



City of Hampton

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

Council Approved Minutes - Final City Council Ceremonial 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, September 25, 2019

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tuck called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. with all members of the City Council present except for Councilwoman Curtis who was traveling.

Present 6 - Councilmember Eleanor Weston Brown, Councilmember Steven L. Brown, Vice Mayor Jimmy Gray, Councilmember Billy Hobbs, Councilmember Chris Snead, and Mayor Donnie R. Tuck

Excused 1 - Councilmember Linda D. Curtis

DONNIE R. TUCK PRESIDED

CEREMONIAL ITEMS

Council Spotlight on the 2019 Commemoration of the First African Landing

Mayor Tuck gave welcoming remarks.

Communications Strategist Robin McCormick greeted those on the dais and those in attendance and made the following remarks regarding the recent 1619-2019 Commemoration Weekend in the City: The arrival of the "20 and odd" Africans at Point Comfort 400 years ago was a defining moment for this so-called New World, an English colony that became a country. Most of us learned that the arrival was in Jamestown, if indeed we learned about it at all. In fact, the First African Landing occurred in Hampton, and there is much still to be learned about the lives and legacy of the enslaved Africans who were aboard the White Lion. The commemoration held August 23-25 helped spark a national, even international, conversation. Getting to

that weekend took years of planning by many organizations and individuals. There was an academic focus on original historical research, and a human focus on the stories of those first Africans. In the weeks leading up to the three-day commemoration events, more and more media picked up those stories, and added to the discussion by amplifying them. When we (Hampton, Fort Monroe and Virginia) opened our doors and our hearts to commemorate the first Africans, the world joined in. The New York Times, USA Today, National Public Radio, China's Global Times, C-SPAN, the Wall Street Journal, Telemundo, The Japan Times, The Times of South Africa, BET, Swedish public radio, Essence Magazine, and many, many more publications, blogs and broadcasts reported from Hampton, Virginia. For the Day of Healing, bells rang across the country at 3 p.m. on that Sunday - at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.; at every National park; in small towns in California; in the Heartland; throughout the South; and all along the East Coast. For those who attended, the weekend was sad and joyous, somber and uplifting. Some of us were moved to tears. There were reminders of the struggles of those who came before us, as well as an 11-year-old who reminded us in the present and future to be kind to one another. August 23 through 25, 2019, was a weekend that people in Hampton, in Virginia, and across the world will remember. My words cannot do it justice, but we will bring you some of the sights, sounds and spirits in this video.

Those in attendance viewed a video compilation of the events surrounding the 1619-2019 Commemoration Weekend.

Ms. McCormick made the following closing remarks: Building the weekend's activities was a mammoth task, which began several years ago. Literally hundreds of people volunteered for programs, participated in performances and reenactments, many more than we can recognize here tonight. However, City Council would like to convey a special thanks to the key partners who spent years planning, organizing and implementing this commemoration.

Council Spotlight Awards were presented to: Kathy Spangler (American Evolution), Phyllis Terrell representing Glenn Oder (Fort Monroe Authority), Terry Brown (National Park Center), Calvin Pearson (Project 1619), Colita Fairfax and Claude Vann, III (2019 Commemoration Committee).

A very special recognition was also presented to Mary Fugere, Director of Hampton's Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Additional members of the audience who were instrumental in the organization of the weekend's events stood to be recognized.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Donnie R. Tuck
Mayor

Katherine K. Glass, CMC
Clerk of Council

Date approved by Council _____