



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, October 22, 2025

1:00 PM

Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gray called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. All members of the City Council were present.

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

JIMMY GRAY PRESIDED

AGENDA

1. [25-0316](#) Hampton Captains - Christopher Newport University's Partnership with Hampton City Schools

City Manager Mary Bunting welcomed Christopher Newport University's (CNU) President, William G. Kelly, to speak about the partnership CNU has embarked on with Hampton City Schools (HCS) for the Hampton Captains Program. She noted that Shameka Pollard of HCS was present, however, Dr. Raymond Haynes and Dr. John Caggiano were away attending the annual Ford Next Generation Learning Superintendent Council meeting.

President Kelly began the presentation with some introductory information about himself and then spoke about CNU's strategic plan moving forward. The plan involves four key components which are to remain anchored in the liberal arts, be committed to connecting with the community, build a foundation to thrive, and create a culture of inclusion and belonging on campus.

President Kelly introduced Brandon Jones, the Director of Community Captains and Program Outreach, to speak about CNU's partnership with HCS.

Mr. Jones shared information about three partnership collaborations, including Biztalk, an annual event which brings HCS sophomores to campus to hear presentations about their fields; the Hampton Captains Program, a two-year college preparatory program for high school students; and Membership on a Task Force, an event at which students of all ages work to develop a path to their success once they have graduated from high school.

Ms. Shameka Pollard, Chief of Secondary School Leadership for HCS, presented information on HCS plan to create intentional, formalized partnerships that enable HCS to collaborate and advance the collective missions to move our community forward. She then thanked CNU for investing in our students and embodying HCS new motto "One community, one transformation, excellence with intentionality."

Mr. Jones returned to the podium to speak more about the plan moving forward, specifically, the Hampton Captains Program. The Hampton Captains Program holds "program days" which focus on preparing students for postgraduate life, developing leadership competencies and skills, and implementing legacy projects. Mr. Jones stated that this partnership establishes a foundation based on professional trust, a shared vision, a promise of young people and a belief in the abilities of CNU's employees. He concluded his comments by acknowledging the integral roles of students, principals, academy coaches and executive teams who work together to implement these partnership programs.

Following the presentation, discussion took place among the members of Council, staff, Mr. Jones and Ms. Pollard. The following information summarizes what was derived from that discussion: Ideas are in the making for scholarship opportunities for students who participate in the Hampton Captains Program. There is currently no process with regard to dual enrollment at CNU, however, there is potential for that. Most public institutions have programs that accept credits or courses that transfer. Ambassador programs are in place for younger students, but the Hampton Captains Program is for high schoolers with the goal of preparing them and the next generation for their next level in life. Statistics were also shared regarding how many students participated in prior programs.

Mayor Gray and several members of Council thanked the presenters for highlighting this partnership with HCS.

Mayor Gray also made remarks about CNU being more widely known in our region

and the Commonwealth and said that he appreciates the campus being open to the community for events and that he looks forward to continuing this partnership in the future.

2. [25-0292](#) Strategic Priorities Update: Excellence in Government & Placemaking

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

Ms. Bunting introduced the item and introduced the Interim Public Works Director, Michael Bowry, to make the presentation.

Mr. Bowry began the presentation stating that infrastructure development and maintenance are vital elements that impact various City Council strategic priority areas, including Excellence in Government, Living with Water, Safe & Clean initiatives and Placemaking. He also highlighted some of the tasks and projects in these areas that are handled by the Public Works Department.

Next, Mr. Bowry shared the mission of the Public Works Department which is to provide innovative, reliable and sustainable public infrastructure and services that enhance the quality of life for our community and support the growth and development of our City.

The next portion of the presentation included descriptions of the services provided by the Public Works Department and statistics on what the department has been able to accomplish over the past year. Services include engineering services, facilities maintenance, fleet services, solid waste operations, NASA steam plant operations, clean City operations, stormwater operations, entomology services, streets and bridges operations, traffic operations, and wastewater operations.

Mr. Bowry closed the presentation speaking about Public Works' summer and winter storm preparedness and response efforts, departmental training and orientation, and community partnerships and collaborations. He then opened the floor for discussion.

Mr. Bowry provided the following information in response to questions posed by Council. Public Works has a good relationship with Newport News Water Works, which responds quickly to damages they may have caused while working on projects, including those in the areas of Chapel Street, Apple Avenue and Victoria Boulevard. In addition, Newport News Waterworks is required to act in accordance with a utility policy. The Public Works Department is currently recruiting for a number of positions, some of which include Facilities Superintendent, several wastewater positions, inspector, civil engineer technician, and several equipment operator positions. The City also offers a very successful in-house Commercial

Driver's License (CDL) training program.

Ms. Bunting introduced Hampton's Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services Director, Darrell Crittendon, to present on placemaking efforts.

Mr. Crittendon shared the City's placemaking vision: "We are Hampton, a diverse, connected, coastal community, reimagining and celebrating our shared and historical spaces." This vision means that, as a City, we strive to connect people through our events and activities and bring people together so that they can have quality experiences and participate in life-changing events.

Next, Mr. Crittendon spoke about special events that take place in Hampton. Some of the ones he highlighted were Groovin' by the Bay, the Veteran's Day Parade, the Holly Days Parade, the Blackbeard Pirate Festival, the Juneteenth celebration, and various ribbon cuttings.

Mr. Crittendon transitioned into speaking about recreational opportunities, including those at Hampton's community centers, neighborhood centers and specialty centers. In addition, Hampton offers youth engagement programs, athletics and aquatics opportunities and opportunities to visit museums. Mr. Crittendon noted that museums are important because they preserve Hampton's history and provide a way to bridge the gap between people of varying cultures. He also emphasized that while Hampton has good, quality programs, it is important to continue to seek input which leads to improved and enhanced programs.

Lastly, Mr. Crittendon provided information about placemaking projects that were completed in FY25 and projects that are currently in progress. FY25 completed projects include a new playground at Buckroe Beach, playground replacement at the Therapeutic Recreation Center, improvements to Darling Stadium, Sandy Bottom Yurt Project, Bluebird Gap Farm Plan, and several maintenance and departmental collaboration projects. Placemaking projects in progress include playground replacements at Mary T. Christian Elementary School, Mary S. Peake Elementary School, Sandy Bottom Nature Park, Aberdeen Elementary School and a playground addition at the Little England Cultural Center. Additional projects in progress include the Senior Center renovation, the Buckroe Beach observation pier updates, repairs at Sandy Bottom Nature Park, and three conceptual plans.

For the benefit of the public, Ms. Bunting noted that the public is invited and able to use these playgrounds for neighborhood recreation during off-school hours.

A brief discussion took place. Topics of discussion included: the importance of renovations, maintenance and extra amenities at ball parks and fields which in turn

attracts more patrons and players and encourages more tournaments to be held in Hampton. The intent is for this to be a part of the master planning. Contractors have been lined up to begin upgrades at the Briarfield tennis courts in the next two to three weeks. Staff's goal is to protect the integrity of the Virginia State School, however, they would like to come before Council before any formal plans are introduced to the community.

With regard to the Virginia State School project, Ms. Bunting added that staff has been working with stakeholders in the community to seek their input to be sensitive to the neighborhood that will be home to the park and to honor the history of the property. She noted that additional stakeholders will be re-engaged to be part of that process.

Mr. Crittendon made a few closing remarks.

REGIONAL ISSUES

There were no regional issues to report on.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no items of new business.

CLOSED SESSION

3. [25-0294](#) Closed session pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 2.2-3711.A(.3 and .8) to discuss proposed acquisition of real property for a public purpose in the Greater Wythe area and to consult with legal counsel regarding title and other legal issues regarding the proposed transactions; (.3 and .6) to discuss proposed disposition of real property and investment of public funds in the Lasalle Corridor where discussion in open session would adversely affect the city's negotiating strategy and financial interest; and (.1) to discuss appointments as listed on the agenda and to discuss the performance of appointees to a local board or commission and possible termination of the same.

At 1:59 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Mugler seconded by Councilmember Ferebee, 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

- 4. [25-0277](#) Consideration of an Appointment to the Hampton Clean City Commission
- 5. [25-0278](#) Consideration of an Appointment to the Hampton Economic Development Authority (EDA)
- 6. [25-0287](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA)
- 7. [25-0288](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Wetlands Board
- 8. [25-0289](#) Consideration an of Appointment to the Grievance Board
- 9. [25-0302](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Citizens Police Advisory Group (CPAG)

CERTIFICATION

- 10. [25-0295](#) Resolution Certifying Closed Session
At 5:14 p.m., a motion was made by Councilwoman Mugler and seconded by Councilman Bowman 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 5:14 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 _____