



City of Hampton

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

Council Approved Minutes - Final City Council Legislative Session

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

STAFF: Mary Bunting, City Manager
Steven D. Bond, Interim City Attorney
Katherine K. Glass, CMC, Clerk of Council

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

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 the City Council were present.

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

DONNIE R. TUCK PRESIDED

INVOCATION - Councilmember Chris Bowman

Councilman Bowman gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Tuck congratulated the Hampton High School Boys Basketball Team on winning the state championship and the Hampton High School Girls Basketball Team on being state runner-up along with the Kecoughtan High School Boys Indoor Track Team, on their state championship.

On the occasion of March being Women's History Month, Mayor Tuck also recognized the following individuals for their service to Hampton:

Current and former Councilmembers Hope Harper, Martha Mugler, Molly Ward, Chris Snead, Linda Curtis, Teresa Schmidt, Eleanor Brown, and Michelle Ferebee, City Manager Mary Bunting, Clerk of Council, Katherine Glass, and former City Attorneys Cynthia Hudson, Vanessa Valdejuli, Lola Rodriguez, and Cheran Ivery.

He also acknowledged the host of current and former department heads in the City.

Mayor Tuck congratulated the Clerk of Council Katherine Glass who received her Master Municipal Clerk (MMC) designation this week through the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC). He shared that this is an advanced continuing education program that prepares participants to perform complex municipal duties. The program has an extensive and rigorous educational component and a professional and social component. An applicant must demonstrate that he or she has actively pursued education and professional activities. Mayor Tuck shared that Ms. Glass is also the state chair of the Clerks of Council.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Glass read the protocol for the consent agenda and a summary of the consent items.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

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

1. [24-0050](#) Resolution Approving Recommended Amendments to the Name and Membership Composition of the Animal Control Advisory Committee (ACAC)
Item approved.

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

2. [24-0103](#) Resolution Authorizing the Acceptance and Appropriation of a Gift from Dr. and Mrs. William R. Harvey to Establish an Endowment in Honor of Former Chief of Police, Pat Minetti

Attachments: [Endowment Request - Harvey](#)

Item approved.

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

3. [24-0100](#) Approval of the minutes from February 14, 2024 Work Session and the February 28, 2024 Ceremonial Session

Item approved.

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

PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS

There were no presentations, proclamations or awards.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ms. Glass read the protocol for public hearings.

4. [24-0090](#) Public Hearing on the FY2025 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) Annual Action Plan

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

Ms. Bunting introduced Jonathan McBride, Division Manager, Community Development Department, to make the presentation. She noted that this was the first of two required public hearings and there is no action expected tonight.

Mr. McBride explained that some information from the previous action plan will be presented and staff is developing the action plan for the upcoming year. The City of Hampton is an entitlement community with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), meaning we receive funding from HUD every year. This requires the City to maintain a five-year consolidated action plan and adopt an annual action plan. The City is currently in the fifth year of the current plan so this coming year, we'll be developing our next five-year Consolidated Plan.

He shared that the five-year plan has three main local priorities which are to develop decent housing, to provide suitable living environments, and to expand economic opportunities with various strategies that are outlined within the plan. Two programs are

funded through HUD, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME).

The broad national objectives of the CDBG are to benefit low to moderate-income persons, aid in the prevention of slums and blight, and meet an urgent need.

Mr. McBride noted that the City has not yet received this year's allocation from HUD due to ongoing budget discussions in Congress. HUD has given guidance but the allocation has not been received. The plan will not be submitted finally until the allocation is received.

Hampton is operating under last year's allocation of \$914,517. The funds have historically been relatively flat so a major increase or decrease is not expected.

Mr. McBride displayed a table comparing the CDBG activities for FY23 and FY24. Most of the funds from older years were allocated to housing programs, which primarily covered the weatherization and accessibility programs. This budgeted expenditure for those was lower in FY24, however, the budgeted housing services expenditure increased. Housing services are the services staff provides for the rehab work done through the Hampton Redevelopment and Housing Authority (HRHA). A portion of the code enforcement team that manages the rental inspection program is also funded through CDBG.

The HOME program has three national objectives which are to expand the supply of decent, safe, sanitary, and affordable housing; strengthen the ability of local governments to provide housing; and expand the capacity of non-profit Community-based Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs). The CHDO in Hampton is the Habitat for Humanity.

For Fiscal Year 2024, the local allocation was \$575,846, and the estimated program income was \$120,000 for a total of \$695,846. If the allocation is the same this year, the budget is estimated to be similar.

Mr. McBride displayed a table comparing the HOME activities for FY23 and FY24. More funds were allocated to homeowner rehab, new construction and rehab, CHDO, and HOME administration in FY24 than in FY23.

Mr. McBride provided a schedule for the development of this year's action plan. The draft will be made available to the public on March 25th, the next public hearing and adoption by Council will be on April 24th, and the plan will be submitted to HUD on May 31st. He noted that the plan is not due to HUD until August so any changes in the allocation that significantly throw off the budget may require Council approval of amendments.

In response to Councilman Brown, Mr. McBride explained that there is a time limit for

HUD funds so if it is not spent it will roll over to the next year. For the CDBG programs, HUD allows us to keep one and one-half of our allocations.

In response to Councilwoman Harper, Mr. McBride stated that these programs don't directly go to the homeless. HUD allocates funds to our continuum of care which is a different funding program. When we look at the consolidated plan next year, it will frame the activities for all of our housing programs. The Department of Human Services manages the continuum of care funds and we manage the CDBG and HOME funds.

Mayor Tuck opened the public hearing. There were no speakers signed up so he closed the public hearing. This was the first of two public hearings with no vote required at this meeting.

Use Permits

5. [24-0045](#) Use Permit Application No. 24-0045 by Colonial Downs Group LLC to Amend the Conditions of an Amusement Center for an Indoor Off-Track Betting Horse Racing Facility at 1990 to 1996 Power Plant Parkway [Leasehold LRSN: 13001056, portion], Which is Within the Power Plant of Hampton Roads Shopping Center [Parcel LSRN 3004808, portion].

Attachments: [Application](#)
[Conditions](#)
[Staff Report](#)
[Presentation](#)

Ms. Bunting introduced Michael Hayes, Planning & Zoning Division Manager, to make the presentation.

Mr. Hayes shared that this request by Colonial Downs is to amend the hours of operation. They are currently able to operate from 8 a.m. until 4 a.m. daily, but the request is to fill the 4 a.m. until 8 a.m. gap.

He displayed a map showing the site location in the center part of the City near I-64, I-664, and the Power Plant area. The Coliseum Central Master Plan has this as the City's big entertainment district intended for larger-scale development. Bass Pro is the anchor on one end. Rosie's came in more recent years and expanded upon what used to be the NASCAR Grille.

Mr. Hayes shared that this is not the first use permit request for this area. It was initially established as an amusement center in 2019 under a use permit. In 2021, the hours were expanded to allow operation until 4 a.m. There is also a use permit

related to live entertainment associated with the restaurant that's within their center. This use permit would not be affected by today's request.

City staff has worked with police staff to look at the number of calls that have gone on in the area and found that calls have not increased between 2 a.m. and 4 a.m., and there has been an overall decrease in calls in 2023. The audit of the security plan that was done coming out of COVID-19 found an issue that has since been cleared up. The audit was repeated and everything is being followed with the current security plan.

Mr. McBride shared some of the existing conditions including lighting and security plans; a maximum of 700 wagering machines onsite; compliance with Virginia Racing Commission regulations and applicable laws; and nullification & revocation.

The current request is to have the ability to operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The recommendation for the security condition includes requiring an annual police audit, amending the plan following the audit, and revocation of the use permit for unaddressed security concerns.

Staff analysis found that the application is consistent with City policies, fosters a supportive business environment, has no effect on police calls, and complies with the security plan. It is an opportunity to expand tourism, bolster tax revenue, and allow for spin-off retail in this area of the City.

Staff recommends approval with 16 conditions which include the amended conditions, strengthening of the security plan, and updating the Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) license language.

In response to Councilwoman Mugler, Mr. Hayes confirmed that the maximum number of wagering machines has not changed since the parlor opened.

In response to Councilman Brown, Mr. Hayes stated that there was not a community meeting held but there was outreach to the Coliseum Central Business Improvement District.

Councilman Brown asked if there is security who will escort patrons who may win substantially at Rosie's to their vehicle. Mr. Hayes stated that he would have to defer to the operator, but that there is a requirement that there is security outside the venue.

Councilman Brown stated that that is a concern because there was someone assaulted there and we want to make sure that people who go to Rosie's can get to

their cars without feeling intimidated. He asked if someone would be able to answer that question.

Mayor Tuck welcomed Mary Harper, General Manager for Rosie's Gaming Emporium. Ms. Harper stated that they would walk any customer to their car. She also stated that customers are not paid in public if they win a large jackpot and request to be private.

Mayor Tuck opened the public hearing. There were no speakers signed up so he closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Councilmember Mugler and seconded by Councilmember Bowman, that this Use Permit be approved with 16 conditions. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

6. [24-0028](#) Use Permit Application No. 24-0028 by Chance's Restaurant & Lounge, LLC to Permit a Restaurant 3 to Expand the General Hours of Operation and the Indoor Live Entertainment Performance Area at 555 Settlers Landing Rd. Suite M & N [Portion of LRSN: 2002950]

Attachments: [Application Package](#)
[Recommended Conditions](#)
[Staff Report](#)
[Staff Presentation](#)

Ms. Bunting introduced City Planner Davis Pemberton to make the presentation

Mr. Pemberton explained that this is a use permit application to permit Restaurant 3 to extend the hours of operation and the hours of indoor live entertainment, as well as to extend the indoor live entertainment performance area.

He displayed a map showing the location of the business in downtown Hampton. The proposal is for a 4,000-square-foot restaurant to include approximately 107 square feet of live indoor performance area. The proposed hours of operation are Monday through Sunday from 11 a.m. until 2 a.m. This property and the surrounding properties are zoned Downtown Business or DT-1. The future land use map designates the property and the surrounding properties and mixed-use.

Mr. Pemberton shared applicable public policy from the Hampton Community Plan which includes promoting compatibility and synergy among different land uses; encouraging a mix of land uses appropriate for each district; nurturing small and startup businesses; and expanding entertainment opportunities within the City. The property is also governed by the Downtown Hampton Master Plan. While the subject property is not highlighted specifically in that plan, it does place a priority on creating a vibrant downtown with retail and restaurants.

Staff analysis found that the proposed restaurant and live entertainment hours are consistent with those previously approved in downtown Hampton and the location supports extended hours of operation.

Mr. Pemberton shared recommended conditions which include the hours of operation and live indoor entertainment being 5 a.m. to 12 a.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 5 a.m. to 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday. These are consistent with previous hours approved in the downtown districts. Additional conditions include the location of indoor live entertainment, security, sound, dancing, ABC licensing expiration, standard revocation and nullification, and compliance with all those terms.

Staff and Planning Commission recommend approval of use permit application 24-0028 with 12 conditions.

Mr. Pemberton stated that the applicant has not prepared a formal presentation but they would like to address Council.

In response to Councilwoman Mugler, Mr. Pemberton stated that the restaurant does not currently serve breakfast. He explained that in many of the downtown districts, Restaurant 1 and Restaurant 2 permit operating hours from 5 a.m. until 12 a.m. If they want to extend beyond those hours for operation or live entertainment, they would be required to get a use permit.

In response to Councilman Bowman, Mr. Pemberton stated that the restaurant is not currently open. They are working through the permitting process and expect to be open relatively soon. Mr. Pemberton stated that he has not received any outreach from surrounding businesses, especially since staff sent notifications. Staff contacted the Downtown Hampton Development Partnership (DHDP) and they have no objection to the application.

Mr. Pemberton confirmed for Councilman Hobbs that he did contact the DHDP regarding this application.

Mayor Tuck welcomed the applicant, Samuel Simmons, Jr. Mr. Simmons stated that

they are trying to bring something new to the community. He was born and raised in Hampton and helped develop the community center in downtown Hampton. They will bring an extravagant menu and a venue to offer things like karaoke, live entertainment, and live bands. He wants to bring something back to downtown Hampton.

Mayor Tuck opened the public hearing. There were no speakers signed up so he closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chris Bowman and seconded by Councilmember Steven Brown, that this Use Permit be approved with 12 conditions. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Resolutions

7. [24-0093](#) Resolution Authorizing the Following Transfers and Grants Associated With City Property Located at or Adjacent to the Woodlands Golf Course and River Street Park to the Commonwealth of Virginia for Purposes of the Virginia Department of Transportation Project, State Project: 0064-114-374, I-64 Hampton Roads Express Lanes Segment 4C: (1) the Transfer of City Property Containing 9,405 Square Feet, More or Less (LRSN 2003325, Portions of LRSNs 12000815 and 12000817); (2) the Granting of Temporary Construction Easements on City Property Containing 100,336 Square Feet, More or Less (Portions of LRSNs 12000815, 12000817, and 2003323); and (3) the Granting of Certain Easements of Access, Light or Air on City Property Abutting Upon the Limited Access Highway (Portions of LRSNs 12000815, 12000817, 2003323, and 2003325)

Attachments: [P. 040 041 042 - Deed - final](#)
[Exhibit A \(combined plan sheets\)](#)
[Combined Exhibit A](#)

Ms. Bunting explained that this item is related to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) expansion of the I-64 Hampton Roads Express Lane project that is underway in Hampton. They include a mix of transfers and temporary

construction easements. The transfers are the first group of LRSNs for a small, triangular parcel of 1,742 square feet that runs along the existing interstate that will become part of the expanded interstate, and about 7,663 square feet that are linear portions of the parcels that run along the existing interstate and will also become part of the expanded interstate.

The other LRSNs are grants that include temporary construction easements of about 100,335 square feet for which the City will be compensated in the amount of \$137,100. Ms. Bunting stated that the City is still in negotiation with VDOT around some issues relative to the project so she recommends that Council defer this item tonight for one month until the April 10th meeting.

Mayor Tuck opened the public hearing. There were no speakers signed up so he closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs and seconded by Councilmember Hope Harper, that this item be deferred until April 10, 2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Tuck made the following comments: I am excited to announce that the grand re-opening of Hampton's historic carousel is set for Saturday, March 23, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

To celebrate, there will be free rides all day. Other activities include face painting, make-and-take crafts, rodeo hats, and a DJ and dance activities with K'bana Blaq. There will also be several food trucks for those who want to purchase food.

It's a day full of fun for families of all ages, as we celebrate the repair of a Hampton icon, the location of family outings, dates, marriage proposals, and other cherished memories.

Built in 1920, the carousel was originally part of the Buckroe Beach Amusement Park. It was disassembled in 1985 when the Buckroe Beach Amusement Park closed and was restored to its original beauty between 1988 and 1991. It is housed in a pavilion on the city's downtown waterfront. It is one of only 170 antique wooden merry-go-rounds still existing in the United States.

It was closed in the summer of 2022 when structural problems were discovered. Carousels and Carvings, an Ohio-based company, was contracted to do the repairs, which included disassembly, fabricating and rebuilding mechanical parts and systems, and reassembling the carousel.

Ms. Glass read the protocol for public comment.

Mayor Tuck welcomed the first two speakers, Ronnie Yarrington and Brenda Marks.

Mr. Yarrington greeted Council and made the following comments: a powerful prayer it was this evening. I hope this is received that way too. Having terrible trouble there on Northampton Drive. We've got them running 72 miles an hour. That is by a traffic study that I had to call the Freedom of Information Act to get that information. And I've tried to get meetings with the Chief of Police, Spief I think it was, or whatever his name was. Talbot, I didn't get it with him. And I went Thursday to try to get a meeting with Chief Wideman and kind of got excited, three women running around trying to get me help. And then a policeman came down and said, what this is about? I said, it's about speeders. And he wanted more information. And I said, "Well, are you the person that's going to give me to the meeting with the chief of police?" "No, I'm not and you won't have a meeting with him." I said, "Well, I'll go to Mary Bunting," because I thought that Mary Bunting was the Chief of Police's boss. I went into the office and left my name and number, haven't heard anything from them. Forrest Elementary School is right down at the end of the street. I suggested putting some cameras up. Can't do that because you can't get everybody's business. But Suffolk and Norfolk and Portsmouth, all them guys are doing it. Like the one policeman who tried to catch somebody stealing something and came to my house and asked if I had seen him. But he said, "They're not running 72 from that stop sign to Todds Lane." They're running 72 from the end of Burton to Todds Lane and they never thought about this stuff. I did see y'all put some new signs up. They did call me and I talked to a captain and then a sergeant and it started good. I think they got six an hour. You can get that information too from Freedom of Information. But just like to just like the garden, if you don't keep after those weeds, they're going to keep coming back. You just can't go there for a little bit. And then it went into the manpower thing and this and that, that this. I said, "Well, I'll come and yell about the money we're giving away. Let's get some money to get some radar equipment and stuff like that." So hopefully, with this conversation tonight, I will have a meeting with Chief Wideman. And it was told to me that he's a good guy and he'll sit down, and have a talk with you. I can tell you what's happened since Minetti. And thank you for your time.

Ms. Marks made the following comments: On August 9, 2023, this Council unanimously voted to censure Councilman Bowman. I was impressed with the

wording of that censure. You stated Bowman's actions violated the moral and ethical standards with respect to Council members. You stated his behavior undermines the trust and confidence of the constituents that he represents. And finally, you said his behavior has negatively impacted the work of this body on behalf of Hampton citizens. The full actual censure can be found in the video of the August 9th Council meeting at timestamp 1 hour, 37 minutes, and 50 seconds. Over the last week to 10 days, I have been informed by numerous parties that at least two or three of you have affixed your signature to the petition for Chris Bowman to be placed on the ballot to run for Council this election cycle. I will not subject myself to the backlash of stating who I know has signed. I have reached out to our registrar to determine if the petition is available through FOIA for either review or copies. If I can confirm those who signed it, it will be made public. Was the censure a hollow gesture to appease the public? You could have chosen to vote for him in private if he got back on the ballot. You should not have done anything to help him get there. That is that on that particular issue. I'd also like to address the issue that in the proposed budget talks, y'all are increasing service fees. Our taxes have gone up last three years in a row. There is no break for us. And yet some of the projects that have been put in the comprehensive plan, we don't need to have castles in the sky. We just want to be able to keep our roof over our heads. Thank you.

Mayor Tuck welcomed the next two speakers Deione Jenkins and Joan Weaver.

Ms. Jenkins greeted Council and made the following comments: Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak. My concern tonight is regarding the Mary Jackson Center. I don't see where there is a lot of activity for the youth. As you know, that community center went away, which meant that a lot of activities for the local youth in the area went with it. I would say the last two months, I've gone there to visit because I'm an advocate myself. I advocate for veterans, youth, single women, single mothers, and battered women, and I also work with justice-impacted individuals. I went to the center to try to speak with someone there directly to speak about possibly assisting or bringing some type of program or training that could benefit the youth in the area. This month, there are three events going on there. One is line dancing. The second is a bingo. And the third is for homeschooled youth to come in and get fitness training. The only program out of the three that has a fee assessed to it is for the youth homeschooled children. It's \$15 per person. The other two events, the line dancing is free, and the bingo is free. The three times that I visited the center there was no one there, even though it says the hours are from nine to six. I know I went one time around two, I went again around four, and the other time I went around 430. There was no one there. The last thing that I want to speak to is the fact that the center did open in September 2022. There's a playground there that is still not open. You know the youth are there playing around the playground on the outside of the fence in the open field but not on the

playground. Why would the playground not be open and the center is? So those are my concerns along with others but I'll leave it at that tonight. Thank you.

Ms. Weaver greeted Council and made the following comments: I would like to speak tonight, out of sight is out of mind. It is also said the story is never told as long as the hunter speaks. Only when the lion speaks is the story made known. We had a community conversation the first February 24th regarding our beloved Virginia State School for the Deaf and Blind. It was stoic. I just can't, it's so many emotions that are still there. There is still a lot of hurt. There's still a lot of pain. And my question too, is how many of you who voted for it have actually went back and visited that site? Our neighborhood is like a living hell for those who live there. The pounding, the pounding possible foundations. We've lost wildlife. We have polluted air. We have noise and air pollution, possible foundation shifting, our wildlife, the coyote, dear god only knows where they went. Infrastructure concerns and the gentleman who's working on it told me "Ms. Weaver, the worst is yet to come." But yet you all have made your vote, you've gone home. We are the ones who have this and our generations to come. It's scandalous and it's shameful. And another thing that touched me, the deaf, the mute the blind, the students were finally able to come out and they were not even aware of what had happened until they saw it on the news. Shameful and painful. But their voices will be heard. It hurt to see them sit there and not verbalize, but as long as God lets me breathe, this mouth will articulate what they have written. We have Mr. Singleton who did an outstanding letter regarding how they felt. He will come and he will read that to you to let you know the vote that you made, we still feel that pain. No more would I tell my natives, the Trail of Tears, to forget that pain, or would I tell people of color to forget the institution of slavery. That institution, those warehouses will be our damnation until life ends or as long as those are there. All right, coming up going out on site. Why would you bring us on-site now to an active construction warehouse site? No, all of the pollutants and problems still, and I think of those along Gloucester Street who know that area. Where in God's name is somebody going to park on Gloucester Street as small as it is to get there? And why come now? As I stated, we are ready, willing, and able to work because we have to go forward. We are resilient people. We will not fall down. But know what you did and know what you gave us. Those who live there know that area. That is home. We don't have to see that site. Stakeholders who made money off our backs. Not. We're the ones. We have the say and it should be. We look forward to it. But the next time please keep in mind to have it in a site more conducive for all. Last but not least, I sat here, there, everywhere. Pasture Point, Buckroe, Phoebus, Downtown, we're not sitting hearing them talking about problems. Come where my moccasins live, where I live, if you want to see problems, you have no problems at all. Thank you.

Mayor Tuck welcomed the next speaker, Chanell Ketchmore. Ms. Ketchmore

greeted Council and made the following comments: I am representing Ketchmore Kids. We do a lot of work in the space of gun violence prevention and intervention in Hampton. My brother Troy could not be here this evening. He is actually at the Mary Jackson Center right now. Every Monday and Wednesday, they do a mentorship program. So I can provide you with that information as well if you would like that. In addition to that, we continue to work with Hampton youth who are charged with gun crimes who are inside the juvenile detention center. Our goal with that is that when they come home, they do not pick up a gun again. When they come home, we are also able to continue to enroll them in our community programming. Any Hampton youth or young adult is able to enroll in our programming. We continue to offer support to the parents of all of our participants in our programming as well. And we will be hosting spring break. Right now we have priority enrollment for our Hampton partners so that they can register and get enrolled. So in addition to the fun and engaging activities, we will also be working with participants on conflict resolution and critical thinking skills. And we just wanted to share that with you all. We wanted to thank you all for being a model really across Hampton Roads and beyond for what it can look like when cities are actively involved in gun violence prevention and intervention. So thank you.

Mayor Tuck made the following comments: I don't want to single anybody out, but I will say that I signed Mr. Bowman's petition. The reason I signed it was that, before I became so popular, and people elected me to Hampton City Council and elected me as Mayor, I used to stand out in front of Food Lions, in front of restaurants, and on corners, in the coldest parts of February trying to get 125 names on a petition. Some people didn't know me, some people didn't care to know me, and some people felt that if I got my name on a petition, I'd compete against somebody they wanted more. When somebody would sign my petition, some would say, "I won't vote for you, but I will at least sign your petition to get your name on the ballot." I felt blessed for that. Citizens have a choice of whether or not they want to vote for Mr. Bowman in November, but for someone who's come through that experience of being turned down, and turned aside, I thought I owed him to sign this petition. So, that's why I signed it. There's no need to do a FOIA to find out whose name is on it. I signed it and I will admit that to anybody.

Ms. Bunting stated that she was sorry Mr. Yarrington left because while she did not find out about his call until late Friday because her assistant was attempting to find out what had happened on Thursday, she did want to make clear for the public what had happened and made the following comments: Chief Wideman was actually in the courthouse with the Cory Bigsby trial which is why, when Mr. Yarrington arrived at the police department demanding to see Chief Wideman, and only Chief Wideman, he could not see him. Chief Wideman was where he needed to be that day, Friday, and this week until the jury made its decision. The staff at Hampton

Police Department (HPD) offered to have him meet with the Captain, and he refused. He said he only wanted to meet with Chief Wideman. He was offered to have a sit down to talk about his issues. He refused that offer. He then came over to our office and demanded to meet with me. I was in a variety of appointments both in and out of the office that day, and most of Friday. On Monday and Tuesday, I was in Richmond for a good part of the day doing some state business on behalf of the City. It's not as if we're trying to ignore him. When he could not have an immediate meeting with me, he was offered to meet with Hui-Shan Walker, the Interim Assistant City Manager over the Police. Once again, he declined to meet with her. We strive to meet with everybody to give good customer service, but many of us are busy with other obligations. That's why we make other staff available. I'm sure that she (Ms. Walker) will be glad to meet with Mr. Yarrington. Certain things do take priority such as a trial. I wanted to make that clear so people are not left with the impression that we refuse to meet with individuals.

Ms. Bunting noted that the Mary Jackson Center does have a lot of activities for youth. They're not all planned classes. Many of them are open space and open gyms. She thanked Ms. Ketchmore for addressing some of the programs I would have talked about. Our Office of Youth and Young Adult Opportunities does many prevention activities either directly, such as the diversion program, or indirectly with other partners. We're very grateful for the partnership we have with Ketchmore Kids. She stated that she was concerned to hear that nobody was there when Ms. Jenkins went by. She stated that the Parks and Recreation Director, who was in the back of the room, would be investigating that because someone should be there during all operating hours. She expressed appreciation for Ms. Jenkins bringing that to her attention.

Ms. Bunting reminded citizens that the City is currently in the budget public input session before her final recommendation to the City Council. For those who have not had a chance, there is a survey online currently at [Hampton.gov\budget](https://hampton.gov/budget) where citizens can review some of the choices before the community. She noted that all cities in the region are having challenges with wastewater, aging pipes, and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The DEQ has requirements in our region to address aging infrastructure and make sure that wastewater isn't leaking into the Chesapeake Bay. This requires us to raise our wastewater rates, but there's not a lot of choice about that. A lot of other things that are before Ms. Bunting, the staff, and Council are being put before the public to get their input. The survey will close on March 20th because a final budget recommendation for Council must be released on or before April 15th. The formal budget hearing process will pick up after that.

Mayor Tuck stated that, realizing there was an escalation of housing values over the

last two to three years, Hampton reduced the real estate tax rate from \$1.24 per \$100 value to \$1.16 per \$100 value. Ms. Bunting added that of the cities in the Hampton Roads region, Hampton has lowered the rate most aggressively. She stated that it is too early in the process to know what the City will be able to do this year but the Hampton strives to do the best it can by balancing its needs and taking care of the employees who work very diligently for the residents. The City also tries to do right by its citizens and not take more from them than is needed.

GENERAL ITEMS

8. [24-0101](#) Approval of the minutes from the Hampton Roads Alliance's 2024 Annual Meeting on February 29, 2024.
- Mayor Tuck asked if there were any corrections. Hearing none, the minutes were approved.

Appointments

9. [24-0061](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Animal Control Advisory Committee
- A motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs to appoint Desiree Darden to a first term expiring on March 31, 2028. The motion carried by the following vote:
- Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck
10. [24-0063](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Coliseum Advisory Committee
- A motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs to reappoint Matthew Joyner and Andrew Wilson to second terms expiring on December 31, 2026, to reappoint Joyce-Melvin Jones to a first full term expiring on February 28, 2027; and to appoint Karen Scott and Brad Young to first terms expiring on February 28, 2027. The motion carried by the following vote:
- Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck
11. [24-0064](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Neighborhood Commission

A motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs to reappoint Leslie Borwick (District 4) to a first full term until June 30, 2027; Joseph Griffith (District 7) to a second term until October 31, 2027; and Kathy Rogers (District 6) to a second term expiring February 28, 2028; and to appoint Jennifer Oliver (Hampton City Schools Representative) until March 31, 2028, Larry McKenzie (District 8), and Cheryl Collier (District 10), to first terms expiring March 31, 2028. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

12. [24-0071](#) Consideration of an Appointment to the Wetlands Board

A motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs to appoint Sara Benham to a first term expiring March 30, 2029. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

13. [24-0074](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Social Services Local Advisory Board

A motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs to reappoint LaShaunda Kay and Darlene Walker to first terms expiring on March 31, 2028. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

14. [24-0096](#) Consideration of an Appointment to the Eastern Virginia Regional Industrial Facility Authority (EVRIFA)

A motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs to James A. "Pete" Peterson to a term expiring March 31, 2026. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

REPORTS BY CITY MANAGER, CITY COUNCIL, STAFF, COMMITTEES

Ms. Bunting addressed comments made by Ms. Jenkins about the Mary Jackson Center. She explained that the Neighborhood Center opened before the playground because the City was still working with the neighborhood on the elements they wanted it to include. The playground was recently installed and the opening date is scheduled for March 30th, from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. There will be a ribbon cutting, free kids activities, games, a DJ, face painting, and free backpacks for kids. She apologized that she did not share this before Ms. Jenkins left but said she would try to reach her to let her know about the playground.

Ms. Bunting announced that Hampton has again been honored by Bloomberg Philanthropies with a major grant and foundation award. She apologized that she has been unable to share this with Council until now. Bloomberg Philanthropies has an American Sustainable Cities Initiative. Hampton was invited, along with other cities across the country, to apply because of its work with coastal resiliency. The leadership team who worked on the application included Steve Bond, Interim City Attorney, and Bonnie Brown, Community Development Director. Hampton, along with Newport News, were among the 25 cities that were selected. Ms. Bunting stated that she takes great pride in how Hampton is being recognized and what this award from Bloomberg will allow the City to do.

Ms. Bunting read an excerpt from the announcement. "Bloomberg Philanthropies announced Bloomberg American Sustainable Cities, a three-year initiative to turbocharge 25 United States (US) cities efforts to leverage historic levels of federal funding to proactively build low carbon resilient and economically thriving communities. Building on the longtime leadership of US cities to confront the crisis of climate change with disproportionately impacted communities, the \$200 million Bloomberg Philanthropies initiative will provide deep support to selected cities to pursue transformative solutions in the buildings and transportation sectors through partnerships with Policy Link Bloomberg Center for Public Innovation at Johns Hopkins University and Natural Resources Defense Council."

The 25 cities selected are Akron, Ohio; Atlanta, Georgia; Birmingham, Alabama; Buffalo, New York; Charlotte, North Carolina; Chattanooga, Tennessee; Cincinnati, Ohio; Cleveland, Ohio; Columbus, Ohio; Dayton, Ohio; Hampton, Virginia; Jackson, Mississippi; Kansas City, Missouri; Lansing, Michigan; Memphis, Tennessee; Montgomery, Alabama; Nashville, Tennessee; Newport News, Virginia; Oakland, California; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Raleigh, North Carolina; Rochester, New York; Savannah, Georgia; and St. Louis, Missouri.

She thanked Mayor Tuck for his willingness to take up the offer from the Bloomberg

Philanthropies to be part of this year's Climate Summit. She believes it may have helped us. Bloomberg is offering the City three staff people they will pay for, for three years, to work with our community to write grants and leverage a lot of the federal dollars that are out there right now to build sustainable communities.

MISCELLANEOUS NEW BUSINESS

There were no items of new business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 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 _____