



City of Hampton

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

Council Approved Minutes - Final City Council Legislative 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, March 22, 2017

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. with all members of the City Council present.

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

DONNIE R. TUCK PRESIDED

INVOCATION - Councilmember Jimmy Gray

Councilman Gray gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Tuck shared that Hampton hosted approximately 30 Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts for its annual Scout Youth in Government Day. He thanked Ms. Pam Croom, Economic Development Contract Compliance Specialist, for organizing the events of the day which focused on workforce development and possible career tracks for the young people to follow. He also thanked Bay Port Credit Union for the activities they hosted for the youth.

Mayor Tuck recognized Ms. Tye Lambert and Ms. Angel Cooper of the American Cancer Society to speak about Relay for Life. Ms. Cooper gave a brief history of the American Cancer Society and Relay for Life. She also shared information on several upcoming events and, at Mayor Tuck's request, shared that additional

information could be found by visiting the website relayforlife.org/hamptonva.

Mayor Tuck recognized Mr. Randy Gnatowsky, also known as Captain Constable Heartless, Captain of Blackbeard's Crew in Hampton. He introduced Madame Hope (Ms. Amanda Gentry), his ship's treasurer. He thanked the City Council for its support over the years and indicated that the Blackbeard Festival in June is a very special occasion to many people in the City. He also noted that he was dressed abnormally because he wanted to indicate that although his crew may be made up of pirates, they also have a serious business side. Ms. Gentry invited Council to the Grand Pirates' Bash, which will replace the Grand Pirates' Ball this year.

Mayor Tuck recognized his wife in the audience, announcing that today is her birthday. He also recognized his mother-in-law, Ms. Molly Bradley, who is visiting from Chicago.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Katherine K. Glass, Clerk of Council, read the protocol for the Consent Agenda and a summary of those items to be voted on.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Motion made by Vice Mayor Curtis, seconded by Councilmember Schmidt, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

1. [17-0097](#) Resolution Determining Municipal & Financial Services Group, LLC to be the Only Source Practicably Available from which to Contract to Establish Financial Models for the Department of Public Works and Authorizing the Negotiation and Execution of a Contract with Municipal & Financial Services Group, LLC as a "Sole Source"

Item approved.

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

2. [17-0111](#) Resolution Determining "Blackbeard's Crew, Inc." to be the only

source practicably available with proprietary rights from which to procure vetted and approved entertainers, featured ships, and support crews for the Blackbeard Pirate Festival, and Authorizing the negotiation and execution of a purchase contract with "Blackbeard's Crew, Inc." as "Sole Source."

Item approved.

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

3. [17-0099](#) Resolution Approving the City of Hampton, Virginia's Participation In and Appropriation of the 2017 Byrne Justice Assistance Program - Policing in the 21st Century Community Classroom Grant through the Department of Justice, Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program

Attachments: [AWARD Document](#)
[Budget Narrative](#)
[Project Narrative](#)

Item approved.

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

4. [17-0102](#) Resolution to approve and appropriate FY16 hazmat recovery funds from the Hazmat Restricted Fund Balance to Hampton Division of Fire & Rescue's FY17 budget

Attachments: [FY16 Hazmat Recovery Fees Collected NWS](#)
[FY16 Hazmat Recovery Fees in Fund Balance NWS](#)

Item approved.

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

5. [17-0109](#) Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Deed of Lease with the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of General Services for 100 square feet of Office Space Known as Office Number 656

Located on the 6th floor of 1 Franklin Street in Downtown Hampton

Attachments: [Exhibit A](#)
[Exhibit C](#)
[W-9 COV Subsitute](#)
[Deed of Lease](#)

Item approved.

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

6. [17-0101](#) Approval of the minutes from the work sessions of February 22, 2017, and March 8, 2017.

Item approved.

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

PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ms. Glass read the protocol for Public Hearings.

Use Permits

7. [17-0065](#) Use Permit Application No. 17-00001 by Peninsula Main VA, LLC for a hotel at 3000 Allainby Way [LRSN 13002082], more specifically, the southern portion of the former Macy's building in Peninsula Town Center

Attachments: [UP 17-00001 Application](#)
[UP 17-00001 Concept Plan - as submitted January 18 2017](#)
[UP 17-00001 Concept Plan - as of March 3 2017](#)
[UP17-00001 Staff Report](#)
[UP 17-00001 Conditions](#)
[UP 17-00001 Elevations](#)
[UP 17-00001 Presentation](#)
[Applicant's Presentation](#)
[Planning Commission Resolution](#)

City Manager Mary Bunting introduced Ms. Tolu Ibikunle, City Planner, who presented on this matter. Ms. Ibikunle noted that this application has ten conditions attached.

Ms. Ibikunle stated since the time that this use permit was advertised for the Planning Commission meeting, the applicant has submitted updated materials to the City. As a result, Council's information includes the concept plan dated January 18th, which was reviewed by the Planning Commission, and a modified concept plan as submitted on March 3rd. No substantial change was made to the concept plan.

Ms. Ibikunle stated that the information also includes floor plans that were submitted prior to the Planning Commission meeting. Since then, staff determined that those floor plans represent an extended stay hotel, rather than a hotel, due to the kitchen facilities shown. If City Council approves this use permit and development of a hotel is to go forward, the applicant will need to submit new floor plans during the administrative permitting process. If an extended stay hotel is desired instead, a new use permit for an extended stay hotel will be needed.

Ms. Ibikunle noted that in order to clarify the distinction between an extended stay hotel and a hotel, and to ensure development consistent with the plans submitted, staff is recommending approval with additional conditions regarding required components of the hotel, guest room count, building form, elevations, and building materials. The applicant is aware of these added conditions and has not expressed any concerns.

Mayor Tuck opened the Public Hearing. As there were no speakers, he closed the Public Hearing and called for a motion.

Presented by Tolu Ibikunle, City Planner. There were no speakers on this item.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Curtis seconded by

Councilmember Gray, that this Use Permit be approved with ten (10) conditions as recommended by staff. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Ordinances

Resolutions

8. [17-0100](#) Resolution authorizing the execution of Three Leases among the City of Hampton and Hampton Watersports LLC and Virginia Beach Watersports LLC for the purpose of conducting watersports activities and concession services at the following locations:

A. Mill Point Park, designated as a portion of LRSN 2003201. Specifically:

1,875 square feet (15' x 125') - (the "Dock");
192 square feet (12' x 16') - (the "Concession Facility");
180 square feet (12' x 15') - (the "Storage Area"); and
the non-exclusive right of access to 534 River Street, Hampton Virginia, portion of LRSN 2003323 consisting of 6,600 square feet (55' x 120') square feet (the "Launching Area")

B. Buckroe Beach. Specifically:

40,200 square feet variable width on the public beach - (the "Beach");
1,500 square feet (30' x 50'), LRSN: 12007407- (the "Concession Facility"); and 500 square feet (10' x 50'), LRSN: 12006702 - (the "Storage Area")

C. Blue Bird Gap Farm, designated as a portion of LRSN 2000012. Specifically:

1,500 square feet (30' x 50')-(the "Concession Facility");

4,200 square feet - (the "Dock") including a 10' x 10' storage facility

Attachments: [Mill Point / Eaton Lease Agreement](#)
[Buckroe / S. First Street Lease Agreement](#)
[Bluebird Gap / Pine Chapel Lease Agreement](#)
[Presentation](#)

Ms. Bunting noted that one of the strategic priorities is to activate the City's waterfront to allow more residents and visitors to enjoy it. She stated that an opportunity for a potential relationship with a great operator has arisen. She introduced Ms. Amy Jordan, Economic Development Redevelopment Manager, who presented on this matter.

Following her presentation, Ms. Jordan introduced Mr. Jeremy Churchill and Mr. Mike Walsh of Hampton Watersports LLC and Virginia Beach Watersports LLC, who were available for questions.

Councilwoman Schmidt asked about the boat rental proposal. Mr. Churchill stated that they currently have three proposed at Mill Point Park, two center-console fishing boats and one pontoon boat that is more family-friendly.

Councilwoman Schmidt asked about boat licenses. Mr. Churchill stated that each staff member must obtain their boat license, and will then be able to give conditional one-time use licenses and provide 15-minute safety lesson and operational tutorials. This is done through approval from the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. All staff will be fully trained in the boats and in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). He noted that it is his experience that most of the people renting these boats already have a boating safety license from another state or have been operating boats for a long time.

Mr. Churchill noted that he has spoken with the dock master at the Settlers Landing Marina and there is a demand there for boat rentals. He then went on to describe the proposed two-hour jet ski tour that would be offered next season. He also noted that all boats will be equipped with touchscreen GPS and the waterways are clearly plotted. All boats and jet skis will have placards that show channel markers and safety zones.

Councilman Moffett asked when they anticipate opening. Mr. Churchill stated that concessions would be opened at Bluebird Gap Farm on April 7th, the week before Hampton City Schools' Spring Break. He noted that this park is one of the most visited city parks in the State.

Mr. Walsh stated that they have two businesses, concessions and rentals. He explained that they will begin with concessions while the water is still too cold and bring in the boats as the water temperature begins to warm.

Mr. Churchill stated that all three water activities will be open May 11th, on weekends only until Memorial Day. After Memorial Day, until Labor Day, they will operate full time. After Labor Day, until October, they will operate on weekends again. They hope to operate concessions at Bluebird Gap Farm all year round, as the park is attended all year round.

Mayor Tuck opened the Public Hearing. As there were no speakers, he closed the Public Hearing and called for a motion.

Presented by Amy Jordan, Redevelopment Specialist. Additional information was provided by Jeremy Churchill and Michael Walsh. There were no speakers on the item.

A motion was made by Councilmember Schmidt seconded by Vice Mayor Curtis, that this Resolution be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Glass read the protocol for Public Comment.

Mr. Andrew K. Stith greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: As a born and raised here in the City of Hampton and in Virginia, I want to speak on a very important subject that needs to be addressed from the City all the way up to the President about veterans. I'm going to speak on my behalf. I wrote a letter, like, I think, last year about - one of the things I was talking about was organizing or setting up a group or a non-profit for veterans that are facing hardship, transitioning out of the military, and also retiring out of the military. Because, finding out that we have a hard time getting jobs from the State and also getting jobs in the City in government. For some reason, I know for me, it took me - it's taken me, I just got a job and it's taken me over 15 months to find a job, and that really got me off a real bad hardship. And then I had to dip into my 401K. And not just speaking about me, there's other veterans I've talked to that's dealing with the same issue. Around the area, the City, and also around, like, Newport News or whatever, their veterans get certain things, but if you're a Hampton resident, you don't get jack for some reason. Housing or

assistance with different things. So I'm bringing to the City Council to have some type of awareness or to the right officials or to the City itself to have something for veterans. Not just the ones that are homeless, but the ones that are getting assistance. Help them out, get some way they can address and help us, help them out for us getting into assistance or getting into really bounding problems. So that's what I really want to speak on. That will stop us from getting a house or car, marriages, and different things. I know I talked to some people said that it's not their concern, but it's everybody's concern. Just wanted to bring that up.

Councilman Moffett shared that the City has a Director of Federal Facilities Support and a Military Affairs Committee that meets quarterly. The City is networked with all of the Veterans Services Organizations (VSOs), and noted that there are a lot of services out there that veterans are unaware of. Hampton is also fortunate to have one of the first Veterans Drug Courts in the Commonwealth. He noted that as a veteran himself, he believes Hampton is one of the most veteran-friendly cities within this region, and is the only City in the region to have a Military Affairs Committee as well as a Director of Federal Facilities Support. He directed Mr. Stith to the Assistant City Managers in the audience who would be able to provide additional information.

Ms. Richelle Wallace greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: Not only am I a citizen of Hampton, but I also served in the Hampton Division of Fire and Rescue for nearly 20 years. Without knowing, I've basically become an advocate for what I've come to speak on today, and that is the lack of diversity as far as the Fire Department, emphasis on women of color. I started - I was the fifth one to get hired, black female to get hired in the Fire Department, second one to be promoted to lieutenant, and second one to be promoted to captain, so I had a very distinguished career. But, it's been 20 years since I got hired that a woman of color has been able to establish a career in our Fire Department. Just with the demographics of our City, we have over 137,000 people, or nearly 137,000 people. Fifty-two percent of those are women, 49% of those are African Americans. It's unacceptable that we don't have a more diverse department, and it's not that we can't do the job because we are doing the job. I just wanted to know what is the City going to do or can you do to get more women of color in the Fire Department. Y'all don't have to answer me now because I'll probably be back, but I just wanted to put that out there and let everybody know, you know, this is an opportunity that should be given to everybody and it's really not. So I would like for everybody to take that into consideration and figure out what we can do to get more minorities in the Fire Department and also the Police Department. Thank you.

Mr. John Krulis greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I wanted to come here last time to speak about Charlie Wornom, maybe I missed something, whether there was something done to recognize - maybe I missed it, I'm

sorry if I did. He was, I think, the longest serving member of Council in the whole history, but next time. In between times, Pochin Place came along, so that's why I'm here tonight. This is where I'm coming from. Some years ago, a Native American Chief from the Pueblo people in Taos, New Mexico gave me my name, and this is not a joke, I'm very serious about this, you've heard of Dances With Wolves, my Indian name is Talks With Dogs. I've been talking with dogs since I was that big. Raised dogs, dogs are immensely important people to us, they really are. I came to City Council 30-some years ago about my next door neighbor and got absolutely no satisfaction from the City. The gentleman had 16 pitbulls and my beautiful, beautiful, beautiful backyard became unusable. Sixteen pitbulls are not just a stench that could reach from here to Newport News, but when one of the dogs would get loose and start attacking all the others, it was just unbelievably grim. Unbelievable. Sixteen, fifteen, whatever years forward, the same Mr. Silver was cited for having another 16 pitbulls in his residence. Sixteen years forward, 21 dead dogs with Mr. Silver. There's something absolutely godawful wrong with the City to have this going on. Truly, truly, truly unbelievable that nobody noticed until the Virginia - whoever, electric, gas - said there's a funny smell over here with all these dead dogs, some so unrecognizable you couldn't tell the sex of the animal. Who was the most prominent neighbor? You are. Eight of the houses across the way from that house, you own. Shades of Harbor Square. Shades of. It's really very, very embarrassing for me to say that this is - I'm absolutely thrilled with the business with the kayaks and the boats, and I'm absolutely disgraced by the - something needs to be done. And no questions about the Macy's? No questions? I hope you'll have some questions along the way. Thank you.

GENERAL ITEMS

Ordinances

9. [17-0098](#) Ordinance to Amend and Re-enact § 32.1-5 of the Solid Waste Ordinance to Align with Virginia Code § 33.2-802

Attachments: [Final](#)
[Red Line](#)

Ms. Bunting gave a few brief comments on this item, noting that it is a housekeeping ordinance to conform the City Code to the State Code penalties with regard to littering. Nationwide, the costs of litter cleanup exceed \$11.5 billion per year and businesses pay approximately \$9.1 billion with the remainder being covered by state, local governments, and other organizations. There are also indirect costs of litter, to include a detrimental effect on property values and the aesthetics of communities. The State Code provides more stringent penalties for litter violations than the current City Code. Therefore, staff recommends the City Code be modified to align with the State Code and enhance the City's enforcement capabilities.

Ms. Bunting stated that anyone in violation would be found guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by confinement in jail for not more than 12 months, and a fine of not less than \$250 or more than \$2,500. She stated that the Courts would determine the penalty, but this Code adjustment will allow for a stringent penalty if necessary. She also noted that the Court can order community service in lieu of imposing confinement in jail.

Mary Bunting, the City Manager, gave brief remarks on this item.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Curtis seconded by Councilmember Hobbs, that this Ordinance-Coded be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Resolutions

10. [17-0113](#) Resolution approving a Cooperation Agreement between the Economic Development Authority of the City of Hampton (“EDA”) and the City of Hampton (the “City”) funding grant incentives to T Peninsula Hotel VA, LLC (“Developer”) for the Development and Operation of a minimum 120 room Element Hotel or a comparable “City/EDA approved Brand” with a minimum of 1,000 square feet of meeting room space on a Portion of the Former Macy’s Site located at the Peninsula Town Center (LRSN 13002082), and authorizing the City Manager or her Designee to execute Same

Attachments: [Performance Agreement Term Sheet](#)
[Cooperation Agreement](#)

Ms. Bunting introduced Economic Development Director Leonard Sledge who would be reviewing the Cooperation Agreement. She noted that this resolution deals with the financial incentives for the hotel development described earlier this evening. Council is being asked to adopt a Cooperation Agreement because it is providing the revenue through incremental tax revenue and a one-time grant to the Economic Development Authority (EDA).

Mr. Sledge noted that the City has been implanting various aspects of a hotel strategy over the last few years geared towards improving the number of quality

hotel room nights to capture as much tourism related revenue within the City as possible. Approximately 40% of the hotel room nights generated by tournaments at the Boo Williams Sportsplex are exported outside of the City.

Mr. Sledge stated that this is the second proposed new hotel at the Peninsula Town Center. The Cooperation Agreement calls for a minimum of 120 rooms with a minimum of 1,000 square feet of meeting room space. To induce that, there is approximately \$2.1 million in performance-based incentives for the developer. Upon the developer completing the construction of the hotel, with a City-approved flag opening the hotel and obtaining their certificate of occupancy while meeting the minimum employment requirements, they will receive a one-time performance-based grant of \$1.2 million. In addition to that, over the next ten years, the developer will be able to receive a maximum of approximately \$889,000 paid out in annual increments that will represent a percentage of the net new lodging excise tax that has accumulated from the project.

Mr. Sledge noted that there are provisions in place in case of default or breach of agreement. Additionally, the City is looking at taking advantage of the Virginia Zone Gap Financing program. Staff believes this is a viable project to drive tourism related goals and objectives.

Ms. Bunting stated that in addition to advancing the City's hotel strategy, staff finds this project to be a very creative reuse of a vacant department store space. She noted that Short Pump in Richmond successfully uses a hotel as an anchor.

Councilman Gray asked Mr. Sledge to share the need for quality hotel rooms, noting that numbers had been reported during the annual Coliseum Central Business Improvement District (BID) breakfast. Mr. Sledge stated that consultants have determined that Hampton needs 1,500 rooms to fully maximize the potential of the Convention Center. Prior to the announcement of the Hyatt Place, which will be constructed at the intersection of Coliseum Drive and Pine Chapel Road at the former Motel 6 site, the City had approximately 1,200 convention quality hotel rooms. This presented a delta of approximately 300 room nights. Between this proposed project and the Hyatt Place project, the City will be creating a minimum of 230 new hotel room nights. He stated that it was important to note that approximately 300 hotel rooms came out of the market when the Motel 6 and Hampton Bay Plaza properties went offline. With those coming out of the market, the City has seen increased average daily rates, increased occupancy rates, and increased revenue per available room, three key metrics that hotel operators and developers consider.

Leonard Sledge, Economic Development Director, gave brief remarks on this item.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Curtis seconded by Councilmember Hobbs, that this Resolution be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

11. [17-0110](#) Resolution Approving the Hampton Roads Water Quality Credit Agreement for Chesapeake Bay Restoration with Hampton Roads Sanitation District (“HRSD”) to Partner in HRSD’s Sustainable Water Initiative for Tomorrow Initiative

Attachments: [Agreement](#)

Ms. Bunting noted that this was discussed extensively at the last meeting. Hampton is poised to be the first locality to partner with Hampton Roads Sanitation District (HRSD). A side benefit of this agreement is forestalling rate increases for citizens. Staff recommends approval.

Councilwoman Schmidt noted that this is Worldwide Water Day. Many do not have clear water throughout the world and she reminded citizens to be continually conscious of the water they are using.

Mary Bunting, the City Manager, gave brief remarks on this item.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Curtis seconded by Councilmember Schmidt, that this Resolution be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Appointments

12. [17-0114](#) Consideration of nominations to the Virginia Municipal League 2017 Policy Committees

Attachments: [VML Memo](#)
[Description of the policy committees and process](#)
[VML Nominations Form](#)

Ms. Glass read a summary of the proposed nominations.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Curtis that the following individuals be nominated for appointment:

Billy Hobbs - Community and Economic Development
Teresa Schmidt - Environmental Quality
Chris Snead - Finance
Linda Curtis - General Laws
Donnie Tuck - Human Development and Education
Will Moffett and Jimmy Gray - Transportation

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

REPORTS BY CITY MANAGER, CITY COUNCIL, STAFF, COMMITTEES

13. [17-0092](#) Flood Mitigation Strategies Briefings

Attachments: [Flood Risk Reduction Presentation](#)

Ms. Bunting stated that this presentation is at the request of Councilwoman Schmidt to help citizens reduce their flood vulnerability and manage flood insurance premiums. She introduced Ms. Hui-Shan Walker, Emergency Management Coordinator, who would be presenting on this matter.

Following the presentation, Ms. Bunting asked Ms. Walker to elaborate on obtaining flood insurance and the importance of getting multiple quotes. Ms. Walker stated that www.floodsmart.gov provides information on flood insurance policies and residents are encouraged to check their flood insurance policies against that information. Some residents over-insure their home, making it equivalent to their homeowner's insurance, which is not always necessary. She also noted that basic flood insurance does not include contents insurance. Not all insurances are created equal, and sometimes insurance agents do not capture the correct information from policy buyers, resulting in a wrong premium.

At Ms. Bunting's request, Ms. Walker stated that the Community Rating System lowers the flood insurance rates for citizens in the City by 10%. Staff is hoping that the recertification application will result in another 5% to 10% reduction, meaning citizens could have a total rate reduction of 15% to 20%, based on projects the City is already doing.

Councilman Hobbs asked if this presentation was available on the City's website. Ms. Glass indicated that all presentations provided to Council are available to the public on the website at the same time they are shown in Chambers. Ms. Bunting indicated that she will have Marketing place it prominently on the City's website for the next few weeks.

There was some discussion on the necessity of contents insurance. Councilwoman Schmidt indicated that contents insurance is absolutely necessary because anything that is not part of the structure is not covered by basic flood insurance.

Councilwoman Snead asked if everyone in the City is covered by the reduced rate. Ms. Walker stated that if a citizen is not in a mapped flood zone, they are already experiencing a reduced rate. She encouraged all those not in a flood zone to obtain flood insurance for peace of mind, because flooding can occur anywhere. The rate is currently approximately \$400 a year.

Mayor Tuck noted that his flood insurance premium was going to triple approximately 3 or 4 years prior, so he had an engineer come out to record accurate elevations and install flood vents. He noted that a previous presentation on flooding had his neighborhood listed as having a change in property assessments. Based on what he was seeing, he believes the houses across the street and on a neighboring street are also listed in the same flood categorization as his house, even though they are at extremely less risk of flooding than his property. He asked why this was the case. Ms. Walker indicated that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Army Corps of Engineers create the maps, not the City.

Mr. Brian Lewis, Water Resources Engineer, stated that based on Mayor Tuck's description, he believes that he might have been referencing hurricane flooding maps. He also indicated that areas are not only put on flood zone maps based on their proximity to water, but due to other circumstances such as outfall pipes. After Mayor Tuck provided additional information, Mr. Lewis indicated that staff will look into the matter further.

Ms. Bunting noted that this is why the City suggests getting elevation certificates. Flood zones in the City are grouped into categories by someone else, but individual properties might have specific characteristics that would allow them to have a different delineation. City staff will work with citizens on these matters.

Ms. Bunting shared additional information on contents insurance from the FEMA website.

Councilwoman Snead asked the difference between a flood vent and a regular

foundation vent. Mr. Lewis stated that flood vents are larger and will open and close quicker with the pressure of water surges. There is a significant difference and citizens are strongly encouraged to consider installing them.

Councilwoman Schmidt introduced Ms. Sylvia Woods, a local relator, who would discuss how flood zones are affecting the market and how she is handling it. Ms. Woods noted that generally people who buy into flood zones are familiar with Hampton and know that it does not flood every time it rains. She indicated that realtors who are unfamiliar or unformed might be scaring away potential buyers who are also unfamiliar with the area. She requested that the City provide additional informational resources for realtors to avoid this.

In response to Councilwoman Schmidt's questions, Ms. Woods indicated that she requests sellers in flood zones obtain certificates of flood elevation. This is important because it determines insurance rates. Councilwoman Schmidt asked if Ms. Woods recommends her sellers install flood vents. Ms. Woods stated that she has not and many sellers do not have the money to do that. She noted that she lives in Fox Hill and did not realize there was grant money to assist with the installation of flood vents.

Councilwoman Schmidt indicated that she would like the City to host a workshop to help both potential buyers and realtors to feel more comfortable with purchasing homes in a flood zone.

Ms. Bunting noted that the grant funding referenced is to help homeowners with the cost of elevating their homes. There is a homeowner match with a minimum of a \$5,000 match. Staff has been working to change that program to lower the threshold to \$2,000, which is about the typical cost for putting in flood vents. That process is still ongoing, and it will come to Council for approval when it has been arranged.

Councilwoman Schmidt asked if Ms. Woods ever discusses the Community Rating System with buyers. Ms. Woods stated that she was not aware of the Community Rating System until recently. She also noticed that after recently installing flood vents, her flood insurance bill was reduced by \$200 per year.

Ms. Bunting introduced Ms. Susan Gaston, Legislative Consultant for the Virginia Peninsula Association of Realtors (VPAR). Ms. Bunting indicated that the City is interested in expanding its outreach to realtors.

Ms. Gaston discussed the water issues in the Hampton Roads community, and indicated that VPAR works on this issue on a weekly basis. She briefly discussed programs VPAR currently hosts with a neighboring locality. She noted that on April

25th, VPAR will be hosting a meeting for the realtor community with Colonel Paul Olsen, former Commander of the Army Corps of Engineers, who is a respected leader on flooding and its impacts on properties.

Ms. Gaston noted that Virginia is a *caveat emptor* state in terms of buying and transacting property. This means the buyers must conduct due diligence into what may or may not impact their properties.

Ms. Gaston indicated that VPAR is happy to partner with Hampton to conduct a tour for realtors to flood zones and provide additional information to participants.

Ms. Bunting stated that staff will be doing more to make sure the realtor community is aware of what the City is doing to mitigate the fear of flooding. Staff is dedicated to being proactive to ensure Hampton properties move at an appropriate value.

Councilman Gray asked Ms. Gaston to email Council with additional information on their upcoming meeting.

Hui-Shan Walker, Hampton's Emergency Management coordinator, provided a briefing on mitigation strategies for residents and opportunities to reduce the cost of flood insurance.

Sylvia Woods, a local realtor, also provided information as did Susan Gaston, the Legislative Consultant for the Virginia Peninsula Association of Realtors.

Originally this item was to also include a presentation by Brian Gordineer, City Assessor, with his findings on assessed values citywide but this did not take place at this meeting due to a scheduling conflict.

MISCELLANEOUS NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Tuck noted that the art in the City Hall Lobby is from Hampton City Schools (HCS) students in honor of Art Month.

Councilman Gray noted that Captain Wallace brought up the lack of diversity, particularly women, in the Fire Department. He noted that the City has a program, Camp Fury, which targets young women to help them understand and encourage a future career in fire service. He asked the Fire Chief and Human Resources Director to provide a presentation on the City's recruitment for the Fire Department. Ms. Bunting stated that she had already sent a note to Chief David Layman and Ms. Nicole Clark to look at recruiting efforts, applications, and current department

statistics. Councilman Gray noted that when he was Fire Chief, there were four women assistant chiefs, two of whom he promoted. It takes effort to keep those numbers up.

Vice Mayor Curtis congratulated Ms. Melanie Paul, whose dog Lothair recently received the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association's Animal Hero Award for his work in animal-assisted therapy. Lothair is deaf and has been trained by using American Sign Language.

Vice Mayor Curtis shared that Ms. Adrienne Mauney, who she worked with during her time as Commonwealth's Attorney, had an experience which touched her heart. Fifty years ago, Ms. Mauney's grandmother's brother, Willie Rowe, who had attended Phenix High School, left Hampton to fight in the Korean War. He was captured and passed away in a POW camp. Fifty-seven years later, his remains have been located and will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors on August 4, 2017. Vice Mayor Curtis wanted to share this story as another example of the hidden figures whose stories are just now being told.

Councilman Hobbs noted that he was observing the Taskforce with Chief of Police Terry Sult last Saturday night. He was proud of the way the officers conducted themselves, including taking one illegal gun off the street.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Donnie R. Tuck
Mayor

Katherine K. Glass, CMC
Clerk of Council

Date approved by Council _____

