



City of Hampton

22 Lincoln Street
Hampton, VA 23669
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

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

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

INVOCATION - Councilwoman Hope Harper

Councilwoman Harper gave the invocation. Following the invocation, Mayor Gray asked that those present observe a moment of silence for the families of former Councilman and Vice Mayor Randy Gilliland and of Dr. Billy K. Cannaday, Jr. who was a former Superintendent of Hampton City Schools.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG

The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by the following Boy Scouts: Niya Santos, Zachariah Santos, Joseph Casey, and Joshua Cox.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Clinton Hammett, Scout Executive and CEO, spoke for a few moments and the Scouts who also lead the Pledge gave brief comments on the impact

that scouting has had on their lives.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Gray shared information on last week's Phabulous Phoebus Festival, and upcoming events related to Juneteenth and Sankofa's 14th annual ceremony.

He then made the following statement: I want to announce that, based on individual conversations with Council members over the last couple of days, we have decided that we will be deferring the camping and storage ordinance on the agenda later this evening. Our plan is to ask staff to come back to meet with various stakeholders and interested parties, perhaps together, to see if we can reach a consensus on how to best address the needs and issues of neighborhoods and businesses which prompted our consideration of the ordinance in the first place while ensuring Hampton remains the compassionate community we strive to be, and then bring back a modified or new version of the ordinance for our consideration in August for presentation. Anyone who is here to speak on that topic, you are welcome to continue to speak on it under public comment where you signed up. However, since we plan to defer action on the item for further public comment and outreach and modification of the proposed ordinance, I wanted to alert everyone in advance so that you be aware of our plans this evening ahead of time.

The Mayor also shared some information about his upcoming listening sessions.

CONSENT AGENDA

The 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 Harper, 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. [25-0173](#) Resolution to Authorize the Acceptance of a Gift of Various Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment, Valued at Approximately \$120,500.00, from NP Hampton Commerce Center, LLC and to Amend the FY 2025 Council Approved Budget to Accept and Appropriate a \$168,672.23 Gift from NP Hampton Commerce Center, LLC, Pursuant to that Certain Lease between NP Hampton Commerce Center, LLC and the City of Hampton, Virginia

Item approved.

2. [25-0171](#) Resolution to Affirm Certain Previously Adopted Solid Waste Charges and Fees in accordance with Hampton City Code § 32.2-48, Titled "Solid Waste Rate Determination; Fee Rates," and to Adopt an Ordinance Amending the Hampton City Code by Repealing Chapter 32.1, Titled "Solid Waste," in Its Entirety, and Reserving Chapter 32.1

Attachments: [Solid Waste Ordinance \(Redlined\) 6.4.25](#)

Item approved.

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

3. [25-0174](#) Resolution Approving Fiscal Year 2025 Second and Third Quarter Budget Adjustments

Attachments: [FY25 Second Quarter Budget Adjustments](#)
[FY25 Third Quarter Budget Adjustments](#)

Item approved.

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

4. [25-0176](#) Resolution to Amend the Fiscal Year 2025 Council Approved Budget to Appropriate \$5,000.00 from the Wetlands Encroachment Restricted Fund Balance Account to the Community Development Department Operating Account for the Purpose of Dispersing to the Colonial Soil and Water Conservation District to Fund the City's Participation in the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP)

Attachments: [VCAP Memorandum of Understanding](#)
[VCAP FY25 Renewal Letter](#)

Item approved.

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

5. [25-0185](#) Resolution to Amend the Fiscal Year 2025 Council Approved Budget to Accept \$1,400,000 in Public Assistance State and Federal Revenues and to Appropriate those Revenues to the Human Services Budget

Item approved.

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

6. [25-0122](#) Approval of the minutes from the ceremonial sessions of April 23, 2025, and May 28, 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

Mayor Gray read a proclamation concerning Mens' Health Week and Mens' Health Month and encouraged routine health screenings.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ms. Glass read the protocol for public hearings.

Resolutions

7. [25-0182](#) Resolution of the City of Hampton, Virginia Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Public Improvement Bonds of the City of Hampton in the Maximum Principal Amount not to Exceed \$85,400,000 to Finance Certain Public Improvement Projects and General Obligation Refunding Bonds in an Amount Required to Refund Certain Previously Issued Bonds to Achieve Debt Service Savings, and Providing for the Form, Details and Payment of Such Bonds

Attachments: [Hampton - 2025 GO - Authorizing Resolution Final 6.5.25](#)

Ms. Glass read the title for the item. The City Manager, Mary Bunting, provided background information. Mayor Gray opened the public hearing. There were no individuals signed up to speak so he closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Steven Brown and seconded by Councilmember Martha Mugler, 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 called on the first speaker, Kovold Bjorn.

Mr. Kovold Bjorn greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I've had the pleasure of touring City Manager Bunting at our facility at ForKids, I'm the government relations manager there, and hope to have the opportunity to do the same with each of you in the future. Given that this section has already been moved in the agenda, I won't kind of delay the point too much, but I do want to, I did provide the dashboard from the housing crisis hotline. So, we operate the housing crisis hotline for 14 cities and counties in the region, so we have a lot of the data that goes around with this conversation, so would love to be a partner as we move forward in the conversation on practical solutions that meet what you're trying to solve for, but without maybe the human element coming into as deep a factor into it. I think what we see across the nation right now is that, and I apologize, I advocate for a lot of different things throughout the week, so whether that be housing stock or child care, this one seems to affect me a little bit more emotionally than others. It does feel like we have ordinances on the books right now to address trespassing. We have ordinances to address littering. We have ordinances to address drug use, and I fully support law officers' ability to go in and enforce the ordinances that are already there. I do have pretty serious concerns, and I think what we've seen with cities that do pass ordinances like this is that this ends up being a punishment for sleeping, for existing, and if you look at the numbers that are provided in front of you, we had 6,179 calls last year in the City of Hampton from 3,752 callers. I don't know if we can build enough shelter beds to handle that problem. We will do everything we can to support your efforts, and the housing stock in this region has only gotten significantly worse. We need to do more to increase housing. I think at this point, we have to recognize that we have a homeless population, and that homeless population exists, and we have to find a way to live with them in a humane way, and providing a misdemeanor is not helpful. It makes our job at ForKids so much harder to try to get them housed, and I hope that we can work together to come up with some pragmatic solutions. I'm in research and advocacy at ForKids, so research is a big point of that, and I am happy to be a resource for you all, if you will allow me or honor me in coming through ForKids and having a sit-down conversation. So, I will stop my time there. I'm thankful that we're kind of opening it up to broader conversation rather than voting, and thank you for your time.

Mayor Gray reminded everyone that clapping is not allowed and then called on the next speaker, Joya Peppers.

Ms. Joya Peppers greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I'm coming to you because I have a complaint about housing. I was very upset because

of the way I was treated. I had two major surgeries. I was out of work, but when I received my housing voucher, I asked them for an extension because I had just got a new job. I asked them for an extension for 15 days. It does state in the paperwork that they can give you more than one extension. I just needed 15 days to make sure that everything went through. Had a problem with the manager, told me to call her back, Miss Bullock. She never answered any of my calls. Then I had to call my Councilman, Mr. Randy Bowman, to help me with assistance with that, so he stepped in and he called the director, Mr. Ma'at. Talked to him to try to get a resolution. Was getting the run around until we had to do a conference call. Once we did the conference call, the story I got before the conference call was just bogus. I was getting the run around. They were not trying to hear anything I had to say, but, as I stated, once I had Mr. Randy Bowman do a conference call with me and Mr. Ma'at, things changed. So, he gave me an extension until June the seventh, after I had been trying to call the manager for weeks, she told me to call her back. She never answered. So, when I talked to Mr. Ma'at on his own, he told me that Richmond advised them that they don't give out extensions to everyone, only if you have a disability, and I found that that was outrageous, because paperwork states one or more extensions and I just needed 15 days. But if it wasn't for Mr. Bowman, Councilman Bowman, who actually stepped in to assist me, to help me get to where I'm at. Now, I have a new house, and I think that it's sad that they write this stuff, but then they don't honor it, and it's not fair to us who actually have jobs or trying to better themselves. Something needs to be done about it. Thank you.

Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Candice Harris.

Ms. Candice Harris greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: Thank you for allowing me the time to come up. I also have concerns about the ordinance for the camping. My late husband and I were involved quite a bit with homeless folks back in the day, mostly Newport News, but we've also worked in Hampton and Williamsburg in doing that. What I like about the ordinance is I love the fact that when they approach the individual, they're providing resources and letting them know. The majority of the people that choose to live on the street don't trust the resources, and they're not coming to your office to talk to you about the resources. They barely will come into the church and talk to us about the resources, but if you approach them in that way and say, hey, I understand you can't be here, but here's what I can do for you. These are the grants. These are the resources. I was so happy to hear you announce, Mayor Gray, that you postponed this until August, because at the end of what I was going to say, I was going to ask you to postpone voting until we fix a few little things. We have to remember that when somebody comes into a homeless situation, they're not always poor. It's not always a situation of poor. Some people are fleeing from a violent situation in their home. They need some place they can go. And I'm not saying that they should always trespass, but

there are situations where it's warranted, where being able to camp would be a good thing. If we, as a community of pastors, believers that love Hampton, that love the people here, really want to be helpful, we need to try to find those exceptions and how we can work around those things. When the people that are most afraid of us - it's fight or flight, it's just like you're training a dog, it's fight or flight. You keep one on a leash, they feel trapped. If you give them some breathing room, if you give them some air, if you give them voice, at that point, a lot of times, they'll come to trust us better, and we can be more effective in what we do. So, I would, I would love to be able to be part with the homeless folks that work here, to be able to do anything we can do. I'm with Empowered Believers in Hampton now with Pastor John Young. I'd love to be a part of that, but I just ask that we work together as a community, and don't forget the people that are afraid of us, and let's see if we can work together to resolve those issues, so we can touch the hearts of everybody that's in those situations and connect with people that can help us, maybe more resources, people that can take them out of that environment. I thank you very much for your time.

Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Edwin Boone.

Mr. Edwin Boone greeted those on the dais, introduced himself, shared his address and made the following statement: Through the Freedom of Information Act, Hampton recently received \$8.6 million - \$4 million came from Congressman Bobby Scott. I want to know the line item. Who got the money and how much? Public, don't you want to know what happened to that \$8.6 million? Reason why I'm requesting line item: so, I won't be overwhelmed with information and paperwork. I want one sheet. Who got the money and how much? Through the Freedom of Information Act, by law, you have five working days to give me that information. If you need additional time, you have to let me know maximum, I think three more working days. That's it. You better not mute or delete anything I just said. I want it all recorded. With that 8.6 million, who got the money and how much? I want it line item, which only take one sheet of paper. If the public want to know more for the organizations you requested through your Freedom of Information Act, but me, as a citizen, I only want one sheet. Public, you got the right to ask the same thing I asked, and by law, they're required to give it to you. As for me, for from experience, I want the line item. Again, who got the money and how much?

Mayor Gray indicated that Mr. Boone's speaking time had expired and called on the next speaker, Diana Moreland.

Ms. Diana Moreland greeted everyone, introduced herself and made the following statement: I was here to speak on the camping and storage ordinance, but since you guys have moved it, I wanted to just tell you a story, because I think stories give us an understanding of things, and it's a story. I've visited many countries, and it's a

story of my experience visiting a country that deals with homelessness in a completely different way than we do here in the United States. This country is very much like us. It has freedom of religion. In fact, it is one of our closest allies. This country is Oman, and in February of 2019, I had the opportunity to visit. I had the opportunity, not only to visit places where tourists go, but I had the opportunity to visit places where you would, as a tourist, would never get to see. It was an amazing opportunity, but one of the things that I found very interesting was, when I was there, there wasn't homelessness. There weren't people on the streets. I didn't have to worry about somebody pickpocketing me, and I can tell you why. Why is this country different than the US? What is it doing differently? Well, this country follows a command given by Muhammad in the Quran, not much different than many commandments in the Bible that we read that says that the state cannot punish a person if the reason for the crime happens because of the failure of the state to provide appropriate support. If people are refusing a support in Oman, the state sees that as not providing appropriate support. A resolution that criminalizes somebody sleeping because they refuse to move is doing the very opposite of what the country of Oman does, and that country is the only country I've ever been in in which I have not seen homelessness. And I will say that the US and Italy are the two countries that I've seen homelessness the most, and in both of those countries, they look to homelessness as an individual problem, rather than one of a community, rather than one of the state. When we look at it as a community and a state, rather than somebody, individually or something that we need to criminalize, that's when we fix homelessness, when we criminalize it, when we prevent people from sleeping, that's when we just make things worse. Thank you.

Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Drew Baird.

Mr. Drew Baird made the following statement: In regards to item eight, I'm a sociologist at Christopher Newport University whose research has led me to spend a substantial amount of time in earlier years in my career working with unhoused populations. I've watched people put in the sincerely difficult work of establishing stable employment and housing, despite spending their nights in a context that this resolution effectively criminalizes. But that said, I don't want to speak from the perspective of a researcher, today. I actually have a couple of my colleagues who are also going to speak, and probably more likely to bring social facts to this matter, but I want to bring my personal perspective. I want to bring my perspective as a man who has dealt with the very real concern of keeping members of my family who suffer from addiction and severe mental illness off the street. This is something that I know the typical person does not deal with in the day-to-day relationship they have with their family, but this is something that I've dealt with the vast majority of my adult life, is this very real threat and concern that members of my family may not have a place to sleep at night if they are in acute crisis, and I live hundreds of miles away

from my family, and so I don't personally have the capacity to help them in the event of an acute crisis. Many people dismiss people like my sister, who I want to talk about in particular, whose struggles have always been to the degree that they prevent them from maintaining stable housing or employment. I think most people don't have the luxury of not thinking about people like my sister, and oftentimes, simply conclude that they're neither deserving of housing nor stable employment and moving on with it and not thinking about it anymore because it's both an intellectual and morally and emotionally taxing thing to think about. And so, if you are affordably the luxury to not think about it, you likely will not, but when somebody like this is your kin, you don't have this luxury. In my position, you'd be morally bankrupt to overlook the suffering of this population of people. It's really hard to look at somebody like my sister and the struggles that she's endured and not make that connection to the people that you oftentimes see sleeping on the streets every day.

Mayor Gray indicated that Mr. Baird's speaking time had expired and called on the next speaker, Cailyn Holley.

Ms. Cailyn Holley greeted those on the dais, introduced herself and made the following statement: I serve as Vice President for a nonprofit organization, Hampton Roads Hokies. As both a parent and a board member, I've seen firsthand the impact this organization has. My children have grown through this program, not just as an athlete, but as a leader, a student and a community member. But it's heartbreaking to see our efforts hindered by a lack of support from the City for the very basics. We are not asking for luxuries. We are asking for partnership. We're asking for our City to meet us halfway so that we can continue doing the work we have with fighting to get simple items like trash cans and a safe, maintained field for our athletes. I have other colleagues here that will speak to those needs, but thank you for your time.

At Mayor Gray's request, Ms. Holley repeated the name of the organization she mentioned, Hampton Roads Hokies.

Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Derrick Wright.

Mr. Derrick Wright greeted those on the dais, introduced himself and made the following statement: I serve as the President of the Hampton Roads Hokies, a nonprofit youth organization that proudly serves families across our community. Our program has been in existence for over 15 years and I come before you tonight, because we've exhausted every avenue through the Hampton Roads Parks and Recreation Office to secure basic support for our field, and actually it directly affects the safety, dignity and success of our athletes. Right now, our field lacks essential resources, such as goal posts, proper uprights. We need additional trash

cans to keep the area clean, and we are in serious need of maintenance support, especially when it comes down to the field upkeep that keeps our athletes safe. We've made repeated requests, submitted formal documentation, and even offered assistance to provide labor ourselves, but our concerns continue to go unanswered. The Hampton Roads Hokies are more than just a basketball, football and cheer program. We are family. We provide structure, mentorship and a purpose to over 200 youth every season. We instill discipline, confidence and teamwork. Many of our kids come from underserved backgrounds, and we often serve as the only safe place, positive outlet in their lives. Our coaches, board members and volunteers put in countless hours without pay because we believe in what this program brings to our community. Thank you.

Ms. Bunting noted that those on the dais do not normally go back and forth with speakers during the meeting; however, this is the first she has heard of the issue and wanted clarity on what field the Hampton Roads Hokies is using. Mr. Wright indicated he is referring to Hunter B. Andrews, 3120 Victoria Boulevard.

Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Glenn Cain.

Mr. Glenn Cain greeted those on the dais, introduced himself and made the following statement: I appreciate the time to speak tonight. I came to voice my opinions on the proposed City ordinance regarding camping and storage (for) on public property. First, let me say - big sigh of relief that it's being postponed. It's kept me up for the last three nights. That's how much this has concerned me. Let me start with a simple statement, though. I do oppose the ordinance as is written, so I am glad to see that it's going back to the drawing board, to the community to get further input. I did review the results of the Virginia Peninsula homelessness study, which is where I believe this ordinance came from, or was one of the recommendations, potentially. It's not...Very coincidental that they came out at the same time. There is a lot that needs to be done to help folks that are homeless in the community, but I can't, in good conscience say that an ordinance like this would be appropriate until there are better support systems in place to help people. We can't simply say you can't stay here. You need to go somewhere else when there is really, realistically nowhere else to go. I know during the winter, a Night's Welcome runs. I'm sure most everybody on the Council is familiar with the Nights Welcome that help incorporated in the local churches run, but other than that period of time, which is a four-to-five-month period, during the summer or spring, there's nowhere to go. So, it's just- it's wrong. I don't see how we can feel that just telling people you can't stay here, you need to go somewhere else, it's just not right. And I challenge the Council, and I mean no disrespect to the gentleman from ForKids, I've called the housing crisis hotline before on behalf of somebody else, and I did learn a few things at that time, and this was a few years ago. I learned one - don't be homeless on the

weekend. I called them on a Saturday and Sunday, they weren't open, and that's probably a contract thing. I get that, but I also learned that it's, you know, when you can call to get assistance is very limited in time, but you're also talking about someone who may not have access to a phone. I've taken an acquaintance of mine down to the Human Services Department to get help because they were homeless and they were living with me. They were given a piece of a flyer with go to this website to get to-apply for assistance, and if you have any questions, call this phone number. We were in the building for 15 minutes, and most of that time was standing in line waiting her turn. That doesn't seem right to me. That could have been a one-off situation. I didn't stand there with her when she was speaking. It's not my business. I was just trying to help her out, take her down there, but something is wrong with that situation. The way this, the ordinance was originally, was potentially (inaudible word) for misuse, and I disagree with it.

Mr. Cain's speaking time expired. Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Laphea Morrison.

Mr. Laphea Morrison greeted those on the dais, introduced himself and made the following statement: I'm the Football Director for the Hampton Roads Hokies, same organization from a couple speakers ago. Moved to Hampton, Virginia, in 1992 with my mother and my brother when I was eight years old. Played youth football in the City of Hampton for Fox Hill. Joined the Air Force, started coaching football in this area, started coaching with Fox Hill, the same team I played for, went over to Aberdeen, but pretty much I've been coaching football since I was 18 years-old, and I'm now 41 nonstop. I have three daughters. I have no sons. I give back to the community in any way I can. I'm a sworn law enforcement officer in a neighboring jurisdiction. My mom still lives here in Hampton. So, I just want to speak on these goal posts and some of the issues we've been having. In 2017, there was a kid that came up to our field that didn't have anything to do with our program at all, and was swinging on the goal posts. If you don't know what goal posts are, those are the things on the football field that look like an H when they kick the ball. The referee kind of does like this and say it's good. But anyway, there was a kid swinging on one and one of the uprights came down and hit the kid. So, at that point, it left three uprights total - you need four. The City came and cut them, and that was 2017 and in 2018, they advised they would be replaced. I hate to say they, so Parks and Rec advised they would be replaced in 2018. To this day, present, we still have no uprights on our goal posts. Fast forward to 2023 and every year we ask for updates on that - 2023 I'm not a landscaper expert, but through research, this spur weed started growing on our main field, not the baseball field, but the main football field of Hunter Andrews started growing. We advised City Parks and Rec that the spur weed was taking over the grass, we took pictures, sent videos. Still to this day, nothing has changed. So, we thought of a resolution. Instead of the City having to buy new goal

posts and pay money to fix the field, could we swap fields and go to another school where there was no football team, which was Eaton Middle School? They advised us we couldn't go there. 2024, we tried to do the same thing again. They put a team there with about 20 kids. We have about 200 - it would have worked if they swapped them with us. Their 20 kids could have went on the baseball field at Hunter Andrews and Eaton would have plenty of space for us. (The) City wouldn't have to pay for any goal posts or fix the grass. Eaton would be perfect. Fell on deaf ears. 2025, same thing, and that's why we're here today. So, I appreciate your time.

Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Daniel Washko.

Mr. Daniel Washko greeted those on the dais, introduced himself and made the following statement: I live in Phoebus or Fort Monroe. We have a collection of homeless people that we see on a regular basis down in Phoebus, but one (inaudible word), in the winter, I met a guy - kind of broke the mold. He was looking for a ride to a gas station and \$10 for gas so that he could put it in his truck and not die at night. Lawn maintenance business, doing shoveling, snowing, looking for work. When I hear the first gentleman say 3,000 calls, I don't think that guy is making a phone call. I don't think a lot of people are making phone calls. I hear from my wife students who don't have a place to stay, living in hotels, one crisis away from homelessness, looking for feminine hygiene products, food. I see it on social media all the time. The Virginia Peninsula homeless study says three big factors - lack of affordable housing, fleeing domestic violence and unemployment. Four hundred people are getting furloughed from the shipyards. Seven hundred people are being let go from NASA Langley. We got Fort Eustis. We got this insanity going on in Washington, D.C. that is affecting our economy. This problem is only going to grow and get worse. While I'm happy that this is deferred, we are sitting on a powder keg. It's going to be more challenging for families in Hampton to make it. It's a lot of crises going on. We need to find solutions that don't criminalize but support and provide assistance. Councilmember Hope Harper said we should be guided by love in the name of Jesus Christ. I ask you, would Jesus Christ criminalize the homeless? I don't think so. So, please solutions, not penalties. Thank you.

Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Victoria Mitchell.

Ms. Victoria Mitchell greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I am a lifelong Hampton resident, and I'm a volunteer and board member at H.E.L.P. Inc., (Hampton Roads Ecumenical Lodgings and Provisions, Inc.). I first became involved with H.E.L.P. Inc., while volunteering at the winter shelter in 2019. Since then, I've assisted with guest check-in each Friday evening. So, this is an important issue for me and concerns people that I know by name. This ordinance may be a reactionary solution to a few complaints from business owners, but if someone is

sleeping on or around their property, that is a trespassing or loitering issue. We do not need an additional ordinance aimed at punishing the homeless. What is needed is a year-round emergency shelter in Hampton. If H.E.L.P. Inc., could receive assistance from the City with a permanent building of our own and the necessary permitting, we could expand our busy day center that is used every day and provide emergency shelter throughout the year. Proposed solutions seem to gravitate towards a combined facility in Newport News, not in my backyard. It would be a disservice and further hardship for citizens who work in Hampton or are enrolled in our Hampton City Schools not to have a local space to find help and seek shelter. Small, localized centers can provide personal care, move citizens out of homelessness and feel less like an institution. A combined center burdened with hundreds of individuals, would be more closely resembling a jail. Currently, there's no place to take shelter from March through October. I believe all the possible resources in our City can offer should be in place before we look to punish people who have nowhere else to sleep. The deeper concern is not the ordinance, but that Hampton still does not have a location for year-round shelter. I'm most interested in that conversation. I really appreciate that you've deferred the vote tonight. I hope that you will please consult with those of us who do this work daily and know the population that we serve in Hampton before you take any further action. Thank you so much for allowing me to speak.

Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Joseph Casey, however, Mr. Casey was not present when his name was called. Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Christine Woods.

Ms. Christine Woods introduced herself and greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: Most of what I was going to say has been said, except that I would just like to call the attention to the fact that I've noticed that this Council and Hampton has sort of...seems like prioritized homelessness more than in the past, with addressing it with this study that you've done. I heard about new poverty initiatives that are coming out through the City, from coming to a work meeting last couple weeks ago, and even Project Hope, some people in the community saw it as potential police brutality by bringing them down to Buckroe Beach, when, in fact, I learned the other night at NAACP meeting that this is very much a resource oriented, a peer support oriented. So, I just see this community coming together, and I think that you guys should toot your own horn about what you're planning to do, because I haven't heard these kind of plans to this extent in a long time, and granted, I haven't been tuned in as much as I used to be, but I am now. I just want to just remind you that, as was said in different ways here tonight, that homelessness - and I've worked with a lot of homeless veterans, and I have a nephew who's almost my age, and he's been homeless for most of his life, not because he doesn't have a loving family, but because he has mental illness that just you know, he's not willing to

deal with effectively, and had drug problems, as well, and he just got a truck he plans to sleep in for the rest of his life, hopefully he doesn't drive it, and maybe he can do that out there in California. But, my point is that homelessness is a terrible place to be, and you know, it's not really the fault of the people who are there. Yes, they may have made some bad decisions, but for the most part, it's not their fault that there aren't services available to help them with their issues. And, so, it's really our responsibility, and it's been our fault that we haven't worked on this a little harder, prioritized it a little harder in the past, but I'm really hopeful that we're getting ready to do that now, and I thank you for your time and your attention.

Mr. Aaron Weaver introduced himself and made the following statement: I'm here to speak in opposition of the proposed ordinance concerning public camping and storage. I understand the ordinance does not explicitly target homelessness; however, its structure, enforcement and real-world impact disproportionately affect unhoused individuals. That is not speculation. That is supported by the City's own data. If there is data showing that the majority of encampments are unrelated to poverty and housing insecurity, I welcome that information because all the evidence we've seen up to this point shows the other way around. At its core, this ordinance attempts to criminalize the visible symptoms of poverty rather than address the root causes: housing, instability, low wages and fragmented social safety net, which we see every day. This is policy theater that punishes suffering instead of solving problems. Meanwhile, 44% of working Hampton households are struggling to meet basic needs. The work session, the Alice population, those who are employed, but still can't afford to live, makes up over 30% of our City, and there is not a single census tract in Hampton that where a full-time minimum wage worker can rent (and affordably) without spending more than half of their income. The ordinance makes it unlawful to camp and lay or sleep on or store items on public property. It is described as a way to set community norms, but with no guaranteed shelter access, no codified requirement to ensure resources are actionable and the norm, we are creating what is one, displacement, not dignity. The current language of the ordinance leaves significant discretion in the hands of individual officers. While I appreciate the chief's commitment to providing training and guidance, it's still not policy, it's practice and without specific codified process to confirm that services are not only offered, but available, this becomes a system based on interpretation, not assurance. This doesn't criminalize criminal activity. It criminalizes absence of alternatives. Let you all see this first. This is anti-homeless fighters. This is a hostile architecture. It's visible. It's intentional. It sends a message...you don't belong here. The ordinance - not as overt, but is structured behind legalese to produce the same result, push the most vulnerable further into the shadows. Justice Sotomayor says sleep is a biological necessity, not a crime. I would criminalize the symptoms of poverty. Does it solve poverty? We can do better. We can expand temporary housing through partnerships, pilot guaranteed income (to) Alice families, centralize

resource coordination with real time access, fund navigators to remove barriers and build trust. Let's not write hardship into law. Let's lead with people, not penalties. Thank you.

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

Ms. Cassandra Alston-Townsley greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: Good evening, and thanks for being moved, but I'm still going to read what I prepared. I speak before you today with urgency and a deeply personal plea. I strongly oppose the proposed ordinance that would criminalize sleeping, camping or storing belongings on public property in Hampton. This is not just policy. It is personal. I was once homeless. I know the fear, the silence, the shame, but my homelessness did not make me a criminal. It made me resilient. It gave me compassion and it gave me a voice to speak for those who are still in that struggle, unseen and unheard, and now, I stand as a homeowner, a community advocate and a representative of many seniors, the disabled and especially those experiencing homelessness. I lived through four and a half years of housing insecurity, and though I made it through, I know that most do not. My story is the exception, not the norm. I traveled that journey quietly because I didn't want judgment. I wanted transformation. I know I speak out to ensure others don't suffer in silence like I did. This ordinance will not solve homelessness. It will only punish people for being poor. It will impose fines, jail time and criminal records on people who already have nowhere to go. That's not justice, that's cruelty. The City's own reports predict the 15% increase in homelessness over the next three years, driven by rising rents, lack of affordable housing and economic pressure. I've seen it firsthand, even as a homeowner, I feel the weight of rising property taxes. Many are being pushed out - tenants, landlords, families unable to keep up, and those already unhoused are being pushed even further to the margin. And what's worth the ordinance allows for the seizure of personal belongings. Let's be clear, these aren't just items for someone who's living on the street. A blanket is safety, an I.D. is survival, a photo is memory, a journal is dignity. And, I remember what it felt like to hold on to one thing that reminded me I was still somebody. We must choose compassion over criminalization, instead of pushing people out of sight, let's offer real support, fund emergency shelters, designate safe spaces, empower homeless advocates and partner with faith-based and nonprofit organizations already doing the work. Hampton has an opportunity to be better, not just for those with homes, but for those without one. Please do not pass a law that punishes people for surviving. Pass

policies that lift people towards stability, housing and dignity. Vote no on camping ban. Vote yes to compassion, justice and the humanity of every Hampton resident. I thank each and every one of you. God bless you.

Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Laura Jamborsky.

Ms. Laura Jamborsky greeted those on the dais, introduced herself and made the following statement: I recently graduated from Christopher Newport University. I majored in environmental studies and had the opportunity to study urban geography under Dr. Finn and truly learn the concepts and theories behind cities and their planning. To ban people experiencing homelessness from public camping would be detrimental to your community. Studies have proven that unstable communities and housing for people leads to more substance abuse within communities. By disallowing unhoused people from sleeping in public, the community is only making being unhoused more difficult, as well as increasing crime. It would be far more beneficial to provide more services to those in need. Growing up, my father has worked for Pathway Homes, a nonprofit organization that works to provide housing and medical services for those with mental health issues. These services have provided support for many people and have been proven to create change. The housing first approach has proven to be more successful and more cost effective, both in the US and globally, than abstinence and treatment first based plans/approaches to homelessness. Social services and work, as well as nonprofit organizations helping unhoused communities would be far more beneficial in helping the City, rather than attempting to push these communities out. Threatening our most vulnerable community members with fines and jail time, will only put a temporary Band-Aid on the problem. It will cause a higher influx of homelessness when people have finished their jail time. Does the community plan to provide transitioning resources to people when we are already lacking heavily as a nation, and helping those previously incarcerated? Just because it might seem like there are fewer people in the street, that does not mean these people are being aided properly. It is clear that funding and aid for these services are being cut by the federal government, but by banning public camping and sleeping in the long run, will only exacerbate the unhoused problem in Hampton. Now is not the time to punish those only trying to survive. Thank you.

Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Shirley Brackett.

Ms. Shirley Brackett greeted those on the dais and staff, introduced herself, stated that she is a resident of Hampton, described where she resides in the City and then made the following statement: I also work in the field, but I'm definitely here as a resident today. About a month ago, I saw the press release on my little daily blast I get from the City of Hampton, with all the things happening, and in big highlights:

Hampton is joining a regional initiative to address homelessness through coordinated strategies and shared solutions. Not even a week later, the email comes up: City Council - camping ban. You know, when I looked at the report, it talks about the fact that the key findings was a lack of affordable housing as the primary driver of homelessness in our area. This morning, I went on Zillow and looked at the number of listings that would be within the fair market rent of \$1,330 a month. There were 89. I took that down one step further and looked at a minimum wage worker at \$13 an hour, who was spending 75% rent burden, assuming a landlord would even approve them at that, there were six units. There were three room rentals, which were probably illegal, and they were \$600 a month. We cannot...as people criminalize our neighbors, people who were probably our coworkers. We went to school with them. You know, these are our fellow citizens with fines and jail time when they absolutely cannot afford to live next door to us. You know the one that really comes to mind with me living over there, the HELP Day Center. (I got one minute - talk fast). The HELP Day Center, you know their winter shelter...they finished the season over there on my side of town, and every morning, at seven o'clock, this mom in her work uniform, and two kids that looked to be school age with their backpacks were coming out of the neighborhood from that church across the street, in the cold, in the rain, standing at the bus stop getting ready to do their thing, go to school, go to work, come back at 5:30 at night, sleep on a church floor with 75 of their new best friends. And, the shelter was ending that week, and when I think about the fact that not only at the end of that week, was she going to have to try to figure out where she was going to go with those two kids, but then to also throw the fact that she could be going to jail, she could have CPS (Child Protective Services) involved and pay \$2,500 in fines for the nerve of not being able to get into one of those six units in our entire City that she's eligible to rent. Anyways, thank you for your time.

Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, John Finn.

Dr. John Finn greeted those on the dais, introduced himself and made the following statement: I'm a Professor of Urban Geography at Christopher Newport University. As you know, in last summer in the City of Grants Pass v. Johnson, the Supreme Court ruled that cities can now criminalize people for sleeping in public, even if they have nowhere to go, as we've heard. Following that decision, you're now considering and have postponed the vote on an ordinance that would make it unlawful for anyone to camp, sleep or store personal belongings on public property punishable by up to a year in jail or a \$2,500 fine. This is not only inhumane, it's just bad public policy. Homelessness is driven by the intersecting forces of structural factors like housing affordability and wages, the strength of the social safety net and individual risk factors like substance use and mental health. Importantly, where there's affordable housing, good wages and a robust safety net, even those with heightened risk factors are far less likely to become homeless, and that's what

makes this proposal so devastating. Just weeks after introducing it, you all received a report that 44% of working Hampton households are struggling to meet basic needs. My own analysis shows that there isn't a single neighborhood in Hampton - it was cited earlier- where a full-time minimum wage worker can spend less than half their income on the typical rent. Think about that. Not one neighborhood in this City. And that comes just as House Republicans have passed a budget proposal slashing housing vouchers, food assistance and Medicaid, further gutting our already fragile safety net. Research shows how fast the spiral to homelessness can unfold. You lose a job or have a health crisis; you move in with family or a friend. This works for a time, but eventually falls apart. You move into a pay-by-the-week motel, then your car until it's towed, and with nowhere else to go, you're on the street. Each step down this path away from stable housing makes recovery only harder. So, I ask, will a \$2,500 fine help someone find housing? How about a year in jail? And to those who say that the intention of this ordinance isn't to jail the unhoused - that's beside the point. The ordinance would allow the City to remove unhoused individuals under the threat of fines and imprisonment, without providing any pathway to housing or additional support. And, to those who claim that this ordinance isn't targeted at the homeless, because it applies to everyone, of course, it is. The only people who regularly sleep, camp or store belongings in public space are those who have no other choice. Those without access to private space pretend. It's just otherwise disingenuous. Thank you.

Mr. Finn's speaking time expired. Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Andria Timmer.

Dr. Andria Timmer greeted those on the dais, introduced herself and made the following statement: I'm a Professor of Anthropology at Christopher Newport University, and I'm speaking to you tonight as somebody who has spent a long time living and working in Hungary. This is a country that has made the ordinance that you are not voting on tonight, but still considering the law of the land. It is written in the Constitution, and it is worded very similarly to the ordinance that you are discussing. So, as somebody who has lived in Hungary, who has worked in homeless shelters, who has done what's called street social work to offer services to people who are sleeping rough, I want to talk to you about some of the consequences of such an ordinance, and I think that it's very clear, as many other people have stated, this is nothing more than an effort to criminalize poverty and homelessness that is at least the outcome of it. Proponents of ordinances such as these and the legislation in Hungary say that it is meant to clean up the city, to prevent trespassing and to push people away from public spaces and towards social services, but in the midst of wide scale housing poverty and insufficient services, the proposed ordinance only serves to harm individuals who are already living in precarious and vulnerable situations. Being shelterless is not a crime, but by

banning sleeping or storing belongings and other activities associated with being shelterless, you are creating criminals. When the acts associated with being without a shelter is criminalized, then those who have no shelter must engage in criminal acts, and thus you perpetuate and reinforce the belief that they are indeed criminals, and then normalize the need for even further anti-homeless legislation. This is not a pathway to solving homelessness. It is a pathway to creating criminals, to impose fines on people who cannot afford them, to further crowd already or overcrowded jails. Such a prohibition shows a blatant disregard for the actual problems of homelessness. It does not address prohibitively high rates of housing nor does it deal with the reality that many people without shelter are suffering from physical and mental ailments that prevent them from finding and maintaining employment. Most importantly, there are simply not enough shelter or housing spaces to go around. What is the point of such legislation? It will absolutely not work to decrease the number of people relegated to living in public spaces unless it is accompanied by real solutions to housing poverty. And, I will say definitively that this has not worked in Hungary. It has not decreased the number of people sleeping rough. What it has done has pushed people to more marginalized areas, and it has also made people who want to help more cautious, because they are afraid that they will be seen as enabling criminal acts. Treating the unhoused individuals as people who have elected to engage in a criminal act is not a solution to homelessness. This is a structural problem that demands structural interventions, not individual punishment. Thank you.

Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Gaylene Kanoyton.

Ms. Gaylene Kanoyton greeted those on the dais, introduced herself and made the following statement: I'm the President of the Hampton Branch NAACP, and also Vice President for the Region for the Virginia NAACP, and, I want to thank everyone in this audience who spoke up for the least of these. You know, we're here for solutions. We're not here to complain. We're here to say that, you know, the least of these need help. It's often said that, well, they don't want to have help, and, so, I looked up some things today, and I've studied social determinants of health, and I've studied racism as a public health crisis, and I know our professors in this room have read that, read all the studies from Harvard and Yale and everywhere. And, people are subject to this, to these factors, but you have to realize that many homeless individuals may hesitate to accept help due to a profound lack of trust stemming from past experience with the criminal justice system, or fear of being marginalized and discarded by society. We need trust as voices. We need everybody in this room to speak up and see how we can help together as a community. This is not just on the City. It's not just our City Council. I know we have H.E.L.P. Let's expand H.E.L.P. Let's... like Fork Oaks (Day Center) in Newport News, you know. Let's expand it. Let's find some of these empty buildings and let's turn it into shelters. So, one of the

lines that I saw in the movie Straw that stands out with me is that people don't know how expensive it is to be poor. That's a strong, strong statement. So, that's what I want to say on that. Thank you for deferring it. I also want to thank you all for making the statement against the disingenuous statement that the Department of Homeland Security listed our City of Hampton as being a sanctuary city. That statement was strong, and we really appreciate you all stepping up to say that we have got to stop misinformation. Lastly, I want to say everyone is invited to our Fourth Annual Juneteenth Celebration that my organization, Celebrate Healthcare LLC, is going to have this Sunday, celebrating fathers, because we got to show fathers love, and it's Men's Health Month, so we'll have health screenings on Sunday, June 15, from 11:30- to 7. We'll have all kinds of community resources. We'll have health screenings, and yes, we'll have Brian Darden, our own from Hampton, Phoebus High School student, basketball star - Hampton University student, and he was just recently on the Voice. He will be performing. And then we'll have the Soulful Tenors, who was the former lead singers for The Delfonics and Blue Magic. So y'all will want to come. Thank you.

Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Stacy Shorter.

Ms. Stacy Shorter greeted everybody, introduced herself and made the following statement: I live in Hampton. I work in Hampton. My kids go to school in Hampton, so I got skin in the game on the decisions that are made in this room. I really feel like the folks in the audience have already given you what you need to do the right thing. So, I'm just going to be real quick, and I'm going to give you one thank you and one please. So, my thank you is thank you for deferring your vote to next month, because that shows us that you're putting a lot of thoughtful consideration into this before you pull the trigger on any action. My please is, you know, some folks in here might not be able to come back for that next meeting, and my please is that when the vote comes to you, that you vote, no. I've been a social worker in Hampton for over 20 years, so I have had the opportunity to do an internship at H.E.L.P., the Hampton Ecumenical Lodgings and Provisions. So, I've had the opportunity to work with veterans who are experiencing serious mental illness and homelessness at the same time. And even for those folks, you would think there's extra resources, right? There is extra resources, and there's still not enough. There's not enough low-income housing. There's not enough year-round shelters. So, I think, you know they say... if your only tool is a hammer, every problem looks like a nail. Well, the police are not the right tool for fixing homelessness, and fines are not the right tool for fixing homelessness, and jail time is not the right tool for fixing homelessness, and that's why I'm asking that when you come back, please vote no. Thank you.

Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Debra Boyce.

Ms. Debra Boyce greeted those on the dais, introduced herself and made the following statement: I live in Hampton. My husband and I have been serving the homeless population on the Peninsula for about 30 years in emergency shelter situations. I wanted to speak tonight, and first of all, to thank you for deferring your action on this matter. I was actually really thrilled to read that the City had joined with five other localities in that Virginia Peninsula homelessness study, and then reading about this proposed action coming so quickly, so soon on the heels of that report, my first thought was, how could you possibly have explored all of the possibilities and all of the recommendations were made by that study fully to come up with this action so soon. It seems like there... it was not given full consideration. And, I would urge you, at this point, to really delve into the findings of the study and how possibly you could be partnering with other organizations. Some of the people who have spoken here tonight representing their organizations, other localities, because it has to be something that's going to work for people that recognizes the dignity of every human being. It's been said more eloquently than I can say it, but I'm going to repeat it one more time. Criminalizing and making people illegal for being is not the answer, if we can't provide solutions to people. I'm going to assume that all of you are in this action motivated by wanting to help and not to hurt. And, so, what I'm hearing is, well, the police will be confronting people, but they won't - they're not really going to impose that penalty that's been attached there. If that is, in fact, the intention that the police are just going to be trying to identify people who need help and try to offer it to them, what help are you offering? What are their alternatives? And, if they can't take the alternative, if there's nothing available to offer, or if the person in their individual circumstances is unable to accept it for whatever reason, having a penalty attached, having it dangling out there as a threat, is not going to increase trust in the system or make people any more willing to listen and to try to see you as partners. So, I would urge you to fully reconsider this and its form as it is now to vote no for it. Thank you.

Mayor Gray called on the next speaker, Nick Swan.

Mr. Nick Swan greeted those on the dais and other civil servants in attendance and made the following statement: I'm here as a concerned citizen of and homeowner in Hampton and the father of an amazing little girl. I am concerned for her future, and I am worried for us all. All politics is local, so I will do my best to center what I'm about to say about our great City and the responses to be had, but please indulge this brief exposition. Our federal government has taken grave actions over the past several months to tighten the fist of authoritarianism and bring fascism to the United States. Many of our fellow citizens have lost their jobs and their livelihoods due to DOJ (Department of Justice) cuts - Hampton citizens. They have attacked our institutions, our universities, the freedom of the press, public health, reproductive

freedom, our LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning) brothers and sisters, the list goes on and on. Our government agencies have been forced to coldly, callously erase the historical contributions of people of color, of women and non-white people to our great country. ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement), a government agency that has existed only since 2003 is being wielded like a cudgel to terrorize our proud immigrant communities. And, this past week, DHS (Department of Homeland Security), ICE, CBP (U.S. Customs and Border Protection) and HSI (Homeland Security Investigations) have laid siege to major U.S. cities: New York, Chicago, Minneapolis, Austin, and most recently, Los Angeles. And the President has nationalized the National Guard of California, subverting the authority of the governor, and has deployed members of the active-duty USMC (United States Marine Corps) units right up to the line of violating the Posse Comitatus Act of 1878. They didn't ask for the city council's permission or Mayor Bass' permission, either. So, here's where I pick up with why this is a local issue for us. DHS isn't operating by themselves. In each of these cities, they are coordinating in criminal apprehension task forces with local law enforcement. They are raiding working work places, immigration court hearings and even our schools to arrest people and break families up. There are numerous pending legal challenges to these arrests because there are alleged denials of due process rights of these people. They are people. I call on our City Council and our Mayor to do the following: Pre-plan with the governor to coordinate what local cooperation will look like, so that the rights of the accused people are respected and they are afforded due process rights. Remind the Chief of Police and the Sheriff of Hampton that they work for the people of Hampton and that they are entrusted with keeping the peace, protecting and serving, not the federal government, but the citizens and residents of Hampton. ICE detainees are in our jails. They should be treated like people, humanely and afforded due process. Do not cooperate in advance with a government that shows it routinely pushes constitutional boundaries and denies due process of the accused. They have falsely labeled us as.

Mayor Gray indicated that Mr. Swans' speaking time had expired and called on the next speaker, Catherine Tyler-Northan.

Ms. Catherine Tyler-Northan greeted those on the dais and everyone present, introduced herself and made the following statement: I am a resident of Hampton. I am retired from Insight Enterprises, Inc./ Peninsula Center for Independent Living where we work with people with disabilities. One of our mandates was to find affordable, accessible housing for people with disabilities, and yes, homeless people with disabilities. I'm here as a voice to speak for those who've been silenced by their circumstances, those who have been punished because of their impoverishness. Fining people will not resolve the housing problem. It will only criminalize it. When people don't have a place to go, where can we expect them to be? The sidewalk

becomes a bedroom, the bench becomes the shelter, the corner of a building becomes the refuge from the wind. Issuing tickets and fines only criminalizes, and it only adds to the circumstances and makes it harder for people to recover. Let's be clear, homelessness is not a crime. It is a crisis for which housing is required, not handcuffs. Instead of punishing the poor, let's invest more in affordable, accessible housing. Let's invest more in job training, in mental health services. Fining people who have nothing is not justice. It is cruelty disguised as policy. Let's do better. Let's love. Let's show compassion. Let's work together to try and resolve this problem. Let's lead with humanity. Thank you.

Mayor Gray said that Ms. Tyler-Northam was the last speaker and called on City Manager Bunting for response. Ms. Bunting responded to the public comment period. The below summarizes her remarks.

She thanked those in the community that work in youth athletics and other community groups, stated that this is the first staff has heard of the Hampton Roads Hokies' concern and assured everyone that the concern will be addressed.

She stated that Mr. Boone's numbers were slightly off and we received a \$4.6 million congressionally directed grant from Congressman Bobby Scott's office that was intended to go specifically for operating five resource centers and five hot spots, however, we have not been able to get much of that funding because of the current conditions in Washington, DC. The other approximately \$4 million that Mr. Boone mentioned is a subset, likely of the Cares Act money, that Council set aside for community grass roots organizations, but it was not a specific grant and was part of a larger Cares allocation. She noted that staff will handle the FOIA request and get Mr. Boone the information he requested.

With regard to the Hampton Redevelopment and Housing Authority (HRHA), she thanked Ms. Peppers for sharing her story and making Council and others aware of what she and others have gone through and explained that HRHA has a separate board that neither she nor Council directs.

With regard to the homeless concern, first she shared an example of a family member who was homeless and had mental health and other issues so that everyone could understand that she has compassion with regard to this topic. Next, she summarized the origination of the ordinance stating that the City has received concerns from neighborhoods and businesses about homeless people exhibiting disturbing behaviors which can have a summons issued if witnessed by the police, but typically the behavior has stopped by the time the police arrive. She clarified that staff and Council do not want to criminalize the homeless, but needed a way to address those who do nuisance behaviors in neighborhoods. The City Attorney's

Office advised that if there is an ordinance that says we can compel someone to leave public property, there must be a penalty associated with it. She also explained that this does not mean that a penalty must be enforced, but police must have authority to require a person to leave the property. She continued speaking about the homeless concern and shared that when the City receives complaints from residents and others, the first course of action is to send the Human Services team out to assist the person, but oftentimes there is distrust and people are not willing to accept help. She spoke a bit about the resources available to help people in need and shared that Council is exploring broader ways to supplement the federal and state resources.

She continued speaking about the homelessness concern and the advantages of Hampton working with the city of Newport News on a regional shelter, mainly that it will provide more comprehensive services. She also announced that Hampton has a plan B if the regional shelter does not materialize in the near future and spoke about the City and the community working together to make homeless programs more successful. She emphasized the compassion and obligation that Council and staff have for all citizens and encouraged individuals and groups that may be interested in helping with this concern to reach out to her or the City's 311 call center.

GENERAL ITEMS

Ordinances

8. [25-0170](#) Ordinance to Amend and Reenact the City Code of the City of Hampton, Virginia by Amending Chapter 24, Offenses - Miscellaneous, Article I, In General, Section 24-50, to prohibit camping and storage on public property.

Attachments: [Redline](#)

Ms. Glass read the title for the item and also gave the proposed motion.

Councilmember Michelle Ferebee made the following motion: I move that City Council defer final action on item 25-0170 to September 24th and direct staff to meet with stakeholders and interested parties and report back to City Council regarding the results of such discussions at its work session on August 13th. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Randy Bowman, Sr., and 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

The Clerk read the titles of items 9 and 10. Councilwoman Mugler made the following statement: Pursuant to Section 2.2-3112(A) of the Virginia Conflict of Interest Act, I will not participate in the discussion or voting on Items 25-0168 and 25-0169 because my spouse is engaged as a paid consultant for Community Baseball LLC, which is the tenant under a lease for War Memorial Stadium located at 1889 West Pembroke Ave in Hampton.

The City Manager then introduced items 25-0168 and 25-0169.

9. [25-0168](#) Resolution to Dissolve the Peninsula Stadium Authority

Attachments: [PSA's Resolution to Dissolve \(approved June 2 2025\)](#)

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Steven Brown and seconded by Councilmember Randy Bowman, Sr., that this Resolution be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper and Mayor Gray

Recuse: 1 - Councilmember Mugler

10. [25-0169](#) Resolution to Establish the War Memorial Stadium Advisory Board

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

Aye: 6 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper and Mayor Gray

Recuse: 1 - Councilmember Mugler

Appointments

Ms. Glass read the motions required for appointments.

11. [25-0090](#) Consideration of an Appointment to the Virginia Peninsula Community College Board of Trustees
- A motion was made by Vice Mayor Steven Brown and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Campbell, to appoint Donnie Tuck to serve a first term until June 30, 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
12. [25-0121](#) Consideration of an Appointment to the Building Code Board of Appeals
- A motion was made by Vice Mayor Brown seconded by Councilmember Campbell to reappoint Carl Burt to a second term until June 30, 2030.
- Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Ferebee, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray
13. [25-0128](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Planning Commission
- A motion was made by Vice Mayor Steven Brown and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Campbell to reappoint Kathy Rogers and Tracy Brooks to second terms expiring on June 30, 2029. One vacancy 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
14. [25-0142](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Citizens' Engagement

Advisory Review Commission (CEARC)

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Steven Brown and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Campbell, that this Appointment be deferred to the City Council Legislative Session, due back on 7/9/2025. 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

15. [25-0179](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Board of Review of Real Estate Assessments

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Brown and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Campbell to reappoint Carl Burt and Cliff Moore to second terms expiring on June 30, 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

16. [25-0183](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Towing Advisory Board

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Steven Brown and seconded by Councilmember Carolyn Campbell that this Appointment be deferred to the City Council Ceremonial Session, due back on 7/9/2025. 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

Councilwoman Ferebee stated: I will not participate in any discussion or the vote concerning appointments to the Grievance Panel because my spouse was appointed to the Grievance Board prior to my election to City Council, and he is currently under consideration for reappointment.

17. [25-0184](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Grievance Board

A motion was made by Councilmember Martha Mugler and seconded by Vice Mayor Steven Brown, that Melvin Ferebee, Linda Curtis, Brad Young, and Phyllis Porter be reappointed to second terms expiring on June 30, 2029, that Toyzette Dance be reappointed to serve her first full term until June 30, 2029, and to appoint James Young to serve a first term until June 30, 2029. One vacancy remains. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Councilmember Bowman Sr., Vice Mayor Brown, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Gray

Recuse: 1 - Councilmember Ferebee

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 8:30 p.m.

Contact Info:
Clerk of Council, 757-727-6315, council@hampton.gov

Jimmy Gray
Mayor

Katherine K. Glass, MMC
Clerk of Council

Date approved by Council _____