



City of Hampton

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

Council Approved Minutes - Final City Council Work Session

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

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

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

1:00 PM

Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tuck acknowledged the absences of Councilman Moffett who is attending the SMART Cities Conference; City Manager Ms. Mary Bunting, who is attending the International City Managers Association Conference and City Attorney Vanessa Valldejuli, who is attending the Institute for Local Government Lawyers. Assistant City Manager James A. "Pete" Peterson and Ms. Patricia Melochick, Senior Deputy City Attorney are filling in respectively.

Mayor Tuck called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. All members of City Council were present with the exception of Councilman Will Moffett.

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

Excused 1 - Councilmember Will Moffett

DONNIE R. TUCK PRESIDED

AGENDA

1. [16-0330](#) Briefing on the Hampton Roads Crossing Study

Attachments: [HRTPO Presentation](#)
[HRTAC Presentation](#)

Assistant City Manager Pete Peterson, introduced Mr. Bob Crum, Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) Executive Director and Mr. Kevin

Page, Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission (HRTAC) Executive Director who made a presentation on the Hampton Roads Crossing Study.

Vice Mayor Curtis asked Mr. Crum to go back to the Army Corps of Engineers Concerns and explain the second bullet? Mr. Crum replied that the Corps believes that all alternatives meet the purpose and needs of the project. The model runs show that not all alternatives are considered equal and some options, as they are run through the model, do not get to the test.

Councilwoman Schmidt asked all of the funds would have to be in place prior to the project start would you continue to accumulate funds for other alternatives while working on the chosen alternative. Mr. Crum replied that they feel it is best to get a record of decision that includes as much as can get built in order to avoid going through this process again. If there is a possibility you would want another alternative down the road, recommend it be included in the beginning to eliminate having to go through the process again. Additionally, it could be difficult to add in at a later date.

Councilwoman Schmidt stated there were alternative ways to fund the project and asked if the near two billion dollars would delay alternative "A" if alternative "A" and "B" were chosen. Mr. Crum replied that the approach is documented in a long-range plan.

Mayor Tuck commented that the City of Newport News feels strongly about adding transit lanes and if they are not a part of any of the alternatives they will not be added. He asked, what adding transit lanes adds to the cost and could they accommodate rapid transit. Mr. Crum replied that the current six-lane project allowed the project to stay in the current right-of-way. If dedicated transit lanes are added the project will go outside the right-of-way and the regional tax money can only be used to build roads and bridges and cannot be used for transit. However, bus rapid transit could be incorporated within the general purpose lanes.

Mayor Tuck commented on a recent presentation that described a three-four-three plan to accommodate bus rapid transit but you believe a three-three-three plan would be used. Mr. Crum replied that to be clear the three-four-three plan would be more advantageous. He noted while he believes the tunnels are a natural constraining point, he also believes there is a way to accommodate the plan for six lanes.

Mayor Tuck also commented on the issue about not using any of the Hampton University historical artifacts and structures when developing any of these plans within the existing right-of-way and Mr. Crum confirmed this was correct.

Vice Mayor Curtis asked Mr. Page if there is any relation between the speeds in the hot lane versus the non-hot lane. Mr. Page replied that there is not.

Councilwoman Snead asked if you would pay more to travel in the hot lanes during peak times. Mr. Page replied that as the vehicle count increases in the hot lanes that toll amount will increase.

Councilwoman Snead asked the difference between a “hot lane toll” versus a “regular toll” or will there be both? Mr. Page replied that there will not be a fixed toll on the all travel lanes.

Councilwoman Snead asked how long it will be before we have to look at this again? Mr. Page replied that this will be a constant regenerating effort and we are continuing to grow; therefore he is unsure when that point will be.

Councilman Gray thanked Mr. Page for the clarity on how the changing of the tolls in hot lanes works and asked the difference between EZ Pass and EZ Flex. Mr. Page replied EZ Flex has a switch that will tell the transponder that you have the correct number of passengers to ride in the HOV lane for free.

Mayor Tuck thanked both Mr. Crum and Mr. Page for coming and asked if the vote for the alternative will be at the October 20th meeting. Mr. Crum replied that at the October meeting the financing aspect, reviewing the public input received, and input of each jurisdiction will be the discussion. The board will not make a decision until the November meeting.

Mayor Tuck stated that at a Chamber of Commerce Leadership Forum on September 27, 2016 Aubrey Layne, Secretary of Transportation, made a presentation in his recollection that the price of fuel is going down but specified that money being used is a tax on wholesale fuel and that there was a floor on that. Mayor Tuck asked Mr. Brian DeProfio, Director of Budget and Strategic Initiatives and Councilman Gray who were also in attendance if he is remembering correctly or incorrectly. Mr. DeProfio and Mr. Page replied that Mayor Tuck did remember correctly that there is a floor on the statewide fuel tax, not on a regional level.

Mr. Peterson made the statement he had a time schedule that indicated the Council would consider their preferred alternative at the October 12th meeting.

Presented by Bob Crum, Executive Director of the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) and Kevin B. Page, Executive Director of the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission.

2. [16-0336](#) Briefing from Superintendent of Hampton City Schools

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

Assistant City Manager Pete Peterson, introduced Dr. Jeffery Smith, Hampton City Schools Superintendent who made a presentation on Hampton City School accreditations and Hampton Academies.

Mayor Tuck referred to a recent article and asked if Dr. Smith knew the status from the state regarding schools waiting on their accreditation and the reasoning for the wait. Dr. Smith replied that the Hampton City Schools submit to the Office of School Improvement an action plan based upon the student achievement data which is solely based on the Standards of Learning assessments. The Office of School Improvement analyzed the data to look for growth and to ensure there is growth in student performance. Dr. Smith expects the board to take action at the next meeting regarding the status.

Mayor Tuck told Dr. Smith that each member of Council believes that great things are going on in the schools but recognizes the challenges that arise from the environment outside of school and asked what the City and community can do to try and ensure success for each student. Dr. Smith replied that early literacy programs and family engagement programs are important.

Councilwoman Snead asked why there is no time frame on the accreditation of schools. Dr. Smith replied that they are working on getting all the schools accredited on a daily basis rather than by a certain date.

In response to Councilwoman Schmidt, Dr. Smith confirmed that the Safe and Nurturing Environment will encompass behavior.

Councilwoman Snead talked about collaboration with Hampton Redevelopment and Housing Authority in doing an analysis of the children they service on their performance in identifying problems, and is that part of the partnership. Dr. Smith confirmed that it is part of the partnership.

Dr. John Caggiano, Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment made a presentation on the Hampton City Schools Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment.

Mayor Tuck asked Dr. Caggiano whether or not a child must be enrolled in a Pre-K program. Dr. Caggiano replied that Pre-K is not a mandatory requirement.

Councilman Gray asked Dr. Caggiano about the gap between eligibility and the

availability for children to attend Pre-K. Dr. Caggiano replied that the information is unknown to him but would get the information to Councilman Gray. Dr. Caggiano also mentioned the possibility of having a summer school for rising kindergarten students.

Councilman Gray asked Dr. Caggiano to clarify whether students will be at a disadvantage with the change from iPad to the Chrome book if they do not have WiFi at home. Dr. Caggiano explained there were workarounds for both devices but with Chrome book, students can do assignments without internet and submit them as soon as they enter school.

Dr. Whitney Ketchledge, Director of Career and Technical Education, made a presentation on The Academies of Hampton.

Mayor Tuck asked Dr. Ketchledge if the academies have expanded and what opportunities New Horizon has extended and do they complement the schools. Dr. Ketchledge explained that in order to offer these types of programs to all students, career academies will need to be added to all the high schools that will function as small communities. Currently students who attend New Horizons attend courses not offered by Hampton City Schools and will build New Horizons courses into the pathways.

Presented by Dr. Jeffrey O. Smith, Superintendent of Hampton City Schools. Also presenting were Dr. John Caggiano, Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment and Dr. Whitney Ketchledge, Director of Career and Technical Education.

3. [16-0338](#) Presentation by Dominion Power

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

Assistant City Manager Pete Peterson introduced Ms. Stephanie Harrison, Electric Transmission Projects Communications Manager, who made a presentation on Power the Peninsula.

Mayor Tuck asked Ms. Harrison to clarify what she is requesting from Council. Ms. Harrison stated that Dominion Power has met with all the surroundings localities and wants them to recognize the sense of urgency of this project and is looking for feedback regarding the project.

Councilman Gray asked Ms. Harrison about what the rolling blackout looks like. Ms. Harrison replied that if the need for power exceeds what can be handled, power would be deliberately cut off throughout a designated area for an amount of time and

then restored while another area would be cut off from power. This system would balance the load and not overload equipment so that outages would not cascade to broader areas.

Councilwoman Schmidt asked Ms. Harrison how long each scenario would take. Ms. Harrison replied if the Chickahominy to Skiffs Creek route were to be chosen, the project would need to start over and add approximately three to four more years because this route was not approved by the State Corporation Commission. When the Commission reviewed this in 2012 - 2013 they ruled for the line across the river and the estimated eighteen to twenty months after receipt of the necessary permits.

Councilwoman Schmidt asked if there was an alternative in mind. Ms. Harrison replied no.

Councilman Hobbs asked who will be used in building of the towers. Ms. Harrison replied that they are asked to employ local talent whenever possible and have already reached out to local businesses. Councilman Hobbs stated that it was important to him that the right people get the job and it is critical that the job be done right. Ms. Harrison agreed and stated it was an excellent point.

Vice Mayor Curtis asked Ms. Harrison if they anticipate rotating blackouts while the project is under construction, the challenge of high temperatures, and asked for clarification that the rotating blackouts will be a minimal interruption. Ms. Harrison affirmed that the rotating blackouts are a real possibility and more so as time goes by before the project is completed; the humidity plays a huge part and places a strain on the equipment on the grid, and the thirty minute rotating blackouts are the most typical scenario that is being planned for. However, if any major or catastrophic disruptions occur much wider scale outage is possible but they will be working on keeping the problem from cascading to outside areas beyond the Peninsula.

Mayor Tuck asked if the closure of the Yorktown Coal Unit in April 2017 is mandated or Dominion Power's planned closure date. Ms. Harrison replied that in order to be in compliance with Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) rule Dominion Power was originally scheduled to retire it in April 2015 but received a one year extension and are operating now to close in April 2017 and there are no other long term provisions to continue to operate the coal units beyond April 2017.

Councilwoman Schmidt asked if going under the water is an option rather than. Ms. Harrison replied that the underwater option had been considered and was part of the initial review but ultimately either the cost was prohibitive, it did not meet the electrical standard of the twenty-year beyond reliability needed, or it would have

been more disruptive for the environment. In October 2015, the Corps issued a preliminary whitepaper on their alternative analysis and came to the same conclusion as the State Corporation Commission.

Councilwoman Snead asked if there was any opposition from the localities that Dominion has presented to thus far and how many have received the presentation. Ms. Harrison replied that James City County did oppose but no others. Hampton and Newport News have seen the presentation and they are scheduled to present at Poquoson and James City County. Dominion Power has met with staff from all six localities.

Vice Mayor Curtis asked if the rotating blackouts become necessary will citizens be notified. Ms. Harrison stated that dom.com is their website where updates and statuses are posted and are in the process of a micro site giving updates on the project. Dominion Power indicated that they do document medical conditions of their customers for notification of approaching storms for preparations and their need for a backup plan.

Councilwoman Snead asked about James City County's opposition. Ms. Harrison believed the concern was the view shed from the James River.

Mayor Tuck asked Ms. Harrison when they would like something from the Council as far as position. Ms. Harrison stated that time is of the essence and the Corps is evaluating comments and will accept feedback up until the permitting decision is made.

Mr. Peterson asked about the letter presented to Council regarding a delay from the Corps of Engineers and is there a real delay or is the Corps just going through their processes. Ms. Harrison replied that the Corps is going through their rigorous process.

Presented by Stephenie Harrington, Electric Transmission
Projects Communications Manager.

REGIONAL ISSUES

NEW BUSINESS

CLOSED SESSION

- 4. [16-0291](#) Closed session pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 2.2-3711.A.1 to discuss council appointment to the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, the Peninsula Agency on Aging and also as

listed on the agenda.

A motion to convene the closed session was made by Vice Mayor Curtis, seconded by Councilwoman Snead and passed on the following vote:

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

5. [16-0283](#) Consideration of appointment to Planning Commission

CERTIFICATION

6. [16-0323](#) Resolution Certifying Closed Session

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Curtis, and seconded by Councilman Hobbs, to certify the closed session. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Donnie R. Tuck
Mayor

Katherine K. Glass, CMC
Clerk of Council

Date approved by Council _____