



# 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, June 12, 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. Deputy City Manager Brian DeProfio was sitting for the City Manager.

**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. [24-0282](#) Presentation by members of the Elizabeth Lake Estates Civic Association

Mr. DeProfio provided the following information about the item: Earlier this year, the Elizabeth Lake Estates Civic Association Inc., (ELECA) asked Council to consider increasing the service district tax (established in 2002) from six cents per \$100 of assessed value to 10 cents per \$100 of assessed value. Given the concerns raised by Elizabeth Lake homeowners, Council asked ELECA to get 65% of homeowners to agree to the increase. ELECA did that and has provided the signed petitions representing more than 65% support.

Mr. DeProfio introduced ELECA's President, Mr. Don Neuberg, to address Council and answer any questions.

Mr. Neuberg greeted those on the dais and reiterated that ELECA was asked by City

Council to ensure that at least 65% of residents were in favor of the service district tax increase from six cents per \$100 of assessed value to 10 cents per \$100 of assessed value. He noted that Council had previously received a presentation outlining the reasons for the increase, and therefore, he would not repeat them.

Mr. Neuberg reported that the ELECA Board completed the task of obtaining a super majority, and based on 318 homes (members) with one vote allowed per residence, there were 212 votes (66.7%) in support of the tax increase; 36 (11%) no votes; owners of 11 rental properties and 12 vacant homes who could not be contacted (or obtain correspondence from) after several attempts; and no responses to phone calls and door visits by 47 homeowners. In summary, there were 212 yes votes of the 318 voting members of ELECA.

Mayor Tuck opened the floor for discussion.

In response to Councilman Brown, Mr. Neuberg restated that there was a total of 318 voting members with one vote allowed per residence. ELECA obtained 212 yes votes which equates to 66.7% in support of the increase.

Councilman Brown shared that he received feedback from residents, some of whom were in support of the tax increase and some of whom were against it. He also asked Mr. Neuberg to speak about how the ELECA Board has addressed residents' concerns, some of which are related to projects that were done or not done in the community; problems with accessing financial reports showing how funds are being used; and poor lines of communication (for example signs about meetings being removed).

Mr. Neuberg shared that the ELECA Board was made aware of the concern about large projects when the reasons for the increase were divulged. Some of the reasons include maintaining the budget and funds needed to support general expenses; building back a reserve for emergencies; and doing large projects. He explained that some residents did not agree with a large project, such as a dog park, so the projects were put aside. However, the ELECA Board cannot make decisions about large projects on it's own and are required to hold an annual meeting or residents meeting to receive input about the best use for bigger projects. Mr. Neuberg emphasized that this was a good lesson for the Board and that they informed everyone that it was not a done deal and that receiving input from residents is required prior to putting some of the large projects in place.

With regard to access to financial information, Mr. Neuberg stated that requests were made for financial information, but there was no straightforward policy in place about providing the information. As such, the ELECA Board discussed and put a

policy in place and subsequently provided the financial information to those residents who requested it. In addition, ELECA now has a policy that if somebody requests full financial information, it can be provided to the residents.

With regard to the signs that were removed in the community causing some consternation among residents, Mr. Neuberg commented that it is unfortunate that that occurred, however, a positive outcome is that the situation brought the community together and resulted in better communication with everyone. Since that time, there was a fun open day at the pool where people enjoyed hundreds of free hot dogs and hamburgers. In addition, there are now over 130 members of the pool which is a much higher number than the end of last year. These examples show that people are more interested in being involved and that the ELECA Board has been communicating and corresponding with residents in a more favorable way.

Lastly, Councilman Brown asked if there was support for incremental increases versus the 10-cent increase all at once.

Mr. Neuberg shared that some members recommended incremental increases and expressed concern about the potential for additional increases in 3 to 5 years or if this one large increase would be satisfactory for the next 5 to 15 years. As such, the majority of the people who inquired about incremental increases indicated that they were much more interested in not having another increase in a couple years than to do some sort of incremental increase.

Councilman Bowman asked if the 10-cent increase is approved, will that carry them for future years and Council should not expect them to return next year for another increase?

Mr. Neuberg said that he cannot speak to what will happen with inflation in the country, but the ELECA Board looked hard at this and does not plan to return and believes this increase will go 5 to 10 years with what they consider to be the appropriate cost needed to maintain Elizabeth Lake as a beautiful community.

Presented by Don Neuberg, President, Elizabeth Lake Estates Civic Association (ELECA). Mr. Neuberg shared that Pam Pringle, Sandy May, and Kurt Wallace, all active members of the community and ELECA Board Members were also present.

## REGIONAL ISSUES

There were no regional issues.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There were no items of new business.

**CLOSED SESSION**

- 2. [24-0302](#) Closed session pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 2.2-3711.A (.1) (.3) (.6) and (.8) to discuss appointments as listed on the agenda; the performance of the City Manager, Interim City Attorney, and Clerk of Council; and the prospective candidates for the City Attorney position; to discuss or consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or the disposition of publicly held real property in the Coliseum Central area, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the city; 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 1:11 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Martha Mugler and seconded by Councilmember Hope Harper, 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

- 3. [24-0289](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board
- 4. [24-0292](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Western Tidewater Regional Jail Authority

**CERTIFICATION**

- 5. [24-0303](#) Resolution Certifying Closed Session  
At 4:13 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs

seconded by Councilmember Chris 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 4:13 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 \_\_\_\_\_