



# City of Hampton

22 Lincoln Street  
Hampton, VA 23669  
[www.hampton.gov](http://www.hampton.gov)

## Council Approved Minutes - Final City Council Legislative Session

*Mayor Jimmy Gray*

*Vice Mayor Steven L. Brown*

*Councilmember Randy C. Bowman, Sr.*

*Councilmember Carolyn S. Campbell*

*Councilmember Michelle Taylor Ferebee*

*Councilmember Hope L. Harper*

*Councilmember Martha M. Mugler*

*STAFF: Mary Bunting, City Manager*

*Courtney R. Sydnor, City Attorney*

*Katherine K. Glass, MMC, Clerk of Council*

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**Wednesday, August 13, 2025**

**6:30 PM**

**Council Chambers**

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### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gray called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All members of the City Council were present.

**Present:** 7 - Councilmember Randy C. Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Steven L. Brown, Councilmember Carolyn S. Campbell, Councilmember Michelle T. Ferebee, Councilmember Hope L. Harper, Councilmember Martha Mugler and Mayor Jimmy Gray

### JIMMY GRAY PRESIDED

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG

### INVOCATION - COUNCILMAN RANDY C. BOWMAN , SR.

Councilman Bowman gave the invocation.

### MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Gray recognized Melanie Paul for her donation of funding for two Hampton Police Division K-9 vests and for other support of the City of Hampton. She was photographed with the Mayor, Patrol Officer James Lollar and his K-9 partner, Bak. Ms. Paul thanked the Mayor and the members of Council for the recognition and gave brief remarks.

Mayor Gray also congratulated Vice Mayor Brown who will be presented with an Honorary Doctorate of Humanitarianism on

Saturday.

Mayor Gray shared that the homeless ordinance will not be voted upon at this meeting and that there was a presentation on it during the afternoon work session explaining the engagement process. He also noted that anyone who wished to speak on the ordinance will still be allowed to do so.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Clerk of Council Katherine Glass read the protocol for the consent agenda and a summary of the consent items.

### **Approval of the Consent Agenda**

Motion made by Councilwoman Mugler and seconded by Vice Mayor Brown to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

1. [25-0211](#) Resolution to Affirm the City of Hampton, Virginia's Use of the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act Plan Annual Contribution Awarded through the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice and the City of Hampton's Intent to Continue to Annually Participate in the Program

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

2. [25-0219](#) Resolution to Amend the Fiscal Year 2026 Council Approved Budget to Accept and Appropriate \$80,472.74 from the General Fund's Unassigned Fund Balance Related to the Peninsula Stadium Authority Dissolution for War Memorial Stadium Operations to the General Fund - Parks, Recreation, and Leisure Services Budget

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

3. [25-0228](#) Resolution to Amend the Fiscal Year 2026 Council Approved Budget to Appropriate \$519,826 from Assigned Fund Balance - Hampton Roads Transit to Organizational Support - HRT

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

4. [25-0223](#) Resolution of the Council of the City of Hampton, Virginia Authorizing the Appropriation of \$257,000.00 from the Economic Development Fund to the Economic Development Authority of the City of Hampton, Virginia to Finance Certain Infrastructure Costs Payable in Connection with The Phenix Commerce Center Development.

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

5. [25-0233](#) Resolution of the City of Hampton, Virginia Declaring Its Official Intent to Reimburse Itself from Proceeds of Bonds or Other Obligations by Authorizing an Advance of \$ 8,843,508 from the City's General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance to the FY26 Capital Budget (Capital Projects) Fund for Certain Designated Projects

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

6. [25-0221](#) Resolution of Hampton City Council Initiating Certain Amendments to the Hampton City Zoning Ordinance  
Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

7. [25-0225](#) Resolution Requesting that the Virginia Department of Transportation Program Two New Projects into its Six-Year Improvement Plan

**Attachments:** [HamptonCity-UPC125079](#)  
[HamptonCity-UPC125081](#)

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

8. [25-0230](#) Resolution Approving the Formation of NextGen HRHA by the Hampton Redevelopment and Housing Authority

**Attachments:** [HRHA Board Resolution](#)

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

9. [25-0235](#) Resolution to Approve an Encroachment Agreement Pursuant to Hampton City Code § 34-86 Between the City of Hampton and Tiffany M. Corley, to Allow an Encroachment into Two Areas of

City of Hampton Drainage and Utility Easements for the Installation of Fence.

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

[Encroachment Agreement](#)

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

10. [25-0236](#) Resolution Approving the City of Hampton's Participation in the Proposed Direct Settlement of Opioid-Related Claims Against the Sackler Family, and Directing the City Manager to Execute the Documents Necessary to Effectuate the City of Hampton's Participation in the Settlement

Attachments: [Settlement Overview](#)

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

11. [25-0218](#) Setting the Emeritus Term on the War Memorial Stadium Authority

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

12. [25-0207](#) Approval of the minutes from the special meeting of January 22, 2025; the special meeting of July 9, 2025; the work and legislative sessions of May 14, 2025; the work session of May 28, 2025; and the legislative session of June 11, 2025.

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

**PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS**

There were no ceremonial items on the agenda.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Ms. Glass read the protocol for public hearings.

13. [25-0234](#) 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and 2025 Annual Action Plan

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

Ms. Glass read the title for the item.

Ms. Bunting introduced Angela Shenk, who serves as the City's Strategic Plan Priority Leader for Safe & Clean and also Management Analyst in the City Manager's Office.

Ms. Shenk greeted those on the dais and summarized the conditions that the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) require in order to provide funding to the City through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnership (HOME) programs. In summary, the City is required to develop a five-year consolidated plan that addresses housing and community development needs. The plan provides overarching policy guidance and sets priorities for how the federal grant funds will be used over the next five years. The Annual Action Plan serves as the City's funding application to HUD and also outlines the City's one-year use of funds.

Ms. Shenk spoke about staff's interaction with Mosaic Community Planning to develop the Consolidated Plan. This work involved analyzing data from a range of federal resources. She then shared information about each source and the data they provided.

Ms. Shenk transitioned into speaking about the engagement tools used in the process, some of which include a survey, community meetings, focus groups and stakeholder interviews.

Next, Ms. Shenk spoke about the Consolidated Plan priority areas that were

determined by the data and community input. They are: preserving housing affordability and quality, making improvements to public facilities and infrastructure, increasing economic opportunities, providing supportive services, and ensuring effective administration of federal programs. These priorities align with the City Council strategic focus areas of economic growth, place making, family resilience and economic empowerment, and maintaining a safe and clean community.

This portion of the presentation also lists Hampton's historic funding allocations in the CDBG and HOME programs for the years 2015 - 2025. Ms. Shenk noted that Hampton is an entitlement community which means it receives funding on an annual basis provided that the federal guidelines continue to be met. Ms. Shenk announced that for program year 2025, the CDBG and HOME allocation is approximately \$1.3 million, with an additional \$150,000 predicted to be received in estimated program income.

Next, Ms. Shenk shared the CDBG and HOME program objectives. In summary CDBG program objectives are to benefit low to moderate income persons, aid in the prevention of slums and blight, or meet an urgent need. HOME program objectives are to expand the supply of decent, safe and affordable housing and expand the capacity of non-profit community-based housing development organizations (CHDO).

Ms. Shenk reviewed the breakdown of proposed spending of the CDBG and HOME programs resources in the upcoming year. CDBG funded projects (activities) include housing services, housing programs, code enforcement and Community Development Planning and Grant Administration. HOME projects (activities) include homeowner rehabilitation, homebuyer assistance, CHDOs and HOME Administration.

Lastly, Ms. Shenk shared the timeline of events in the process. The engagement kick-off and initial public hearing for comment were held in February; HUD allocations were published in May; the draft plan was published on July 15 for 30 days of public comment; the final public hearing and adoption is scheduled for August 13; and the final plan will be submitted by August 15.

Ms. Shenk opened the floor for discussion and noted that representatives from Mosaic Community Planning and the Hampton Redevelopment and Housing Authority (HRHA) were in attendance.

Ms. Shenk and Yvonne Hodges of HRHA provided the following information in response to questions posed by Council: The housing services goals refer to future goals, not work that has already been accomplished. An updated report on

additional accomplishments will be given in September. Progress has been made with regard to HRHA's housing rehab program and the housing wait list.

Approximately 51 households have been serviced utilizing approximately \$900,000 of the \$2 million allocated, but the work has slowed down due to a shortage in staff.

Mayor Gray opened the public hearing. There were no speakers so the public hearing was closed. A motion was made by Councilmember Hope Harper seconded by Vice Mayor Steven Brown, to adopt the plan. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

### **Ordinances**

14. [25-0199](#) Ordinance to Amend and Re-Enact the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Hampton, Virginia, Chapter 14, Entitled "Reviews by the Planning Commission and City Council," Article I, Section 14-12 Entitled "Expiration of a Use Permit," to Amend the Procedure for Establishing the Expiration of a Use Permit

Attachments: [Redline](#)  
[Clean](#)  
[PC Presentation](#)  
[Resolution](#)  
[CC Presentation](#)

Ms. Glass read the title for the item.

Ms. Bunting introduced City Planner Quinn Heinrich to make the presentation.

Mr. Heinrich greeted those on the dais and explained that the amendment is to change Chapter 14 of the Zoning Ordinance to revise the procedure for establishing the expiration of a use permit. He also explained why the amendment is needed. In summary, sometimes developments, such as multi-family projects, require more time for construction, and currently there is no ability for the City to amend use permit time frames for projects that take longer than two years. This proposal would allow the City to have the flexibility to do that.

Next, Mr. Heinrich summarized what is being proposed as follows: The current

expiration conditions will be the default rule, but this proposal will allow modifications as needed. In addition, language in the existing ordinance will be revised.

Mr. Heinrich concluded the presentation stating that staff and the Planning Commission recommend approval of the amendment and then opened the floor for discussion. There was no discussion following the presentation.

Mayor Gray opened the public hearing. There were no speakers so the public hearing was closed. A motion was made by Councilmember Carolyn Campbell and seconded by Vice Mayor Steven Brown, that this Zoning Ordinance - Text be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

### **Use Permits**

**15. [25-0195](#)** Use Permit Application by Trilogy Developers, LLC, to Permit Multifamily Dwellings at the Intersections of LaSalle Avenue and West Pembroke Avenue, West Pembroke Avenue and West Queen Street, and West Queen Street and Michigan Drive [LRSN: 2000401], Commonly Known as the Former Site of the Lincoln Park Housing Development

**Attachments:** [Application Combined](#)  
[Conditions](#)  
[Staff Report](#)  
[PC Presentation](#)  
[CC Presentation](#)

Ms. Glass read the title for the item.

Ms. Bunting introduced Chief Planner Donald Whipple to make the presentation.

Mr. Whipple greeted those on the dais and stated that the request is to allow multi-family dwellings within the Downtown Business (DT-1) District. He also displayed two maps which indicate the site location in the City.

Mr. Whipple shared specifics about the proposal related to the number of buildings

and units, support for commercial uses (such as a hair salon and daycare) and community amenities. He also shared images of what is being proposed and images of what was previously on that site.

Mr. Whipple reminded everyone that in 2023, Council approved rezoning this site to facilitate this development to its current zoning, which is DT-1. A use permit was approved to allow the apartment units to be developed, however, the former use permit expired before an approved site plan was developed.

Mr. Whipple compared the previous use permit request to the current request and also spoke about the Zoning and Future Land Use maps as they relate to the application.

Mr. Whipple spoke about public policies in the Hampton Community Plan that apply to this application, some of which call for encouraging a diverse mix of housing types and values, encouraging high quality new developments, and protecting neighborhoods and compatible land uses within the City's residential corridors. He also spoke about recommended conditions which are related to compliance with proffered conditions and use permit conditions, and nullification if substantial completion is not reached in 5 years.

Lastly, Mr. Whipple shared staff's analysis of the proposal which is that the proposed development has not changed from the previous use permit; the applicant is complying with rezoning proffers; high density residential use is supported by the Community Plan; and staff still sees this as a multi-family project.

Mr. Whipple concluded the presentation stating that staff and the Planning Commission recommend approval of the application subject to nine conditions. He noted that the applicant was present and then opened the floor for discussion. No further discussion took place.

Mayor Gray opened the public hearing. There were no speakers so the public hearing was closed. A motion was made by Councilmember Randy Bowman, Sr. and seconded by Vice Mayor Steven Brown, that this Use Permit be approved with nine (9) conditions. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

**Restaurant 3, to Expand Outdoor Dining at 4330 Kecoughtan  
Road [Portion of LRSN: 2003800]**

**Attachments:** [Application](#)  
[Conditions](#)  
[Staff Report](#)  
[PC Presentation](#)  
[CC Presentation](#)

Ms. Glass read the title for the item.

Ms. Bunting introduced City Planner Han Vu to make the presentation.

Ms. Vu greeted those on the dais and introduced the item. She clarified that the application requires a use permit because outdoor dining is prohibited in the M2 district. She then displayed images of the site location and floor plan of the building and reviewed specifics about the proposal related to square footage, hours of operation, alcohol sales and live entertainment.

Ms. Vu spoke about the Zoning and Future Land Use maps as they relate to the application and then transitioned into speaking about public policies in the Hampton Community Plan that apply to this application. Some of the policies call for promoting compatibility and synergy among different land uses; encouraging a mix of land uses appropriate for each district; nurturing small and start-up businesses; and expanding tourism, entertainment and cultural opportunities in the City.

Ms. Vu noted that the subject parcel is located within the Kecoughtan Corridor Master Plan, which encourages mixed-use development and water-oriented commercial uses along Sunset Creek.

Ms. Vu reviewed staff's analysis of the proposal which is that the previous restaurant had outdoor dining at this location; the proposed hours of operation are consistent with similar restaurants previously approved; the proposed use is compatible with existing surrounding development; and it would otherwise be permitted and approved administratively if it was not an M2.

Ms. Vu also shared a list of staff's recommended conditions related to issuance of permit, hours of operation, licensing, sound, capacity and revocation and nullification.

Ms. Vu concluded the presentation with the following information. While staff highly encouraged the applicant to hold a community meeting, a meeting has not yet been held. Staff has received positive feedback from neighbors and also inquiries about

details of the use permit. Staff and the Planning Commission recommend approval of the application with nine conditions.

Ms. Vu opened the floor for discussion and provided the following information in response to questions posed by Council: No negative feedback was received by staff. Those who inquired were curious about what the use permit is for, were familiar with the former establishment at that location, The Barking Dog, and expressed looking forward to welcoming another restaurant there. With regard to hours of operation, the applicant proposed 11AM-9PM, however staff recommended 5AM-12AM to be consistent with other restaurants. The applicant will not be required to come before the City again if it decides to extend the hours of operation.

Mayor Gray opened the public hearing. There were no speakers so the public hearing was closed. A motion was made by Councilmember Martha Mugler and seconded by Vice Mayor Steven Brown, that this Use Permit be approved with nine (9) conditions. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

## **Resolutions**

**17. 25-0227** Resolution to Authorize the Acquisition, by Negotiation or Condemnation, of a Partial Fee Take, Pursuant to §§ 25.1-100, Et Seq. and 15.2-1901, Et Seq. of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as Amended, for Purposes of a Public Street/Road and Associated Public Right-of-Way Necessary for Pedestrian Access (Sidewalks)

**Attachments:** [Plat - 1805 Old Buckroe Road](#)

Ms. Glass read the title for the item.

Ms. Bunting provided the following information regarding the item: The City of Hampton is proceeding with land acquisitions for the Old Buckroe pedestrian upgrades project, which will allow improvements to be made from Pembroke Avenue to Fox Hill Road, Silver Isles Boulevard. This project will construct sidewalks and make associated improvements for pedestrian access, including, but not limited to crosswalks, pedestrian signals and ADA (American with Disabilities) amenities such as pedestrian lighting. In order to construct the improvements for this important project to best serve the citizens of the City, acquisition of a portion of that certain

property, commonly known as 1805 Old Buckroe Road, is required. Based upon a title examination of the property, it is owned by Nicholas Perigo, the owner. The City has reached out on numerous occasions to the owner to negotiate the purchase of the required portion of the owner's property, but the owner has been nonresponsive. A partial fee take of the required portion of the property using the City's eminent domain authority is thus necessary. The proposed partial fee take area comprises approximately 38 square feet plus or minus, or .0009 acres plus or minus, in accordance with that certain plat entitled Plat Showing Right-of-way, located at 1805 Old Buckroe Road, conveyed to the City of Hampton, Virginia, by Nicholas Perigo, which plat is dated, March 21, 2024, revised, April 22, 2025, and made by City surveyor Randall J. Edwards. Therefore, it is recommended that pursuant to state code section 25.1-100, 15.2-1901 and the applicable portions of 33.2-1000 of the Code of Virginia of 1950 as amended that the City exercises eminent domain authority to commence condemnation proceedings upon the identified required portion of the property, since acquisition has not been able to be obtained through negotiation.

Mayor Gray opened the public hearing. There were no speakers so the public hearing was closed. A motion was made by Councilmember Martha Mugler and seconded by Councilmember Michelle Ferebee, that this Resolution be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Glass read the protocol for the public comment period.

Mayor Gray reminded everyone how the timer works and that speakers will have three minutes to speak and should state their name when they come to the podium. He then called on the first speaker, Michael Cheever.

Mr. Michael Cheever greeted those on the dais, introduced himself and made the following statement: I'm here about the camping and storage ordinance. Hampton shouldn't go through with the proposed camping and storage ordinance, as it only criminalizes homelessness instead of rooting out the conditions that created it. One major reason would be the lack of affordable housing as Hampton's median rent has risen from \$980.66 in 2019 to \$1,582.35 in 2024 which is an increase of 61.36% without any meaningful increases in wages or decreases in other costs of living. This isn't helped by the fact that a majority of housing in Hampton is under single

family zoning, which means there's less housing available, and what little is available tends to cost more. Other common reasoning is drug and alcohol problems and unemployment, which can be best remedied if they are relieved from the high stress situations of homelessness and allowed to recover without proposed threats of incarceration and, or fines. This would also disproportionately affect the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) as they are over represented in the homeless population, with the black community specifically representing roughly a third of the local population and three quarters of the homeless population. Our disabled homeless population has also risen, as it is now at 36.68% of the total homeless population and there's an increasing proportion of older adults, which will both add to the chronic homeless population, meaning it is even more difficult for them to enter or re-enter the workforce. Without looking at the specific groups and looking at the homeless group as a whole, it is projected that it will grow 5% every year for the next few years, which our project type housing isn't enough as of now and will be unlikely to handle the future growth in the homeless population. The transitional housing is at 111% of capacity, rapid re-housing - 100%, permanent supporting housing - 95%, and other permanent housing at 99%. So, they're all close to, at or above capacity. The only form of project type housing with enough room now is emergency shelters at 75%, but as the study was done in January, it includes winter shelters, which make up 50% of all emergency shelters. What this means is that most will be unable to avoid breaking this ordinance (inaudible word) or going through a cycle of courts and streets, and instead, we should look to the actual decommunification and passing legislation to make it more possible.

Mr. Cheever's speaking time expired. Mayor Gray noted that unfortunately, the yellow warning light did not appear, but three minutes had passed. Mayor Gray then called on the next speaker, Amanda Ludwig.

Ms. Amanda Ludwig greeted those on the dais made the following statement: Our names are Amanda and Andy Ludwig and we are here regarding More Laughing in the Morning - Cool Kids Summer Camp that was held, as you know, recently, on Fort Monroe. For three weeks, our daughters have come home in the evening excited to the point of bursting to tell us about what they got to do that day at camp. Our oldest daughter, who has always been into fashion design, was able to flex her creativity with arts, props and costumes, designing programs, but she's also found a new passion for editing and producing and directing. Mr. Ludwig: Our youngest daughter took the opportunity to put her fearlessness and comedic timing on full display by delivering an opening monolog for More Laughing in the Morning, which will actually be airing on TV on September 8. So, both of our girls are athletes in Fox Hill with the Hampton City Schools, our Hampton City athletic program, and it's fantastic, but this camp did such a great job of rounding out their entire summer, coming in second place in Fox Hill softball to... Ms. Ludwig: I'm the coach, by the

way, second place. Mr. Ludwig: By learning how to fly a drone, to take aerial shots, to learning all the stuff that they learned, how to make a television show, and it's absolutely fantastic, and brings that industry closer to home for our kids. So, we've already had fellow parents come up and ask when the next time the camp is going to be available. So, we're here. Rah, rah, rah, cheering for that program. Ms. Ludwig: Please support it. Mr. Ludwig: It's fantastic. That's what we have to say. Ms. Ludwig: Thank you. Mr. Ludwig: Thank you.

Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Kathy Yevak.

Ms. Kathy Yevak greeted those on the dais and City staff, introduced herself and made the following statement: I am the general manager of WSKY-TV, SKY4 TV. Part of the Lockwood Broadcast Group, and we're located right here in Hampton. Last month, I watched a rising fifth grader step in front of a camera for the very first time. She nervously adjusted her microphone, took a deep breath and then proceeded to interview me with poise and confidence, and all I could think was, this is a future broadcaster. I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you all tonight about the continued importance of your investment in the More Laughing Arts and Media Camp. For your reference - first and foremost, I serve on the Board of Directors for the Virginia Association of Broadcasters, where I am also the Chairperson for our College and University Partnership Committee. On that committee, my goal is to connect college students with opportunities in the broadcast industry, and over the last several years, one thing has become crystal clear: We need to reach these kids sooner, and we need to reach them when their curiosity and confidence are still forming. Through the Academies of Hampton, SKY4 TV worked closely with the academy digital video production at Phoebus High School, but this summer, thanks to Allison Moore and More Laughing Arts and Media Camp, we were able to reach those younger students in elementary and middle school, and the difference it makes is extraordinary. Allison Moore's camp gave these kids more than just a tour of SKY4 TV. She sparked interest in their future. As they stepped into our studio, they met our production and sales teams, and they took on every single role. From writing scripts, posting interviews, editing and dancing on the set. They weren't just watching media being made, they were making it, and you will see the results when their program airs on SKY4 TV on Monday morning, September 8, at 7:30AM, and I believe it will feature the Mayor and the Vice Mayor. This experience is just the beginning, igniting curiosity, giving our youth a voice and showing them how they can strengthen the community. So, when you invest in these programs, you're not just supporting arts and media, you're shaping the voices that are going to lead Hampton's future. And, I ask you to keep the momentum going. On behalf of your hometown Hampton station, thank you for your partnership and for believing in the power of early exposure, hands on experience and the voices of tomorrow. Let's keep building that momentum together. I thank you for your time.

Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Miriam Gourdine.

Ms. Miriam Gourdine greeted those on the dais, introduced herself and made the following statement: I'm going to be doing a slight pivot to what I initially was going to address because I wanted to talk to the homeless plan that was being considered. Again, my name is Miriam Gourdine - concerned Hampton resident, current Natasha House volunteer and Board Member. The Natasha House is a rehabilitation center for homeless mothers and their children, who have been working with those families for over 10 years. I'm also the current Miss Exquisite, Miss Full-Figure Virginia 2025 and my platform is advocating for the homeless, the homeless population. I understand that the homeless plan initiative won't be discussed tonight, so I'm going to reserve my comments until the next meeting, when you do discuss it, so I'm pivoting a little bit. So, thank you for your time.

Mayor Gray called on the next speaker Eola Dance.

Ms. Eola Dance greeted those on the dais, introduced herself and made the following statement: I live in Hampton, and I'm a product of Hampton City Schools. I'm here to express my gratitude to you and speak on behalf of the parents of the Cool Kids Camp Pilot Program and hope it continues and expands. My boys attend Hampton City Schools and aren't athletes or musicians at this time. They love learning and storytelling. This camp came along at the perfect time. It is a camp that gave them a unique opportunity to explore the arts, media and performance in a way that will serve them for a lifetime. My elementary schooler was eager to get to the camp each day and learn from distinguished journalists, like Barbara Hamm Lee, and the More Laughing team. He developed skills in hosting that boosted his confidence and creativity. It was especially powerful to see my introverted high schooler break out of his shell and serve as the announcer for the showcase, as well as learn editing and production. Thank you for your time as I share my support for Allison Moore's Cool Kids Camp and her growing vision to keep Hampton the home base for a much-needed incubator for communication and arts education grades four through 12. Thank you.

Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Sarai Vance.

Ms. Sarai Vance greeted those on the dais, introduced herself and made the following statement: I am here to represent Ms. Allison Moore, and this here is my good luck charm, Faith. I am a proud daughter of two parents, Deborah and Jason Vance. You may know them. I am also a student at Norfolk State University, and I am majoring in the Performing Arts. However, my decision in majoring in the Performing Arts didn't come recently. It started about eight years ago, when I was a

freshman at Phoebus High School. I remember the day like it was yesterday. My best friends and I were in our theater club meeting when our teacher told us a popular comedian was coming to our school to hold an audition for her web show, Miss Diehl. While everyone else treated it like it was any other day, I treated it like it was the very moment like any opportunity of a lifetime. As a freshman, my young eyes always knew I wanted to have my name in shining lights, but at a young age and with little opportunity, here in Hampton Roads, I found myself stuck and unsure on where to go. So, when Ms. Allison arrived at our doorstep, I knew that in this very moment, this was my chance, my one opportunity. So, I took this opportunity and I looked at myself and my favorite actors, Jared Padalecki and Jensen Ackles, from Supernatural. Upon getting into Miss Allison's web show, Miss Diehl, and participating in rehearsals for the show, I found myself in awe of every aspect she had to offer. From the lights, the sounds, the equipment - I couldn't get enough. In my childhood mind, I was on that very set as those same young actors dreamed they could be on. In that moment, I knew this was my destiny, but I didn't stop there. The moment that the cameras turned off, I would ask questions to every crew member I could meet, and asked how they operated, and they all gently shared their experiences with me. Needless to say, I had hunger and vigor like none other, and as if I was on cloud nine, but during that same day, when the episode dropped, everyone seemed to congratulate me for all my hard work, and it truly was the moment that I needed. I knew in that moment I wanted to be a professional actress, and I am eternally grateful for Miss Allison, an opportunity she opened for that door. I am a product of her. I'm the very first of many young students that she was willing to teach. And, so, I ask you, as a very young adult, to think about all the young students before her, including myself and Faith. Things like this don't come easily to the Hampton Roads area. In fact, do you have to go elsewhere, such as Seattle, New York, or even DC? So, I ask you, as someone who comes from a struggling young family with towns that are out of reach. Until now, this program has provided the kind of thing that this... that this young child needed, and the sort of space that every young adult wishes to stand, so, please give a chance to the next generation. Thank you.

Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Shonda Dawson.

Ms. Shonda Dawson greeted those on the dais, introduced herself, and made the following statement: I am speaking tonight, not just as an educator of 18 years, but as someone who has seen firsthand the skills this program builds that schools simply don't always have the time or resources to teach. More Laughing Arts and Media Program gives students social, emotional learning, confidence and public speaking skills that go far beyond the classroom. These are life skills, helping students find their voice, work through challenges and present themselves with poise. They learn to collaborate, to listen and to lead. In today's world, one of the biggest influences on

our students is social media. If we're not guiding them to use it safely, responsibly and creatively, we leave them vulnerable to the very issues that often spill into our classrooms: distraction, conflict and unhealthy comparison. More Laughing Arts and Media Camp engages them in using media as a tool for connection and positive expression, rather than division. Our community has a wealth of opportunities in athletics, and that's wonderful, but for the arts, especially media arts, there are far fewer outlets. More Laughing Arts and Media Camp fills that gap, giving students a place to shine who might never step onto a sports field, but will stand proudly on a stage, behind a camera or in front of one. We're not just teaching kids how to produce content, we're teaching them how to tell their stories, build confidence and contribute responsibly to the world they're inheriting. I truly believe our community needs this. When we empower young people to tell their stories, we're not just shaping better students, we are shaping stronger communities. And I leave you with a quote from Frederick Douglass that says..."It is easier to build strong children than to repair grown [sic] (broken) men." Thank you.

Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, David Mongiello.

Mr. David Mongiello greeted those on the dais, introduced himself as David Richmond Mongiello, Sr., indicated that he is a resident of Hampton, Virginia, and made the following statement: I come before you, not just as a citizen, but as a father, one who has spent months fighting to reunite with his children due to what I believe is a deeply flawed and harmful involvement by Child Protective Services (CPS) and our family's life. On November 11, 2024, a single incident triggered a chain of events that would alter the course of my family forever. One of my young children, who is non-verbal and has a known history of elopement, managed to leave the house. Well, I took immediate corrective action, including sending several of my children to live temporarily with their grandparents in California. I was met, not with support, but with a system more focused on punishment than partnership. CPS entered into my home with a search warrant, conducted interviews and made determinations that I believe were based on incomplete, inaccurate and in some cases, outright false information. They ignored medical documentation, parental efforts and professional assessments that contradict their narrative. Their report included over 60 statements I have formally objected to, many of which are provably incorrect, misleading or taken out of context. Even worse, there has been no measurable accountability. I have filed formal objections and requested independent review, yet the emotional trauma to my children, the financial burden on my family, and the disruption to our lives continue. Before I speak further on my case, I'd like to briefly share who I am. I proudly served in the United States Marine Corps from 1998 to 2002. I was honorably discharged. During my service, I was meritoriously promoted to the rank of corporal in June 2001, by Major General James T. Conway in recognition of my leadership and dedication. That same year, in August 2001, I

received a certificate of good conduct for exemplary behavior and service, among other metals, which I will not go through all today. In 2002, I was honored to receive a letter of appreciation from the Honorable Mr. Gordon England, Secretary of the Navy, for outstanding performance and contribution during my time in uniform. In my personal life, I married my wife, Gwendolyn Mongiello, in January of 2013. In 2016, I completed my Bachelor of Science degree at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. I'm a father, a husband, a veteran, a man who has always taken pride in protecting and providing for my family. Councilmembers, Mayor, Vice Mayor, I'm asking you tonight to consider the cost, not just in dollars, but in human impact of unchecked CPS overreach.

Mayor Gray indicated that Mr. Mongiello's speaking time had expired. Mr. Mongiello continued: Thank you very much, and God bless. Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Allison Moore.

Ms. Allison Moore greeted those on the dais, introduced herself and made the following statement: My company, More Laughing Arts and Media received a support approved by Council. I wanted to report on the success of the program. I thank you all sincerely, from the bottom my heart, for the \$15,000 sponsorship that helped us launch this year's summer camp. Thank you to Vice Mayor Brown and Councilwoman [sic] (City Manager) Bunting for your leadership, patience and support with me since the spring and over the summer, I appreciate you. Your support transformed lives and demonstrated Hampton's commitment to the youth and creative future, as my peers, friends and family have shared with you all tonight. This program is for Hampton. I'm a third generation Hamptonian with college students that I raised in Hampton. My grandmother was a principal at the Virginia Deaf and Blind School, and what we create is for the future here. In just three weeks, we trained 18 Hampton youth and welcomed seven more from outside the City, fourth through 12th grade in journalism, performing arts, media production, stem and leadership. They logged over 100 hours of learning. They interviewed CEO's and civic leaders, like you, Mayor Gray and Vice Mayor Brown. They created original media content and participated in three educational field trips. We were really proud. Our camp day brought 15 families to POC (Paradise Ocean Club) a local Hampton business, and our camper showcase drew over 100 community members, both events generating economic activity for local businesses and creating an unforgettable experience for our youth and our families. My vision is to take these programs and replicate the Boo Williams model, but for Performing Arts and Media, a seasonal program that grows into a permanent facility, a regional attraction and a driver of vitality for Hampton. This isn't just about youth. It's about creating exciting energy, contributing to Hampton's arts and entertainment scene and giving other cities a reason to come here. Creating jobs and boosting small businesses and creative economy is what I am passionate about doing. This fall, we

plan to continue our camp, this time serving 50 to 75 Hampton families with using weekend clinics that build on our summer success. So, our focus for the fall will be online safety, YouTube content creation and media engagement, which naturally connects to the broader community as a communications vehicle for citizens. Tuition for this program will cover almost \$15,000 of the \$40,000 cost, and I am seeking, through private and other support, \$25,000 to close the gap on this program. A dedicated space would allow us to expand the program, serve more youth year-round, and make Hampton a hub for creative talent development and economic vitality. Looking forward, I hope to work with you and the staff to secure inclusion in the 2026 budget and share our \$120,000 flagship summer program plan, a plan designed to generate revenue, develop Hampton and put Hampton on the map as we make sure everybody knows why they should choose Hampton. Thank you.

Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Joan Weaver.

Ms. Joan Weaver asked where the timer was placed, greeted those on the dais and the Clerk of Council, and made the following statement: I am back again for my neighborhood, this time, even though we all know I am Miss Virginia State School for the Deaf and Blind advocate, I will continue to advocate for the Greater Wythe neighborhood. I was most impressed when acknowledgement was given to Steven Brown, Councilman. No one, that I can say, who sits on that Council stood and defended and fought for us, against all odds, developers and dollars did not sway you, but decency and we will forever be grateful to you. And as we continue to grow, we know you will be there in our corner if and when no one else will be, and I publicly, and I believe I speak for our community too, we love you, sir, and we thank you. Moving on to it, and don't leave politics, let Mayor position and others continue. You've got a whole lot to give to the citizens. You are a citizen and other citizen, and you represent us and represent us well. Moving on to the Greater Wythe neighborhood now, which really causes me concern, as well. Everyone knows that our community, out of all Hampton communities, is the bottom of the barrel. Slowly, slowly, but surely, we have been seeing improvement, and are very grateful to that. Mary Bunting, thank you so much, but there is a hell of a lot that needs to be done. When I look at housing and the improvement that we have asked for assistance with, we come back and ask that you revisit that again. When your codes and compliance inspectors come out, keep in mind and be community sensitive. We are asking that you provide and give and do and give us the resources that we need. Don't just shove a notice. You give us resources, tell us how, what, when and where you can do. I invite you to come into our community to tell us the process, policies and procedures that you use, and then the rights of one that receives the violation. Don't talk at us, but work with us. Threats of legal does not bother us. People of color have known the judicial system forever, but we will stand with dignity and fight. You walk with us and make our community a better place. Thank you.

Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Cassandra Alston Townsley.

Ms. Cassandra Alston Townsley greeted those on the dais, the Clerk of Council, and Hampton residents and also congratulated Vice Mayor Brown. She then introduced herself and made the following statement: I, Cassandra Alston Townsley, came here tonight prepared to speak on the homeless ordinance, but instead I rise simply to say, thank you. In August 2021 after receiving a proclamation from the City of New York for over a decade of community service, my now 89-year-old daddy said to me, back then, your work here in New York is done. Give your car, and I-95 a break. Your home is now in Hampton. There's work to be done there. Since then, I have embraced that calling, and I represent many faces in our community. I serve on the Hampton Senior Citizens Advisory Committee as a senior appointed by City Council. Thank you. I'm also a disabled - community represented - so, I do receive services. I am still in recovery from my second spine surgery. Y'all keep me in prayer. Y'all know I do a little more than I'm supposed to. I'm going to go home. I got some meds today, but we're going to be all right, okay. And I just want to say thank you, because as a retired community service representative from the government and I'm also a retired mystery shopper. I often said...Let's not look at it as a problem, let's look at it as a situation with a solution, and I really am here to work with each and every one of you. You're all friendly faces to me, and I want to say thank you for all that you do, and prayerfully, I will make you as proud of me that I am of each and every one of you, because, yes, I voted for every last one of y'all up there. God bless you. Have a great day, and I will be seeing you in the meeting.

Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Doris Eck.

Ms. Doris Eck introduced herself and indicated where she has resided in the City since July 16, 2018, and made the following statement: I have chosen this home because it is the first one I found that's made of bricks. I'm a German, and we like our brick houses anyway. Dear Council, esteemed members, Mr. Mayor, we never had the pleasure except for one of the other persons at the neighborhood watch meeting, which I belong to, the Neighborhood Watch. Something terrible happened to us on July. My husband and I - we were sort of broken up. Our car got broken into in our driveway, and I made a decision to get proactive, rather than sitting back and be afraid. I got a whole lot of things moving, but I came here to ask for problems that I see with our street light. I live on Ireland Street. Our street lighting is terrible. We have put on flood lights on our house - support cameras now, so at least we're catching a little bit of what goes on when we sleep. But, the streetlight situation is very difficult for us, because we're not the only persons living on the street. The same night where our car got vandalized and ruined, three other cars got vandalized, ruined, stole, (inaudible word), so I think Ms. Bunting, I have brought that

issue with the street lighting to you. Have not heard back, so I just thought I'd bring it back to you, and I'm also pleased to read and I will revisit that paperwork that came with this meeting tonight about juvenile justice. So, I'm going to review this, and I'll get back to somebody. I want to bring to your attention a public meeting that's going to happen on August 21 at 6pm at 300 Butler Farm Road at the Police Academy. And, I reached out to Chief Wideman, who is assisting to have this meeting, and I wanted to bring that to your attention too in case somebody might be interested to hear from the residents. Thank you very much.

Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Tatanashe Young, who was not present when called upon, therefore he called on the next speaker, Tawo Samson.

Mr. Tawo Samson, greeted those on the dais, introduced himself and made the following statement: I'm a retired Navy Chief. Recently graduated from Military University in Pennsylvania, so I traveled to Pennsylvania from January 13 to May 10. Depend (depending) on what time I left the house. I live not far from Buckroe Beach. I try to leave the house by 2AM in the morning because it's about seven-hour one way, another eight hours, round trip. Cut long story short - I traveled two times a week for five months consecutively with zero traffic tickets. So, I'm here to raise a concern about the traffic enforcement camera placed by the South Mallory Street. That camera is about two minutes away from my driveway, and leaving my driveway two-minute drive I've incurred about \$20, so I have a son at ODU (Old Dominion University) that I literally told not to come to the house. Stay where you are between 3 and 6pm or if you come by the house, you are not leaving until after 6pm. I don't know the idea or the concept behind placing that camera there, because if you live on South Mallory Street, North Mallory Street, all the way to the Buckroe Beach, that road is the only road that brought you to 64. It's like a choke point. So, if the idea was to mitigate traffic before the installment of that camera, it has tripled the pain for everyone in that neighborhood. If I leave my house, I either travel on East Mercury Boulevard to get on Settler Landing, it used to take me three minutes, four minutes to get on 64 - it's never coming here. I traveled through seven cameras at least five minutes ago from here. Out of those seven cameras, three of them used to take my pictures for something. And the next three days, I checked my mailbox, it's \$50 fine in my mailbox. So, I do have three questions for the Councilmembers. My first question is why this camera is placed at that particular location and is like, imprison everyone on 23663, (inaudible word) everyone that lives on the North Mallory Street? My second question is, is there exception for us living in that neighborhood? Because, like I said, between 3pm to 6pm, I either stay put in my house or I face extended traffic to get on 64. And my third question is, can (inaudible word) City install physical, mechanical barriers like they have on all this HOV entrance lane? If the concept is to prevent people from going over the bridge? One, it will save me money, and two, it would be physically seen by anyone coming through that bridge.

Coming here today, I had to get out my car two times to tell people to go the other way. Thank you.

Mayor Gray indicated that Mr. Samson's speaking time had expired and then called on the next speaker, Joshua Moran.

Mr. Joshua Moran greeted those on the dais, introduced himself and made the following statement: I'm here to speak about the proposed homeless ordinance. This proposed ordinance is absolutely disgusting, targeting the most vulnerable and disadvantaged members of our community, criminalizing homelessness and making being poor a crime in the City of Hampton. The City should be extending a helping hand to its homeless citizens, and this ordinance is a closed fist to beat them down further. Sending people to jail when they're already at the lowest point in their lives, are trying to fine them thousands of dollars when they already have virtually nothing. It's deeply disappointing to even see this ordinance being considered by Council. It was also reported in the news that this ordinance was supported by concerned business owners. I would like to know the names of those businesses so that I'll never give them another dime in my life, but I understand this ordinance is not on the agenda tonight. I just would implore you to vote no whenever it rears its ugly head again. How you choose to vote will show your true character. Thank you.

Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Craig Knopp.

Mr. Craig Knopp greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: It's been a while, missed you guys, appreciate you guys. Everything you guys do. I'm here just to recognize three of you.

Mayor Gray reminded Mr. Knopp to state his name for the record.

Mr. Knopp introduced himself as Craig Knopp and continued with his statement: I'm here to recognize a couple of the City groups that we have here. Number 1, 311 - 311 has done an awesome job. Lately, I've had a bunch of residents that either have moved in here or did not know about 311 that have contacted 311 that, you know, just... I told them how it works. You know, you have an issue, contact 311. Get a ticket number, follow up with it. Actually, I just had a gentleman, three or four weeks ago, his daughter moved over near Fort Monroe, and they had a low-hanging branch that was fairly thick in diameter, I believe, that was hitting some trucks and stuff like that, and they had an issue with it, so they called 311, they got a ticket number, tr2570361 and I had asked the guy if he could give me a ticket number, so that way, I could follow up to see where it was. So, just kind of curious if I could get an update possibly on that, or get somebody to contact him to find out where that is. And, tonight, hearing about the Cool Kids Camp actually brought up some issues that I

was trying to look at was one of the things that I always like to do is volunteer. And, what I tell a lot of people is not a lot of people like to volunteer for picking up trash. Not a lot of people feel that they get enjoyment for that or feel fulfilled doing that. So, one of the things I try to do is look for other opportunities that we have here for different people, and I like this group right here, so one of the things I like to do is follow up with them to see if there's some possible volunteers for our kids, for whether it be for the arts or media. So, I'm going to follow up with them. I appreciate you guys having these type of programs here that allow us, as the community, to know what's going on here. All right. Appreciate it. Thank you.

Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Chris Bowman.

Mr. Chris Bowman greeted those on the dais and the Clerk of Council, introduced himself, and made the following statement: I want to touch briefly on three subjects. First, the new fire station three on Pembroke Avenue is awesome and a state-of-the-art facility. Past Council, this Council, Public Safety staff and City employees who made this project possible are to be commended. Second, the soon to be vacated Old Wythe fire station, I hope, will be saved and converted into a community building. Council has a history of saving older structures, such as the downtown post office, Vanguard, Old Courthouse building and Mary Peake home on Pembroke Avenue. It's been stated the structure is 90 years old. If so, it belongs on historical register. And as you know, the old Fort Monroe fire house was saved and is now a coffee diner. Please see fit to save this structure. Lastly, I do not feel Buckroe Beach should house a mini golf and permanent concrete board games. It simply will occupy too much green space. Place the mini golf at the Old Buckroe junior high school site that has been vacant for 15 or 20 years. (It) appears to have ample acreage for mini golf and parking, and if needed, shuttle service could be provided by Jones Middle School as the City has done in the past. The community garden could be easily relocated. My views do not represent any group, committee or civic organization. Thank you.

Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Andrew Stith.

Mr. Andrew Stith greeted those on the dais, introduced himself and made the following statement: Yes, I have a lot to say, but I'm going to shorten it up quick as I can. All right, last week has been environmental, health and safety. I want to give these to the City Council to give to the safety person. And later on, I'm going to talk about that. I went to Indianapolis and I got my seat for my safety credentials, but I will talk about that later on. Things I want to talk about is being disabled. It sucks. I

have a crosswalk over there by - I would say Todds lane. I would say Todds Lane and...What's that called? You got all kind of crosswalks. Thing is, press the button. You press the button and it's so bad that you got to, you know, I had to cuss people out. I had to wave at people like this to say, stop, stop, stop. I'm being animated, but you know, I had to do that. Being person with disabilities, they need to be ticketed. Need to be a City ordinance, be a federal ordinance, and maybe a state ordinance. Another thing is Queen Street Baptist Church, which I'll be a 50-year member of next month, is celebrating their 160th Anniversary next month. That church will be 160 years and it has a civilization, reason why civilization, and I will discuss that later on. I don't know if anybody came to pass. The next thing I want to speak about is, I don't know - early, I think it was couple of months ago, I gave to the City Manager, City Council, I don't know if y'all had...I produce my ideas, all my ideas to you. And, I don't know if y'all read those. I know if y'all read those, and also because of my communication skills, I'm looking for a Reading and English teacher because my English - I'm a product of Hampton, but since I have traumatic brain injuries, I have all kind of injuries and everything. Can't breathe. So, I'm looking for somebody to tutor me start from the front and start from the back. So, thank you very much, and I will come back with the disabilities.

Mayor Gray called on the last speaker, Brenda Marks.

Ms. Brenda Marks greeted those on the dais, introduced herself, and made the following statement: Over the last several years, when crime statistics have been presented to the public, there have been several statements made regarding crime in the City. These statements were made as far back as Chief Talbot and more recently by Chief Wideman. The specific statements that I am talking about are "We know that there are 59 people causing all the crime in the City." The second statement is that "The general public is safe because of the people doing the shootings, most of them have some sort of relationship or knew each other." A quick address to the first statement - I'm still waiting for y'all to lock up those 59 you know are causing all the crime. But secondly, and most importantly, is the belief that has been presented that the City is safe simply because the people shooting each other knew each other, or drug relationships, or whatever. What happened on August 6 on Mercury Boulevard should have rocked the governing body of this City to its core, and should make you readjust that opinion, because I can tell you that the people sitting in the intersection at Mercury Boulevard, not all of them knew the two people that were doing the shooting, but there were a lot of people that were caught up in the crossfire. Two particular comments. This comes from the ring app, neighbor section. Somebody was saying they hadn't seen it on the news. The comment that was made back: If they reported on all the shootings, they needed an extra half an hour just for Hampton. And then another one said: I was right at Canes when this happened. This is horrible. You can't go anywhere anymore. Another neighbor

responded: I was in CVS when it happened. A third neighbor responded: she was in her car. She said bullets were flying everywhere, and she had to duck down into her floor board to keep from being hit. I don't think if y'all still believe the City is safe because the shooters know each other or have a relationship, we are all really in trouble. Thank you.

The below summarizes City Manager Bunting's remarks following the public comment period.

With regard to the camping and storage ordinance, she reiterated that the item is being delayed for 90 days and stated that anyone interested in learning about the process the City will take is encouraged to watch this afternoon's presentation online or on replay on the City's television station. She emphasized that this was never about criminalizing the homeless and the ordinance would have applied to all individuals. She also explained that the ordinance was being considered because there are individuals who disrupt neighborhoods and businesses and the law requires there be stipulation about the penalty for a violation. The ordinance language would be written broadly to give police the authority to ask people to leave.

Ms. Bunting noted that she attended the graduation event for Ms. Moore's camp and was impressed with the program and the young people. She shared that she always believed this would be a good program that aligns nicely with the Academies of Hampton as it provides an opportunity for kids to explore careers in the Arts and other fields. She also spoke about the City's budget process, financial support for this program and other community grant opportunities that are available to potentially support the expansion of the program.

Ms. Bunting indicated that neither she nor Council should speak about Child Protective Services in public. She noted, however, that she and the City Attorney will look at Mr. Mongiello's information to see if it's been adjudicated by the courts and suggested ways for him to contact her.

She assured Ms. Weaver that the City is committed to continuing to work with her neighborhood. She also noted, for the record, that three communities are currently part of a national initiative, one of which is Ms. Weaver's neighborhood, and she (Ms. Bunting) is excited about what is taking place through that initiative.

She encouraged Ms. Eck to speak with Assistant City Manager Mitchell and Interim Public Works Director Bowery, who were in the audience, about her lighting concern and noted that the City is required to work with Dominion Power on those issues. She also spoke a bit about the City's lighting enhancement and maintenance process.

For the record, Ms. Bunting explained that the red-light cameras were put in place to help manage the cut through traffic in downtown being re-routed by travel apps. Hampton attempted to work with VDOT and the Federal Highway Administration to get ramp arm mechanisms, but was not given permission to do so. Staff tried other solutions, but ultimately were only permitted to use red-light cameras at Mallory Street and Settlers Landing Road as a solution. She also spoke about alternative routes that people who live in the area can take to avoid getting tickets and noted that additional information about the red-light camera programs can be found on the City's website. Mr. Mitchell indicated that he spoke with Mr. Samson before he left the meeting.

With regard to the Old Wythe firehouse, she indicated that this and past Councils have always wanted to save historic buildings and she is confident that conversations about the Old Wythe firehouse will take place soon. She also thanked Mr. Bowman for the compliments on the new building.

Ms. Bunting indicated that she recently spoke with Mr. Stith about his concerns and believes that Mr. Mitchell or Mr. Bowery spoke to him on his way out of the meeting tonight.

She agreed that everyone was surprised and disappointed about the incident at Mercury Boulevard and Armistead Avenue and clarified that when people say most crime occurs with people they know, that means that most of the crime in the City is not random and that citizens are generally safe. She emphasized that crime takes place all over the country, but is not predictable. She assured everyone that staff and Council does everything in their power to prevent crime, apprehend criminals, and build cases to get criminals convicted and off the streets. She also shared information about Hampton's crime statistics and spoke about the program Violence Interrupters and other initiatives in the City that help prevent crime. She reassured everyone that Hampton's leaders take crime seriously, but do not want people to overreact. She spoke more about crime prevention and intervention and how everyone can work together to make the community safe.

## **GENERAL ITEMS**

### **Appointments**

The Clerk read the motion required for the appointments.

The incoming youth Commissioners who were in attendance stood to be recognized and came forward to be photographed with the members of Council.

**18. 25-0144** Consideration of Appointments to the Hampton Youth Commission

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Brown and seconded by Councilmember Ferebee, to appoint Markeisha Buggs, Angela Chen, Michelle Chidiebere, Gabrielle "Gabi" Hill, Adrien Hope, Addison Rice, and Melody Wheaton to a one-year term until August 31, 2026; and to appoint Desteni Benton, Gavin Hope, Zoraya Meier, Stephanie Ndukwu, Elijah Riddick, Alexis Vann and Ryleigh Wheaton to a two-year term until August 31, 2027.

The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

**19. 25-0183** Consideration of Appointments to the Towing Advisory Board

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Steven Brown and seconded by Councilmember Michelle Ferebee, to appoint Corporal Nicholas Kennedy, Special Events Coordinator, and Sergeant Jon Crowder, Traffic Unit Commander representing local law enforcement agencies, to appoint Ashlee Abbott representing towing and recovery operators, and to appoint Robert Lomax, Billy Hobbs, and Jacquelin Wade representing the general public until June 30, 2027. One vacancy remains for a towing and recovery operator. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

**20. 25-0197** Consideration of Appointments to the Wetlands Board

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Steven Brown and seconded by Councilmember Michelle Ferebee, to appoint Rich Foley to serve a second term until December 31, 2029, and to appoint Alan Docauer as an alternate to serve until August 30 2030. One vacancy for an alternate remains. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

**21. 25-0202 Consideration of Appointments to the Grievance Board**

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Steven Brown and seconded by Councilmember Michelle Ferebee, to appoint Steven Rodey to fill the unexpired portion of a term until March 30, 2026, and appoint Keisha Samuels to serve a first term until July 31, 2029. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

**REPORTS BY CITY MANAGER, CITY COUNCIL, STAFF, COMMITTEES**

There were no reports.

**MISCELLANEOUS NEW BUSINESS**

There were no items of new business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

**Contact Info:**

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

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Jimmy Gray  
Mayor

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Katherine K. Glass, MMC  
Clerk of Council

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