



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 Eleanor Weston Brown
Councilmember Steven L. Brown
Councilmember Michelle T. Ferebee
Councilmember Billy Hobbs

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

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Tuck called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All members of City Council were present. Assistant City Manager, Brian DeProfio, was sitting for the City Manager as she was away on City business.

Present: 7 - Councilmember Chris L. Bowman, Councilmember Eleanor Weston Brown, Councilmember Steven L. Brown, Councilmember Michelle T. Ferebee, Vice Mayor Jimmy Gray, Councilmember Billy Hobbs and Mayor Donnie R. Tuck

DONNIE R. TUCK PRESIDED

INVOCATION - Councilman Steven Brown

Councilman Brown gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Tuck explained that he and Mr. DeProfio were wearing masks as they attended a meeting earlier this week at which a person who attended has now tested positive for Covid. They just learned this today and have not yet had an opportunity to test.

Mayor Tuck gave remarks about Administrative Professionals

Day, which is this week, and Professional Municipal Clerks Week, which will be observed next week. He also shared that Hampton is currently hosting Virginia's Municipal Clerks at their annual conference.

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 Weston Brown, Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Ferebee, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Hobbs and Mayor Tuck

1. [22-0139](#) Resolution to Accept the Donation of new DVD single and multi-disc locking cases valued at \$46,524 and security strips and bar codes for new locking cases, valued at \$4,007, from the Hampton Public Library Foundation to the Hampton Public Library

Attachments: [DVDs.docx](#)
[Locking Case Project-pages-1-6.pdf](#)

Item approved.

Aye: 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Weston Brown, Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Ferebee, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Hobbs and Mayor Tuck

2. [22-0145](#) Approval of the minutes from the special, work, and legislative meetings of April 13, 2022.

Item approved.

Aye: 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Weston Brown, Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Ferebee, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Hobbs and Mayor Tuck

PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ms. Glass read the protocol for public hearings.

Assistant City Manager Brian DeProfio made a few remarks about the proposed reduction in the real estate tax rate and shared that tonight's public hearings will cover the five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), the Community Development Block Grant Action Plan, the real estate tax rate and the overall City Budget.

Mr. DeProfio also announced that the first public hearing on the budget will take place today; the second hearing will take place May 4; and the final vote will take place on May 11. He also reminded everyone that Council will not vote on the budget this evening and by tradition, no adjustments will be made until the second and final reading scheduled for May 11.

3. [22-0157](#) Public Hearing and Vote on the Fiscal Year 2023 - 2027 Capital Improvement Plan ("CIP")

Ms. Glass read the title for the item.

Mr. DeProfio explained that there was a full briefing on this item in the Council's afternoon work session. Mayor Tuck opened the public hearing. There were no speakers on the item and the Mayor closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs and seconded by Councilmember Steven Brown, that the Capital Improvement Plan be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Weston Brown, Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Ferebee, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Hobbs and Mayor Tuck

4. [22-0154](#) Public Hearing and Adoption of the FY2023 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) Annual Action Plan

Attachments: [FY23 Action Plan CDBG HOME FINAL.pptx](#)
[FY23 Annual Action Plan DRAFT.pdf](#)

Ms. Glass read the title for the item.

Mr. DeProfio introduced Housing and Neighborhood Services Division Manager, Jonathan McBride, who began the presentation with a review of the FY23 Annual Action Plan. Mr. McBride paused to note that he would also speak about other federal housing programs later in the presentation.

Mr. McBride shared that the Annual Action Plan is part of the City's 5-year consolidated plan that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) approves. Hampton is designated as an entitlement community; therefore, by submitting the action plan, the City receives an annual allocation from HUD to implement that plan. FY23 is the third year of the consolidated plan adopted by Council in 2020.

The next group of slides provided information about the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) including local priorities identified by the plan; federal funding (CDBG funds and HOME Partnership funds); CDBG's broad national objectives; funding allocations; and FY23 CDBG activities and their allocations (2022 and 2023).

Mr. McBride reviewed the next portion of the slide presentation about the HOME Investment Partnership Program. This program is similar to the CDBG program, but focuses primarily on housing development activities. The presentation included the objectives that these activities must meet; allocations for the program; activities funded through the program and allocations for these activities (2022 and 2023).

Mr. McBride shared the Annual Action Plan schedule and then transitioned into the next portion of the presentation related to other current federal housing funding. Funding sources include the City of Hampton American Recovery Plan funds (housing rehabilitation); CDBG CARES Act funds; and HOME American Recovery Plan funds. The next several slides provided a bit of information related to each of these categories.

Mr. McBride opened the floor for questions and comments.

Councilman Brown asked if there has been an increase in requests for home rehabilitation since the beginning of the pandemic. Mr. McBride confirmed that there have been steady requests, the majority of which are from the senior population. He also noted that the Housing Authority manages the waiting list and housing rehab programs.

Councilman Brown also asked how work force development ties into this program. Mr. McBride explained that last year, a staff position at the WorkOne Center was funded through neighborhood center support; however, it has since been absorbed

into City activity, and, therefore, it is not being funded this year through this program. In addition, employment training is being done through CARES Act funding via the Economic Development Department.

In response to Councilman Brown, Mr. McBride also shared that the poverty study is still underway and is currently undergoing the procurement process.

Mayor Tuck opened the public hearing. There were no speakers on the item and the Mayor closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chris Bowman and seconded by Councilmember Steven Brown, that the FY2023 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) Annual Action Plan be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Weston Brown, Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Ferebee, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Hobbs and Mayor Tuck

5. [22-0046](#) Public Hearing to Receive Citizens' Comments relative to the Proposed Effective Real Property Tax Increase (PROPOSED TAX RATE DECREASE FROM \$1.24 TO \$1.18 PER \$100 OF ASSESSED VALUE)

Ms. Glass read the title for the item. Mr. DeProfio reminded everyone that the purpose of the item is to hold the public hearing; however, no vote will be taken this evening.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor Tuck opened the public hearing.

Mr. Eric McPherson greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I think the \$1.18 tax rate is just damaging to the citizens. The last thing we need right now is a tax hike and that is what this is. The home value isn't a real value to any of us that are living in our home and staying in our home, and it shouldn't cost the taxpayer more money to live there. We are paying super high gas prices; high grocery prices; utility bills - all of that is higher. Everything is higher and just keeps going up and this is not the time, after getting out of the pandemic or however you want to put it, it is not the time to come after the citizens for more money. I think the tax rate needs to be a dollar, which puts us back even with what you'll got last year for taxes. My taxes are going to go up \$650 and my house value 17 years ago was

\$83,000. So, that's a huge jump to what it's assessed at now. That's all I really have to say. I've been sick about this since I got my assessment and since she proposed - originally she proposed lowering it to \$1.19. I just don't know when enough is enough. I mean, how much can the people take? I just feel like we are taxed to death. I've talked to a lot of citizens. Throughout the City, I have about 50 customers that I've kept for the last 20 years, and there's not one single one of them that is on board with paying more taxes. It's a very diverse group of people from very wealthy to very poor and nobody agrees that we should be paying this inflated value on a house in taxes. Thank you.

Mayor Tuck noted that Mr. McPherson was the only person who signed up to speak and then closed the public hearing.

There was no vote on this item.

6. [22-0047](#) Public Hearing to Receive Citizens' Comments Regarding the City Manager's Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2023

Ms. Glass read the title for the item. Mr. DeProfio reminded everyone that the purpose of the item is to hold the public hearing; however, no vote will be taken this evening.

Mayor Tuck opened the public hearing. There were no speakers on the item and the Mayor closed the public hearing.

There was no vote on this item.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Mayor Tuck announced that three individuals signed up to speak and then called upon the first speaker, Cheryl Collier.

Ms. Cheryl Collier greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I live in the Powhatan Park section neighborhood, and that's within the greater Aberdeen District 10 and it's my honor and privilege to stand before you and present some exciting news. I'm an executive board member of GACC (Greater Aberdeen Community Coalition). It's an organization representing stakeholders all over District 10. This group was formed out of a need to address concerns voiced by residents from these various communities. Likewise, we felt this could be a more effective way to share best practices and procedures for healthy, safe and secure communities. Our mission is to strive toward greater unity throughout our district by addressing these concerns we share collectively. Our goal is to build a more robust, unified district. To support this goal, we've implemented several initiatives where we have partnered with local area organizations. To name a few: Deen Ball Sports Inc.

(DBSI), Historical Foundation of Aberdeen Gardens and students from a number of different schools in the district are just some of the groups we have engaged. Our plans include establishing a district community garden; creating a neighborhood watch network for district-wide safety; mentoring partnership with Deen Ball Sports; supporting healthy living initiatives through educational forums; conducting homeowner preservation workshops; and providing youth career and alternative opportunities. So, here is the exciting news: On January 25, we will partner with DBSI and the Hampton Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services in bringing the first Hands Across the City of Hampton "HATCH" youth fest 2022. This event will feature an all-youth cast of vendors, entrepreneurs, entertainers and organizations that cater to the career development of our kids and grandkids. We currently have planned a day of information and fun for all Hampton children and families. As such, we believe this is a wonderful community event that will yield real youth development dividends to the participants, families and attendees of all ages. We are grateful to have an opportunity to pay it forward by corralling and highlighting our youth's gifts, talents and interest in the City of Hampton. We would enjoy having you share in this youth fest event with us in making it a huge success. We thank you for the City's departments for sharing and undergirding this effort as we hatch a new way to challenge and support our young citizens, we pray that HATCH Youth Fest becomes something in the land, Hampton City (inaudible word), rather than Something in the Water. Thank you for your kind indulgence and I am happy to answer any questions. We have a group with us tonight.

One of the group members in the audience indicated the date of the event is June 25, 2022. Ms. Collier concurred. Mayor Tuck also indicated that he thought she said January 25. Ms. Collier confirmed the correct date is June 25, 2022.

Mayor Tuck acknowledged those from the Greater Aberdeen Community Coalition who were in attendance by having them stand.

Mr. Chris Mathews greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I was volunteering last weekend with the Peninsula Project. We were cleaning up around the Hampton Coliseum. When I am walking and picking up, I usually try to engage people around me just to see what they think, what they observe. I ran into one guy. He works and exercises in the area and he stated that he saw multiple people walking their dogs, but there are no doggie bags in the area. He then, after cleaning up, and I agreed that that is probably a good contribution to the Coliseum area because it is a popular area and there's lots of people walking, running and enjoying it, especially with the Aquaplex coming soon. Then another thing I observed was a sinkhole right outside the Coliseum that was starting on the side of the road. I have pictures of it and I can email them to you after this if anyone wants them. That's really all I have to say. Thank you for hearing me.

Mayor Tuck indicated that Public Works Director, Jason Mitchell, was in the rear of chambers and would be happy to take that information.

Mr. Craig Knopp greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: Just a couple of things. I would like to say the Hampton Clean City Commission did an awesome job this past weekend with the Earth Day celebration. If you guys didn't have a chance, you missed out a little bit. My son loved it. He got to go on the ambulance and fire truck. He asked a ton of questions. Thank goodness, we have a good fireman that was there who answered everything out. I appreciate that. Also, another thing too, I would like to give a shout out to Ms. Christine Ausink over at the Hampton Clean City Commission. She does an awesome job. She helps us out so much. I can't believe it. You guys are so lucky to have an individual that is driven and I mean driven as she is. Couple of other things: As Chris had stated, the Peninsula Project - we had several clean-ups this weekend at the Coliseum. One of the groups actually celebrated it's one-year anniversary of clean-ups in there. That was awesome. As a mile marker, we started with I think 10 bags there about a year ago and we are down to usually about 3 or 4 right now, and that is awesome. The best part is, we go over there on the waterfront. I think it is the waterfront path, I forget what it is, sorry about that. I take my son over there. We go biking down there all the time. The best part is, I know I clean up and I make a difference over there. Part of the Peninsula Project is we want to get people out. We want to get people involved in the City. Not just to come to you guys and say hey, can you guys change this? There's a lot of things that we can change on our own and as we've seen right here with these individuals, they've taken it upon themselves to help in their district wherever they can. And, that is part of the thing that we are trying to do here with the Peninsula Project. The City offers a lot of programs. I preach about a lot of stuff that I know of and I probably don't even know everything that's out there. I want to learn everything that we have here in the City and be able to help others to make that difference in their community. This is great, like I said, that we have all these other groups out here that are doing it. One other thing, I do have a question about Gosnold's Hope Park. We're looking at maybe having a little event over there and I got a lot of questions I want to ask. Basically pavilions and other things that we can do, so I'll be following up and the same thing, asking questions on that. Outside of that, that's all I have. Thank you.

Mayor Tuck indicated that Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services Director, Dave McCauley, was present and would be happy to discuss those topics with Mr. Knopp.

GENERAL ITEMS

Appointments

7. [22-0130](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Citizens' Unity Commission (CUC)
- A motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs and seconded by Councilmember Steven Brown, that this Appointment be deferred to the City Council Legislative Session, due back on 5/25/2022. The motion carried by the following vote:
- Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Weston Brown, Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Ferebee, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Hobbs and Mayor Tuck
8. [22-0156](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Hampton Roads Regional Jail Authority
- A motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs that Mayor Tuck be appointed in the place of Councilman Bowman as the alternate on the Hampton Roads Regional Jail Authority. The motion carried by the following vote:
- Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Weston Brown, Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Ferebee, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Hobbs and Mayor Tuck
9. [22-0050](#) Consideration of an Appointment to the Hampton Clean City Commission
- A motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs that Liam Thurkettle be removed from the Commission and that Timothy Richardson be appointed to fill the unexpired portion of his term until September 30, 2025. The motion carried by the following vote:
- Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Weston Brown, Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Ferebee, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Hobbs and Mayor Tuck
10. [22-0068](#) Consideration of an Appointment to the Peninsula Town Center CDA
- A motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs that Ava Green be appointed as the Tabani Group representative. The

motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Weston Brown, Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Ferebee, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Hobbs and Mayor Tuck

11. [22-0069](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Virginia Municipal League 2022 Policy Committees

A motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs that the following appointments be made to the Virginia Municipal League's policy committees:

Billy Hobbs - Community and Economic Development
Eleanor Brown - Environmental Quality
Michelle Ferebee - Finance
Chris Bowman- General Laws
Steve Brown - Human Development and Education
Jimmy Gray - Transportation

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Weston Brown, Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Ferebee, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Hobbs and Mayor Tuck

REPORTS BY CITY MANAGER, CITY COUNCIL, STAFF, COMMITTEES

12. [22-0155](#) Briefing on Settlers Landing Road Eastbound I-64 Ramp Access

Attachments: [Presentation - Final](#)

Ms. Glass read the title for the item.

Mr. DeProfio introduced the item and then introduced Public Works Director, Jason Mitchell, to make the presentation.

Mr. Mitchell greeted those on the dais and reviewed the first half of the slide presentation. These slides provided information related to the I-64 Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel (HRBT) congestion concern; Mallory Street bridge access; Settlers Landing Road access; and the pilot program on the Mallory Street bridge access which limits traffic circumventing over the bridge from Phoebus to the interstate east bound entrances from 3-6 pm daily. Mr. Mitchell shared that traffic has reduced significantly in downtown Phoebus since the beginning of this program in early April.

The second half of the presentation described the phases of the continuation of the pilot program moving forward.

Mr. Mitchell closed the presentation by sharing staff's recommendations which are to extend the Mallory Street pilot program for an additional 60 days based on the traffic reductions in the Phoebus community; continue with phase two of the pilot programs at Settlers Landing Road; evaluate the options to reduce congestion created by the HRBT construction project; continue exploring the use of technology to enforce traffic violations (traffic signage, signals and cameras); and request that Hampton City Council support the pilot projects to reduce congestion.

In response to Mayor Tuck, Mr. Mitchell again reviewed the planned closures and restricted access dates and times related to the continuation of the upcoming pilot program.

Mayor Tuck opened the floor for additional questions and comments from Council. None were posed.

MISCELLANEOUS NEW BUSINESS

There were no items of new business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 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 _____