



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 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, September 23, 2020

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. Assistant City Manager Brian DeProfio was participating for City Manager, Mary Bunting, whose presence was required at Thomas Nelson Community College.

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

CEREMONIAL ITEMS

1. [20-0182](#) Spotlight on Community Partners Helping During COVID

Mayor Tuck called upon Communications Strategist, Robin McCormick, who provided the following information about the various community partners who helped during the COVID-19 pandemic.

When the pandemic hit, none of us were quite prepared. Governor Ralph Northam closed schools and non-essential businesses on March 24th and then issued a stay-at-home order on March 30th. We were all scrambling. Even if you braved going to the stores, you could not find essentials like toilet paper or sanitizer. There was a shortage of masks, even for health professionals and first responders. The rest of us were told not to buy masks to leave them for them, so when an order came

down that said we should wear masks, we were all scrambling. Many seniors were afraid to go out shopping. Many people were hurting economically, even if they were not sick.

That very first week, working with the Virginia Peninsula Food Bank and the United Way, the City of Hampton sponsored a fill-the-bus community-wide drive to collect non-perishable food, diapers, infant formula and cleaning wipes for Hampton residents in need during the Coronavirus crisis. The community eagerly responded filling not one, but three buses. There was no hoarding here. People were willing to share with those in need. Then to fill the need for masks, volunteer groups were mobilized to sew and donate a multitude of protective face masks for first responders and other essential City employees. This included Restoration Church, Phoebus Baptist, Liberty Baptist, Northampton Volunteer Fire Company Station 6, and Hampton Volunteer Fire Company Station 1.

Local businesses who were professionals at sewing adapted to the pandemic in order to meet the needs of first responders and other staff. These businesses included Bethel Tailor, SQ Sew Much Better, and Needle and Thread Alteration. Signature Canvas in Phoebus made 1,600 non-woven fabric masks with a pathogen blocking filter for sailors on the USS Wasp which was docked in Norfolk. They also made face masks and shields for medical personnel and first responders. Bass Pro Shops nationally donated up to one million face masks to healthcare workers and first responders with about 6,000 going to Sentara Careplex Hospital. Defense contractor, Threat Tec, made a different kind of mask with 3-D printing and also face shields for healthcare professionals in the region. Individuals pitched in as well. Velva Goodman marshaled enough people to make about 160 masks for seniors who live in Langley Village, and one very well-known individual, Tyrod Taylor, sponsored a mask and PPE giveaway as well. Vanguard Brewpub and Distillery quickly pivoted to make hand sanitizer.

As people were ordered to stay home, businesses had to furlough workers and the economic pains began to be felt. To feed seniors, a generous gift from Pharrell Williams created a partnership between World Central Kitchen that involved many restaurants including the Grey Goose, Mango Mangeaux, Bowman's Sole-N-The-Wall and others. That helped feed thousands of people in Hampton and gave much needed business to local restaurants. Mango Mangeaux fed school-aged children that first week and provided free delivery to medical professionals. They also prepared special packages for community members that included a handsewn mask and Mango Mangeaux products. Even fast food restaurants jumped in. Bojangles sent around a food truck. McDonald's provided free meals for healthcare workers for a week or so.

Some of the most vulnerable people in these times are the homeless. The HELP Agency has worked diligently to provide safe lodging and supportive services to those in our community experiencing homelessness. Lee Telecom, a communications company, partnered with Transitions Family Violence Services to put together and distribute care packages for those in need. Because the need continues, Fertitta's Diner held a relief drive just last week, providing more than 200 bags of food. That is just on the economic side.

On the health side, the Health Department in Hampton and the peninsula, Dr. Steve Julian and Dr. Natasha Dwamena, have provided valuable ongoing guidance to City leaders, as well as to the public. Health Department officials participated at least three times in the City Facebook Live chats held by Mayor Donnie Tuck, City Manager Mary Bunting and other officials and staff. They answered questions live from the public about the disease and prevention.

Early on, when there was a fear that our hospitals could become overwhelmed, the Hampton Roads Convention Center was one of three sites in Virginia designated by the Governor to be established as an alternate care facility if needed. They offered their facility and their staff supported extensive planning efforts by the Army Corps of Engineers, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, the Virginia Department of Health, and Sentara, Riverside, and Bon Secours Health Systems. The Coliseum was a regional site for the Virginia Department of Emergency Management deliveries and staff supported the unloading and distribution of supplies. Hampton was chosen as one of the state's first sites for a program by the Virginia Health Equity Leadership Task Force. They provided protective supplies to areas of Hampton experiencing disproportionate impacts. Over 10,000 individual bags were packaged by our Parks and Recreation and Leisure Services staff, and the distribution included visits by Dr. Janice Underwood, Chief Diversity Officer of the State, and First Lady Pamela Northam.

As soon as test kits began to be available, the Hampton NAACP, headed by Gaylene Kanoyton, teamed with Sentara to offer testing for the Juneteenth holiday. Free testing spread to other sites, sponsored by Sentara, the City, the Urban League of Hampton Roads, the Virginia Department of Health, Celebrate Healthcare, Empowered Believers Christian Learning Center, Hampton City Schools and Liberty Live Church and probably more. Testing is still ongoing. For those of you who may need free testing, contact the Health Department to find out the next site. The Virginia National Guard also did testing. Testing was done for those on the peninsula in nursing homes and jails. There was also some community testing.

One member of our community has made national headlines for his community effort. Eleven-year-old, Cartier Carey made national headlines, donating 22,000

diapers to single moms through his lemonade stand.

A brief video was shown about the positive ways in which those in the Hampton community responded to the pandemic.

Ms. McCormick noted that special guest, Cartier Carey, is scheduled to be recognized; however, had not yet arrived. She then turned the meeting over to the Mayor.

Mayor Tuck noted that Cartier Carey was expected to arrive shortly, thanked Ms. McCormick for the presentation and thanked all of the members of the community who gave unselfishly to the COVID-19 effort.

All of the businesses recognized were not physically present as the number exceeded the capacity allowed in Council Chambers with social distancing.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Donnie R. Tuck
Mayor

Katherine K. Glass, CMC
Clerk of Council

Date approved by Council _____