



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 Eleanor Weston Brown
Councilmember Steven L. Brown
Councilmember Billy Hobbs
Councilmember Chris Snead

STAFF: Mary Bunting, City Manager
Cheran Cordell Ivery, City Attorney
Katherine K. Glass, Clerk of Council

Wednesday, October 14, 2020

1:30 PM

Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tuck called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. All members of the City Council were present. The Mayor recognized individuals from the Hampton School Board in the audience: Joe Kilgore, Chairman; Jason Samuels, School Board Member; and Tina Banks-Gray, School Board Member. School Board Members Dr. Reginald Woodhouse, Dr. Richard Mason, and Stephanie Alfonja, School Board Members, arrived a bit later. Mr. Kilgore shared that School Board Member Ann Stephens Cherry was unable to attend due to a family matter.

Present 7 - Councilmember Chris L. Bowman, Councilmember Eleanor Weston Brown, Councilmember Steven L. Brown, Vice Mayor Jimmy Gray, Councilmember Billy Hobbs, Councilmember Chris Snead, and Mayor Donnie R. Tuck

DONNIE R. TUCK PRESIDED

AGENDA

1. [20-0280](#) Strategic Priority Update: Briefing on Educated and Engaged Citizens

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

City Manager Mary Bunting introduced the item and announced that earlier today, Council and staff toured three high schools and witnessed the great physical and instructional transformation that has taken place in our schools.

Hampton City Schools (HCS) Superintendent, Dr. Jeffery Smith, greeted those on the dais and thanked students, families, educators and support staff for their hard work and dedication. He also announced that according to the Virginia Department of Education, HCS class of 2020 has the highest on-time graduation rate (96.2%) and the lowest dropout rate (1.2%) since 2008. This speaks highly to the strategic work around the mission of HCS: Academic Excellence for Every Child, Every Day, Whatever it takes.

Dr. Smith reviewed the agenda for today's presentation entitled: "One Division, One Transformation: Teaching and Learning Updates".

Dr. Smith shared information about HCS 100% virtual learning model and the HCS return-to-school website. He emphasized the importance of safe school environments for both students and staff.

Dr. Smith spoke about the expanded HCS digital learning program. Prior to the pandemic, this program provided approximately 12,500 technology devices for students in grades 5-12 and created an innovation and professional training department to support digital learning. An additional 8,400 devices were purchased for grades Pre-K through 4 with school budget funds and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES Act) fund. These purchases ensure that each young person has a Chromebook learning device in hand. An additional 6,000 devices were also purchased to replace devices for grades 5-8, creating an inventory of devices to have on hand.

Dr. Smith shared information about HCS digital learning; the Chromebook Zone, a place where students, parents and teachers connect to learn about using the Chromebook as an effective and efficient teaching and learning tool; the parent workshop series, a workshop at which over 2,000 parents participated in virtual workshops held during the months of August and September; an online resource program designed to explain the use of math and science manipulatives; and HCS approach to internet connectivity access.

At Mayor Tuck's request, Dr. Smith defined manipulatives as hands-on tools which allow students to create responses to problems and make the responses visible to their teachers. This can now be accomplished virtually, online and in classrooms.

In response to Councilman Brown, Dr. Smith said that internet services including hot spot WIFI connectivity and Cox reduced-rate connectivity are being provided to students. He encouraged families that may have this need to reach out to the HCS technology department for assistance because the goal is to ensure that every

student enrolled in HCS has access to technology devices and internet connectivity.

In response to Mayor Tuck, Dr. Smith shared that the contractual arrangement with Cox spans through December; however, discussions are underway to extend that program through the end of the school year. The hot spot WIFI connections will remain with families.

In response to Mayor Tuck's question about sufficient funding to manage internet services, Dr. Smith said thus far, these programs have been funded through CARES Act funds; however, staff will reach out to community organizations and the City Manager should there be a need for additional funding.

In response to Councilman Brown, Dr. Smith stated that he would follow up with the HCS I.T. Department about students having sufficient gigabytes on their hot spots to complete their lessons and assignments online.

Dr. Smith noted that since September 8, over 2,800 calls; 1,000 emails; and more than 550 weekly in-person appointments have taken place to assist families with technology inquiries.

Dr. Smith stated that the HCS division believes that process informs product. This requires the correct processes, structures and systems to be in place to achieve success once it is safe to return to in-person learning following the pandemic. He then shared the critical steps taken in preparation for modified in-person learning and the protocols and expectations in place once schools return to in-person learning. These steps and protocols are safety measures being taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Smith emphasized the importance that everyone is aware of the high level of work and energy staff has put into preparing for the return to in-person learning.

In response to Councilman Brown, Dr. Smith shared that the school system is obligated to notify the Health Department in the event of a COVID-19 case or break out. He noted that strict protocols and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) laws are followed with regard to this matter.

Dr. Smith reviewed the next few slides of the presentation which provide information about operational capacity and the stages of phase 2 of the return of in-person learning. He also spoke about some of the in-person learning metrics that HCS will follow during the return of in-person learning. Metrics include the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Pandemic metrics; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Indicators for Dynamic School Decision-Making; key mitigation strategies implemented in HCS; and operational capacity.

Dr. Smith noted that as of September 25, the VDH recommended the use of CDC indicators to guide decision making regarding when it will be safe to return to in-person instruction.

In response to Councilman Brown, Dr. Smith spoke about how students with Individualized Education Plans (IEP's) and learning disabilities have been addressed during COVID. He said that the HCS Director for Special Education Services has diligently worked with teachers, special education educators and families to address those needs. He added that HCS has also provided the resources needed to assist our youth with disabilities. He then shared a few examples of this type of collaboration including one example in which students who are visually impaired have been equipped with large screens and keyboards enabling them to complete assignments.

Dr. Smith introduced Hampton City School Board Chairman, Joe Kilgore, to present on the Capital Improvement Projects for the Academies of Hampton.

Mr. Kilgore greeted those on the dais and thanked Dr. Smith for his work in the effort. He also thanked Council for approving the funds used for these projects and noted that HCS does a good job of maximizing the use of funds for these projects.

Mr. Kilgore reviewed the next few slides of the presentation which show capital improvement projects at Phoebus High School (PHS), Bethel High School (BHS) and Kecoughtan High School (KHS). He noted that these are the projects that Council was able to view on the field trip earlier today. Facility improvements include: digital video production studio suite and classrooms at PHS; a cyber security classroom and lab at PHS; a courtroom and classroom at BHS; a health science classroom and lab at BHS; a fully functioning bank at KHS; and an entrepreneurial classroom and lab at KHS.

Additional significant facility improvements shown during the presentation include: improvements to school cafeterias at all four high schools, Tarrant Middle School, Sprately Gifted Center and Jones Magnet Middle School; improvements to media centers at PHS and KHS; science classrooms at Hampton High School (HHS) and PHS; and auxiliary gymnasiums and fitness areas at all four high schools.

Mr. Kilgore announced that thousands of square feet of space was re-purposed for additional instructional areas with no expansions to buildings; listed additional miscellaneous improvements such as landscaping and the installation of ceiling tile, high-definition security cameras, and hallway tiles; and stated that staff is excited about the upcoming additions of science wings to KHS and BHS.

Mr. Kilgore concluded the presentation and commented that our hope is that as communities from around the country see the improvements being made to our academies, the more impressed they will be, and the more they will spread the word resulting in more people being inclined to choose Hampton.

Mr. Kilgore invited Council to take another tour of the schools once students have returned to school so that Council will have an opportunity to witness students utilizing these great improvements and amenities.

Mayor Tuck opened the floor for questions and comments from those on the dais.

Vice Mayor Gray thanked Dr. Smith and Mr. Kilgore for the presentation and said that he is excited about not only the physical transformation of our schools, but also the academic improvements that have transpired over the past 10 years. He said he is pleased to see how far we have come over the years. He thanked the School Board Members and Dr. Smith for their leadership, vision and fortitude to get us to where we are today.

Mr. Kilgore referenced the graduation and dropout rate Dr. Smith mentioned earlier in the presentation and added that of the school divisions of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Hampton came in second for graduation rate and had the lowest dropout rate for school divisions above 300 students. He commented that everyone is excited to be doing great things, appreciates the funding approved by Council, and is committed to continuing to use those funds to maximize learning.

Councilman Bowman thanked staff for today's tour; expressed how impressed he was with our academies; and encouraged everyone to keep up the good work.

Mayor Tuck commended Dr. Smith for the impressive things he has done to turn HCS around since becoming Superintendent. He also commended Dr. Smith's support and leadership team for their help along the way. Mayor Tuck also commented that everything that our schools offer and all of the things Council witnessed today is phenomenal.

Councilwoman Snead thanked Dr. Smith for his efforts and commended the School Board for their hard work and the great relationship it has developed with Council as it speaks volumes to the commitment to education in the City. She stated how impressed she was with the academies and asked whether realtors have been invited to visit our schools.

Dr. Smith said that realtors have been invited to visit our schools; however, have

been unable to visit due to conflicting schedules, but will be invited again.

Councilwoman Snead said in her opinion, realtors having an opportunity to see the transformation of our academies will be beneficial for them selling Hampton as a place to live.

Councilman Brown referenced conversations he has had with realtors in the past who expressed that HCS was a deal breaker for some people who were interested in moving to Hampton, but now with these improvements, there is potential for that to change. He suggested that if realtors have conflicting meeting schedules, perhaps staff could prepare an informational video about HCS for realtors to share with perspective residents.

2. [20-0271](#) Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Presentation on Congestion Mitigation Options

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

Ms. Bunting introduced the item.

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Hampton Roads District Engineer Christopher Hall greeted those on the dais; noted that as a resident of Hampton, he is excited to hear the news about Hampton schools; and then began the presentation about how VDOT plans to handle potential congestion due to the upcoming construction in the region.

Mr. Hall provided background information about where our area stands regarding traffic and congestion. He reminded everyone that traffic patterns are expected to return to normal once we begin to re-adjust to life following the pandemic. He described a few more expected traffic patterns associated with various scenarios such as change in seasons and traffic accidents. He also announced that VDOT has notice to proceed with the Hampton Roads Bridget Tunnel (HRBT) expansion project; therefore, exacerbation to traffic congestion is to be expected. Mr. Hall noted that the same capacity of lanes will remain during the project (two lanes of traffic in each direction, east and west bound).

Mr. Hall continued providing background information and emphasized that construction over the next five years will create challenges; however, the expectation is to have a corridor that is much more reliable allowing traffic to remain on the interstate versus seeking alternate routes when congestion arises. He emphasized that this work is being done with the goal of maintaining the interstate as the fastest and most reliable route through the Hampton City area.

Mr. Hall shared that VDOT, in partnership with the City, has been conducting an arterial analysis which will consider the main arteries within Hampton (Mercury Blvd. Armistead Ave., LaSalle Ave., Settlers Landing Rd. and Mallory St.) that could potentially be affected by congestion. The desired end result is to have a much better reliable traffic flow on the interstate with less impact on the City of Hampton.

Mayor Tuck suggested that additional streets such as Pembroke Avenue and Eaton Street be included in the model as streets that experience a higher flow of traffic due to congestion on the interstate.

Mr. Hall clarified that VDOT is in the process of concluding the study and creating a baseline tool to work from; however, this is an intermittent process in which adjustments can be made moving forward.

Additional discussion took place among a few members of Council and Mr. Hall about traffic flows on various streets in the City.

Mr. Hall stated that VDOT will return with the initial report from the arterial study and discuss the next steps in the process. He clarified that as part of the study, a model has been developed which will help determine how certain projects will affect traffic throughout the City. He emphasized that having a model as an analytical tool is the most important part of this process as this analytical baseline will be used when considering future options which will require federal highway permissions.

Mr. Hall provided information about the ramp metering study. Ramp metering involves installing a signal at the end of an entrance ramp onto the interstate to mitigate congestion produced by a constant stream of cars entering the interstate. Ramp metering was studied to determine whether its implementation might be a possible solution for the purpose of either relieving existing congestion or relieving congestion during construction. VDOT considered various areas where ramp metering could be applied in our region and determined that ramp metering could potentially be effective in Hampton at the Mallory Street, Settlers Landing Road and LaSalle Avenue interchanges.

Mr. Hall spoke about some of the challenges associated with ramp metering. They include: high cost and the low return on investment; the benefit ratio does not support the investment in Hampton; and the installation timeframe would interfere with a peak construction period creating contractual issues with current projects.

Mr. Hall announced that VDOT does not believe that employing ramp metering would be a good use of funds for Hampton. He noted that VDOT continues to consider

how this tool may be applicable in other areas around the region, such as in the shipyard area in Newport News; however, it appears to not be a good solution for Hampton.

Mr. Hall shared some of the alternative strategies which could potentially resolve traffic problems in Hampton. They include: additional communications initiatives; increased engagement with first responders to maximize quick clearance of incidents during construction; continued pre-staged towing to maximize quick clearance of incidents; continued coordination between VDOT and the City to maximize mitigation efforts using modeling data; the use of innovative resources such as the VA Transportation Research Council; and explore other options as supported by the City, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the public.

Mr. Hall concluded the presentation; stated that VDOT is committed to solving the traffic problem in Hampton by considering all options; and opened the floor for questions from those on the dais.

Mayor Tuck said that the City has attempted to enforce solutions within its control; however; drivers continue to take alternate routes to avoid congestion which creates additional traffic concerns for businesses and neighborhoods throughout the City. He added that he believes citizens will not accept the notion that VDOT's option is not cost beneficial; and, therefore, Council is seeking assistance from VDOT to resolve this matter in some way.

In response to Vice Mayor Gray, Mr. Hall said that lane reversal gates are in place and would be a low cost option.

Vice Mayor Gray also asked Mr. Hall to speak about when Hampton can expect to have more congestion on our side of the tunnel due to the construction at the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel.

Mr. Hall said most of the bridge tunnel expansion work will take place in 2023, while some of the other construction from the Mercury Blvd. interchange through the Hampton area will take place from 2023 until 2025.

3. [20-0305](#) General Assembly 2021 Legislative Priorities Discussion

Attachments: [Presentation - Revised](#)
[Presentation - As Published](#)

Ms. Bunting introduced the item.

Vice President at Two Capitols Consulting, Devon Cabot, greeted those on the dais

and began providing information about the special session of the General Assembly. She noted that most bills from the session are still in negotiation; however, additional information will be provided once the bills have been finalized.

Ms. Cabot said that the special session was called to discuss criminal justice reform and to address the budget particularly as it relates to COVID-related implications on state revenues.

Ms. Cabot shared information about the following criminal justice reform initiatives: Omnibus Police Reform Bill (SB5030); Civilian Review Boards Bill (HB5055/SB5035); Marcus Alert/Co-response Teams Bill (HB5043/SB5038); and Crisis Intervention Training Bill (SB5014).

Ms. Cabot announced that the state budget is expected to be released today. She then reviewed the next slide of the presentation which lists the funds being allocated by the House and the Senate for the following categories: Coronavirus relief fund; contingent appropriations; and K-12 enrollment loss (House only).

Ms. Cabot began discussing the 2021 legislative agenda planning for Hampton.

Ms. Cabot listed some of Hampton's recent legislative successes, and then highlighted the following successes: amended the Fort Monroe statutes for clarification; the overgrown trees and shrubs ordinance; funding for Hampton's historical African-American cemeteries; funding for the Virginia Tech Seafood Agricultural Research and Extension Center; and funding for purchasing the land encroaching around Langley Air Force Base.

Ms. Cabot spoke about additional successful legislative initiatives. They include legislation to allow localities to ban firearms; to require firearms be reported when lost or stolen; to create a funding model for Hampton Roads Transit (HRT); and to secure funding for the academies of Hampton.

Ms. Cabot listed areas of work that have appeared in past packages that require continued work and consideration for inclusion in future packages. They include: a fund to address the needs of Virginia's military and federal facilities; allow localities to increase and protect tree canopy; Serious or Habitual Offender Comprehensive Action Program for Juveniles (SHOCAP); support and fund education initiatives; continue to fund resiliency efforts; modernize communications sales and use tax; and opposition to unfunded mandates.

Ms. Cabot listed additional potential topics for consideration as: blight; coastal resiliency; gray machine revenue for education; green energy initiatives; affordable

housing solutions; State Assistance to Local Police Departments (HB599); indoor/outdoor firearm ranges; and other budgetary items.

In response to Mayor Tuck, Ms. Cabot explained that gray machines are game of skill machines located in convenience stores which offer the potential for people to reap rewards.

Ms. Bunting explained that during the last General Assembly, there was a bill related to taxes from gray machines being shared with localities; however, conversations have taken place about shifting that from localities. She continued explaining that the goal is to ensure that local taxation revenue comes to the locality for education or local government purposes and not get assumed by the state.

Councilwoman Snead added that the state also considered taking a portion of the taxes from the local government versus giving schools part of state revenue.

Ms. Cabot continued explaining that the games of skill revenue is set to expire; therefore, part of the conversation involves including this in the Code in perpetuity assuring the funding will be available to localities.

Ms. Cabot reviewed the next slide of the presentation which lists the special session initiatives related to criminal justice reform and COVID which did not go through, but are anticipated to return to the General Assembly for consideration in January.

Ms. Cabot shared the list of partner organizations that the General Assembly has been working with to understand their packages and ideas for the General Assembly package. She also shared the 2021 legislative agenda timeline which spans from mid-October through the beginning of the General Assembly Session which begins at noon on January 13, 2021.

Ms. Cabot announced that the upcoming session will be a short, 45-day session. Bill limits are to be expected; therefore, more prioritizing will take place as there will be fewer spots available to carry legislation.

Ms. Cabot opened the floor for questions and comments from those on the dais.

In response to Vice Mayor Gray, Ms. Cabot explained that the term “blight” is used broadly; however, she would make a note of Council’s desire to receive potential ideas about criminal blight and code enforcement blight to improve property values in Hampton.

Mayor Tuck said that conversations have taken place about the City’s ability to

regulate unsightly junk and clutter in yards. He noted that pictures are available to show that there is a significant problem.

Ms. Cabot said in her opinion, providing legislators with photos will help with tree and shrub legislation. She continued saying that the City has identified potential tools and tweaks which could be made to the Code; these are being reviewed with the City Attorney's office. She added that this will include specific proposals regarding junk in vacant buildings and aesthetic problems that have been identified.

Ms. Bunting noted that the codes, legal and police departments have identified specific tools which could potentially help them with the things they encounter related to blight.

Ms. Cabot suggested Hampton team up with other localities which are experiencing the same problem as this may have a stronger impact on the General Assembly.

Mayor Tuck noted that he plans to ask representatives from the 17 localities participating at a regional meeting tomorrow about their experiences and whether they would be willing to support this initiative.

Ms. Bunting said staff will return to Council with a written package for their review and adoption, after which the package will be forwarded to delegation.

4. [20-0264](#) Strategic Priority Update: Placemaking

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

Ms. Bunting introduced the item.

Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services Director Dave McCauley greeted those on the dais and began presenting on the strategic priority and high performing organization work that the department has been doing. He reminded everyone that the seven strategic priorities established by Council are: placemaking; living with water; educated and engaged citizenry; safe and clean community; family resilience and economic empowerment; economic growth; and good government. These initiatives will help staff work to achieve Council's vision of creating a vibrant waterfront community with 400 years of history and innovation to create a more dynamic future for Hampton.

Mr. McCauley said today's presentation will focus on the placemaking strategic priority which is about creating vibrant and authentic places that reflect and celebrate the unique history and character of our community.

Mr. McCauley spoke about the three initiatives and enabling tactics that support and

connect projects to help realize Council's vision and create a more dynamic future for our City. They include: activating existing spaces, branding, and creating great public spaces. The department has activated existing spaces by enhancing use of waterways; hosting festivals; and installing outdoor amenities. The department is also working hard to develop integrated signage and branding as part of the overall marketing and re-branding plan for the City. Lastly, with regard to creating great public spaces, the department has introduced new initiatives including the water walk at the Central Park Trail; neighborhood centers; and micro-projects which call for artists and lights.

Mr. McCauley spoke about the City's asset inventory. He announced that the City has 389 assets totaling 2,397 acres of space. He also announced that the master planning process results have shown that when compared to other agencies across the nation, six of Hampton's parks are in the top 10% nationwide and five parks are in the top 200 of all parks in the country.

Mr. McCauley spoke about annual Capital Improvement Projects and funding for them. Approximately \$2.5 to \$3.1 million was funded for these projects. This year, the department has completed 79 projects and has 37 additional projects in progress.

Mr. McCauley paused to thank the team who has worked diligently with the organization of these projects.

Mr. McCauley reviewed the next several slides of the presentation which provide information about completed projects. Completed projects include improvements to: the Paint Out Pollution Program; Air Power Park; Gosnold's Hope Park; golf courses in the City; Sandy Bottom Nature Park; trails in the City; gymnasiums in the City; Bluebird Gap Farm; Hampton History Museum; Grandview Nature Preserve; Briarfield Park; Y. H. Thomas Community Center; Pop up projects (Phoebus Parklet, Lincoln and Eaton, and County and Curry); War Memorial Stadium; Darling Stadium; park amenities; Madison Trail; Mill Point Park Awning; VA Baseball Academy Field; Forrest Elementary Playground; Pine Chapel Road landscaping; Mercer Avenue widening; Fort Monroe boat sheds; Y. H. Thomas solar lighting; Mary Peake parking lot lighting; and WIFI at Buckroe Beach and Darling Stadium.

Vice Mayor Gray commended staff for their work to obtain match grant funding for drainage improvements at Air Power Park.

Mr. McCauley reviewed the next several slides of the presentation which provide information about projects which are in progress. These projects include: the Bluebird Gap Farm parking expansion; streetcar improvements; the Parks and

Recreation Master Plan update; the Briarfield playground; athletic field maintenance at Darling Stadium; Air Power Park graphic interpretations; Waterwalk Trail amenities; Waterwalk Trail signage; James T. Wilson Fishing Pier repair and improvements; and Buckroe boardwalk renovations.

Mr. McCauley reviewed the plans which are underway for renovations at the Buckroe Beach boardwalk and then opened the floor for feedback from Council about the next steps in that process.

Ms. Bunting clarified that staff is seeking whether Council agrees with staff's recommendation and design choices found in option 2 so that staff can make final design choices and begin installation.

Councilwoman Brown commented that she was pleased with the surface, contrast and stamped bricks associated with the option 2 design, particularly because the design includes expansion joints designed to avoid cracks in the brick. She suggested that it would be helpful for Council to see how the borders will look on a larger scale prior to agreeing to the border design.

Mr. McCauley assured Council that they will receive the artists' rendition of the design next week.

Councilman Bowman commended Mr. McCauley on the excellent presentation and agreed with the recommendations related to surfaces and pavers. In response to Councilman Bowman's question about lighting, Mr. McCauley confirmed that lighting and light maintenance will be provided by Dominion Energy. Councilman Bowman agreed that that is a good idea because the City will not have to incur that cost.

Councilman Bowman also asked about existing built-in concrete steps and suggested that hand rails be installed for those who may need them.

In response to Councilman Bowman, Mr. McCauley shared information about access points and rails which have been built into the design. He added that ramps with handrails will be located at the central area of the park.

Councilwoman Brown suggested that Councilman Bowman may benefit from receiving a copy of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access ramps and amenities drawings that Council received prior to Councilman Bowman's election as the drawings show some of the amenities Councilman Bowman mentioned. She suggested that seeing these drawings may help alleviate his concern. Mr. McCauley noted that he would be certain to forward a copy of those drawings to Councilman Bowman.

Vice Mayor Gray concurred with the other members of Council on the selection of improvements and commented that this project will re-invent the look of Buckroe Beach. He also expressed concern about Dominion Energy being responsible for maintaining the lights as they have had trouble with making timely maintenance repairs in the past.

Mr. McCauley noted that he would research the cost savings of the City doing those repairs in-house.

Public Works Director Jason Mitchell explained that Dominion Energy would install a series of led-based lights which last longer and phase out overtime versus sodium one-bulb lights which result in no light once they go out. He added that with led-based lights, loss of light is not noticeable until nearly all lights have been burned out.

Councilwoman Snead thanked staff for showing Council the various renovation options. She agreed with staff's recommendation, and asked everyone to remember that this is a beach and a place for families to come to have fun, so our goal should be to cater to those needs and not make the area so bland that it does not cater to children and families.

Councilwoman Brown commented that the new emphasis on the landscaping in the raised beds will create more opportunities for play and make the beach more useable.

Councilman Brown asked if there is any loss of illumination or periods of darkness when led lighting goes out in phases.

Mr. Mitchell clarified that when a one-bulb sodium light goes out, there is no light; whereas, led-based lights have a series of light allowing some lights to go out without a noticeable fade in illumination.

In response to Councilman Brown's question about the cost to maintain the lights, Mr. Mitchell clarified that there would be additional costs for the City to purchase and maintain those lights.

Ms. Bunting said that the City is not set up to be an electric company changing street lights, and therefore, recommended staying with the Dominion Energy approach. She noted that it would also be more expensive for the City to take over that responsibility.

Councilman Brown clarified that he was asking what additional costs would be incurred if the City took over the responsibility. He also expressed concern about people walking on a boardwalk that is not properly illuminated if untimely repairs becomes an issue.

Ms. Bunting added that in addition to the cost of maintenance, the City would also incur installation costs; whereas, if the City works with Dominion Energy, the installation is significantly less expensive. She agreed about the need for the area to be well lit.

Councilman Bowman noted that he initially brought the issue up for discussion so that everyone would be aware of the significant costs associated with the City taking over the responsibility.

Mr. McCauley reviewed the remaining slides which provide information about FY21 proposed projects; the project selection process; proposed projects for next year; and completed in-house projects.

Vice Mayor Gray said that prior to COVID between FY13-FY19, there was a 57% drop in rounds of golf and questioned whether we should continue to maintain the golf courses with such a high drop in revenue. He also spoke about the option to make improvements to the courses with the hopes that people would attend nicer courses more often resulting in higher revenue. He suggested moving forward with the study so that Council can have a means to consider its options about maintaining and funding the two golf courses in the City.

Mr. McCauley said staff will look into that as part of the study.

Mayor Tuck opened the floor for additional questions and comments from Council.

Councilwoman Snead thanked staff for working on the drainage at Air Power Park and obtaining the grant to assist with alleviating that problem.

Mayor Tuck also thanked Director of Federal Facilities Bruce Sturk and Colonel Clint Ross, 633d Air Base Wing Commander, Joint Base Langley Eustis for the role they played in obtaining those funds as it was a national, competitive process.

REGIONAL ISSUES

There were no regional issues.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no items of new business.

CLOSED SESSION

5. [20-0293](#) Closed session pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 2.2-3711.A.1, .3, .6 and .8 to discuss appointments as listed on the agenda; to discuss the performance of city departments; to discuss the acquisition of real property in the Newmarket Creek area for a public purpose 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 by the City regarding specific legal matters concerning real property rights and substandard lot zoning regulations requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

At 4:13 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Chris Snead and seconded by Councilmember Billy Hobbs, that this Closed Session - Motion be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Weston Brown, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Snead and Mayor Tuck

6. [20-0240](#) Consideration of an Appointment to the Planning Commission
7. [20-0245](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Golf Course Advisory Committee
8. [20-0246](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Peninsula Stadium Authority (War Memorial)
9. [20-0247](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Hampton Clean City Commission (HCCC)
10. [20-0258](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Hampton Senior Citizens Advisory Committee

CERTIFICATION

11. [20-0303](#) Resolution Certifying Closed Session

A motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs and seconded by Councilmember Steven Brown, that this Closed Session - Certification be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Weston Brown, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Snead and Mayor Tuck

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

Contact Info:

Clerk of Council, 757-727-6315, council@hampton.gov

Donnie R. Tuck
Mayor

Katherine K. Glass, CMC
Clerk of Council

Date approved by Council _____