wilson's history with Aberdeen Gardens and noted that she was named one of Hampton's heroes last year.

Ms. Bunting made a few comments about Ms. Wilson helping the City win the All-America City award and said that Ms. Wilson has always been willing to proudly promote, not just Aberdeen Gardens, but Hampton overall and we are grateful.

Ms. Wilson made a few remarks and thanked everyone for honoring her.

Mayor Tuck called for a motion to take a few items out of order and then shared information on a recent Sister Cities visit of a delegation from Malanje, Angola.

[24-0433](#)

Motion to Take Presentations, Proclamations, Awards and General Items Out of Order to Come After the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Councilmember Steven Brown and seconded by Councilmember Martha Mugler, that Presentations, Proclamations, Awards and General Items be taken out of order to fall after the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

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: 6 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

1. [24-0438](#) Resolution to Amend the City Council Approved Fiscal Year 2025 Budget to Accept and Appropriate \$166,718.45 Received as a Reimbursement from the City of Newport News, to the Capital Projects Wythe Fire Station Account of the Capital Project Fund for Design and Construction Costs of the Fire Station 3 Project at Kentucky Avenue Based on an Agreement between the City of Newport News and the City of Hampton.

Attachments: [Agreement](#)
[Change Order](#)

Item approved.

Aye: 6 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

2. [24-0441](#) Resolution to Amend the Fiscal Year 2025 Council Approved Budget to Appropriate \$7,683,324 in Fiscal Year 2024 State Carryover Funds to the General Fund's School Operating Fund to Offset the Impact of the Fiscal Year 2025 State Revenue Adjustments

Item approved.

Aye: 6 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

3. [24-0443](#) Resolution Approving Salary Increases for City Manager and City Clerk Consistent with Increases Authorized for other City Employees

Item approved.

Aye: 6 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

4. [24-0410](#) Approval of the minutes from the legislative sessions of June 12, 2024, and September 11, 2024, and the work session of August 14, 2024.

PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS

Mayor Tuck read a proclamation for Lights on After School Day.

Ms. Gwen Lomax and others came forward to receive the proclamation.

Ms. Lomax thanked Council for the proclamation and made a few remarks about how much she enjoys volunteering with the children of Hampton. She spoke about mentoring a group of students at Hampton University, called the Wise Group, which will be involved in this work and become mentees of the program. She also spoke about reading programs which take place at 11 a.m. on Saturdays at Barnes and Noble. Sign up for this is at 5:00 p.m. on October 16th at the main library.

Additional program participants came forward to introduce themselves, including several Hampton University students.

Mayor Tuck also shared a personal experience about the Adult and Alternative Learning Center.

GENERAL ITEMS

[24-0426](#) Presentation on Fentanyl Prevention and Awareness

City Manager Mary Bunting introduced Patrick Hartig, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Norfolk District Office and thanked him for taking time out of his busy schedule to present this important information.

Mr. Hartig thanked Mayor Tuck, Ms. Bunting and Police Chief Jimmy Wideman for inviting him to speak about this critically important issue. He shared that Fentanyl is killing tens of thousands of people every year, and hundreds of people in Hampton Roads every year. He noted that in his 27 years in law enforcement, he has never experienced a more deadly threat than what we are currently dealing with. Today's presentation is about the DEA's attempt to confront supply and demand and spread awareness to the community about the dangers of Fentanyl.

With regard to supply, Mr. Hartig said the DEA office plans to conduct investigations, make significant arrests and seize drugs, as that is their job; however, the community's help and collective effort is needed with regard to demand. He encouraged everyone to talk to their families and friends about the dangers of this drug.

Mr. Hartig provided some background information about the DEA, the Federal Police Department for all things drugs. In summary, the DEA has congressional authority to only investigate drugs, guns, money and violence. The DEA task force consists of local and state police departments and other federal agencies which have the same authorities and responsibilities as the DEA. The Hampton Police Department has been on the DEA Task Force for a long time and the task force officer from the Hampton Police Department is responsible for conducting comprehensive investigations aimed at making citizens safer, seizing drugs, arresting drug traffickers and stopping people from dying.

Mr. Hartig spoke about Fentanyl. In summary, Fentanyl is a schedule-two synthetic opioid which has a medical use and is typically prescribed for end-of-life care and severe pain. Today's presentation is about illicit Fentanyl (street Fentanyl). It is nearly 100 times more potent than morphine, making it very dangerous. The precursor chemicals come from China and it is manufactured in Mexico. This drug effects the respiratory system, and as a result of an overdose, sends a message to the brain to stop breathing and the lungs no longer function.

Mr. Hartig explained the difference between overdosing and poisoning. Overdosing refers to when someone takes a drug and they know what it is and overdoses on it and dies, whereas, poisoning is when the individual has been tricked - they think they are taking one thing, but there is Fentanyl in it.

Mr. Hartig spoke a bit about how drugs are made and the complete transition to synthetic drugs.

Mr. Hartig spoke about how Fentanyl is made in filthy laboratories outside of the country and gets smuggled into the United States and distributed in various areas, including Hampton. He then shared some statistics related to counterfeit pills, how many pills contain lethal amounts of Fentanyl, and the high death rate related to these drugs. He noted that drugs kill more people than guns and vehicular fatalities and also is the cause of many deaths in juveniles.

Mr. Hartig emphasized one of the most important take-aways from this presentation is that people should not take a pill unless it was prescribed to them by their physician and dispensed to them by a legitimate pharmacy, because if it came from

someone else, it probably contains Fentanyl. He then played a brief video about Fentanyl and what research shows about the effects of the smallest amount of this drug. Mr. Hartig noted that the video emphasizes how dire this crisis is.

Mr. Hartig shared a sad story of a two-year old from Hampton Roads that passed away from exposure to Fentanyl. He emphasized that the child did not take Fentanyl, instead, the child died simply by being around it.

Mr. Hartig spoke about drug cartels and the fact that they are so good at counterfeiting pills that professional DEA officers and chemists cannot tell the difference. He shared a slide comparing real pills to fake pills that look very similar, proving how difficult it is to tell the difference.

Mr. Hartig paused to share that there is a misconception that the problem is just with painkillers; however, cartels also counterfeit other controlled substances such as Xanax. This counterfeiting is increasing drug overdoses, poisonings and deaths and is also creating a new set of victims. He shared a story about a domestic abuse survivor who unknowingly bought a fake Xanax pill to help deal with anxiety and depression and died a few hours after taking it. He also noted that students sometimes take Adderall for energy to stay up late studying and have died as a result of it.

The next portion of the presentation was specific to Hampton Roads. Mr. Hartig shared several slides depicting the high volume of drugs being seized locally. He noted that cartels also put the community in danger by adding other drugs to Fentanyl. He provided an example of this with the drug Xylazine, which is intended to sedate large animals, but is very harmful to human beings.

Mr. Hartig continued speaking about how the activity of cartels and other criminal organizations is considered violent crime and that the organizations being investigated are violent in and of themselves. In addition, many of these organizations possess weapons and much of the violence in the community is a result of drug trafficking.

Mr. Hartig shared more statistics specific to the Hampton Roads area. He stressed that the public needs to be aware that lab testing and chemical analysis have shown that Fentanyl is in many other drugs including cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, ecstasy, Ketu and spice, marijuana, synthetic related products and vape pens. He reiterated that Fentanyl, alone, is not creating this crisis, but the fact that Fentanyl is also in other drugs is a major contributing factor.

Mr. Hartig spoke about the role social media plays in this crisis. People can easily obtain drugs by sending a simple message on their phone. Investigations have shown that drug cartels monitor online chat rooms for phrases like “I’m depressed” and offer counterfeit pills to those individuals for profit (particularly juveniles and young adults). Investigations have also shown that drug cartels have created fake online pharmacies and send people counterfeit drugs resulting in fatalities.

Mr. Hartig shared some red flags that may indicate counterfeit pills or warrant suspicion, some of which include cheap prices; transactions involving foreign currency; individuals without valid registrations; and packages that arrive damaged, looking odd or with no expiration date. He noted that the best advice he can give is to only get prescriptions from your local pharmacy.

Mr. Hartig spoke about Narcan, the chemical that reverses the effects of Fentanyl. He stressed that this chemical saves lives and everyone should have it and use it when needed. He also spoke about the downside of it and cases in which people are persuaded to use drugs because Narcan is available if needed; however, this practice is dangerous because Narcan is not guaranteed to save a life and should not be used as an excuse to use drugs.

Mr. Hartig encouraged everyone to view the DEA webpage for more informative information about this topic. He also spoke about billboard campaigns related to this topic warning the community about dangers of Fentanyl, especially our youth. He encouraged everyone to spread the word about the dangers of Fentanyl because this is ruining so many lives.

Mr. Hartig opened the floor for questions. No questions were posed. Mr. Hartig thanked Council for listening to his presentation.

Ms. Bunting said that Police Chief Wideman connected Mr. Hartig with our Hampton City Schools, and Mr. Hartig has an upcoming meeting with all the high school principals to talk about how they can roll this information out to our students. This is yet another way he is getting the word out to as many people as possible.

Ms. Bunting thanked Mr. Hartig for his commitment to this important issue and for working with our school system.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Rezoning

5. [24-0399](#) Rezoning Application No 24-0399 by Cornerstone Custom Homes LLC to Rezone the Parcel Located at 67 W Little Back

River Road [LRSN 8005581], Totaling +/- 0.35 acres, from One-Family Residential (R-9) to One-Family Residential (R-4) District with Proffered Conditions to Construct Two (2) 1-Family Detached Dwelling Units

Attachments: [Application Package](#)
[Proffer Agreement](#)
[Staff Report](#)
[Resolution](#)
[Staff Presentation](#)

Ms. Glass read the title for the item.

Ms. Bunting introduced Planning and Zoning Division Manager Mike Hayes to do the presentation.

Mr. Hayes greeted those on the dais and provided information about the application including location (near Langley Air Force Base) and the base of the proposal which is to subdivide the lot into two single-family lots and construct two single-family homes on that lot. He then shared several slides with details about the proposal including building elevations, proffers and zoning (currently R-9, with R-4 being requested).

Next, Mr. Hayes spoke about the application as it relates to the land use map which calls for low-density residential and commercial for commercial properties around the intersection. He spoke about lot sizes in the area and noted that most of the lots do not meet the minimum lot width requirement. He then showed an example of another lot that was divided into two lots and fits in with the lot width of the surrounding properties.

Next, Mr. Hayes talked about the components of the Hampton Community Plan (public policy) which apply to this application, some of which include: that the proposal encourages a mix of housing types; allows for various home ownership opportunities; ensures that it fits within the existing community; and comes forward as a high-quality product. He added that this property also falls within the North King Street Master Plan which talks about revitalizing North King Street and turning the area into a better residential frontage with pockets of commercial. In addition, while this is not in a historic neighborhood, the applicant worked with staff to design the homes to incorporate some of the ideas in the Hampton Pattern Book.

Mr. Hayes spoke about the proffered conditions that conform with the application. The key elements are regarding the location of the attached garage; the requirement

for the design to be in compliance with the Hampton Pattern Book for the Colonial Model; and all phases of development will follow the City's ordinances.

Lastly, Mr. Hayes shared staff's analysis of the proposal. It meets the Community Plan and North King Street Master Plan expectations; it utilizes available land; this is an infill opportunity; and supports the development of new housing and the improvement of adjacent neighborhoods. Staff and the Planning Commission recommend approval with seven proffered conditions.

Mayor Tuck opened the floor for questions and comments from Council.

In response to Councilman Brown, Mr. Hayes reiterated that currently, there is one large lot and the proposal is to subdivide for two single-family houses. Each lot is proposed to be 50-feet wide with two-story homes.

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing. Since there were no speakers signed up to speak, he closed the Public Hearing.

A motion was made by Councilman Steven Brown and seconded by Councilwoman Hope Harper that this rezoning be approved with seven (7) conditions. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

The Mayor said that four people signed up to speak, noted that they would be called upon two at a time and then called upon Jeannie Belgrave and Craig Knopp.

Ms. Jeannie Belgrave greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: Well, today I'm going to talk to you about a concern and conversation that I have had with people in my community, and that is about automation or robotic services in Hampton, or the possibility of increasing that type of services here in Hampton, and why that is important - because people in the community is concerned that they will...there will not be enough jobs for them because they, as in other cities around the nation, has happened, it is replacing the positions that a human being can do, and, whether it is, you know, businesses, they will do whatever it is best for the business, but as a City that I love, that I definitely love, and I'm going to live here forever, most likely, I would like to see, you know,

progress. Yes, I would like to see businesses thriving, but I would like also to see people knowing that they have jobs. So, I thought about something very interesting in that, as there was Mother Nature every time, I believe, that every time we cut a tree, we should plant 10 more somewhere. So, if we have to, if we, if the City of Hampton approved to bring in more robotic services to businesses here in Hampton, then whichever job it's taking, you know, because of it, can we just figure it out how to create 10 more jobs? You know, is there a way? Is there a plan for this?...for the future of Hampton? Because it's going to happen, is most likely, it's inevitable. It is happening everywhere, and that's what I wanted to talk about today and you know, to make you think about that. Thank you.

Mr. Craig Knopp greeted those on the dais, introduced himself and made the following statement: I appreciate your time. One of the things I had a quick discussion on somebody the other day about is police. I know we're short on police. We're always looking for police, but a concern that somebody had was about some crime. I know there's different things we...issues that we're always worried about, and everything else like that, but in particular, somebody was asking me about having the police stay at their at their house...and I was like, that's not really something, unless something has happened that you know that they're going to stay there, but it did bring up a question I did have is, how many occurrences that we actually have where police actually monitor a house over, you know, 24 hour period, something like that. So, Mary, I was just kind of curious, do the police publicize a stat like that or is that something that I had to contact the police department about? Basically, what I was looking for is a 10-year type of stat to see how many overnights that we had per year. I was just kind of curious about that. So, that's all I was looking for. Thank you.

Mayor Tuck called for the next two speakers, Aaron Weaver and Joan Weaver.

Mr. Aaron Weaver introduced himself and made the following statement: I'm here tonight to discuss two opportunities concerning our City. First, the property that you see right there, 101 North Armistead Avenue, this property has been vacant for a long time and has been listed for sale for quite a while. I'm not a realtor, but I'm a planner. I'm concerned about how we're building new developments, but neglecting the core community issues. This property has become a place where the homeless population seeks shelter, uses the restroom and engages in activity that should not be done in public. If we are serious about uplifting and improving the Olde Hampton neighborhood through the new housing being built, then we must address the core crime and safety issues surrounding this property. There are many potential solutions for this site, but it will require a partnership, collaboration with Olde Hampton community and to find the right path. The second issue I want to address is the property of 1809 West Mercury Boulevard, which is owned by Economic Development. That's the property behind Hooters. It's a blank lot right now. When I asked City Manager, Mary Bunting, she mentioned that it was purchased with the intention of encouraging larger scale redevelopment. The question I have now is this, what's the timeline for this? Is this property going to sit indefinitely until we find somebody, or is there a plan in motion? I understand it needs to protect competitive

advantages, but our Mercury Boulevard Corridor is not what it once was, and businesses are noticing. This corridor is one of our main arteries of our City, and we need to focus on its revitalization. In both cases, we need more communication, more partnership, and a clear plan of action to bring these properties and areas back to life. Thank you.

Ms. Joan Weaver began her statement: Being a loyal and proud Hamptonian as I am, I am going to give my credentials as well, Master of Arts degree college student, Development Administration, whenever you see or hear a pirate, you let it be known. Now, on with business. Ms. Weaver greeted those on the dais and continued: There are two areas that are causing me concerned that I have to have addressed. I know it's that time of the year. We know from October to November and not giving a political speech, but we know everybody is looking forward to November 5 for certain things. I just want to say and make sure that we know in here and to keep our hands in the hands of City of Hampton. Hampton takes care of Hampton. There is a certain Phoenix Commerce Center that is coming that we are still very much against - two aircraft carriers. I invite everybody who's listening to me to go to Old Aberdeen Road, Pembroke. When I say, aircraft carriers, God is my witness, they are the size those warehouses that are there, and I say... I propose to everybody I ride through our City, I see people sleeping on the streets where those warehouses were put, and we asked for housing, and don't come up with that excuse that some City Council people will say... there were developers who wanted that, and if it had been developed properly, it would have been utilized. So, I've got strong problems. Don't tell me and say houses were not to go there, and as was stated, fit in with the environment. Aircraft warehouses did not fit in with our environment, but they were put there. Last but not least, Virginia Peninsula Community College Workforce Development, customized corporate training, fast forward...programs, healthcare industry, Huntington Ingles, Newport News Shipbuilding, workforce. If anybody wants a job, it's a job there. Don't tell me that North Point is going to be the God and Savior to give us employment with what they claim for coming here. No, if you wanted a job, a job is there, and if North Point wanted to be the good neighbor that they claimed they did, they would be working with the Virginia Employment Commission to help find those...not talking about the economic program with Hampton doing it - utilize what Hampton is. Hampton has a great Virginia Employment; has a great workforce, and let's use what we have. Don't try to make North Point the great savior, because they have been going against a lot in cities with violating public nuisances, and they have lawsuits against them for messing up neighborhoods like they have messed up ours. Thank you.

Mayor Tuck noted that Ms. Weaver was the last person signed up to speak and then called on the City Manager for response.

First, Ms. Bunting said that she would follow up with Mr. Knopp about the requested

statistics or he may speak with Police Chief Wideman who was in the audience. In terms of police, she said that all cities (not just in our region) throughout the state and nation are struggling to get police officers, but Hampton has a large class of graduates from the Police Academy and our Police Department has done a good job of recruiting. In addition, Council did a major salary infusion for our police officers and firefighters and their rates of pay are amongst the top in the region. She indicated that pay is not an issue, instead, the issue is with supply. She shared that Hampton has a great, professional, modern-day department for anyone interested in the policing line of work.

With regard to the buildings mentioned, Ms. Bunting said that the property that the City acquired on Mercury Boulevard is part of the Coliseum Central Master Plan and there are active plans for that. She spoke about the unsolicited proposal process for potential users and said that staff cannot speak publicly about it right now other than that corner of Mercury Boulevard is of interest to the City, our citizens and other people in the region and that we will be able to develop that in the near future now that the former Quality Inn has been removed.

With regard to the bank building in downtown, Ms. Bunting explained that is not a property the City has been asked to pursue, but the Police Department works with the neighborhood to address loitering and other problems. She emphasized that the private property owners must give permission for the City to enforce trespassing and loitering on a private property and she believes the police are working on that.

For the record, Ms. Bunting spoke about the work of the homeless service team (Human Services and the Community Services Board) that meets with people that are homeless in our community on a regular basis. She explained that many times people who are suffering from homelessness, have multiple issues including mental health issues, substance abuse issues and a lack of income. The homeless service team does outreach and tries to get people placed where they can get services. She noted that sometimes we are successful in that and other times, people refuse those services, but we do regular canvassing to help them.

With regard to future jobs and automation replacing jobs, Ms. Bunting said that is an issue that will take more time to address than she has at this juncture. With regard to the Phoenix Commerce Center, she said that we understand how the neighborhood feels, and looks forward to continuing to work with them on keeping our part of the bargain, which is working with them to look at how we use the land set aside for the neighborhood as well as the money set aside for the neighborhood.

Appointments

6. [24-0396](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Hampton Animal Response Team Advisory Committee (HARTAC)

Attachments: [Applications](#)

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hope Harper and seconded by Councilwoman Martha Mugler that this Appointment be deferred to the City Council Legislative Session, due back on 12/11/2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

7. [24-0411](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Citizens Police Advisory Group (CPAG)

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hope Harper and seconded by Councilwoman Martha Mugler that this Appointment be deferred to the City Council Legislative Session, due back on 12/11/2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

8. [24-0434](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Hampton VA 250 Committee

A motion was made by Councilwoman Martha Mugler that Tim Receveur and Sarah Martin be appointed to the Hampton VA 250 Committee until October 31, 2026. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

REPORTS BY CITY MANAGER, CITY COUNCIL, STAFF, COMMITTEES

City Manager Bunting introduced Dr. Kwasi Obeng, the new Assistant City Manager, who gave brief remarks.

MISCELLANEOUS NEW BUSINESS

There were no items of new business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Contact Info:

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

Donnie R. Tuck
Mayor

Katherine K. Glass, MMC
Clerk of Council

Date approved by Council _____