



# City of Hampton

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

## Council Approved Minutes - Final City Council Work Session

*Mayor Donnie R. Tuck*  
*Vice Mayor Linda D. Curtis*  
*Councilmember Jimmy Gray*  
*Councilmember W.H. "Billy" Hobbs*  
*Councilmember Will Moffett*  
*Councilmember Teresa V. Schmidt*  
*Councilmember Chris Snead*

*STAFF: Mary Bunting, City Manager*  
*Vanessa T. Valldejuli, City Attorney*  
*Katherine K. Glass, CMC, Clerk of Council*

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**Wednesday, February 28, 2018**

**1:00 PM**

**Council Chambers**

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### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tuck called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

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

### DONNIE R. TUCK PRESIDED

### AGENDA

1. [18-0096](#) Briefing on Community Infused Problem-Oriented Policing in Crime Hot Spots (CPOP-HS)

**Attachments:** [Presentation](#)

Chief Terry Sult, Hampton Police Division and Senior Fellow Dr. Bruce Taylor with National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago gave a presentation.

Vice Mayor Curtis asked for an example of what was discovered as a hot spot and how you prepare for intervention and with what type of intervention.

Dr. Taylor gave an example of some business establishments (bars and taverns) collected together in Jacksonville that were surrounded by criminal activity with easy entry and access points. The solution they found was physical barriers that limited the traffic, and police officers talking with the businesses, patrons and observational work which resulted in crime reduction. Another example was in an apartment

complex being burglarized and the community donated special fencing that made it difficult to climb over, limiting the access which then created a deterrent.

Councilman Moffett asked if the City of Chicago embraced this concept given their noted crime rate.

Dr. Taylor replied that they were one of the longest and one of the first agencies to embrace community policing. However, at some point along the way they got away from it but it is his understanding they are moving in that direction now with data driven policing and hot spot mapping and they are making progress.

Councilman Moffett asked about the sustainability of this study.

Dr. Taylor replied that the goal was not to create a special unit just for this project but to do this as a broad patrol effort. The hope is that reducing crime and improving community relations will result in cost effectiveness.

Mayor Tuck congratulated and thanked Dr. Taylor for his presentation and noted that Dr. Taylor has a foundation in Chicago and in Baltimore that top the charts in crime and yet the examples used were from Jacksonville and Mesa, AZ. Mayor Tuck asked Dr. Taylor if they have been involved in Baltimore with the study.

Dr. Taylor replied that it takes work to get access to the departments which is a major undertaking. He believes that doing this study in a medium-sized city is more manageable because all the moving parts in larger cities for purposes of evaluation confound what we are trying to find. In a lot of ways the more interesting work happens at the more medium-sized cities, for example Minneapolis which is a model in some ways in responding to domestic violence.

Chief Sult added that with conversations he has had with previous superintendents in Chicago and Baltimore a lot of issues come into play such as unions or a strong Mayoral form of government, priorities can change due to commitments made during a campaign that could change the type of policing. We don't have a lot of those dynamics and have already embraced the principal concepts of community policing.

Mayor Tuck asked about having to get buy-ins from line officers on doing something designed to impact crime in a positive manner.

Chief Sult replied that in our City we have that buy-in but in a lot of cities officers think it is all about arresting the bad guys. Prevention is our first responsibility and many organizations believe that enforcing the law is the primary and only responsibility of the police department.

Mayor Tuck asked where the City is falling short in light of all the community engagement that is already being done.

Dr. Taylor replied that instead of talking about crime broadly we want to talk about crime in a narrow area and specific things that can be done. Chief Sult added that if we could have an academic review with resources that have nationwide experience, and balance what is currently being done and measure against some of the other things going on across the country we could all learn a few things.

Chief Sult continued stating at the end of the day, if we do nothing more than reenforce and institutionalize problem solving as a mantra of the Hampton Police Division, we will have won and have walked away with empirical information that will show whether it has been successful or not when applied to specific locations.

Mayor Tuck referenced an article in the Virginia Pilot about a presentation made by their Police Chief yesterday that talked about the recovery or capturing of more guns than they have in the last 30 years, the drop of crime in the past 17 years and identified micro hot spots. He commented that he believes that the City is doing all the things that have been suggested.

Chief Sult replied that unfortunately the City does not have past tracking numbers but in 2017 the Police Department seized 60 percent or better than in 2016 due to implemented strategies.

One aspect that can be looked at is whether the department is structured appropriately to be effective with overall community policing. We will be looking at the operational capacity and cost benefit analysis to validate the direction of the Police Department. Chief Sult stated that the City is ahead of the game but this will keep the City evolving on the track and validate what the Police Department is doing is correct.

City Manager Mary Bunting added that the City may learn more effective strategies for dealing with the community and getting them more involved. This is an opportunity to see what the City can do better.

Mayor Tuck commented that his uneasiness is that the City has implemented so many of these efforts and the sense he is getting today is that 100 hot spots are needed within Hampton and Newport News. Forty or fifty (Try not to start a sentence with a number, so to make your sentence consistent also spell out 50) hot spots in Hampton makes him feel uneasy because he believed the problems that the City was having were from a few communities.

Chief Sult replied that the Police Department deals with the micro hot spots differently than some of the larger strategies that have been previously talked about. There may be a way to identify the one or two houses and deal with those much quicker so the neighborhood does not become the issue. He believes that things need to be evaluated independently to ensure that the Police Department is doing the right thing and this is a great way to do that and have someone else fund it.

Ms. Bunting added that 40 hot spots does seem to be a lot but when you compare that to 44 thousand households in the City, 40 equals .1%.

Mayor Tuck asked if 40 people were arrested in the City would there be no more crime.

Chief Sult replied no and believes a very small percentage of individuals are responsible for the majority of the crime. The Police Department can arrest the people and take them off the street but getting them to stay off the street or to prevent another crime from occurring is the complex part and reiterated that the City cannot arrest their way out of the problem.

2. [18-0097](#) Budget Briefings - I Value Citizen Input Results

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

City Manager Mary Bunting gave an overview of the Budget Briefings - I Value Citizen Input Results and introduced Communications Strategist Robin McCormick who gave a presentation.

Councilman Moffett asked for clarification on how these numbers differ from the customer satisfaction surveys.

Ms. McCormick replied that the customer service satisfaction surveys tend to be more about how the employees are meeting the needs of the citizens whereas the I Value Citizen Input is where the City needs to expand the number and funding for employees and gave examples.

Councilman Moffett commented that he is hopeful this program will continue and experiment in different avenues of new technology in getting citizens involved.

Ms. Bunting pointed out the Council budget date should be May 9th not May 10th on the presentation slide and appreciates Councilman Moffett's comment.

Councilman Gray commented he concurs with Councilman Moffett regarding the

continuance of the program and stated we need to continue to rely on the data to find a way to reach a broader section of the community.

Ms. McCormick replied that she was not pleased with the low responses from the community and asked those on Council who have good outreach to help. This year 12 percent of the participants of the survey were between the ages of 20 - 34 which is a new benchmark for the City.

Ms. Bunting shared the same desire to be reflective of the demographics and has tried by hosting meeting in various places around the City.

Vice Mayor Curtis loved the idea of video chats. The hard part about this process is that not everyone taking the survey in different forms will have the access to all the information. She stated that different age demographics will respond in different ways and when this is done again next year Council will give thoughts on how to reach out to get the broadest audience with the most information. Getting the answers with the context is most helpful.

Ms. McCormick agreed that is helpful and there are citizens who will take the time, some more than others, and give them as much as they are willing to give.

Councilwoman Schmidt reiterated what Vice Mayor Curtis stated that the citizens do not have all the information. She suggested implementing a program that gave out information during the time the person is taking the survey so they could better understand the upcoming question.

Ms. McCormick stated that could be implemented with outside agencies and did give information with some program descriptions.

Councilwoman Snead commented that perhaps citizens are dropping out because they really do not know or are frustrated and agreed with Councilwoman Schmidt's idea.

Ms. McCormick agreed that there are a lot of categories that citizens skip because they feel they do not know about specific programs.

Councilwoman Snead stated it would take some work but it would be helpful if some video clips were put out about certain services before the polling or questions .

Ms. Bunting agreed that these were excellent suggestions to implement. Both Councilman Moffett and Councilwoman Schmidt have suggested giving the best of both worlds in trying to give the citizens the information needed to be able to answer

the questions with the knowledge needed.

Ms. McCormick concluded that citizens support Council's priority tourist and conventions and new businesses.

Presented by Robin McCormick, Communications Strategist.

**REGIONAL ISSUES**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Tuck acknowledged acting Fire Chief Monk in the audience.

**CLOSED SESSION**

3. [18-0093](#) Closed session pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 2.2-3711.A.1, .3, and .8 to discuss Council appointees; to discuss or consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose in the area of the Kecoughtan Road Corridor, and to discuss or consider the disposition of publicly held real property in the Coliseum Central area, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the City; and to consult with legal counsel employed by the City regarding specific legal matters pertaining to opioid litigation and a bond matter requiring the legal advice by such counsel

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Curtis seconded by Councilmember Snead, that this Closed Session - Motion be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**CERTIFICATION**

4. [18-0094](#) Resolution Certifying Closed Session

A motion was made by Councilmember Moffett seconded by Vice Mayor Curtis, that this Closed Session - Certification be

approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

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Donnie R. Tuck  
Mayor

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Katherine K. Glass, CMC  
Clerk of Council

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