



City of Hampton

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

Council Approved Minutes - Final City Council Special 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, September 24, 2025

10:00 AM

**Hampton Roads
Convention Center -
Ballroom DEFG**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gray called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

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

READING OF THE CALL FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING

Katherine K. Glass, Clerk of Council, read the call for the special meeting.

The purpose of this special joint meeting of the Hampton City Council, the Hampton School Board, the Hampton Economic Development Authority, the Hampton Planning Commission, and the Hampton Redevelopment and Housing Authority is to help the city reach its full potential as a vibrant and thriving place to live, work, play, and visit. This educational opportunity and conversation will offer guidance on the best path forward, which may include a new blueprint for growth; a framework for creating great streets, places and spaces; new zoning rules; a new public engagement approach; and a reimagined partnership between the City Council, staff, boards, commissions, and stakeholders.

Mayor Gray welcomed everyone and shared remarks as follow:

Before we start this special session, I want to thank everyone who is here with us today. The City Council is here, and City Manager Mary Bunting. Superintendent Raymond Haynes is here along with the school Board.

The Planning Commission is here. The Economic Development Authority is here, and also the Hampton Redevelopment and Housing Authority.

To the residents who have come here to join us today, this probably looks like a whole lot of people gathered together around these tables, and it is. Because that's what it takes to make a city of 137,000 people function cleanly and efficiently. We all have our separate and specific jobs to do, but in the big picture we have the same goal. Putting it simply, we are all committed and invested in moving the city forward.

What do we want to see for Hampton? We want safe neighborhoods, exceptional schools, a thriving business community, a strong economy, and a city where every resident, every family, feels like part of the Hampton community. Those are big goals, and achieving them doesn't come easily. It takes hard work every week of the year, from every one of the men and women we have here today. We have a great responsibility for the residents of Hampton and everyone at this table asked to be given that responsibility. We are proud to serve this city and its residents. So once again, thank you all for coming. We have important work to do, but we'll get it done because we will do it together.

ROLL CALL - Hampton City Council

Katherine K. Glass, Clerk of Council, called roll and all members of the City Council were present.

ROLL CALL - Hampton School Board

Joy Charbonneau, Clerk to the Board, called roll and all members of the Hampton School Board (Stephanie Jackson Afonja, Vice Chair; Dr. Tina Banks-Gray; Ann Cherry; Joseph C. Kilgore; Jason S. Samuels; Dr. Reginald Woodhouse; and Dr. Richard Mason, Chair) were present. Boardmember Cherry arrived shortly after roll call.

ROLL CALL - Hampton Economic Development Authority

Teresa Hudgins, Clerk, called roll as follows and all members of the Economic Development Authority (Dwayne Blake; Valda Claiborne; Charlene Clark; John Ishon; Robert Pompey; Carlton Campbell, Vice Chair; and James Peterson, Chair) were present.

ROLL CALL - Hampton Planning Commission

Arlena Cahoon, Clerk of Boards and Commissions, called roll for the Planning Commission. The following members were present: Joe Griffith; Kathy Rogers, Vice-Chair; Tracy Brooks; Martha Mugler; Brian DeProfio; and Michael Harris, Chair. Dr. Trina Coleman was absent.

ROLL CALL - Hampton Redevelopment and Housing Authority

Meredith Clark, Executive Admin Coordinator, called roll and the following members were present: Joyce Melvin-Jones; Jeffrey Sandford; Shelton Tucker, Vice Chair; James Young, and Teresa Schmidt, Chair. Ms. Clarissa Wright was not present.

AGENDA

City Manager Mary Bunting introduced the topic of the meeting and shared information on the presenter.

1. [25-0256](#) Joint Work Session on Urban Planning & Placemaking

Attachments: [Retreat Summary 251002](#)

[Presentation](#)

[Retreat Agenda](#)

[Bio - Mitchell Silver](#)

[Mitchell J. Silver Webpage](#)

[Article from The Guardian](#)

[Article from Time](#)

[Article from Medium](#)

Presented by Mitchell J. Silver. Mr. Silver was assisted by Eliza Monroe.

The main topics discussed focused on urban planning and placemaking strategies for the city's future growth. This was a collaborative retreat that included the City Council, Planning Commission, School Board, Economic Development Authority, and Hampton Redevelopment and Housing Authority. The purpose was to discuss a new "blueprint for growth" to help Hampton become a more vibrant place to live, work, play, and visit. Key discussion points at the special joint session included: developing a new blueprint for growth; a framework for creating better streets, places, and spaces; potential updates to zoning regulations; a new public engagement approach; and strengthening the partnership between the City Council and staff.

Introduction and Overview

Presentation #1 and Discussion

Break

Presentation #2 and Discussion

Lunch

Discussion / Exercises

Recap and Next Steps

Ms. Bunting and Mr. Silver offered closing comments. In Mayor Gray's absence, Vice Mayor Steven Brown provided remarks and invited the other groups to do the same. Dr. Richard Mason, Chair of the School Board, gave brief comments before adjourning the School Board meeting. James A. "Pete" Peterson, Chair of the Economic Development Authority, followed with remarks and adjourned the Authority's meeting. Michael Harris, Chair of the Planning Commission, also offered comments before bringing the Planning Commission meeting to a close. Finally, Teresa Schmidt, Chair of the Hampton Redevelopment and Housing Authority, shared remarks and adjourned the Authority's meeting.

The summary report is attached.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Mayor Brown adjourned the Hampton City Council meeting at 3 p.m.

Jimmy Gray
Mayor

Katherine K. Glass, MMC
Clerk of Council

Date approved by Council _____