



# 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 Billy Hobbs*  
*Councilmember Chris Snead*

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

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**Wednesday, January 27, 2021**

**1:00 PM**

**Council Chambers**

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### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tuck called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. Those physically present in Council Chambers were Councilman Bowman, Councilwoman Brown, Councilman Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, and Mayor Tuck. Those participating remotely via Zoom were Councilman Hobbs (pursuant to Section (1)(a) of the City Council's Electronic Meeting policy), and Councilwoman Snead (pursuant to Section (1)(a) of the City Council's Electronic Meeting policy).

Also physically present in Council Chambers were Katherine Glass, Clerk of Council, Steve Fryer, Channel 47, and a staff member from the Information Technologies Department of the City. Lisa Vernon-Sparks of the Daily Press was also present. The City Manager, Mary Bunting, and the City Attorney, Cheran Ivery, participated from within City Hall via Zoom.

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

### DONNIE R. TUCK PRESIDED

[21-0061](#)

Motion to approve the electronic participation of Councilman Hobbs (pursuant to Section (1)(a) of the City Council's Electronic Meeting policy), and Councilwoman Snead (pursuant to Section

(1)(a) of the City Council's Electronic Meeting policy).

Councilmembers Billy Hobbs and Chris Snead read statements requesting approval to participate in the meeting via zoom.

For the benefit of the public, Mayor Tuck announced that Council has a governmental exception to the Governor's Executive Order which limits public gatherings to no more than 10 individuals, but City Council is setting an example by adhering to this guidance, so two members of City Council, the City Manager and the City Attorney will participate in the meeting remotely.

A motion was made by Councilmember Steven Brown and seconded by Councilmember Chris Bowman, that this Motion be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 5 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Weston Brown, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray and Mayor Tuck

**Abstained:** 2 - Councilmember Hobbs and Councilmember Snead

## AGENDA

1. [21-0050](#) Strategic Focus - Living with the Water: Part A - Focusing on our Waterfront

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

City Manager Mary Bunting reminded everyone of Council's desire to delve into a discussion about a strategic priority area during the second Council meeting of the month with the purpose of providing an opportunity to determine how the City can progress in each area for the future. She announced that this month's topic focuses on living with water and said that a multi-departmental briefing on the City's efforts to recognize the important role of our waterfront and how it plays a role in the culture of our community will take place today. She added that throughout our history, water has influenced our settlement patterns, industry, and quality of life which is the very essence of who we are as a community.

Ms. Bunting encouraged the members of Council to engage in conversation with staff and not allow physical barriers to interfere with this important work. She then introduced Community Development Director Terry O'Neill to begin the presentation.

Mr. O'Neill began the presentation by speaking about the overall vision, plans and

policies related to the water. He reminded everyone that the City's overall vision regarding plans and policies includes a historical perspective on City policies, a glimpse of what we are currently doing and a glimpse of what lies ahead.

Mr. O'Neill paused to read Council's vision statement for the community: We are Hampton, a vibrant waterfront community celebrating and embracing 400 years of history and innovation to create an even more dynamic future.

Mr. O'Neill spoke about "Hampton's DNA" and how the culture of living on the water has influenced the community. He also spoke about some of the waterfront efforts that have taken place over the years beginning with the Urban Renewal Plans for the Buckroe and downtown areas in the 1960's, and plans in more recent years including the 2018 Living with Water Resilient Hampton Initiative and the current Parks and Recreation Master Plans.

Mr. O'Neill shared the next few slides of the presentation entitled "vision to implementation" which depicted areas of the City prior to and after redevelopment. He emphasized that the efforts and discussions which took place over the years lead to meaningful changes in the community. For example, actions which led to the acquisition of the amusement park at Buckroe Beach and an expanded beachfront park were the results of the 1986 plan.

Mr. O'Neill reviewed the next several slides of the presentation related to how the influence of water impacts various sections of the Hampton Community Plan including land use and community design; housing and neighborhoods; transportation; community facilities; environmental stewardship; and economic development. He then shared a few drawings related to plans for specific areas of the City including downtown, Phoebus, the Fort Monroe bay front and the Buckroe Bayfront neighborhoods.

Mr. O'Neill spoke about more recent plans including the Waterways Plan and the Resilient Hampton initiative. He emphasized that these plans are a collaboration between City staff, consultants and community stakeholders and they incorporate principles in decision making for how to best move forward.

Mr. O'Neill elaborated on the Resilient Hampton approach and explained that this approach is a hydrological approach to the forces of water that impact different areas of the City. For the benefit of the public, he also shared some things that the City has learned from the Dutch regarding developing a Hampton initiative and looking at water from a different perspective. He explained that many historical aspects of our water policies have been around rivers and the Chesapeake Bayfront, however, little was around tributaries such as ditches, streams and creeks

that permeate our community. Hampton will focus its initial attention in the Newmarket Creek area, specifically how to maximize the multiple public benefit around these water assets.

Mr. O'Neill concluded his portion of the presentation by reviewing a slide which provided a manifestation of a new way of looking at water as an asset. The slide included drawings of envisions for projects in the City including the North Armistead Avenue road raising and green infrastructure project; the Big Bethel Blueway project; and the Lake Hampton project.

Mr. O'Neill opened the floor for discussion.

Councilwoman Brown emphasized the importance of finding ways to combat flooding in the Newmarket Creek area and noted that finances to address this concern have not been available. She applauded staff for their effort to find ways to fund these projects; said that she was excited that we are maximizing use of what may create recreational opportunities; and said that she was proud of the ability to use environmental bonds to finance the resilient work.

Councilman Bowman inquired about funding for the Blueway Project which is set to begin this spring.

Mr. O'Neill announced that funding has been approved for the Blueway Project as it is one of the environmental impact bond projects. He reminded everyone that the project will have multiple phases and that approximately six to nine additional months of design work needs to be completed before bidding for construction can begin. He also announced that there are multiple funding sources and grants available for this project because the project includes flood mitigation, environmental aspects, and recreation aspects, therefore, funding is available for each component.

Ms. Bunting introduced Water Resource Engineer, Brian Lewis, to present the next portion of the briefing on maintaining and protecting our waterfront assets.

Mr. Lewis shared information about how the Public Works Department maintains and protects the City's waterways and assets in order to provide the community with a safe and clean environment to live, work and play. He spoke about ways in which the department maintains and protects various areas of the City including: Buckroe Beach; Salt Ponds; Factory Point; the Hampton River; Gosnold's Hope Park Boat Ramp and Kayak Launch; the downtown marina; federal projects and channels; Old Wythe; and Indian River Creek.

Mayor Tuck asked Mr. Lewis to explain the difference between sand re-nourishment

and sand replenishment as referenced in the presentation regarding Buckroe Beach.

Mr. Lewis explained that re-nourishment refers to complete work on the beach; whereas, replenishment refers to a simpler process of replacing a smaller amount of sand. For example, in the 1990's, Buckroe Beach was re-nourished when approximately 200,000 cubic yards of sand was replaced; whereas, on another occasion, approximately 18,000 cubic yards of sand was used to replenish the beach. He added that re-nourishment extends the length and width of the beach.

Mr. Lewis paused to speak about the dredging at Factory Point. He reminded everyone about the breach at Factory Point which caused flooding upstream, and in 2010, the City dredged a portion of the Back River Channel to use that sand to repair the breach. In addition, three breakwaters were installed to minimize future erosion.

Mr. Lewis continued with the presentation and spoke about additional dredging projects that have taken place over the years at the upper Hampton River; the canal downstream of the boat ramp at Gosnold's Hope Park; and the channel at the downtown marina.

In response to Mayor Tuck, Mr. Lewis said that there have been challenges with inquiring easements including people's unwillingness to give them to the City.

Councilwoman Brown commented on the impact of how Hampton has been developed over the years including runoff in the streets and other aspects that have a long-term impact on our waterways. She continued speaking about wetland concerns, specifically how Indian River Creek was once navigable, but is no longer. She emphasized the need to focus on our runoff effort and continue to reduce our pavement and impervious surfaces.

Councilman Brown asked whether the City needs permission to access easements. He also asked whether the easements the City does have are clogged with trash and debris.

Mr. Lewis stated that the problem lies with the fact that the easements were not given to the City when the land was developed and the City does not have all of the easements in place needed to properly maintain our systems. With regard to trash and debris, Mr. Lewis assured everyone that the Public Works team maintains that to the best of their ability.

Mayor Tuck commented that the City strives to abide by the Preservation Act and

other environmental acts as it upholds its responsibility to maintain stormwater pipes and drains. He asked City Attorney Cheran Ivery to speak about whether the City has rights which trump these issues as the City attempts to maintain stormwater management.

City Attorney Ivery stated that staff looks at this from the same perspective the Mayor described and tries to do everything possible within its current power to facilitate this with the ultimate goal of benefiting all citizens. She added that staff will discuss whether there are legislative pushes that can be put forward in our legislative package to try to make this an easier process.

Councilwoman Brown added that funding is a problem when trying to establish a living shoreline. She emphasized that she believes that efforts to recreate wetlands will bear fruit; however, the key is finding resources to fund it.

Councilman Bowman reminded everyone that years ago, there was an opportunity to manage dredging; however, it appears that that option is now off the table due to mudflats.

Mr. Lewis concurred with Councilman Bowman and added that one of the largest hurdles is related to current environmental regulations which are stricter than the regulations that were previously in place over the years.

Mr. Lewis reminded everyone that current policy only allows dredging in channels that have some type of public access.

Mayor Tuck commented that most channels and creeks in Hampton are public and asked Mr. Lewis to explain the difference between public and private channels/creeks.

Mr. Lewis explained that public access refers to an area providing the ability for the public to launch a boat; however, if the area is in the back of an individual's yard and not open to the general public, it is considered private or having no ability to allow public access.

Councilman Hobbs asked how many people are affected by what we cannot do at Indian River Creek and how many people are holding up progress?

Mr. Lewis stated that the drainage in the area has improved and there has been a reduction in street flooding. The primary concern is people who live along the edge of Indian River Creek who experience the mudflat first hand. He estimated that this issue probably affects about 30-40 residents.

Councilman Hobbs shared an example of a citizen who lives on Manteo Avenue and is experiencing loss because of this problem.

Mr. Lewis agreed that it is a problem and added that the concern goes beyond the easement issue and into the issue of designation of non-vegetated wetlands.

Councilwoman Brown suggested that this issue be studied further; that it is determined how much flexibility the environmental agencies have; that it is determined what additional legal tools are available; that we attempt to understand the unintended consequences created by regulations; that we consider how this issue impacts property values and the tax base; and that we work with surrounding localities to explain to the Corps of Engineers what we are facing and what can be done to fix the issue.

Ms. Bunting agreed with Councilwoman Brown's suggestions and said staff will attempt to organize a meeting to engage with other districts, such as Norfolk, and maintain regularity of contact.

Mr. Lewis continued with the presentation.

Mayor Tuck asked how many feet would be required to dredge upstream of Gosnold's Hope Park and the cost associated with the project. Mr. Lewis said he did not have the exact information, but would provide that at a later date. He noted that establishment of a permit for that part of the canal would be required.

Councilwoman Brown suggested that the permit process is another important aspect to remember as the timeframe to obtain a permit can extend past a year.

Mayor Tuck suggested establishing an ongoing program which allows sufficient time to file and dredge and prepare for costs associated with the project.

Ms. Bunting added if we commit to that, we would consider whether it makes economic sense to invest in dredging equipment and staff or continue to contract out the work.

Mayor Tuck asked whether the City previously owned dredging equipment and has since gotten rid of it.

Mr. Lewis replied yes and added that in 1979, when the Salt Ponds were first dredged, the work was done by the City's own team.

Mr. Lewis noted that another potential option is to have larger projects completed by a contractor and smaller projects completed by the City's team.

Councilman Brown suggested staff consider purchasing equipment as that route may pay for itself over time versus paying a contractor to do the work. Ms. Bunting agreed.

Mr. Lewis continued the presentation and shared information about the downtown marina; the federal channels that the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) maintains (Langley Air Force Base, the Hampton River and the Phoebus Channel); and three federal projects in the City (Buckroe Beach re-nourishment, Hampton University shoreline stabilization, and Newmarket Creek).

Mr. Lewis concluded his portion of the presentation by listing some future considerations including the Dandy Haven Marina/Back River Channel; the Hampton River; Harris Creek; Indian River Creek; Newmarket Creek; and Wind Mill Point.

Mr. Lewis opened the floor for additional discussion.

Councilman Brown suggested considering obtaining a mutual agreement with the city of Newport News with the purpose of coordinating dredging and getting more accomplished by working together versus pushing trash from one city to the other.

Ms. Bunting agreed that there are areas where there is common overlap and there have been past projects where Hampton and Newport News participated together. She agreed that we should work together regionally in every opportunity available.

Mr. Lewis made a few closing remarks about working with the city of Newport News on these projects.

Ms. Bunting introduced Parks and Recreation and Leisure Services Director Dave McCauley to speak about recreational use and access of the waterways.

Mr. McCauley stated that the Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services Department provides recreational opportunities to citizens and visitors. This includes a wide variety of fun things to do, see and learn from along the City's 169 miles of beautiful waterfront. He added that the department is also responsible for the planning, maintenance and assistance with resilience work in keeping the shorelines beautiful.

Mr. McCauley shared information about the City's water-based assets including its aquatic centers, kayak launches, beaches, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) beach access, boat ramps, fishing piers, freshwater ponds, trails and parks. He



also listed the following water-based programs and activities offered by the department: swim lessons and exercise for all ages; boat, kayak and paddleboat rentals; swim team practices and hosting; kid's kayaking, sailing, canoeing and fishing programs; waterside yoga; and lifeguards and lifeguard instructor classes.

Mr. McCauley spoke about the private/public partnerships the department maintains with businesses and stakeholders such as business improvement district leaders, non-profit organizations, faith-based community organizations and citizen volunteers. He then shared some of the projects and activities that the department has worked on with those in the community, some of which include: the Holiday Wonder Walk at the Water Walk Trail; the Fort Monroe Youth Sailing at the dock and pier; the farmers market at Buckroe Beach; the Hampton Regatta; and the Blackbeard Pirate Festival.

Mr. McCauley continued with the presentation speaking about the departments' volunteer mobilization and service projects. He emphasized that a number of organizations including the Buckroe Improvement League and the Hampton Clean City Commission are dedicated to volunteerism and support throughout the year.

Mr. McCauley provided information about maintenance, improvement and repair projects including the three phases and segments of the Buckroe Boardwalk renovation project and improvements to the James T. Wilson Fishing Pier.

Mr. McCauley also provided information about routine services that the department provides. Some of these services are related to trash pick-up; shoreline maintenance; sand maintenance and beach sweeping services; fishing services; restroom and cleaning services; and beautification and resilience maintenance projects along shorelines.

Mr. McCauley reviewed the next slide of the presentation which displayed a few photos of recent projects in and around the water. Projects include: the Hampton Water Walk Trail; soil erosion control at Sandy Bottom Nature Park; downtown waterfront lighting; the Sail One exhibit at the Hampton History Museum; and Grandview entrance improvements.

Mr. McCauley spoke about recent planning initiatives and upcoming projects. Projects include: drainage improvements and the kayak launch at Air Power Park; the re-installation of Back River Channel markers; research with the Sunset Boat Ramp to explore alternate flight options; and the addition of the dinghy dock at Phoebus.

Mr. McCauley reminded everyone that the master planning process has been

paused due to the pandemic and will restart as COVID conditions allow. He continued stating that the public survey was completed and feedback from this survey indicated a desire for more fun amenities near water attractions.

Mr. McCauley paused to announce that the consultants who evaluated Hampton's parks indicated that six of Hampton's parks rank in the top percent nationwide, and five are in the top 200 of all parks nationwide, which is impressive for the City of Hampton.

Mr. McCauley continued speaking about the feedback provided by residents and announced that additional desired amenities include: an aquatics center; a miniature golf facility; and a facility similar to Great Wolf Lodge. He noted that plans are underway for a splash park in our aquatics complex which will have features similar to Great Wolf Lodge.

Mr. McCauley opened the floor for discussion.

Vice Mayor Gray commented that he looks forward to seeing what recommendations will follow as part of the master planning. He also asked Mr. McCauley to speak about the status of future Crabtown Seafood Festivals as crabs are a part of the waterfront community and part of Hampton's history. He added that in his opinion, a festival focused on seafood would attract people from around the region and from outside of the region.

Mr. McCauley agreed with Vice Mayor Gray and reminded everyone that two seafood festivals have taken place in the past; however, the festival did not take place last year due to the pandemic. Plans are underway to continue that festival based on what COVID allows.

Councilman Brown thanked Mr. McCauley for the great presentation and asked him to speak about whether a partnership exists with the school system with the purpose of teaching youth about the history of our waterways. With regard to youth sailing, he asked what consideration has been given for youth who may not be able to afford youth sailing, but would like to have that experience.

Mr. McCauley said the Hampton History Museum provides history about a range of topics including the waters, and the Air Power Park also provides information via tours. He added that our recreational professionals at the beach front often provide history as part of their interaction with children; however, the department is willing to extend its partnership with the schools.

Councilman Brown referenced Councilwoman Brown's passion about children

learning how to swim and suggested that perhaps if children learn about water early and are not afraid of it, that they may be more apt to take swimming lessons and learn how to swim as they grow up.

Ms. Bunting reminded everyone that the City has learn-to-swim programs in partnership with the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) and the schools; however, limited pool deck space is a challenge. She added that plans are underway to resolve that issue with the development of the aquatics center. She continued saying that discussions have taken place about schools integrating water safety as part of the elementary school physical education curriculum with the goal being to ensure students get their introduction to water through the physical education curriculum. This is also a means to potentially reduce the number of drownings in the community.

Mr. McCauley noted that the City partners with Youth Sailing of Virginia as part of its summer camp program.

Councilwoman Brown thanked Mr. McCauley for the recap about the fun that goes on in Hampton which shows Hampton is a great, fun place to live. She also thanked Councilman Brown for mentioning her passion about children learning how to swim. She expressed her excitement about the aquatics center providing an opportunity for children to learn how to swim as it will also provide children the opportunity to participate in other water-related activities such as learning how to sail, participating in swim competitions, kayaking and fishing. She commended staff for their efforts on the water walk and the new kayak launch behind Air Power Park allowing citizens to enjoy a local immersive experience in nature. She also spoke about ADA access at Buckroe Beach and how exciting this is for individuals who are unable to swim on their own.

Mayor Tuck introduced Hampton Convention and Visitor Bureau (HCVB) Director Mary Fugere to continue the presentation and speak about water as an economic driver.

Ms. Fugere spoke about how the HCVB markets Hampton as a coastal destination to potential visitors. She paused to mention that yesterday was "National Plan Your Vacation Day" and encouraged everyone to take the opportunity to have a little fun in the sun and enjoy the waterways.

Ms. Fugere explained that water plays a dominant role in the message about the experiences visitors have available to them. She said we market Hampton as a coastal destination because Americans love the water and there is opportunity for greater revenue as a result, which means improved quality of life services for

Hampton residents.

Ms. Fugere reviewed the next few slides of the presentation which provided statistics about Americans travel to coastal destinations. She also spoke about some of the amenities in Hampton, such as walkways and beaches, which make Hampton a popular coastal destination.

Ms. Fugere paused to announce that Trip Adviser named Buckroe Beach as a favorite family beach site for vacations with kids, and in 2019, Buckroe Beach was named in the top 25 beaches in the nation. The beach is also consistently rated “very good” by Trip Adviser reviewers and national media tends to name Buckroe Beach as a top Virginia beach to explore. Ms. Fugere thanked the HCVB media team for advertising all of Hampton beaches as top of the line when it comes to summer sun and fun.

Ms. Fugere provided statistics related to the amount of money visitors spend in Hampton on lodging and leisure activities; sport tourism events; and water oriented festivals and events. She also spoke about the public/private partnerships which work to make it all possible; the benefit of boater visitation and how it is good for business in Hampton; and the partnership the Downtown Hampton Development Partnership (DHDP) has with the City to attract boaters to the area.

Mayor Tuck asked Ms. Bunting to speak about needed enhancements and amenities at the public pier. Ms. Bunting deferred the question to Ms. Fugere and noted that she would speak about the cost associated with amenities after Ms. Fugere completes her comments.

Ms. Fugere stated that DHDP continues to work to improve the quality of boater amenities at the public pier. DHDP has identified work to improve the electrical connections and water connections in the cove area, and our boater experiences have improved greatly over the past five years because of amenities and experiences located within walking distance of the pier. She assured everyone that Hampton is in the position to attract boaters and that Virginia Seafood Agricultural Research and Extension Centers (AREC) and other developments in downtown will contribute to making Hampton a more desirable boating destination.

Ms. Bunting added that concerns for downtown include the lack of visual connectivity alerting people to the walking assets downtown; limited entry points; and lack of a grocery store. She suggested considering creating more visual imagery to draw people to the waterfront and working on bringing a grocery store to the area which will allow boaters and residents the opportunity to purchase supplies.

Mayor Tuck asked what needs to be done to bring the area to a higher image level and the cost associated with it.

Mr. O'Neill clarified that the image the Mayor referred to was created for the proposal to Virginia Tech to convince them to invest in a new building on the waterfront; however, staff is working toward making that image come to pass.

Economic Development Director Chuck Rigney noted that later in the presentation, he would share a bit more information related to Mayor Tuck's comment.

Vice Mayor Gray spoke about the sail boaters who stop by Hampton in the fall when heading south for the winter and asked what plans are underway to capitalize on boat traffic and determine ways to attract more traffic to Hampton during the weekend the sail boaters visit.

Councilwoman Brown agreed that this is something we can capitalize on and perhaps create a citizen group to provide input about new water activities, such as fishing tournaments, as this may attract more people to Hampton. She also commented that she believes the sailing community would be interested in participating in more sailing regattas.

Councilwoman Brown agreed with Ms. Bunting in that a grocery store is needed for boaters and travelers to pick up food and supplies. She also agreed with Ms. Fugere in that Hampton has made progress in downtown, however, needs more amenities (such as a grocery store, shops and a seafood market) and activities to attract people. She noted that organizations such as the DHDP will be instrumental in the success of these ideas.

Mayor Tuck commented that our focus should not only be on downtown, but also on all marinas. He also commented about safety issues for boaters and visitors attempting to transport groceries via bicycle, thus the need for a market of some sort which is easily accessible.

Ms. Bunting reminded everyone that there have been past discussions about developing a water taxi system and perhaps that idea could be revisited as a water taxi could provide interconnectivity to Phoebus, Fort Monroe, Buckroe Beach and other areas of the City. She noted that one challenge has been finding a private sector entity to provide that service, but with more activity at Fort Monroe and other areas of the City, this may present an opportunity to reconsider water taxis.

Councilman Hobbs reminded everyone that previously, the Coliseum Central Business Improvement District and DHDP ran a shuttle between the two business

districts and suggested that this may be something to reconsider and offer to boaters and downtown visitors.

Ms. Fugere said that that form of transportation is available and is called “The Hampton Scuttle”. This amenity is used for a variety of purposes; is used on a scheduled seasonal basis, based on visitor demand (rather than year-round); its purpose is to connect boaters and other visitors to various areas of the City; and it is used for special events such as transportation for sporting events. She added that hopefully scooters will also be piloted later in the year as another amenity for boaters and visitors.

Ms. Fugere concluded her portion of the presentation by sharing additional information about boater visitation; ways in which the HCVB markets Hampton’s water recreation and other forms of recreation; brochures that the HCVB distributes to visitors; beach and destination focused print ads; and the Hampton visitor guide. She also displayed the new logo that the HCVB utilizes as an extension of the City’s new branding process that captures Hampton’s sea to the stars legacy and emphasizes Hampton as a water destination.

Ms. Fugere opened the floor for discussion.

Councilwoman Brown said that she was excited about the emphasis on things that are unique to Hampton. She also noted that she saw the Landing Hotel sign lit up last night and is excited to see that coming online.

Vice Mayor Gray suggested that an advisory committee comprised of Hampton boaters be created to advise Council and the City on how to capitalize on the assets and provide input on boating matters while guiding our plans moving forward.

Councilman Hobbs complimented Ms. Fugere and the HCVB staff for always being cordial and friendly at events of the City. He added that visitors recognize this and it makes them feel welcome.

Councilwoman Brown agreed with Councilman Hobbs and added that one of Hampton’s greatest strengths is making everyone feel welcome. She also said that she is excited about the opportunity to put together a citizen advisory group where our citizens will have the opportunity to share their experiences. She asked that in addition to recreation opportunities for citizens and visitors, that everyone think about how access to the water will help attract more residents and encourage young people to settle down in Hampton.

Ms. Bunting introduced Economic Development Director Chuck Rigney to continue

the discussion on water as an economic driver and the role that water plays in economic investment.

Mr. Rigney began his portion of the presentation by sharing that the AREC facility will be located on the downtown waterfront; will provide world class science and agriculture research; and is expected to be a catalyst for citizens and visitors to enjoy the downtown waterfront area.

Mr. Rigney spoke about additional investments and what the Economic Development Department envisions for the City. Upcoming investment projects include: a multi-parcel, mixed-use development in downtown Hampton by WVS Company and Pennsylvania Realty Group (PRG); new management of the former Hampton Marina Hotel; enhancements to the Hampton seafood industry (L.D. Amory Company, Inc., Graham and Rollins Seafood Market, Sam Rust Seafood, and Wanchese Fish Company); Buckroe Beach and Buckroe area development opportunities; Fort Monroe mixed-use redevelopment; the building of unmanned systems technology (Huntington Ingalls Industries and Longbow at Fort Monroe); and wind power (Dominion Energy's offshore wind project).

Mr. Rigney opened the floor for discussion.

Mayor Tuck asked if wind tower manufacturing is anticipated to occur in Hampton Roads Center North or Fort Monroe.

Mr. Rigney said it will most likely be associated with the Hampton Roads Center North area as well as other areas.

Councilwoman Brown commented that an important aspect of this work is the need to prepare our youth to live and work in Hampton. She continued saying that these economic investment areas are also potential job areas and applauded Hampton academies for focusing on these strategic areas in an attempt to prepare the youth of Hampton to remain in the area and work here.

Mr. Rigney agreed with Councilwoman Brown and added that people choose to live in Hampton because it is a great place to live, work and play. In addition, Hampton has an excellent school system; the shipyard is close by; and other well-paying jobs are here. He commended Hampton City Schools Superintendent, Dr. Jeffrey Smith, and the City for investing in public education. He closed his comments emphasizing that it is a huge asset for the Economic Development Department to be able to acknowledge all of these great things.

Vice Mayor Gray spoke about the vessels housed in Hampton Roads and the \$500 million project that Dominion is working on to install wind turbines in Hampton Roads and throughout the east coast. He explained that this provides an opportunity for Hampton Roads to be the future supply chain for wind turbine production, and for future manufacturing and jobs in the City of Hampton.

Mr. Rigney agreed with Vice Mayor Gray and added that we will capitalize on wind power and technology not only in Hampton, but also in the Hampton Roads area. He explained that these are specialized ships that have unique components that not only go into the construction of those vessels, but also the sections of the wind towers that have to be welded on the deck, taken out off shore and assembled.

Mr. O'Neill made closing remarks, thanked all involved and opened the floor for questions.

Ms. Bunting noted that staff took notes on Council's ideas and suggestions and will work on those ideas and return to Council with an update on their work. She also gave closing remarks regarding today's presentation.

In between the presentation of Mr. McCauley and Ms. Fugere, Mayor Tuck called for a brief recess from 2:28 p.m. until 2:40 p.m.

2. [21-0051](#) Strategic Focus - Living with the Water: Part B - Briefing on Stormwater Projects

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

Ms. Bunting suggested that this portion of the presentation be postponed to the February 10th City Council meeting due to the length of time it took to complete part A of today's presentation.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chris Snead and seconded by Councilmember Billy Hobbs, that this Briefing be deferred to the City Council Work Session, due back on 2/10/2021. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

## REGIONAL ISSUES



There were no regional issues.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There were no items of new business.

**CLOSED SESSION**

3. [21-0053](#) Closed session pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 2.2-3711.A (.3) (.5) and (.8) to discuss the acquisition of real property in the Kecoughtan Road Corridor where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the city; to engage in discussion concerning a prospective business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in Hampton; and consultation with legal counsel employed by the City regarding specific legal matters pertaining to contract provisions and discussion regarding §15.2-919, §46.2-1049 and §62.1-44.15:67et seq. of the Virginia Code.

Recommendation:

At 3:47 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Steven Brown and seconded by Councilmember Eleanor Weston Brown, that this be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**CERTIFICATION**

4. [21-0054](#) Resolution Certifying Closed Session

At 6:01 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, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Snead and Mayor Tuck

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_