



# City of Hampton

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

## Council Approved Minutes - Final City Council Legislative 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*  
*Steven D. Bond, Interim City Attorney*  
*Katherine K. Glass, CMC, Clerk of Council*

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**Wednesday, February 28, 2024**

**6:30 PM**

**Council Chambers**

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### CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Mayor Tuck called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with all members of the City Council 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

### DONNIE R. TUCK PRESIDED

### INVOCATION - Councilwoman Martha Mugler

Councilwoman Mugler gave the invocation.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG

### MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Tuck read and presented a Proclamation to Gwen Lomax concerning Read Across America Day.

Ms. Lomax made a few remarks and announced that a royal reading celebration will take place Saturday, March 2, 2024, at Barnes and Noble.

Mayor Tuck called upon City Manager Mary Bunting to provide information about the short-term rental items on the agenda.

Ms. Bunting stated that the five use permits on the agenda were previously deferred by Council so that it could be determined how to best manage short-term rentals (STRs) in the City. She reminded everyone that Council is processing the stakeholder information that was presented at the last meeting, therefore, staff has requested the items be deferred until June 12 when the changes to the use permit ordinances will be presented to Council.

Ms. Bunting summarized what was presented at the last meeting. For consideration is how density should be managed so that there are not too many STRs in a given residential neighborhood. A recommended map was put together by the stakeholder group that suggested that most residential areas have no more than 1% in their area to avoid changing the character of residential neighborhoods. Some consideration for higher percentages over time and destination zones was given, but will be decided at a later date. These maps, the approach for separation and various considerations must go through the amendment writing process and be taken before the Planning Commission and City Council and is expected to come before Council on June 12. The notion is that the use permits being deferred tonight should be considered in accordance with those proposed guidelines. Because the guidelines have not yet been finalized or codified, it is appropriate to defer these five items until that process is concluded. Ms. Bunting also noted that the full presentation from the last meeting is available on the Council page of the City's website and on replay on Channel 47.

Ms. Bunting reiterated that the recommendation is to defer items nine through 13 until June 12 when the guidelines are expected to be codified. Mayor Tuck called for a motion to take items nine through 13 out of order.

[24-0095](#)

Motion to take agenda items 9 through 13 out of order.

A motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs and seconded by Councilmember Hope Harper, that agenda items 9

through 13 be taken out of order. 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

## PUBLIC HEARINGS

Clerk of Council Katherine Glass read the protocol for public hearings and the titles for items nine through 13.

### Use Permits

9. [23-0190](#) Use Permit Application by Loretta O'Brien-Parham to Permit a Short-Term Rental (STR) at 3808 Chesapeake Ave [LRSN: 2002617]

Ms. Bunting noted that, with staff's recommendation for deferral, no staff presentation would be given; however, several people were signed up to speak under the public hearing.

#### PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor Tuck reminded speakers that they would be called upon two at a time and asked them to alternate using the podium and the free-standing microphone.

Mr. Shawn Irving greeted those on the dais, introduced himself and made the following statement: I represent Merrimac Shores. I've got a good number of my neighbors actually here tonight. The other thing I'd tell you is that I live next door to one of the applicant properties (addresses indicated). The other thing I just wanted to talk to for a moment - I had the privilege of serving on the Phase II STR stakeholder group, and I just want to reiterate some of the things from that. Bonnie Brown, Allison Jackura, the staff did a fantastic job of really running that thing. The six meetings, we had, the aggregation of the comments, the consideration of different points of view, both from an industry perspective, as well as from a neighborhood perspective, was fantastic. I was here for the readout on the 14th and I thought they did a great job of summarizing a lot of the comments and recommendations from that group. And, I really look forward to seeing how this plays out when these come back up for review in June. I had a couple of other comments ready to go, I think, Ms. Bunting, you hit on the ones that I was going to really touch on. Our ask was going to be and is really to defer the consideration to these items until we can get to a place where that ordinance does get finalized, and then we do have a set of rules that we can operate around those types of use cases

in the City. With that, Mayor Tuck, I told you, I wasn't going to take up the whole three minutes. I'm going to pass it off to my wife, actually, and she's going to talk a little bit about enforcement and oversight. Thank you.

Ms. Chrissy Irving greeted those on the dais, introduced herself and made the following statement: I am also here representing Merrimac Shores. We are, as Shawn said, we're requesting the denial or at least delay of the use permit application for 3808 Chesapeake Avenue which is our direct neighbor. We'd also like you to consider Merrimac Shores as an opt-out zone with these STRs. We still hope that that is an option on the table, although we are very aware of all the excellent recommendations that the stakeholder committee has made already. Part of the draw to living in Merrimac Shores is the strong community feel where people know their neighbors and the Civic Association works hard to cultivate that feel through our newsletters and our events that we plan and the fundraisers. As the President of the Civic Association, I'm often the person that handles the issues or the concerns that come up in the neighborhood, and we are concerned about the 450 to 700 unlicensed STRs operating in Hampton currently in the City. The City does not have the capacity to enforce and oversee the compliance of these and that responsibility is going to end up falling on citizens to become the hall monitors of STRs. There's no zoning administrative process in place yet to efficiently move the existing population of STRs into compliance. So, City services, including the City Council, are going to be overwhelmed by trying to process the new permit applications while at the same time following up with unlicensed STRs, currently operating and revoking those permits of any of the bad actors. Please consider the denial of the use permit for 3808 Chesapeake Avenue so that I can enjoy having actual neighbors, rather than a revolving door of vacationers. At the very least, please consider delaying approval until the City is ready to handle the enforcement and compliance that the neighbors in Merrimac Shores won't have to feel like they are in charge of policing the STRs that may pop up in the neighborhood. Thank you so much for your time letting me speak today.

Ms. Patsy Petway greeted those on the dais, introduced herself and made the following statement: I'm also a resident of Merrimac Shores and I'm here with a deep concern regarding the STR problem that we have in the City, in the whole Peninsula, actually. We're all very concerned about what's going to happen as far as how it's going to be managed; who's going to handle it; what's going to come of it. And, Merrimac Shores isn't just, you know, a collection of houses. It's a community where everyone works together; everybody's friends; we try to do all types of activities; and we feel that this is going to be a big disruption to the whole process simply because - I know that I have friends and we have people that have neighbors that are STRs that are not permitted, and they have all kinds of issues and problems. So, and then also, we did a survey of the whole neighborhood, and we had 86% of

people surveyed, were strongly opposed and were very concerned about it, also. I think this kind of reflects the deep-rooted conviction that we all have that we don't feel that this is the right avenue for our neighborhood. You know, I think that it's going to affect property values. I know that if we were moving into a neighborhood now that, you know, if someone said there was an STR next door or a few doors down, that we probably would choose not to live in that neighborhood. I know that other people have had problems that have moved from neighborhoods where they have STRs. So, in light of all this, I'm asking the Council to consider incorporating provisions within the ordinance to give Merrimac Shores the autonomy to opt out of it. Thank you for taking the time to hear me and consider our request.

Mr. John Kern greeted those on the dais and began his comments. The Mayor asked him to state his name for the record. Mr. Kern introduced himself, stated his address and then made the following statement: I'm here to speak on behalf of the senior citizens that live along Chesapeake Avenue. I think the youngest couple on the Avenue is Crissy and Shawn in our particular block. Our block is somewhat special. It's a cul-de-sac street. It's one block long, one way in, one way out, and it gives us a lot of concern that what stakeholders didn't address in the meetings is the safety of the people along certain portions of streets; that there are no sidewalks; the kids, the grandkids, the people from Sussex, they come across over into the backyards and they play in the street there also. So, we have a very special, unique circumstance along Chesapeake Avenue in this area. Long-term residents would be there on a one-car, two-car, maybe three with kids basis, six trips in and out. With a short-term rental, you've addressed this to be a 10-person unit. That's five cars minimum, 10 cars each day in an hour or more. If they speed up and down the street, who's going to respond? By the time we call the police, they're gone. If there's an issue, they're gone. There is nothing here that can help us unless you actually deny this particular application when it comes up at a Council meeting. I appreciate your time. Thank you.

Mr. George Sicay greeted those on the dais, introduced himself, and made the following statement: I represent the Buckroe Bayfront Homeowners Association in the position as president. I am here to speak about the request for 136 South Second Street. Just to give you some sense of where we are, it's right on for you know where South Second Street is. It's right across from the gazebo and things and so 136 is in the middle, and there are two houses, one on each side. I don't know that they have requested their use permit yet, but what we have witnessed, and we have been living in the community for about 12 years right in the same house, is that these houses are not - they're actually bringing safety issues and perhaps even value of properties. Can I give two examples, please? The first one was in the summer. So, one of the big events at Buckroe Beach, of course, is what? The Farmer's Market, right? Lots of people coming in, doing great things and the vendors

are there. However, these three houses face, the Farmer's Market. The image that the visitors to our Farmer's Market get are two cars that are parked the wrong way, grass that is unkempt, and one car that is parked on the sidewalk to get charged to an electric car. That's the summer. Now, let's move into the winter, the holiday - Christmas. Christmas time well on - I have a photo here, if I may reference it. As we know, the parking at Buckroe Beach at 10 o'clock - parking, there's restrictions on parking, but this is a picture that shows on the eighth of December at about 10:55PM when there were multiple cars, I can show this if you want to or not. But this is an example of how the short-term rentals are not really - they're disregarding the parking. There are trash bins that are left out there. Our community is proud to be - look neat, but when there are trash bins and recycle bins that remain days, not hours, after the pickup, but days, that doesn't set the right impression for the neighborhood that we have established and work so hard to keep up for ourselves; for the owners. And, so, based on that, we would ask that you deny the short-term rental (inaudible word) requests for 136. Thank you.

Speakers on item 23-0190 were: Shawn Irving, Chrissy Irving, Patsy Petway, and John Kern.

A motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs and seconded by Councilmember Hope Harper, that this Use Permit be deferred to the City Council Legislative Session, due back on 6/12/2024. 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

10. [23-0221](#) Use Permit Application by FUM Properties, LLC to Permit a Short-Term Rental (STR) at 136 S Second St [LRSN: 13004183] George Sicay spoke on item 23-0221.

A motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs and seconded by Councilmember Hope Harper, that this Use Permit be deferred to the City Council Legislative Session, due back on 6/12/2024. 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

11. [23-0222](#) Use Permit Application by Antionique & Twaitney Addison to

Permit a Short-Term Rental (STR) at 404 N Second St [LRSN: 12007147]

A motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs and seconded by Councilmember Hope Harper, that this Use Permit be deferred to the City Council Legislative Session, due back on 6/12/2024. 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

12. [23-0223](#) Use Permit Application by Blossom by the Sea, LLC to Permit a Short-Term Rental (STR) at 406 N Second St [LRSN: 12007148]

A motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs and seconded by Councilmember Hope Harper, that this Use Permit be deferred to the City Council Legislative Session, due back on 6/12/2024. 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

13. [23-0224](#) Use Permit Application by Antoinette Smith to Permit a Short-Term Rental (STR) at 526 Settlers Landing Road [LRSN: 2003217]

A motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs and seconded by Councilmember Hope Harper, that this Use Permit be deferred to the City Council Legislative Session, due back on 6/12/2024. 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

## CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Glass read the protocol for the consent agenda and a summary of the consent items.

## Approval of the Consent Agenda

Motion made by Councilmember Mugler, seconded by

Councilmember Brown, to approve the Consent Agenda. 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

1. [24-0012](#) Resolution to Amend the Fiscal Year 2024 Council Approved Budget to Accept and Appropriate the 2023 Emergency Management Performance (EMP) Grant Awarded through the Virginia Department of Emergency Management

**Attachments:** [Grant Application](#)  
[Grant Routing and Grant Overview](#)  
[FY2023 EMPG Award Agreement](#)

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

2. [24-0053](#) Resolution to Amend the Fiscal Year 2024 Council Approved Budget to Accept and Appropriate the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Award through the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) for the City of Hampton Elevation Project [FEMA-DR-4602-DR-VA-0008]

**Attachments:** [Grant Application](#)  
[Grant Routing and Grant Overview](#)  
[DR-4602 Award Package](#)

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

3. [24-0082](#) Resolution to Approve an Encroachment Agreement Pursuant to Hampton City Code § 34-86 Between the City of Hampton and Christina A. Thomas to Allow an Encroachment into a Portion of a City of Hampton Drainage Easement for the Installation of a



Six-Foot Wood Fence.

**Attachments:** [Encroachment Agreement  
Presentation](#)

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

4. [24-0083](#) Resolution to Approve Encroachment Agreements Pursuant to Hampton City Code § 34-86 Between the City of Hampton and WANRack, LLC to Allow Multiple Encroachments into the City's Right of Way for Installation of Communication Conduit, Fiber Optic Cable, and Other Related Infrastructure to Provide Services to the Hampton City Schools

**Attachments:** [Model Agreement  
Presentation](#)

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

5. [24-0081](#) Ordinance Vacating a Portion of a Certain Variable Width Public Right-of-Way Designated as Grant Street Containing a Total of Approximately 0.066± Acres or 2,909± Square Feet Abutting Parcels Owned by the City of Hampton and Designated as LRSNs 2000961, 2001019, 2001021, 2001025, 2001026 and 2001027

**Attachments:** [Exhibit A - Plat showing areas of Grant Street to be vacated](#)

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

6. [24-0084](#) Resolution Approving Donation of Gear to the Virginia Emergency Services Assistance Program for Belize d/b/a Belize Heroes, New Horizons Regional Education Centers, and Bethel

High School Academy of Law and Public Safety

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

7. [24-0091](#) Approval of the minutes from the special 10 a.m. City Council meeting on January 24, 2024.

Item approved.

**Aye:** 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Harper, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Mugler and Mayor Tuck

#### PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS

8. [24-0089](#) Briefing on City of Hampton Crime Statistics

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

Ms. Bunting introduced the item and noted that today's presentation would provide an update on the Hampton Police Division's (HPD) efforts to reduce violent crime. She also noted that updates will be given throughout the year about other programs designed to prevent and intervene in crime. She introduced HPD Chief Jimmie Wideman and thanked him and his team for their work to increase arrests as this work helps clear crimes and assures the community that we take crime seriously and make every effort to bring perpetrators to justice.

Chief Wideman greeted those on the dais and began reviewing the slide presentation.

The first portion of the presentation provided comparison statistics for City-wide reported part 1 offenses for the years 2022, 2023 and 2024 (year-to-date, January 1- February 27, 2024); gunshot injury data of murder and assault offenses for January 1 - February 27, 2023 vs. January 1 - February 27, 2024; part 1 property crimes (by charge) for the years 2022-2024 (January 1 - February 12); and clearance rates for part 1 offenses for 2022, 2023 and 2024 (year-to-date, January 1- February 27, 2024).

Chief Wideman shared that it was determined that there is an increase in crime between the beginning of the holiday season through January or February, therefore, in an attempt to keep these numbers down, HPD maintained a crime

reduction detail in areas with the highest concentration of people; identified areas where crime was most likely to occur; and identified the people most likely to create offenses. This plan was designed to proactively deter opportunities for criminal activity. The statistics listed in the presentation show that there was a decrease in crime for the same period this year when compared to the two prior years.

Chief Wideman spoke about collaboration and partnerships that have had an impact on our youth and have played a role in the reduction in crime. Some of them include: the partnership with the Office of Youth and Young Adult Opportunities and it's Hopeful Hampton Initiative; the partnership with the Commonwealth Attorney's Office and it's Cease Fire Program; and the placement of resource officers in schools. Chief Wideman emphasized that applying resources and partnerships throughout the City and providing services to those who are at risk provides an opportunity to keep our youth from choosing violence and crime as an only option.

Chief Wideman continued sharing the crime statistics which show some increases in crime in some categories including commercial burglaries in cell phone stores and vape shops. He also spoke a bit about ABC store burglaries and efforts to reduce crime in them.

In response to Councilman Brown's question about catalytic converters, Chief Wideman confirmed that catalytic converters are a part of crimes listed under "salvageable metal" in the presentation. He added that being able to identify what items are being removed helps the police adjust their tactics and apprehend the people responsible. This in turn helps reduce crime.

In response to Mayor Tuck, Chief Wideman shared that at one point, there was a production issue and a social media trend associated with thefts of certain types of vehicles including various models of Hyundai's and Kia's. Since that time, the HPD has increased public awareness; motor companies have recalled vehicles and taken corrective action; police presence in known problem areas has increased; and the HPD has inquired about steering wheel safety devices for vehicles that have not yet been upgraded or repaired. These efforts help reduce the number of stolen vehicles in the community.

Chief Wideman explained that "clearance rates" refers to arrests made for offenses, including instances of justified offenses. He then reviewed the slide showing City-wide clearance rates for part 1 offenses for 2022, 2023 and 2024 year-to-date. He briefly spoke about Hampton's clearance rate for murder/nonnegligent manslaughter, which is 45%, and noted that some of this success is due to the HPD's ability to clear some of the homicides which occurred last year. He also shared that the HPD has had much recent success and expects to see additional

success in the weeks and months to come. Chief Wideman continued speaking about clearance rates for additional crime categories listed on the slide.

At Mayor Tuck's request, Chief Wideman shared what the abbreviations on the clearance rates slide represent. REPT - reports; CBA - closed by arrest; EXC - exceptional; OTH - other (for example, out of our jurisdiction); PAC - pending active (still on the books with no resolution); PIN - pending inactive (no leads to pursue); and PWO - pending warrants obtained (there is most likely cause to get a warrant, but it is pending executing the warrant).

In response to several inquiries from Council, Chief Wideman spoke a bit about cold cases and clearance rates. He also indicated that one of the reasons vape shops are burglarized is because many of them have new businesses owners who are not familiar with how to secure their properties or the services available through the HPD which are designed to teach owners how to protect their properties.

The next group of slides included regional data for part 1 offenses (including violent crime and property crime) per 1,000 population for the years 2022 versus 2023 and depicted how Hampton compared to other localities in the region. Hampton ranked in the middle with three localities having lower crime rates and three localities having higher crime rates than Hampton. Chief Wideman reminded everyone that Hampton has a smaller space (density) to operate within when compared to other localities; therefore, in denser populations, there is more contact and interaction. He noted that while there is room for improvement, he is pleased with the numbers overall.

Chief Wideman paused to answer questions about what had been presented thus far.

In response to Councilman Brown's question about current trends, Chief Wideman explained that other localities have yet to begin crunching their numbers for 2024, therefore, it would be difficult to determine how Hampton is trending in comparison to other localities for this year. He added that hopefully Hampton will shift into an even lower slot on the crime rate scale once we get past this quarter with increased closure rates and a decrease in offenses.

Chief Wideman spoke about an operation being implemented in Hampton that mirrors one in Newport News in which Virginia State Police troopers are present in the City. He reiterated that the HPD and others are working diligently to identify those who are most likely to be a threat and then reviewed a slide which described five recent significant arrests. He emphasized that these are just a few, but the HPD is working to pursue and apprehend additional criminals. In addition, Hampton plans to work with various partners including the Virginia State Police for traffic

enforcement and criminal behavior; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) to address weapons law violations; the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) to target drug trafficking; and the United States Marshals Service to assist with fugitives who cross borders.

Chief Wideman paused to share that in addition to the collaboration efforts the HPD has with various City programs, it also works with numerous community outreach stakeholders to combat crime.

Councilman Brown asked a series of questions related to the Realtime Crime Center and what resources are available to combat crime in hot spots of the City.

Chief Wideman explained that there are cameras and video surveillance throughout the City which aid in traffic violations and other types of investigations. In addition, the Realtime Crime Center allows real-time eyes on what takes place in the community and provides an opportunity to multiply resources and obtain and provide good information. With regard to hot spots, he said that neighborhoods are not bad, instead, there are bad people in neighborhoods. After those individuals are identified, the HPD deploys resources there to let them know that there is a police presence. They also encourage the individuals to move and inform them that if they do not and bad behavior occurs, they will be held accountable for the crimes they commit. Chief Wideman shared that the HPD has been successful in identifying those locations and deploying resources to include resources on the state and federal level. In addition, the HPD partners with Safe Neighborhoods Programs and Safe and Clean Programs; tracks progress; and shifts their resources once hot spot areas cool off and show progress.

Mayor Tuck asked if Hampton has a sufficient number of cameras; suggested that Chief Wideman include data for longer timespans in his next presentation for a better understanding of Hampton's trends; and asked if the HPD has sufficient personnel and resources to move forward with the style of policing that he (Chief Wideman) would like to do.

Chief Wideman stated that he is satisfied with what we have and the HPD effectively uses the available resources; however, he would accept whatever is offered, keeping in mind that more cameras would require additional staff to monitor them effectively. In addition, as technology improves, current cameras can also be improved. He also spoke about the talented staff in the department and while there is always room for improvement, the numbers indicate that the department is effective with what it has. He noted that ideally, he would love to double the numbers, but reiterated that the department is effective with the numbers it currently has.

Councilman Hobbs complimented Chief Wideman and the HPD for hitting the ground running immediately after his swearing in ceremony.

In response to Councilman Bowman's question about portable solar cameras, Chief Wideman shared that deployable cameras are used as a tactic and resource to deter crime and collect information. They are usually placed in hot spots and other areas of concern to monitor activity. Chief Wideman shared an example of how this works in a specific area of the City near Roanoke Avenue and Mercury Boulevard.

For the record, Ms. Bunting spoke about Council's investment in staffing. Council implemented the step plan this year. Some officers, who initially were considering retirement, have expressed that they will work a few more years due to the step plan and the Virginia Retirement System (VRS). In addition, some officers have considered returning to work for the City. There have been conversations about tactical operations. Pay scale improvements have helped morale in both the police and fire divisions and will help stabilize and improve staffing. Lastly, widening the pool of talent and getting more people to enter the profession will play a key role in staffing.

Chief Wideman concurred with Ms. Bunting's comments and then reviewed the final slide of the presentation about recruitment and retention efforts. The step program is a vital part of recruitment and is essential for retaining experienced officers, attracting tenured officers from other localities, and attracting retired, skilled military personnel who may want a career in law enforcement. The Skillbridge program is designed for transitioning service members. Hampton City Schools Academy of Law and Public Safety acts as a recruiting ground and has expanded the number of cadets being considered for employment. The HPD also participates in local and out-of-state police recruiting events at places where people who are most likely interested in law enforcement will be. Some of these places include military bases, schools of higher learning and community centers. The HPD also has a new badge and police vehicle design which advertises the City's recruitment.

Chief Wideman opened the floor for discussion.

Councilman Brown asked about the Police Cadet Program and whether applicants have to repeat the strenuous training once they become of age in order to become an officer.

Chief Wideman clarified that applicants must repeat the training; however, the benefit is that they already understand the culture and what is expected of them and they are less distracted with downtime. In addition, the HPD has shadowing programs and internship opportunities for young people to help with indecisiveness,

so that they have the information they need to make good decisions.

Mayor Tuck opened the floor for additional discussion. No further discussion took place.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Glass read the protocol for the public comment period.

Mr. Craig Knopp greeted those on the dais, introduced himself and made the following statement: Now, one of the things about coming here is I learn a lot of stuff. Tonight, STRs. I talked to the gentleman after the meeting here - learned a lot of stuff about the short-term lease stuff. One of the other things I'm trying to learn more about, too, is the City financial stuff. So, Ms. Mugler, I sent you a couple emails over this week. I appreciate the responses back, but one thing, can you forward those emails on to the people, instead of just replying back to me? I would appreciate that. That would help me out a lot rather than having to go find emails. Since you're already sending an email back to me, that would cut one step out of the process. If you can help me forward those emails on to the proper people, I would appreciate that. Thank you, though. One of the other things I'm trying to look at, too, is...there was concerns back when Governor (Glenn) Youngkin got into office about grocery tax cuts, and we had our Commissioner of the Revenue get online and make comments that you know, we would lose about \$4 million if that got cut, and you know, and then we had to look at some other ways to bring in other revenue. Some of the stuff I would like to look at is, is (are) there other ways out there that we can maybe manage our revenue a little better? So, this year, one of the things I'm going to try to do is become a little bit more versed on where our money goes. So, in the future, I have a couple of emails that I will be sending out in addition, but appreciate you guys allowing us to come here, educate, and everything else like that. That's all I have. Thank you.

Ms. Jeannie Belgrave greeted those on the dais, introduced herself and made the following statement: Thank you so much for that presentation at the beginning. I'm all for teaching our children how to read and making Hampton one of the hubs for kids to grow up more educated, and, if I can have one of those hats, that would be great. Okay, so my topic today is about identity of our City, in terms of an American City. So, I have noticed that we don't have really enough flags around...American flags, U.S. flags. So, what does it take to have more U.S. flags around the City of Hampton? And, also, elections are coming up and the precincts, they seem to be empty, and as an American, you know, more than just going to vote and receive my sticker, it would be great to really provide an environment where voters come in and they experience almost like a procession or something that is

important that they're doing when they come in. For example, just one example, let's say that our schools or precincts that they have like hallways and people make the line. Those will be great locations to put like little flags, American flags, all over, so when they come in, or they're waiting to vote, they know that they are participating in such an important event for the United States, and the state and, and all of us. Yeah. So, that's pretty much it. Thank you. Oh, and the City can help with that if it is possible to provide flags or if there is anything that I can do to, as a volunteer, or, you know, something to make it more special, you know.

Mayor Tuck reminded everyone that the budget is available online and at the library for people to see where the money is allocated. He then called upon City Manager Bunting to provide more information about the budget.

Ms. Bunting indicated that the public can comment upon the proposed budget on Thursday, March 7th at 6:30 p.m. at Bethel High School and on Saturday, March 9th at 9 a.m. at Kecoughtan High School. There will also be a Facebook Live session on Tuesday, March 12th at 6:30 p.m. She also mentioned the City Council meeting opportunities before the budget's final vote on May 8, 2024.

Ms. Bunting reminded everyone that each year, sessions are held for the public to learn about the budget prior to final Manager's Recommended Budget release. These sessions are used to receive information about what the public has interest in and to poll residents on the items that are before us. Information about the sessions can also be obtained from the City's website or by calling 311.

Ms. Bunting announced that the Manager's Recommended Budget will be released on Monday, April 15. The budget release will be previewed on the prior Wednesday at the normal first Council meeting in April. Residents will have budget public hearings before the Council in Council Chambers on April 24 and May 1 where they can provide a reaction to the budget release. Council's first vote on the budget will be May 1, and the final vote will be on May 8. She reiterated that the current budget is online and in the libraries. Once the upcoming budget for fiscal 2025 is released, the new recommended budget will be online and, in the libraries, as well, and staff will be available by phone or email to answer questions about both budgets.

With regard to flags in the City, Ms. Bunting said that flags are flown at our primary buildings and she offered to speak with the speaker who had that concern following the meeting. She added that what can be done at polling places (school buildings) is regulated by the state, but staff can follow up with the registrar with regard to that.

## **GENERAL ITEMS**

### **Appointments**



Ms. Glass read the motion required for the appointments.

14. [24-0065](#) Consideration of an Appointment to the Athletic Hall of Fame  
A motion was made by Councilman Brown that Lavon Marrow be appointed to a partial term expiring on March 31, 2026. 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
15. [24-0066](#) Consideration of an Appointment to the Board of Review of Real Estate Assessments  
A motion was made by Councilman Brown that Asa Jenrette be reappointed to a second term expiring on February 28, 2028. 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
16. [24-0067](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Hampton Clean City Commission  
A motion was made by Councilman Brown that Grady McLean and April Receveur be reappointed to second terms expiring on January 31, 2028, and that Betsy McAllister, Karen Scott, and Darian Harris be appointed to first terms expiring on February 28, 2028. 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
17. [24-0068](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Hampton Federal Area Development Authority  
A motion was made by Councilman Brown that Eugene Thompson be reappointed to a second term expiring on December 31, 2027. 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

18. [24-0069](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities

A motion was made by Councilman Brown that Phillip Siff, Sally Nichols, Dana Reid, and Courtney Stoval be appointed to terms expiring on February 28, 2028. 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

19. [24-0070](#) Consideration of an Appointment to the Hampton Economic Development Authority

A motion was made by Councilman Brown that Mario Stellute be appointed to a partial term expiring on September 30, 2024. 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

20. [24-0073](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

A motion was made by Councilman Brown that Michelle Griffin, Jenifer Parker, and June Javier be reappointed to terms expiring December 31, 2027, and that Thomas Alston be appointed to a partial term expiring on March 31, 2026. 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

#### REPORTS BY CITY MANAGER, CITY COUNCIL, STAFF, COMMITTEES

There were no reports.

**MISCELLANEOUS NEW BUSINESS**

There were no items of new business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

**Contact Info:**

**Clerk of Council, 757-727-6315, [council@hampton.gov](mailto:council@hampton.gov)**

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Donnie R. Tuck  
Mayor

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Katherine K. Glass, CMC  
Clerk of Council

Date approved by Council \_\_\_\_\_