



City of Hampton

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

Council Approved Minutes - Final City Council Work Session

Mayor Donnie R. Tuck
Vice Mayor Linda D. Curtis
Councilmember Jimmy Gray
Councilmember W.H. "Billy" Hobbs
Councilmember Will Moffett
Councilmember Teresa V. Schmidt
Councilmember Chris Snead

STAFF: Mary Bunting, City Manager
Vanessa T. Valldejuli, City Attorney
Katherine K. Glass, CMC, Clerk of Council

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

1:00 PM

Community
Development
Conference Room, 5th
Floor, City Hall

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tuck called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. All members of City Council were present except for Councilman Hobbs who is away on business travel and Councilwoman Schmidt who arrived at 1:13 p.m. Assistant City Manager Steve Bond sat for City Manager Mary Bunting who is on travel for the City and Senior Deputy City Attorney Trish Melochick sat for City Attorney Vanessa Valldejuli who is working a reduced schedule as she returns from medical leave.

Present 6 - Vice Mayor Linda D. Curtis, Councilmember Jimmy Gray, Councilmember Will Moffett, Councilmember Teresa V. Schmidt, Councilmember Chris Snead, and Mayor Donnie R. Tuck

Excused 1 - Councilmember Billy Hobbs

DONNIE R. TUCK PRESIDED

AGENDA

1. [17-0331](#) Update on Stormwater Management Ponds Protection

Attachments: [Presentation](#)
[Stormwater Management Facilities Safety Guidelines](#)
[Stormwater Management Facilities Safety Review](#)

Assistant City Manager Steve Bond provided an overview of the item.

Water Resources Engineer Brian Lewis spoke about the purpose for having stormwater management facilities. He also shared background information and safety guidelines with regards to stormwater management facilities in the City of Hampton.

Mr. Lewis clarified that safety benches and aquatic benches refer to breaks in slopes in the facilities; whereas, straight slopes were used in older stormwater facilities.

Mr. Lewis shared information about fencing of wet ponds.

Mr. Lewis emphasized that staff has developed safety guidelines for publically owned stormwater management facilities for City Council's consideration. They include: safety benches and aquatic benches; recommendations when fencing; requirements for types of fencing; and appropriate signage adjacent to all stormwater management facilities.

In response to Mayor Tuck, Mr. Lewis clarified that safety benches and aquatic benches are optional; however, they are usually used.

Mr. Lewis shared information about various types of fencing and signage, and the costs associated with fencing.

In response to Mayor Tuck, Mr. Lewis stated the main considerations when selecting a type of fence include cost, input from impacted parties such as schools and neighbors, and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements.

Mr. Lewis shared examples of fences which are currently in place including one at Burbank Elementary School and one on Commander Shepard Boulevard.

Additional discussion took place among the members of Council and staff. Topics of discussion included: fence replacement, bio-retention basins (basins which allow runoff to infiltrate into the soil), rain gardens, detention basins (formerly referred to as dry ponds or holes in the ground with no water), fencing of wet ponds, and the positive and negative aspects associated with fence heights including child safety and obstruction of view.

Mr. Lewis clarified that the pond on Old Buckroe Road and Nickerson Boulevard is a retention basin/wet pond.

Councilwoman Schmidt expressed concern whether we are considering this from the least invasive perspective rather than installing fences which detract from our beautiful ponds.

Public Works Director Lynn Allsbrook noted that we are considering putting more detail into that component of the design on the front end.

Mr. Lewis added that a “black fence” is a chain link fence which includes black vinyl. This type of fence creates a nicer look without increasing cost.

Mr. Allsbrook noted that the goal will be to have an aesthetically pleasing fence which fits with the surrounding location and matches the location with the appropriate type of fencing.

Mayor Tuck opened the floor for additional questions and/or comments. No additional discussion took place.

Presented by Brian Lewis, Water Resources Engineer.

2. [17-0336](#) Presentation by Hampton Roads Transit on the Peninsula Fixed Guideway Study

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

Assistant City Manager Steve Bond provided an overview of the item. He noted that Council is not being asked to make a decision today; however, staff will bring the item before Council again next month.

Hampton Roads Transit (HRT) President and CEO William Harrell provided opening remarks. He stated HRT staff has worked diligently with Hampton City staff on how to best position the project for success in the future. He continued stating that today’s presentation will provide information about the alignments as they relate to the environmental work. He emphasized that the goal will be to complete strategic work to preserve this project so that as we have the ability to seek grant funds (there is significant capital and operational cost associated with the project) we will be in a position where we will not be required to do additional environmental work. He reiterated that the goal is to determine how to position ourselves for what can be a very important and transformational project for the future of the Peninsula.

Mr. Harrell announced that the Newport News City Council approved its resolution of support at its October 24, 2017 meeting. He noted that HRT’s desire is that Hampton

will move forward with approving a similar resolution in November.

HRT Transit Development Planner Samantha Sink reminded everyone that the last time HRT came before Council, it presented three retained alternatives which represent three opportunities to bring high capacity transit in the form of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) to the Peninsula. She emphasized that each alternative met the purpose and need statement; however, the work was a broad corridor study to determine where we should be.

Ms. Sink explained HRT has decided not to recommend the Easement Corridor Alternative for the following reasons: concerns with Right-of-Way Acquisition, a lack of connectivity to the broader transportation network, the CSX Corridor limits the potential for economic development, and this option provides a reduced opportunity to form a combined alignment. She elaborated on how each reason would negatively impact the project and therefore HRT is not recommending this alternative.

In response to Mayor Tuck, Ms. Sink said that the Newport News City Council received this same presentation during its work session two weeks ago at which time they were advised of the same reasons why the Easement Corridor Alternative was not selected.

Ms. Sink stated HRT recommends moving forward with the Mercury Boulevard Alternative, the Jefferson Avenue Alternative or the hybrid version of the two.

Ms. Sink announced that HRT is requesting Council approve a resolution of support at its next meeting to move forward with the environmental review process. This will put us in the position to pursue the project further once funds become available. She emphasized that HRT will not move forward with the design work until there is commitment from both cities.

Ms. Sink said that at that time, we will also consider refining the traffic analysis, a concern expressed by some members of staff.

Ms. Sink noted that the funding for this next phase of study is already in place.

Ms. Sink spoke about the next step in the process including the environmental review process.

Mayor Tuck opened the floor for questions and/or comments from the members of Council.

Additional discussion took place among the members of Council, HRT staff and City staff. Topics of discussion included: traffic analysis concerns involved in the Mercury Boulevard Alternative, project environmental impacts, and means of funding.

HRT Chief Planning and Development Officer Ray Amoruso provided closing remarks and noted that HRT is confident that this is the correct approach.

Ms. Jamie Jackson, another key HRT staffer was also in attendance, but did not make a presentation.

In response to Councilman Gray, Ms. Sink clarified that no local funding match is required for this phase.

Mr. Harrell gave closing remarks regarding funding for the project.

Councilman Gray thanked Mr. Harrell and HRT staff for leading Hampton in the right direction to derive at a public transportation vision for Hampton and the Peninsula.

Presented by William Harrell, President and Chief Executive Officer; Samantha Sink, Transit Development Planner; and Ray Amaruso, Chief Planning and Development Officer; all of Hampton Roads Transit.

REGIONAL ISSUES

There were no regional issues.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no items of new business.

CLOSED SESSION

Clerk of Council Katherine Glass read the closed session motion.

3. [17-0309](#) Closed session pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 2.2-3711.A.1, .3 and .7 to discuss the assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of a specific public officer, appointee, or employee; to discuss or consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or the disposition of publicly held real property in the areas of Downtown and the Magruder Corridor, where discussion in an

open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the City; and to consult with legal counsel employed by the City pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in an open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the City.

At 1:44 p.m., the Clerk indicated that closed session would take place in the Lawson Conference Room as usual and indicated that the language for closed session was modified from that in the published agenda due to another matter which arose that morning and required Council's attention. The Clerk read the amended language for the record. A motion was made by Vice Mayor Curtis and seconded by Councilmember Moffett, that this Closed Session - Motion be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Vice Mayor Curtis, Councilmember Gray, Councilmember Moffett, Councilmember Schmidt, Councilmember Snead and Mayor Tuck

CERTIFICATION

4. [17-0326](#) Resolution Certifying Closed Session

At 4:36 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Moffett and seconded by Councilmember Gray, that this Closed Session - Certification be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Vice Mayor Curtis, Councilmember Gray, Councilmember Moffett, Councilmember Schmidt, Councilmember Snead and Mayor Tuck

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

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

Donnie R. Tuck
Mayor

Katherine K. Glass, CMC
Clerk of Council

Date approved by Council _____