



# City of Hampton

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

## Council Approved Minutes - Final City Council Special Session

*Mayor Donnie R. Tuck*  
*Vice Mayor Jimmy Gray*  
*Councilmember Eleanor Weston Brown*  
*Councilmember Steven L. Brown*  
*Councilmember Linda D. Curtis*  
*Councilmember W.H. "Billy" Hobbs*  
*Councilmember Chris Snead*

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

---

**Wednesday, April 22, 2020**

**6:30 PM**

**Council Chambers and  
Electronically**

---

### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tuck called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. All members of the City Council were present.

All members of the City Council were present utilizing video conferencing provided by Zoom. The meeting was hosted remotely by Dacia Walker, Marketing/Development Manager. Mayor Tuck was physically present in Council Chambers also participating in the Zoom video conference.

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

### DONNIE R. TUCK PRESIDED

### READING OF THE CALL FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING

Katherine Glass, Clerk of Council, read the call for the special meeting as follows:

This meeting has been called by agreement of all members of the City Council for the specific purpose of taking legislative actions which, if not taken, would cause irreparable harm to the City of Hampton and its citizens, and is necessitated due to the

continuing public health threat caused by the communicable disease known as Novel Coronavirus or "COVID-19".

## AGENDA

1. [20-0101](#) Resolution to Amend the FY 2020 Council Approved Budget to Accept and Appropriate the 2020 Virginia Homeless Solutions Program Grant Amendment through the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development to Respond to a Statewide Call to Action to Support the Most At-Risk Homeless Populations During the Public Health Crisis Known as COVID-19

**Attachments:** [Scope of Services](#)  
[FEMA Project Participant Eligibility Form](#)  
[Covid Grant Amendment VHSP](#)

The Clerk read the title for the item.

City Manager Mary Bunting gave the following explanation regarding the item: the Hampton Department of Human Services has been notified by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development that the Greater Virginia Peninsula Homelessness Consortium, which Hampton leads, will receive \$124,577.05 to assist in responding to COVID-19. Specifically, these funds are to be used to help with the Virginia Homelessness Solutions Program to provide emergency shelter operations prioritizing individuals who are unsheltered and individuals who are required to leave shelter during the day due to exposure to COVID-19 or vulnerable conditions. City staff recommends approval.

Following a brief explanation of this item by the City Manager, Mary Bunting, a motion was made by Councilmember Linda Curtis and seconded by Councilmember Steven Brown, that this Resolution be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

2. [20-0119](#) Public Hearing and Vote on the Fiscal Year 2021 - 2025 Capital Improvement Plan ("CIP")

**Attachments:** [Presentation](#)  
[Presentation updated 4.22.20](#)

The Clerk read the title for the item.

Ms. Bunting explained that the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is a recommended 5-year expenditure plan that addresses the various capital long-term needs of the community. She noted that the Manager's Recommended Budget for FY2021 incorporates the first year of the five-year CIP as the capital budget component.

Assistant City Manager Brian DeProfio shared information about the proposed FY2021-2025 CIP including the requirements associated with the plan; funding sources for projects; Council strategic priorities; adjustments to the plan as a result of COVID-19; and FY21-25 funding allocations for Council strategic priorities.

Mr. DeProfio shared additional information about each Council strategic priority including the percentage of funding allocated for each category. The priorities include economic growth (6.1%); education and engaged citizenry (17.8%); good government (35.9%); living with water (21.1%); placemaking (8.5%); and safe and clean initiatives (10.6%).

Mr. DeProfio reminded everyone that the plan covers FY21-FY25; the first year (FY21) is the capital budget and the Manager's recommended budget; and the back four years are planning years and include projects which may shift based on whether they are ready to move forward.

Mr. DeProfio concluded the presentation and listed the following key steps in the process: review the proposed CIP; address questions posed by Council; and hold the public hearing and action to adopt the proposed FY 21-25 CIP.

Mr. DeProfio opened the floor for questions from those on the dais.

Ms. Bunting noted that the public hearing was properly advertised and citizens were allowed an opportunity to provide comments via email and telephone.

In response to Councilman Brown, Mr. DeProfio clarified that funding for education includes funding for technology and school building maintenance. He noted that these categories were merged in the budget this year.

In response to Councilman Brown, Mr. DeProfio clarified that funding for the splash park is not additional funding; instead, it was included in the original construction price.

In response to Mayor Tuck, Mr. DeProfio explained that part of the plan includes extending Coliseum Drive to Neil Armstrong Parkway providing a direct connection

from the largest undeveloped area of the City to our major commercial area, Coliseum Central. He continued explaining that the area connecting the Hampton Roads Center North Business Park has been identified by the State and region as a mega site in excess of 100 acres which can draw significant new investment to a community. This will provide businesses direct access to the Coliseum Central area and the amenities in that area. Mr. DeProfio reiterated that this is part of the overall development plan to connect the two major economic drivers in our community.

Mayor Tuck added that this provides an opportunity for people to conveniently travel from Coliseum Central to this area which will have substantial businesses and residents in the future; and, therefore, is a worthwhile project.

Ms. Bunting announced that we are officially a certified site which will make us more likely to receive rapid attention to the development of that site. She clarified, for the record, that this road will not impact the cemetery or destroy graves. She clarified that the City owns the land and the project will create no direct impact to the cemetery.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

Mayor Tuck opened the public hearing and called upon the Clerk to read the comments which were submitted.

Ms. Edith Newkirk submitted the following comments via an email dated April 20, 2020: No permit issued by United States Army Corps of Engineers Indian River Creek Wetlands. City dug ditch downhill into my backyard causing blockage of water flow from 238 Pochin Place to underground pipe resulting into 2 expensive flooding disasters (Hurricanes Isabell and Floyd). Purchase this property as well as 9 other home owners that has been effected. This property would belong to Reverse Mortgage Company, to which I had to resort to. The resolution I expect is liability for damages. This situation has increased my flood insurance from \$290 yearly to \$3,600 yearly, which is not affordable and I really feel like the City needs to own their part in this disaster. I am asking for this situation to be looked into and to be resolved in an equitable manner. Thanking you in advance. Able to supply supporting documents and pictures if applicable.

Mr. Hugh Bassette submitted the following comments via an email dated April 21, 2020: The CIP Budget has a total of \$367,141,890. These funds can be utilized for neighborhood projects throughout the City of Hampton. The section on Economic Growth Projects includes \$500,000 for neighborhood projects. The section states "The Curb Appeal Project is expected to be a key part in the Phoebus neighborhood and has yet to be determined for the Old North Hampton community. The extension

of Rowe Street in Old North Hampton has been approved as a part of the King Street Master Plan for over ten years. Staff worked with the Old North Hampton Community Organization and produced "The Old North Hampton Neighborhood Plan" dated July 2017 which was approved by the Hampton City Council in 2017. It is requested that the Rowe Street extension can be included in the 2021 CIP which will provide housing, a connection to the Langley Shopping Center and will ultimately pay for itself with the increase in property tax generated from the project. CIP projects should include projects throughout the City especially for projects which have been a part of past City budgets and not wind up sitting in a bookcase and forgotten.

The Clerk announced that concluded all public hearing comments on this item.

Mayor Tuck closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Councilmember Linda Curtis and seconded by Councilmember Chris Snead, that the Fiscal Year 2021 -- 2025 Capital Improvement Plan be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

3. [20-0045](#) Public Hearing to Receive Citizens' Comments Regarding the City Manager's Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2021

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

The Clerk read the title for the item.

Ms. Bunting announced that this public hearing was advertised on April 12, 2020, and April 19, 2020, and is the key budget hearing on the Manager's Recommended Budget. She reminded everyone that the normal process includes holding an extensive conversation regarding the Manager's Budget; however, this year, a video has been made available on the budget page of Hampton.gov for those who wish to review the information in detail. She also informed everyone that the budget was prepared as a pre-COVID-19 budget; therefore, new initiatives will be put on hold until such time when revenues stabilize.

Mr. DeProfio provided the preview of the FY21 Recommended Budget. He explained that initially, it appeared as though we would have the best revenue growth prior to the great recession, and therefore, the budget being discussed today reflects the revenue projections presented to Council in February (pre-COVID-19).

He noted that there is much uncertainty around revenue projections as a result of COVID-19 and the shutdown on the economy.

Mr. DeProfio provided the following FY21 Budget highlights: the total budget being presented is \$516,875,291; there is a 5.88% increase from the FY20 budget; the City share including all capital funding and all debt service associated with school projects is 55.7%; and the schools share is 44.3%. He added that part of the plan is to delay new spending programmed in the budget until revenues are more clear.

Mr. DeProfio announced that the overall objective in FY21 is to take the necessary steps to maintain current operations and staffing in response to the crisis. He emphasized that a hiring freeze has not yet been put into place, but may be considered in the future. He shared that there was strong growth in all of the major tax categories including a 4.19% increase in taxable real estate.

Mr. DeProfio spoke about the areas in which the largest impacts are expected due to the COVID-19 pandemic. They include meals, sales, lodging, admissions and pari-mutuel betting taxes.

Mr. DeProfio listed the identified budget priorities as: salary increases for dedicated and hard-working employees; increases for Hampton City Schools; increases to fight crime; investments in the housing stock; investments in flood mitigation and prevention efforts; and investments in youth and workforce development.

Mr. DeProfio continued speaking about funding for various initiatives in the budget including: Safe and Clean Community; Family Resilience and Economic Empowerment; Economic Growth; Living with Water (Resilient Hampton); Placemaking; Good Government; Workforce (employees); Taxes and Fees; and Operational Efficiency (City staff).

Mr. DeProfio shared the next steps in the process: the Manager's Recommended Budget will be released April 15 and will be available at [www.hampton.gov/budget](http://www.hampton.gov/budget) and at kiosks outside of City Hall and libraries; Council Public Hearings will be held April 22 and May 6; comments may be submitted via email to [council@Hampton.gov](mailto:council@Hampton.gov) or via message at 757-727-6315 by April 21st for the first hearing or by May 5th for the 2nd hearing; the final Council budget vote is scheduled for May 13th.

Ms. Bunting made the following statement regarding the item: It is important to understand that this is a pre-COVID-19 budget. Some cities have modified their budgets down already. One of the reasons why we chose not to do that is that State law does not allow you to increase local revenues upwards. If we hypothetically went to a worst-case scenario and cut the budget significantly and outperformed that

worst-case scenario, we would not be able to go back and add some of the things that we are talking about having to freeze July 1st. Any guess other than a worst-case guess would really just be a guess and require adjustments upwards or downwards. We ultimately decided, as some other cities did in the region as well, to go with the pre-COVID 19 budget understanding that all new spending would be frozen. As we get a better handle on those revenues, and certainly, you will be seeing us present more regular information about the budget and how we are tracking on a monthly and quarterly basis than we typically do, then we can collectively decide how and when to release certain things. I think I speak for all of us, Council and staff included, when I say our very first priority for restoration would be the employee salary increases and the compression types of adjustments with our scales.

Mayor Tuck thanked Mr. DeProfio for the presentation and opened the floor for questions from Council.

Councilman Brown asked Mr. DeProfio to speak about the contribution being made to Hampton Roads Transit (HRT) and what benefit the City receives in return for the contribution. He expressed concern about routes, shelters, on-time schedules and other services that are not being received.

Mr. DeProfio explained that HRT has not experienced difficulty with recruiting drivers; instead, its entire system has been impacted by drivers' inability to keep schedules/routes on time. As a result, HRT has partnered with the cities of Hampton and Norfolk to connect those in need of employment while simultaneously solving HRT's workforce needs. He announced that HRT has made progress with regards to filling driver positions resulting in an improvement in performance.

Mr. DeProfio added that amenities such as shelters, benches and lights are typically funded through grants received by HRT; however, this year's CIP includes funds for benches and light improvements at some stops in our community. He noted that prior to COVID-19, HRT identified \$75,000 to augment the efforts in our budget; these funds should assist with adding lighting and benches at our bus stops.

Ms. Bunting added that the State took action during the General Assembly to provide dedicated funding to HRT. She announced that our current year budget for HRT is \$4,888,440 and our proposed budget pre-General Assembly Session and recordation tax issue being worked out is \$5,060,345. She noted this information can be found online on the budget under the outside agencies tab.

In response to Councilman Brown, Mr. DeProfio clarified that the increased funding for Youth and Young Adult Opportunities will help provide additional resources to

implement the program and provide services to the community; however, those funds will not be used for compensating additional positions.

Ms. Bunting commented that she was under the impression that those funds were for a new position. Mr. DeProfio noted that staff will confirm that.

Councilman Brown stated that he is not in favor of funding a new position for the Youth Connect Program until the 3% level increase can be fully compensated for staff.

Ms. Bunting explained that at one time there was a grant funded position that handled the Youth Connect Program; however, when those funds were depleted, we thought the service could be taken over by 311, but it was suggested that we could enhance operations by returning to the Youth Connect Program. Ms. Bunting noted that Assistant City Manager Steve Bond has indicated that those funds are for operations.

Discussion took place among staff and the members of Council.

Ms. Bunting clarified that the Reconnect Program was designed for youth to earn free memberships by participating in activities and/or encouraging other youths to participate. Ms. Bunting and Vice Mayor Gray defined the Youth Connect Program as a referral service and a youth violence intervention program which operates through the use of the 311 call center.

Vice Mayor Gray inquired about using Urban Maintenance Funds and working with VDOT to maintain exit and entrance ramps on the interstates. Mr. DeProfio noted additional funding does include a higher level of maintenance on entrance and exit ramps.

Councilwoman Curtis inquired about where people can see new spending and increases being proposed. Ms. Bunting suggested that individuals may find this information listed under the budget notes section of the various departments in the Manager's Recommended Budget.

For the benefit of the public, Ms. Bunting stated that these increases will not take place until revenues stabilize; this will be tracked on a month by month basis and information will be reported to Council.

Councilwoman Curtis concurred with Councilman Brown regarding new positions and new spending. She reiterated that with the COVID-19 pandemic, this is not a time to add new positions on the roster; instead, it will be considered an



accomplishment to not furlough current employees. She also reiterated the importance of citizens having easy access to information regarding new spending so that they can weigh in on it.

Councilman Hobbs agreed that employees are top priority.

Councilwoman Snead agreed that employees are top priority and commended Ms. Bunting for providing employees with annual bonuses earlier in the year. She reminded everyone that legally, the City Manager cannot overspend the budget, and, therefore, is committed to not spending new funds until revenue is available. She encouraged everyone to have faith that the City Manager and staff will look out for the best interest of the City.

Councilman Brown agreed that the City Manager does a great job of abiding by State Code with regards to balancing the budget. He emphasized the importance of citizens understanding our commitment to staying the course and not funding new expenses and positions until revenues are better.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

The Mayor opened the public hearing and called upon the Clerk to read submitted comments.

Mr. Jason Young, Executive Director of Community Brain Injury Services submitted a letter electronically on April 21, 2020. The letter is dated April 23, 2020. The Clerk read:

Dear Mayor Tuck:

On behalf of our Board of Directors, our staff, and the 350 individuals and families that Community Brain Injury Services (CBIS) served last year through our array of services, I wanted to say thank you for your support of our Clubhouse Program, The Denbigh House, in your proposed FY 21 budget. I understand and appreciate the unique and extremely difficult budgetary environment that we are entering and wanted provide you with a quick update of the services that we provided over this past year with our funding and further tell you how CBIS has responded to the recent Covid-19 pandemic. Our state funded brain injury service system is the safety net system for Virginian's with brain injury and CBIS is the designated provider for the Virginia Peninsula. Last year, we provided services to 23 City of Hampton residents and The Denbigh House provided a total of 556 days of intensive day services to City residents. All of our services, like those provided by Hampton Count Community Services Board are intensive services designed to assist some of

our area's most vulnerable citizens. On March 17, 2020, Governor Northam's state of emergency proclamation specifically directed High Risk Virginians to self-quarantine; he stated "public health experts advise that individuals with underlying medical conditions and those aged 65 or older are at increased risk of severe illness from COVID19." According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), moderate to severe brain injuries are chronic health conditions and need to be treated as such by Federal and State policyholders. CBIS and the entire state funded brain injury service immediately began to implement remote service delivery to our highly vulnerable population. This included conducting a comprehensive weekly Covid-19 safety assessment with every single client in our services and a redirection all of our direct client assistance funding to support our clients in making sure they have adequate food, medicine, and other necessities and have the knowledge, ability, and supports to self-quarantine during this crisis. We have also transitioned to a variety of virtual/online platforms to better engage, serve, and support our members and clients during this time. We will continue this enhanced level of remote support until this pandemic eases. Below is a brief snapshot of what CBIS did for our service population in just the first 3 weeks of transitioning to remote service delivery. We have completed 264 COVID-19 safety assessments of persons in our service system. We have had over 1,000 separate contacts with people we serve. We have connected with our clients folks via phone, text, and a variety of virtual platforms. We have fulfilled 16 separate emergency client assistance funding requests for food, hygiene, cleaning supplies and medication and have had these supplies delivered to our clients homes to reduce their exposure in the community. Lastly, since the physical locations of our Clubhouses have had to be closed as the result of COVID-19, we have set up a robust Virtual Clubhouse operation, where we are using Google Meetings, Zoom, and our Clubhouse Facebook Groups to conduct daily educational and interactive services for our Clubhouse members. In just the first 3 weeks, we have conducted 27 Virtual sessions that collectively have reached more than 270 people within our service system. This pandemic will certainly place significant stress across our brain injury service system and will potentially jeopardize some of our funding sources as the economic situation worsens. As such, it is critical that our community partners like City of Hampton maintain their funding levels as your proposed budget does, so that we can both sustain our operations during this crisis and immediately reopen our physical locations as soon government and local health authorities say it is safe to do so again. Currently, we know from population estimates that there are more than 4,000 residents living with a disability resulting from an acquired brain injury and/or stroke in the City of Hampton. That number will continue to increase both as the City's population rises and as medical technology continues to progress allowing more and more individuals to be saved from what was a previously lethal injury. Having a wide diversity of funding partners and revenue streams is essential for our ability to serve this growing population both now but also to meet those challenges proactively in the

future. We are so very grateful for your ongoing support, particularly during this time, and look forward to continuing to work with you in the coming year to ensure that we continue to provide a systematic and streamlined service system for survivors of brain injury in the City of Hampton.

The Clerk noted that concluded all of the comments received by the deadline.

Mayor Tuck closed the public hearing and noted that no vote is required. He also announced that a second public hearing and the first vote on the budget will take place on May 6th, with the final vote on the budget occurring on May 13th.

Ms. Bunting welcomed those in the community to submit comments on the budget by email or telephone by May 5th. She also thanked staff, the work force and those in the community for their efforts during the COVID-19 crisis and shared the latest information with regards to COVID-19 cases in the community and the Governors orders.

Councilwoman Brown thanked the city staff and commended the City Manager and City Attorney for their efforts during this time. She also shared that today is the 50th anniversary of Earth Day.

Mayor Tuck echoed the City Manager's comments and thanked citizens for their adaptation during this unprecedented time and thanked the city staff and employees as well as the people behind the scenes to include Channel 47 and Marketing INC. He shared that he was wearing purple to honor that April is the Month of the Military Child and also a bit of blue recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention month.

Mayor Tuck also reminded citizens that he will have a Town Hall tomorrow night from 6 - 7 p.m. which is available on Facebook Live.

The City Manager, Mary Bunting, reiterated the Mayor's reminder of the dates for the votes and final public hearing on the budget and expressed her thanks to the staff and the community for their cooperation during this crisis.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 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 \_\_\_\_\_