



City of Hampton

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

Council Approved Minutes - Final City Council Legislative 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, April 23, 2025

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

First Public Hearing on FY26 Manager's Recommended Budget

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gray called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All members of 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

INVOCATION: Councilman Randy C. Bowman, Sr.

Councilman Bowman gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Gray read a proclamation recognizing April as Volunteer Month, reminded those in attendance that the sign up time for public comment will change beginning in May and made remarks about volunteer programs in the City. He then thanked all volunteers for the work they do which makes our City better.

Mayor Gray made some remarks about the budget and then made the following statement regarding tax relief in our City: Over the past three years, our City Council has taken deliberate steps to ease the financial burden on the residents by reducing our real

estate tax rate by a total of nine cents, and this year, the manager is recommending an additional one cent, which will be a total of 10 cents over the past several years. Tonight, I'd like to share that the plan to reduce additional taxes this year is, of course, included in her (the City Manager's) recommended budget. Now this commitment to tax relief is more than just a number. It represents a real savings to Hampton property owners. In total, the Council's actions, if you include what might be approved (again, we haven't taken action on the next year) but with the additional 1 percent that Council's actions would have provided a total of \$45,973,359 in cumulative tax relief during this period of time. That's almost \$46 million that has remained in the hands of residents and businesses in our community, helping families manage costs, supporting their households and investing in their futures. No other city, that I'm aware of, in the Hampton Roads region has reduced their tax rate to the extent that we have during the same period of time, and this achievement is a direct reflection of, I think, our shared values, the fiscal responsibility we have, the compassion we have for our residents and a deep commitment to equity. And at the same time, I want to be transparent that every cent that we reduce from the tax rate means that there are fewer resources available to support essential services, programs that our residents rely on, competitive composite compensation for our City employees and investments in staffing and other infrastructure that we need to keep our community and our City thriving. So, as we continue to navigate the rising property assessments and the growing costs of City operations, I do believe that our Council is committed to maintaining a thoughtful balance, providing relief where we can and ensuring long-term health and effectiveness of our City government. We do not take these decisions lightly. They require careful planning, clear priorities and a steadfast commitment to both services and sustainability. So, I want to thank all my fellow Councilmembers for their leadership, and also thank our residents for your continued trust in the work that we do to build a stronger and more resilient Hampton.

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 Campbell, seconded by Councilmember Mugler, to approve the Consent Agenda. 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

1. [25-0112](#) Resolution to Amend the Fiscal Year 2025 Council Approved Budget to Appropriate \$350,000 from the General Fund's

Restricted Fund Balance to the Sheriff-Jail's General Fund
Operating Budget

Item approved.

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

2. [25-0114](#) Resolution to Amend the Fiscal Year 2025 Council Approved Budget to Accept and Appropriate the 2025 Marcus Alert/ Co-Response Team Grant made by Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services.

Attachments: [2025MarcusSOGA](#)
[FY25MarcusGrantProgram](#)
[FY25MarcusGrantProposal](#)

Item approved.

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

3. [25-0117](#) Resolution to Amend the Fiscal Year 2025 City Council Approved Budget by Authorizing an Advance of \$500,000 from the Steam Plant Unrestricted Net Position to be Appropriated to the Steam Plant Operating Budget to Fund the Refuse Crane Runway Rail Replacement

Item approved.

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

4. [25-0105](#) Resolution to Appropriate the Increased Allocation from the Virginia Department of Transportation for the Fiscal Year 2025 Urban Maintenance Program

Item approved.

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

5. [25-0123](#) Resolution to Amend the Hampton City Council Public Hearing and Public Comment Protocol

Attachments: [Redline](#)

[Hampton City Council Public Hearing Public Comment Protocol - April 23, 2025](#)

Item approved.

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

6. [25-0104](#) Appointment to the Virginia Municipal League Policy Committees

Attachments: [VML Policy Committees](#)

Item approved.

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

7. [25-0041](#) Approval of the minutes from the legislative session of March 26, 2025.

Item approved.

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

PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS

8. [25-0115](#) Finance Committee Recommendation Based on the Revenue Guideline for Real Estate Tax Rate Adjustment

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

City Manager Mary Bunting introduced the item and introduced Linda Curtis, citizen member of the Council Finance Committee, to present the work of the Committee. She also indicated that the Committee convenes each year to ensure that the Council adopted policy is reviewed and to make a recommendation to Council about the application of that guideline.

Ms. Curtis greeted those on the dais and began the presentation. She shared some background information about the Committee and the purpose of it and then read the revenue guideline which deals with real estate growth. This guideline was approved by City Council on February 8, 2006, and was revised by Council on May 8, 2013. Ms. Curtis spoke about resident income, economic decline and other factors that were taken into consideration for the revised guideline and shared that typically, decreased assessments result in a recommendation to raise the tax rate, however, the idea is to try to keep them in balance.

Ms. Curtis shared a tax equalization chart which lists the increase/decline in real estate tax revenue, the actual tax rate and the equalized tax rate for fiscal years 2017-2025 and also what is being proposed for fiscal year 2026. Noted on this slide is that actual and equalized rates are per \$100 of assessed value. The chart indicates that the equalized tax rate from FY17-25 was recommended at a higher rate than what the actual tax rate was. This means that for those years, Council and the City Manager were able to construct a budget that came in below the equalized tax rate. For FY26, the equalized tax rate is the same as what is being proposed in the City Manager's recommended budget.

Lastly, Ms. Curtis shared that the Committee received a briefing on the budget and voted unanimously to confirm the calculation of the stabilization real estate tax rate at the equalized rate of \$1.14 per \$100 of assessed value per the revenue guideline. She announced that the committee recognizes that the manager has recommended a fiscally responsible budget based on the equalized tax rate, and supports the Council's adoption of that rate.

Ms. Curtis opened the floor for questions from Council. No discussion took place.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ms. Glass read the protocol for public hearings.

9. [25-0040](#) Public Hearing to Receive Citizens' Comments relative to the Proposed Effective Real Property Tax Increase; Proposed Tax Rate Decrease from \$1.15 to \$1.14 Per \$100 of Assessed Value

Attachments: [AD FY26 1% Tax Increase Public Hearing](#)

Ms. Glass read the title for the item.

Ms. Bunting provided the following explanation for the benefit of the public: The current real estate property tax rate is \$1.15 per \$100 of assessed value. The current assessed value of real property, excluding additional assessments due to new construction or improvements to property, such as major additions, exceeds last year's total assessed value of real property by 4.61%. The new real estate tax revenue in the budget is due solely to the growth and value of real estate in the City of Hampton. The advertisement for this public hearing is something that the state directs, and it directs that we look at the real estate assessment increase minus that new construction, and then look at what the tax rate would need to be if we limited the growth to only 1% as opposed to the policy we just looked at, which looks at CPI-U (Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers) or resident income growth. Using that state calculation that they want us to do for an ad, it would suggest that we need to do this public hearing, even though we are lowering the tax rate. We have to use language that says there's an effective real property tax increase. This public hearing was duly advertised in the Daily Press on April 6, 2025, in accordance with the Code of Virginia. 58.1- 3321.

Ms. Bunting reiterated that staff is proposing to lower the tax rate this year.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor Gray opened the public hearing and noted that two people signed up to speak. He then called on the first speaker, Aaron Weaver.

Mr. Aaron Weaver made the following statement: I urge you to lower the tax rate from \$1.15 to \$1.14 per \$100. A one cent cut saves family \$200,000 for 20 years, but under normal times, it would be at around \$1.11, \$1.12, but this is not normal times. Nothing about these times is normal. Our federal government is in haywire. We have faced rising costs and urgent needs right here at our house, at our home. We must raise the pay for a City staff, just like I spoke about at this exact same spot-on April 10, 2024. I spoke about how they are the bedrocks of our community, and how their salaries lag behind their regional peers, way behind. I'm glad this Council had members, including Martha Mugler, that was potentially asking if the City Manager and the budget team could make it possible to have a 4% increase in their wages. I hope that is able to be done, because those people deserve it. Like you said, Mayor Gray, I hope that we are the leaders in our employee staff. I hope that our turnover gets a lot better, and that we turn that number down from 10 people per citizen to about four or five, hopefully. The people deserve to get paid to work for

this City, but there cannot be a time where a person works for this City full-time and can't even afford to live in this City. That's unconscionable. This small cut gives us a bit of relief, fund schools, public safety and the major capital projects which I just spoke of, and honors the people who serve every day. So, again, like I said in normal times, I'm at \$1.11, \$1.12, and even if that's even possible, if that comes back and everything is paid and that's possible, then fine, but \$1.14 is a compromise that I'm willing to make, as long as everybody gets paid. Thank you.

Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Brenda Marks.

Ms. Brenda Marks introduced herself and made the following statement: Aaron and I are going to agree a little and disagree a little. I think the \$1.14 real estate tax is still too high. I think the assessments, like I've told y'all before, not my house, but the average City-wide, including this year's increase, has increased by 50.2%. Y'all have given us back nine cents. I'm still waiting for the answer for the question I asked last year, where'd the other 43 cents go? I firmly believe that - I'd like it to be \$1.11, but I stopped believing in Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny a long time ago, but I believe y'all can split it, because on my house alone, this year, the assessment increased \$25,000 and raised my real estate tax \$287.50. The penny you're giving me back has given me \$2.50 back. So, in case my quick math is off, the most it would be, would be \$25 back. So, I think that the City needs to realize that I know that y'all can give your employees a raise, you can pay their insurance, and you can still give us two or three cents back on our real estate by taking some of the fluff out of the other areas of the budget, and we'll talk about that when we get to the budget section, but I think that y'all owe it. You depend on the greatest part of your income from the real estate in the City, so the real estate owners are carrying the burden of running the City. Y'all are pushing us out. You can't keep going like you've gone the last five years and expect us to stay. So, I seriously want y'all to consider at least \$1.12 or 13. Thank you.

Mayor Gray closed the public hearing.

10. [25-0044](#) Public Hearing to Receive Citizens' Comments Regarding the City Manager's Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2026

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

Ms. Glass read the title for the item.

Ms. Bunting shared information regarding dates, public hearings, advertisements and citizen comments related to the Manager's recommended budget.

Mayor Gray opened the public hearing, announced that two people signed up to

speak and called on the first speaker, Aaron Weaver.

Mr. Aaron Weaver introduced himself and made the following statement: So, in the total budget, there are a couple of key things - questions that I had that I recently received answers, but for full public disclosure, I know the City Manager will end up talking about it anyway at a later time. Maybe not here, but again, the staff is my main thing. My pet peeve, that's what I care about is mainly. But now I want to go on to the Hampton Aquaplex. In that budget and all those pages, I went through every single one of those pages. When you get to the Aquaplex, there's a whole bunch of N/A's, which recently from 2022 (it opened in 2022) to now, 2025, there's a whole bunch of N/A's, until you get to the 26. Now, I received the answer from the City Manager that it was under a different management company, which I would not go to, but that has to be fully disclosed. We have to be transparent. We need those clear performance (inaudible word), attendance, revenues, and me, personally, as a person who cares about the budget and looks at the budget, I want to know the back story, the back stuff behind that. So, if it's possible that she can, I've already requested an asset, so I'm just stating that for the full public record. I'm not saying that, but I want to know those dollars and cents, because I feel like there's some issues. There were issues right there (and I hopefully) that the City can make clear with that as well, too. Also, there's also another one. In general, the budget is good. Our budget people do an amazing job. The hard work that they could put in is amazing at what they do. We can have little differences here and there, cool, but we can't deny the job that they have done in creating this budget. It's long, please, I ask everybody go on the budget website. Before you complain, please go to the budget website and look and see what's actually done. There are things that we may disagree on, but by all part, I got to thank the budget team, the entire budget team, and also the City Manager as well too. We're good.

Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Brenda Marks.

Ms. Brenda Marks made the following statement: I reviewed the budget, and after getting a headache, I came up with a few questions. I noticed in the general revenues, there was several donations. I'm trying to find out where I would ask or if somebody can let me know later, how I can find out when you have individual donations, what purpose they are earmarked for? Second of all, like Aaron on the Aquaplex, I have been FOIA-ing (Freedom of Information Act) information on the income or profit and loss statements of the Aquaplex, and I've never received one, and like Aaron, they were under management of an independent company, but that independent company was hired by the City of Hampton and the residents of the City of Hampton deserve to know just what a cash cow that is. I feel like if it was making money, those profit and loss statements would have been hung like banners, because there was such a fight over the Aquaplex. I think it got moved under the

supervision of the Coliseum to hide just how much it's losing. If you ask for revenues, you're told you got to go to the Coliseum, and when I talked to the person at the Coliseum, they said they don't separate them - all revenues under the Coliseum, all expenses are under the Coliseum. Now, if that's incorrect, that's the information I was given by the lady that I spoke to at the Coliseum. I think we were all sitting here saying the economy is so bad, we don't know what the government's going to do, and I'm not saying I disagree with that, but the City has to act like any other entity or individual. You don't spend all of your money and hope things aren't going to get bad. You pull back on what you spend until you know that they're not going to get bad. So, I think the budget needs to be looked at. I think if y'all seriously look at it, you can find a lot of fluff to pull out.

Mayor Gray closed the public hearing.

11. [25-0036](#) Public Hearing and Vote on FY 2026-2030 Capital Improvement Plan

Ms. Glass read the title for the item.

Ms. Bunting indicated that the presentation will not be repeated this evening and that the purpose for the item is for Council to take action following the public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor Gray opened the public hearing, announced that two people signed up to speak and then called on the first speaker, Aaron Weaver.

Mr. Aaron Weaver introduced himself and made the following statement: So, I got three things on this one. First things first, we're going to go to tab 21 which I know you're not going to, but tab 21 under list, which is called blighted property acquisition and demolition. Right here, we basically - \$450,000 times five years for \$2 million and dealing with blighted property, but there's no (nothing) in that saying - we hear so many times where the City can't really act and do anything with the blighted property that's there, or who do we report this to? So, there's a bunch of questions behind the blighted property, like I said, the City Manager will speak on that at another time, date or whatever, but it's one of those things where I want to know what the \$2 million is sitting there. It's just going to end up being \$450, a year, times five. It's going to end up sitting there or what is going to be used to be done with that? That is one of the main questions that I had in terms of that. Also, family support getting 1% is kind of concerning, but with that family support, another item I want to bring to the attention is, which may have something to do with capital improvement, it may not - that the Therapeutic Recreation Center that sits right there on Kecoughtan

Road that nobody knows about. I went to every one of the I Value meetings and it was sad to see the amount of citizens that did not even know that's there because it's backed off in what's like a cut. There's no signage on the street where there's a whole bunch of land right there. So, like I said, I don't know if that's a capital issue or based on the amount, or if that's another issue that could possibly be done, which again, we'll find out again with the City Manager. So, that is one of the key aspects that I - because that place in that building, is a place that does a lot for our citizens that nobody even knows about, and that breaks my heart for one thing. Also, the last part about that is also dealing with blighted property, how does the citizens can get in contact? How does the City say, Oh, we're going to do this with the blighted property? How? What is the in total process in terms of that? Thank you.

Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Brenda Marks.

Ms. Brenda Marks introduced herself and made the following statement: On the Capital Improvement Plan. Again, going back to we need to be looking at needs and wants to be off the table. It is not lost on me that some three years ago, the Downtown Development Partnership put together this lovely video of what they wanted to do to downtown, and when the public outcry was so badly against it, I'm not shocked when I saw the survey, when the budget process started, that that plan got broken into three or four sections, and all four of them got set into this five-year comprehensive plan. We need to do what we need to do. We don't need a boardwalk on the waterfront from Bridge Street up to the Hampton History Museum. We got a perfectly good set of sidewalks that until the economy settles down, we can make do with. I mean, straighten out some of the lumps and bumps down so they're not hard to walk on, but to put that boardwalk, you've got to buy the private property rights of all the property that's on the water behind Towne Bank. I don't dispute that Mill Point needs to be repaired. It may even need to be replaced. I'd like to see it replaced, but not this year, not next year, not until Hampton can court some businesses and bring them into this City so that I don't get looking at another \$287 tax increase next year. I'm fortunate. I got a husband whose hobby is working. He's 83 years old and works a full-time job every day, because unfortunately, we have invested wisely enough that even if he quit work tomorrow, I don't qualify for any tax reduction act. I'm raising a disabled child that I adopted. So, there are many factors that impact my cost of living. Y'all honestly appear, and I'll say, appear, rather than be accusing - y'all appear to not care what y'all are doing to us. We give all kinds of concessions to City people coming in, people coming into the City, but we're sitting over here talking about building a new stage at Mill Point. Do a solid repair. Paint it with rust proof paint. Paint over that with marine-based paint that they paint boats with every day that float in the salt water. Do a good repair now and give us a break. The \$7.2 million parking garage.

Ms. Marks' speaking time expired before she was able to finish her statement.

Mayor Gray noted that Ms. Marks was the last speaker. He then closed the public hearing and called for the motion.

Mayor Gray called for discussion.

Ms. Bunting indicated that there is an impression in the community that there's a \$17.2 million garage in the CIP, but there is not. She explained, for the record, that when staff presented (in the I Value public polling) all of the submitted projects that met an initial review of legal feasibility, viability for the next five years, with a general counsel willingness to consider it (not absolutely do it) if the public had an opportunity to weigh in. This project was one of many that was submitted and there were too many to fit in the five-year CIP, which is why the public was asked to weight in. The overwhelming sentiment was to not do a parking garage until there's a development that would support year-round activity at the beach. Since there is no such development as of yet, a Buckroe parking garage was not put into the CIP.

Ms. Bunting noted that it was important to clarify that because a rumor continues to perpetuate itself in the community, and she wanted everything to be clear as Council prepares to vote on the CIP.

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

Following the public hearing, a motion was made by Councilmember Martha Mugler and seconded by Councilmember Hope Harper, that the FY 2026-2030 Capital Improvement Plan be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

Nay: 1 - Councilmember Campbell

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Mayor Gray called on the first speaker, Joan Weaver.

Ms. Joan Weaver greeted those on the dais and the Clerk of Council and made the

following statement: I am just here to say thank you, and y'all don't know how good it feels to just be able to stand here and say thank you. I wish you God's grace and Godspeed as you go forward. Thank you.

Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Aaron Weaver.

Mr. Aaron Weaver introduced himself and made the following statement: I would like to thank Councilwoman Mugler, Councilwoman Campbell and Vice Mayor Brown for the cutting at the McEllis Brides Alterations and Custom Gowns at 21 East Mellen Street in our beautiful section of Phoebus, Virginia, (Hampton, Virginia - Phoebus). It was amazingly attended by all the people that attended. Was a packed house, literally. And also, I would like to thank Joe Griffith and the members of the Phoebus Partnership that came out too. It's good to know that you can support the actual (your) neighborhood, and have a business that comes to and have Council people that will come out to your events. That's very great to know. And we thank you for that. Thank you for the podium. That's very good. I wish I didn't have to have to get a podium, but it's nice to have a podium, and if a new one is coming, that's cool, too. And finally, again, yeah, thank you. Sometimes you got to make good trouble. Have a good one.

Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Jeannie Belgrave.

Ms. Jeannie Belgrave introduced herself, greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: Today I'm just here to say that in the last few days, I've experienced something in the City that reminded me of being here as an outsider. I didn't see it that way at the beginning, but I came up with other people who actually realized it for me, and well, it is what it is. I guess I will always be an outsider because no matter how long I'm here, I always, you know, I come from another place, anyways, and besides that, since we are in a moment of seeing where the money that we pay to the City, as taxpayers, is going. I just wish that as all of you make the decisions, and with the help of, you know, our you know opinions of what to do with it, I want you to think of forgiveness, because as you talk to each other and make those decisions, it is important that we know that we live in a City of peace. Besides being a City with its own identity, but also the City of peace and that we know that people who are in leadership, they know that business will be conducted in a way that it will not enhance any conflicts. If you don't know about this book, this is a book that I wrote when I was in seminary, many years ago. I (inaudible word) there is forgiveness. It's called The Transformative Effect of Forgiveness and speaks of many things, many areas, from businesses to home to a lot of the areas that we deal with when we are in business, when we are dealing with a lot of people, and if taking care of a family is not easy, imagine a whole City, right? A whole state, a whole nation. So, I just wanted you to think of that, and I

thank you so much for everything that you're doing to make this City a better place to live and to make our tax money count. Thank you so much.

Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Jontue Cooper.

Mr. Jontue Cooper greeted everyone and made the following statement: It's good to see you guys this week. I just want to give my acknowledgement to the leadership of the City of Hampton, to the Mayor. Thank you for having me, Assistant Mayor, into the rest of the City Council meetings. City Council members, thank you. And, I wanted to report to you that I actually had one person attend our meeting for Kings and Priests that saw us on this network. So, somebody that saw this meeting, somebody attended our meeting. So, thank you for the free publicity, you know. So, it works. So, now I'm going to ask everybody in this room to participate with me in this exercise. So, I'm going to ask everyone to use your imagination right now and imagine what this City would be like if all the men in this City had a vision. Imagine what this City would be like if all the men in this City would have a plan, and imagine if everyone in this City had a strategy how to achieve their plan. Now, imagine if every man of the City had all the resources to achieve their plan. Well, you know what the saying is...that your net worth is a reflection of your network. So, what I'm here to introduce to the men of this City is to a network of men that could help men to achieve those things that most men can only dream or imagine. Here's an example of how it works. We actually introduced somebody to the Kings and Priests Men's Program that I'm introducing to the City, and the gentleman came in - he had a vision, and we connected him with somebody that helped him to fund his vision. So, this man had a dream of creating a shopping mall, but he had no funds. We taught him how to build the strategy and connected him to the resources that he needed. Why did this man end up getting \$27 million to fund his vision? That's the type of things and the resources that the Kings and Priests Program is able to bring. So, I'm going to now invite the men of this City to our next Kings and Priests meeting. It's on this Saturday at 12:50 pm at the Hampton Public Library on 4207 Victoria Boulevard in Hampton, Virginia. So, we can help you make the impossible possible by connecting you to great men and helping you to strategize and to help you create a plan and to give you the resources to actually fund your vision. Thank you very much for this opportunity. Thank you.

Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Earl Miller.

Mr. Earl Miller greeted those on the dais and staff, introduced himself and made the following statement: I live in Hampton, Virginia, and I'm here to talk about the state of Briarfield Tennis Park and its courts. I actually represent a council of players and individuals that frequent the park, and I'll go back to say as far as 2004. Ten things on this list, I'm just going to briefly just go down the list, because this is to make

everyone here aware of what goes on and what is not going on at the tennis courts at Briarfield Park. Number one, I did a brief survey of just the people that frequent the park from time to time, from back in 2004 to right now. The ladies do not really want to frequent that side of Briarfield Park because it's just a porta potty in which all of the men use. That's a big issue. That's a very big issue. Number two, until just three weeks ago, the lights were completely out. I talked with the tennis pro at Hampton tennis courts, and I asked him, despite there is a phone number that you can call to have anything done for the lights, and he told me that there was a work order put in, but now the so-called manpower versus the work order. It just takes a while. Okay, that's neither here or there. A lot of people did not want to hear what I have to say next. I fixed the lights myself. Sometimes you just don't wait for people to police what you can police yourself, especially if it's really necessary. Let me tell you why it's necessary. Number three on the list is locks were put on several gate openings. If you've ever seen Briarfield Park, there are several gates on one side of the baseline and the tennis courts as well as the other. And, about six weeks ago, the players were starting to come to enter where these locks were strategically placed. I don't know why. I've (been) asked all the players. I've asked even a police officer, because people were saying...well, Earl, why don't you just ask possibly, maybe an officer, how did they get there - no one has an answer. Once again, I cut the locks myself. Number four on the list. Court debris is never removed. There're several players. I have a young man here with me today, Darren Williams, he's one of the people that's also part of our committee.

Mayor Gray indicated that Mr. Miller's speaking time had expired. He asked Mr. Miller to stay and the City Manager will direct him to talk to staff who can take his list of concerns and follow up with him.

Mayor Gray called on the last speaker, Joyce Beggs.

Ms. Joyce Beggs greeted those on the dais, introduced herself and made the following statement: I'm a little nervous. I just lost my case in the Supreme Court. I'm dyslexic, so I'm nervous because of that. Because of the DEI program, the clerks can no longer help people, and I miss my opportunity to meet with Chief Justice Roberts. We've been fighting flooding on the last house of the contraband slaves for 30 years. We have been taken advantage of (outsider), but we keep loving. I had to come out with my history of actually helping the battered women's program. That was a very dangerous thing we did with Newport News and Mayor Eason. He was my angel, and I see his spirit at this man here and this woman here. Mr. Eason was really great, and he was a secret part of our program because of North Carolina State and Duke University, who actually helped put men on our bill. We thought Hampton - we didn't know what being an outsider was. It's good that we're not an outsider anymore. People had to come up with my life, and I have love for my

neighbors, but I've been trying to call you since I lost my case last month, and I see you're real busy. My goodness, you're real busy. So, I am proud of my City. Somehow, I missed justice from the tomatoville. I'm a farmer just like Shepherd Mallory. My great grandfather was given his freedom at Fort Monroe, and my great grandfather was assigned to him and a farmer at Shepherd Mallory property. I got my education in construction for Mr. Eason, and we've been on the list for three years, and since I'm no longer in the Supreme Court, I'll be in your office. Thank you.

Mayor Gray closed the public comment period.

Ms. Bunting noted that she would follow up with Ms. Marks on her specific question about donations. She also spoke about the process when the City receives donations and shared a few examples.

Ms. Bunting spoke about the City's contract with Eastern Sports Management and some of the concerns that arose during their management of the Apuaplex. She also provided information about funding for the project and management of the facility moving forward.

Ms. Bunting indicated that Deputy City Manager Brian DeProfio is speaking with Mr. Miller about his concern and then spoke a bit the City's limitations with regard to lights in the City which are serviced by Dominion Virginia Power. She also indicated that Dominion Virginia Power is on a backlog due to a manpower shortage, but staff will check into Mr. Millers concerns and share what is learned with Council.

Ms. Bunting agreed that she is busy and apologized for not being able meet with Ms. Beggs yet. She asked Ms. Beggs to leave her information and she (the City Manager) will arrange an appointment. She acknowledged that she is aware that Ms. Beggs has been trying to get a hazard mitigation grant to elevate her home, and the City recently received word that the grant came through, but is uncertain if it will be able to proceed due to the uncertainty in the Federal government and President Trump's pause on grants.

GENERAL ITEMS

There were no general items on the agenda.

REPORTS BY CITY MANAGER, CITY COUNCIL, STAFF, COMMITTEES

There were no reports.

MISCELLANEOUS NEW BUSINESS

There were no items of new business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 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 _____