



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 Chris L. Bowman
Councilmember Eleanor Weston Brown
Councilmember Steven L. Brown
Councilmember Billy Hobbs
Councilmember Chris Snead

STAFF: Mary Bunting, City Manager
Cheran Cordell Ivery, City Attorney
Katherine K. Glass, Clerk of Council

Wednesday, July 8, 2020

1:00 PM

Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tuck called the meeting to order with all members of the City Council present.

Present 7 - Councilmember Chris L. Bowman, Councilmember Eleanor Weston Brown, Councilmember Steven L. Brown, Vice Mayor Jimmy Gray, Councilmember Billy Hobbs, Councilmember Chris Snead, and Mayor Donnie R. Tuck

DONNIE R. TUCK PRESIDED

AGENDA

1. [20-0175](#) Briefing on Environmental Impact Bonds (EIB)

Attachments: [Hampton \(City of\) VA EIB Presentation 2020.07.01 FINAL](#)

City Manager Mary Bunting introduced the item.

Senior Vice President of Davenport and Company LLC (the City's financial advisor) David Rose greeted those on the dais.

Mr. Rose reminded everyone that each spring, Davenport reviews the City's operating budget and approved 5-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). He shared that the City is planning for approximately \$50 million of bond-funded CIP needs for the upcoming FY2021 year. Approximately \$36.5 million of these needs are General Fund and School related improvements, and approximately \$12.5 million are ongoing storm water related improvements. Mr. Rose clarified that there is a dedicated revenue source for storm water related improvements; whereas, other improvements

come from the General Fund.

Mr. Rose announced that over the past year, City staff has worked with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Quantified Ventures to be one of the first cities in the Hampton Roads area to issue Environmental Impact Bonds (EIB) for storm water related needs. He defined an EIB as a financing tool that funds green infrastructure that promotes sustainability and enhances accountability for a local government.

Mr. Rose shared the planned funding approach and the goals and benefits of the City of Hampton using an EIB.

Mr. Rose began speaking about interest rate trends. In response to Mayor Tuck, Mr. Rose explained that certain things will need to occur around August before going to the market place; thus, Davenport is seeking Council's approval to move as quickly as possible. The hope is that rates will continue to remain favorable as this will provide a better scenario for cash flows.

Mr. Rose continued speaking about interest rate trends for the years 1980 through 2020.

Mr. Rose reviewed the timetable of events for the next few months and then opened the floor for questions.

In response to Councilman Brown, Mr. Rose shared that historically, rates have remained stable leading up to a national election.

Councilwoman Brown commended staff for pursuing the EIB financing tool as this will help Hampton become the center of excellence for environmental infrastructure. She also thanked the Chesapeake Bay Foundation for their assistance with this initiative.

2. [20-0153](#) Briefing on the Safe and Clean Initiative

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

City Manager Bunting introduced the item.

Assistant City Manager Steve Bond began the presentation and spoke about the more than 18 City departments involved in the initiative. He noted that today, updates will be provided by the following departments: Property Maintenance, Housing and Neighborhoods Division of the Community Development Department, the Youth and Young Adult Opportunities Office and the Hampton Police Department.

Mr. Bond provided a brief background about the safe and clean initiative and stated that the goals of the initiative are to decrease incidences of violent and serious property crimes, to reduce blight, and to ensure housing is kept to standards of safety. He added that the ultimate goal is to ensure that every citizen in the City is able to live in a neighborhood in an environment where they can reach their full potential.

Mr. Bond listed the strategies of the safe and clean initiative. They are to implement new tools for enforcement; to ensure that all departments work together in a collaborative function; to establish relationships with neighborhoods; to build trust and increase communication with police and other City officials, agencies and departments; and to offer City programs and tools for neighborhood improvements.

Mr. Bond listed the safe and clean focus areas as: Derby Run, Magruder Heights, Hampton Club, Magruder Commons, Doolittle Road, Seldendale, Cherry Acres, Old Northampton, Old Hampton, Phoebus, Magnolia, Shell Road Corridor, Park Place and Wythe.

Property Maintenance and Zoning Enforcement Manager Kimberly Mikel spoke about the safe and clean initiative as it relates to property maintenance.

Ms. Mikel shared information about the rental inspection program and stated that the goal of the program is to ensure that tenants have a safe and sanitary dwelling. She shared other information about the program including additional rental inspection goals; the rental inspection districts (North Phoebus, Shell Road, South Phoebus, Sussex, Hampton Club, Holly Homes, Old Hampton and Fox Hill Townhomes District); and rental inspectors' activity.

In response to Mayor Tuck, Ms. Mikel confirmed that the department only has one rental inspector.

Ms. Mikel continued the presentation and announced that, at the direction of City Council, staff has established a team that is looking into the current rental inspection process to identify areas where we can become more effective. She added that Council will be updated on the teams' progress.

Ms. Mikel spoke about the Property Maintenance Divisions' responsibilities with regards to hotel inspections, the Hotel Ordinance and goals associated with hotel maintenance.

Ms. Mikel shared information about the codes that are enforced by the Property Maintenance and Zoning Enforcement Division. They include: the Zoning

Ordinance, the Virginia Maintenance Code and the City Code. She also provided statistics related to the number of violations and inspections that occurred in the last performance year.

Ms. Mikel spoke about general code violations and what the division can and cannot enforce. She emphasized that the division cannot enforce things based on aesthetics. She also shared some examples of what the division can and cannot enforce regarding paint, high grass, and debris.

Discussion took place among Ms. Mikel, Community Development Director Terry O'Neill, and members of Council regarding additional types of violations which can and cannot be enforced.

For the benefit of the public, Ms. Bunting reminded everyone that the General Assembly has frowned upon some enforcements because they view the State in totality. She added that hopefully we will obtain more authority from the General Assembly next year now that staff has derived to a formula that works with regard to obtaining authority for enforcing additional violations.

Ms. Mikel spoke about new legislative authority granted to localities by the General Assembly during its last session.

Ms. Mikel opened the floor for questions and comments from those on the dais.

Discussion took place among staff and the members of Council. Topics of discussion included: the number of properties in the rental inspection program (this number was unavailable and will be provided to Council at a later date); 22,524 inspections were completed by the entire division for the year, not by the one rental inspector alone; and Social Services' and the Health Departments' involvement in hotel inspections and restrictions on extended stays at hotels.

Housing and Neighborhood Services Division Manager Jonathan McBride spoke about the safe and clean initiative as it relates to neighborhood engagement and housing activities in the safe and clean areas. He announced that the Extreme Home Repair Blitz scheduled for this spring was canceled due to COVID-19 and is expected to take place in the fall. He also shared a bit of information about the success of the 2019 Extreme Home Repair Blitz which was a joint effort with the City of Newport News.

Mr. McBride shared information about some of the City's Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) pilot areas including North Phoebus and Shell Road, and interdepartmental and external safe and clean support in various neighborhoods in

the City.

In response to Mayor Tuck, Mr. McBride stated that quality of life surveys are conducted approximately four times per year. He added that the Police Department maintains the survey information.

Mr. McBride continued speaking about ABCD pilot areas and announced that progress is being made in Old North Hampton with regards to housing and safe and clean work. He also encouraged people to attend the Hampton Codes Academy as it is a good way to educate people on property maintenance in an attempt to prevent code violations.

In response to Mayor Tuck, Mr. McBride stated that the effort to obtain volunteer code inspectors was delayed due to COVID-19; however, the goal is to move forward with re-vamping that program in the fall.

In response to Vice Mayor Gray, Mr. McBride stated Neighborhood Commissioners are needed in District 1 (Northampton); District 9 (Wythe); and the North King Street area.

Mayor Tuck opened the floor for additional questions and comments from those on the dais. No questions were posed.

The Office of Youth and Young Adult Opportunities Program Manager, Synethia White, provided an overview of the departments' programs related to the safe and clean initiative including the Summer Youth Employment Program and the FY20 Mini Grant Program.

Ms. White shared information about the Office of Youth and Young Adult Opportunities' partnership with Cities United. She also spoke about the many committees and partners with which the office works. She explained that participation with these groups allows them to identify opportunities to integrate their work with that of the organizations and provide opportunities to improve outreach.

Mayor Tuck referenced the public safety partnership, and shared an example of a young man who participated in a fire training camp and how the camp was the beginning of this young man's success story. He noted that this is an example of how these partnerships are so valuable.

Ms. White spoke about community engagement initiatives. The Virginia Attorney General's Office, the faith community and the City of Hampton will host "Community Explosions," a series of neighborhood resource gatherings. Additional initiatives

include: dialogues, community conversations, youth town halls, high school survey pop up shops and Academies of Hampton events.

Ms. White provided updates on some of the FY18 initiatives beginning with the Reach Inspire Support and Empower (R.I.S.E.) Initiative. This mentoring program, supported by the Mayor and the Hampton City Schools Superintendent, pairs young black men with mentors who commit to working with these young men for two years as they transition into high school.

Ms. White also provided updates on the following initiatives: Hampton United, Hampton Strong: Road Map for Youth Violence Reduction; Rapid Engagement of Support in the Event of Trauma (R.E.S.E.T.); and Hampton Hoops.

Vice Mayor Gray commented that he appreciates everything being done for the youth in our City and then asked how many people are being served under the Mini Grant Program.

Ms. White stated that as of mid-year (March) everyone was tracking well. She noted that she would provide fund allocation figures to the City Manager to be forwarded to Council. This information will be based on what was allocated and the number of young people serviced throughout the course of the grant year through all of the programs.

In response to Vice Mayor Gray, Ms. White stated that opportunities for parents and opportunities for real employment and entrepreneurship for young people have been identified as areas in need of additional support.

In response to Councilman Brown, Ms. White confirmed that the number of participants in the Summer Youth Employment Program has been reduced from 80 to 40 due to COVID-19 restrictions; however, plans are underway to determine other ways in which 40 additional youth can be supported.

In response to Councilman Brown, Ms. White clarified that training and trauma informed sessions are included as part of the wellness program. She also said that she is familiar with the YouthBuild Grant; however, our program is not large enough to participate in it.

In response to Councilwoman Brown, Ms. White shared that staff has met with some of the senior citizens at the senior center to express the need to connect seniors with youth in the community.

Councilman Brown expressed concern about grass roots organizations that are

hesitant to apply for mini grants because they assume there is a 501(c)(3) requirement. Ms. White confirmed that is not a requirement.

In response to Councilwoman Snead, Ms. White confirmed that the City pays the salaries of those who are employed with our external employer partners. Councilwoman Snead suggested inquiring whether our external employer partners would be willing to pay those salaries in exchange for the benefit of employing those individuals as this may provide a way for companies to have stake in development of employees while simultaneously allowing us to grow and become eligible for additional grant funds.

Ms. Bunting added that there are businesses which support the Academies of Hampton and are committed to doing what Councilwoman Snead suggested as they have seen the positive results from the work of Academies of Hampton and realize that it is not only good for students, but also for building a future pipeline of employees. She agreed that this is an opportunity for growth.

Councilwoman Snead noted that the Pipefitters Union Program is one which welcomes young people and is willing to pay for them to learn new skills.

Mayor Tuck said that some of those programs require a five-year commitment for participants to learn a new trade each year to be applicable in the shipyard and receive compensation. He added that this is good news for some; however, this route may not work for teenagers who are still in school. He also asked Ms. White to speak about the success rate of those who are out of school and in the 18-20 year-old age range.

Ms. White said that program success rates vary and then shared a success story of a young man who attended her program and later became employed with an asbestos removal company. She explained that her office is responsible for assisting young people who are on the cusp of making bad decisions and helping them realize the many opportunities they have to succeed. She noted that the office is working to get more employers comfortable with having younger people as potential permanent part-time employees as this provides high schoolers and other youth with opportunities to work and remain busy. She noted that the office welcomes new partnerships to continue with these efforts.

Councilwoman Snead suggested that it would be beneficial to see additional success stories and outcomes of these programs in order to determine whether these programs are working.

Ms. White agreed that highlighting positive stories is helpful and encourages other

youth to be successful. She added that many programs highlight their success stories.

Councilman Bowman thanked Ms. White for the excellent presentation, noted that youth violence may be increased without these programs, and asked whether there is a system which tracks the level of youth violence and success of these programs.

Ms. White stated that there has been a reduction in youth violence as a result of these programs and noted that she would provide a full report to the City Manager to be forwarded to Council. She added that her office is working on additional measures that can be taken to prevent youth violence.

Mayor Tuck commented that if Council agrees that this program has a significant impact on our community, then we should be willing to put additional resources toward the effort. He acknowledged Ms. White's tremendous work as a one person staff department and for receiving local and national recognition for her work.

Ms. Bunting echoed Mayor Tuck's comments and reminded everyone that funds are in the budget once revenues stabilize from the current pandemic. For the benefit of the public, she also reminded everyone that Council and the School Board have agreed to put more money into play and are hoping to build more partnerships for this effort. She clarified that this department's function was never intended to run programs; instead, it was to bring ideas to the table and build partnerships. She reiterated that hopefully, revenues will stabilize allowing the Summer Youth Employment Program to increase the number of participants to 120 next summer.

Councilwoman Snead agreed with the Mayor's comments and added that the reason she has pushed to hear about more success stories and outcomes is because these examples reveal whether we are on the right track, how effective our work is and the end result of the program. She commended Ms. White for her diligent work and efforts.

Ms. White noted that a score card showing the results of the work will be part of a future presentation to Council.

Assistant Police Chief O. Gallop presented on the safe and clean initiative as it relates to the Hampton Police Division. He presented a comparison of statistics from years 2015 - 2019 and the first six months of 2020 for the safe and clean areas of the City. Statistics were listed for categories including: safe and clean part-I offenses, violent offenses (murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault) and safe and clean part-I property offenses (burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft).

Assistant Chief Gallop announced that the numbers have remained consistent over the 5-year period with a noticeable decrease in crime over the first six months of 2020, the lowest numbers since the beginning of the safe and clean project.

Mayor Tuck expressed interest in seeing statistics related to crime in the entire City. Assistant Chief Gallop said there have been overall increases in some violent offenses, some of which will be shown later in the presentation. He also noted that during the presentation he (Assistant Chief Gallop) would compare safe and clean numbers to overall numbers.

Ms. Bunting assured Mayor Tuck that staff would provide Council with a complete update including overall statistics for the past six months. She reminded everyone that the information being presented today is about safe and clean areas of the City which were selected based on a higher level of activity.

Assistant Chief Gallop continued with the presentation.

In response to Mayor Tuck, Assistant Chief Gallop explained that the reduction in crime in some years can be attributed to arrests that were made during those years (once some criminals were arrested, the number of crimes being committed decreased). The decrease can also be attributed to the increase in monitoring safe and clean areas of the City.

Assistant Chief Gallop continued the presentation and shared statistics for property offenses including motor vehicle theft and burglaries. These numbers are the lowest since beginning monitoring safe and clean areas.

Assistant Chief Gallop noted that considering the COVID factor, it is difficult to project how the numbers will look for this year, and currently, the numbers are the lowest we have had.

Mayor Tuck asked how commercial burglaries play into the numbers. Assistant Chief Gallop explained that more people have been home during the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in a drop in residential burglaries and an increase in commercial burglaries. He noted that the City has seen a decrease in burglaries overall.

Assistant Chief Gallop continued the presentation and shared statistics related to larceny offenses in the safe and clean areas. He reported that larceny offenses have been low for the first six months of the year which could be attributed to COVID-19.

Councilwoman Snead emphasized that she is leery to think that crime trends have

lowered considering this has been an atypical year due to several unknowns and out of ordinary circumstances including COVID-19.

In response to Councilman Brown, Assistant Chief Gallop noted that additional comparisons such as the beginning of last year to the beginning of this year will be shared later in the presentation.

Assistant Chief Gallop reviewed the remaining statistics and trends for various crime categories for each fiscal year and then opened the floor for questions from those on the dais.

Councilwoman Brown suggested that it would be helpful to see overall data compared to safe and clean data in order to determine what percentage of offenses are taking place in the safe and clean areas versus overall. Assistant Chief Gallop agreed and noted that a lot of violent crime has been taking place outside of safe and clean areas.

Vice Mayor Gray suggested that it would also be helpful to see a report on the progress and the overall trends since the beginning of the safe and clean program.

Assistant Chief Gallop shared that local and federal partnerships have been developed in an attempt to reduce crime such as the partnership with the city of Newport News in which both cities share information regarding criminals moving back and forth between the two cities; this has been a means to successfully track crime between the two cities.

Ms. Bunting reminded everyone that oftentimes, problems take place between known individuals and begin with "hot people" and "hot activity" versus "hot spots". She said that in addition to the information the Mayor has requested, staff will also prepare a report regarding which safe and clean areas have improved and what areas of the City may now need more attention or may need to be considered as a new safe and clean area.

Councilman Bowman referenced the Tidewater group of police chiefs that meet to discuss crime. He asked whether Hampton participates in this group to learn about best practices which may be implemented in Hampton. He shared an example of a community in New Jersey that was able to drastically reduce its murder rate over a 12 month period through the implementation of community policing and engaging the community and asked if our police department reaches out to other communities to obtain information about what those communities have done to obtain success.

Assistant Chief Gallop stated Hampton is a member of Hampton Roads Chiefs of

Police where best practices are discussed. He explained that typically, they see how practices work for other localities before attempting implementing them in Hampton. He also listed additional organizations similar to the Hampton Roads Chiefs of Police including the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement (NOBLE) and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) of which Hampton has members who attend conferences to learn about potential best practices for implementation. He noted that oftentimes, what works in one locality may may not work in another. He also noted that best practices learned at these conferences are shared with the City Manager's Office. He assured everyone that Hampton communicates with other localities on a regular basis to discuss best practices and successes.

Councilman Brown asked how the City determines whether problems related to crime and various aspects of the rental inspection program have been mitigated over the years. He said that it would be helpful to see documented data driven outcomes related to the reasons for reduction in crime and other aspects of the safe and clean initiative. He clarified that this will create a better picture of our City and citizens may feel safer knowing this information.

Assistant Chief Gallop said that involves a long-term approach and crime prevention. He added that typically, there is not one reason for reduction in crime, instead, it is usually a combination of things.

Ms. Bunting said it is difficult to report causal effects; however, staff will provide a report which will include the additional data Councilman Brown has requested.

Councilwoman Snead expressed concern that the safe and clean initiative has not been very effective in reducing crime in safe and clean areas. She suggested re-examining and expanding the program in an attempt to receive better results. For example, hosting neighborhood meetings where people learn about property maintenance and how to be good neighbors. She also expressed concern about the City only having one rental inspector.

Assistant Chief Gallop said it is difficult to calculate crime prevention; however, things have leveled significantly and may have been worse had we not implemented the existing programs and initiatives. He added that oftentimes, immediate results are not seen, but will be seen later or in another season.

Ms. Bunting reminded everyone that there are many factors involved, some of which cannot be controlled by government. She emphasized that the broader picture is about the entire community rowing in alignment to receive maximum utility. This can be done by involving organizations and groups such as healthy families, the school

system and neighborhoods in the process of intervention and prevention.

With regards to the rental inspector, Ms. Bunting explained that it was determined that four inspectors were not needed all the time. She said that she would explore that topic with the Community Development Department Director and report back to Council.

Ms. Bunting noted that staff will schedule a strategic session in the fall to discuss some of these issues in length.

Assistant City Manager Bond made closing remarks and opened the floor for additional questions. No questions were posed.

At 3:36 p.m., Mayor Tuck called a short recess. Council reconvened at 3:45 p.m.

3. [20-0167](#) Discussion of the Composition of the Planning Commission

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

City Manager Bunting introduced the item and noted that the Mayor requested this item be added to the agenda.

Mayor Tuck explained that usually the newest member of Council is appointed to the Planning Commission for the purpose of providing history of Council's plans for land use issues. He expressed concern that the newest member may be unfamiliar with the history and may not be able to offer input; and, therefore, asked that the composition of the Planning Commission be discussed at today's meeting.

Deputy City Attorney Bonnie Brown shared the legal requirements for the composition of Planning Commissions and their memberships.

Community Development Department Director Terry O'Neill spoke about the current membership and composition of the Hampton Planning Commission and reviewed City Council's options for crafting a new composition or keeping the current one. He also shared the composition of Planning Commissions for several other localities in Virginia.

Mayor Tuck noted that the chart shows 9 members on the Richmond Planning Commission; however, 8 are listed in the composition. Mr. O'Neill said he would have to check into why the number does not match.

Mr. O'Neill said that the Community Development Department annually tracks data to measure alignment between the Planning Commission and the City Council. He also shared information regarding the concurrence rate between the two bodies and added that this information indicates excellent alignment between the two bodies.

Mr. O'Neill listed the advantages and disadvantages of maintaining the current composition and the advantages and disadvantages of switching to a composition which replaces City Council and/or City Manager designees with citizens.

Mr. O'Neill noted that in attending Planning Commissioners institutes and conferences, he has found that the composition and relationship with the two bodies in Hampton is looked upon favorably across the state.

Mr. O'Neill opened the floor for questions and comments from those on the dais.

Ms. Bunting said that she researched the Richmond Planning Commission and its composition is as follows: 5 citizen members appointed by Council, 1 member appointed by the Mayor, 1 member of City Council, the Chief Administrative Officer appointee and 1 member of the Board of Zoning Appeals, for a total of 9 members.

Mayor Tuck shared that years ago, when he served on the Durham Planning and Zoning Commission, the executive representative briefed the Commission on issues prior to coming before the Commission which is representative of the executive administrator's perspective here in Hampton.

Councilwoman Snead commented that having worked for the City for 34 years, she thought she was knowledgeable about how all City departments worked; however, after becoming a member of Council, she realized that she did not have much knowledge about land use issues. She continued stating that participating on the Planning Commission was beneficial because she learned land use and zoning information which was useful as a member of Council. She agreed with Mr. O'Neill about how well Hampton's system works and shared that when she attended the Planning Commission Institute, the instructor commented that localities should consider mirroring Hampton's Planning Commission composition. She also recommended that if our composition changes to where we do not have a member of Council or staff on the Planning Commission, that there be at least one member of Council as a liaison to the Planning Commission.

Councilman Brown echoed Councilwoman Snead's comments and said serving on the Planning Commission was beneficial when he transitioned to being a member of Council because he had knowledge of land issues and it helped when voting on recommendations from the Planning Commission. He said he is pleased that our

Planning Commission and Council works well together and we should not change what is not broken. He added that he enjoyed his years serving on the Planning Commission and is pleased that we were recognized at conferences for our way of doing things.

Vice Mayor Gray commented that while he served on the Planning Commission he appreciated the way staff briefed the Planning Commission and shared Council's views about issues. He continued stating that he would like to see more citizen participation on the Planning Commission while keeping a Council liaison and staff member on the Planning Commission.

Councilwoman Snead suggested that if we move toward the liaison option, the Council and staff representatives should be allowed to remain on the dais as this provides an opportunity for their participation and to be recognized by citizens. Vice Mayor Gray agreed with Councilwoman Snead's suggestion.

Councilman Hobbs shared his experience on the Board of Zoning Appeals and the benefit of having representatives from the City Attorney's Office involved in the process to ensure everything stayed on track. He also noted that if things are working well, there is no need to change.

Councilman Brown added that a challenge associated with having two members on the Commission who are not allowed to vote is that there may be difficulty with obtaining a quorum.

Mayor Tuck noted that the quorum issue also came up during the campaign; therefore, he agrees that attendance is important. He also commented that Council is well-briefed in every situation, oftentimes by the City Manager, the City Attorney and Mr. O'Neill showing that Council has received ample preparation for issues that come before them. He continued stating that there is alignment between the two bodies on things that are done with regards to important things of the City. He said in his opinion, the Planning Commission should be a citizen-lead commission with someone in attendance who has land use background who can offer information as needed. He closed his comments stating that over the past 10 years, he has not seen much value in having a Council member on the Commission.

Councilwoman Brown said having never served on the Planning Commission, she appreciates hearing all of the perspectives presented today. She also noted that it is difficult to determine whether the success of our Planning Commission is attributable to its structure or good briefings. She said that she has reservations about making a change because Hampton has been viewed the envy of others because of our good structure; however, we may not always have excellent staff as we do now which

provides excellent briefings to educate Council and the Planning Commission.

Mayor Tuck reiterated that regardless of history or institutional knowledge, if the newest member of Council is assigned to the Planning Commission there still is not much value added.

Councilwoman Snead reminded everyone that the appointment was set up this way by a previous Council with the purpose of creating an opportunity for the new member to learn about land use issues and to report back to Council what was discussed at the Planning Commission, therefore, in her opinion, there is value to doing things this way. She said that she could go along with the liaison option; agreed with the concern about the quorum; agreed that there is excellent alignment and communication between the two bodies; and expressed that there is the potential for attendance problems.

Vice Mayor Gray added that when people are appointed to important Boards and Commissions, the expectation is that they will attend meetings. He suggested that if business is not able to be conducted due to lack of attendance or a quorum, then that is a problem Council needs to address.

Councilman Brown agreed with Vice Mayor Gray's comments, and pointed out that there are cases in which citizens cannot attend meetings due to circumstances out of their control. He also said that things do not have to go according to tradition and suggested Council discuss internal processes as there are variables to consider including the new Councilmember may not want to serve on the Planning Commission or the current member may not want to leave.

Councilwoman Brown suggested another option may be to enlarge the Planning Commission or add more citizens to the current composition.

City Attorney Ivery reminded everyone that there is a statutory removal provision which applies to the Planning Commission. She explained that as the governing body, Council may remove an individual who has missed three consecutive meetings or four meetings in a 12 month period.

Vice Mayor Gray added that when he was new to Council, he did not immediately go on the Planning Commission because the Councilmember in place wanted to finish their term, so he served later.

Mr. O'Neill said another option for consideration may be to add designated alternates.

In response to Ms. Bunting, the City Attorney confirmed that a code amendment would be required if Council decided to make a change.

The Mayor requested feedback from the members of Council to receive a sense of where everyone stood.

Councilman Bowman stated that he has attended most Planning Commission meetings over the past few years and observed that the unit here works well and is effective. He suggested leaving things as they are or compromising by expanding the number of members as Councilwoman Brown suggested.

Vice Mayor Gray said that he would like to see more citizen participation and whatever Councilmember serves could serve as a liaison on the Planning Commission while offering input but not necessarily have a vote. He added that an additional staff member could attend meetings in an advisory capacity.

Councilwoman Brown said that she would be inclined to leave things as they are, but will defer to those who have more intimate knowledge about the subject. She added that she believes it is critical to have a member of Council remain on the dais as a liaison and be involved positively as we have seen for many years.

Councilman Brown said he appreciates today's dialogue and everyone sharing their experiences on the Planning Commission. He said the Planning Commission is one of many commissions that has worked well and he is comfortable keeping it as is, although he would agree with expanding it to add more citizens.

Councilman Hobbs stated that he is in agreement with leaving it as is and believes if it is not broken, do not fix it. He agreed with Councilman Brown in that some rules need to be put in place with regards to attendance and other things to ensure rules are being followed. He also agreed with Vice Mayor Gray regarding additional citizen input.

Councilwoman Snead stated that she would like the Planning Commission to remain as it is. She added that she believes the way it is currently set up creates a learning opportunity for new members of Council to learn about land use items that they will be making decisions about in the years to come.

In response to Mayor Tuck, Mr. O'Neill stated that he would contact the Planning Commission Institute about coming here for onsite training and report that information to the City Manager.

Councilwoman Snead suggested that if the institute is brought here that citizen

appointees be required to attend the institute to learn about land use topics.

Mayor Tuck noted that it appears that the number of people who want to leave things as they are outnumbers those who want to change things.

Mr. O'Neill thanked Council for all of their kind words.

REGIONAL ISSUES

There were no regional issues.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Tuck displayed a clear waste bag as an example of what is properly used for disposal of yard waste and stressed conserving our available landfill space. He also reminded citizens of the proper way to dispose of yard waste.

CLOSED SESSION

4. [20-0183](#) Closed session pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 2.2-3711.A.1, .3, .7 and .8 to discuss appointments as listed on the agenda as well as appointments to the public boat ramp advisory committee; to discuss the acquisition of real property for a public purpose in the area of the Kecoughtan Road Corridor, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the City; to discuss specific legal matters regarding a development agreement and city codes pertaining to parking which require the provision of legal advice by counsel; and consultation with legal counsel pertaining to actual litigation, where such briefing in an open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the city.

A motion was made by Councilmember Eleanor Weston Brown and seconded by Councilmember Chris Snead, that this Closed Session - Motion be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Weston Brown, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Snead and Mayor Tuck

5. [20-0114](#) Consideration of Appointments to the H2O Community Development Authority
6. [20-0142](#) Consideration of Appointments to the Building Code Board of Appeals
7. [20-0168](#) Consideration of Appointments of Council Liaisons to Various Boards, Commissions and Committees

CERTIFICATION

8. [20-0188](#) Resolution Certifying Closed Session
A motion was made by Councilmember Billy Hobbs and seconded by Councilmember Chris Snead, that this Closed Session - Certification be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Weston Brown, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Hobbs, Councilmember Snead and Mayor Tuck

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:38 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 _____