

## **City of Hampton**

# Council Approved Minutes - Final City Council Legislative Session

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

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

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

## CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

Mayor Wallace called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. All members of the City Council were present.

Present: 7 - Vice Mayor Linda D. Curtis, Councilmember Billy Hobbs, Councilmember Will Moffett, Councilmember Teresa V. Schmidt, Councilmember Chris Snead, Councilmember Donnie R. Tuck and Mayor George Wallace

## **GEORGE E. WALLACE PRESIDED**

## **INVOCATION - Councilmember: Will Moffett**

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG

## MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Wallace read a proclamation proclaiming the City of Hampton a Purple Heart City. Hampton is the first city in the Commonwealth to have this distinction, and the second locality after James City County. He presented the proclamation to Mr. Robert (Pete) Fairchild, US Army – Retired, and Mr. James (Jim) Fronkier, US Marine Corps – Retired.

Mr. Fairchild and Mr. Fronkier expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the City, Councilman Moffett, Clerk of Council Katherine K. Glass, Mr. Bruce Sturk, Director of Military Affairs, and Deputy Clerk of Council Tamytha T. Lee.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Ms. Glass read the protocol for the Consent Agenda.

#### Approval of the Consent Agenda

Motion made by Vice Mayor Curtis, seconded by Councilmember Schmidt, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

- Aye: 7 Vice Mayor Curtis, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Moffett, Councilmember Schmidt, Councilmember Snead, Councilmember Tuck and Mayor Wallace
- 1. <u>16-0026</u> Approval of the minutes from the City Council work session of February 10, 2016, and the work session, ceremonial session, and legislative sessions of February 24, 2016 Item approved.
  - Aye: 7 Vice Mayor Curtis, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Moffett, Councilmember Schmidt, Councilmember Snead, Councilmember Tuck and Mayor Wallace
- 2. 16-0087 Ordinance to Amend and Reenact the City Code of the City of Hampton, Virginia by Amending Chapter 2, Entitled "Administration"; Chapter 4, Entitled "Amusements"; Chapter 7, Entitled "Boats, Beaches and Waterways"; Section 7-49, Article III, Chapter 7, Entitled "Dogs Prohibited During Certain Period"; the Title of Chapter 26, Entitled "Parks and Recreation"; Section 26-2, Article I, Chapter 26, Entitled "Definition"; Section 26-3, Article I, Chapter 26, Entitled "Department of Parks and Recreation"; Section 26-4, Article I, Chapter 26, Entitled "Responsibilities of the Director of Parks and Recreation": Section 26-22, Article II, Chapter 26, Entitled "Park Hours"; Section 26-26, Article II, Chapter 26, Entitled "Reservation of Areas for Use By Specific Individuals or Groups"; Section 26-26.1, Article II, Chapter 26, Entitled "Park and Outdoor Facilities Fees"; Section 26-30, Article II, Chapter 26, Entitled "Sales, Solicitations, etc., Generally"; Section 26-31, Article II,

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Chapter 26, Entitled "Operation of Mobile Food Service Facilities in Specific Parks and Public Areas"; Section 26-33, Article II, Chapter 26, Entitled "Unlawful Driving of Vehicles"; Section 26-37, Article II, of Chapter 26, Entitled "Consumption or Possession of Alcoholic Beverages"; Section 26-51, Article III, Chapter 26, Entitled "Designation and General Duties of Director of Parks and Recreation"; and Section 26-55, Article III, Chapter 26, Entitled "Use for Tournaments" All Pertaining to Citations, Chapters, Articles, and Sections Which are Being Amended to Reflect the Name of the Department Now Called "Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services"

#### Attachments: Redline

Item approved.

Aye: 7 - Vice Mayor Curtis, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Moffett, Councilmember Schmidt, Councilmember Snead, Councilmember Tuck and Mayor Wallace

## PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS

#### PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ms. Glass read the protocol for the Public Hearing session.

#### Ordinances

3. <u>16-0078</u> Ordinance to Amend and Reenact the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Hampton, Virginia by Amending Section 1-4 of Chapter 1 Entitled, "Use of the Term 'Designee'"; Section 10-4 of Chapter 10 Entitled, "Regulation of Special Sign Types and Locations"; Section 10-12 of Chapter 10 Entitled, "DT-1, DT-2 and DT-3 Districts" and Section 11-2 of Chapter 11 Entitled, "Parking Spaces Required" all Pertaining to Updating the Name of the Department Now Called "Parks, Recreation, and Leisure Services" and Striking Obsolete References to "Director of Codes Compliance" and "Department of Planning"

#### Attachments: Redline

ZOA 180-2016 Resolution ZOA 180-2016 Table City Manager Mary Bunting indicated that this was a housekeeping item, updating the Zoning Ordinance to include the new Parks, Recreation, and Leisure Services Department name, and eliminating outdated references to a Director of Planning and Director of Codes and Compliance.

Mayor Wallace opened the Public Hearing. As there were no speakers, Mayor Wallace closed the Public Hearing and called for a motion.

Following a public hearing, where no speakers were present, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Curtis, seconded by Councilmember Schmidt that this agenda item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Vice Mayor Curtis, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Moffett, Councilmember Schmidt, Councilmember Snead, Councilmember Tuck and Mayor Wallace

## **GENERAL ITEMS**

## Ordinances

4. <u>16-0086</u> Ordinance to Amend and Re-Enact Chapter 32.1, Article II of the Code of the City Hampton Entitled "Collections By the City" by Amending Section 32.1-40 Pertaining to the Solid Waste User Fee Exemption for Qualified Elderly and Disabled Persons

#### Attachments: Redline

This item was presented simultaneously with Agenda Item #5.

Ms. Bunting noted that Council had agreed to continue the elderly tax relief program for those previously exempt prior to July 1, 2013. Modifying these ordinances is the legal action necessary to codify what was agreed upon last month.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Curtis, seconded by Councilmember Schmidt that this agenda item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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Аус	ə: 7-	Vice Mayor Curtis, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Moffett, Councilmember Schmidt Councilmember Snead, Councilmember Tuck and Wallace			
5. <u>16-0091</u> Attachments	16-0091 Ordinance to Amend and Re-Enact Chapter 37, Article II of the Code of the City of Hampton Entitled "Real Estate Taxes" by Amending Division 6, Sections 37-123, 37-125 and 37-129 Pertaining to Certain Qualified Elderly and Disabled Persons Grandfathered Under the Prior Tax Exemption Program				
This item was presented simultaneously with Agenda Item #4.					
	A motion was made by Vice Mayor Curtis, seconded by Councilmember Snead that this agenda item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:				
Аус	ə: 7-	Vice Mayor Curtis, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Moffett, Councilmember Schmidt Councilmember Snead, Councilmember Tuck and Wallace			

## Resolutions

6. <u>16-0085</u> Resolution Approving a Cooperation Agreement Between the City of Hampton and the Economic Development Authority of the City of Hampton, Virginia and Authorizing Execution of Same for the KB Riverdale, LLC Project

Attachments: Cooperation Agreement

Incentive Grant Performance Agreement (Fully Executed With All Exhibits)

Ms. Bunting stated that this resolution will confirm with the Economic Development Authority (EDA) that the City supports the performance agreement they have entered into with the parties that will be redeveloping the Riverdale Shopping Center. This pledges incremental tax revenues to those parties after they have met key elements, such as at least \$60 million in capital redevelopment and \$65,000 in net new taxes. The incremental tax revenues over \$65,000 are shared with the redevelopers up to \$425,000 per year, for up to a total of \$4.25 million over 10 years. A motion was made by Councilmember Schmidt, seconded by Vice Mayor Curtis that this agenda item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

- Aye: 7 Vice Mayor Curtis, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Moffett, Councilmember Schmidt, Councilmember Snead, Councilmember Tuck and Mayor Wallace
- 7. <u>16-0088</u> Resolution Authorizing the Grant of an Encroachment Into a 36 Square Foot Area, Pursuant to § 34-86 of the City Code, to NVR, Inc. t/a Ryan Homes for the Installation of a 4'x 8' Off-Premises Sign at the Intersection of Lynnhaven Drive and Todds Lane

Attachments: Presentation

Encroachment Agreement

Ms. Bunting introduced Danielle Fowler, Real Estate Manager. Ms. Fowler provided a presentation to Council explaining the encroachment request and the staff recommendation of denial of the resolution.

Ms. Bonnie Brown, Senior Assistant City Attorney, provided additional information on the current legal standing of the City. In Reed v. Town of Gilbert, Arizona, the Supreme Court restricted localities ability to regulate signage based on its message or content. These include political signs, construction signs, and real estate signs. If Council approves this temporary sign, the next application for an encroachment in a right of way for a different type of temporary sign could not be easily denied, because a denial could not be based on the content of the sign. This is contrary to the City's precedent.

Vice Mayor Curtis clarified that if Council approves this sign, it would have to approve all future requests, no matter the content of the sign. Ms. Brown confirmed this, unless the reason for denial could be based on something other than content.

City Attorney Vanessa Valldejuli noted that the public right of way has always been "sacred ground" – property that is controlled by the City, and only the City Council can allow or disallow encroachments onto this property. Past Councils have made determinations that other entities could not put their signs in those right of ways, no matter the size or content. Those distinctions now cannot be made at all. Denying this request would not be deviating from prior determinations.

Vice Mayor Curtis stated that she appreciates the position of Ryan Homes, but also understands that the legal framework has changed. While part of her would like to approve this, she is not prepared to approve every encroachment request for temporary signage.

> Danielle Fowler, Hampton's Right-of-Way Agent, gave a brief presentation and Bonnie Brown, Senior Assistant City Attorney, also provided information. A motion was made by Councilmember Hobbs, seconded by Councilmember Schmidt that this agenda item be failed. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Vice Mayor Curtis, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Moffett, Councilmember Schmidt, Councilmember Snead, Councilmember Tuck and Mayor Wallace

## Appointments

8. <u>16-0080</u> Consideration of appointments to the Hampton Clean City Commission

Reappointed Jamie Osso to a second term and reappointed Jackie Cannan, Wendy Iles, and Edward Robinson to their first full terms all which will expire on January 31, 2020; and appointed Clovis Calloway to fill an unexpired term until June 30, 2018, Treazure Davis to fill an unexpired term until March 30, 2018, and Nethea Calloway to fill an unexpired term until June 30, 2018.

- Aye: 7 Vice Mayor Curtis, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Moffett, Councilmember Schmidt, Councilmember Snead, Councilmember Tuck and Mayor Wallace
- <u>16-0081</u> Consideration of appointments to Hampton Parking Authority Appointed John Pope to fill a vacancy until June 30, 2017, and Cato Reaves to fill a vacancy until June 30, 2019.

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10.	<u>16-0082</u>	Consi	deration of appointments to Neighborhood Comr	nission
	Jonat		nted Charles McEachin as District 2 representati nan Walker as District 3 representative, and Che as District 10 representative.	
	Ау	r <b>e:</b> 7 -	Vice Mayor Curtis, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Moffett, Councilmember Schm Councilmember Snead, Councilmember Tuck a Wallace	
11.	. <u>16-0083</u> Cons Boar		deration of appointment to Virginia Air and Space	e Center
		Appoi	nted Dr. Jeffrey Smith to fill a vacancy until June	30, 2019.
	Ау	r <b>e:</b> 7 -	Vice Mayor Curtis, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Moffett, Councilmember Schm Councilmember Snead, Councilmember Tuck a Wallace	
12.	<b>2.</b> 16-0084 Consi		deration of appointment to Peninsula Stadium A	uthority
		Appoi 2019.	nted Kevin Myers in the staff position until Septe	mber 30,
	Ау	r <b>e:</b> 7 -	Vice Mayor Curtis, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Moffett, Councilmember Schm Councilmember Snead, Councilmember Tuck a Wallace	
REPC	ORTS BY CITY	MANAC	SER, CITY COUNCIL, STAFF, COMMITTEES	
	Hampton so	olicits cit	hat the City is in the process of budget developm izen input prior to the presentation of the City Ma	anager's

Hampton solicits citizen input prior to the presentation of the City Manager's Recommended Budget. There was an in-person meeting last night, and there will be two online town hall style opportunities at www.hampton.gov/chat. The first will take place on March 14th at 7:00 p.m. and the second will take place on March 22nd at 12:00 p.m. The traditional public comments on the budget will occur after the budget is released in late April or early May.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NEW BUSINESS

Vice Mayor Curtis shared an email from a citizen commending the work of Public Works employee Richard Golladay. Nathan, a two year old citizen, loves to see the Public Works trucks, and Mr. Golladay gave Nathan a set of miniature claw trucks and trash trucks. Ms. Bunting stated that Mr. Golladay will be recognized with a Customer Service award from the City for going above and beyond his duties.

Mayor Wallace announced that this week is Hampton Restaurant Week. He encouraged citizens to visit participating restaurants for either lunch or dinner before the conclusion on Sunday.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Glass read the protocol for the Public Comment session.

Mr. Edward Sean Robinson, greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I serve the City of Hampton as the Vice Chair of the Hampton Clean City Commission. Tonight, I wanted to extend an invitation to citizens, to Council, to everyone present in the room to attend our March 18th clean up at 3:30 p.m. at Bethel High School. It's on Big Bethel Road. We will be meeting there to pick up litter. As you guys all know, litter is responsible for flash flooding, devaluing properties, as well as – research from multiple sources has identified that criminal deviants are a result of littering and devaluing these properties. So, what the Hampton Clean City Commission does, we take a proactive role in getting rid of some of this litter. So, if you'd like to join us, join our efforts, you can email us at hccc@hampton.gov to RSVP your participation. We would love for you to join us. People of all ages are welcome. We also have our CHANGE program. CHANGE is an acronym for Community Helps All New Growth Emerge, and that's our attempt to get high school students and college students involved at a greater level in getting some of this litter off the roads, off the streets and communities. We're offering \$500 scholarships to the student organizations as well as individuals who pick up the most litter, so we'd love to have you join us. Again, hccc@hampton.gov, and I'm Edward Robinson. Thank you.

Mr. Adrian Whitcomb greeted those on the dais and made the following

statement: As Hampton very well knows, a Fort Monroe that reaches its maximum potential is what's best for the City, as well as the Hampton Roads area in Virginia. Recently, in the previous meeting in February, the Planning Commission recommended not to have any residential zoning in the Wherry Quarter. We, of course, think that this is a wise decision, and I know that you have considered this and you will be voting on it in April. Of course, we recommend – I'm with the Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park, and we recommend that nothing be voted on that would be contrary to the resolution of August 2012. There's a lot in the future that we don't yet know about Fort Monroe, but we do know that it has great potential. We see other places attract hundreds of thousands of people each year, and what we have here it's in the center of an area that can draw people for other reasons, and they'll come also to visit Fort Monroe. But it will be a draw in itself, a primary reason for people to come to Hampton. One thing that I would like to introduce here, if you haven't thought about it, is the bike trail. The City of Hampton is – recently, the Planning Department has begun a study of improving bike and pedestrian travel within the City of Hampton and what I would very much like is to see a trail that goes from here, from Fort Monroe, all the way up and connecting with the Virginia Capital Trail. The Virginia Capital Trail at present is an off-road trail from Richmond to the Williamsburg area. There are ways that we can connect that to Fort Monroe, but first of all we need to set a goal to do that. Think about all the people that would be attracted to that in addition to other people coming to Fort Monroe and coming to Hampton. Think about what this place would be. Let's work to make Fort Monroe the best it can be. I thank you for listening and thank you for looking out for Hampton, for Fort Monroe. Have a good evening.

Mr. Joe King greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I just want a short thing here. I want you to know, that thank you for helping me with all of my being sued and so forth. I just want to tell you that of course, I've got a contract in my hand that destroys all of that, and I was never allowed to do it. This is purely racism, and it's coming from a black officer. They looked at all of my property, investments in Merchant Square and Williamsburg, the Blue Talon, the Trellis, and the Dog Street Pub, I don't know if any of you have been there. But, I'm invested in all that and other things that I have. They've got it all. Half a million dollars I paid for a \$27,000 tow truck that wasn't paid for by the person who had it. And they would not allow me a lawyer, they would not allow me to bring the information. So you

see how the kids get shot in the street? You know, black kids? That's the second thing I'm going to talk about. I'm finished with that, I'm not going to do it. What I want to do now, and I've got – I've paid them and they've taken, I guess, about an \$8 or \$9 million piece of property. But anyway, that's done. But I'm coming back. I'm not giving up now, don't think that I'm saying that that's done and that's what's going to happen. But the other thing is this, I'm glad that kid was up there, because that's what the rest of my life is going to be about. About the kids. When we – what we have in this country are people on welfare, let's just start with welfare, raising children and destroying them. Our concern should be, as citizens of this country, should be about the children, not about supporting people with money and everything else, and they have men in, and it's a mess, and I'm sure all of you know it. I'm going to write a letter to each one of you on this, and I hope that you are concerned as I am because right next door to me in 1911 Shell Road, there's a person with two kids, 4 and 6, and people are in and out, drugs, whatever, police, whatever, right next door. We, in this country, and it starts right here in Hampton, and what I'm doing is trying to get a community thing to solve the problem. And we're going to help solve the problem. I need your help. We are destroying our children through this welfare thing, and it needs to be about children, not about a dysfunctional family, okay? Because these people don't know what they're doing. And I've got a book of 30 million words that I hope everyone of you all will read it, 30 million words, and it shows that you can educate children, middle class values, which I'm going to do, middle class values, so they won't be in the street where you can shoot them.

Mayor Wallace asked if Mr. King's alleged racial discrimination was occurring in Hampton. Mr. King confirmed that he was not talking about the City of Hampton. Mr King continued: I just wanted to let everybody know, in the world, our problem in America is that we don't know how to raise human beings for this society.

Mr. Mark Perreault greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I am president of Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park, and I appreciate your indulgence in allowing me to speak this evening. I have often thought that given its terrific location and incredible history that Hampton is a City that ought to be regarded as a place to live, visit, and do business, which is up there with other highly regarded moderate-sized East Coast coastal cities like Annapolis; Alexandria; Charleston, South Carolina; Newport, Rhode Island. I believe you have a great opportunity to move more in that direction by doing your part to maximize Fort Monroe National Monument's potential. You can do that by accepting the Planning Commission's recent recommendation that Fort Monroe's Wherry Quarter be zoned as open space or hospitality only. This respects Fort Monroe's history and scenic splendor, and sets the stage for unification of the National Monument in creating a grand public place at Fort Monroe for all Americans, and a mighty economic engine for Hampton. Two things have always mystified me a bit about the American Civil War. One is why did the North fight so hard to keep the Union together? Consider us today. If Texas or Alaska seceded, would we send in the military to force them to stay? I'd like to think yes, but I wonder. The other mystery is why the Confederacy threw in the towel after Lee surrendered at Appomattox in April 1865. A guerilla war could have gone on for years, and potentially exhausted Union resolve. I submit both of these questions can be answered by Fort Monroe. When Frank Baker, Sheppard Mallory, and James Townsend made their famous journey from Sewell's Point to Fort Monroe and were recognized as Free Men, and were followed by tens of thousands more, they did two huge things. First, they demonstrated by their own courage and initiative that this Civil War was both winnable by simultaneously depriving the South of their support and offering the Union their assistance, and that the war was about more than maintaining national unification, but was a war for human freedom, a moral crusade even more noble than a fight for maintaining the Union. Second, they put the lie to the Southern slaveholder rationale for slavery, that it was a regrettable, but necessary refuge for African Americans not able or willing to fend for themselves. While many people, even Whites in the South, never bought this, the rationale, before being exploded by the Contrabands, provided comfort to many religious White Southerners who wanted to do the moral thing. So these three otherwise ordinary men from Hampton, by their heroic acts, buttressed the Union, weakened the South and ultimately destroyed the Confederacy's willingness to fight by demonstrating the Southern cause was built on a totally false premise and was not worth going to extreme measures to fight for after conventional efforts failed in April 1865. By maintaining a united America, these three men also set the stage for America's vital role in defeating both the horrors of Nazi Germany and Soviet expansionism in the Cold War. By creating a great, not a merely average National Park at Fort Monroe, worthy of the international significance of the legacy of the Contrabands, Hampton takes a giant step

forward for its future. Please accept the Planning Commission's zoning recommendation, keeping inappropriate development out of the middle of a National Park. Thank you very much.

Mr. John Krulis greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: Thank you, once again, for your vote making it official and final, thank you for the elderly and disabled. I hope you'll consider what I asked you before. In coming up here, I even thought about it. I'd be willing to see mine removed if you brought the thing down and I would no longer gualify, if you continue to do it for the next generation. I really think – because I don't know about Ms. Monroe and her coalition, I don't think we were speaking just for ourselves. I think we were speaking for the people who could be applying now. I really think – and you could contract it, you could get away with the garbage part of it, or whatever. Save money here or there, but somehow continue it. I think it would be really fine. And I wouldn't mind forgoing it if you contracted it, really, I wouldn't. And still nobody's, as far as I know, signed up for doing Meals on Wheels. 246-1904. If somebody wants to just try to find out what it's like, I'll take you on a route, and you can see what I'm talking about, okay? I know you think I'm just an angry old man, and I'm here to tell you why. All before your time, or almost, maybe all before your time, maybe not quite, 2003 or thereabouts, although surely something was going on down on the 5th floor here somewhere way before that. It was called the redesign plan for Old Wythe, which in fact was a redesign of Chesapeake Avenue to suit certain peoples. I'll have to take another three minutes for sure. There were meetings that were set up, does anybody know what a charrette is? Are we still using that term? I've described it as something that maybe the Allied Chemical Company would sponsor in Hopewell to show the people why it was good to make kepone for them, for the nation, maybe even for the James River. A charrette is one of these devices that business has put together to convince people to be on their side. And the City used it. Now some of you have said that you've been offended by some of us who come up here. Well, I'm here to tell you, I was so deeply offended by what the City was doing, and so disgusted with what the City was doing on that Chesapeake Avenue thing, I put a For Sale sign up on my property, immediately. I had my phone number there, and when anybody called, I would say "Do you got three minutes? Because I'll tell you exactly, in three minutes, why I am pissed off." And to this day, I can tell you, that there were people who moved from Chesapeake Avenue because of what you did. I need a whole lot more than three minutes,

but I'll be back to tell you about why I was an angry old man. I'm not really an angry old man, but yes I am.

Ms. Billie Paxton Einselen greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: When I first came to this Virginia peninsula, my family and I lived in Wherry Quarters. Quarters, of course, is a military term for housing. Wherry Quarters, at that time, consisted of two rows of two-story red brick fourplexes, extending almost a mile from the juncture of Stillwell Road, that's the one by Mill Creek, and Fenwick Road where it ends and you turn left to go down to Bay Breeze. The units facing Hampton Roads had an address of Bullock Drive. Those facing Fenwick Road of course had that address. Wherry Quarters has been demolished over a period of the last few years, however the name has somehow morphed into or sequed into another term: Wherry Quarter. This term has generally referred to that area in the middle of Fort Monroe around that juncture of Stillwell and Fenwick Roads, but the term has been applied to about any area of land that anybody or any group decided that it should be. It has become a vagabond term. The point is that that middle part of Fort Monroe is most important for continuity of the areas now controlled by the Commonwealth and the National Park Service as Fort Monroe National Monument. As this middle part is the Commonwealth-controlled area, the land is subject to action by the City of Hampton. I'm sure that you all have seen this year's booklet celebrating historic garden week in Virginia, and you will notice the cover is Fort Monroe, as well as the tour in our area of Hampton/Newport News is Fort Monroe. You must know that we would not have this if this land had been squandered. You know that. The point is that we are stewards of this historic and hallowed land. We owe our finest efforts to keep it as natural and as welcoming as possible. It is a good thing that the Planning Commission did remove residential from its map of the area. We urge you, as our representatives, to remember that our responsibility is just not to our community, but also to the Commonwealth and to our country and beyond. We ask you to hold fast to your pledge of August 2012, to limit any development in this area quote: "to tourism, hospitality, recreation, open space concepts." Your words. Thank you.

Mr. Andrew Shannon greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I greet you on behalf of the Virginia State Unit of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), and the Peninsula District Chapter

of the SCLC. I hope that you all had an opportunity to read the Daily Press on Monday, February 29th, Letters to the Editor. For those in the audience, we just want to remind you that on Wednesday, February 24th, a historic occasion occurred here in the City of Hampton. And so, we're here once again to say thank you for being steadfast and unmovable in honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the City of Hampton. You know, sometimes in being a part of a civil rights organization, we're known for nonviolent direct action, but Dr. King also taught us about dialogue, conflict resolution and mediation, and engagement and education. So, we just thought it was important that we come back here again to offer our gratitude to this Council because what you did on the 24th is not only recognized here locally, but it's being recognized regionally across the State and across the country. You've heard this evening how many attributes the City of Hampton has, and I believe in your honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is another testament to the leadership of the City of Hampton. So on behalf of the Virginia State Unit of the SCLC, and the Peninsula District Chapter, we convey our sincere appreciation to you. We want to certainly invite you on March 19th. We're doing a program called "Remembering King" and we invite all of the members of Council individually and collectively, and Councilman Moffett and certainly the Mayor have been participants, Mr. Tuck. We invite all of you to come to Hampton University where we're going to remember Dr. King. We're going to honor his legacy and his life as we remember the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. King. Born on January 15, 1929 and assassinated on April 4, 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee, we're going to all converge on the home by the sea in the City of Hampton for a step show, drumline, and talent showcase in honor of Dr. King. People are coming from all over the State, and throughout the country. National leaders are coming, and their descendants. Pastors breakfast at 8:30, community forum from 11:00 to 2:00, and culminating with the Martin Luther King, Jr. step show, drumline, and talent showcase. So once again, we thank you and Mayor you made an announcement. I'm going to take you up on it. I'm going to one of those Hampton restaurants. I think Minister Steve Brown knows which one I'm going to since this is Hampton Restaurant Week. Thank you.

## COMMENTS FROM THOSE ON THE DAIS:

Mayor Wallace again reminded citizens about Hampton Restaurant Week.

Councilman Tuck noted that this is Arts Month in the City of Hampton and City Hall is featuring art from Hampton City School students in the lobby all month.

Councilman Tuck stated that he spent time recently at the West Hampton Community Center. He was asked about having WiFi available in the building, so he requested information on providing that service.

Councilman Tuck commended Mr. Robinson, who is an Iraqi veteran and a senior at Hampton University, for his dedication to the City.

Mayor Wallace noted that the City is already looking into the WiFi situation for the entire City.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

George E. Wallace Mayor

Katherine K. Glass, CMC Clerk of Council

Date approved by Council \_\_\_\_\_