



# City of Hampton

22 Lincoln Street  
Hampton, VA 23669  
[www.hampton.gov](http://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*

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**Wednesday, July 10, 2019**

**9:30 AM**

**Commences and  
concludes at City Hall,  
22 Lincoln Street,  
Hampton, Virginia**

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### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tuck called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. above the Hampton Convention and Visitors Bureau's scuttle bus in the parking lot of City Hall. All members of the City Council were present with the exception of Councilman Steve Brown. Also present were the following staff: Mary Bunting, City Manager; Cheran Ivery, City Attorney; Katherine Glass, Clerk of Council; Terry P. O'Neill, Director of Community Development; Robin McCormick, Communications Strategist; Brian DeProfio, Assistant City Manager; and Steve Shapiro, Deputy Director of Community Development. Bruce Newton, Group Sales Manager, from Hampton's Convention and Visitors Bureau, operated the bus. Lisa Vernon Sparks, a reporter with the Daily Press, was also present.

**Present** 6 - Councilmember Eleanor Weston Brown, Councilmember Linda D. Curtis, Vice Mayor Jimmy Gray, Councilmember Billy Hobbs, Councilmember Chris Snead, and Mayor Donnie R. Tuck

**Excused** 1 - Councilmember Steven L. Brown

**DONNIE R. TUCK PRESIDED**

### AGENDA

1. [19-0230](#) Field Trip Highlighting Recreational Vehicle Parking Considerations

The City Attorney reminded the members of City Council that this bus tour was a meeting and asked that they be cognizant of not having side conversations to enable all to hear the content presented as well as any questions asked and their responses. This also would assist the Clerk in capturing content for the minutes.

The City Manager introduced the purpose of the tour as being responsive to Council's desire to go into the field to see how recreational vehicles (RVs) are currently stored on properties. While RV owners want less restriction, some neighborhood residents have complained that the larger RVs block street visibility and create safety concerns. Council had expressed a desire to visit some sites to be able to see first-hand these various concerns up close. The City Manager also noted there would be an opportunity as we travel between and among neighborhoods across the City to also point out other codes questions, such as how to effectively address vehicle storage yards, that will come before the Council over the late summer and early fall. She noted that staff would point out such examples as appropriate.

Mr. Shapiro indicated that he would be the guide for the tour which was anticipated to take about one and a half to two hours and, upon conclusion, would return to City Hall. He indicated that the group would be looking at RVs to include boats in different areas of the City and he would point things out to him that were hopefully educational and beneficial.

Mr. Shapiro reviewed the current regulations which are in place and some of the challenges in enforcing those regulations. He shared that a focus group reached a conclusion that the community wants as little regulation as possible. The term RVs include motor homes, boats, trailers, and sea-doo's and similar water craft. Storage of RVs can have a negative impact on neighborhoods. There was general agreement from the focus group that the current regulations should be repealed, separate consideration should be given to lots that are 5 acres and above, and all street frontages should be treated as front yards. The group also believes that motor homes should be treated differently from other RVs.

Mr. Shapiro continued that some options to be considered concern size, location, whether the RV is a live-in or not, and whether the parking surface is paved or unsaved. For a typical lot, the recommendation was to limit the number of RVs to four (4), motor homes can only be parked in the rear of the house or sometimes on the side, other RVs limited to two (2), no time limit on parking, that the front yard improved surface be less than 50%, and a prohibition on living in motor homes.

Mr. Shapiro shared information on the current status of RVs in Hampton.

Current regulations permit RVs on residential lots as long as they don't exceed 28' long x 8' wide x 10' tall. They must meet the same setbacks as those set for accessory structures and cannot be parked in a front yard except for when they are being loaded or unloaded for a maximum of 48 hours.

Community input has been to use the least regulation possible to accomplish the objectives and large motor homes should be treated different from other types of RVs. It should be recognized that large RVs can be a negative aesthetic on typical subdivision lots. Limiting parking in front yards is responsible but exceptions should be made for large lots allowing more permissive regulations. Some modern RVs also require power to be plugged in for extended periods.

There is general agreement to repeal the current ordinance and differentiate lots over 5 acres with at least a 100 yard setback from other lots. Side yards should be clear for public safety personnel and motor home should be separated from all other RV types.

The suggested recommendation for a typical lot is to limit RVs to 4 with motorhomes in the rear except in certain circumstances. Other RVs are to be limited to 2 in the front yard. There should be no time limit on when they are plugged in. RV parking in the front yard should only be permitted on an improved surface while the impervious surface of front yards should be limited to 50%. Living in a motor home should be prohibited. The recommendation for large lots (greater than 5 acres with at least a 100' front yard depth) should be no total maximum number of RVs, no limit on location, no limit on time plugged in, paved surface not required. The same prohibition should apply on limiting paving to 50% and prohibiting living in a motor home.

Mayor Tuck pointed out an RV parked where there wasn't a sidewalk and it almost extended to the street. Mr. Shapiro indicated that under current regulations, an RV can't encroach on the public right-of-way.

Mr. Shapiro pointed out that since it is the summer season, it is likely that some RVs are being used for vacations at the present time outside of the areas visited. He pointed out a camper parking in a side yard that wasn't a large RV so it wouldn't be in violation of current ordinances.

Mr. Shapiro pointed out a trailer which was parked on an improved surface in a front yard which would be in compliance with current regulations.

Councilwoman Curtis asked that Mr. Shapiro include information on the RVs on the tour as to whether they were in compliance or not under current regulations and

whether they would be in compliance under contemplated new regulations.

Vice Mayor Gray asked if it made a difference if a citizen fenced in their side yard. He questioned a particular fairly large RV typically parking on Andrews Boulevard in between Nickerson Boulevard and the soccer park but the one in question wasn't parked there on the date Council toured.

Mr. Shapiro noted that an RV parked on an area where half was paved and half was not paved would be an issue.

Ms. Bunting stated that RVs which are parked and go up to the sidewalk are perceived by some as a public safety issue due to lack of visibility so the neighborhood perspective needs to be considered.

Vice Mayor Gray inquired whether a laser measuring device could be used as an enforcement tool since you aren't allowed to go onto someone's property to take measurements without their permission. Ms. Ivery replied that if the measurement could be taken with the measures not on the property in question, it shouldn't be a problem. Mr. O'Neill stated that staff has looked into such devices and hasn't yet found one where the technology works well.

An RV as seen parked on the street which Mr. Shapiro said is not allowed by the Hampton Police Division (HPD). It can't be there for more than 48 hours. Ms. Bunting gave an interpretation of the ordinance and said that, since the RV had been there since Monday (exceeding 48 hours), it should be called into HPD.

Councilwoman Curtis asked how a disabled RV is treated. Mr. Shapiro indicated that if an RV is parked on the street, it is the HPD's call and, if parked on property, it would be a violation handled by Codes. If it was an inoperative vehicle, it would violate the current RV ordinance.

On Andrews Boulevard, there were examples of several properties with lots of cars. Mr. Shapiro indicated there is currently no limit on the number of cars which can be parked on a property if the cars are operable. Councilman Hobbs inquired about those bearing antique tags and Mr. Shapiro responded there is no limit as long as the tags are valid.

The tour covered areas which included Pembroke Avenue, Mercury Boulevard, Andrews Boulevard, Coral Place, Nickerson Boulevard, Old Buckroe Road, Woodland Road, Woodside Drive, Alcove Street, Riverside Drive, Seashell Drive,

Mayor Tuck asked if utility vehicles parked on the street and not attached to a towing

vehicle were allowed and Mr. Shapiro said they are not.

On First Street, Mr. Shapiro said there are many challenges because of narrow lots and the beach itself being the back yard. Because there is no back yard and nowhere else to park RVs, this is a good example of a challenge.

Councilwoman Snead inquired if there is somewhere off-site where RV owners may park them and Mr. Shapiro responded that such facilities do exist.

Ms. Bunting asked that the group drive by the Trusty House. Mr. Shapiro stated that the shrubbery was causing the 'hedge effect' but it doesn't fall under the same regulations as fencing so there isn't any enforcement action which can be taken. Ms. Ivery asked for an example of what would be a 'hedge effect' as you would be able to see daylight through any kind of hedge. Mr. Shapiro responded that there are some species which are dense enough that light doesn't come through. A brief discussion on the 'hedge effect' took place.

Mr. Shapiro said if an RV is less than 28' long, it is not in violation of the current regulations. The group viewed a pontoon boat and an RV parked on Slater Street which was not compliant.

At the request of Councilman Hobbs, the tour drove by Carter's Corner where there were multiple vehicles without tags or with expired tags so they should be noticed for that as well as for having vehicles parked on the sidewalk.

When on Rogers, a site was pointed out that used to be loaded with vehicles but, with court action and other leverage, has been cleaned up completely in the front and back.

Mayor Tuck indicated that cul-de-sacs could also be a potential problem as the middle house having an RV parked could create a problem in sight lines.

A brief discussion occurred about tractor trailers.

Mr. Shapiro pointed out a boat parked in a back yard which is legal. Also, sometimes an exception is warranted when there is a particularly large lot.

When passing Advanced Auto Transmission on Mercury, it was pointed out that it has issues similar to those of Carter's Corner with large numbers of vehicles.

The group viewed a camping trailer that had been abandoned and was in the process of being towed.

Camping trailer in process of being towed / abandoned

The group viewed several sites with non-compliant uses to include RVs over 28' parked incorrectly causing cars to block the sidewalk or where the actual RV itself blocked the sidewalk.

There was a discussion primarily between Ms. McCormick and Mr. O'Neill as to whether there could be different size limits based on whether an RV was parked in a back yard or in a driveway.

The group then traveled to some vehicle repair businesses. T's Quality Used Cars has an M2 zoning so they are a legal and non-conforming use. Virginia Motor Specialists is operating under a use permit from the 1970s with conditions. Import Auto King is also a legal non-conforming use. They are allowed to sell vehicles from the front part of the lot and can't do salvaging there because the front lot is zoned C3 which allows vehicle sales. There were also violations at Little Car Clinic and Crumpler Auto Sales. The group traveled past Virginia Motor Specialists which used to be Peninsula Auction House. Public Scrap has a use permit dating back to 1969. Another legal and non-conforming use is T & S Used Auto Parks.

The tour covered areas which included Pembroke Avenue, Mercury Boulevard, Andrews Boulevard, Coral Place, Nickerson Boulevard, Old Buckroe Road, Woodland Road, Woodside Drive, Alcove Street, Riverside Drive, Seashell Drive, Buckroe Avenue, First Street, Mallory Street, County Street, Mercury Boulevard, Reynolds Drive, Slater Street, Atlantic Avenue, Seaboard Avenue, Pembroke Avenue, Rogers Avenue, Fox Hill Road, St. Ashley Street, Willow Oaks Boulevard, West Riverpoint Drive, Little Back River Road, Commodore Drive, Admiral Court, Howe Road, Glenwood Drive, Tysinger Drive, King Street, Charleston Drive, Tide Mill Lane, Armistead Avenue, Deerfield Boulevard, Bannister Drive, Purdue Court, Diggs Drive, Tratman Court, Miller Drive, Powhatan Parkway and Shell Road.

Steve Shapiro, Deputy Director of Community Development, narrated a driving tour of mostly residential properties in Hampton where recreational vehicles were parked. This tour also included some business and commercial properties where large numbers of vehicles were parked and/or stored.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The group then returned to City Hall and arrived at 11:52 a.m. At that time, Mayor Tuck adjourned the meeting.

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Donnie R. Tuck  
Mayor

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Katherine K. Glass, CMC  
Clerk of Council

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