



# 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*  
*Cheran Cordell Ivery, City Attorney*  
*Katherine K. Glass, CMC, Clerk of Council*

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**Wednesday, February 22, 2023**

**6:30 PM**

**Council Chambers**

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### CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Tuck convened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. with all members of the City Council 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 - Councilman Chris Bowman

Councilman Bowman gave the invocation.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG

### MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Tuck read a proclamation declaring March 4, 2023, as Hampton Community Enrichment Program Read Across America Day in the City of Hampton, Virginia. Gwen Lomax and others accepted the proclamation.

Mayor Tuck also invited Michelle Simpson, the Youth Development Director and Coordinator for Alternatives World Changers Youth Leadership Team to share information on their program. Ms. Simpson introduced Aemelia Griffith (Historian), Alexia Jennings (Secretary), and Destiny Jones (Advocate Chair)

who shared information on their group and advocacy efforts. Isaac Horne also presented gifts to the Mayor, Vice Mayor and Clerk of Council.

Ms. Simpson acknowledged Executive Director Ragen Johnson and the parents of the youth participants and others who are involved in the program.

Mayor Tuck also recognized Amani Cooper, a young lady in the audience who is a Cooper Allstar. He also recognized the Deltas in the audience, members of a cohort from Old Dominion University working on their masters degrees, parents of the World Changers, and also staff from the Victim Services unit.

At the conclusion of the Mayor's Comments portion of the meeting, Clerk of Council Katherine Glass read the protocol for the Consent Agenda.

[23-0037](#)

Motion to remove item #23-0047 from the consent agenda

A motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs and seconded by Councilmember Steven Brown, that item #23-0047 be removed from 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

4.

[23-0047](#)

Resolution to Amend the Fiscal Year 2023 Council Approved Budget to Accept and Appropriate \$300,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) - Gun Violence Intervention Grant Program to Support the City's Efforts to Reduce Gun Violence

**Attachments:** [Application](#)  
[Memorandum of Understanding](#)  
[Budget Sheet](#)  
[Award Letter](#)  
[Grant Proposal Narrative](#)  
[Goals and Objectives](#)

Ms. Glass read the title for the item.

City Manager Mary Bunting shared that today's presentation is about one of many grants the City has received to address the issue of gun violence. She reminded everyone that Hampton received a significant amount last year when Councilwoman Martha Mugler was a delegate in the General Assembly. This particular grant will come from the Attorney General's Office. The Federal Government has also awarded Hampton \$4.6 million, thanks to Congressman Bobby Scott's introduction of a bill based upon the work being done in Hampton.

Ms. Bunting introduced Assistant City Manager Steve Bond to summarize information related to this particular grant. She also reminded everyone that this initiative is about bringing all of the funding sources together to support the combined effort and plans that Hampton has to make a difference in our community.

Mr. Bond greeted those on the dais and presented the below report on the 5 aspects of the grant. The aspects are: the focused deterrence model; the number of individuals believed to be the shooter or to get shot; new lighting proposed for hot spots in the City; the services planned to be provided; and the measurement for success (the expected outcomes to be achieved).

The focused deterrence model involves Hampton's prevention, intervention and enforcement strategies which focus on individuals who are at most risk of being perpetrators or victims of violent crime in the community. Research has shown that this is the best way to impact gun violence.

Currently, 56 individuals are on Hampton's vulnerability list of those who are most likely to be shot or to be a shooter. Points earned to get on the list are based on those who have either shot someone, been shot or been in the presence of someone when they were shot. Data and research shows that violence and gun violence travel through violent social networks. Individuals may also obtain points to potentially be placed on the list by either carrying illegal firearms in public spaces or having a weapons law violation. Points may be removed based on each year an individual does not have a violent interaction or interaction with police. Mr. Bond reiterated that 56 individuals are currently on Hampton's vulnerability list with varying degrees of points.

The program intends to target individuals who are most likely to be victims or perpetrators of violent crime. Some of the services expected to be extended through this grant and other funding sources include violence interrupters (people who have had issues in the past but have turned their lives around and are committed to stopping violence by intervening in situations and de-escalating them); family support; case management; prosocial activities and community cohesion;

educational services; workforce readiness and job referrals; and trauma-informed counseling designed to increase individuals chances for success.

The plan also proposes the addition of new lighting in various hot spots throughout the City. This portion of the proposal will be part of the City's effort with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). It has been proven that not only does violence travel through violent social networks, but also in locations where there are disproportionate instances of gun violence. These instances tend to be connected and share certain environmental traits, such as inadequate lighting. Places which are not adequately lit allow crimes to be concealed more easily; are uninviting for the public to be present; and have fewer people who could potentially witness criminal activity. One of the ways the proposal suggests addressing these problems is to have better lighting in hot spot areas. Challenges associated with this initiative include the time it takes to fix the problem; the cost for a new light (approximately \$3,500 - \$5,000); and the time it takes to have a new light designed and installed (about 8-10 months). The City has received funding for this and is working on the plan, but it will not happen overnight.

Outcome and output measures will be used to show the level of success of the program. The number of fatal shootings and non-fatal shootings in the City are the two most important outcome measures as the main effort of the program is to reduce fatal and non-fatal shootings in the City. Intervals of time between fatal and non-fatal shootings that occur in primary gun violence hotspots will also be measured to determine if the efforts in those hotspots are making a difference. In addition, intervals between adverse contacts with people on the vulnerability list and the police will be measured to determine if those interactions are reducing negative behavior.

A number of things will also be tracked with regard to output measures, including the number of people on the vulnerability list who have been connected to services; the number of events that occur in priority gun violence hotspots (this will tell how many times we engage with people who are there); the number of people who engage (those on the vulnerability list and those who live in the hotspot areas) in an attempt to change the nature of those areas and make them safer and welcoming public spaces; and the number of improvements in hotspot areas.

Mr. Bond made a few closing remarks and reminded everyone that the individuals who will receive assistance will come from different places in their lives and will have personalized plans and goals. Another part of the program will be to measure their success moving forward with those plans and goals. Examples of plans and goals are completing mental health and counseling services, pursuing educational achievements and workforce development. These programs will be designed to assist with whatever is important to each individual.

Mr. Bond opened the floor for questions and comments from Council.

Mayor Tuck emphasized the importance of residents knowing what the City is doing. He also spoke about how citizens oftentimes express concern (during his speaking engagements) about shootings, homicides and the City feeling unsafe, and he reminds them that the issue is typically within the individuals themselves and that victims and perpetrators generally know each other. He also asked everyone to consider that it is a small number of people causing the problem, particularly if Hampton has 56 individuals (on the vulnerability list) out of approximately 130,000 residents. He spoke about focusing our attention on this small, workable number and other positive things the City is doing such as providing mentor programs and getting churches involved with elementary schools. He said that all of these things are being done to make an impact in the community and encourage a high quality of life so that citizens can feel safe doing their everyday activities. He assured everyone that we are not sleeping on the issue and are doing creative things to ensure that we have a safe City.

A motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs seconded by Councilmember Chris Bowman, that this item 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

## CONSENT AGENDA

Clerk of Council Katherine Glass read a summary of the consent items.

### Approval of the Consent Agenda

Motion made by Councilmember Bowman, seconded by Councilmember Hobbs, 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. [23-0031](#) Resolution to Amend the Fiscal Year 2023 Council Approved Budget to Accept and Appropriate the FY 2023 Violence Against Women's Act ("VAWA") Program - Prosecution Grant Awarded by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

**Attachments:** [23-A9367VA21-Hampton VSTOP](#)  
[VSTOP Cooperative Agreement 2](#)  
[VSTOP Goals-Activities Addendum](#)  
[VSTOP Victim Safety Assurance Statement 2022](#)  
[VSTOP Certifications Lobbying 2022](#)  
[CY 2022-2023 Violence Against Women VSTOP Grant](#)

Item approved.

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

2. [23-0040](#) Resolution to Amend the Fiscal Year 2023 Council Approved Budget to Accept and Appropriate the FY 2023 Operation Ceasefire Grant Program-Commonwealth's Anti Violence Initiative and Resources (CAVIAR) Program - Prosecution Grant Awarded by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

**Attachments:** [Award Letter](#)  
[Information Sheet](#)  
[Grant Proposal Overview](#)

Item approved.

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

3. [23-0042](#) Resolution to Amend the Fiscal Year 2023 Council Approved Budget to Appropriate \$3,000,000 from the Equipment Replacement Fund's Unrestricted Net Position to the Equipment Replacement Fund's Operating Budget to Fund Replacement Cost for Emergency Equipment

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

There were no public hearings.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Mr. William Webster signed up to speak but left before the public comment period began.

Mr. Erik Richards greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: The first thing I was going to speak on is public health. I believe that, although I'm not a doctor, that everyone was so great about giving out masks and putting their masks on, I think that the ease of adding a vinyl glove to the mix would have been perfect. I know that COVID wasn't a touch disease, but there are other germs out there and I feel like the positive effect of seeing someone who wears vinyl gloves...wow, that person is really health conscience about themselves. And, the other thing I'd like to make you, Councilmen and ladies, aware of is that one time I was at a restaurant and there was a door foot handle and I'm not sure if any of you are aware of this, but I just thought...wow, that was so much cleaner. I think it would be perfect if everywhere had one of those. The ground is a dirty place and it would just be so much healthier if we used our feet to open up the doors. Next, COVID was serious. They were talking about influenza. The last major disease that they talked about...influenza wiped out millions of people and I was just thinking...Oh my gosh, where are the Hazmat suites? I think that is something that the government should have a steady supply of in case (I know it's expensive) something happens. It's better safe than sorry because diseases are always evolving. One could hit and we wouldn't be prepared or we can all be in our plastic suites and how much can plastic cost? Not too much. So, that's my health thing. And, one more thing: wouldn't it be nicer if we had hand sanitizer like above the door handle? That would just remind people...some people are lazy about it and they don't use the hand sanitizer. That would be a good way to remind them - if it was right above the door handle. Before I'm out of time, I do want to let you know if you are familiar with the Bluebird Gap Farm, I was at the Bluebird Gap Farm not too long ago and the animals seem to have a little bit of a shaking like they were twitching and I think that they might have unhealthy living conditions. I think we would all respect if someone went over there to check on them. And, I'm out of time. Thank you very much.

Ms. Willie Press greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I would just like to tell City Council that I was in error because I chose the wrong night, but it was very enlightening to hear and see everything that's going on in the City of Hampton. Since I have been a long resident of the City of Hampton, it really,

really does my heart good to see what goes on. So, for the next meeting, I will make sure that I sign up for what I would like to speak on. So once again, thanks for listening to me.

Mr. William Eley greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I'm going to talk about the carousel. My great uncle was Wallace Stieffen and his family purchased the carousel with the whole amusement park in 1944 when he was just a teenager, and of course, they operated it until 1985 when the park then closed. We all know the story. It's been there for 30 years. It's a wonderful park and I attended an earlier meeting today that went over all the options of moving the carousel. I can understand why the carousel would be moved. I do think, though, that Buckroe would be a wonderful location for it and as we saw earlier in the meeting, a building could be built that would protect it sufficiently because there were concerns about that (having it in the salt air), but this is 2023 and we have technology to build an incredible building and with all the other improvements down at Buckroe Beach, I think having the Carousel there would get more traffic during the summer. The winters would be a little bit dead, but I think with all the stuff that's going on down there, having the carousel come home to where she was for 65 years would be quite a fitting turn of events. No matter what the outcome, I think I can speak for everybody that most of us have probably gone to the carousel and have seen just how beautiful it is and it is really, like others have said, it is a gem for the City of Hampton and we should all be very, very proud and feel very fortunate to have such a wonderful thing in our City. No matter what the outcome is, although I would love it to go to Buckroe Beach, I would hope that Council and all those involved would do the right thing. Thank you.

Ms. Brenda Marks greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I want to make a few comments on the presentation itself. I think everybody pretty much knows my position on the carousel, but I think there was some omissions in the actual presentation. Where I commend Mr. Tingle for his honesty in acknowledging he did not know the history, I'm appalled that an architect, as well-known as he is and as widely respected as he is, did not take the time to click on the National Historic registry of places in Virginia (the National Register of Historic Places) and read the package on the carousel. The entire history from its being built to today is in that package. I want to give you a little bit of construction information that wasn't presented. There was a lot of complaints about the tinted windows around the carousel. For those of us who have construction knowledge, in 1988 - 1992, there was no such thing as Low-E (emissivity) glass. You had to tint the windows to keep the sun from bleaching the freshly restored public-using carousel. That problem can be solved by simply replacing the glass around the building with Low-E glass which does block UV light now. The biggest omission from his presentation was the law regarding flood proofing. Where his presentation



showed that the building already sat above the current 100-year flood plan, if the City is genuine in its desire to bring it to the new standard of 11 feet, the law allows that to be done by installing a 3-foot wall around the lip of the building with floodgates that can be closed. That's a whole lot cheaper than raising a building. The biggest thing, I think, this City Council has not yet addressed is age has its advantages. In 1998, when the carousel was moved, the City committed to leave it next to the Air and Space Museum to get the private funding. Are you going to give that money back if you move it? The article is archived in the Daily Press. I will gladly forward it to you. Thank you.

## GENERAL ITEMS

### Appointments

5. [22-0276](#) Consideration of an Appointment to the Hampton Commission on the Arts

A motion was made by Councilmember Steven Brown that Courtney Hampton be appointed to fill the unexpired portion of a term until June 30, 2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 6 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

**Out:** 1 - Councilmember Hobbs

## 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 7:17 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 \_\_\_\_\_