



# 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 Eleanor Weston Brown*  
*Councilmember Steven L. Brown*  
*Councilmember Linda D. Curtis*  
*Councilmember W.H. "Billy" Hobbs*  
*Councilmember Chris Snead*

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

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**Wednesday, August 14, 2019**

**1:00 PM**

**Council Chambers**

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### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tuck called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. with all members of the City Council present with the exception of Councilmember Steve Brown.

**Present** 6 - Councilmember Eleanor Weston Brown, Councilmember Linda D. Curtis, Vice Mayor Jimmy Gray, Councilmember Billy Hobbs, Councilmember Chris Snead, and Mayor Donnie R. Tuck

**Absent** 1 - Councilmember Steven L. Brown

### DONNIE R. TUCK PRESIDED

### AGENDA

1. [19-0254](#) Strategic Priority Update - Living with Water, Good Government and Placemaking Initiatives

**Attachments:** [PRESENTATION](#)

Mayor Tuck noted that Deputy Clerk Joy Mautz is sitting in for the Clerk of Council.

City Manager Mary Bunting introduced the item.

Public Works Performance Manager Zandy Amor began the presentation on the City's strategic priorities regarding economic growth, placemaking, living with water, educated and engaged citizenry, a safe and clean community, family resilience/economic empowerment and good government.

Ms. Amor listed some of the projects with which the Public Works Department has assisted, which include: internal City requests, citizen requests, summer storm events and assisting various City departments.

Ms. Amor shared information about the Living with Water strategic priority. Topics of information include: waterways, flood reduction, MS4 permit management, stormwater infrastructure, erosion and sediment control, educational events, and the Resilient Hampton Initiative.

Ms. Amor also shared information about Good Government strategic priorities with which the Public Works Department has been involved. They include: security services, environmental impact reductions, pest control management, emergency repairs and sweeping, building improvements, electrical upgrades, street and bridge maintenance, inspection on contractor jobs, miscellaneous inspection services, street and street light improvements, pavement markings, infrastructure improvements, sewer maintenance and repairs, community outreach event participation and career fairs participation.

Ms. Amor assured everyone that the Public Works Department is committed to serving our community with integrity and accountability while fostering an environment that promotes and inspires creative and innovative ideas and actions.

Ms. Amor listed some of the upcoming projects and services that the department will be working on in the future. They include: asset management and Enterprise Geographic Information Systems (GIS), automated vehicle location and services project, American Public Works National Accreditation, joint camera project with the Hampton Police Department, fiber optic project with Information Technology, expansion of the intern program with the Hampton City Schools, providing cloud storage to field teams, smart payment options with the Hampton Treasurer's Office, 126 roadway repaving projects, and the extension of the Waste to Energy Agreement with NASA.

Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services Director David McCauley provided information about the Placemaking strategic priority. Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services projects are done to create vibrant and creative places that reflect and celebrate our unique history and capture the character of our community. The three components to successful Placemaking are activating existing spaces, branding, and creating great public spaces.

Mr. McCauley announced that the City owns and maintains 2,397 acres of asset inventory which is available for all to enjoy. These assets include parks,

neighborhood centers, kayak launches, boat ramps, aquatic centers, beaches, fishing piers, freshwater ponds, playgrounds, museums, offices, trails, dog parks, soccer fields, football fields, basketball courts, baseball fields, golf courses, tennis courts and more.

Mr. McCauley shared information about capital improvement projects and the funding for them. Mr. McCauley stated that completed projects include: playground and shelter improvements; Gosnold's Hope Park fencing; Buckroe Beach improvements; Darling Stadium improvements; Wi-fi at various centers; waterfront walkway landscaping; Sandy Bottom Nature Park restroom renovations; Briarfield Park, Hampton History Museum and Buckroe Soccer Park signage; Fort Monroe and Phoebus Docks and Piers; Mercury Boulevard, Armistead Avenue and Coliseum Central sidewalk, curb, gutter, and American with Disabilities Act (ADA) ramp improvements; the Bridge Street Project; intersection improvements at Commerce Drive and Convention Drive; transit shelters; and the Hampton Waterwalk at Central Park. Projects in progress include: Air Power Park Maintenance; Bluebird Gap Farm Food Prep Shed; Bluebird Gap Farm bathroom renovations; Gosnold's Hope Park fitness stations and parking expansion; North Phoebus Community Center gym floor; Grandview trail resurfacing; waterwalk trail amenities; and the Buckroe Boardwalk Renovation Study.

In response to Mayor Tuck, Mr. McCauley said that usage of the Phoebus docking pier has increased. He added that this venue will be added to the list of rented venues which will also increase usage of that pier.

Mr. McCauley announced that on August 20th, the City will kick off the Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services 2020 Master Plan process. A public meeting will take place from 6:30 pm until 8:00 pm at the Hampton Roads Convention Center Ball Room. The purpose of this meeting will be to receive feedback to guide future decisions for renovations and redevelopment of the City's park infrastructure and recreational facilities, and enhance recreational programming and sports tourism in the City.

Mr. McCauley recapped the completed projects and the funding spent for those projects. He noted that there will be approximately \$4 million of funding for FY20 projects (this includes new funding and rolled over funding).

Mr. McCauley briefly spoke about methodology that will be used when choosing FY20 projects. He also listed some of the proposed projects. Proposed projects include: Air Power Park Phase II; community center facelifts; athletic field maintenance; signage and branding; Darling Stadium maintenance; golf course bunkers; waterwalk signage and wayfinding; Briarfield Park improvements; Sandy

Bottom Nature Park; Hampton High School tennis courts; Mill Point Park; and Bluebird Gap Farm parking expansion.

Mr. McCauley shared some in-house projects which are funded through the annual operating budget. In-house projects include: guard stands at beaches, parks beautification, and a cattle chute at Bluebird Gap Farm.

Mr. McCauley opened the floor for questions from those on the dais.

Councilwoman Snead complimented Ms. Amor and Mr. McCauley on providing a great presentation. She also commended Mr. McCauley and his team on a job well-done on the beautification of rights-of-way throughout the City.

Councilwoman Curtis shared that a citizen expressed appreciation for the Gosnold's Hope Park playground, a place with accommodations for her (the citizen's) family to enjoy playtime with a special needs child.

In response to Mayor Tuck, Public Works Director Jason Mitchell stated that multiple bridge inspections are done annually and no major issues of concern have been found. He noted that minor issues are handled as they arise. Mayor Tuck was pleased to hear that Hampton's bridges are being well-maintained.

Vice Mayor Gray complimented Mr. McCauley and his department for the progress that can be seen throughout the City. He agreed with Councilwoman Curtis' comments regarding the nice playground at Gosnold's Hope Park and noted that his grandchildren also recently enjoyed that playground.

In response to Vice Mayor Gray, Mr. McCauley said there are plans to enhance the corner across from Briarfield Park; options are also being explored about moving the leased storage facility (property) in that area. He noted that plans are also underway to enhance the entrance to the park.

Ms. Bunting noted that she, several staff members, citizen Ms. Velva Goodman and Mr. Skip Stiles of the Wetlands Watch recently attended a U.S. Water Alliance Conference about dealing with urban flooding. She thanked everyone who has worked on the project. She also announced that she and Ms. Goodman will present at another national conference in September. She noted that she is pleased that Hampton is being recognized by national organizations.

Mayor Tuck concurred with Ms. Bunting's comments and said that he is proud of the positive things our community is doing in an attempt to deal with these issues.

Ms. Bunting announced that former Interim Public Works Director Jason Mitchell has been selected as the permanent Public Works Director. She thanked him for the work he has done thus far and said we look forward to the work he will do as permanent Director.

Councilman Brown arrived at 1:33 p.m.

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

2. [19-0243](#) Briefing on the Final Report of NASA DEVELOP Program

Attachments: [Presentation](#)  
[Video](#)

Ms. Bunting introduced the item and welcomed NASA Langley Research Center's Deputy Director Clayton Turner and Government Relations Officer Donna Lawson who were in attendance. She noted that NASA sponsored a team of interns to research urban tree canopy and its impact on our resiliency efforts.

Mr. Turner gave opening remarks, thanked Council and City staff for the opportunity to share information about the findings of this key program and shared information about additional programs at NASA. He also thanked them for their support over the years.

National Science Advisor for the DEVELOP Program at NASA Langley Research Center Dr. Kenton Ross spoke about the NASA DEVELOP Program. This program seeks to build skills in using earth observations in rising professionals and project partners (such as the City of Hampton) by exposing them to a range of NASA earth science data products that can support their decisions.

Ms. Sophie Barrowman and Ms. Paige Haley, interns at the NASA program, presented on the Hampton Roads Urban Development II Project.

Ms. Barrowman thanked City staff for working with them on this project. She explained that the team was tasked with mapping the distribution of impervious surface and tree canopy cover. She reviewed the objectives of the project which were to: identify zones susceptible to flooding; map distribution of impervious surface and tree canopy cover; and empower City officials and residents to work together toward a holistic approach to urban water management.

Ms. Barrowman listed community concerns regarding this problem. They include: recurring flooding, extreme weather and sea-level rise, blocked infrastructure, and water damage.

Ms. Barrowman defined impervious surfaces as surfaces that water cannot soak through such as roads, parking lots and buildings; these surfaces increase surface runoff resulting in increased flooding. Areas in Hampton of high impervious surface cover include: Langley Air Force Base, Mercury Boulevard, Interstate 64 and Interstate 664. Ms. Barrowman explained that tree canopies help reduce runoff by catching rainfall on the leaves, slowing raindrops and absorbing groundwater through the roots.

Ms. Barrowman shared that NASA earth observations were used to understand landscapes. She also shared additional information related to the methodology used during the research.

Ms. Haley shared the results from the research. She then read the following conclusion regarding the findings: The results have shed light on various project objectives. The Impervious Surface Analysis Tool (ISAT) output indicates that all census blocks in the City of Hampton suffer from a reduced capacity for water infiltration and storage due to the pervasiveness of impervious surface; the changes in tree canopy and impervious surface in the Newmarket Creek Watershed differ from trends in the City of Hampton further emphasizing the point that we need a more holistic place based approach. The team was able to confirm that the Newmarket Creek Watershed is an area in need of water quality and infiltration rehabilitation. We can use NASA's earth observations and our replicable methodology to equip the City to perform future analysis of impervious surface and tree canopy cover.

Ms. Barrowman shared additional information including uncertainties and future work regarding the project.

Ms. Haley acknowledged the partners involved with the project. They include: City of Hampton staff Bruce Sturk, Lucy Stoll, David Imburgia and Alan Lambert; Janice Barnes and her team of Waggonner and Ball; DEVELOP Lead Science Advisor Dr. Kenton Ross; DEVELOP Virginia Langley Center Lead, Sydney Neugebauer; Hampton Roads Urban Development I team Eric Deutsch, Holly Gould, Shaifali Prajapati and Danielle Ruffe; and Hampton residents Velva Goodman, Jamie Chapman and Sandra Campbell.

A short video summarizing the project was shown. Ms. Haley and Ms. Barrowman

opened the floor for questions from those on the dais.

Mayor Tuck noted that he was impressed with the presentation.

In response to Mayor Tuck, Community Development Department Director Terry O'Neill explained that Coliseum Central has a concentration of water which runs into the creek (much of the land in that area was previously farmland which did not have tree cover). He added that policies can be put in place that balance the needs of development while reducing runoff and impervious surface. He noted that eventually this will become a public problem; therefore, staff will come before Council to present options about tree cover.

Councilwoman Curtis stated that the Clean City Commission is interested in tree planting and welcomes the opportunity to be a part of this solution. She added that not only will trees help absorb water, but they will also help beautify the City.

Councilwoman Brown noted that she recently learned during a tree canopy presentation at Virginia Municipal League (VML) that trees improve the environment. She suggested this should be a topic for attention as part of our legislative work.

Ms. Bunting explained that the State develops how much credit localities receive for various types of stormwater activities; however, tree canopies have not gotten the type of credit that would correspond with the contribution they make. She noted that she will work to ensure we receive sufficient credit particularly since we are accelerating our tree canopy programs.

Mayor Tuck presented the guests with commemorative City of Hampton coins.

## **REGIONAL ISSUES**

No Regional Issues

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Tuck announced that the City will host the 6th Annual Cities United National Convening at the Hampton Roads Convention Center on August 21-23. This program is committed to reducing homicides and violence among African American males between the ages of 15-24.

Mayor Tuck also announced that the commemoration events recognizing the arrival of the first Africans will begin at the end of next week. Information about the planned events is available online at [hamptonva2019.com](http://hamptonva2019.com).

## **CLOSED SESSION**

3. [19-0198](#) Closed session pursuant to Virginia Code sections 2.2-3711 A .3, .8 and .29 to discuss to acquisition of real property for a public purpose in Phoebus, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the City; consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by the City regarding specific legal matters related to enforcement of city code provisions pertaining to inoperable vehicles; discussion related to renewal of a lease and a contract requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel; and discussion of the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, including interviews of bidders or offerors, and discussion of the terms or scope of such contract, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.

At 2:11 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Linda Curtis and seconded by Councilmember Billy Hobbs, that this Closed Session - Motion be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**CERTIFICATION**

4. [19-0080](#) Resolution Certifying Closed Session

At 5:34 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs seconded by Councilmember Chris Snead, that this Closed Session - Certification be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**ADJOURNMENT**



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

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Donnie R. Tuck  
Mayor

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Katherine K. Glass, CMC  
Clerk of Council

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