



# 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 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*  
*Cynthia E. Hudson, Interim City Attorney*  
*Katherine K. Glass, MMC, Clerk of Council*

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**Wednesday, July 10, 2024**

**1:00 PM**

**Council Chambers**

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### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tuck called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. All members of the City Council were present. Mayor Tuck welcomed Cynthia Hudson, Interim City Attorney. Ms. Hudson is a former Hampton City Attorney.

**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

### AGENDA

1. [24-0279](#) Grant Street Engagement Update

**Attachments:** [Presentation - final](#)

Ms. Bunting introduced Gabe Diaz, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, to make the presentation on the City's community engagement efforts for the Grant Street Redevelopment Project.

Mr. Diaz shared that many staff members have worked on this project, some of whom have gone on to other projects within the City and beyond. He explained that this has been a lengthy process that they have been engaged in with the Olde Hampton community. The main goals of the project are to encourage open communication, build strong relationships, and support community needs. The project team will present information on learning from history; an overview of the engagement process; survey results; development options; and future programming options. He noted that the survey

was quite extensive and the presentation will contain comments from that survey but two of them stood out to the team. The first, "I raised my children [here], it has been our home for 50 years." And, the second, "Prominent families lived here that helped build Hampton. (Percy Boone family, Lenee Davis family, the Robinson family, the Hunt family)." "Other memorable families included the Crawley family as well."

Mr. Diaz displayed a timeline showing Olde Hampton from its founding by people who escaped from slavery through current times. During the Civil War, they settled in the contraband camps and surrounding areas, known as Slabtown. In the early 1900's Olde Hampton was a healthy community but Black Americans were not allowed to shop at stores owned by white Americans. It had to meet the needs of its residents and became known as Black Wall Street. During the 1960's, the community went through some difficult changes as houses were torn down to widen roads and build apartment complexes. The construction made it difficult to operate a business and Armistead Avenue separated Olde Hampton from downtown. Since 2000, the Olde Hampton Community Center has closed but the sense of community endures. The neighborhood has shown resiliency as it was identified as a Housing Venture Area.

Mr. Diaz introduced Mariah Roederer, DEI Programs Coordinator, to continue the presentation.

Ms. Roederer shared that, after the community center closed, the City continued to have a Resource Center for the residents to use. In 2015, the need for a new resource center was identified and a committee convened to explore options over the next several years. In 2018, the City contacted the Peninsula Community Foundation to take the lead in convening the Mary W. Jackson Neighborhood Center Committee. They continued to engage the community about what they would like to see in the future. In 2020, when COVID hit, they began experiencing barriers to, and delays in, engagement but continued to provide progress updates to Council and the neighborhood steering committee.

In February 2021, the Mary W. Jackson groundbreaking event was held. Regular steering committee meetings and Olde Hampton Community Association meetings continued. The steering committee and Council had walkthroughs of the construction site in March and April 2022, followed by the ribbon cutting for the Mary W. Jackson Community Center in September 2022.

In 2023, the Olde Hampton Community Association meetings continued, but future engagement conversations were not happening at the rate they wanted. The Grant Street construction has begun and is expected to be completed in winter 2025. This is a Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) revenue-sharing project that will support redevelopment in the vicinity of the Mary W. Jackson Neighborhood Center. It will extend Grant Circle at McAllister Street to the existing stub off North Armistead Avenue. It includes an extension of Condor Street and a connection to North Stewart Street. It was important to hear from the community and update them on what was happening. In August

2023 following the Harvard-Bloomberg Community Engagement Initiative, staff re-engaged the community and conducted an informational meeting to provide an update and receive feedback on what the community wanted.

A Fall Meet and Greet was held in October 2023, with multiple City resources present to inform residents what they can leverage and what programs they can have, as well as City Planners and other Community Development staff to have conversations about what development would look like in the future and answer any questions or concerns. Following this meeting, staff created an extensive written, value-based survey to gather individual feedback and analyze the results to know what the community wanted.

The survey was released in December 2023 at the Winter Wonderland event at the community center where there were over 100 people in attendance. That was followed by a postcard with a link to the survey that was sent to all residents and homeowners in the neighborhood.

In January 2024, staff did some canvassing in the neighborhood to speak with residents and complete additional surveys. Surveys were also left at the neighborhood center for those who didn't have access to the web or were not comfortable completing it online. Having multiple pathways to complete the survey was important to ensure everyone's voice was included. They were able to engage more than 40 residents and had 22 opportunities to share, covering everything from neighborhood values, their personal Olde Hampton history, housing style, neighborhood concerns, and more.

Ms. Roederer displayed a visual graph of the results showing the values selected most often by those who took the survey. Two things the residents of Olde Hampton said were the most important to them were safety and cleanliness followed closely by a sense of place, family-oriented, housing, and sense of community. Specific amenities they would like to see either in the neighborhood or in surrounding areas include a farmer's market, mini-grocery, and a café or local restaurant. The farmer's market is an achievable goal through continued partnership with the neighborhood association, steering committee, and City. There are programs in the neighborhood offices where people could apply for grants to do this kind of program.

The neighborhood currently has a local restaurant, Kente's, which is a popular historic restaurant.

Other things they would like to see include a neighborhood resource center, community garden, or dog park. A lot of feedback was received from the community about the existing resource center and how well it is working. Hampton has a community garden program that can be extended.

Ms. Roederer displayed a map showing several properties in the neighborhood that cannot be developed economically or residentially but provide opportunities to put small

amenities or create public spaces for them. Mary Jackson Park has shelters and a large, open area for other things that could occur.

Ms. Roederer introduced Jonathan McBride, Housing and Neighborhood Development Manager, to continue the presentation with housing and typology results.

Mr. McBride explained that, before the Olde Hampton Community Center, this area was housing. Before the park was there, a road went through the area. This project is reconnecting the community, reestablishing the park, and creating a valuable space around the community.

One of the main things they've heard about housing is keeping Olde Hampton like Olde Hampton. In other words, keeping it inclusive and making sure it meets a variety of needs, incomes, and ages. There's a lot of conversation around affordability and creating access to housing within the community. One of the things that was said many times is that they want housing that is affordable and of good quality, in both materials and design.

Mayor Tuck asked if the Peninsula Community Foundation will be involved in the planning and housing design or if it will be from a pattern book, and how the City plans to address that concern.

Mr. McBride stated that he will share a little bit of that at the end of the presentation and Mr. Hayes will share how that is done from a zoning perspective. As we move forward, we will have to look at what partners we have at the table to help do that. He noted that Mike Monteith is retiring from the foundation so we will have to see what that partnership looks like going forward.

Most houses face the park so it is important to design homes with porches and living spaces that engage the front street and landscaping. The City is investing in landscaping around the park and ensuring the houses reflect the green space and the inviting areas within the community.

They also heard a lot about accessibility and meeting the needs of the disabled and seniors within the community. This includes incorporating accessible ramps, doorways, and other components in the design of the homes. Of the 22 to 24 homes built, approximately five to seven designed for accessibility and aging in place will be mixed throughout the community.

While Olde Hampton is a downtown neighborhood it is important to make sure the designs fit the historic home feel within Olde Hampton. They also want a range of designs in the community so not all of the houses are the same.

Public Works has been working on the infrastructure to make sure the neighborhood is a family-friendly, visitor-friendly space with lights, trees, etc. One thing that has come up in

the survey is how to have more neighborhood commercial spaces.

Single-family, detached homes are what is most desired in the neighborhood. However, about one-third of the responses talked about something a little bit more dense like duplexes, townhomes, or rowhomes, but no large, multi-family developments. There may be opportunities for some first-floor commercial and second-floor residential to help supplement the development costs.

Mr. McBride introduced Mike Hayes, Planning and Zoning Administration Manager; to continue the presentation with more information on commercial options. He also thanked Gonzalo Borges for his hard work and analysis of the commercial options. Mr. Borges is, unfortunately, leaving Hampton next week for another locality.

Mr. Hayes explained that the next couple of slides are the options that will be evaluated by staff and Council is not being asked to decide on them today.

In looking at options, some things can be done fast, working within the existing zoning ordinances and some things are more complicated or are different than what is in the ordinance that was mostly written back in the 1960s. The more complicated ones would take more time to evaluate and potentially result in ordinance amendments that would need to be made to make those things happen.

The first option Mr. Hayes displayed deals with either R-8 or R-4 zoning with possible space for commercial use. R-8 allows single-family and duplexes which tend to be a little larger in lot size. He noted that, with this being publicly controlled land, there's more control over how that gets executed. There may be things that aren't in zoning that we want to achieve but they can be done through a development agreement.

The R-4 option would be strictly single-family, but in this situation, it wouldn't have any rear alley access. The minimum lot size would be 50 feet wide, which is in keeping with the traditional layout within that neighborhood.

On the diagram displayed, the area across from the Mary Jackson Center parking lot and closer to Armistead Avenue would be a good space for a small amount of mixed-use or commercial.

The second option Mr. Hayes displayed deals strictly with R-8 or R-4 residential zoning. This is the easiest and quickest option that would allow for a mix of single-family homes and duplexes because the way things are in the current market, any residential could be sold upon completion or even before.

Mr. Hayes referenced live-work units mentioned by Mr. McBride and explained that the current ordinance allows up to 200 square feet in a home but doesn't allow for the more traditional live-work where there is a storefront on the first floor and living space above or

behind it. Their thoughts on this were that there is an opportunity to go back to that traditional Main Street and have true storefronts or offices that clients could come to that may be larger than 200 square feet. They would have to consider how to amend the ordinance to allow for this. He noted that there may be other areas near cores like Phoebus and other parts of downtown where this would be allowed, but not every neighborhood in the City.

There is also the possibility of a more traditional mixed-use street frontage with neighborhood-scale commercial. He noted that we don't have this other than downtown which is intended for a much larger scale development than what is being proposed here. That would require even more research and possibly a bigger amendment to make it happen.

Councilman Brown thanked the team for their excellent presentation. He liked the way they engaged the community. He referred to Ms. Roederer's comment that the engagement of future meetings was not happening the way they wanted. He asked why and what the plan is to keep people more engaged as they move farther into the process.

Mr. McBride stated that Ms. Roederer, Mr. Diaz, and their team have done a good job ensuring we've heard a consistent message from a diverse group of residents. They have talked about continuing to work with the Olde Hampton Community Association as the primary neighborhood organization, as well as the new nonprofit with the Neighborhood Center, to make sure that they're updated on what's going on. Ms. Little is a partner with us and is in contact with Mr. Diaz and Mr. McBride regularly about making sure that we help support their meetings as they go forward. It has been shared publicly and they've had feedback from the community. He stated that they will continue to provide updates through the association. There is a project site that will go up so they can make sure they have space for regular information.

Councilman Brown asked if the housing is workforce housing, rental, or for sale. Mr. McBride explained that they heard from the neighborhood that they want primarily owner-occupied housing but, there may be an opportunity in the area towards Armistead for a mix of rentals and owner-occupied. He added that design may drive affordability because the bigger the home, the harder it is to make it an affordable home based on income. The community wants to see designs that meet various needs, not just one or the other. The Housing Authority is trying to develop a few and they're having challenges meeting some Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requirements on affordability because of the high costs.

In response to Councilman Bowman, Mr. Hayes stated that the options presented would allow them to build 25 units on 50-foot-wide lots with nothing smaller than that.

In response to Councilwoman Harper, Ms. Roederer stated that the 40-plus people they engaged were survey completions. She explained that she didn't count final numbers for

engagement because there were so many events and door knockings that some people might have been contacted multiple times. She added that one thing they did that wasn't included in this presentation was asked qualifying questions. Did they live in Hampton? Did they live downtown, in Olde Hampton, or in the area that touched the construction site? Several people did not live in Hampton and their results were removed from the survey.

Vice Mayor Gray asked if the survey had a question about how long they had lived in Olde Hampton. With people buying new homes in Olde Hampton, he wondered what they thought about the neighborhood. Were they new residents of Hampton? He stated that it seems like a lot of the comments that were shared came from people who have been around Olde Hampton for a long time.

Ms. Roederer stated that she did not have the data with her but could provide it. They noticed that there has been a change in what the neighborhood may look like because of the new construction in the neighborhood. Some have lived in Olde Hampton and remember Mary W. Jackson being their Girl Scout leader. Some new families have moved in with kids who attend the Mary W. Jackson after-school program. What they heard is housing typology and amenities tended to fall in the same places, which is why it was important to do a value space survey.

Mr. Hayes shared that one of the most excited residents he's ever met in one of the engagements was someone who bought one of those new homes. It was one of the most affordable units. She was thrilled with the product she purchased and excited that the opportunity may be extended to this area.

Councilman Brown asked if the survey asked whether people were for or against the new housing complex. Ms. Roederer stated they did not specifically ask, "Are you for or against this?" Since the VDOT road was going in they did ask several questions. "What would you like to see on that road?" "If there was housing, what kind would you like to see?" They also left opportunities for open comments so if people were opposed to the housing, they could say that. She stated that to her knowledge, they did not receive any comments objecting to housing as a totality in that area.

2. [24-0326](#) Hampton Police Division Briefing on Crime Data Comparison and Division Resources

**Attachments:** [Presentation](#)

Ms. Bunting explained that Chief Wideman returned to Hampton as Chief of Police last year and the City is pleased with how he and the Hampton Police Department (HPD) are doing. Each year staff provides an update on the City's prevention and intervention activities but it is too much to present at one time so those reports will be in August. She introduced Chief Wideman to provide the annual report on crime statistics today.

Chief Wideman explained that the first part of his presentation covers violent crime and the second part covers larcenies, thefts, and related crimes. He displayed a chart comparing statistics for violent crimes and property crimes from 2022 through the first half of 2024.

From 2023 to 2024 there was a reduction of 12 instances and 70% of murder and non-negligent manslaughter. There was an increase of two for rape/sexual assault, but none of those instances involved someone where the suspect and victim were not known to each other. Robberies went down by 31% and aggravated assaults, which would be, for example, domestics or shootings (use of firearms where someone is struck), are down 6.3%. Burglaries are down by one which is a .7% reduction. Larcenies are down by eight percent and motor vehicle thefts by 19.5%.

Larcenies would be at a lower rate, but the increase was directly attributed to the Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Store larcenies. Chief Wideman shared that they met with security for the ABC and they put together a very aggressive strategy to include product protection and surveillance cameras inside and outside of the properties. They worked very closely with our local law enforcement to allow us to identify those persons responsible. In previous times, they were not prosecuting but they are now which deters future acts by the same people.

Violent crimes were down 17.3% and property crimes were down 8.6%. Overall Citywide, in both categories, crime is down 9.3%.

Chief Wideman displayed a chart of a more detailed breakdown of violent crimes showing the type of crime that would be applicable. The most significant increase was two instances or a 50% increase in forcible sodomy.

In most instances, multiple offenses occurred during one incident. For example, forcible rape, sodomy, or sexual assault with an object may be several acts committed against one victim which increases the numbers and percentages related to that one victimization.

He also displayed a chart with a more detailed breakdown of property crimes, burglaries, larcenies, shoplifting, and motor vehicle thefts, which are down by 8.6% overall. The largest increase was in residential burglaries which is attributed to the end of the school year, several holidays, and the warmer season when students were not attending school. Instead, they were out in the neighborhoods and communities committing those burglaries. He added that they have had a great deal of success related to those instances because they've had multiple clearances with some of the parties that were involved. For example, if someone who committed 10

offenses has been identified and arrested, those have been cleared which results in a significant decrease in other crimes.

The City is divided into two sectors, the Wythe and the Chesapeake. These are broken down into eight or nine different districts depending on how resources are deployed. Traffic zones are subcategories within the sectors and districts that allow them to be more focused and precisely identify the more problematic people. For example, Coliseum Central could have four traffic zones. If one traffic zone has more activity, rather than deploy thinner resources across the entire district, they can concentrate on having a larger presence in the traffic zone that has the most issues. This will enhance the ability to have an apprehension when someone does commit an offense. They also capitalize on their great relationship with the businesses, property managers, and security personnel in those areas to direct their efforts and help identify the times of day, people, and places that require the most attention.

Chief Wideman explained that intelligence comes by understanding the victims and suspects; social networks and criminal enterprises; and the investigative gap. By understanding the criminal enterprises, they can leverage federal partners that are more successful in pursuing and helping to apply the resources necessary to prevent and apprehend those parties. There are always information gaps. A positive resolution can be achieved through collaboration across branches to bring information together which allows them to see what resources are available to be applied to a problem or incident.

Crime intel centers or Real Time Information Centers (RTIC) have proven to be very helpful because we can leverage the information they collect. Any time a major crime occurs they can all the RTIC and give the proximity of where the incident occurred. The RTIC will start searching via the cameras for suspicious activity. They've been successful at identifying people or vehicles related to those offenses. Instead of a vehicle pursuit, they can collect the data and information needed to complete an investigation without putting other citizens in harm's way.

HPD's partners include the Virginia State Police (VSP); Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF); Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA); and United States Marshall's Service. Chief Wideman shared that, before the height of summer, there were a lot of VSP in the area. HPD teamed up with VSP troopers for Project Bold Blue Line to address traffic enforcement issues with three-wheelers, motorcycles, and car clubs, as well as speeding in the neighborhoods and the criminal behavior attributed to that. It was helpful because extra resources were deployed to areas determined to be hotspots without taking away from normal patrols in our regular districts.

HPD utilized the ATF groups and our Task Force Officers (TFO) to pursue those who choose to have firearms illegally or modified firearms. Several federal investigations targeting those individuals are currently underway.

There are efforts with the DEA to do drug interdiction. One of the agents told Chief Wideman this morning they are looking for opportunities to do training in the community. Although HPD is very successful with the violent crime rate, the next focus is on the opioid crisis and the number of overdoses being encountered. They are collaborating with the DEA to develop a community education plan. The DEA is willing to send some of its resources, instructors, and people that are closest to it, like victims or family members of victims, to collaborate with HPD and go into the neighborhoods, communities, and churches to start that public awareness and education. They can also take the resources we have from the TFOs and deploy them to target locations to address the target individuals and intercept the influx of both fentanyl and methamphetamine which now appears to be the most prominent drug that puts our community at risk.

Chief Wideman shared that once HPD secures warrants, they utilize the United States Marshall's Service resources or manpower to pursue those individuals without pulling HPD officers from our communities.

Mayor Tuck shared that Operation Bold Blue Line was a Governor Youngkin initiative that started in the last part of 2022. He asked how long the funding is and if there is a concern that we will lose the benefit of VSP assistance when that funding goes away.

Chief Wideman explained that he doesn't know the amount of funding that is remaining but doesn't anticipate losing that support because even before that initiative, HPD has always had a great relationship with VSP. Right now, across all agencies, the primary issue is having the resources. They have the benefit of more troopers and they enjoy the opportunity because, for them, it's an opportunity to get away from just doing the traffic enforcement. It's a learning opportunity because they work within the City and manage not only traffic concerns but also some of the criminal investigations. They also help apprehend and pursue fugitives. He shared that from his dialogue with the VSP leadership, he looks forward to continuing that partnership without any consideration or interruption predicated on the available funding. It may have a different title but he expects the resources will still be available to us.

Chief Wideman explained that, along with the Virginia Attorney General's Office and the Hampton Commonwealth Attorney's Office, they did a case study called Ceasefire Virginia. They studied the victim and suspect, if identified, in every

incident where a firearm was involved. The study aims to address gun violence and provide comprehensive community resources through partnerships, education, and advocacy. It seeks to empower individuals and the community in gun violence prevention. Participants also met with Latiesha Handie and the Hopeful Hampton group.

Chief Wideman shared that there are some grant opportunities and shared resource opportunities that have been offered and they are working on what those would look like so they can present the information to Council.

Crime is a community problem that requires partnerships with the entire community; reinforcement of the community norm that violence is not an acceptable means of conflict resolution; and swift, fair, and just consequences for those who do harm. A great deal of effort is put into having community-based policing programs anywhere citizens can be located. They do lectures and sometimes hang out to be familiar with the people in the community.

Citizens can assist in gun violence prevention by becoming active in their neighborhoods; assisting police by providing any information they have; getting involved with organizations that provide positive opportunities to youth and young adults; mentoring young people; seeking assistance for those who need help; and displaying the behavior we want to see in our community.

Chief Wideman shared that the biggest hurdle HPD has is recruiting and retention. Unfortunately, recruiting problems exist across the region. One thing he is doing is hosting a weekly recruiting status meeting. Some personnel assignment changes have been made to get the right people in the right positions. They are using recruiting teams to reach out to people they see in the community who might make great candidates. There is an incentive for anyone who refers a candidate who completes the academy successfully.

The academy currently has 20 people and is working towards another 20 for the October academy. The cadet program has been very successful, with two Assistant Chiefs who started as cadets. The Law, Fire, and Legal program at Bethel High School is a great opportunity to recruit young people after graduation even if they already have a plan for further education. The program is set up so they can go to a school of higher learning and still participate in the cadet program. When they reach the age of 20 or 21 they can begin the academy and hopefully choose the Hampton Police Division.

Mayor Tuck shared that he went to a career day ceremony at New Horizons where the Navy signed three graduating seniors. When he talked about using that as a

recruiting tool, it was explained to him that a person has to be at least 21 before they can carry a gun in our police department. He asked how working with the Bethel Academy helps with the pipeline and how they propose to students that it is worth going through the process and in three years they will be a full-time officer.

Chief Wideman stated that at 18 years old, the full-time salary they get is significantly better than anything they'll find in the open market. The academy is 20 weeks so if they start at 20 years and 6 months of age, by the time they finish the field training and take the oath, they will be 21. It gives them time to decide if it's really what they want to do and gives us time to provide mentoring, guidance, and leadership. In addition to the academy, there are also civilian opportunities available that they could pursue until they become old enough to be a sworn officer. The internship program is also a good opportunity to introduce them to the City and possibly the police department.

Ms. Bunting shared that, for any parents or students who may be watching the meeting, the Academy is also a pipeline to our program to become a certified 911 telecommunications dispatcher. Dispatchers make a good salary with benefits.

Chief Wideman shared that HPD regularly responds to hotspots and critical incidents in the community that become matters of concern. The most recent is the traffic at the intersection of Shell Road and Greenbrier Avenue. They collaborated with Public Works to increase the signage and put out digital boards and flags. HPD and Public Works have done surveillance and surveys, and the police presence has been increased. It is an ongoing endeavor. To date, HPD has had 32 hours and 5 minutes of presence, issued 92 summonses, and four people were advised of the law and given warnings.

Chief Wideman stays in contact with Public Works Director Jason Mitchell and the command for that sector about progress and what the next course of action will be.

Councilwoman Harper thanked Chief Wideman for the thorough presentation and the community engagement. She commented that in today's time when the community is dealing with the police, relationships are everything. She commended Chief Wideman and his staff for the community engagement they have done and for developing relationships with the citizens of Hampton's neighborhoods. They do care about what happens in their neighborhood and they have a good relationship with the officers.

Councilwoman Harper asked about the large size of the ABC larcenies. Chief Wideman explained that ABC larcenies once accounted for 60% of the larceny offenses in Hampton. That has come down substantially through ABC and HPD

working together; ABC enhancing security, product protection, and more timely calls to HPD to respond; and ABC prosecuting offenders. When ABC quit prosecuting it emboldened offenders and made it easier to go in someone's car or home because there were no consequences.

Vice Mayor Gray referenced HPD's use of technology and the RTIC in surveillance, prevention, and enforcement. He asked what the network of cameras looks like; if there is any benefit to expanding that network around the City; and what Chief Wideman recommends.

Chief Wideman explained that many of our cameras are traffic cameras that are in place along major corridors and intersections and are already part of the City's infrastructure. In addition, there are flock cameras used for license plate reading that we share access to with the seven cities. If someone flees to another city after committing a crime in Hampton, they can be identified using that network. HPD has covert cameras that can be deployed to the more problematic areas and areas where they have partnerships with federal agencies. Commercial cameras are also available from some of Hampton's business partners.

Chief Wideman explained that HPD can manage what they have. However, he doesn't want to overstate the expectation that they would be able to be more efficient or more proactive by adding more cameras. To get the most benefit, the RTIC would have to be staffed 24 hours a day with people proactively looking for suspicious activity and then communicating that to the road operations who would rapidly deploy whatever resources have been provided to them. He would love to have more cameras but doesn't think they're at the point where they need them. Because technology ages so quickly, the next phase is to update the software and the hardware that helps support that system.

Vice Mayor Gray commented that fireworks seem to be a real problem in our City. In most cases fireworks are illegal but you wouldn't think so because some neighborhoods in Hampton have spectacular fireworks shows. He asked if there was any way to use camera surveillance to determine where fireworks are being used, identify who is doing it, and take necessary action.

Chief Wideman acknowledged Vice Mayor Gray's concerns but stated that, during holidays when fireworks are problematic, celebratory gunfire is too. When they receive calls that are known to be firearms-related, those become the priority so initially resources are deployed and cameras are used for that purpose. He stated that while fireworks are illegal and a nuisance, he doesn't see them as having the same response priority as celebratory firearms discharges. Their resources are severely depleted on holidays like New Year's and Fourth of July so unfortunately,

the fireworks come second to the celebratory gunfire.

Vice Mayor Gray shared that he hears other cities talk about using ShotSpotter and the past Chief didn't see a need to do that. He asked Chief Wideman if he had given any consideration to using ShotSpotter and if it has any value in helping to identify and solve crimes.

Chief Wideman stated that the technology does have value and the conversation frequently occurs among the staff and several agencies. His concern is desensitizing citizens from calling the police because they expect the technology will suffice. The other disadvantage is that the technology doesn't provide vital information that would assist officers like descriptions, history, type of vehicle, and direction of travel. He feels that it is best if, when a citizen calls, they get a police response which allows the opportunity to have dialogue and enhance communication and relationships within the community.

Mayor Tuck stated that a former Chief also didn't find it satisfactory and that it does desensitize the public from calling. It is also difficult to justify the cost.

Mayor Tuck shared that when he, Councilman Brown, and Ms. Bunting were in Anyang, South Korea last year, there was probably an overabundance of cameras, however, their population is also well over one million. They had 7,000 cameras but they use artificial intelligence to monitor them and determine what things are important that they should direct the focus of the officers to.

Mayor Tuck stated that he was impressed by the number of murders and non-negligent homicides. He thinks the challenge for Chief Wideman, HPD, and Mr. Janney when he writes his report, is the cynical residents who won't believe it because there will be one incident that will occur somewhere that they will read about and paint the whole City in that manner. As much as they love HPD they will still be critical. He asked Chief Wideman what he could offer, beyond what he presented today, about the progress that they're making.

Chief Wideman said that the progress is that the men and women of HPD are dedicated to this City and its mission. It doesn't happen because of his leadership. He gives them room to be successful. They've chosen the right people for the mission and they're dedicated to Hampton. Day in and day out they give 110% of themselves and that's why they have found success. But they're not doing it by themselves which is why community engagement is so vitally important. People need to communicate with law enforcement, support HPD's efforts by providing information about problems in their communities, help prioritize the response to their needs, help HPD determine how to better be of service, have an open dialogue, and

hold HPD accountable when they fail in that mission so they can improve upon it and provide the quality service that they expect.

Mayor Tuck shared that, just before COVID, the City and a group of local ministers tried to do a mentoring program in middle schools that talked about stepping outside your comfort zone. One of the challenges, particularly for those who are cynical, is that if you want to make a difference, move outside your comfort zone. Consider mentoring someone and asking where to get involved to make a difference. There are individuals in Hampton who are genuinely concerned about changing the trajectory of people's lives (both young and old) and having a safer community. Then there are those who are cynical, even when they see progress being made. They believe that when school is out during the summer, students will create mayhem and havoc, but that is not necessarily the case. He shared that at a meeting he attended in the spring, the Director of Parks, Recreation, and Leisure Services made a presentation on the different things that they offer to keep our young people engaged.

Chief Wideman confirmed for Ms. Bunting that more than 90% of the shootings and homicides we have are people who are known to each other. This also allows HPD to successfully apprehend those people because many of them commit multiple offenses and removing them from the community makes the community safer. He added that even the other related violent crimes are either people who are engaged in a criminal enterprise or have some other relationship that associates them.

Ms. Bunting explained that, for the benefit of the community watching, this is a preview of what will be presented in August about the Hopeful Hampton Initiative. The premise of the program is that most, if not all, of the violent crime in our community is committed by a limited number of actors and their associates. By focusing attention on those limited numbers of people, we can bring down the crime rates. Most of the offenders are not people who just decided to be criminals. Many of them have struggled with unresolved trauma in their life. They need to be held accountable but these are difficult situations. It takes prevention, intervention, and enforcement working together. She believes that progress is being made by focusing on the limited number of actors and their associates.

On behalf of Council and the City's management team, Ms. Bunting thanked Chief Wideman and his team for all they do for the City every day.

At Mayor Tuck's request, Ms. Bunting shared that Hampton has made such significant improvement in the Ceasefire program that we've been asked to be a benchmark or role model for other localities.

**3.**     [24-0318](#)     2024 Hurricane Season Update and Emergency Management

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## Status Report

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

Ms. Bunting shared that while we have been very fortunate not to have had any hurricanes recently, as a coastal community we still have to prepare for them. She introduced Gwen Pointer, Interim Emergency Management Director, to make the presentation.

Ms. Pointer introduced Sarah Snowden, Deputy Coordinator of Emergency Management, and Joe Walsh, Emergency Management Planner, who were in attendance today.

Ms. Pointer shared that today's presentation will focus on the heightened risk for hurricanes; the forecast for greater risk of excessive heat; an update on pending and completed mitigation projects; preparedness programs and initiatives; special projects; and next grant cycles.

The National Hurricane Center has issued a forecast that was the worst in the center's history with the most active hurricane season. One significant factor in their prediction is the warm ocean temperatures at the surface and at depths. Of great concern is the fact that the ocean temperatures have remained elevated for 13 months. The National Hurricane Center is wondering what effects La Nina, combined with elevated water temperatures, will have. They are confident that there will be more storms, stronger storms, and earlier impacts from those storms. We are expected to have 17 to 25 named storms with eight to 13 of them reaching hurricane status and four to seven of those becoming major hurricanes, which have winds over 111 miles per hour.

We have also been experiencing excessive heat this summer with a 40-50% probability of having elevated temperatures through the rest of July and the month of August.

Ms. Pointer stated that Ms. Snowden will be sharing some measures being taken to prepare our citizens for the heightened hurricane risk and excessive heat. They will be meeting with the Executive Management Team this Friday where they will get a presentation from the National Weather Service and ensure all departments have copies of, and are reviewing, the City's Emergency Operations Plan. Information and materials will be provided to employees to help them prepare their homes and families. They met earlier in the week with Public Works, Libraries, and Parks, Recreation, and Leisure Services to enhance the excessive heat response plan for the rest of the summer.

Ms. Pointer provided an update on the residential mitigation projects that use the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Virginia Department of Emergency Management funding to help citizens protect private residences against flooding, including flooding caused by hurricanes. This funding can be used for elevation, mitigation, reconstruction, and acquisition projects.

Ms. Pointer introduced Emergency Management Planner Joe Walsh, who specializes in mitigation to continue the presentation.

Mr. Walsh explained that the primary way the City mitigates damage for homeowners is through home elevation. He displayed a picture of a home on 19 Beach Road which is an example of an elevation on a closed foundation where the original structure is elevated and set on the foundation which is enclosed all the way around. There are flood vents along the bottom and air vents along the top. The design allows stagnant, slow-moving floodwaters to enter and exit the foundation during a flood. The next picture he displayed showed another example of home elevation in Hampton. This is to elevate an existing structure on an open foundation and is done along coastline areas where flooding is often accompanied by tidal forces. It allows waves to run under the home rather than crashing against a solid wall.

The second type of mitigation used in Hampton is mitigation reconstruction projects. Rather than elevating the existing structure, it is demolished and a new home is built on an elevated foundation. Mr. Walsh displayed a picture of the mitigation reconstruction project on Roane Drive. These are harder to come by due to a federal cost-sharing cap of \$220,000.

The last type of mitigation used is through acquisition. Acquisition projects don't elevate the structure at all. Instead, the property and land are acquired and the home is demolished leaving open green space. This type of project typically happens in areas where construction is not possible. He displayed a picture of the property at 120 Briarwood Drive where the property line was in the way of the Newmarket Creek Federal Floodway.

Mr. Walsh displayed a map of the City showing the projects that have been completed to date which are 22 home elevations, one mitigation reconstruction, and one home acquisition. He also displayed a map showing the 39 pending mitigation projects. Two of the pending projects have had their grants funded and two are currently under review by FEMA. These projects look to elevate almost the entire 400-block of West Gilbert as an equity project; increase resiliency in an at-risk community; and elevate nine homes on Roane Drive.

In response to Councilman Brown, Mr. Walsh explained that these projects are grant-funded and only one has a cost share for the homeowner.

Councilman Brown asked if the City still has a program that provides a discount for homeowners on their flood insurance, or for the developer who built the foundation to be able to increase it. Ms. Pointer shared that the Community Rating System provides a flood insurance discount. Ms. Bunting shared that Hampton is currently going through the annual recertification for that program.

Ms. Snowden shared that Emergency Management is increasing community preparedness in multiple ways. They recognized that the standard messaging to the public, make a plan, build a kit, was ineffective for residents who couldn't afford to prepare. They have committed to educating Hampton residents through outreach events, enhancements to the website, and to equip them with essential disaster supplies.

Community Lighthouses are a new initiative to create power resilience and trusted places where residents can seek safety, resources, and information.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) has been revamped and revitalized with 38 current volunteers; 50 other residents who have expressed interest; two coordinators, Billy and Becky Siefers; and 10 training team members who donate their time and talents to the team.

Emergency Management has also initiated and received grant funding for multiple special projects benefiting Hampton, as well as other localities in the region.

Community Emergency Preparedness days are held at community and neighborhood centers. They are focused on at-risk areas of the City, with priority given to areas determined to be socio-economically and geographically at risk. These grant-funded events are staffed by Emergency Management personnel and CERT volunteers. The events feature over 12 stations that provide specific information on disaster preparedness and skills. Funds are directed to providing each household with an emergency kit backpack and free emergency preparedness supplies corresponding with the theme of each station. West Hampton Community Center hosted the first event on May 4th which was attended by 193 people representing 142 Hampton households. Planning is underway for the next events to be held on August 10th at Y.H. Thomas Community Center and in November at the Mary Jackson Neighborhood Center.

Power outages cause major disruptions to daily life and can endanger health and safety. Emergency Management envisions using grant funding to outfit multiple

trusted sites in Hampton with generators or other power sources to create power resilience and charging stations. Lighthouses will also serve as cooling or warming sites. The sites will have emergency supplies to expedite distribution to nearby residents. The first Lighthouse project is being piloted with the West Hampton Community Center. Supplies have already been pre-staged at that site. A state shelter upgrade fund was utilized to pay for the purchase and installation of a generator scheduled to be in place in August. Once this project is completed, Hampton will be eligible to compete for additional grant funding for future projects. The hope is to be able to outfit other community centers and expand the project through partnerships with faith-based and civic organizations.

Following COVID, CERT basic training was modernized using a nationally certified hybrid approach. Participants begin by completing online training modules at their convenience which is followed by in-person, hands-on, skills-based training and team-based exercises. Grant-funded CERT supply caches are being developed and placed in neighborhoods for volunteers to access quickly during disasters. Preliminary discussions have occurred with Fox Hill Neighborhood Center and Northampton Community Center to find secure storage space. CERT volunteers enhance their skills through advanced training. Emergency Management has initiated planning for a Peninsula Regional CERT exercise in Spring 2025 to build regional collaboration between teams and to enhance skills in several areas.

Ms. Pointer shared that, in addition to the preparedness programs that are specific to Hampton, Emergency Management is working on several initiatives using regional grants Hampton received. Those include the Election Security Grant, the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Terrorism Awareness and Stop the Bleed, and two grants for the Peninsula Family Assistance Center training and supplies.

The Election Security Grant is being used at the Voter Registration office on Kings Way. Security features include exterior and interior cameras, door security, glass separators, walk-up roll-up early voting windows, and security carts for the voting machines and ballot supplies.

The Terrorism Awareness and Stop the Bleed Grant is for all 17 jurisdictions in the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC). This funding is for active threat, terrorism awareness, and severe bleeding control training for City and county employees and civic groups across Hampton Roads. Ms. Pointer noted that Hampton is not only the fiduciary for these grants but Hampton's Emergency Management Office is managing the grants and putting together the programs. To qualify for this funding our project had to be directly tied to terrorism, foreign or domestic. However, even if Hampton Roads never has a terrorist event, the training will improve our awareness in our homes, offices, the places we shop, when we

travel, and when we attend crowded events. The bleeding control kits that are being produced can be used for any severe bleeding that's caused by any means and about 3,000 of the kits will be provided to people in the Hampton Roads Region who have been trained to use them.

Hampton has received two awards for Family Assistance Center Training and exercises; and to develop a Peninsula Supply Cache. Hampton had a previous grant for a Family Assistance Center (FAC) which is usually set up following a mass casualty incident and is a place for survivors and families to gather to receive information and support services. The two new grants will allow us to conduct training and exercises on the plan that was already written and to purchase and outfit a trailer that can be deployed to any place on the peninsula to set up a FAC with the necessary supplies.

Ms. Pointer shared that the coming grant cycle will be more challenging because Hampton has been notified that our funding for preparedness grants will be cut by 25% over the next two years. One UASI grant application for \$150,000 has been submitted and has successfully passed the initial review phase. These funds will allow the work on Terrorism Awareness and Stop the Bleed to continue. The first round of grant funding, which is currently in progress, is focused on providing training to City and county employees and CERT groups. The second round of grant funding will be focused on Terrorism Awareness and Stop the Bleed and will be geared towards the faith-based community and civic groups.

Emergency Management is currently working on submitting a grant application to support CERTs on the peninsula to provide access and functional needs supplies to the peninsula's sheltering supply caches. This is in response to a new shelter plan requirement for increased supplies, access, and functional needs. These funds will keep us from passing the financial burden of this requirement on to the cities and counties in our area.

Ms. Pointer pointed out that every one of these programs and initiatives that have been presented today were either conceptualized or started under the leadership of Hui-Shan Walker who is currently an Interim Assistant City Manager. Her vision and team-building skills have positioned Emergency Management to achieve this level of work with a staff this size.

Ms. Bunting shared that Hampton's Emergency Management team is the envy of not only the region but the state. We receive more grant resources than almost anyone and people want to know how they do it. They have assembled a very passionate and winning team. She noted that many people gave up on home elevations some time ago due to its challenges and difficulty. Hampton's team understands how

critical it is for our homeowners to be able to get that resource. She thanked them for not giving up because it is truly life-changing. People tend to think emergency management is just being there when a nor'easter or hurricane comes, but it is also the everyday work, hazard mitigation, practice, planning, and preparation. When COVID took us all by surprise with new challenges that we were not prepared for, Hampton fared better than most because we have a very dedicated Emergency Management team.

Mayor Tuck reminded everyone that this was the only afternoon work session scheduled for July.

**REGIONAL ISSUES**

There were no regional issues to report on.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There were no items of new business.

**CLOSED SESSION**

- 4. [24-0327](#) Closed session pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 2.2-3711.A (.1) (.6) and (.8) to discuss appointments as listed on the agenda, to discuss the performance of the City Manager and Clerk of Council, and to discuss the prospective candidates for the City Attorney position; to discuss or consider the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the city would be adversely affected; and to consult with legal counsel employed or retained by the City regarding short term rentals which requires the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

At 2:41 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs and seconded by Councilmember Chris Bowman, that this Closed Session - Motion be approved. 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

- 5. [24-0284](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Hampton Commission on the Arts

6. [24-0289](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board
7. [24-0290](#) Consideration of an Appointment to the Hampton Redevelopment & Housing Authority (HRHA)
8. [24-0291](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Building Code Board of Appeals
9. [24-0293](#) Consideration of Appointments to the H2O Community Development Authority (CDA)
10. [24-0296](#) Consideration of an Appointment to the Board of Review of Real Estate Assessments
11. [24-0297](#) Consideration of an Appointment to the Hampton Senior Citizen Advisory Committee
12. [24-0298](#) Consideration of an Appointment to the Peninsula Town Center Community Development Authority (CDA)
13. [24-0299](#) Consideration of an Appointment to the Golf Course Advisory Committee
14. [24-0300](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Neighborhood Commission
15. [24-0301](#) Consideration of an Appointment to the Wetlands Board
16. [24-0332](#) Consideration of an Appointment to the Hampton Federal Area Development Authority (FADA)
17. [24-0333](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Citizens Police Advisory Group (CPAG)
18. [24-0334](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Citizens' Unity Commission (CUC)
19. [24-0335](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Citizens' Engagement Advisory Review Commission (CEARC)

**CERTIFICATION**

20. [24-0328](#) Resolution Certifying Closed Session

A motion was made by Councilmember Hobbs and seconded by Councilmember Bowman, that this Closed Session - Certification be approved . 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

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

**Contact Info:**

**Clerk of Council, 757-727-6315, [council@hampton.gov](mailto:council@hampton.gov)**

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Donnie R. Tuck  
Mayor

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Katherine K. Glass, CMC  
Clerk of Council

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