



City of Hampton

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

Council Approved Minutes - Final City Council Work Session

Mayor Donnie R. Tuck
Vice Mayor Jimmy Gray
Councilmember Chris L. Bowman
Councilmember Eleanor Weston Brown
Councilmember Steven L. Brown
Councilmember Billy Hobbs
Councilmember Chris Snead

STAFF: Mary Bunting, City Manager
Cheran Cordell Ivery, City Attorney
Katherine K. Glass, Clerk of Council

Wednesday, August 12, 2020

1:00 PM

Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tuck called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. All members of the City Council were present.

Present 7 - Councilmember Chris L. Bowman, Councilmember Eleanor Weston Brown, Councilmember Steven L. Brown, Vice Mayor Jimmy Gray, Councilmember Billy Hobbs, Councilmember Chris Snead, and Mayor Donnie R. Tuck

DONNIE R. TUCK PRESIDED

AGENDA

1. [20-0201](#) Safe and Clean - Citywide Statistics

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

Mayor Tuck reminded everyone that those on the dais were social distancing and wearing masks for everyone's safety.

Clerk of Council Katherine Glass read the title for the item.

City Manager Mary Bunting introduced the item.

Police Chief Terry Sult gave opening remarks and said that officers from various units of the Hampton Police Division (HPD) would present on different aspects of the safe and clean initiative and City-wide statistics related to crime in the City.

Criminal Analyst Michael Folsom greeted those on the dais and shared data about

reported crime in the City. He reviewed several slides which show statistic comparisons for part 1 offenses in the City over the past 5 years. Part 1 offenses include murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft.

In response to Vice Mayor Gray, Mr. Folsom explained that a number of crimes fall under the aggravated assault category, some of which include maiming, aggravated assault, aggravated domestic assault, and domestic maiming (including shootings).

Mayor Tuck asked what attributed to the crime rate dropping below the mean in some years.

Chief Sult explained that the HPD has addressed concerns through investigations and community outreach; and, oftentimes results do not materialize until sometime later. He also reminded everyone that crime trends are cyclic and have peaks and valleys; therefore, it is important to consider trends over a period of time versus short-term.

Mr. Folsom shared additional information about violent crime, regional crime rates, and crime data involving firearms.

In response to Councilman Brown, Mr. Folsom clarified that the firearm statistics compares numbers for the first six months of each year. He added that while data is only available for the first six months of 2020, as time goes on, those figures will continue to change. He noted that his office follows patterns and trends and also communicates with other jurisdictions about crime trends.

In response to Councilman Bowman, Mr. Folsom clarified that aggravated assault may involve firearms as well as other types of weapons; however, the information he is reviewing is related to firearms. Chief Sult added that the term “aggravated” means that a serious incident took place usually resulting in injury.

Mr. Folsom concluded his portion of the presentation and provided statistics related to weapon law violation offenses and gunshot injuries.

In response to Mayor Tuck, Chief Sult noted that officers from the Crimes against Persons Unit and the Gang Unit will share additional information related to homicides and shootings.

Real Time Information Center Commander, Lt. Pelham Felder, greeted those on the dais and provided information about how the Real Time Information Center operates. He then shared information about statistical reports; cameras and surveillance; calls

for service; and arrests resulting from video footage. Lt. Felder also invited those on the dais to stop by for a tour of the facility.

Commander at the Operations Branch of the HPD, Lt. Sean Olson, spoke about patrol operations and how the police integrates itself to combat and solve crime. He explained that the department relies heavily on technology; directed patrols; the High Impact Patrol Team (H.I.P. Team); bike patrol; preliminary investigations and evidence management; investigative collaboration; and the Nuisance Abatement Team to patrol operations. He also shared examples of each of these functions.

In response to Councilman Brown, Lt. Olson stated that each locality has a H.I.P. Team. He added that the HPD works closely with other units in the region and state on crime trends in our communities.

In response to Mayor Tuck, Lt. Olson explained that certified bike officers are assigned to each shift in the operations branch and come prepared to deploy as needed; however, they are not utilized every day. In addition, the HPD has motorcycle officers who patrol the City.

Chief Sult added that four smaller motorcycles which provide better flexibility have arrived and should be in use in the near future.

Commander of Crimes against Persons Unit, Lt. Anthony Scheck, greeted those on the dais and noted that this unit investigates shootings, homicides, rapes and other major crimes against persons. He then shared statistics related to homicides in the City during 2020.

In response to Councilman Brown, Lt. Scheck explained that a detective is assigned to the local Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Office and when firearms are collected from a crime, background checks are done and then we expand off of that investigation. He also shared that officers often use a national database called eTrace which tracks information about weapons such as where they were purchased and crimes in which they may have been involved.

Mayor Tuck asked if there is a new trend in which individuals known to one another pursue each other with guns in vehicles simultaneously putting others in danger.

Lt. Scheck said that is a rarity; however, sometimes people who have an ongoing beef cross one another resulting in an incident or a target of opportunity.

Additional discussion took place among those on the dais, Lt. Scheck and Chief Sult regarding recent incidents in the City. Chief Sult suggested that it would be better to

continue this discussion in a private forum.

Lt. Scheck reviewed the next few slides of the presentation which provided more information about homicides in the City during 2020. Statistics were related to high crime areas of the City, locations of offenses and how many crimes had ties to gangs and drugs.

In response to Councilman Brown and Councilman Bowman, Lt. Scheck spoke about community engagement and the number of leads and solved cases in the City. He also reminded everyone that crimes may be reported anonymously by calling the Crime Line at 1-888-LOCK-U-UP.

Councilwoman Snead commented that for years now, the Crime Line reward has remained \$1,000, and suggested that an increased reward may be an incentive for people to report more crime.

Chief Sult noted that the business that oversees the Crime Line is a separate 501c3; however, that suggestion can be explored.

Det. Joseph Oleski of the Violent Crime and Gang Unit briefly spoke about the unit, gang activity in the area, and an incident case example.

In response to Mayor Tuck, Det. Oleski explained that this unit works with crimes against persons, not property crime.

In response to Councilman Brown, Det. Oleski clarified that the unit is a combined violent crime and gang unit.

Lt. Scott Keller of the Special Investigations Unit spoke about the Project Safe Neighborhood Program (PSN), a nationwide initiative that brings together local, state and federal agencies to seek out repeat, most violent members of communities and develop solutions to reduce and prevent violent crime.

Lt. Scheck returned to the podium to speak about the Project Safe Neighborhood Grant.

In response to Mayor Tuck, Lt. Scheck added that plans are underway to outsource training on up-to-date practices related to homicide investigations, surveillance techniques and other current practices.

Sgt. Patrick Baird of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Unit (HIDTA) stated that the purpose of this unit is to disrupt the market for illegal drugs by dismantling

drug trafficking and money laundering organizations. He also stated that the ultimate goal of the unit is to federally indict, arrest and prosecute those who are part of drug trafficking organizations.

Sgt. Baird also briefly spoke about Operation Cookout and HIDTA prevention efforts and then noted that he was unable to elaborate on these topics due to the sensitive nature of their subject matter. He then opened the floor for questions from those on the dais.

At Mayor Tuck's request, Sgt. Baird shared a bit of information about fentanyl, opioids and other drugs.

Lt. Keller and Chief Sult spoke about the effectiveness of road checks and traffic stops with regards to disrupting gun violence and illegal drug activity and crime intervention and prevention.

Discussion took place among the members of Council and staff about drug prevention, referral programs and the individuals who participate in those programs.

Sgt. Steven Keppler of the Special Investigations Unit provided additional information about HIDTA prevention efforts specific to Hampton. He then provided information about ODMAP, an overdose detection mapping application program which provides real-time location and incident information. He also spoke about the many partnerships the City has with various organizations in the community that work together on prevention, rehabilitation, and outreach in the community.

Sgt. Keppler also shared statistics for 2020 related to how often Narcan was administered, the number of overdoses, and the number of drug-related fatalities in the City.

Discussion took place among the members of Council, Sgt. Keppler and Chief Sult. Topics of discussion included overdose cases; which offenses result in arrest; age, race and gender of offenders; and the roles of drug treatment referral programs, the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office and the Hampton/Newport News Community Services Board.

For the benefit of the public, Ms. Bunting clarified that charges for some offenses are decided by the General Assembly and are not controlled by City Council.

Assistant Chief Orrin Gallop in charge of Investigative Services greeted those on the dais and explained that this unit handles crimes against property and crimes against persons. He then shared information about the Violent Crime Review Commission

and an upcoming joint project with Johns Hopkins University, the City of Hampton, the HPD and Hampton's Commonwealth's Attorney's Office. The project is designed to review violent cases involving guns; determine the core causes of violent crime; review patterns of crimes; and determine possible solutions to these crimes. He added that another goal of the project will be to establish both Criminal Justice and Community Committees to review gun-related violent crime cases and determine potential solutions to the problems.

Discussion took place among the members of Council and Assistant Chief Gallop. Topics of discussion included case analysis; the correlation between drug activity and violent crime; the need for sharing information about troubled youth among the HPD, City departments and other organizations with the goal of intervening and preventing crime; the drug-related health crisis; and violent crime and homicides involving African-American males and the impact it has on youth in our community.

Ms. Bunting reminded everyone that this is part of our legislative agenda at the State level. She also emphasized the importance of working with the Congressional delegation as some confidentiality rules come from the federal government.

Further discussion took place among Chief Sult, Assistant Chief Gallop, Ms. Bunting and the members of Council about information sharing, trauma in the City, public health, the project with Johns Hopkins University, social autopsy, and obtaining consent from parents and troubled youth to access their records for information sharing.

Ms. Bunting recognized Chief Sult, Assistant Chief Gallop and Commonwealth Attorney Anton Bell for developing the relationship with Johns Hopkins University which intentionally selected Hampton as a mid-sized locality to work with on this project.

Chief Sult emphasized the importance of partnering with the community to combat crime and then opened the floor for questions from those on the dais.

Councilman Bowman asked about HPD's relationship with the Newport News Police Department in a time when gang migration from Newport News appears to be a concern in our community. He also asked what resources are available to help improve crime during the remainder of the year.

Chief Sult stated that the relationship between the HPD and the Newport News Police Department is very strong and broad-based. He emphasized how well both departments work together to assist each other with problems in both communities. With regards to resources, he explained that each year, five new positions are

incorporated in the budget and we have held true to that commitment over the years. He continued explaining that when all officers are trained and on the street, we have all the resources needed; however, the number of officers on the street tend to fluctuate under certain circumstances such as when officers are transitioning due to training, retiring or relocating. He added that further coordination regarding this topic will take place with the City Manager and Council in the near future.

Chief Sult made additional closing remarks and acknowledged the outstanding work that his staff does on a daily basis.

Mayor Tuck concurred with the Chief, thanked all of the presenters for providing this informative information and assured the citizens that we are on top of things in the City.

Presented by Terry Sult, Chief of Police. Others participating in the presentation were:

Michael Folsom, Criminal Analyst, Planning, Research and Analysis Unit

Lt. Pelham Felder, Commander, Real Time Information Center

Lt. Sean Olson, Commander, Operations, Commander of Night Shift, Chesapeake Sector

Lt. Anthony Scheck, Investigative Services, Commander of Crimes Against Persons Unit

Det. Joseph Oleski, Violent Crimes and Gang Unit

Lt. Scott Keller, Investigative Services, Special Investigations Unit, Hampton Roads Peninsula Drug Initiative

Sgt. Steven Keppler, Investigative Services, Special Investigations Unit, A-Squad

Assistant Chief Orrin Gallop, Investigative Services

Following item #1, Mayor Tuck announced that, due to time, item #3 on today's agenda would take place at the September meeting. He also recessed the meeting for about ten minutes until 3:22 p.m.

2. [20-0222](#) Update on CARES Act Funding

City Manager Bunting introduced the item.

Assistant City Manager Brian DeProfio greeted those on the dais and acknowledged those who worked on the project. They include: Senior Business Development Manager Steven Lynch, Budget Manager Lori Green, Finance Director Karl Daughter, Assistant City Manager Steve Bond, Emergency Manager Coordinator Hui-San Walker and Human Resources Director Nicole Clark.

Mr. DeProfio explained that the CARES Act established a \$150 billion fund which was disbursed among the states, some large localities and territories of the United States to provide funding to support needed expenses associated with responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. DeProfio announced that the State has identified two rounds of funding to support local government. He also shared information about the City's allocation from the State; the CARES Act Funds appropriation; expenditure qualifications; the CARES Act funds certification requirement; and the spending categories for utilization of funds.

Mayor Tuck said that he understood that some funds were placed in contingency in the event of an unexpected circumstance; however, he would like to know when a decision will be made about moving those funds out of contingency and into utilization to avoid losing those funds.

Mr. DeProfio stated that plans are underway regarding how those funds will be allocated if they are not utilized, and that decision will be made in the fall.

Ms. Bunting added that all of the funds were not allocated up front so that resources would be available should a second wave of the virus come in the future; however, there are additional expenses in each category where funds could have been allocated and can be allocated in the future. She assured everyone that all of the funds will be used and there will be no need to return or lose any funding.

Mr. DeProfio listed the budget (spending) categories, their allocation amounts and justifications for funding each category. The budgeted categories include: COVID

salaries and leave; hazard pay; business support; online transaction efforts; individual and community assistance (housing and daycare); supplies and equipment; partner distributions; and contingency.

In response to Councilman Brown's question about provisions for employees who may have quarantined during the pandemic, Mr. DeProfio explained that the City can be reimbursed through the CARES Act for providing the COVID-19 Family Medical Leave.

Councilman Brown asked if businesses which previously received support will be eligible to re-apply for the next round of funding.

Mr. DeProfio explained that receiving funds previously will not disqualify a business from receiving additional funds; however, he does not believe that any of the businesses that would receive the second round of funds fall in the category of tourism generating businesses.

Ms. Bunting added that the City had considered doing another larger round; however, with the announcement of the Governor's new small business program, the City has decided to target companies not covered by the first round or by the Governor's current program (tourism). She noted that if there should be another need in the future, staff will look to the contingency allocation.

Mr. DeProfio continued speaking about the budgeted categories.

Vice Mayor Gray spoke about the increase in unemployment due to the pandemic and the fact that some unemployed people may not return to their old positions. He inquired whether some of the funds allocated for individual/community assistance could be used at the WorkOne Center for training and certifications with the potential for job placement for the unemployed.

Ms. Bunting stated that staff will need to determine whether workforce re-training is an eligible CARES Act expense, and if it is, will look into using those funds in that way.

Mr. DeProfio added that we plan to work with non-profit partners to implement assistance through these programs and then continued speaking about the remaining budgeted categories.

In response to Councilwoman Snead, Ms. Bunting shared that the Virginia Municipal League and other state organizations have been advocating for additional funds; however, if that does not transpire, the request will be to have more flexibility with this

round of funds.

Mr. DeProfio shared information about additional CARES grant sources, record keeping requirements and unspent funds requirements under the CARES Fund. He then opened the floor for questions from those on the dais.

Councilman Bowman commented that he was pleased to see part-time employees included in the hazard pay allocation.

Mr. DeProfio agreed with Councilman Bowman and added that part-time employees are a vital part of our workforce.

Councilwoman Snead commended City Manager Bunting and the Management Team for their creativity and effort to ensure that no employees were furloughed during this difficult time.

Ms. Bunting thanked Councilwoman Snead and echoed her sentiment about the efforts of the Executive Leadership Team. She also acknowledged employees for their willingness to be flexible and to engage in meaningful work that in some cases involved performing duties outside of their normal routine.

Presented by Brian DeProfio, Assistant City Manager.

3. [20-0104](#) Strategic Priority Update: Family Resilience and Economic Empowerment

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

This matter was delayed until September 9, 2020.

REGIONAL ISSUES

NEW BUSINESS

CLOSED SESSION

4. [20-0193](#) Closed session pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 2.2-3711.A.1, .3, and .7 to discuss appointments as listed on the agenda as well as the performance of city departments; to discuss the disposition of real property in Phoebus and the Shell Road area, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the City; and consultation with legal counsel in the matter of Ross A. Mugler,

Commissioner of the Revenue for the City of Hampton v. Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless, where such briefing in an open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body.

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

Aye: 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Weston Brown, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Snead and Mayor Tuck

5. [20-0114](#) Consideration of Appointments to the H2O Community Development Authority
6. [20-0142](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Building Code Board of Appeals
Attachments: [Burt Application](#)
7. [20-0206](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Hampton Commission on the Arts
8. [20-0168](#) Consideration of Appointments of Council Liaisons to Various Boards, Commissions and Committees

CERTIFICATION

9. [20-0195](#) Resolution Certifying Closed Session
At 6:25 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs and seconded by Councilmember Steven Brown, that this Closed Session - Certification be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Weston Brown, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Snead and Mayor Tuck

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Contact Info:

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

Donnie R. Tuck
Mayor

Katherine K. Glass, CMC
Clerk of Council

Date approved by Council _____