



City of Hampton

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

Council Approved Minutes - Final City Council Work 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, June 10, 2020

1:00 PM

Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tuck called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. with all members of the Hampton City Council present but socially distanced. Additionally seating in Council Chambers was arranged to allow 6' social distancing and adherence to the Governor's order to not exceed a gathering of more than 50 people.

DONNIE R. TUCK PRESIDED

AGENDA

1. [20-0171](#) Briefing on the Redesignation of Local Workforce Development Areas 14 and 16 into a New Single Local Workforce Development Area

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

Clerk of Council, Katherine Glass, read the title for the item.

City Manager Mary Bunting introduced the item.

Shawn Avery, President and CEO of Hampton Roads Workforce Council and William Mann, Executive Director of the Greater Peninsula Workforce Board presented on how both organizations have begun their work on the Southeastern Virginia Regional Workforce Collaborative, an effort to merge forces to unify the approach to workforce development in the Southeastern Virginia Region.

Mr. Avery and Mr. Mann shared information about the Regional Workforce Development System and how various organizations have partnered with their organizations on this initiative. The organizations include: Virginia Career Works, Business Services, NextGen Pathways, Career Access Network, Hampton Roads Veterans Employment Center, Hampton Roads Veterans Career Compass, and the Hampton Roads Workforce Foundation.

In response to Mayor Tuck, Mr. Avery clarified that the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) is the Federal legislation that funds workforce development activities throughout the nation.

Mr. Avery and Mr. Mann continued speaking about the organizations and their roles in the collaborative effort. They also shared some of the return on investments and accomplishments associated with the effort.

Mr. Avery spoke about the Hampton Roads Talent Alignment Strategy which is designed to ensure that business community needs are understood and to determine what educational partners are producing.

In response to Mayor Tuck, Mr. Mann spoke about citizens re-entering communities following rehabilitation. He shared that a number of programs address the issue, particularly as it relates to juveniles. He continued stating that efforts are underway to broaden the revenue streams beyond our federal dollars in an attempt to put in place a comprehensive program of services that will help those individuals transition back into the community. Mr. Avery added that several of the organizations provide assistance and opportunities such as training and job placement for individuals returning to their communities.

In response to Mayor Tuck, Mr. Avery noted that the Virginia Career Work Center at Thomas Nelson Community College assists those individuals with workforce needs who have already returned to their communities.

Mr. Avery and Mr. Mann concluded the presentation and opened the floor for questions.

In response to Councilman Brown with regards to second chance employee opportunities, Mr. Mann explained that many services are provided in that area resulting in businesses obtaining employees who are trained to their specifications and returning citizens who have obtained full-time employment. He noted that this initiative is fond of on the job training where individuals are matched and trained for appropriate positions; and, oftentimes, the employer is reimbursed for a portion of their costs (on the job training stipend).

Additional discussion took place among the presenters, staff, and the members of Council. Topics of discussion included: services for disabled and aged individuals; this initiative providing an opportunity for unifying the workforce in our region; and Hampton Roads Transits' Driver Training Program.

Mayor Tuck welcomed Councilmember-Elect Chris Bowman to the meeting and congratulated him on the election. He also congratulated re-elected members of Council, Councilman Billy Hobbs and Councilwoman Chris Snead.

Presented by Shawn Avery, President & CEO of the Hampton Roads Workforce Council; and William Mann, the Executive Director, of the Greater Peninsula Workforce Board. They were accompanied by Dr. John Olsen, Chair of the Greater Peninsula Workforce Board and Mark Johnson, Chair of the Hampton Roads Workforce Council.

Mayor Tuck stated that this was the first Council meeting since COVID where all of the members of City Council were physically present. He also shared that Councilman-Elect Chris L. Bowman was present at the last meeting but it wasn't announced. The Mayor welcomed everyone back.

2. [20-0102](#) Update on Hampton Roads Transit (HRT) Transit Strategic Plan

Attachments: [Presentation - Updated Received 6-9-20](#)
[Presentation - As Published](#)

The Clerk of Council read the title for the item.

Ms. Bunting introduced the item.

President and CEO of Hampton Roads Transit (HRT), William Harrell, greeted those on the dais, provided opening remarks and thanked the members of Council and the City Manager for their support.

Chief of Staff, Dr. Brian Smith, provided information about the Transit Strategic Plan (TSP). He shared an overview of the plan; a summary of regional community involvement; and a list of top ridership priorities that were revealed during the regional survey. He noted that the TSP is a living document that will be updated annually with major updates occurring every five years.

Dr. Smith also announced that the TSP was developed around specific guiding principles which have unanimously been endorsed by the Transportation District Commission of Hampton Roads Board (TDCHR).

Councilwoman Brown pointed out that she was happy to see “more sheltered stops in my city” as one of the top six priorities as this has been a concern of Hampton riders and the members of Council.

Dr. Smith continued the presentation. He stated that one of the major outcomes of this effort is the development of new regional standards allowing customers to count on services regardless of political boundaries. He continued stating that we can have a more efficient and reliable system connecting more workers to jobs, and connecting the densest areas of population and employment along major corridors in a core backbone system. These regional standards are important and have become the foundation upon which HRT services will be designed and implemented from this point forward.

Dr. Smith emphasized that the centerpiece of the system is the core regional network, the network that the General Assembly took note of in passing new legislation. He also announced that for the first time, Hampton Roads will have dedicated funding to deliver better services across the region.

Dr. Smith concluded his comments and announced that this work which has been taking place since November of 2018 will culminate this month as HRT’s Board will consider it for vote and adopt the TSP. He added that this will become the foundation to build upon as we go forward.

Dr. Smith noted that the TSP is a comprehensive document; therefore, Council will be provided with a link to the full document.

HRT’s Chief Planning and Development Officer, Ray Amoruso, provided an overview of the information found in the various chapters of the TSP.

Mr. Amoruso paused to thank Ms. Bunting for attending every meeting regarding the TSP and for being invested in seeking better ways to serve the citizens of Hampton.

Mr. Amoruso outlined the information that can be found in each chapter of the TSP. Chapters 1 and 2 provide an overview of the 73 routes which currently run; the type of people who use the system; and information about why the riders ride the system and where they go. Chapters 3-6 are the heart of the Plan. Chapter 3 addresses the suggested improvements over 10 years (route by route) and contains analysis information. Chapter 4 spells out related capital investments to be made such as

investments in shelters, new bus facilities and technology. Chapter 5 lays out the 10 year plan in a financially constrained environment and the resources needed to support the improvements.

Mr. Amoruso reminded everyone that the City either fully funds routes or shares funding with the City of Newport News. He then shared a list of routes and specified which routes are funded solely by Hampton and which ones are jointly funded with the City of Newport News.

Mr. Amoruso explained that the TSP focuses primarily on determining ways to strengthen services with regards to realignments; streamlining routes; strategic elimination of three underperforming routes; and the introduction of demand response services.

Mr. Amoruso shared examples of the content found in Chapter 3 of the TSP as it relates to various routes. He then showed a map of and provided a bit of information about Route 102, one of the routes proposed for elimination as it is one of the lowest performing routes in the City (in terms of ridership).

Mr. Amoruso addressed a member of Councils' concern about the proposed elimination of Route 118. He explained some of the details about the route and announced that based on the analysis, this route currently does not do very well (other than during peak periods) for the amount of money being spent to support all day services; and, therefore, is a candidate for a route that warrants elimination.

Mr. Amoruso continued discussing various routes; reiterated that the TSP is a living document which can be changed annually; and emphasized that the deadline to submit the baseline plan to the State is June 30th. He also noted that with the new fiscal year beginning July 1st, we will do the annual update and discuss Council concerns (including Route 118) with Assistant City Manager Brian DeProfio.

In response to Councilwoman Snead, Mr. Amoruso explained that Route 118 travels LaSalle and Armistead Avenues, and in the areas near the Sentara Medical Center and the Boo Williams Sportsplex; whereas, Route 114 services the area near Social Services. He clarified that there is coverage by other routes in the area currently serviced by Route 118 and the goal is to keep everything within a quarter of a mile walk access. He also reminded everyone that the TSP is a 10-year plan in which things are phased in; Route 118 was not proposed for elimination until FY23 allowing time for additional work and discussion.

Mr. Amoruso shared additional information about the content found in Chapters 4, 5 and 6 of the TSP; the 13 routes included in the "Regional Backbone"; max routes;

and peninsula commuter routes which will be eligible for additional trips and funding.

Mr. Harrell gave closing remarks and shared the following three goals of the effort: better reliability; faster commutes with customer amenities and improved technology (allowing people access to real-time information in terms of where their bus is); and new connections that reflect the growth plans that each member city has approved.

Mr. Harrell shared the timeline and next steps in the process and noted that this Plan is important for the regional and economic health of Hampton Roads.

Prior to opening the floor for questions, Mr. Harrell shared an example of an individual who expressed to him their inability to accept evening work shifts due to the lack of late routes. He continued stating that he advised the person to contact their City Council because regional standards (regardless of locality) require backbone routes; however, other routes (such as late routes) are city funded.

Councilwoman Snead inquired whether the TSP would need to be amended if Council disagrees with the Route 118 recommendation.

Mr. Harrell reiterated that since the TSP is a living document which will be revisited annually, there will be opportunities to work on the Route 118 issue and any other issues that may arise.

Vice Mayor Gray commented that he looks forward to the new efficient transit system as it will help improve travel time for those traveling to and from the Southside for work. He added that this along with the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel expansion will provide great enhancements to efficient transit in our area.

Mr. Harrell thanked Vice Mayor Gray and Assistant City Manager Brian DeProffio for their efforts with this initiative.

Mayor Tuck made closing remarks, congratulated HRT on this effort, and noted that he was happy to see the dedicated funding stream for these improvements.

Presented by William Harrell, President and Chief Executive Officer of Hampton Roads Transit (HRT); Brian Smith, Chief of Staff; and Ray Amoruso, Chief Planning & Development Officer. and Conner Burns, Chief Financial Officer.

[20-0178](#) Briefing on the History of the Sunset Boat Ramp

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

The Clerk of Council read the title for the item.

Ms. Bunting introduced the item.

Director of the Community Development Department Terry O'Neill shared the history of the Sunset Boat Ramp and the roadmap which led to today's proposal, Bluewater Yacht Sales' interest in the Sunset Boat Ramp.

With regards to the portion of the history which references a 2009 potential law suit for breach of contract, Ms. Bunting clarified that the City's position in court was that there was no contract. She added that there was an initial handshake conversation in 2003 and a resolution in 2005, neither of which are a contract.

In response to Councilwoman Curtis, Ms. Bunting clarified that the handshake deal referenced market value (defined with an appraisal); whereas, the 2005 resolution referenced assessment.

During the presentation, Mr. O'Neill noted that Council agreed to proceed with the refurbishment of the ramp in 2009. Ms. Bunting added that the purchase order done in August of 2009 was in the amount of \$208,750 (the amount invested).

Mr. O'Neill continued providing the background information which led to the current proposal.

Councilman Brown asked if the sale to Bluewater Yacht was contingent upon an alternative site.

Mr. O'Neill replied, yes, and added that the City Council's and City Manager's during that time were not in support of taking that public asset out of the inventory; it was always contingent on finding a viable alternative in the geographic area of that body of water.

In response to Councilman Brown, Mr. O'Neill noted that at that time, those in the boating community had varying opinions, but no one wanted the ramp to go away completely.

Ms. Bunting added that there was no formal public hearing at that time because no viable alternative had been developed at that point.

In response to Councilman Brown, Mr. O'Neill said that he was uncertain whether there was an increase in usage of the ramp after it had been refurbished; however, that information may be able to be obtained from the Parks and Leisure Services Director.

In response to Councilwoman Curtis, Ms. Bunting explained that the City entertained this as a potential sale of land/alternative ramp due to criticism about the Sunset Boat Ramp including the lack of restrooms and fish cleaning stations and the narrow ramp. She continued explaining that the presumption at the time was we would have to buy and build something, therefore, the Council set aside funds which sat until 2009. The thought process was that the Fort Monroe ramp might work as an alternative ramp; however, that was not the case.

In response to Councilman Brown, Ms. Bunting provided the following explanation about the history of the project: When the idea first came about in 2003, the historical Herbert House was set to be torn down creating additional land for general operations. In addition to owning the Bluewater Yacht Company, the owners owned Surf Rider Restaurant and the Marina, and needed space for current operations and potential expansion. The proposal was not surfaced in 2003 or 2005 - instead, the owners were giving up the utility of the Herbert House land to achieve the initial goal of preserving the historical Herbert House. In exchange for giving up that utility, they wanted to be able to replace that with something else and because the City wanted to improve the ramp, the Council at that time was willing to entertain that - now we have a more specific plan to expand the operation.

Economic Development Director Chuck Rigney shared information regarding the Bluewater Yacht Sales Company; the current unsolicited proposal submitted by Bluewater; proposed expansion and cleanup projects; and purchase price and property values.

In response to Vice Mayor Gray, Mr. Rigney reiterated that there was no bid process and the proposal was unsolicited relative to what the company would hope to be an expansion. He noted that later in the presentation, he would share additional information about assessed values and acreage. He also explained that the project would entail repairing and replacing the bulkhead; improvements to the infrastructure and surface parking areas to accommodate the larger yachts; and the creation of approximately 50-80 higher than average wage level jobs.

For the benefit of the public, Ms. Bunting explained that with regards to the sale of public land, the Code allows the City to either put the land to bid or receive an unsolicited proposal which Council may choose to reject, accept, negotiate, or go to bid. She assured everyone that the City followed every process and determined that no other business would be able to fit in the narrow space in between what Bluewater already owned.

Mr. Rigney continued with the presentation.

In response to Councilwoman Snead, Mr. Rigney addressed the concern about neighbors having limited access to their property due to Bluewater purchasing the parking lot. Mr. Rigney stated that Bluewater has agreed to proffers which include buffering and fencing along the residential line. He also emphasized that the purpose of the expansion is to work on these large vessels (yachts) that will come in by water, not by land.

Mr. Rigney shared additional information about the proposal including some of the reasons why the deal should be considered; where we stand; the timeline of events associated with the project; and the recommendation to create a waterfront and boating advisory committee.

Mr. Rigney concluded the presentation and opened the floor for questions.

Councilwoman Brown commented that she is pleased to see that we are advancing the needs of boaters in our community which includes the recommendation to create a waterfront and boating advisory group.

Presented by Terry O'Neill, Director of Community Development and Chuck Rigney, Economic Development Director.

Following the presentation, Mayor Tuck asked questions concerning the process since the Planning Commission deferred action on the rezoning. The City Manager, Mary Bunting, explained that typically if a deferral or postponement of a public hearing item is anticipated it is announced early in the evening so that people aren't inconvenienced if they don't wish to stay and speak. The City Attorney, Cheran Cordell Ivery, explained the language Council would need to use during the evening session if they wished to postpone the matter.

The Mayor called on members of City Council who expressed a willingness to postpone the matter as long as any citizens who wished to speak tonight be allowed to do so. Councilwoman Curtis indicated that, as this is her last meeting as a member of City Council, a postponement would put this matter where she doesn't have a say. Additionally it was acknowledged that this briefing was added to the agenda only yesterday so it was certainly possible that many citizens weren't aware of the discussion.

A short discussion took place about various means of notifying citizens of the intended postponement with a general consensus that Marketing INC will use the tools they have available to communicate with citizens and since it has been advertised as a public hearing, anyone who does attend tonight's meeting will be allowed to speak on the matter.

3. [20-0172](#) Briefing on Fiscal Year 2026 Smart Scale Projects

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

Ms. Bunting introduced the item.

Senior Project Engineer Philippe Fenouil spoke on behalf of Public Works Engineering which is seeking Council's support of FY22 Smart Scale Program Funds.

Mr. Fenouil provided an overview of the Smart Scale Program. He emphasized that the program uses State and Federal tax dollars to fund projects; therefore, no City funds will be used. He noted that if projects are selected, they will be programmed into the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) six-year improvement program next July, and will not be funded until July of 2025 creating a four-year lag before design begins.

Mr. Fenouil shared information about program criteria, previously selected projects, and the FY22 candidate projects. The candidate projects include: Coliseum Drive Extension (phase B); North Campus Parkway Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements; and the North King Street Corridor Improvements.

In response to Mayor Tuck, Mr. Fenouil clarified that some acquisitions will be required in order to move forward with the Coliseum Drive Extension Project; however, these will be built into the funding request and the City will not have to spend funds for design, acquisitions or construction.

Mr. Fenouil stated that staff is requesting Council's support for the three candidate projects and reiterated that Council is not being asked to commit any funds; instead, staff is seeking the ability to administer the projects once the funds become available in 2025.

Ms. Bunting noted that the action item is on the consent agenda for the evening session.

Mayor Tuck opened the floor for questions from Council.

Councilwoman Brown commented that she is excited to see these projects which will enhance the walkability and bike routes in the City, particularly in the North Campus Parkway. She thanked staff for their work and noted that this is positive as our citizens have requested more connectivity in the City.

Presented by Philippe Fenouil, Senior Project Engineer.

4. [20-0151](#) Branding Initiative Update

Ms. Bunting introduced the item.

Communications Strategist Robin McCormick concurred with the City Manager's introduction and then began the presentation.

Ms. McCormick shared that during branding research, consultants sought the opinion of people in the Hampton Roads area about what comes to mind when they think of localities in the area and where localities rank in various categories. She reported that people thought of the Coliseum and Hampton University when thinking of Hampton. She also reported that Hampton ranked 6th in history; 3rd in beaches; and 1st in Science and Technology.

Ms. McCormick stated that we know what Hampton has to offer; however, when residents were asked the same question, they said beach, college, shopping, military, history, Coliseum, crabs and seafood. She clarified that these are things Hampton is known for; however, the story is not being told to the rest of the region, State and country.

Ms. McCormick continued stating that when business leaders and officials were asked what comes to mind when they think of Hampton, they said waterfront, waterways, history, Fort Monroe, beaches, NASA, Langley, military, downtown, Hampton University and location.

Ms. McCormick said following some research, it was determined that Hampton's strengths and key words were: curiosity, history, connection to beaches and waterways, welcoming to all, friendliness, diversity, launching, trajectories, changing the world, innovations, creative arts and museums, exploration and the spirit of adventure, fun, enjoyment, lighthearted and rewarding.

Ms. McCormick spoke about the City's motto, "From the sea to the stars" and what it represents. She explained that instead of selecting one visual for a brand, staff has created a set of things which tell the Hampton story. She then presented a set of

slides which show various City icons that have been developed over the years. They include: blue crab, Hampton one design (sailboat), Phoebus clock, launching star, Old Point Comfort, the Hampton Coliseum, City Hall, the Convention Center, Hampton Heart, Cancer Constellation, pier, Fort Monroe, Emancipation Oak, and Buckroe Beach.

Ms. McCormick presented the options for how the Hampton brand and various logos can be configured to represent the City.

Ms. McCormick acknowledged the Marketing staff for their participation and hard work in this effort and then opened the floor for questions and comments from the members of Council.

Councilwoman Curtis commented that she is pleased to see the heart aspect included in the project. She added that this project has been a labor of love for an extended period of time and she hopes everyone will rally behind this to bring the project to an end. She also noted that it was astonishing to know that an in-house person did the excellent artwork.

Ms. McCormick noted that although the research was done by an outside firm, the expense was paid for within budget and no extra funds were spent (the cost was shared with the Conventions and Visitors Bureau, Economic Development and Marketing).

For the record, Councilwoman Snead said that this has been a long process which needs to come to an end; therefore, she will go along with it. She added that she would like to have seen Hampton identified by a singular brand so that those viewing Hampton from outside of the City could identify Hampton by one thing.

Ms. McCormick explained that it was difficult to select one brand because people have so many ideas about what Hampton represents; therefore, staff thought it would be best to use various icons based on that audience. She noted that the market will determine which brands people identify with the most and that will help determine which of the brands will be the primary ones.

Presented by Robin McCormick, Communications Strategist.

REGIONAL ISSUES

There were no regional issues.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no items of new business.

CLOSED SESSION

5. [20-0173](#) Closed session pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 2.2-3711.A .1, .3 and .8 to discuss appointments as listed on the agenda and performance of City Council appointees; for discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and the disposition of publicly held real property in the Kecoughtan Road Corridor, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the City; and to discuss specific legal matters regarding city codes pertaining to parking which require the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

At 3:14 p.m., a motion was made by Councilmember Linda Curtis and seconded by Councilmember Steven Brown, that this Closed Session - Motion 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

Following a brief recess, Council reconvened in the Community Development Conference Room at 3:35 p.m.

6. [20-0114](#) Consideration of Appointments to the H2O Community Development Authority
7. [20-0142](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Building Code Board of Appeals
8. [20-0144](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities
9. [20-0162](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board
10. [20-0163](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Virginia Alcohol Safety

Action Program Advisory Board (VASAP)

- 11. [20-0164](#) Consideration of an Appointment to the Peninsula Airport Commission
- 12. [20-0165](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Hampton Redevelopment & Housing Authority
- 13. [20-0166](#) Consideration of an Appointment to the Grievance Board
- 14. [20-0168](#) Consideration of Appointments of Council Liaisons to Various Boards, Commissions and Committees

CERTIFICATION

- 15. [20-0174](#) Resolution Certifying Closed Session
A motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs and seconded by Councilmember Linda Curtis, that this Closed Session - Certification 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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Contact Info:
Clerk of Council, 757-727-6315, council@hampton.gov

Donnie R. Tuck
Mayor

Katherine K. Glass, CMC
Clerk of Council

Date approved by Council _____