



# City of Hampton

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

## Council Approved Minutes - Final City Council Legislative Session

*Mayor Donnie R. Tuck*  
*Vice Mayor Jimmy Gray*  
*Councilmember Chris L. Bowman*  
*Councilmember Steven L. Brown*  
*Councilmember Hope L. Harper*  
*Councilmember Billy Hobbs*  
*Councilmember Martha Mugler*

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

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**Wednesday, June 14, 2023**

**6:30 PM**

**Council Chambers**

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### CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Tuck called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. All members of the City Council were present.

**Present:** 7 - Councilmember Chris L. Bowman, Councilmember Steven L. Brown, Vice Mayor Jimmy Gray, Councilmember Hope L. Harper, Councilmember Billy Hobbs, Councilmember Martha Mugler and Mayor Donnie R. Tuck

### DONNIE R. TUCK PRESIDED

### INVOCATION - Councilwoman Hope Harper

Councilwoman Harper gave the invocation.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG

### MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Tuck recognized Izabel Kudrick (Izzy), a back to back world champion (2022 and 2023) who is ranked #1 in the country for both boys and girls 12 and under. She is 10 and competes in NOGI Brazilian ju jitsu and submission grappling. She is a rising 5th grader at Phenix Elementary School. Her parents are Steve and Erica Kudrick and her coaches are Nick White and Ryan McElraft of Modern American Mixed Martial Arts.

Izzy responded to a few questions from Mayor Tuck regarding her hobbies, summer plans, family, school work and career

aspirations.

Mayor Tuck also recognized the Kecoughtan High School Track and Field Team and congratulated them on achieving the State Championship. The Mayor and Coach Deon Moore shared some photos and highlights from the championship. David Anderson placed first in both the discus and shot put. Jaymes Saunders placed third in both the 110 meter and 300 meter hurdles, Jaymes placed second in high jump and third in the triple jump. Daniel Danner placed seventh in the 400 meter dash. The boys 4x800m relay team consisting of Sterling Sorrel, Tremayne Cowart, Caeleb Berkley, and Daniel Danner, placed eighth. To solidify the state title, the boys 4 by 400 relay team (Tremayne Cowart, Jaymes Saunders, Ahmik Allen, and Daniel Danner) brought home the gold. The team members were congratulated and presented with City coins from the members of City Council.

Also recognized were coaches Deon Moore, Brittany Day, Maya Moore, Janiyah Knox-Wilson and William Burrell.

Lastly, Mayor Tuck shared that Hampton, for the fourth time, has been named an All America City. The delegation just returned from Denver, Colorado.

## CONSENT AGENDA

Clerk of Council Katherine Glass read the protocol for the consent agenda and a summary of the consent items.

### Approval of the Consent Agenda

Motion made by Councilmember Hobbs, seconded by Councilmember Brown, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

1. [23-0168](#) Resolution to Amend the City Manager's Council Approved FY2023 Capital Budget to Accept and Appropriate \$2,581,382 in

Revenue Share Funding from the Virginia Department of Transportation to the Capital Projects Fund for the Grant Street Roadway Project; and to Transfer Bond Funds of \$873,342 from Multiple Completed Bond Projects to the Grant Street Roadway Bond Project

item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

2. [23-0170](#) Resolution to Approve an Encroachment Agreement Pursuant to Hampton City Code § 34-86 Between the City of Hampton and Lumos Networks Inc. d/b/a Segra to Allow an Encroachment into the City's Right of Way for Installation of Communication Conduit with Fiber Optic Cable at 3130 Victoria Boulevard.

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

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

3. [23-0171](#) Resolution to Approve an Encroachment Agreement Pursuant to Hampton City Code § 34-86 Between the City of Hampton and Lumos Networks Inc. d/b/a Segra to Allow an Encroachment into the City's Right of Way for Installation of Communication Conduit with Fiber Optic Cable at 8109 Roanoke Avenue.

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

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

4. [23-0173](#) Resolution to Approve an Encroachment Agreement Pursuant to Hampton City Code § 34-86 Between the City of Hampton and

Lumos Networks Inc. d/b/a Segra to Allow an Encroachment into the City's Right of Way for Installation of Communication Conduit with Fiber Optic Cable and an Equipment Cabinet within a median south of Autozone Way, east of N. King Street and north of E. Mercury Boulevard.

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

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

5. [23-0172](#) Resolution in Support of The Vision Zero Initiatives to Ensure Safe and Equitable Mobility for All on City of Hampton Roadways  
Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

6. [23-0093](#) Ordinance to Amend and Reenact the City Code of the City of Hampton, Virginia by Amending Chapter 21, Motor Vehicles and Traffic, and Adding Article X Entitled, "Additional Fine for Exceeding the Maximum Speed on Designated Residential Streets"

**Attachments:** [Redline - Ordinance - Traffic - \\$200 fine in Residential Areas - FINAL Presentation](#)

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

7. [23-0158](#) Approval of the minutes from the legislative session of May 10, 2023.  
Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

**PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS**

[23-0181](#) Motion to amend the agenda to add item #23-0177 which is a resolution approving ratifying the presentation of the Distinguished Citizen Award and Medal to Dr. Jeffery O. Smith  
A motion was made by Councilmember Martha Mugler and seconded by Councilmember Hope Harper, that this be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

[23-0177](#) Resolution in Recognition of Dr. Jeffery O. Smith  
A motion was made by Councilmember Martha Mugler and seconded by Councilmember Hope Harper, that this Resolution be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

The clerk read the protocol for public hearings.

**Rezoning**

8. [23-0151](#) Rezoning Application by Delorean Power LLC to Amend the Proffered Conditions of Rezoning No.1315 to Permit the Proposed Use: Power Plant (Battery Energy Storage System) as well as Other Uses Permitted in Both Heavy Manufacturing (M-3) and Langley Business Park (LBP) Districts at 3201 Commander Shepard Blvd [LRSN: 6001003], which is +32.83 Acres and Currently Zoned M-3 District, with Conditions

**Attachments:** [Council Memo](#)  
[Application](#)  
[Title Certificate](#)  
[Proposed Proffers](#)  
[Current Proffers RZ1315](#)  
[Staff Report](#)  
[CC Presentation 7/12/2023](#)  
[Applicant CC Presentation 7/12/2023](#)  
[LRD Park Questions](#)  
[Applicant CC Presentation from 6/14/2023](#)

A motion was made by Councilmember Steven Brown and seconded by Councilmember Chris Bowman, that this Zoning Ordinance - Map be deferred to the City Council Legislative Session, due back on 7/12/2023. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

9. [23-0157](#) Rezoning Application By Hampton Roads Community Action Program (HRCAP) to Amend the Proffered Conditions of Rezoning No. 14-00007 to Allow for Day Care 1, Commercial as well as Other Uses Permitted in the Neighborhood Commercial (C-1) District at 91 E Mercury Boulevard [LRSN: 8001553]

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

Ms. Glass read the title for the item. City Manager Mary Bunting introduced City Planner Davis Pemberton to make the presentation.

Mr. Pemberton greeted those on the dais and reviewed the slide presentation which included material about the purpose of the application (to permit a Day Care 1, Commercial and other uses permitted in the C-1 District); site location; zoning history of the property; and the proposed use.

Mr. Pemberton spoke about the proposed use. The proposal includes the use of the existing structure, which was previously used for a medical office, for a Day Care 1

(Head Start Program); the floor plan of the building; the zoning map; the Land Use Map (which calls for this property to be zoned commercial); Public Policy applicable to this application; and staff's analysis of the proposal.

Staff's analysis is that the site is currently zoned to allow for certain commercial uses; the subject property sits along a major commercial corridor; and the proposed use is compatible with the level of commercial activity of the subject property and surrounding properties.

Lastly, Mr. Pemberton spoke about proffered conditions related to accessory uses and compliance with Hampton's ordinances. He then stated that staff and the Planning Commission recommend approval of the item with five proffered conditions.

Mr. Pemberton opened the floor for questions and comments from Council and noted that the applicant was present to answer questions if needed. No questions or comments were brought forth by Council.

No one signed up to speak at the public hearing, but the Mayor offered the applicant an opportunity to speak.

Ms. Shikee Franklin, the applicant, greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: It is our pleasure to be here today to present this proposal to you. We are excited about the opportunity to bring the Head Start Program in this area. We are currently busing students that live in this Buckroe, Phoebus, Foxhill area to our Head Start location at our Mallory site. So, we are looking forward to the opportunity to be able to serve these families right in their communities. HRCAP Head Start has been in existence since 1965, serving not only the Hampton Roads area, but also Newport News residents as well.

Ms. Franklin also opened the floor for questions from Council. No questions were posed.

The Mayor opened the public hearing. There were no speakers and the Mayor closed the public hearing.

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

Prior to voting, Councilwoman Harper made the following statement: I consulted with the City Attorney and in the best

interest of full disclosure, I would like to state on the record that I am an appointee to the Board for the Hampton Roads Community Action Program, the applicant in Item No. 23-0157 on the agenda. I do not actively participate on the Board, but am represented there by a designee. As such, I do not actively govern or control in any manner the decisions of that Board; nor do I have any knowledge about the current action before the Board other than a briefing received from City staff in my capacity as a Councilmember/Planning Commissioner. Under these circumstances, my appointment to that Board does not create a conflict; and I will participate in the deliberations for and vote on that application.

Prior to voting, Councilman Hobbs made the following statement: I consulted with the City Attorney and would like to state on the record that I am an appointee to the Board for the Hampton Roads Community Action Board and I am not currently represented by a designee. As such, I will be abstaining from voting on this item.

Prior to voting Councilwoman Mugler made the following statement: I consulted with the City Attorney and in the interest of full disclosure, I would like to state on the record that I am an appointee of the Board for the Hampton Roads Community Action Program, the applicant in Item No. 23-0157 on the agenda. I do not actively participate on the Board, but I am represented there by a designee. As such, I do not actively govern or control in any manner the decisions of that Board; nor do I have any knowledge about the current action before our Board other than a briefing received from City staff. Under these circumstances, my appointment to this Board does not create a conflict; and I will participate in the deliberations for and vote on that application.

Prior to voting, Mayor Tuck made the following statement: I consulted with the City Attorney and in the interest of full disclosure, I would like to state on the record that I am an appointee to the Board for the Hampton Roads Community



Action Program, the applicant in Item No. 23-0157 on the agenda. I do not actively participate on the Board, but I am represented there by a designee. As such, I do not actively govern or control in any manner the decisions of that Board; nor do I have any knowledge about the current action before the Board other than a briefing received from City staff. Under these circumstances, my appointment to that Board does not create a conflict; and I will participate in the deliberations for and vote on that application.

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

**Abstained:** 1 - Councilmember Hobbs

## Resolutions

10. [23-0153](#) Resolution Authorizing the Transfer From the City of Hampton to Hampton Redevelopment and Housing Authority of Property Identified as LRSN 1000654 (708 Spruce Avenue) Containing an Approximate Total of 0.11 ± Acres (4,850 Sq. Ft.)

**Attachments:** [Deed of Gift - 708 Spruce Avenue](#)

Ms. Glass read the title for the item.

Ms. Bunting provided the following information about the item. The City owns the parcel in question which is identified as LRSN 1000654, commonly known as 708 Spruce Avenue. The Hampton Redevelopment and Housing Authority (HRHA) has received an inquiry regarding interest in developing the property for residential purposes. The City Council has designated the HRHA as the agency to implement the City's Community Plan as it relates to residential development and redevelopment with residential components. Transferring the property to the HRHA is thus consistent with this policy and staff recommends approval.

Mayor Tuck opened the floor for questions from Council. No further discussion took place.

The Mayor opened the public hearing, no one was signed up to speak, and the Mayor closed the public hearing.

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

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

## PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Since there were a number of speakers, Mayor Tuck indicated that he would call upon two speakers at a time and asked that speakers alternate using the podium and the free-standing microphone.

Ms. Katherine Dermanis greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I appreciate the extra time that the City has given us to digest another proposal and option for the Hampton Carousel. Something came to me today and I am going to quote "Sometimes, taking the right path is not the easiest one." I'm asking City Council to take the right path and acknowledge the citizens of Hampton, the major stakeholders who raised over \$600,000 for that Carousel to be located at its present location. One of these comments that was made at one of the presentations is that people don't know where it is, that it is tucked in the back. No one knows it is there. On a recent trip to Northern Virginia, much to my son's dismay, I made him stop at every single rest stop going and coming back from Northern Virginia. I wanted to see if they had brochures on our Carousel and how many brochures. I didn't see one brochure; I saw several with maps locating the Carousel and stating that it was a major attraction for the City of Hampton. One (brochure) with the Air and Space Park (the Virginia Air & Space Science Center) mentioning the Carousel, attractions in Downtown Hampton, and what to see highlighted the Carousel. Sometimes taking the right path is not the easiest. I'm asking City Council to take the right path. Keep the Carousel where it belongs where the citizens would like for it to stay. It deserves to be a showcase in Downtown Hampton as these brochures testify to. Thank you for your time.

Mayor Tuck reminded everyone that applauding is not permitted in chambers and the chambers would be cleared out if it became an issue.

Ms. Brenda Marks greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: The first thing I want to say before I go into anything else is the Carousel needs to stay right where it is, right where we citizens paid to put it and until the City let it get in disrepair and City employees decided not to issue the work order, let it remain

inoperable. As I promised, I'm going to ask everybody that is here tonight for the Carousel, whether you signed up to speak or not, to quickly stand up and sit down, and while they are doing that, I'm going to say what I've got to say. In 2021, while most of us were on COVID lockdown, 25 stakeholders met and by this plan derived a 136,975 occupant of a traded landmark. The public was not aware of this plan, but the City was because you'll have a representative on the DHDP (Downtown Hampton Development Partnership). My Webster's dictionary defines a stakeholder as a party with an interest. I would say that every taxpayer is a stakeholder because we will end up footing the bill. Had the video not been released earlier this year showing the future of downtown that showed the Carousel in Mill Point Park, the public would have never known...and here we are tonight, probably at the end of this journey. In January of this year, four of you took an oath to faithfully and impartially discharge the duties incumbent upon you as a member of this Council. I want to stress the impartially. At that same meeting, the pastor gave the invocation, prayed that God guides you to seek peace over privilege, poor over rich and service over status. I am sure God was listening, but you all have done nothing to prove to me that you are. The time has come for you to listen to us and leave the Carousel where it is. Thank you.

Ms. Antoinette Weathers greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: In the interest of brevity, and thank you for your time, Councilmembers, I'm here to express my opposition to the proposed relocation of the Hampton Carousel. I've been a lifelong resident of Hampton and I won't tell you how many years it's been, but it's been quite a while. I hold the Carousel very dear to my heart and I believe it should be preserved in its present location. Instead of moving the Carousel, I respectfully request that the City Council consider allocating funding to protect the current structure from flooding if needed and to ensure that the Carousel remains open year-round. There are many reasons, but allow me please, to just express a personal reason that highlights a sentimental value of the Hampton Carousel. As a young girl, I experienced the joy of riding the Carousel at the Buckroe Beach Amusement Park. Little did I know that many, many years later, a chariot here would lead to a remarkable moment in my life. After I disembarked the Carousel, I received a wooden box. My soon-to-be husband was apparently as confident as he was romantic because the box contained not one, but two rings, a diamond engagement ring and a wedding band. He orchestrated this heart-felt surprise in this very special location. The Hampton Carousel Park is forever intertwined one of the most significant and cherished days of my life, so I kindly urge you to request - to take into consideration my request. I trust that your decision upholds the best interest of our community and preserves the heritage of this very national historic treasure. I appreciate your time and your dedication to serving our wonderful community. Thank you.

Mr. Michael Mulheran greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I've been a homeowner in Hampton since 1994. I just wanted to come today to thank the City of Hampton, the Council and the Mayor for good guidance because you've extended the number of days the Buckroe Beach Farmer's Market occurs on Saturdays and that's the reason why I came this evening. I want to say thank you to the City and leadership. Thank you.

Mr. Ben Hites greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: Hello, my name is Ben Hites and I am here for the Carousel and I believe that it should stay where it is because all of the kids should get to enjoy it and the people who help out with everything just decided to reopen it and have it stay where it is and have a better foundation soon and reopen it very soon. Thank you for your time.

Mayor Tuck reiterated that if those in the audience insisted on clapping, then they would be removed from chambers.

Ms. Cynthia Hites greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I'm just here, pretty much for the same reason these other people have come up. I've lived in Hampton. I was born in Newport News and lived in Hampton a lot of my life. From 1982-1992, I lived on Bridge Street in Downtown Hampton, so I actually watched the Carousel get built pretty much from my back window. I've always had a very strong connection to it. Just recently, in the past few years, my son and father go to the Carousel every ... I don't know, every few weeks or so, so I am just adamant about it staying where it is. I saw a meeting a few months ago that had different options and option number 2 was the one that I'm for. I think it's perfect if you just keep it there, raise the structure. I would think, maybe move it a little towards Settlers Landing so it's more visible, but I am wholeheartedly for the Carousel staying where it is, and that is it.

Ms. Katherine Kearney greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I've been a resident of Hampton since 1963. I actually grew up on the beach in a cottage and then we moved a mile and a half away from the beach. So, I'm here to request that the Carousel stay where it is. I believe that it is a beautiful, historic piece of art. It is currently 103 years old. I hate to see it moved. It was hand-carved by immigrants. It was restored to all of the paintings and the mirrors and the band. I know that the last request was to move it to Bluebird Gap Farm. I don't believe that's a great idea. Yes, the venue at Bluebird looks great, but this historic piece of art needs to remain in Hampton next to the Air & Space Museum so our visitors that come to Hampton and the children that come to the Air & Space Museum can enjoy where it is. Thank you.

Mr. Christopher Foster greeted those on the dais and made the following statement:

I served as the President of Historic Little England for two years. It's an area in Downtown Hampton if you don't know about it. The Carousel's a huge benefit and honestly a selling point for our neighborhood. The nearby Carousel is often listed in Zillow...it says "Oh, near the Hampton Carousel" and honestly, it was a selling point for us to move in there, you know, that my children could walk to a carousel. It was an exciting thing. There's nothing really else to do for children in Downtown Hampton. I don't even think there's a public playground anywhere. You could go to the Air & Space Museum if you want to pay \$83 for a family of four. The Carousel is sort of the only thing there. There's about 13 restaurants with bars and breweries, most of them aren't super kid-friendly, if we are honest, and, the Carousel is being moved for what I've been told at least, another bar and restaurant. People mentioned moving it to Bluebird Gap (Bluebird Gap Farm), which is a blessing to the City. It's amazing and thank you for supporting that place, but one blessing is because Bluebird Gap is free. Suddenly parents will go to Bluebird Gap and get begged and begged to pay the money to ride the Carousel over and over again. Bluebird Gap is great, but it's in the middle of nothing and it's outside of walking distance of absolutely everyone. My apparent friends from outside of Hampton have no clue to where Bluebird Gap is or what it is, but everyone knows what the Carousel is by where it sits. It's the crown jewel of downtown. Now, we're discussing ripping it out for yet another place to eat and drink. We've heard some financial, technical reasons why it should stay and we came to put a child's face and story to the issue. His name is Charles Dudley and he is currently asleep. He is 4-years-old. He was born in September 2018. He turned one in 2019. We began keeping this tin at our front door. Inside of it, we keep a reel of 20 carousel tickets. It has sat there the entire time. Anytime he likes, we said we could go when it's not closed for the season, but at age one and a half, it immediately shut down for COVID. The City opened it for a few months here and there after COVID, but eventually closed it down permanently for a year now. My boy is getting ready to turn five and the City seems to have avoided fixing it and wants to move it away from him and his new baby brother, Walter. We've kept that box by our door for four years. Tickets could be bought back then in multiples. There's still five tickets inside that tin. We barely got to use them from all the closures. Can I get a refund? I'm just kidding. By the time Hampton closed it, opened it, closed it, didn't fix it, now wants to remove it, fix it, build a building maybe three to five years from now, Charles Dudley will be 10 and probably no longer have much interest in childhood carousels. That dream has been taken away and is now possibly gone forever from our family. Please simply fix it and leave it be for Downtown Hampton's children. That's all that they have there. Charles Dudley represents just one of hundreds of downtown kids. He asks about the Carousel at least once a week when he sees that tin sitting there unused by the front door. Please don't make me tell him that he is losing it.

Mayor Tuck informed Mr. Foster that his speaking time had expired.

Ms. Ellen Melvin greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I have been a Hampton resident for 59 years. Before I moved here, I visited Hampton my entire life as my mother was from here and I would come to visit family. In 10 days, I will be 77 years old and I have loved and ridden their beloved Carousel for my entire life. Five generations of my family have enjoyed riding this Carousel. I fervently believe that our Carousel should remain where it currently is. This antique Carousel is a Hampton jewel and it belongs in the heart of Hampton. Hampton is proud of its rich history. It's nationally known for its history. Downtown has always been at the center of history. Here, we have the Hampton History Museum, Historic Saint John's Church, the Air & Space Museum, the docks and waterfront, home of the fishing, oyster and crabbing industry and the antique toboggan Carousel. These historic sites are all completely situated within walking distance for locals and tourists to conveniently visit and enjoy, all in one stop. They complement each other. I have often seen families leave the Air & Space Museum and go straight to the Carousel for a happy ride. This historic Carousel should remain here in the heart of Hampton's history. As to moving it to an alternate location, one that has been suggested is moving it back to Buckroe Beach. Yes, it began there, but that was a totally different environment from what exists there today. It was part of an entire amusement park and was safely within the confines of that park. At that time, crime was not an issue in that area. Today, crime, shooting, fighting, mobs of people have all been concerns and problems in Buckroe. Even you, the City leaders, have moved the wonderful Groovin' by the Bay concert away from the bay at Buckroe Beach over to Mill Point because of the problems here. Why would we want to move our beloved Carousel there? Also, the frequency and ferocity of storms have increased since the days of Buckroe Amusement Park. Moving the Carousel to Buckroe would increase the chances of damage to our Carousel from both vandalism and storms. Another suggestion is moving it to Mill Point. That is a very small park. It has been great for concerts and festivals. Just last week, the popular Blackbeard Festival was there and the park was covered with pirate tents re-creating an interesting look at a pirate encampment. Perfect. There were also vendor's tents selling pirate-related goods. The park was full, leaving no space for a carousel. During concerts, many people would bring their own chairs and blankets which were spread out around the park. In addition, there are food trucks taking up all the remaining space. No space for a carousel...and, for anyone wanting to ride the Carousel, if it were located there during a concert, I don't imagine it would be as enjoyable a ride as it should be with a loud concert and music blaring out and it would not be as family-friendly as a carousel ride should be with beer trucks and people drinking beer sitting near the Carousel. The third suggestion has been to move the Carousel to Bluebird Gap Farm. This is a wonderful place for young families with all the animals and the playground. I do not believe a carousel belongs there though. I think it would take away from the charm and historic element of the

antique Carousel to be there amongst the farm animals and playground equipment. Just another playground ride.

Mayor Tuck informed Ms. Melvin that her speaking time had expired. Ms. Melvin continued speaking and Mayor Tuck again indicated that her speaking time had expired.

Mr. David Rogers greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: A resident of Buckroe Beach, I'm here to speak on the possible relocation of the Buckroe Beach Carousel. Like many of those in attendance this evening, I have fond memories of the Buckroe Beach Amusement Park and of course, the Carousel. As a child, my family lived close enough to hear the sounds emanating from the park and while standing in our front yard, I could see the roller coaster going up to go down to begin its ride. I miss those days. The era of amusements parks, such as Buckroe Beach, has long passed, along with Oceanview in Norfolk and Seaside in Virginia Beach. We are lucky to have the Carousel to help us cherish our memories of those days. I don't think the other localities have anything nearly as significant as our Carousel to remind us of that. The Carousel has been downtown for about 30 years benefiting from public and private funding to get it to the present location. I think it is time for it to be located at Bluebird Gap Farm. This idea was first brought to my attention during the civic meeting and voiced by someone whose Buckroe Beach roots probably run deeper than anyone else here in attendance this evening. Her reasoning was: that's where the children are. I was initially a bit skeptical of this idea, but the more I considered it, the more I thought it was the right decision based mostly on the notion of putting it where the children are, but also its proximity to the City resources that could help with staffing and maintenance issues. I acknowledge the generous private contributions that helped establish the Carousel's current location; however, being four miles from its original home, there is no relationship between Buckroe Beach and Settlers Landing Road. To my knowledge, there is little, if any, support having the Carousel move back to Buckroe Beach and I concur with that. I'm also aware that a vibrant downtown area is important to the economic vitality of the City and it should be given careful consideration. The idea that there needs to be revitalization is not unique to Hampton. It is why localities nationwide go through these processes to prevent economic stagnation. Thriving retail and restaurant areas provide resources that in turn provide City services. I am aware that the properties in the downtown area pay an additional premium on the real estate taxes to help support economic activity. Given the other options that's presented, I'm in favor of moving the Buckroe Beach Carousel to the Bluebird Gap Farm. Thank you, again, for listening to my position and have a good evening.

Ms. Kathleen Martin greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I live in the Wythe area of the City. I have several economic-related questions

concerning the proposed new park downtown and indirectly have to do with the Carousel.

Mayor Tuck indicated that Council would not respond to questions; however, if Ms. Martin's questions were rhetorical, that's fine.

Ms. Martin indicated that they were and continued with her statement: I know that your usual policy is to listen to all public input and then make comments and ask questions at the end of the public comments. I have seven questions which I will just read and then hope that any Councilmember who has information or can answer the questions at the end of the public comments will do so. I want to make it clear that the questions are not accusatory. I'm just trying to find out some information and I have not been able to do so. Maybe I've been looking in the wrong places, but I would like to know some of the economic details. 1. What is the ratio of the private developers and City employees on this planning and redevelopment committee or commission? 2. Will the proposed new park contain any retail businesses? Some people have alluded to that, but I do not have any knowledge of that. 3. If there will be retail businesses there, will these retail businesses be given any tax breaks, and if so, how long will the tax breaks be in effect and what was the total amount or an estimate be that will be the economic gain if there are tax breaks and what would be the tax totals if there were no breaks for these establishments on the waterfront property? 4. Do any City employees or officials have any interest in any of the proposed retail businesses for this new park? 5. How was the planning and development commission created? Who or what body determined the members? 6. Will any proposed structure in the plan obscure the waterfront? In other words, will the waterfront be visible by pedestrians and vehicles on Settlers Landing Road? And, the last: Does the commission know or have they investigated what businesses will have to be eliminated in the plan if the Carousel remains at its present locale? Thank you.

Mr. Johnnie B. Carroll Jr., greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I am a lifelong citizen of the City of Hampton except for the six years I gave the United States Army. What we have is a jewel. The Carousel, the Virginia Air & Space Center right there in Downtown Hampton. Now, a whole lot of people think that downtown is just down. It's not down. It's up and we have to keep it that way. Mayor Tuck, I'm pretty sure you've seen some of the signs outside the City limits that say...Hampton, America's First. You don't get to be first by waiting for somebody else to cross the line in front of you. We got to be first because we intend to be that way. Am I right? Okay. That's all I have to say about that. Thank you very much.

Ms. Jackie Merritt greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I'm



not here to talk about the Carousel, although I do not think it should be moved. I'm here to address the speeding on LaSalle Avenue. It's totally out of control between Victoria (Boulevard) and Kecoughtan (Road). I've been a resident on LaSalle Avenue for at least 20 years, and within the last five years, even less than that actually, it's become extremely dangerous. We've had several accidents. At least last week, I believe a police car was rammed at the light at Victoria and LaSalle. Three days ago, in front of my house, a pickup truck lost control and ran into a medical transport vehicle which was carrying a patient which had to be transported to the hospital. A woman who lives across the street from me at an angle, her porch (half of her porch) was destroyed by a driver who lost control of his car. That particular block, you have school bus kids getting off and getting on the buses. What's happening is that the motorcycles and the cars are passing other cars like 65/70 miles an hour in the turning lane, so I just feel like something has to be done. When I first moved there, they were talking about putting a median down the center of LaSalle and what they did was they put one at the corner of Kecoughtan and LaSalle and stopped. It was supposed to go all the way down. That was what I was told during I believe it was the Kecoughtan Corridor Proposal. So, I just would like something to be done. It's...someone's going to be killed. Actually, someone was killed at the corner of Victoria and LaSalle I think about two or three years ago. Thank you.

Mr. Andrew Stith greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I'm a lifetime resident. Also, United States Army, twenty some years. I also came home in 2015 to help my City. Three things. First thing is the Carousel. I don't know who bought that land for the Carousel that's on the Carousel. It shouldn't be bought. It should have been for the City. The Carousel should stay where it is at. So, whoever bought that Carousel and they want to move it, the City does not need to go ahead and pay to move it. Let the people that bought the land move it. The other thing is also what's wrong with the Carousel. I remember the Carousel when I was a kid. Buckroe Beach. I have two more things. Zoning. You've zoned everything ever since I've been to these meetings, you'll zone everything. You zoned from the (inaudible), you zoned everything. What I would like to do is I would like to ask the City Council to see if you can rezone the places that you tore down or the Redevelopment and Housing Authority tore down such as Pine Chapel, Lincoln Park - rezone those areas so they can be called Lincoln Park, Pine Chapel and other places. Also, different places around the City, they should be named after famous people that are from here or people that have done serious work here such as Harry Tucker, Allen Iverson, okay. The third thing, the third thing I wanted to talk about was I came here quite a few times about the police, and I've mentioned before I think the police...I think they should establish me. I think they should establish a task force, a crime task force for all the cities, especially Hampton, Hampton and Newport News have their own task force to kill the shooting. Since nobody wants to

buy back - buy back training or whatever or do any different things, do a task force to get rid of or to decrease the amount of violence here. Also, get with us veterans. We can do it, we can head it, and also, we can work at it. Also, get with the gun owners and everything to train them: what is a bad thing, what are the good things about guns so it can be a deterrence. So, thank you and that's all I've got to say.

Ms. Bunting made the following statement: As City Manager, it is not for me to have an opinion on the placement of the Carousel, but rather to provide options for the Council's consideration. More importantly, it is for me to make sure that facts are highlighted in the discussion. Tonight, there were several inaccurate statements, the most egregious of which was that Council was trying to rob the citizens of a treasure which suggests that the Council is trying to get rid of the Carousel. That is absolutely not the case, has never been the case. People can reasonably disagree about where a carousel should go or should not go without misstating facts or presenting hyperbole. We have taken calls from residents who truly believe that Council's trying to get rid of the Carousel. That has never been part of the conversation and I just want to state that for the public record. Indeed, the Council did not even precipitate the conversation about the potential move of the Carousel. It is true that the Downtown Hampton Development Partnership (DHDP) developed a plan which contemplated moving it from Carousel Park to Mill Point Park. The Council decided not to take it up when it was first presented to them. We set aside some American Recovery Plan Act Funds to redo Carousel Park to make it more resilient and more green and more user-friendly because we've heard a lot of complaints from residents that it's very hot there, very unwelcoming and we also are trying to improve the resiliency of Hampton, and so we looked to do some park renovations, but money had not been set aside to move the Carousel. The DHDP put the video out that was referenced earlier tonight and that generated citizen concern and so the Council decided to go ahead and entertain information and input sessions which is what we have been doing. I feel it's my responsibility to make clear that this conversation originated with DHDP. The Council had not been necessarily looking to move it, but when a business investment group came forward and suggested a potential plan and the citizens became aware of that, we certainly wanted to have conversation that engaged our residents, which is something that we're known for. Again, I want to stress that we strive, as we always have in Hampton, for civil and non-accusatory dialogue. There has been a lot of accusations about people on the take or a desire for waterfront condos that we haven't really disclosed to the public, and I need to tell you that's categorically untrue. There is no plan for waterfront condos. There is no plan to deprive our citizens of the Carousel. What there has been is reasonable discussion and debate about the best location. All three locations could serve as a place to honor our historic Carousel. No one that I am aware of wants to take away our history or to cause it to deteriorate.

Ms. Bunting also provided the following Carousel repair timetable update. Carousels and Carvings, which is an Ohio company that is one of the very few that is skilled to work on our particular antique Carousel, is starting to begin their work in July. They have told us that they expect to have it completed - initially they thought September; they have been a little bit delayed, they are now saying October. They stay very busy as one of the very few companies that can do this work. They will come to Hampton multiple times during the process because certain parts will have to be manufactured by scratch because of the age of the Carousel. This Council has always intended that the Carousel be repaired and usable for all the generations to come. Like many of you, I grew up on the Carousel. I grew up here in Hampton and I want to assure you that again, while I don't have a position as City Manager on where it goes, I think we all share in the position that we value our Carousel and rather than be accusatory to one another, we should celebrate that we all have this wonderful asset that we all agree is a wonderful asset.

Councilman Brown thanked the City Manager for dispelling the incorrect information about the Carousel and spoke about the need for civil discourse.

Vice Mayor Gray shared that Council loves the Carousel too and when the public first saw the information was the same time the Council saw the information. He shared his disappointment in some of the comments which have been made by members of the public and indicated that the dialogue dipped to a new low in Hampton.

Mayor Tuck shared his concern that we have become a City of "us" versus "other" with "other" being anyone who believes something different than we do and this leads to denigrating our neighbors which is something we do not want to do. He spoke about the ways in which Councilmembers are transparent and stated that Councilmembers aren't rich and serve out of a desire or calling to serve. The Mayor closed his comments with the following statement: Consideration of whether to relocate the Hampton Carousel is premature at this time. To date, the Council and the citizens have not been presented with a formal plan for potential redevelopment of this area. However, the Council has set aside ARPA funds to be used to make improvements and add resilient enhancements to Carousel Park and we intend to move forward with those efforts with the Carousel in its current location.

## GENERAL ITEMS

11. [23-0176](#) Consideration of Hampton Carousel Location  
Some of the members of City Council shared their comments

following the public comment period and the City Manager also provided information.

**Appointments**

12. [23-0160](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board (CSB)
- A motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs to reappoint Sheriff Karen Bowden to a second term until June 30, 2026, and to appoint Ryan Kotrch to serve the unexpired portion of a term until June 30, 2025. The motion carried by the following vote:
- Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck
13. [23-0161](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
- A motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs to appoint Remi Wright to fill the unexpired portion of a term until March 31, 2026; to appoint DeRocke Croom and Dr. Irina Gorbunova-Ford to first terms until June 30, 2027; and to reappoint Katherine G. Dermanis to a second term until April 30, 2027. The motion carried by the following vote:
- Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck
14. [23-0162](#) Consideration of an Appointment to the Hampton Clean City Commission
- Attachments:** [HCCC Application - Harris](#)
- A motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs to reappoint Alexander Maness to a second term until June 30, 2027. The motion carried by the following vote:.
- Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck
15. [23-0163](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Senior Citizens Advisory

Committee

A motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs to reappoint Linda Kindred to a second term until April 30, 2027; and to appoint Susan Elwick in the place of Graylyn Owens to a first term until June 30, 2027. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

16. [23-0164](#) Consideration of an Appointment to the Wetlands Board

A motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs to appoint Brandon Washington to fill an unexpired term until December 30, 2026. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

17. [23-0165](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Hampton Redevelopment & Housing Authority (HRHA)

A motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs to reappoint Teresa Schmidt to a second term and James Young to a first full term, both to expire on June 30, 2027. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

18. [23-0166](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Virginia Peninsula Community College Board of Trustees

A motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs to reappoint Dr. Donna Woods and Mary Bunting to second terms until June 30, 2027. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

19. [23-0167](#) Consideration of an Appointment to the Peninsula Alcohol Safety Action Program

A motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs to appoint Pius A. Sangbong to a first term until June 30, 2026. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

**REPORTS BY CITY MANAGER, CITY COUNCIL, STAFF, COMMITTEES**

There were no reports.

**MISCELLANEOUS NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 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 \_\_\_\_\_

