



# 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*

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**Wednesday, June 9, 2021**

**1:00 PM**

**Council Chambers**

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### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tuck called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. All members of the City Council were present at roll call except for Councilwoman Brown.

**Present** 6 - Councilmember Chris L. Bowman, Councilmember Steven L. Brown, Vice Mayor Jimmy Gray, Councilmember Billy Hobbs, Councilmember Chris Snead, and Mayor Donnie R. Tuck

**Out** 1 - Councilmember Eleanor Weston Brown

### DONNIE R. TUCK PRESIDED

### AGENDA

Councilwoman Brown arrived at 1:02 p.m.

**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

1. [21-0093](#) Presentation on the Hampton Roads Express Lane by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

**Attachments:** [Presentation](#)  
[01\\_AM\\_EB\\_664-HRBT](#)  
[VDOT 64 Express Lanes Video 5-17-2021.mp4](#)

City Manager Mary Bunting introduced the item and said that today's briefing will provide an update on the Hampton Roads Express Lane (HREL) Network which is scheduled to be built in the coming years. Today's briefing will also provide an update on how the HREL Network Project and the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel (HRBT) Project will work together.

Ms. Bunting introduced Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Hampton Roads District Engineer, Christopher Hall, to begin the presentation.

Mr. Hall greeted those on the dais and listed the topics for discussion.

Mr. Hall provided an overview of the HREL Network: The Network will be delivered in two phases composed of four segments with various projects. Phase 1 will incorporate those elements of the Network which are currently under construction. Phase 2 will incorporate those projects which are currently in the preliminary design phase.

Mr. Hall also provided information about each phase and segment of the project. This information along with two maps of the project is included in the slide presentation.

Mr. Hall introduced VDOT Design Project Manager, Janet Hedrick, to elaborate on the segment 4 project.

Ms. Hedrick greeted those on the dais and provided an overview of the I-64 HREL 4C Project which runs from the La Salle Avenue interchange to the Mallory Street interchange. Included in the overview was information about the projects' roadway, drainage requirements, environmental impacts, bridges, tolling and sound barriers. All of the information Ms. Hedrick shared is included in the slide presentation.

Ms. Hedrick noted that the Hampton Roads Crossing Study is available online and can be provided to Council if needed.

Mayor Tuck reminded everyone about the discussion which took place at an in-person meeting approximately a year ago about Hampton's desire for transparent sound barriers which would allow people to see downtown as they go by. He continued saying that the barriers in the photo in the presentation do not appear to be transparent and asked if that suggests that the transparent sound barriers are no longer part of the plan.

Ms. Hedrick replied "no", and explained that when discussions took place with the project team and noise specialist, it was determined that the plan would be to move

forward with the same aesthetics treatment, however, Hampton's desire to have transparent noise barriers can be considered since those barriers are within VDOT's standards. She noted that she would rescind the previous remark and change the status to reflect that noise barrier aesthetics are to be determined.

In response to Mayor Tuck, Ms. Hedrick also explained that the plan for sound barriers to be placed around a cemetery is based on federal guidelines. These guidelines are scheduled to change in the future; however, VDOT is required to follow the current federal guidelines which will not change prior to completion of this project.

Ms. Hedrick reviewed the next slide of the presentation which lists some of the adjacent projects which will tie into the HREL Project. Adjacent projects include the HRBT Project, the Western Terminus and the Tolling Infrastructure Project.

Ms. Hedrick reviewed the remaining slides of the presentation which list additional information about the project including its stakeholders, property impacts, project status and the I-64 HREL segment 4C schedule.

Ms. Hedrick turned the floor back over to Mr. Hall who narrated two videos which depict how the project is modeled and how it will operate.

Mr. Hall encouraged everyone to visit the website to view the most up-to-date information regarding these projects and the Network. He then opened the floor for questions and comments.

Vice Mayor Gray spoke about the portion of I-64 near Bower's Hill in Chesapeake which can be problematic for motorists calling in emergencies because motorists oftentimes mistakenly give the west bound direction as their location when they are actually traveling east bound. He asked whether any consideration has been given to a name change for that stretch of interstate which would be more consistent with the direction of traffic.

Mr. Hall said he knows the scenario described by Vice Mayor Gray and shared that VDOT has checked into signage changes; however, a better way to accomplish that may be to have those changes done in concert with the new signs already scheduled for installation.

In response to Councilman Hobbs, Mr. Hall said that E-ZPass prices will vary from section to section and there will be a toll cap; however, the tolling policy is set by the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission (HRTAC). He also shared a bit more information about how the tolling system works within managed

lanes.

Councilman Hobbs asked Mr. Hall if VDOT is aware of the problem associated with E-ZPasses being mounted to windshields which cause interference with radar units and the preclusion system. He explained that this is a problem for car dealers because of the cost associated with removal and recalibration of E-ZPasses. He suggested that mounting the E-ZPass someplace else may be helpful.

Councilwoman Brown thanked Mr. Hall for the presentation and referenced the City's concern about the current engineering at the LaSalle Avenue interchange. She asked if any consideration has been given to the safety design at that interchange and whether incorporating it with this expansion has been considered. She also referenced the City's desire for a more convenient interchange onto King Street and said that she is concerned that something is being built that could potentially get in the way of something else scheduled to take place later.

With regard to the safety design and vertical curves, Mr. Hall cautioned that making those types of adjustments may put the project out of its cost scope; however, widening efforts in this area (LaSalle Avenue) will provide a safer set of conditions. He added that some safety analysis on the network took place and there have been minor reductions in crash rates and an increase in the ability to move traffic efficiently.

With regard to potential future interchanges, Mr. Hall said that the King Street interchange is the only one he is aware of and he is uncertain if future interchanges are on the long range transportation plan. He added that there have been discussions with the City on preliminary planning with that project; however, he is uncertain if anything would inhibit VDOT from putting an interchange there.

Mr. Hall returned to the topic of tolls and shared that the tolling services integrator will work within the network and it will be priced dynamically according to the trip. More information will be available in the future on how the dynamic system will work.

Mr. Hall thanked Councilman Hobbs for the feedback on E-ZPass and assured him that his comments will be taken into consideration.

Mayor Tuck opened the floor for additional questions and comments from Council. No questions were posed and no additional discussion took place.

Mayor Tuck shared that while traffic issues in Hampton have not yet been resolved, he is happy to report that positive conversations are taking place with VDOT regarding this matter.

2. [21-0173](#) Briefing on the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

Ms. Bunting introduced the item and then introduced Assistant City Manager Brian DeProfio to make the presentation.

Mr. DeProfio stated that the purpose for the presentation is to provide an overview of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021; review the project categories outlined in the Act; and share the next steps in the process.

Mr. DeProfio reviewed the next several slides of the presentation which provide background information about ARPA; the reporting requirements associated with the funds to be received; the City's allocation amounts according to category; ARPA funding categories; and the plan for revenue recovery.

For the benefit of the public, Ms. Bunting emphasized that typically when discussions have taken place about lost revenue from the pandemic, the focus has been on General Fund; however, because the federal calculation allows the City to consider the entire enterprise of government, various facilities such as the Coliseum, the Convention Center, and Golf Course are being taken into consideration. This leads to the reconciliation of the numbers shown in the revenue recovery slide of the presentation.

Mr. DeProfio listed the expenses that were funded through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. They include: COVID-related salaries and leave; hazard pay; business support; online transaction efforts; individual and community assistance; supplies and equipment to support COVID response; community partners responding to COVID; and the vaccine clinic. He then reviewed the next several slides of the presentation which list the eligible uses of ARPA funding based on the general funding categories outlined in a previous slide. Eligible uses of ARPA funds categories include: water and sewer infrastructure; broadband infrastructure; public health needs; and behavioral healthcare needs.

Mr. DeProfio also shared examples of possible projects in each of the eligible uses categories and the deadlines associated with the uses and projects. The potential projects and their deadlines are included in the presentation.

Mayor Tuck asked whether projects such as the Big Bethel Blueway and Armistead Avenue projects qualify for these funds and if the design phase for these projects will be completed by December 31, potentially qualifying them for partial funding through ARPA funding.

Mr. DeProfio replied stating that these funds could potentially be used for the resilient Hampton projects currently in the design phase (Lake Hampton, Armistead Avenue and the Big Bethel Blueway). The construction timeline has been extended for the Armistead Avenue project because of the VDOT funding associated with it; however, he would need to determine if it would be completed within the 2026 timeframe. The other projects are fully funded from the Resilient Hampton and Environmental Impact Bonds issued last year.

Ms. Bunting noted that the deadline to complete the projects mentioned by the Mayor is not until 2024. Mr. DeProfio added that the design for those projects are scheduled to be completed by January of 2022.

Mr. DeProfio continued sharing examples of potential projects which are eligible for use of funds.

In response to Mayor Tuck, Mr. DeProfio said that he did not have specific information related to the utilization of the online tax payment system; however, the Treasurer's Office reported that the convenient online service that was offered during the pandemic is one reason for the strong collection rate. He noted that he would provide additional information to Council at a later date.

Mr. DeProfio continued sharing the examples of potential projects which are eligible for use of funds.

Councilman Bowman asked if the behavioral healthcare program is coordinated through the local Community Services Board (CSB).

Mr. DeProfio said that depends on the specific program and while the CSB is the main service provider in that regard, it is uncertain which programs it supports. For example, it may or may not be involved in the credible messengers program.

Mr. DeProfio spoke about the additional opportunities for consideration as the City moves forward with the funding received through the ARPA. Opportunities for funding include responses to the COVID pandemic; increased future financial flexibility; enhanced infrastructure maintenance; and transformational projects.

Vice Mayor Gray asked if these funds can be used to accelerate some of Hampton Redevelopment and Housing Authority's (HRHA) improvement projects.

Mr. DeProfio said staff hopes that is the case and explained that the intention was to use CARES Act funds for that purpose; however, it was determined that those funds were not eligible. He added that staff will need to receive additional guidance from

the federal government on whether these funds can be used for that purpose. Staff will also keep this in mind as a priority for consideration.

Mr. DeProfio reviewed the remaining slides of the presentation which provide information about additional ARPA fund sources and the next steps in the process.

Mr. DeProfio and Mayor Tuck opened the floor for additional questions and comments from Council. No questions were posed and no additional discussion took place.

## REGIONAL ISSUES

There were no regional issues.

## NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Tuck congratulated Councilwoman Snead on her success in the Democratic Primary election for Treasurer last night.

## CLOSED SESSION

3. [21-0150](#) Closed session pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 2.2-3711.A (.1) and (.3) to discuss appointments as listed on the agenda and the performance evaluations of the City Manager, City Attorney, and City Clerk, and to discuss the disposition of publicly held real property in the Wythe and Downtown areas of the City where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the City.

At 2:01 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs seconded by Councilmember Steven Brown, 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

Mayor Tuck indicated that Council would convene for closed session at 2:15 p.m. in the Lawson Conference Room. He also announced that, during the summer months, Council reduces their meetings to one per month so the next meeting will be the

second Wednesday in July.

4. [21-0163](#) Consideration of an Appointment to the Board of Review of Real Estate Assessments
5. [21-0164](#) Consideration of an Appointment to the Golf Course Advisory Board
6. [21-0165](#) Consideration of an Appointment to the Hampton Commission on the Arts

**Attachments:** [Supplemental Application](#)

7. [21-0166](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board

**Attachments:** [Recommendation - April 30, 2021](#)  
[Recommendation - June 7, 2021](#)

8. [21-0168](#) Consideration of an Appointment to the Economic Development Authority (EDA)
9. [21-0169](#) Consideration of an Appointment to the Peninsula Airport Commission
10. [21-0170](#) Consideration of an Appointment to the Thomas Nelson Community College Board of Trustees
11. [21-0171](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Planning Commission
12. [21-0172](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Grievance Board
13. [21-0174](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Hampton Redevelopment and Housing Authority

#### CERTIFICATION

14. [21-0156](#) Resolution Certifying Closed Session  
At 6:27 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs and seconded by Councilmember Chris Snead, 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 6:27 p.m.

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

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Donnie R. Tuck  
Mayor

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Katherine K. Glass, CMC  
Clerk of Council

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