



# City of Hampton

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

## Council Approved Minutes - Final City Council Legislative Session

*Mayor Donnie R. Tuck*  
*Vice Mayor Jimmy Gray*  
*Councilmember Chris L. Bowman*  
*Councilmember Steven L. Brown*  
*Councilmember Hope L. Harper*  
*Councilmember Billy Hobbs*  
*Councilmember Martha Mugler*

*STAFF: Mary Bunting, City Manager*  
*Steven D. Bond, Interim City Attorney*  
*Katherine K. Glass, CMC, Clerk of Council*

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**Wednesday, April 10, 2024**

**6:30 PM**

**Council Chambers**

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### CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

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

**Present:** 7 - Councilmember Chris L. Bowman, Councilmember Steven L. Brown, Vice Mayor Jimmy Gray, Councilmember Hope L. Harper, Councilmember Billy Hobbs, Councilmember Martha Mugler and Mayor Donnie R. Tuck

### DONNIE R. TUCK PRESIDED

### INVOCATION - Councilwoman Hope L. Harper

Councilwoman Harper gave the invocation.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG

### MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Tuck shared that April is Child Abuse Awareness Month and also National Autism Acceptance Month.

### 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 Councilmember Mugler, seconded by Councilmember Brown, to approve the Consent Agenda. The

motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

1. [24-0008](#) Resolution to Amend the Fiscal Year 2024 Council Approved Budget to Accept and Appropriate the 2023 State Homeland Security Program Grant Awarded through the Virginia Department of Emergency Management for the Regional Citizen Corps Project Hampton and Poquoson.

**Attachments:** [Grant Application](#)  
[Grant Routing and Grant Overview](#)  
[AgreementTemplate\\_SHSP\\_REGCERT](#)

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

2. [24-0009](#) Resolution to Amend the Fiscal Year 2024 Council Approved Budget to Accept and Appropriate the 2023 State Homeland Security Program Grant Awarded through the Virginia Department of Emergency Management for the Family Assistance Center Regional Supply Cache

**Attachments:** [Grant Application](#)  
[Grant Routing and Grant Overview](#)  
[Grant Award Package](#)

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

3. [24-0010](#) Resolution to Amend the Fiscal Year 2024 Council Approved Budget to Accept and Appropriate the 2023 Urban Area Security Initiative Grant Awarded through the Virginia Department of Emergency Management for the Peninsula Family Assistance Center Planning, Training and Exercises

**Attachments:** [Grant Application](#)  
[Grant Routing and Grant Overview](#)  
[Grant Award Package](#)

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

4. [24-0011](#) Resolution to Amend the Fiscal Year 2024 Council Approved Budget to Accept and Appropriate the 2023 Urban Area Security Initiative Grant Awarded through the Virginia Department of Emergency Management for Terrorism/Active Shooter and Bleeding Control Training for the Hampton Roads region

**Attachments:** [Grant Application](#)  
[Grant Routing and Grant Overview](#)  
[Grant Award](#)

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

5. [24-0150](#) Resolution to Amend the Fiscal Year 2024 Council Approved Budget to Accept and Appropriate the Fiscal Year 2024 Great American Cleanup Grant Awarded by Keep America Beautiful to the Grant Fund

**Attachments:** [Grant Agreement](#)

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

6. [24-0158](#) Resolution to Amend the Fiscal Year 2024 Council Approved Budget to Accept and Appropriate the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Award through the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) for the City of Hampton Elevation Project

[FEMA-DR-4512-DR-VA-0014]

Attachments: [DR-4512 Grant Overview](#)  
[Grant Application - DR-4512](#)  
[DR-4512 Award Package](#)

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

7. [24-0140](#) Resolution to Amend the Cost Allocation Agreement Between the Cities of Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Virginia Beach, and the Transportation District Commission of Hampton Roads

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

8. [24-0163](#) Ordinance to Amend and Reenact the City Code of the City of Hampton, Virginia by Amending Chapter 21, Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Article X, Sec. 21-227 to designate an additional fine street

Attachments: [Redline](#)  
[Traffic Study](#)

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

9. [24-0162](#) Resolution Renaming a Portion of Middle Road to Walter R. Dean Way

Attachments: [EXHIBIT - FINAL](#)

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

10. [24-0168](#) Approval of the minutes from the ceremonial and legislative sessions of March 27, 2024.

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

## PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS

## PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ms. Glass read the protocol for public hearings.

## Use Permits

11. [24-0049](#) Use Permit Application No. 24-0049 By George LLC d/b/a George Restaurant to Permit a Restaurant 3 to Extend the General Hours of Operation and to Expand the Indoor Live Entertainment Performance Area Located at 20 W Mercury Boulevard [portion of LRSN: 8001841]

**Attachments:** [Application](#)  
[Recommended Conditions](#)  
[Staff Report](#)  
[Staff Presentation](#)  
[Applicant Presentation](#)

Ms. Bunting introduced City Planner Davis Pemberton to make the presentation.

This is a use permit application to permit Restaurant 3 to extend the hours of operation and the hours of indoor live entertainment and to expand the live entertainment performance area of the restaurant. Mr. Pemberton displayed a map showing the location at the intersection of Mercury Boulevard and North King Street along with a slide showing the floorplan. The proposed hours of operation by the applicant are Sunday through Tuesday 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m., Friday 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m., and Saturday

11:30 a.m. to 1 a.m.

The proposed area of indoor live entertainment would be approximately 210 square feet and would include musicians, choirs, dance troops, comedians, and spoken word performances.

This property is currently zoned Neighborhood Commercial or C-1 and is adjacent to Limited Commercial or C-2. The future land use map designates this property and a majority of other properties along King Street and Mercury Boulevard as commercial.

Mr. Pemberton shared applicable public policy from the Hampton Community Plan which includes promoting compatibility and synergy among different land uses; encouraging a mix of land uses appropriate for each district; nurturing small and startup businesses; and expanding entertainment opportunities throughout the City.

This property is also located in an area of the City governed by the North King Street Master Plan, which encourages land uses that reflect the market and a commercial tenant mix that provides reinvestment for future growth. It's also located in the Two Key Intersection Initiative area (King Street and Mercury Boulevard) which highlights the desire to position primary intersections to increase the intensity of commercial uses within that initiative area.

Staff analysis shows that Mercury Boulevard and North King Street form a major intersection appropriate for commercial uses. The proposed restaurant and live entertainment hours are consistent with what was previously approved in the C-1 district, including this location. This location also supports the extended hours of operation.

Recommended conditions include hours of operation Sunday through Thursday 5 a.m. until 12 a.m., and Friday and Saturday 5 a.m. until 2 a.m.; conditions related to live entertainment; security; sound; dancing; ABC licensing and expiration; revocation; nullification; and compliance with all terms.

Staff and planning commission recommend approval of item 24-0049 with 12 conditions.

The applicant Kurt Hogan, from George, LLC. stated that business has been great and they're looking forward to expanding.

Councilwoman Harper asked why the hours of operation on Saturday were until 1 a.m. (the applicant's proposed hours) but are now 2 a.m. (staff's recommended hours). Mr. Pemberton explained that the 2 a.m. closing time is similar to other Restaurant 3's permitted in the C-1 district that have been brought before Council.

Mr. Hogan stated that they don't necessarily want to be open until 2 a.m. but they want to be available to people when events let out at Coliseum and other venues in the area.

In response to Councilman Bowman, Mr. Pemberton explained that the previous owner received a use permit in 2024 for a private club and lodge. At that time, there were general concerns from the neighbors about noise from that business. He received a couple of concerns and objections from community members when public notifications were sent out for this application. Other than that, he doesn't believe there have been a lot of concerns with the existing business.

Mr. Hogan confirmed that they had a community meeting that was attended by a lot of people from the neighborhood. He shared that they have a device that measures the sound and they turned up the music as loud as they could get it and walked around the outside of the building. It didn't register on the device at all.

Mayor Tuck referenced a petition submitted by Mr. Hogan containing signatures of people who are in support of the live entertainment. The document had a column asking if they lived within 1.5 miles. He asked Mr. Hogan what was the point of the 1.5-mile distance on that document. Mr. Hogan said it would be so if someone were to look at the document, they would be able to tell how far each person lives from the venue. Mayor Tuck shared that he used Mapquest to check some of the addresses on the petition where people said yes to living within 1.5 miles. He found that some were beyond 1.5 miles from the venue. He asked if Mr. Hogan verified the addresses of people who signed it. Mr. Hogan replied that the addresses were not verified and that they took people's word for it. Mayor Tuck urged Mr. Hogan to be careful about that in the future.

Mayor Tuck opened the public hearing. There were no speakers signed up so he

closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Councilmember Hope Harper and seconded by Councilmember Billy Hobbs, that this Use Permit be approved with twelve (12) conditions. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

12. [24-0092](#) Use Permit Application No. 24-0092 by TC Green to Permit a Private School at 3318 & 3320 W Mercury Boulevard [portion of LRSN 3001261]

**Attachments:** [Application Package](#)  
[Staff Report](#)  
[Recommended Conditions](#)  
[Staff Presentation](#)

Ms. Bunting shared that Mr. Pemberton will be making this presentation.

Mr. Pemberton shared that this item is a use permit application to permit a private school in the Limited Commercial C-2 district. He displayed a map showing the location at the intersection of Mercury Boulevard and Big Bethel Road.

The proposal is for a 6,000-square-foot martial arts studio that is expected to have a total of 150 students at various times. Hours of operation would be 3 p.m. until 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. until 11 a.m. on Saturday, and closed on Friday and Sunday. The business is currently operating as a gym that does not offer advancement classes.

The future land use map designates this property and several surrounding properties as commercial.

Mr. Pemberton shared applicable public policy which includes promoting compatibility and synergy among different land uses; evaluating these sorts of land use proposals from regional, City-wide, and neighborhood perspectives; promoting access to educational opportunities, particularly for youth and seniors; and nurturing



small and startup businesses. One of the objectives of the community plan is to have access to recreational opportunities for youth that provide the development of strong life skills.

Staff analysis found that the location is compatible with surrounding land uses and supports the proposed use. Recommended conditions include the issuance of the use permit; hours of operation limited to Monday through Sunday 6 a.m. until 8 p.m.; traffic circulation capacity; and obtaining a certificate of occupancy.

Staff and planning commission recommend approval of item 24-0092 with eight conditions.

In response to Councilman Bowman, Mr. Pemberton stated that he has not received any concerns since the public notifications were sent out.

The applicant T.C. "Clint" Green shared that he has operated a karate school in several locations in the City of Hampton since 1992. They moved to the current location to have a better location for ingress and egress and hope to continue to provide a good service to the community for many years to come. In addition to teaching martial arts, the school has a life skills program for students beginning at age 3 and currently has a student age 74.

Councilman Hobbs commented that Mr. Green has been a great business partner in Coliseum Central. He has never heard any complaints about the karate studio.

Mayor Tuck opened the public hearing. There were no speakers signed up so he closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Councilmember Steven Brown and seconded by Councilmember Billy Hobbs, that this Use Permit be approved with eight (8) conditions. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

## **Resolutions**

13. [24-0093](#) Resolution Authorizing the Following Transfers and Grants Associated With City Property Located at or Adjacent to the Woodlands Golf Course and River Street Park to the Commonwealth of Virginia for Purposes of the Virginia Department of Transportation Project, State Project: 0064-114-374, I-64 Hampton Roads Express Lanes Segment 4C: (1) the Transfer of City Property Containing 9,405 Square Feet, More or Less (LRSN 2003325, Portions of LRSNs 12000815 and 12000817); (2) the Granting of Temporary Construction Easements on City Property Containing 100,336 Square Feet, More or Less (Portions of LRSNs 12000815, 12000817, and 2003323); and (3) the Granting of Certain Easements of Access, Light or Air on City Property Abutting Upon the Limited Access Highway (Portions of LRSNs 12000815, 12000817, 2003323, and 2003325)

**Attachments:** [P. 040 041 042 - Deed - final](#)  
[Exhibit A \(combined plan sheets\)](#)  
[Combined Exhibit A](#)

Ms. Bunting stated that this item was deferred last month but due to media confusion from some people who hadn't read the entirety of the background statement, thought that we were closing the Woodlands Golf Course. She explained that in the details of this item, it says that these are small pieces of land either for a temporary easement during the construction process or for a small amount of land transfer permanently for sound walls and/or road access for the shoulder road. This does not impact the Woodlands Golf Course property in any way. However, we are still working with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) on the sound wall issue and we plan to do some additional outreach with the neighborhoods in our community later this month. We are requesting Council defer this item again until the June 12th Council meeting.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chris Bowman and seconded by Councilmember Martha Mugler, that this Resolution be deferred to the City Council Legislative Session, due back on 6/12/2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Glass read the protocol for public comment.

Mayor Tuck welcomed the first two speakers, Sharon Velazquez (Heubert) and Ronnie Yarrington.

Ms. Velazquez greeted Council and made the following comments: I have a proposal for the Council to please bring FIOS optics down Neil Armstrong Parkway towards York County going up towards Research Drive and down towards Floyd Thompson. And there's a daycare center there and I think it'd be good for the children in the City of Hampton to have the option of not just Cox and satellite but buried FIOS cable so that if there is a power outage or whatever we're still able to use our computers to do schoolwork or whatever.

Mr. Yarrington greeted Council and made the following comments: I'm back here again trying to get a meeting with the Chief of Police to get the speeders slowed down on Northampton Drive. I was told by the policeman "You're not going to have a meeting with him." So I said, "Well, I've talked to somebody at 311 and they said go see Mary." Mary Bunting was out of town. Last month when I had this same adventure I have now, it looked like Ms. Bunting sent somebody after me out the door, Ms. Walker. I said "You can't get by the secretary. You can't get by them." She got the ironclad on the meeting with the Chief of Police. "Well, I can get by and I'm going to get you called in three days and I will have him a meeting with you." And I said, "Okay." Then I left my name, phone number, and address with the Chief of Police. And he looked at me and nodded his head. And we've got paperwork that says they run 72 miles an hour. That's after a traffic study and I had to jump through 400 hoops to get that from the Freedom of Information Act. I don't understand why we can't just, I've had three Captains call me, and then they chase it down to the Sergeants and the Sergeants tell you what you want to hear and they do pretty good for a little bit and then nothing happens. There are kids on that road and Forrest Elementary at the other end. I just don't understand why it's so hard. If I could get my head together with the Chief of Police, I'm there are other people more important than me, but there are a lot of people on that road that are yelling. Y'all did put some

new signs up that say 25 miles an hour, a bigger fine to be charged if you get caught speeding. But you gotta be there to catch them. And if you don't catch them, (inaudible) that's just out of this world. It's like the one police officer who was trying to catch somebody from 7-11 stealing something he goes, "Well, they're not running 72 miles an hour from that stop sign, which is Berkshire to Todd's lane. The stop signs don't even come into play. All I want to do is have a meeting with the Chief of Police and maybe I can tell what we've done and what we haven't done. I'm retired so I see a lot of what's going on on that road. It's the kids. I don't have any grandkids here. They're in Colorado, but they're going come on this end of town someday. The kids aren't thinking about that speeder. They're going to cut across that street and somebody's going to get hurt. And I think you feel bad about that. But anyway, here I am again with this adventure, and maybe we'll have something happen. Did you know Ms. Walker? Okay, she didn't call.

Mayor Tuck welcomed the next two speakers, Brenda Marks and Mike Nugent.

Ms. Marks greeted Council and made the following comments: First of all, to all of you, thank you for the long overdue reopening of the carousel. Here's to it never being closed for as long as ever again. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Gray for agreeing to allow my daughter to assist in the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the carousel reopening last weekend. I'm sure when I asked you thought you were granting of constituent's request for a favor. However, I'd like to explain exactly what you did. You made the extra effort to meet her and interact with her, so you were not a stranger to her. When she joined you at the front, she was learning that she could step out of her reclusive world into ours and still be safe. The fact you stood with her until she located me in the crowd was going the extra mile. For all of that, I'm grateful. Now back to Brenda. Two weeks ago, I attended the dedication of the playground at the Mary Jackson Neighborhood Center. While there, Councilman Bowman decided at some time, I had granted him permission to put his hands on me. I have addressed this in more detail in emails to you all and risk management. I'm sure I'm talking to the wall when I tell you, that this Council, as a body, needs to direct Councilman Bowman he is to not attend public functions, or ensure he is assigned a chaperone until that time he demonstrates he understands that being an elected Councilman does not grant him license to put his hands on every female he sees. I was not the only person at that function that had problems that day. We should not feel we cannot attend public functions out of concern for running into him. Additionally, as the City is self-insuring, Councilman Bowman's behavior

exposes the taxpayer of this City to liability for any claims arising from his behavior.

Mr. Nugent greeted Council and made the following comments: thank you for your service to our great city. I would also like to bring up the point of speeding on Northampton Drive. It's been a recurring sore spot for many of us who live on that street. You put in stop signs, but it doesn't seem to affect anybody coming up and down that street. And as Mr. Yarrington reiterated, there have been traffic studies done up and down that road that signify that people are speeding in excess of 60 to 70 miles an hour on a 25-mile-an-hour speed limit. It has enhanced speed notifications. When we got the report, all it says is speeding. Well, if you're doing 35 or 40 miles an hour in a 25, that's reckless, and I never saw anything with reckless on there. So, without a police presence there, they're going to continue to do so. There are roundabouts that can be put in place, speed bumps. I've been told speed bumps affect emergency vehicles. Well, if emergency vehicles are doing 60 miles an hour, we're all going to be in deep trouble, especially if you're in the back of one. So, I proposed to the Council that we try to enhance either more officers or deterrence on that street to protect our children who live there. Thank you for your time.

Mayor Tuck welcomed the next two speakers Ashley Hall-Abbott and Tabitha Atkins.

Ms. Hall-Abbott greeted Council and made the following comments: It's great to see you all. Thank you for having us here. I and my colleagues are here today concerning the re-establishment of the Hampton Towing Advisory Board pursuant to the provisions of Virginia Code section 46.2-1217 as provided by Resolution number 00-2242 adopted by the Hampton City Council on November 8, 2000. I'm sure you all are aware we're in 2024 now so it's been a while. An advisory board was established to assist City Council with regard to towing rates and regulations. Appearing that Hampton's Towing Advisory Board hasn't had an annual meeting since 2008, I'm requesting that Council assist in forming this advisory board. I speak on behalf of all towing firms on the Hampton City Police rotation list and we the towers and owners simply wish to have some comprehensive discussion in regards to antiquated tow rates as most, if not all, Hampton Roads cities have increased towing rates, or are in the process of doing so, with the assistance of the prospective towing advisory boards. Collective effort is sometimes best represented in numbers. I just would like my support and folks to stand up who are here this evening. They are comprised of drivers, tow operators, and families here. My

daughter is here as well. But I apologize I didn't introduce myself. My name is Ashley Hall-Abbott. I own Asset Auto Recovery. I've been in business since July 1, 2016. We would just like to create a dialogue with this towing advisory board so we can get some things taken care of. Thank you.

Ms. Atkins greeted Council and made the following comments: I stand before you as a resident of Hampton. I'm also a business owner in Hampton. I've been in business since 2007 so I have the privilege of being operational for 17 years. I have a hair salon that is located off of Nickerson Boulevard. I employ over seven stylists. And I know that the first five years in business are the hardest. But I just wanted to come and let you guys know that it's a lot of businesses in Hampton that moved to other cities because of the red tape that Hampton gives them when trying to come into Hampton. Codes and compliances. Being a small business owner, the red tape that I went through, was horrific. And Hampton has a lot of concerts, activities that bring money into Hampton. But when these people come in to like the Jazz Festival, they partake in Newport News, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach, because of no restaurants, and no shopping centers, the Hampton Town Center has gone down. And the small businesses we really don't get much help to be able to stay in business and look to Hampton and say, hey, you know, we want to stay in Hampton. I get all types of offers from other cities saying, here's an enticement to come to this city, we will give you this, we will offer you this to come to our city and help build up. And like I said, I've been in business for 17 years. And it's not easy being a business owner. But I chose to come to Hampton, I live in Hampton, and I would like to stay in Hampton. So I just felt that I would like to let you guys know that it's not easy for a small business owner to come into the City of Hampton, open, and survive and stay open. So I think that there should be some things in place to channel the wave of small business owners to let them know that there are resources. And have a timetable of what a business owner should do when they go to codes and compliance. You have to do this, you have to do that and not like, okay, you go here and you get this phone call, then you got to talk to this person, you get the runaround, and it deters you from wanting to stay in Hampton. So that was the reason for coming tonight.

Mayor Tuck welcomed the next two speakers Aaron Weaver and Joan Weaver.

Mr. Weaver greeted Council and made the following comments: I would like to thank City Manager Bunting for the Annual City Budget events. Today I address you all, not only as a former employee but as a dedicated citizen of this City. As we

discussed the potential 3% raise for City employees, I want to emphasize that these individuals are the bedrock of our community, the unwavering commitment, tireless efforts, and what keep our City vibrant and functioning. Reflecting on my experiences including last year's event at Hampton High School, I recall a poignant moment that deeply resonated with me. A human services employee, with her voice filled with both passion and pain, shared her struggle working full time for the City, but could barely afford to live in the very City that she worked for. Her story wasn't unique as described by colleagues. As she described, her colleagues were leaving for Newport News for better salaries for similar positions. The story of Chief Talbot's departure, potentially for a better salary, which he got a better salary, highlights a broader issue. While his replacement by Chief Wideman was a stroke of fortune. And instances that are this rare because you don't get people to exchange Talbot for Wideman. As a former 311 employee, I stayed longer than planned at a financial deficit to myself because of the inspiring leadership of Director Lori, the longevity I had and her giving me the opportunity to serve. Her mentorship and genuine care for her employees, extraordinary. Yet such leadership cannot always make up for financial shortfalls. As a community, we acknowledge the value of our City employees can be seen by the budget advance. The proposed 3% is a step in the right direction but let's ensure sufficient in the context of neighboring cities' standards, we should consider that the increase truly reflects the cost of living and dedication of our employees. We need to conduct a market review of the City compared to the surrounding seven cities. If it finds discrepancies, a market correction is imperative to maintain competitiveness and fairness. In conclusion, this isn't merely percentages and paychecks. It's about respecting and valuing the form and foundation of this city. Thank you.

Ms. Weaver greeted Council and made the following comments: I would first and foremost like to start by giving accolades. I cannot say enough about Ms. Bunting. We have been through a horrendous situation at the site of the Virginia State School for the Deaf and Blind. It is like a literal hell. The construction that is going on there with that heavy equipment, bam, bam, bam. I live all the way on Catalpa Avenue, and it's rescinding there. I can only imagine what those people are going through who live there. This is a multitude of psychological, physical, health, and environmental, and the worst is yet to come. All of the City's expenses to make a profit. But Ms. Bunting, for what you stood up and did to help us with an ugly situation, and Mr. Mitchell, I thank you. Now moving along. This is another department within the City that needs to be looked at, the Community Development Department. The young lady

who was up here earlier who spoke about red tape, yes ma'am. I've lived here 60 plus years and that is something that needs to be addressed within the departments. All right. I get this nice little letter telling me about a violation. They will spit and spell Codes and Compliance is knowing. No, we're not attorneys. We don't have juris doctorates, but we're not juris dummies either. They will manipulate the codes and they don't totally utilize them so that they are beneficial to us. Where does that leave us? Punitive discriminatory codes and they know monetary with the fee that's attached to this, we don't have the money to run out and get legal representation to determine the codes. They have a nice little line up here, failure to comply with this notice of violation, not must but will, result in the City of Hampton taking legal action. I'm here to still tell you now I feel I'll have a better chance in the court at least you will appoint me an attorney and the real dirt will come out. I live in Old Wythe. Wythe is across the street. We call it "white Wythe." I am one of the students that helped integrate that school. I remember the warnings. I remember Mr. Honeycutt. A citation for hedge. I don't have a hedge. God is my witness. Drive up and down Chesapeake Avenue, they got hedges taller than I am. I am nobody said anything over there. Facing on my little house, no structural or imminent damage but yet we're going to take legal action if it's not done in 30 days. Retired, minimum monies, they have not said anything about offering to help us, and in our marginal neighborhood we're going to need it. You send out this little letter of \$1.5 million on the Northern Point about the monies, Mayor Tuck I'm grabbing that 1.5 miles all homes within 1.5 miles give us this money to fix our properties. Thank you.

Mayor Tuck welcomed the next speaker, Jeannie Belgrave.

Ms. Belgrave greeted Council and made the following comments: The last time I stood here I mentioned that I wanted flags all over the City of Hampton. Well, today I come here to be more specific. After driving around, I noticed that there are parks that don't have a flag. There is also an important road that intersects, Mercury Boulevard and North Armistead, that is another area where I would like to see more of the identity of what the City of Hampton is. And I think that is an important section because Mercury, you know, has to do with space. And then North Armistead is pretty much, the name is dedicated to slaves. So there is something going on there in history. And then North Armistead, as you drive by, you're going to find the Boo Sports Complex which doesn't have a flag either. It is one of the largest sports complexes. As you go by you see Langley Air Force Base. So just having more identity in the fact that we are in America, we are in the United States. And it is like,



it is said, without love, we're nothing, without identity we're lost. And I don't really want to see the City of Hampton be one of the cities lost on the map when it comes to who we are. And that's what I have for now. Thank you.

Ms. Bunting stated that Mr. Yarrington wasn't here last time she addressed his issue and is sorry that he has left again. For the benefit of the public, she explained that when he went to the Chief's office, the Chief was at the Bigsby trial, which is why he could not meet with Mr. Yarrington on demand. When he came to Ms. Bunting's office, she was also in a critical meeting and could not step aside immediately. Ms. Bunting's understanding is that the Chief's office did reach out to make an appointment and has been unsuccessful in doing so but will continue trying. She stated that Chief Wideman gave her a note that said that the Northampton Drive location has the longest existing directed patrol meaning that when time is available, officers will be sent out there, however, that does not mean 24/7 patrol. No area in the City has a 24/7 presence because there are not enough officers but that is a location that warrants additional speeding patrol when we are able. No city has enough officers to put 24/7 patrolling for speeding. Ms. Bunting shared that she met with a group of citizens in another part of the City a couple of weeks ago who were complaining about a similar issue with excessive speeding on a very long stretch of road. It is very challenging to catch because people slow down when a patrol officer is out there. Unless a patrol officer is there all the time the only way to stop that is with something like this speed camera control. At the last Council meeting, we talked about being able to do what we have limited state ability to do with speed control cameras right now. Virginia is what's called a Dillon rule state, which basically means we can only do what the General Assembly gives us express permission to do, either through our charter or through state code. Right now, the General Assembly only gives us the ability to use speed cameras in school or work zones. The recommended budget includes money to put speed cameras in school zones starting in the next fiscal year. The City would also look to do that in work zones in the future. Ms. Bunting asked Public Works Director Jason Mitchell, who was in the back of Chambers, to look at Northampton Drive again to see if there is anything we haven't done yet. She noted that she is alarmed at what people are describing as occurring there.

Ms. Bunting clarified for the record that the Towing Advisory Board was created in 2000. They worked on an ordinance that was passed in 2002 and updated in 2008. In 2011 Council disbanded the board because, at the time, the Towing Advisory

Board felt like they had accomplished their work. She acknowledged the request to re-establish it and will provide information to the Council about it. Realizing a lot of time has passed, it may be appropriate to recreate it but that is for Council to decide. While Council and the legal department consider that, Ms. Bunting offered to sit down with the current towing community if they have some immediate concerns because the City code does provide a mechanism for the Chief of Police and Manager to do some things administratively.

Ms. Bunting thanked Mr. Weaver for what he said about the City employees. They are the heart of the City and the lifeblood of our organization. She clarified for those who may not have seen the earlier presentation that, while the general wage increase is 3%, for civilian employees the City is also doing a compression adjustment. That compression adjustment is a permanent salary increase. An employee has to serve a full year to get anything because the idea is to spread people out throughout their salary range. Someone who has been here a full year will get half a percent on top of the 3%. They'll get half a percent for every year of service up to a maximum of 20 years. So if they've been here 10 years they would get a total of 8% and at 20 or more years, they would get a total of 13%. Most people will get more than the 4% that the public said that they wanted to see us do. If it had started the four with the 4% base it would have been another percent higher. Ms. Bunting stated that she would have loved to do that but there wasn't enough money. There are other things she felt should be done such as for the homeless and the penny tax relief for the public. She stated that she really did strive to do as much as possible for the City employees. The public overwhelmingly said that was their top priority.

Ms. Bunting shared that the paratransit concern will be forwarded to Hampton Roads Transit (HRT).

Ms. Bunting shared that she asked Bonnie Brown, Community Development Director, and Brian DeProfio, Assistant City Manager to get in touch with Ms. Atkins to talk about her experience. There are a host of programs available for small businesses. She stated that she wants to learn from Ms. Atkins' experience because we want to be friendly to small businesses and the only way to make ourselves better is to hear from people like Ms. Atkins

Ms. Bunting shared that Ms. Brown indicated she would also follow up with Ms.

Weaver.

## GENERAL ITEMS

### Ordinances

14. [24-0164](#) Ordinance to Amend the City Code of the City of Hampton, Virginia by Amending and Reenacting Chapter 37, "Taxation;" Article II, "Real Estate Taxes;" Division 6. "Deferral or Freeze for the Elderly and Disabled;" Section 37-123, "Grandfathering of Qualified Persons Under the Prior Tax Exemption Program"

**Attachments:** [Sec 37-123 COLA Increase Grandfather Clause \(Redlined\)](#)  
[SSA Historical Cost-Of-Living Adjustments](#)

Ms. Bunting explained that the purpose of this resolution is to adjust income limitations for persons grandfathered into the real estate tax exemption program to better align limitations with income rises that may be experienced by those qualifying individuals solely due to the recent unusually large cost-of-living adjustments implemented by the Social Security Administration. When we were meeting with the Commissioner of Revenue this year in the budget process, he noted that we had made a provision for cost-of-living adjustments for the freeze and deferral program but not for the grandfathered exemption program. We do not want anyone to fall out of that grandfathered exemption program simply because their social security check has gone up substantially so staff worked on the Commissioner of Revenue's recommendation with the legal department to provide this amendment. This would ensure that any senior citizen who qualifies for any of the programs gets a cost-of-living adjustment each year based upon whatever the federal government provides to the Social Security Index. Staff recommends approval.

A motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs and seconded by Councilmember Hope Harper, that this Resolution be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

### Appointments

15. [24-0144](#) Consideration of an Appointment to the Hampton VA 250 Committee

A motion was made by Councilmember Hope Harper and seconded by Councilmember Chris Bowman, that this Appointment be deferred to the City Council Legislative Session, due back on 4/24/2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

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

Ms. Bunting indicated that a presentation on the City Manager's Recommended Budget was done in the afternoon and is available for viewing on the City's website and also available for viewing in the City's libraries. The first public hearing will be held in Council chambers on April 24, at 6:30 p.m. The first vote will be taken at a special budget meeting on May 1. No amendments will be made at that time because Council wants to give two full public hearings to the public for comment. The final vote on the budget will be May 8, at which time the Council will make any amendments and the final adoption of the budget.

Mayor Tuck announced that the Phoebus Spring Fling will be held this Saturday, April 13, from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS NEW BUSINESS**

There were no items of new business.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Donnie R. Tuck  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Katherine K. Glass, CMC  
Clerk of Council

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