



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 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

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

11:00 AM

Council Chambers

Organizational Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tuck called the meeting to order at 1 p.m.

DONNIE R. TUCK PRESIDED

READING OF THE CALL FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING

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

This meeting was called pursuant to Section 3.06 of the Code of the City of Hampton to select, by majority vote, a vice-mayor for a two year term and for administration of the oaths of office as provided by law.

INVOCATION: Rev. Eric R. Peltz, Pastor - First Presbyterian Church

Rev. Peltz gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADMINISTERING OF THE OATHS OF OFFICE - Linda Batchelor Smith, Clerk of the Hampton Circuit Court

Ms. Smith administered the oaths to Councilman Brown, Councilman Gray, Councilwoman Harper, and Councilwoman Mugler.

ROLL CALL - Katherine K. Glass, Clerk of Council

Ms. Glass called the roll and all members of the City Council were 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

AGENDA

1. [23-0007](#) Election of Vice Mayor

A motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs that James A. "Jimmy" Gray, Jr. be declared Vice Mayor . 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

REMARKS FROM MAYOR AND NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Tuck recognized local elected officials: Drew Lumpkin, representing Senator Mark Warner; Thomas Austin, representing Congressman Bobby Scott; Anton Bell, Hampton Commonwealth's Attorney; Chris Snead, Hampton Treasurer; Karen Bowden, Hampton Sheriff; Ross Mugler, Hampton Commissioner of Revenue; Tiffany Boyle, Newport News Commissioner of Revenue; Dr. Richard Mason, Hampton School Board Chair; Jason Samuels, School Board Member; and the many others who were in attendance.

Councilwoman Martha Mugler said that she is honored to have earned the trust of the citizens to serve on City Council and believes that although her public service path has taken many interesting turns, she is where she was meant to be. She is confident that she can utilize her public service experience in education and the Virginia General Assembly, as well as past and present professional experiences, to make decisions to the best of her ability as she serves on City Council. She read an excerpt by Amanda Gorman, the youngest poet to ever deliver a poetry reading at a Presidential inauguration, in which Miss Gorman describes "a nation that isn't broken, but simply unfinished." Councilwoman Mugler shared that she sees Hampton as a City that is simply unfinished and full of opportunities. She thanked her family, Reverend Peltz for delivering the invocation, friends, and other supporters. She concluded with the final words from Ms. Gorman's poem, "When day comes, and we step out of the shade, aflame and unafraid. The new dawn blooms as we free it. For there is always light if only we're brave enough to see it, if only we're brave enough

to be it.” She encouraged her new colleagues on City Council to be the light for this magnificent City.

Councilwoman Hope Harper thanked Pastor Charles Ricks for performing the benediction and for his and his wife’s support, and for her family for their love and support. She talked about growing up as a fatherless child and never feeling that way because of the love she received from her family. She thanked her mother, whose sacrifices and example made her the woman she is today. She expressed thanks to her friends, sorority sisters, those in the community with whom she has served, her campaign team, citizens, and all the others who believed in her. She stated she will be committed to working hard on their behalf and is honored to represent the citizens of Hampton. She concluded by quoting Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., “Not everybody can be famous, but everybody can be great because greatness is determined by your service. You only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love.”

Councilman Steve Brown gave thanks to his sisters, two of whom were in attendance, his mother, and Dr. Mary T. Christian who have been the inspiration for him to do what he does. Prior to considering a run for City Council in 2018, he spent 25 years helping many others with their campaigns, having made the decision not to run for office while his children were young. In 2018, with his children grown, he was urged by Dr. Christian to run for office. He shared his commitment to helping citizens with issues and concerns in the most impactful way possible. He thanked his campaign team, his family, and his wife of 40 years. Councilman Brown thanked the voters for their support, his Council colleagues, elected officials in attendance, and the City staff. He closed with a question from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., “Life’s most persistent question is this, what are you doing for others?”

Vice Mayor Jimmy Gray shared that his career with the City of Hampton started in 2004 with the Fire Department. Since moving his family to the area they have had only positive experiences in the City. Having been a lifelong community servant, he said he looks for ways to give back to others. He referenced the City’s vision statement which says that “we are a vibrant waterfront community with 400 years of history and innovation to create a better future.” He shared that the work Council does is all about creating a better future. He expressed appreciation for the City Manager, City Attorney, Clerk, and City staff for providing Council with the information to make the best decisions possible. He shared appreciation that the citizens have elected him to Council for the third time and that his Council colleagues have chosen him as Vice Mayor for the third time, and thanked them for their confidence in him. He thanked his wife who, as he was out battling for votes, was battling her own health journey.

Mayor Tuck recognized former Councilwoman Michelle Ferebee; School Board Member, Stephanie Afonja; and School Board Member, Tina Banks-Gray; who were in attendance.

Mayor Tuck thanked the representatives of the 311 call center for their assistance with the day's events.

BENEDICTION: Charles Ricks, Jr., Senior Pastor - Bethel Temple Church

Pastor Ricks gave the invocation.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Donnie R. Tuck
Mayor

Katherine K. Glass, CMC
Clerk of Council

Date approved by Council _____