



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, February 10, 2021

1:00 PM

Council Chambers

AGENDA

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tuck called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. All members of the City Council were physically present in Council Chambers. Also, in order to not exceed the COVID restriction on gatherings of over ten people, also present in Chambers were Katherine Glass, Clerk of Council; Steve Fryer of Channel 47; and Lisa Vernon-Sparks, Daily Press reporter.

The City Manager, Mary Bunting, and the City Attorney, Cheran Ivery, participated remotely via Zoom from their offices and the presenters on the agenda items today will also participate via Zoom from their offices.

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

Mayor Tuck asked City Manager Bunting to introduce the afternoon agenda

Mrs. Bunting thanked the Mayor and presented a brief overview of the afternoon presentations and introduced Ross Mugler, Commissioner of the Revenue to give an update on the tax relief programs.

Due to a phone call, the Mayor temporarily stepped out of the meeting and Vice Mayor Gray presided in his absence.

2. [21-0077](#) Budget Briefings - Tax Relief Programs

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

Presented by Ross Mugler, Commissioner of the Revenue. Mr. Mugler greeted the Council and began an update on tax relief programs for the City's elderly and disabled and to give a status on the exemption program available for disabled veterans. He stated the City has three real estate tax programs available to citizens: Elderly or Disabled Real Estate Tax Relief which can be a freeze, deferral or an exemption. The exemption was grandfathered. The other program is a state mandated program which is a result of a constitutional amendment which took place in 2010.

He progressed to the next slide explaining the local option program requirements to qualify for Hampton's Real Estate Tax Relief Program. Mr. Mugler continued to the next slide discussing the tax relief available to Hampton homeowners for new applicants: tax freeze and deferral. He shared that the Council made a great enhancement years ago to take away the interest provision in 2014. Because of this, no interest accumulates on the deferral program which made it more attractive to the citizens.

Mr. Mugler continue to the next slide displaying the grandfathered exemption income level and tax relief. The following slide illustrated a snapshot of the FY19, FY20, and FY21 real estate tax relief local option. He announced the freeze was pretty constant as well as the deferral. Once the Council eliminated the interest provision there was a big jump in the deferral in 2014, but has remained steady.

The next slide showed the exemption program for the veterans. They anticipated 377,000.00 a year. The very first year in FY 12 was close to 700,000. There has been a 430% increase since FY12. The chart displayed rapid growth with no end in sight. A budget amendment was submitted requesting a state wide study because other localities were impacted greatly particularly Stafford, Chesapeake, Virginia Beach. A lot of growth has taken place here and there is a lot of interest to study due to the considerable amount of money made for the City of Hampton. Between FY20 and FY21 there was rapid growth. When the program first started there was a

service disability connected to serving in a type of combat and once the program was clarified it was anyone who served and 100% disabled. IF there's an illness developed since service, they may be able to qualify for the program.

Mr. Mugler concluded that a couple of delegates requested the locality is reimbursed at some percentage. He thinks it will be better to do a study and if the study goes through the impact can be assessed and go into the new biennial budget with a new governor and get revenues to give relief. He then opened the floor for questions.

City Manager Bunting addressed the Vice Mayor noting localities are disproportionately impacted by the tax relief efforts, particularly the ones relating to veterans. Some localities do not have much of an impact but, because Hampton is a military community, it is disproportionately impacted. The study that Mr. Mugler referenced could be very instrumental in providing some relief to the City.

Councilwoman Snead asked several questions and Mr. Mugler clarified that the 100% disability still applies to veterans; the referendum extends the qualification to spouses of veterans who are deceased; during his tenure, Hampton has always offered free taxes to one vehicle per veteran; and these programs do have an impact on revenue. Mrs. Bunting asked to proceed to next briefing if there were no further questions.

Vice Mayor Gray thanked Mr. Mugler

3. [21-0073](#) Update on Uses of CARES Act Funds

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

Mrs. Bunting introduced Assistant City Manager Brian DeProfio.

Mr. DeProfio greeted attendees and began his presentation concerning the CARES Act Plan recap and update. He proceeded to read the next slide in reference to the Coronavirus Relief Fund, the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021, and the use of funds under the CARES Act.

On the next slide, Mr. DeProfio reviewed the City's allocation funds that were distributed based on population. The City received two rounds for a total of \$23,470,958.00. The next slide explained that an appropriation action was brought to Council on June 10, 2020, and Council conducted a public hearing and adopted a resolution to amend the Fiscal Year 2020 Approved Budget. Part of the action was to appropriate any supplemental funding.

Mr. DeProfio reviewed the qualifications for expenditures that can be applied to the CARES Act. There would be expenditures occurred due to response associated with

the COVID-19 pandemic. Expenditures should not have been accounted for in budgets approved as of March 27, 2020, when legislation was put into effect.

The next slide illustrated the use of the CARES Funds including 5.5 million dollars for COVID salaries and leave. It constitutes some public safety salaries that deal directly with COVID-19 related issues that can eventually be charged to the CARES Act as well as leave that we give to employees impacted by COVID-19. He continued discussing hazard pay for staff ranging from police and fire fighters to solid waste operators who had high exposure or potential high exposure to COVID-19. Business support was allocated along with online transactions related to people who pay fees associated with paying taxes online. The funds provided funding to offset those fees. Individual and community assistance providing assistance with rent, daycare, and those types of activities during the pandemic that will be discussed later. Funding was also used for supplies and equipment the City used to respond to pandemic. He further discussed partner distributions to agencies that did not receive direct allocations. The City kept 5.8 million dollars in contingency to react to whatever demands the pandemic may place on the City.

Mr. Deprofio discussed the CARES Act Fund accomplishments. The funds provided hazard pay to City employees that qualified for the program initiated in the past summer/fall. The City also provided business support including forgivable loans through the Economic Development Authority. The Downtown Hampton Development Partnership Grant program provided grants and the City reimbursed them for the grant program. The Phoebus Partnership used funds to promote district businesses. The City also reimbursed the Coliseum Business Improvement District that provided personal protective equipment and sanitizing supplies and covered about a thousand employees in the district. As he mentioned before, the online transaction efforts were used to offset online fees. About 80,000 transactions benefitted from that effort.

He continued the accomplishments stating that under the individual and community assistance, the City partnered with several private and non-private entities including the United Way of Virginia Peninsula; Hampton Roads Ecumenical Lodgings and Provisions, Inc.; Healthy Families Partnership, Inc.; training partners and Hampton University. Hampton University will administer COVID-19 test for up to 2,000 residents this spring. The City felt this was an opportunity to work with the Virginia Department of Health shifting to focus more on vaccine distribution to fill a need. Under partner distributions, the City provided COVID related equipment, cleaning supplies, software capabilities with funding provided to the Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board. The City is also working with the Hampton Sheriffs' Department to implement a medical records system for the jail.

Mr. DeProfio proceeded to discuss the accomplishments under the supplies and equipment category. With City Hall access being limited, laptops provided resources necessary for staff to work virtually and continue to serve the community. Funds were also used to offer police officers mobile data terminals for the Hampton Police Department to reduce the opportunity for the virus to spread. The City also implemented hands-free equipment, air filtration systems, enhanced cleaning and PPE in City buildings. The air filtration system is an ionization system that ionizes the air and kills pathogens as it flows through the HVAC system. The levels of filters were enhanced to reduce the spread of the virus through the systems.

One of the newer projects started the first of the year is the vaccination clinic. There is a vaccination clinic at the Hampton Roads Convention Center focused on vaccinating employees as well as the at risk populations in the City. Mr. DeProfio stated that we continue to work with the Virginia Department of Health and Sentara Hospital to use as a major hub for vaccinations in our community. The City also purchased specialized cleaning equipment and supplies, PPE, laptops, and iPads to allow the hub's functionality.

In the next few slides, Mr. DeProfio summarized the position of the City with the CARES Act budget, CARES Act Funds Allocation, and additional CARES grant sources. He continued that the City budgeted for COVID salaries and leave. Some of the money was transferred to contingency in the line item. Hazard pay was higher than anticipated so contingency funds were transferred to bridge the gap. The program is complete and no additional expenses are associated with that line item. The funds from the business support program were spent. The online transaction efforts is continuing to at least the June 30th collection period. Of the individual and community assistance, the original budget was 2.5 million. At this time the City is at 2.8 million. The testing opportunity with Hampton University came about subsequent to initial budget planning and also expanded into workforce training efforts. Some of the money allocated to workforce training will likely be shifted to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs. About 4.8 million was budgeted for supplies and equipment; 4.2 million has been used. Some of the monies programmed on this category has been shifted to the vaccine clinic which is a new line item. The partnership distributions were completed. On the vaccine clinic \$862,000.00 of funds were allocated. The numbers are committed as of January 25th. At this time the City has occurred a half million dollars of expenses with the vaccine clinic.

He continued to discuss the plan going forward to conserve as much of the contingency as we can as we get into FY22. At this point in time it is not certain if the City will receive additional funding. Until that is approved the City will conserve as much funding to assist in FY22.

The next slides covered the CBDG program and the next slides will cover other funding sources that have come into our community. There is a little bit under \$700,000.00 of funding coming to the City through this company. The rules and regulations are different, but gives flexibility as we move forward. The City Council will be briefed in greater detail at the February 24th meeting and ask for approval of plan. The CARES Act Funds Allocated slide provided a preview with \$60,000.00 for business support, .5 million dollars to allocate to individual and community assistance. That would include additional partnerships with nonprofits to provide emergency food, shelter, and healthcare support for low income residents. The City also has additional money for workforce training. Some expenses initially programmed for CARES Act allocation were shifted over. There's an additional \$137,000.00 for other one-time costs for COVID-19 related supplies and equipment.

He noted that various City departments and agencies and some partners received funding through the CARES Act. The Fire Department received funds for PPE and disinfecting equipment, the Registrar received funding to support the election in the COVID environment. The Sheriff Department received funding to buy PPE and for overtime costs, test kits, and lab testing costs. The Social Services department received funding to assist with homelessness during the pandemic. The City was able to secure a grant of \$22,000 to expand high speed internet access at libraries and Fort Monroe Community Center. It was a competitive grant applied for in late fall of 2020. The City also receive funding from the Municipal Utility Relief Program to assist residents in the community with delinquent water and sewer bills.

Mr. DeProfio explained that the next couple of slides would cover funding that schools received. The schools used funds to support the digital learning programs implemented during the pandemic as well as cleaning and sanitation of buildings and retrofits that help keep buildings free of the virus. The schools also applied for additional funding to continue efforts to provide educational services to the community.

He concluded his presentation and opened the floor for questions.

The Mayor asked the Council if there were any further questions.

Vice Mayor James Gray asked a question about who would receive funding and how workforce training would occur within the individual community assistance.

Mr. DeProfio stated that currently the City is in conversation with providers used for healthcare training, facilities training, and software training. The providers have placement capability. The City is also in conversation with Thomas Nelson

Community College for opportunities to partner with them as well.

Councilman Bowman inquired about the 4.7 million in contingency.

Mr. DeProfio responded that the goal is to carry the 4.7 million into FY22 due to the pandemic.

Councilman Bowman asked him to provide detail about the 902 bed nights for the homeless.

Mr. DeProfio stated he did not know where they stayed, but can get that information. He thinks new facilities were established during the pandemic and will provide Councilman Bowman with the location of those facilities.

Councilman Bowman commented on the medical records for the jail and commended the City Manager and her staff for the excellent job of managing the program for the citizens, homeless, schools, city staff, and businesses.

Mr. DeProfio gave credit to Steven Lynch in the Economic Development Department. His skillset was used in the development process and is a great resource.

The Mayor asked if there were any questions or comments.

4. [21-0074](#) FY21 Mid-Year Council Approved Budget Updates

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

ity Manager, Mary Bunting introduced the item.

Director of Finance, Karl Daughtrey, greeted the attendees and citizens of Hampton and introduced his presentation to give an update on FY21 mid-year budget update. When the Finance Department adopted the FY21 budget, it was a pre-COVID-19 budget with an original assumption of \$12 million growth in revenues. The growth was set aside in a budget reserve lockbox and committed to providing City Council with quarterly updates on the budget. Mr. Daughtrey reinstated that on September 9th, the Finance Department provided City Council with the first quarterly update and today he will present the FY end budget projections for revenues and expenditures. He continued that recommendations will be offered on which appropriation should be unfrozen and released from reserved account. Lastly, he will provide a brief update on the outlook for 2022.

He continued to discuss the FY21 year-end revenues. The revenues are expected to grow \$5.8 million dollars. Initially, \$12 million dollars was budgeted. He discussed

some of the reasons and some of the major drivers that are impacting the revenue for FY21: general property taxes, other local taxes, interest earnings from investments, and fee-based programs. Under other local taxes, the trends for meal taxes are tracking about 6% under the performance of 2020. Admission taxes are down about 77% compared to 2020. Lodging taxes are down about 34%. All these revenues were impacted by the pandemic. As an effect of the pandemic the Federal Reserve lowered the interest rates which impacted the interest rates earned in the marketplace. Most of the rates earned in 2021 were less than 1% and we expect that to continue into the near future. The fee-based programs are expected to underperform the budget as an impact of the pandemic. He reported the school age program to be off budget by about \$1.5 million dollars, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) revenues by about \$651,000 and Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services by about \$.5 million dollars.

Mayor Tuck asked a question in reference to transports to the hospital.

Mr. Daughtrey responded that the number of transports is down compared to last year. He is unsure why they are down but can find out from Chief Monk why he thinks they are down and will give that information to Mayor Tuck.

City Manager Bunting added that in the early days of COVID, people were not choosing to go to the hospital due to fear of contracting COVID in the hospital. She suspects less calls for transport are due to that reason.

Mayor Tuck agreed but believe transportation to the hospital is more important than fear of going to the hospital.

Mr. Daughtrey followed up that they will look into the information and provide the Mayor with an update. He stated that Chief Monk would be able to provide a detailed analysis.

Councilman Snead asked about sales tax.

Mr. Daughtrey referred to a note concerning sales tax. He reported the sales tax is growing at a rate of 12.9% and expect it to be about 1.3 million dollars over budget. Some of the reasons they expect it to be over budget is due to some sectors in the community where sales are doing well such as home improvement stores, grocery stores and online sales.

Vice Mayor Gray inquired about the revenues of Rosie's Gaming Emporium since they reopened.

Mr. Daughtrey responded that the revenues were looking good from October of 2020 to January 2021 projecting \$.5 million dollars over the revenue estimate for 2021.

He continued onto the next slide for the FY21 year-end expenditures. When the slide was prepared, there was an assumption that no funds were released from the reserve. The slide is prior to releasing funds to the reserve. New funding of \$12 million dollars was set aside in a budget reserve and frozen. Eligible public safety salaries were reclassified from the general funds budget to the CARES Act funding which created a onetime budget savings. During the closeout of FY2020, the general fund contributions were prefunded to the Capital budget. The Finance Department is not planning to use \$3.5 million which will be considered a budget savings for this year. It is expected to save \$23 million for this Fiscal Year.

The City is expecting revenue growth of \$5.8 million dollars in recurring revenues for FY21. He continued that the next slide would discuss staff recommendations.

Mr. Daughtrey reviewed the FY21 General Fund Budget items frozen: compensation, debt service, extra contingency funds, new positions, new or expanded programs. These are the things that were set aside in reserve for 2021.

Based on the growth in revenues for 2021, the Finance Department recommends planned FY21 expenditures to be unfrozen. They are asking to release funds for the 3% pay increase as well as state mandated minimum wage adjustment to \$9.50. Staff compensation was one of the Council's top priorities during the FY21 budget process. The staff also recommends proceeding with FY21 bond issue. The bond issue planned for about \$36.9 million dollars because of the favorable lower interest rates in the marketplace it is a great time to go into the market. It is projected the City could save about \$200, 000 in annual debt savings on the FY21 bond year based on current lower interest rate environment which adds up to about \$4 million dollars over the life of the bonds. He continued that they are working with financial advisors to structure our debt service for FY22 and FY23 so there is minimal impact on the budget.

The staff is also recommending releasing cash funded capital improvement projects. As a part of budget planning some of the cash funded cap improvement projects were put on hold for FY20 and FY21. Based on revenue projections as well as revenue expenditures it is expected to add some amount to fund balance for the fiscal year. The other frozen expenditures will be part of the FY22 budget process.

Mr. Daughtrey reported the department will keep Council updated on a quarterly basis and will update the Council on yearly projections to keep them informed on how the fiscal year is looking. The Finance department will probably make

recommendations for an adjustment for an addition to the equipment replacement fund and may make other recommendations depending on how the year ends.

He provided FY22 outlook and beyond summary stating uncertainties due to the pandemic. The department will continue to monitor business sectors, interest earnings with the Federal Reserve, future federal budget cuts, increases in borrowing rates for real estate values and decline of bricks and mortar retail. He noted they would look cautiously and plan conservatively in developing the FY22 budget.

Mr. Daughtrey concluded his presentation and opened the floor for discussion and questions.

City Manager Bunting suggested the Council affirm their agreement with City Manager's recommendation to unfreeze the Fiscal 21 budget appropriations set aside for the 3% general wage increase and minimum wage adjustments with the understanding that the 3% general wage increase would be approved retroactively to the first pay period in January for qualified permanent full time employees and the Cash funded Capital projects be released. She continued that they're not asking for approval of bond issuance at this time. A presentation will be done by financial advisors and have the appropriate bond public hearings and according the City Attorney a formal vote is not needed. She suggested it would be helpful to have a motion on the record.

Vice Mayor Gray asked the City Manager to speak about capital projects funded.

Mrs. Bunting stated she is aware of money set aside for neighborhood pool grants capital projects. Mayor was recently asked about status from Willow Oaks community. It was cash funded and is now on hold. She requested concurrence to release the funds so capital improvements are made before the start of the summer season.

Mr. Daughtrey responded with the list of capital improvement projects. The list included the Neighborhood Improvement Program, Blighted Property acquisition, the housing improvement grant, the Human Resources payroll financial system, the weapons range cleaning, enhanced police equipment, police patrol vehicles, the Phoebus dock pier, the Hampton Coliseum parking lot, the Wythe recreation area parking lot, city wide landscape upgrade, masterplan updates, dollar lot program and neighborhood pools.

[21-0080](#) Motion to Accept the City Manager's Recommendation for Unfreezing the FY-21 Budget Appropriation Set Aside for the 3% General Wage Increase and Minimum Wage Adjustments with

the Understanding that the 3% General Wage Increase will be Approved Retroactively to the First Pay Period in January.

The motion was made by Councilmember Chris Snead and seconded by Councilmember Steven Brown, and, at the Mayor's request, was restated by the Clerk prior to the vote. 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. [21-0051](#) Strategic Focus - Living with the Water: Part B - Briefing on Stormwater Projects

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

City Manager, Mary Bunting introduced the item.

Water Resource Engineer, Brian Lewis, addressed attendees and proceeded with the presentation. He reviewed the City of Hampton storm water system: storm water infrastructure, storm water structures, ditches and culverts and storm water management facilities. Next, he provided a map of the City-wide drainage map illustrating the complexity of the system. He described the blue lines as pipes, and red lines as half pipes or swales. On the next slide Mr. Lewis discussed the City's aging infrastructure. There are several issues that impact the storm water system: aging infrastructure, increase in intense rain events, sea level rise, development, and environmental requirements.

Mr. Lewis explained several ways projects are identified starting with Economic Development; making sure storm system is capable of handling new Economic Development Initiatives, Community Development, Parks, Recreation, and Leisure Services, and Public Works. On the next slide he expressed the importance of all storm water projects being coordinated with various entities throughout the City including Community Development, Economic Development, Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services and others to determine the scope of the project. He explained project consultants submit plans for the City's review including both impacted departments and Public Works staff. Additionally, a plan is coordinated with supporting utilities. Then plans must be submitted to a variety of regulatory agencies. Mr. Lewis continued to discuss various types of storm water projects including flood reduction, water quality, resilience, outfall maintenance, storm water management facilities, update of aging infrastructure, assessment and cleaning of system throughout the City. He provided an example of a flood reduction, the Northampton area drain improvement. This was a contracted project that replaced an inadequate

drainage system with a new system throughout the neighborhood all the way to the outfall. The inadequate system was brought to today's standards. The City has received very few calls and concerns since the installation.

Mr. Lewis described the next several slides as citizens concerns. The first slide illustrated Harris Creek Road's drainage system. He stated that a lot of rainfall would accumulate in this area. It was basically an area of open ditches and water had nowhere to go. The storm water team went out and installed pipes and rerouted the road to the L-stream outfall. The next slide illustrated Patrick and Owen Street storm water improvements. There was no infrastructure and residents were forced to park in front lawns when there was heavy rainfall. Storm water teams installed a system that directed drainage into the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) ditch along I-64 which required a permit from VDOT. It drastically improved the neighborhood.

Mayor Tuck suggested it would be useful to know the improvements and cost of concrete swale within the older neighborhoods.

Mr. Lewis stated he could provide that information. He stated the work was not contracted out, so the labor costs are part of the storm water budget for the last year.

He proceeded to the next slide for Bellwood road storm water improvements. The area had an open ditch and piped driveway culverts that were off grade. As houses are developed, culverts are installed and are off guard. The storm water team installed a new system including replacement of all driveway culverts. The following slide illustrated the flood reduction of the Newmarket Creek storm water maintenance. Several bridges cross Newmarket Creek, so trash and debris accumulates against the piers. The storm water team is constantly out there removing debris and trash to open up the full capacity of creek and allow flow to continue unobstructed.

Mr. Lewis continued discussing water quality and explaining the projects that are the City's response to the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements. The first one is Pochin Place in the Indian River Creek Basin, adjacent to Kecoughtan Road between Pochin Place and Little Farms Avenue. The City acquired 12 acres and built storm water facilities on one side of the creek so if the creek overflows or rain comes in, there's an opportunity for the water to settle before going either further down or up stream. On the next slide, Mr. Lewis discussed the King Street Storm Water Retention Basin. This was a coordinated effort with Community Development moving the basin closer to the interstate to allow more future development. This portion had limitations on future development. When

the basin was designed it included the potential for future development in the area. The basin was sized accordingly so that way any individual development would not need to provide their own onsite storm water facilities.

On the next slide, Mr. Lewis spoke on the Boo Williams Sportsplex storm water management facility. It's related to the expansion of the parking lot at Boo Williams. The public works team constructed the storm water management system facility and installed a significant amount of other infrastructure including drainage, parking, curb and gutter, up to and including installation and landscaping in the area.

He announced Public Works is now moving forward with the design and ultimately construction management of these three resilient Hampton projects in coordination with the Resilient Hampton Team: Big Bethel Blueway, North Armistead Avenue Roadway raising, and Lake Hampton.

The next slide discussed future Resilient Hampton projects could include Honor Park. The City has applied for a grant to construct the Honor Park and install a Downtown Hampton living shoreline project that will begin at the end of Lincoln Street along the Hampton River and go along the City line all the way to Mill Creek Park. This will also provide water quantity and quality for various future development projects such as the WVS Companies' projects. Mr. Lewis described this as a win/win for all of us.

Mr. Lewis showed two examples of outfall maintenance that required a significant amount of permitting and potentially other issues. Storm water teams reshaped and cut ditches to allow drainage to go out quicker and reduce flooding upstream. On the left of the slide is Wind Mill Point Road off of Beach Road. The City has received permits from environmental regulatory agencies to go further. On the right is the Beach Road/Fox Hill ditch that drains from approximately Sharon Bass Road to Willow Road. The crew is about 50% complete with that project.

He displayed one more example off of Harris Creek Road that was retouched to improve drainage in the neighborhood. The next slide contained an update on the fall maintenance in the Old Wythe neighborhood/Indian River Creek dredging. There were a lot of environmental issues that needed to be addressed. Two phases are complete and they are now working with the Old Wythe Neighborhood Association looking at a third phase.

The City maintains 46 public storm water management facilities. Two examples include a facility off of Pembroke Ave. adjacent to the War Memorial Stadium and the one on the right is across from Airpower Park. They tried to install fountains and various ponds including one on Nickerson, Old Buckroe and on Saunders Road.

They are looking to do more fountains or aerators or anything that can enhance the water quality. Mr. Lewis announced that the City received a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation for the installation of infiltration basins. One is located in the Hampton Roads Center Parkway right-of-way and the other is adjacent to North King Street at the intersection with East Mercury Boulevard.

Mr. Lewis proceeded to review projects under consideration from concept to pending construction. Projects include Honor Park, Downtown Hampton shoreline, Coliseum Lake, Greater Wythe area drainage improvements, Halifax Road drainage improvements, Harris Creek Road ditch relocation, Kecoughtan Road, Little Back River Road, Phoebus Drainage improvements, and Phoebus Area drainage improvements.

He announced that one of the issues the City has is its historical infrastructure. He showed a before and after picture of a deteriorating system causing sinkholes. The storm water team replaced the failing pipe and regraded yards and everyone is satisfied. There is a strong need to clean and inspect storm water pipes throughout the City to reduce the chance of flooding. Public Works cleaned and inspected 75,682 feet of pipe last year during fiscal year 2020.

In summary, the City storm water system faces many challenges including ageing infrastructure, increased maintenance, and existing system needs improvements to sustain today's standards in increase of intense rain events sea level rise environmental requirements, staff would like to do more if there was more staff and funding. They are currently evaluating the Storm Water Fund for the potential increase to cover increased maintenance cost. He continued reading over services the storm water team offers customers.

Mr. Lewis completed his presentation and opened the floor for questions.

Councilman Hobbs suggested a video presentation so the citizens of Hampton could be more aware of the storm water team and their progress.

Mr. Lewis responded that is it time to do another video and they will coordinate with the Marketing Department.

City Manager Bunting added that she thinks it is a wonderful idea and will connect Brian with Robin McCormick and her team for a video presentation.

Vice Mayor Gray asked Mr. Lewis to expound on the length of time to get the permit required to start a project.

Mr. Lewis explained the process. He stated that either the storm water team or a consultant on their behalf completes a joint permit application that is submitted to the Virginia Marine Resources Commission who forwards it to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Virginia Department Environmental Quality and the local weapons board. The organizations that receive the application can have comments or concerns. It takes at least six to nine months but general speaking they allow at least a year. The process is an ongoing critical path to get ahead of the game.

Councilwoman Brown thanked Mr. Lewis for incorporating natural philosophies into the engineering plan of the storm water project.

Mr. Lewis responded acknowledging the Resilient Hampton team building good collaborations with Chesapeake Bay Foundation and James River Association and other nonprofits that reach out to the storm water project team when there's funding available. He stated there are great opportunities in the future and look forward to working with them.

Councilman Bowman asked if it was more cost effective to do it in-house.

Mr. Lewis responded that they are currently trying to put together information for the next Council meeting to discuss an in-house developing and in-house dredging team.

Councilman Bowman asked if old pipes were utilized depending upon condition.

Mr. Lewis explained that old pipes are used if possible but there are situations where the pipes have deteriorated so far that there is not enough of the original pipe to use without complete damage. They will clean and assess to identify pipes that they could use. He stated that it is less expensive to line a pipe then to replace. Mr. Lewis mentions the Northampton area drainage improvement upsize the pipe to meet today's standards and replaced pipes saving City to City mobilization costs.

Councilman Bowman acknowledged the staff correcting a Fox Hill drainage issue in a timely manner.

The Mayor asked if there were any questions or comments.

City Manager Bunting concluded the session

REGIONAL ISSUES

There were no regional issues.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no items of new business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Donnie R. Tuck
Mayor

Katherine K. Glass, CMC
Clerk of Council

Date approved by Council _____