



City of Hampton

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

Council Approved Minutes - Final City Council Work Session

Mayor Jimmy Gray
Vice Mayor Steven L. Brown
Councilmember Randy C. Bowman, Sr.
Councilmember Carolyn S. Campbell
Councilmember Michelle Taylor Ferebee
Councilmember Hope L. Harper
Councilmember Martha M. Mugler

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

Wednesday, May 14, 2025

1:00 PM

Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gray called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. All members of the City Council were present at roll call except for Councilwoman Ferebee who arrived at 1:15 p.m.

Present 6 - Councilmember Randy C. Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Steven L. Brown, Councilmember Carolyn S. Campbell, Councilmember Hope L. Harper, Councilmember Martha Mugler, and Mayor Jimmy Gray

Absent 1 - Councilmember Michelle T. Ferebee

JIMMY GRAY PRESIDED

AGENDA

1. [25-0143](#) Briefing on Homelessness and Housing Instability

Attachments: [Consultant Presentation - VIAM Advising](#)
[Staff Presentation](#)
[Executive Summary - Virginia Peninsula Homelessness Final Report](#)
[Full Report - Virginia Peninsula Homelessness Final Report](#)

City Manager Mary Bunting introduced the first presentation. The City Council began its session with a briefing on homelessness and housing instability, featuring findings from the recently completed Virginia Peninsula Regional Homelessness Study. This study, commissioned by Newport News with support from Hampton and other Peninsula localities, began in July of the previous year and was presented to Newport News City Council.

The presentation, led by Sean Griffin of VM Advising, was delivered via Zoom and mirrored the Newport News briefing, with some Hampton-specific nuances. Following the regional overview, Dr. Tamara Temoney-Porter, Hampton's Human Services Director, provided a local perspective, highlighting current efforts to support residents facing housing instability.

Mr. Griffin stated the session is structured to move from regional context to local action, offering both data-driven insights and practical updates on Hampton's strategies to address homelessness. The Virginia Peninsula Homelessness Study, conducted primarily in 2024 and presented by VM Advising, aimed to identify the root causes of homelessness, evaluate service gaps, and explore ways to optimize resources within the region's homeless response system. Commissioned by Newport News and supported by all Peninsula localities, the study took a mixed-methods approach. This included reviewing existing planning and governance documents, analyzing a wide range of quantitative data (like census, zoning, and hotline usage), and conducting qualitative research through interviews, focus groups, and direct outreach in homeless encampments.

Community engagement played a central role, featuring public forums, surveys, and extensive input from both frontline workers and individuals with lived experience of homelessness. Key findings revealed that homelessness is increasing across the region, with Newport News and Hampton experiencing the sharpest rises in rent and home values, especially in previously affordable areas. The study also highlighted a shortage of multi-family housing zones and emphasized that while a portion of the unhoused population struggles with severe mental illness or substance abuse, a majority do not, and instead need rapid, accessible pathways back into stable housing. Based on current trends, the study projected a 15% year-over-year rise in calls for housing crisis assistance over the next three years.

The Virginia Peninsula Homelessness Study revealed that over 2,000 individuals experience homelessness annually in the region, with Newport News and Hampton bearing the greatest burden. The southern Peninsula, in particular, has the highest concentration of unhoused individuals. Alarming, the study found a rise in first-time homelessness, with more people from higher income brackets falling into housing instability, suggesting that economic pressures are affecting broader segments of the population. Additionally, the system is seeing an increase in high-acuity individuals, meaning those with more complex needs, as well as longer durations of homelessness and a growing rate of chronic homelessness. A significant racial disparity was also identified, with people of color disproportionately represented in the homeless population.

To address these challenges, the study outlined seven key recommendations: 1) Make structural changes to drive collective impact, beginning with a system transformation plan. 2) Fortify regional commitment by aligning all housing resources under the coordinated entry system to eliminate workarounds. 3) Expand housing access for those with the most barriers, and delay new emergency shelter investments until rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing goals are met. 4) Invest in a regional financial strategy that reflects a shared vision among all localities and stakeholders. 5) Eliminate service barriers and promote a client-centered culture through written standards and outcome-based performance measures. 6) Develop an unsheltered response strategy, including a regional outreach plan to engage individuals not currently connected to services. 7) Pursue long-term housing solutions by reforming zoning codes to allow for more diverse housing types, such as missing middle and high-density developments.

Mr. Griffin stressed that without sufficient housing supply, even the most well-designed response system will fall short. These recommendations aim to create a more coordinated, equitable, and effective approach to ending homelessness across the Peninsula.

Ms. Bunting confirmed that while the recent Virginia Peninsula Homelessness Study does not recommend immediate investment in constructing a new shelter, regional city managers, including those from Hampton and Newport News, believe it's not an either/or situation. The importance of continuing collaborative regional conversations about emergency shelter solutions alongside implementing the study's longer-term, systemic recommendations was highlighted. A critical concern is the lack of shelter options outside of winter or extreme weather periods.

Vice Mayor Brown requested clarification on why the study did not recommend immediate investment in a regional emergency shelter. Mr. Griffin explained that without a fully functional rehousing system, including permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing, adding shelter beds could create a bottleneck. Individuals might enter shelter but have nowhere to go afterward, effectively stalling the system. The recommendation is to first meet rehousing system goals so that shelters, when added, can serve as true short-term interventions with clear exit pathways.

Questions were raised whether the region currently has enough service providers to support the rehousing first approach. Mr. Griffin affirmed that the service landscape is robust, but underutilized or inefficiently coordinated. With better alignment and system improvements, existing providers could help reduce homelessness growth rates. Questions regarding demographics of individuals who participated in the study's focus groups were discussed. While detailed data wasn't immediately available, Mr. Griffin confirmed that participants completed basic demographic

surveys covering age, race, and similar factors.

There was discussion on the budget rationale behind prioritizing housing over shelter. Mr. Griffin explained that shelter investments yield diminishing returns over time, especially as homelessness increases. In contrast, investing in housing, though slower to show impact, produces increasing, long-term returns by reducing the overall homeless population. Mr. Griffin stated a range of housing options, including transitional and permanent supportive housing, are part of the recommended system improvements and clarified that when referring to “housing” in the context of the homelessness response system, they are speaking broadly about a set of core interventions: flexible funding, street outreach, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing. These components are considered essential for moving individuals quickly out of homelessness.

While transitional housing aligns philosophically with the goal of stabilizing individuals before permanent placement, it presents practical limitations. Specifically, entering transitional housing can disqualify individuals from federal programs like rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing, as it changes their status from “homeless” under HUD definitions. Because of this, the study does not recommend transitional housing as a primary strategy, though it acknowledges that transitional support can still be delivered through other means..

Ms. Bunting introduced the next portion of the presentation, led by Human Services Director, Dr. Tamara Temoney-Porter, which focused on the City of Hampton’s current efforts to address homelessness. Homelessness exists along a broad continuum, from individuals temporarily staying with friends or family (but lacking permanent housing) to those living in encampments or unsheltered on public or private property.

Dr. Porter stated the City actively engages with individuals across this spectrum every day, offering resources and support to those willing and able to accept help. However, some individuals, often those struggling with mental health or substance use disorders, may not be ready to engage, and the city cannot compel them into services. Outreach efforts continue, with staff working to build trust and long-term relationships in hopes of eventually connecting them to care.

Dr. Porter provided an overview of the Continuum of Care (CoC) model, which was introduced by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in 1994 as a framework for organizing and funding homeless services. The CoC emphasized a collaborative, coordinated system that helps individuals and families transition from homelessness to stable housing while promoting self-sufficiency. Communities are responsible for identifying needs, selecting projects for funding,

and monitoring service delivery. Locally, the Greater Virginia Peninsula Homelessness Consortium (GVPHC) serves as the regional CoC, encompassing the cities of Hampton, Newport News, Williamsburg, and Poquoson, as well as James City and York counties. This consortium works together to implement a unified approach to homelessness response.

Dr. Porter explained the federal definitions of homelessness, which determine eligibility for services: Literal homelessness: Individuals or families without a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. Imminent risk of homelessness: Those who will lose their housing within 14 days and lack resources to secure new housing. Homeless under other federal statutes: Often includes unaccompanied youth under 25 or families without stable housing in the past 60 days. Fleeing domestic violence: Individuals escaping unsafe situations who have no other housing options or support networks. Dr. Porter stated these definitions are tied to strict eligibility criteria, such as timeframes and living situations, that must be met to access federally funded services.

The McKinney-Vento Act, a federal law ensuring educational stability for homeless children, was discussed. It mandates that public schools provide equal access to education, allow enrollment without typical documentation, and offer transportation to maintain continuity in schooling.

Dr. Porter continued the presentation by explaining the definition of chronic homelessness, which refers to individuals who have been homeless for at least 12 consecutive months or have experienced homelessness on four separate occasions over the past three years. This classification is important because it determines eligibility for certain federally funded services and underscores the complexity navigating the homeless response system under HUD guidelines.

Hampton supports individuals in need beginning with the Housing Crisis Hotline, which operates Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. This hotline serves as the first point of contact in the city's coordinated entry system. Callers undergo a 15-20 minute pre-screening to determine if they meet federal definitions of homelessness. If they qualify, they are referred to appropriate services. If not, they are directed to other community resources. Once that initial screening is complete, the caller's information is entered into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). From there, staff across localities can access the referral and determine which Human Services Department, based on the caller's current location or last known address, is best positioned to assist. This process helps route individuals to the most appropriate jurisdiction and provider within the regional Greater Virginia Peninsula Homelessness Consortium.

Dr. Porter described key service areas: Prevention for individuals still housed but typically in crisis and needing financial assistance to avoid eviction. Outreach for those living unsheltered, including in encampments. Outreach teams often work with the Hampton Police and the Community Services Board, to make repeated visits to build trust and offer support.

Dr. Porter's presentation continued with a detailed overview of housing interventions and local data related to homelessness in Hampton and the broader Peninsula region. Permanent housing, defined as housing with a lease and no time limit beyond the lease terms, is the ultimate goal for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. For those with disabilities who require ongoing support, permanent supportive housing offers rental assistance paired with services like case management and life skills training to help them remain stably housed. Rapid rehousing is another key strategy, aiming to place individuals into permanent housing within 30 days. However, since the pandemic, it has become more difficult to secure landlord participation, making this timeline harder to achieve.

Dr. Porter noted that local grant funding allows for more flexibility than federal HUD dollars, enabling assistance for those who may not meet strict federal definitions of homelessness. In FY24, Hampton allocated approximately \$76,000 for prevention (spending \$53,000), \$57,000 for rapid rehousing (slightly overspent), and \$54,000 for outreach (spending \$26,000).

The Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, a federally required annual census of people experiencing homelessness, was conducted on a single night in January. In 2024, the Greater Virginia Peninsula Homelessness Consortium counted 412 individuals, a 14% decrease from 2023. However, this count does not include people who are "doubled up" or couch surfing, and limited volunteer capacity can affect the accuracy of the count. For Hampton specifically, the 2024 PIT Count identified: 166 individuals, a 36-person increase from 2023. 30 unsheltered individuals, with no unsheltered families. 112 adult-only households. 25 chronically homeless individuals. 13 veterans, including one female veteran. 10 individuals with substance use disorders. 32 individuals with mental illness. 2 individuals living with HIV/AIDS. These figures help inform service planning and highlighted the ongoing need for both housing solutions and supportive services to address the complex realities of homelessness in the region. If funding and staffing are limited, investing in permanent housing yields greater long-term returns than expanding emergency shelter capacity.

Discussion centered on the barriers individuals face when transitioning from temporary to permanent housing, particularly due to federal funding restrictions and landlord practices. Dr. Porter highlighted that individuals staying in hotels, despite

paying consistently, often do not qualify for federal housing assistance because they are not considered “literally homeless” under HUD definitions. This creates a benefits cliff, where people are spending all their income to avoid street homelessness but cannot save enough for deposits or qualify for more stable housing options.

Discussion noted that landlords often reject applicants based on poor rental histories, which can perpetuate homelessness. Alternative funding sources, beyond federal dollars, are needed to offer more flexible support for these individuals. Discussion included developing programs that track hotel payment history as a form of rental reliability and negotiating with landlords to accept such records.

Dr. Porter confirmed while the regional homelessness response system is primarily federally funded, localities like Hampton supplement with local funds to increase flexibility. She also outlined ongoing challenges, including: 1) Uncertainty around future federal and state funding. 2) Limited staffing for outreach and landlord engagement. Incomplete data from the annual Point-in-Time Count. 3) Individuals refusing services or lacking the means to sustain housing after assistance ends.

Councilwoman Harper asked about after-hours procedures for the Housing Crisis Hotline. Dr. Porter believed messages are likely checked the next morning but noted that her department doesn’t oversee that process and would follow up for confirmation. It was also suggested that local churches could serve as short-term emergency partners, especially for individuals needing shelter for just a night or two.

Vice Mayor Brown raised concerns about veterans experiencing homelessness and emphasized the need for stronger connections to VA services. Dr. Porter explained that when veterans are identified during assessments, staff attempt to link them with VA case managers and housing programs like the VASH voucher, though the current availability of those vouchers is uncertain.

Mayor Gray closed with two key points. First, he clarified that while Hampton uses local dollars to supplement federal funding, those funds are actually state grants with their own restrictions. He noted that true city-controlled funding would offer more flexibility, especially for rapid rehousing. Second, he proposed exploring the use of technology or AI to expand the Housing Crisis Hotline’s availability, allowing for 24/7 screening and intake, which could help individuals access services more quickly, even outside business hours.

Presented (via Zoom) by Shawn Griffith, Independent Research and Policy Consultant, with Viam Advising. Following Mr. Griffith's presentation, the City Manager also provided additional information. Another consultant, Jonathan Danforth, also joined

the meeting late via Zoom and presented additional information. Information was also presented by Dr. Tamara Temoney-Porter, Human Services Director.

Present 7 - Councilmember Randy C. Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Steven L. Brown, Councilmember Carolyn S. Campbell, Councilmember Michelle T. Ferebee, Councilmember Hope L. Harper, Councilmember Martha Mugler, and Mayor Jimmy Gray

2. [25-0138](#) Briefing on Proposed Camping and Storage Ordinance

Attachments: [Draft Redline](#)
[Presentation](#)

Ms. Bunting introduced Senior Deputy City Attorney Brandi Law to present a proposed ordinance addressing camping and storage of personal items in public spaces. The ordinance is being considered in response to recent nationwide court rulings and is intended to apply broadly to all individuals, not targeting any specific group. Importantly, the proposal was not on the evening's agenda for a vote, but may be brought forward at a future council meeting depending on council feedback.

Ms. Law presented a proposed ordinance that would prohibit camping, sleeping, or storing personal items on public property. The presentation was framed in the context of the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Johnson v. Grants Pass*, which upheld the constitutionality of anti-camping laws so long as they apply generally and do not target specific groups, such as people experiencing homelessness.

The proposed ordinance defines "camping" broadly to include sleeping or residing on public property with or without tents or shelters, and "storing" as leaving personal property for future use. Exceptions are included for authorized use of public property and for beach goers during open hours. The ordinance would apply to all public property owned by the city or affiliated entities like the school board or housing authority. If enacted, unattended items used for camping could be seized and stored by the city for 30 days, with hazardous or unsanitary items subject to immediate disposal. Violations would be classified as a Class 1 misdemeanor, but enforcement would begin with a verbal warning and information about available shelters or services.

General discussion centered around how the ordinance would interact with private

property, such as strip malls, where enforcement would depend on the property owner's willingness to pursue trespassing charges. It was discussed how unattended belongings, like boxes left by panhandlers, would be handled, and whether claiming such items could lead to criminal charges if illegal contents were found. Ms. Law clarified that prosecution would require a clear chain of custody and likely an admission of ownership.

Clarification was requested on the phrase "reasonable time to comply" following a verbal warning, suggesting that a clearer definition or minimum time frame be included to ensure consistency.

Vice Mayor Brown asked whether police officers carry resource pamphlets to share with individuals in violation. Ms. Law confirmed that such materials are already being distributed. Concerns were raised about littering on medians and whether police can enforce violations, staff clarified that littering is a criminal offense but must be personally witnessed by an officer.

Councilwoman Mugler proposed removing the phrase "for camping" from the ordinance's definition to "store" in an effort to broaden its applicability to unattended items left in public spaces, such as medians. Suggestions that timing guidelines and other implementation details be addressed through policy rather than embedded in the ordinance itself, allowing for greater flexibility.

Councilwoman Ferebee inquired whether providing the Housing Crisis Hotline number would satisfy the ordinance's requirement to inform individuals of alternative accommodations. Ms. Law confirmed that offering the hotline number would meet the minimum requirement, though officers could provide more detailed information when available.

Mayor Gray stated the importance of clearly defining this minimum standard in the ordinance while allowing officers discretion to offer additional resources, such as directing individuals to winter shelters or cooling centers, based on circumstances. It was also clarified that violations would not result in immediate arrest; instead, individuals would first receive a verbal warning and, if non compliant, a summons could be issued. The ordinance's intent is to prioritize connecting individuals to services rather than pursuing punitive measures.

At 2:27 p.m., Mayor Gray called for a 15 minute recess.

3. [25-0139](#) Briefing on Downtown Public Safety Action Plan

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

Ms. Bunting introduced the last presentation and provided an update regarding recent violent incidents in the downtown area. In response to these events, the City's Public Safety Team developed an immediate action plan to restore calm and prevent further escalation.

Chief Wideman began the presentation with an overview of the recent increase in violent incidents, particularly three homicides within a six-month span in the downtown area, the City of Hampton has implemented a Downtown Public Safety Action Plan. City officials and stakeholders, including business owners and residents, collaborated quickly to develop a fluid, responsive strategy aimed at restoring safety and preventing further violence.

Key actions include: 1) Reassigning two police officers to patrol downtown from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m., covering not only nightlife venues but also parks, hotels, parking garages, and other high-traffic areas. 2) Partnering with the Virginia ABC and the city's Nightclub Task Force to inspect and monitor establishments with alcohol licenses, especially those with prior incidents. 3) Offering free security assessments to downtown businesses, recommending improvements like surveillance cameras, lighting, and egress planning.

Discussion addressed a recent pop-up party incident at Buckroe Beach, where a large, unsanctioned gathering, promoted by a student on social media, drew hundreds of young people, many from Hampton City Schools. Multiple fights broke out, overwhelming the initial police presence and prompting the beach's evacuation. Several youths were charged with offenses such as assault and disorderly conduct, and additional disciplinary actions, including suspensions, followed in schools after related altercations.

In response, the City has coordinated with school officials to improve communication with students and families, and school resource officers are actively monitoring social media and gathering intelligence to anticipate future gatherings.

Police Chief Wideman stated managing such large, unplanned gatherings due to volume of youth, made it difficult to maintain control, even with established police presence at the location. He confirmed that several instigators were identified through body camera footage, with conflicts often stemming from personal disputes or past altercations.

Proactive strategies such as early communication, organized youth activities, and leveraging school communication channels to discourage participation in unsanctioned events were discussed. Students expressed interest in receiving more information from the city through school platforms, which officials agreed to pursue.

Suggestions included deploying a mobile police command post during high-risk times and using school resource officers' relationships with students to gather intelligence.

Assistant City Attorney Jessica Krause provided an overview of the land use tools available to the City of Hampton for addressing problematic businesses, particularly those with use permits. Ms. Krause explained that the City Council currently has the authority to revoke a use permit under specific conditions, such as violations of permit terms, repeated zoning code violations, failure to follow approved plans, or submission of false information. Historically, the city has waited for a criminal conviction through the zoning enforcement process before initiating revocation, though this is a policy choice, not a legal requirement, and could be revised.

Discussion centered on the process for amending a use permit, which can be initiated by the applicant and follows the same public hearing process as a new permit. Minor modifications may be approved administratively under limited circumstances. A particularly powerful enforcement tool involves a special use permit condition tied to businesses with retail Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) licenses. Under state code authority granted to Hampton and Norfolk, a use permit can automatically expire if (1) the property changes ownership, (2) the business changes operation or management, or (3) the ABC license lapses for more than three months. This automatic expiration does not require a public hearing or council action, making it a swift and effective regulatory mechanism.

Ms. Krause explained the third-party promoter clause, which prohibits outside parties from renting or using a venue to host for-profit events. Violations can trigger zoning action and, ultimately, permit revocation. This measure helps cities prevent disorderly events that skirt licensing requirements or crowd regulations.

Ms. Krause presented tools used by other municipalities, particularly Norfolk's two-year use permit review model. In this system, use permits expire after a set period and must be renewed, allowing the city to reassess businesses for ongoing compliance. Council members expressed interest in the idea but also flagged the administrative burden of reviewing numerous permits citywide. Questions were raised on how Norfolk manages the process and whether a tiered, case-based review system, perhaps involving zoning administrators and input from public safety departments, could be feasible in Hampton.

A point of concern involved businesses attempting to circumvent enforcement by reapplying under a different name or with slightly altered ownership. Vice Mayor Brown requested the legal team examine options for tightening restrictions on reapplications, including flagging prior business associations and ensuring that

businesses can't simply relaunch under a new brand. Ms. Krause committed to researching these proposals further, including how to embed safeguards around permit renewal, applicant identity, and repeat violations.

The conversation focused on refining Hampton's use permit enforcement process, particularly in response to public safety concerns tied to certain businesses. One suggestion was to revise standard use permit conditions, such as clarifying that the Hampton Police Department can update a business's security plan as needed. However, these changes would only apply to new permits moving forward.

Recommendations were made for shifting away from the current policy of waiting for a criminal conviction before initiating a use permit revocation. Ms. Krause confirmed that this delay is a matter of policy, not legal requirement, and could be revised, especially for serious violations affecting public health or safety.

Two potential zoning ordinance amendments were introduced: (1) creating a process for City Council to initiate amendments to existing use permits, and (2) establishing clear procedures and evidentiary standards for revocation hearings. Norfolk's model was cited as a reference, where the City Manager submits a memo with supporting evidence, followed by a formal hearing process.

Vice Mayor Brown proposed a tiered enforcement framework, where violations are categorized by severity. For example, noise complaints might trigger operational adjustments (Level 1), while fights or public disturbances could lead to ABC license reviews or reduced hours (Level 2). More serious or repeated offenses (Level 3 or 4) could justify full revocation. This approach would help build a documented case over time, ensuring that enforcement actions are measured, evidence-based, and defensible. Ms. Krause agreed to explore these ideas further, with the goal of creating a more flexible, transparent, and proactive system for managing use permits.

Discussion highlighted the need for clearer, more enforceable conditions in use permits, such as noise control, crowd management, and compliance with health regulations, to allow the city to act swiftly without waiting for lengthy court proceedings or external agency intervention. Ms. Krause confirmed that repeated violations of health department regulations could be grounds for revocation under existing conditions requiring compliance with all laws. However, she acknowledged that many current permit conditions are too vague or limited, making enforcement difficult.

Discussion regarding the appeals processes noted that if a permit is revoked, the business owner can challenge the decision in circuit court. While due process is

essential, the urgency of having tools that allow for timely, proactive responses to community complaints, especially in cases involving violence or repeated disturbances was highlighted.

Assistant City Attorney Anne Ligon presented legal options available to the City of Hampton for addressing nuisance and criminal blight through the circuit court. Under Virginia Code § 15.2-900, a nuisance can include dangerous or unsanitary conditions on public or private property that threaten public health or safety. The city may pursue court-ordered abatement but typically gives property owners a chance to resolve the issue voluntarily first. Criminal blight under § 15.2-907, which includes repeated illegal activities such as drug use, firearm discharges, or commercial sex acts on a property was explained. The city must notify the owner and allow up to 60 days for voluntary abatement before filing a petition in court. If the owner complies, no court action is taken. Abatement measures may include enhanced security, hiring off-duty police officers, or other steps recommended by city departments like HPD. Additionally, under § 48-1, five or more citizens can petition the court to impanel a grand jury to investigate a public nuisance, which would then be prosecuted by the Commonwealth's Attorney, not the city. Ms. Ligon noted that whether a private property hosting numerous tents or vehicles constitutes a nuisance would depend on the specific conditions and would require further investigation.

Presented by Chief Jimmie Wideman, Hampton Police Division,
and Jessica Kraus and Anne Ligon, Assistant City Attorneys.

4. [25-0131](#) Budget Discussion: City Manager's Recommended Fiscal Year 2026 Budget

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

The final presentation of Hampton's open session focused on proposed amendments to the FY 2026 budget, which had faced uncertainty due to the governor's line-item veto of the Safer Communities and Community Violence Reduction Grant. This veto removed approximately \$486,000 in anticipated funding for violence prevention efforts, prompting city staff to explore alternative revenue sources to avoid cutting key programs and initiatives.

Ms. Bunting explained that two unexpected revenue streams emerged: (1) \$750,000 in additional real estate tax revenue from supplemental assessments tied to two major economic development projects that received certificates of occupancy after the land book was finalized, and (2) \$504,000 in increased reimbursements from Hampton City Schools, which received more state funding than expected due to the removal of the support cap. These combined sources provided \$1.2 million in new revenue, allowing the city to restore previously threatened programs and increase the general wage adjustment for city employees from 3.5% to 4%.

Interim Budget Manager Angelique Shank outlined the proposed amendments, which include: 1) Administrative adjustments with no net budget impact, such as reallocating funds for the Elizabeth Lake special assessment and the Virginia Air and Space Science Center to more accurately reflect their intended use. 2) Reclassifying the vetoed grant funds into contingency, preserving flexibility in case the General Assembly restores them in a future session. 3) Restoring funding for violence prevention and family support programs that were at risk due to the grant veto. 4) Implementing the 4% general wage increase for city staff, aligning with council priorities.

Ms. Bunting stated that this solution was made possible through rare, one-time events, including the removal of the state support cap, and cautioned against expecting similar opportunities in the future. Ms. Bunting highlighted the strength of the partnership between the City and the School Board, crediting their long-standing collaboration and mutual support for making this win-win solution possible. The Council was asked to approve these amendments during the evening's budget adoption session.

Presented by Mary Bunting, City Manager, and Angelique Shenk, Interim Budget Manager.

REGIONAL ISSUES

There were no regional issues to report on.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no items of new business.

CLOSED SESSION

5. [25-0039](#) Closed session pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 2.2-3711.A (.1) (.3) and (.8) to consider appointments as listed on the agenda; to discuss the potential disposition of real property in the Hampton Roads Center area and consultation with legal counsel regarding the same, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the city's bargaining position or negotiating strategy; and consultation with legal counsel concerning legal issues and options pertaining to a specific federal grant

A motion was made by Councilmember Martha Mugler and seconded by Councilmember Randy Bowman, Sr., that this

Closed Session - Motion be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

6. [25-0129](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Virginia Peninsula Public Service Authority (VPPSA)
7. [25-0130](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Hampton Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
8. [25-0135](#) Consideration of an Appointment to the Community Policy and Management Team (CPMT)

CERTIFICATION

9. [25-0133](#) Resolution Certifying Closed Session
At 5:01 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Michelle Ferebee and seconded by Councilmember Randy Bowman, Sr., that this Closed Session - Certification be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

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

Jimmy Gray
Mayor

Katherine K. Glass, MMC
Clerk of Council

Date approved by Council _____