



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, February 14, 2018

1:00 PM

Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tuck called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. with all members of the City Council present.

Present 7 - Vice Mayor Linda D. Curtis, Councilmember Jimmy Gray, Councilmember Billy Hobbs, Councilmember Will Moffett, Councilmember Teresa V. Schmidt, Councilmember Chris Snead, and Mayor Donnie R. Tuck

DONNIE R. TUCK PRESIDED

AGENDA

1. [18-0073](#) Update on Hampton Police Division's Crime Initiatives

Attachments: [AFTERNOON - HPD](#)

City Manager Mary Bunting reminded everyone that today's presentation is in response to Council's request for an update on crime initiatives regarding target areas such as illegal guns, gangs and drugs. She announced that overall violent crime in our City was down by the end of 2017. She also expressed excitement that Hampton is moving in the right direction. She added that additional work needs to be done in order to continue to reduce crime in our community. This will require work not only from the City and its Police Department, but also from the collective community.

Chief Terry Sult shared information about the state of the City as it relates to crime trends. He also shared statistics regarding serious offenses such as violent crimes and property crimes during the years 2013-2017.

Chief Sult noted that the Safe and Clean Initiative remains a vital part of our strategy to reduce crime in the City.

Chief Sult shared information about the Shell Road Corridor Neighborhood. He stated that this violent crime hotspot has been identified as a problem area not only from a crime perspective, but also from an overall wellness perspective. He then shared additional statistics related to crime in this neighborhood during the years 2016 and 2017.

Chief Sult spoke about some of the Initiatives that are underway in an attempt to improve the crime rate in the City. They include: the Gun Crimes Task Force which focuses on removing illegal weapons from the street and addresses the use of illegal arms during criminal activity; the Violent Crime Task Force which consists of investigators responsible for investigating gun cases; the National Integrated Ballistic System which consists of investigators responsible for investigating leads; and various Federal Task Forces responsible for concentrating on drug and gang crimes.

Chief Sult spoke about the initiatives designed to help combat crime trends. They include: the Nuisance and Abatement Team which is made up of individuals from the City Attorney's Office, the Police Department, the Housing Authority, and other partners in the criminal justice system who work to turn properties into viable parts of the community rather than having these properties turned over to the City. Additional teams formed to combat crime trends include: the Serious or Habitual Offender Comprehensive Action Program (SHOCAP) which is designed to provide intervention to get troubled youth on the right path; the Real Time Information Center (RTIC) which puts reported crime information in a useful format before being sent to officers heading to a crime scene; the Port Security Grant Maritime Domain Awareness Project which is designed to provide port security and safety on our waterways; the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) which assists in the identification of shell casings and weapons; the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) Homicide Technical Assistance Initiative which is designed to evaluate how Hampton processes homicides; and the Law and Public Safety Academy at Bethel High School.

Chief Sult added that plans are underway for the Police Department to work with the Commonwealth Attorney's Office to develop better policies and procedures when processing felony cases. He also emphasized the importance of engaging with our youth via programs, school resource officers and the Law and Public Safety Academy. He noted that the Law and Public Safety Academy is not only a great recruiting tool for the Police Department, but also is a great tool for assisting our

youth with employment opportunities in law enforcement.

Chief Sult opened the floor for questions and comments from those on the dais.

Vice Mayor Curtis commended Detective Senior Corporal Steven Rodey for his work as a detective and expressed excitement about the recent article in the paper in recognition of Detective Rodey. She also asked whether neighborhoods that experience crime problems have the ability to link with the Real Time Crime Center in an attempt to provide information to the police.

Chief Sult said that is a possibility; however, it is usually left to the Neighborhood Association. He added that the Police Department can explore the idea; however, the cost associated with the project would need to be evaluated.

In response to Vice Mayor Curtis, Chief Sult elaborated on NIBIN. He explained that the purpose of NIBIN is to create leads and make associations. If the association leads the police to an individual who becomes a suspect or if it can be proven that the individual committed a criminal act, the ballistic connection becomes critical to the prosecution. That information is sent to the State lab and the police use the forensic examiners from the State lab to confirm the connection.

Councilwoman Schmidt stated that the City Manager has confirmed that Council will need to support placing officers in hotspot neighborhoods prior to staff moving forward with implementing the idea; therefore, she wanted to share the concept with her peers today. She also noted that homes are often auctioned off or sold at low prices in these areas because the homes are run down and people do not want to live there. She suggested we consider placing officers in these neighborhoods as a first step in building officer/ neighbor relationships which has been shown to help solve crimes in the long run.

In response to Councilwoman Schmidt, Chief Sult announced that more than 400 weapons were removed from the streets last year.

Councilwoman Schmidt inquired about Hampton implementing mandatory minimum jail sentences for those who illegally carry guns. She suggested that this may be helpful in removing more illegal guns from our streets.

Chief Sult stated that he believes we have the appropriate charges in place and he believes in enforcing our current laws; however, the challenge has been ensuring that charges stick and are not dismissed. He added that Councilwoman Schmidt's idea about mandatory minimum sentences would need to be addressed by the legislature. He also noted that with regards to the housing issue, the Police Division

is working to identify potential sites to return to Council for consideration.

Councilman Gray reminded everyone that the original Safe and Clean Initiative incorporated saturating neighborhoods with police officers in areas of violent crime in an attempt to deter crime. Following that initiative, there was a decline in the murder rate; however, the number increased again later. He asked whether the Safe and Clean Initiative is still being done in that manner (old fashioned police work/ building relationships in the community so that people are comfortable providing valuable information needed to solve crimes) or whether we have moved those resources to other areas and are still calling it "Safe and Clean". Councilman Gray also expressed the importance of Council being informed of whether additional resources are needed so that Council can determine how to help in an attempt to reduce the violent crime rate in our City.

Chief Sult clarified that the Police Department has not pulled out of those areas; instead, overtime hours are being spent in those areas. He continued stating that we would not turn down extra officers; however, there is a good strategy currently in place. Soon officers will be graduating from the academy, should complete field training by October, after which they will be prepared to work on the street; discussions are underway about potentially adding more officers in this budget cycle; plans are underway for additional space for training; and Hampton will participate in a three-year study with the City of Newport News to review community oriented problem solving in micro hotspots in which officers will be trained on a higher level regarding problem solving and community engagement.

Councilman Moffett thanked Chief Sult for the presentation and for his service. He also extended his thanks, on behalf of Council, to all of the men and women of the Police Department and commended them for always doing an outstanding job. He shared an example of how our officers go above and beyond the call of duty when he witnessed a Hampton Police officer changing a tire for a senior citizen. He said he is proud that Hampton has the kind of officers that care about those in the community. He noted that oftentimes the negative aspects of policing are reported; however, it is also important to report the positive aspects of policing. He requested that staff locate the officer's name in the mentioned example so that he can formally thank him for going beyond the call of duty.

Councilman Moffett commented that we have made wise investments in technology. He also agreed with Councilman Gray in that additional resources should be considered if they are needed to address the violent crime in our community. He continued stating that when compared to other localities, Hampton appears to be doing well; therefore, high crime in our community may be more of a perception. He emphasized the importance of our citizens feeling safe in the community in

which they live.

Councilman Moffett said the success of our investments in the Real Time Information Center and body cameras proves that we are moving in the right direction. He expressed concern, not only about violent crime and homicide rates, but also about the number of deaths (regionally and nationally) associated with opioid overdoses. He asked Chief Sult to speak about how the Regional Chiefs of Police Association has responded to the opioid crisis impacting cities in our region.

Chief Sult agreed that the opioid epidemic is a serious problem causing many deaths. He then shared some of the things being done on a local and regional level in an attempt to improve the situation. Local abusers and offenders are charged and encouraged to seek treatment; the Chiefs work together to ensure there is access to Narcan, an inhibitor to the effects of opioids, to be administered when paramedics cannot arrive in time; the Chiefs have collaboratively started the OD Map Program in which data is collected in a national database about overdose spike areas in an attempt to locate distributors of bad batches of drugs; the Chiefs work with the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Office (HIDTA) regarding drug trafficking; and a collaborative group consisting of hospitals, first responders, the Commonwealth Attorney's Office, the Fire Department, and others work together on the opioid issue to determine policies and procedures for dealing with this concern.

In response to Councilman Moffett, Chief Sult stated when compared to other cities, Hampton does not have a large immigrant population. However, Hampton's Police Department enforces the law and considers immigration status when appropriate. He reiterated that we are not designed to be immigration police, but will use whatever resources are necessary to keep illegal items from foreign countries out of our City.

Councilman Moffett asked whether the 21st Century Police Initiative brought on by the Obama Administration has gone away with our new administration.

Chief Sult clarified that all kinds of community leaders and activists continue to be involved in that initiative and it has not changed. He added that the professional police organizations and the Hampton Police Department continue to do good, old fashioned policing and have not turned away from the 21st Century Police Initiative.

Councilwoman Snead thanked Chief Sult for a good report. She also commended him and the entire department for their efforts. She said she believes that Hampton is making progress. She also agreed with Councilman Moffett regarding perception in the community. She referenced a report she recently saw regarding the top 100 cities with high homicide rates according to population and was pleased that Hampton was not on the list. She reiterated that this is about how people view their

community. She expressed the need to send the message about positive things going on in our community versus the negative.

Chief Sult commented that Hampton has problems, as all cities do, but we want to see our crime rates go down. This will require work from everyone in the community. He spoke about an initiative which is underway in which the Police Department will share (on social media) positive stories about our officers and positive things taking place in the community.

Mayor Tuck thanked Chief Sult for the presentation. He also thanked the men and women of our Police Department for their dedication particularly during this time when officers' lives are senselessly being lost in our nation.

In response to Mayor Tuck, Chief Sult explained that the Gun Crime Task Force focuses on specific areas in the community in which cross line (cross city) activity takes place. He stated that people are moving from Newport News to Hampton and vice versa; therefore, we continue to look at all sides of the crime triangle. We have increased traffic stops in areas where gun violence and weapon violations take place; we continue to look at those who have a history of illegally carrying firearms; we continue to work with the communities, for example, the Coffee with Cops initiative; we continue to focus on the original Safe and Clean areas; and we are narrowing down on data points that help us define quality of life issues we should be addressing to improve overall wellness in neighborhoods.

In response to Mayor Tuck, Chief Sult stated that violent crimes are rarely random events and a high percentage of victimization is a combination of known offenders to known victims and a high risk lifestyle of the individuals. He continued stating that the highest probability of a random crime would be something like a criminal going through an unlocked vehicle. He noted that we also must deal with the fear of crime as much as the reality of crime itself.

In response to Mayor Tuck, Chief Sult shared that DNA testing, fingerprinting, detective work and technology all help solve crimes; however, crimes are usually solved when people tell the police who committed them. He added that a major problem in solving crimes has been that the people who know who committed the crime refuse to share that information with the police and would rather have the crime handled in the streets. He reiterated that the community has to cooperate with the police and the police must build trust with those in the community in order to solve crimes.

Councilman Gray reminded everyone that Hampton established a Citizen Police Advisory Group as a result of the 21st Century report and recommendation. He

asked Chief Sult to provide an update on that initiative and how the group is expected to help the Police Department deal with crime in the City.

Chief Sult said plans are underway to meet with the group and get them indoctrinated. He explained that the intention is to have the group assist with reviewing policies, determining how aggressive the police should be, obtaining citizen opinions, and providing insight on their ideas and on what areas the Police Department should focus. He clarified that this group will be an internal policy advisory group rather than a review group.

Councilman Moffett said he is excited about the application tool online where citizens can anonymously provide information to the police; however, he experienced some difficulty when testing it. He expressed concern about the need to update the application.

Chief Sult said the application was awarded via a foundation/philanthropist, and our hope is that it will be updated in the near future.

Ms. Bunting shared that this valuable tool (online application) has a unique feature where citizens can not only share general information with the police, but they can also share pictures and videos anonymously; the police can then determine the specific location of the crime.

Mayor Tuck announced that the third convening of "Urgency of Now" which focuses on what citizens can do to be proactive in preventing crime will take place on March 20th and 21st.

Chief Sult noted that the Urgency of Now event is an exciting event in which our youth participate. He added that resolving the problem begins with mentoring our youth.

Presented by Chief Terry Sult of the Hampton Police Division.

2. [18-0069](#) Budget Briefings - State Budget Briefing and Opportunities for Public Input

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

Ms. Bunting reminded everyone that each year staff provides Council with a summary of the Governors proposed budget. She also noted that next week, citizens will have opportunities to share their opinion on the budget.

Budget & Strategic Initiatives Management Analyst Vaheed Dejawh greeted those on the dais and said he would provide former Governor Terry McAuliffe's proposed

budget for FY 2018-2020. He noted that his presentation would primarily focus on the proposed budget and would also reveal some of the proposed amendments to the budget currently being discussed at the General Assembly.

Mr. Dejwakh provided the background and timeline of the proposed budget.

Mr. Dejwakh reviewed a chart which displays the total revenues expected from the General Fund and the Non-General Fund over the FY 2018-2020 two-year period. He also reviewed several charts which display former Governor Terry McAuliffe's recommended 2018-2020 General Fund, Revenues, and Spending.

Mr. Dejwakh shared the proposed General Fund spending increases and the specific areas in which these increases are expected. He also shared proposed savings as a result of expected changes such as training center closures and higher lottery funds.

Mr. Dejwakh spoke about the increased funding that localities may receive as part of the proposed budget. He also shared the proposed increases for Hampton. They include: one-time funding for Academies of Hampton, funding at Fort Monroe, an amendment to increase the bond funding to cover repair costs of HRT's bus fleet, and an additional appropriation for the Hampton Roads Regional Jail.

Mr. Dejwakh shared upcoming dates for the City's budget process including the public input dates, online chat dates, and budget public hearing/reading of the budget dates.

Ms. Bunting announced that this year, our level of engagement will be expanded to online polling and online chats in an attempt to draw a larger audience and receive complete input from those engaging from home.

In response to Councilwoman Schmidt, Ms. Bunting stated that a variety of challenges exist with online chats; however, citizens will be provided with preview information (online) such as the categories in which money will be spent.

Councilwoman Schmidt suggested that visual aids online may be helpful to the citizens. Ms. Bunting agreed and noted that she would explore it further with Councilwoman Schmidt following the meeting.

Mayor Tuck commended Mr. Dejwakh for giving an excellent presentation and opened the floor for questions to be directed to Mr. Dejwakh.

Councilwoman Schmidt asked for additional information about the proposed savings

category “capture pre-K non- participation”. Mr. Deiwakh noted that he would research that topic and follow up with Council at a later date.

Councilman Gray asked whether we are where we are supposed to be with regards to Fort Monroe, and if not, where we fall short.

Ms. Bunting explained that the amendment to increase the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) for Fort Monroe would bring us to \$1,199,350 (the amount we would be entitled to with the expansion of property from the Army to Fort Monroe). She clarified that this amount would get us current with what Fort Monroe has in their inventory at this point. She noted that the amendment comes not only at our request, but also at the request of the Fort Monroe Authority.

Presented by Vahid Deiwakh, Senior Management and Systems Analyst.

REGIONAL ISSUES

There were no regional issues.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

CLOSED SESSION

3. [18-0068](#) Closed session pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 2.2-3711.A.1, .3, .7, and .8 to consider appointments as listed on the agenda and to discuss council appointees; to discuss or consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose in Buckroe and the Kecoughtan Road corridor, and of the disposition of publicly held real property in Old Hampton and the Kecoughtan Road corridor, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the city; to consult with legal counsel employed by the city pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation in an open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the city; and to consult with legal counsel employed by the city regarding specific legal matters pertaining to opioid litigation, nuisances and blight, and a bond matter requiring the legal advice by such counsel.

At 2:35 p.m., a motion was made by Vice Mayor Curtis seconded by Councilmember Gray, that this Closed Session - Motion be

approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Vice Mayor Curtis, Councilmember Gray, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Moffett, Councilmember Schmidt, Councilmember Snead and Mayor Tuck

- 4. [17-0396](#) Consideration of appointments to Peninsula Stadium Authority
- 5. [18-0070](#) Consideration of appointments to Wetlands Board
- 6. [18-0071](#) Consideration of appointment to Board of Zoning Appeals
- 7. [18-0072](#) Consideration of appointments to Peninsula Airport Commission

Attachments: [Peninsula Airport Commission Applications UPDATED](#)

CERTIFICATION

- 8. [18-0075](#) Resolution Certifying Closed Session

At 6:14 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Moffett and seconded by Vice Mayor Curtis, that this Closed Session - Certification be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Vice Mayor Curtis, Councilmember Gray, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Moffett, Councilmember Schmidt, Councilmember Snead and Mayor Tuck

ADJOURNMENT

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 _____