



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 Michelle T. Ferebee
Councilmember Billy Hobbs

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

Wednesday, September 28, 2022

10:00 AM

**Mary W. Jackson
Neighborhood Center,
231 Lincoln Street,
Hampton, VA 23669**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tuck called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.
Councilwoman Ferebee was not present at roll call but arrived just after.

Mayor Tuck welcomed everyone and apologized that the room space was a bit tighter than normal but expressed that it was good to be in the newly-opened Mary W. Jackson Neighborhood Center. The City Manager, Mary Bunting, explained that there was an overflow room where individuals could see the meeting piped in and individuals were welcome to relocate to that room if they were uncomfortable in the meeting room.

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

DONNIE R. TUCK PRESIDED

AGENDA

1. [22-0262](#) Briefing on the Bloomberg Harvard Gun Violence Reduction

Initiative; an Update on the Office of Youth & Young Adult Opportunities; and an Overview of the Positive Summer Youth Engagement Opportunities in the City

Attachments: [Presentation](#)
[Presentation - ARPA Grant Discussion](#)

The Clerk of Council, Katherine K. Glass, read the title of the agenda item and Ms. Bunting shared that the second meeting of the month's work session is designed for staff and Council to participate in deep dive work focusing more intentionally on a particular topic. The topic for discussion at this meeting was about the things we have learned, are doing, and want to do to reduce the impact of violence in our community.

Mr. Steve Bond, Assistant City Manager, presented an update on the Bloomberg Harvard gun violence initiative which met in February 2022 and included a team of 40 comprised of participants from Harvard, the Virginia State Police, and the City of Hampton. He acknowledged the Hopeful Hampton Team members, City Manager, Mary Bunting; Commonwealth Attorney, Anton Bell; Assistant City Manager, Steve Bond; Police Chief, Mark Talbot; Human Services Director, Tamara Temoney-Porter; Youth Opportunities Director, Latiesha Handie; Court Services Director, Ellen Madison; and Director of Student Services for Hampton City Schools, Syreeta Jones Cason; and Natale Christian, Executive Director of the Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board, who was added upon the team's return to help address potential mental health concerns.

The stakeholders gathered again on September 1st, to review the status. The two key areas of focus developed from these sessions were family interventions and wrap-around case management, and increased out of school time activities.

Mr. Bond shared how they worked together to develop a road map to help define how to create public value, develop the idea for change, develop a problem statement, construct and deconstruct the problem, find entry points, identify what a solution would look like, create a partnership with stakeholders, and identify challenges. Mr. Bond showed a video dealing with problem construction. He then shared the questions and answers the team asked themselves in constructing the problem.

Mr. Bond showed a video on the five why technique and explained an example of the five why's program and fishbone diagram to break it down. He shared the fishbone diagram developed by the team showing their educated hypothesis of different sub-causes for criminality.

The sub-causes identified included concentrated poverty, access to guns, desensitized communities and individuals, criminal justice system, mental health and unaddressed trauma, family dysfunction, and poor conflict resolution skills.

Ms. Bunting added that the team's work has been shared with regional city managers and

the regional gun task force chaired by Mayor Tuck, and Mayor Dyer of Virginia Beach, who are now using a similar version.

Mr. Bond defined entry points and shared the MAAP components (meaningful, acceptable, actionable and provisional) necessary to identify the entry points. Mr. Bond explained that the team's entry point was the focused deterrence model and shared the components they identified.

Conversation followed around how the team chose their entry point, how high-risk individuals are identified, the vulnerability list that was developed, how the model deals with jurisdictional boundaries, the snitching code, social networks, allocation of resources as pertaining to the offender versus the victim, knowing what information gathered is important, and what data shows regarding the impact that can be made.

Ms. Bunting shared that the book "Bleeding Out" by Thomas Abt, referenced by Mr. Bond, and which Council will have the opportunity to read, addresses many of the questions being asked.

Mr. Bond shared that in order for something to have public value and to make it worth the sacrifices we are asking people to make, it must address individual and collective welfare and justice. He explained the components of the focused deterrence approach and the guidelines for developing a public value proposition. He shared the public value proposition developed by the team.

Mr. Bond continued the presentation by explaining the three c's of partnership (create, connect & commit) that stakeholders were asked to focus on and shared that there must be a shared vision, alignment of resources and a focus on the problem. He listed the challenges involved which include establishing buy-in, tackling budget and staffing, and monitoring progress. He provided an update on the 30-day, 50-day, 100-day and one-year goals established by the team.

Mayor Tuck requested more information to show the benefits of, and need for, this group as he noted that it appears the data presented is police driven and he would like to see how other stakeholder groups such as CSB (Community Services Board) and social services are contributing. Mr. Bond stated that all entities play a part in the total outcome. He explained that prevention is hard to assess and the only metric available at this time to show that gun violence is being reduced is to show that fatal and non-fatal shootings are being reduced. There are other targeted interventions being used but there is not a metric by which they can be measured.

Conversation followed concerning the case studies identified in the 100-day goal. Vice Mayor Gray expressed hesitancy to say what we are doing is having an effect given the challenge of creating the framework for individualized case plans.

Chief Talbot added that the police will always be the primary participant, but we are trying to get other partners involved in what is traditionally handled by the police. He suggested that the statistics be looked at as shared among the entities and not attributed to police alone.

Mayor Tuck recessed the meeting for a break at 11:20 a.m. and lunch was served. The meeting resumed at 11:40 a.m.

The next presenter was Mr. Hugo Morrison, Senior Family Services Coordinator, with the Office of Youth and Young Adult Opportunities. Mr. Morrison shared the components of the case studies done by the team. He walked Council through two of the studies and offered the opportunity for discussion and questions.

During Mr. Morrison's portion of the presentation, additional information was provided by Ellen Madison, Director of the 8th District Court Services Unit and Latiesha Handie, Director of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Opportunities.

Council participated in an exercise in which they ranked solutions to various problems in order of precedence to identify their level of comfort with various resources, by indicating whether the resource should be funded, whether we should find funding, or whether it is something in which the government should not have a role.

Mayor Tuck took the opportunity to ask those in attendance to introduce themselves: Jason Price, Captain, Hampton Police Division; Dr. Daphne Cunningham, Deputy Director, and Lisa Hogge, Director of Youth & Family Services, of the Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board; Nicole Dennis, Recreation Specialist/Community Center Manager, Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services; Chenequa Hayden, Administrator of the Healthy Families Partnership; Neva White, Director of the Hampton Public Library; Latiesha Handie, Director of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Opportunities; Charone Dew, Projects and Grant Coordinator in the Office of Youth and Young Adult Opportunities; Ellen Madison (previously identified); and Dr. Tamara Temoney-Porter, Director of Human Services.

Mr. Bond reviewed the Resource Scenario Survey and discussion occurred around economic assistance for burial services and use of city space for memorial services and gatherings. It was generally agreed that Council is fine with spending up to \$2,000 for burial expenses and \$650 for cremation while seeking financial assistance from other sources. It was also generally agreed that it is permissible to use city space for memorial services and gatherings as this space is currently available to anyone in the community who chooses to rent it for those purposes but staff will work on procedures firming up this use.

Ms. Handie presented an update on the Office of Youth and Young Adult Opportunities. She began with the Safe and Clean Meeting in October 2021. The community

assessment on perceptions of crime and safety yielded 197 respondents however, sometime in 2023 a deeper dive needs to be taken to revisit the community assessment. Ms. Handie shared that Christopher Newport University (CNU) assisted with the development of the assessment and indicated that there is no commitment to CNU for the future, but having a collegiate institution participate is imperative and could include Hampton University or Virginia Peninsula Community College.

Ms. Handie covered the organizational structure and team realignment that occurred following the assessment of office staffing needs. Discussion followed about the various positions, funding, and the status of vacancies and hires.

Mayor Tuck called for a ten minute recess at 1:41 p.m.

Ms. Handie provided an update on grants which include \$2,435,000 approved by Council from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the Summer Youth Employment program which now supports up to 125 participants thanks to Council approval, the Opportunity Connect program, and other events and programs. She covered statistics including participant numbers and funds allocated to various programs.

Ms. Handie addressed the ten department focus areas defined by the Mayor's Youth Gun Violence Roundtable hosted by Mayor Tuck and Vice Mayor Gray. She provided the metrics received to date for each area.

Ms. Bunting shared that these focus areas are the things that were identified in the roadmap developed by the team. She stated that the reason the presentation contains so many slides is because several Council members have asked if the roadmap is being used and these slides reflect that but it is not necessary to go through all of them as the data has been provided. These are the measures originally adopted in the roadmap but it became apparent to the team that they may need to be changed or expanded.

Due to time constraints, Mayor Tuck asked that the remainder of slides be shown and any questions or comments would be addressed by each department representative as needed.

Discussion followed about the grant review process and it was generally agreed that a tiered approach to awarding a grant be used to allow time for agencies to establish, perform identified work and be monitored.

Ms. Handie shared the intent to form a committee to monitor progress towards goals, partner with the medical community to talk about the impact of gun violence in the community, and work with the Sheriff's department and Court Services on alternatives to incarceration. She shared the team's recommendations based on data gathered.

As the ARPA Cycle II Recommendations were presented, the Mayor requested

background information on those being currently considered. Ms. Bunting stated she would be happy to provide the requested information. Ms. Handie concluded her portion of the presentation.

Mr. Bond introduced Ms. Nicole Dennis, Recreation Specialist with Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services. Ms. Dennis provided an update on the summer activities offered for students including the summer meals program, kickback Saturdays, Fastbreak Basketball, Rec N Roll, United Youth football league, Commonwealth Clash football jamboree, open recreation through Re-Connect, and a special night out at Bluebird Gap Farm for special needs students. All community centers were at full capacity for the summer. Parks and Recreation also worked with the Convention and Visitors Bureau to host 105 Buffalo Soldiers who visited each community center.

Mr. Bond introduced Ms. Chenequa Hayden, Administrator of the Healthy Families Partnership who provided an update on Healthy Families activities for the year. She mentioned that one of their most popular programs, the playgroups, had a first time event for fathers, which they plan to continue. In response to Vice Mayor Gray, Ms. Hayden shared that they are thinking outside the box in recruiting to staff after school programs.

Mr. Bond introduced Neva White, Director of Hampton Public Libraries, who provided an update on library offerings. Ms. White shared that reading is core to the summer program so that students do not slide backwards over the summer. She stated that they have had great partnerships, including Healthy Families. In response to Vice Mayor Gray, Ms. White explained that, when school started, there was a long waiting list for Mi-Fi checkout through the library. Due to grant funding, the list has been shortened to six. Ms. Bunting shared that they would figure out the money needed to get those six connected.

REGIONAL ISSUES

There were no regional issues.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no items of new business.

The Mayor called a recess at 3:30 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

2. [22-0257](#) Closed session pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 2.2-3711.A (.3), (.6), and (.8) to discuss the acquisition and/or disposition of publicly-held real property in the Downtown, Phoebus, and Greater Wythe areas where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining or negotiating strategy of

the City; to discuss or consider the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the City would be adversely affected; and to consult with legal counsel employed or retained by the City regarding the ownership of neighborhood pools.

At 3:41 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Steven Brown and seconded by Councilmember Billy Hobbs, that this Closed Session - Motion be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

CERTIFICATION

3. [22-0259](#) Resolution Certifying Closed Session

At 4:46 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs seconded by Councilmember Eleanor Weston Brown, that this Closed Session - Certification be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:46 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 _____