



City of Hampton

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

Council Approved Minutes - Final City Council Legislative 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, April 14, 2021

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Councilmember Chris L. Bowman, Councilmember Eleanor Weston Brown, Councilmember Steven L. Brown, Vice Mayor Jimmy Gray, Councilmember Billy Hobbs and Mayor Donnie R. Tuck

Out: 1 - Councilmember Chris Snead

DONNIE R. TUCK PRESIDED

INVOCATION - Councilwoman Chris Snead

The invocation was given by Councilman Chris Bowman.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Tuck announced that this week, Hampton is hosting the 15th Annual Steven Todd Dooley Search and Rescue Forum, a joint operation sponsored by the Coast Guard Sector of Virginia and the Port of Virginia. Participants include police and fire divisions from the cities of Hampton, Norfolk, Newport News, Portsmouth, Chesapeake, and Virginia Beach, and the counties of Chesterfield and Henrico. This is the 15th year that Hampton has hosted this important forum where training on search and rescue and different types of operations takes place. Mayor Tuck added that this training and coordination came in handy last week during a rescue on the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel.

The Mayor indicated that April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and Autism

Acceptance Month and said that last week, during a conversation with Fire and Rescue Division Chief, Jason Monk, that he learned that there are 23 families within our Fire and Rescue Division who are touched by autism.

Lastly, the Mayor announced that April is also the Month of the Military Child. The City of Hampton will observe this on April 23 by lighting up City Hall in purple. The Hampton City School Division will also wear purple on that day.

CONSENT AGENDA

Clerk of Council, Katherine Glass, read the protocol for the consent agenda and a summary of the consent items.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Motion made by Councilmember Brown and seconded by Councilmember Hobbs, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Weston Brown, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Hobbs and Mayor Tuck

Out: 1 - Councilmember Snead

1. [21-0128](#) Resolution to Designate Wythe Creek Road Project as a Revenue Sharing Recipient Project and Transfer Virginia Department of Transportation Surplus Revenue Sharing Funds in the Amount of \$104,008 from the Buckroe Avenue Reconstruction Project to the Wythe Creek Road Project

Attachments: [Project Funding](#)
[Project Administration Agreement](#)
[Agenda Item Summary](#)
[Agenda Item Summary](#)

Item approved.

Aye: 6 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Weston Brown, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Hobbs and Mayor Tuck

Out: 1 - Councilmember Snead

2. [21-0126](#) Approval of the minutes from the work session of February 10, 2021, the legislative session of February 24, 2021, and the work session of March 24, 2021.

Item approved.

Aye: 6 - Councilmember Bowman, Councilmember Weston Brown, Councilmember Brown, Vice Mayor Gray, Councilmember Hobbs and Mayor Tuck

Out: 1 - Councilmember Snead

PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AWARDS

There were no presentations, proclamations, or awards.

Councilwoman Snead arrived at 6:35 p.m.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ms. Glass read the protocol for public hearings.

Use Permits

3. [21-0121](#) Use permit application by Jamelle Payne to permit a tattoo parlor in conjunction with a day spa at 3016 W Mercury Boulevard [LRSN 3001269]

Attachments: [Conditions](#)
[Application](#)
[Staff Report](#)
[Presentation](#)

City Manager Mary Bunting introduced the item and called upon City Planner Frank Glover to make the presentation.

Mr. Glover greeted those on the dais and said that this application is for a use permit for a tattoo parlor in conjunction with a day spa business. Mr. Glover reviewed the

next several slides of the presentation which provided information about the application including the site location, zoning and the Future Land Use Plan as it relates to the item.

Mr. Glover provided the following information about the proposal: This proposal from Browz and Esthetics Day Spa is for the use permit being used for cosmetic and permanent makeup, which our ordinance defined as tattoo parlor unless it is performed by medical staff. The day spa will also offer beauty treatments, body waxing, facial treatments and therapeutic massage. The business will be operating in a 2,400 square foot rented space.

Mr. Glover spoke about the Hampton Community Plan as it relates to the application. He also spoke about the seven conditions attached to the use permit, some of the most important ones are related to hours of operation; operation compliance requirements; screen of all tattooing procedures; and operation of the tattoo parlor.

Mr. Glover stated that the Planning Commission recommend approval of the item with seven conditions.

Mayor Tuck opened the floor for questions from Council. No questions were posed.

Public Hearing:

Mayor Tuck opened the public hearing. There were no speakers. Mayor Tuck closed the public hearing and called for the motion.

Mr. Glover noted that staff received a call from a citizen who inquired about the definition of day spa and this use permit; however, thus far, he has been unable to get back with the citizen to answer those questions.

Because the previous item concluded at 6:35 p.m. and the sign up period for public comment (6:45 p.m.) had not yet been reached, the Mayor asked the City Manager if she had anything to present. Ms. Bunting reported on the reopening plans for Hampton's libraries, community centers, neighborhood centers, pools and other City facilities.

Ms. Bunting thanked citizens for their patience during this time while some City facilities have been closed. She then gave the following introduction on the reopening plans for Hampton's facilities: Libraries had reopened; however, after the holidays when COVID cases spiked in our region, most of the cities closed libraries again. During the closure, Hampton continued to offer curbside and concierge service so that residents could still check out books, but we know that

people like to go in the libraries and browse, and there are other functionalities to going into the library as well, such as being able to use the computers and things of that nature. One of the reasons why we had not yet reopened is that our library staff, our community center staff and several others of our employees that work in closed facilities have been very instrumental in our vaccine clinic deployment. I want to thank them and all of our City staff that have been involved in the vaccine clinic deployment for their efforts. We have been able to vaccinate approximately 35% of our Hampton residents through our vaccination efforts. We would not have been able to do that if we did not have the staff to support those clinic operations. The state has announced that they will be opening a clinic that will be fully run by vendors at the end of this month which allows us to start to reposition opening some of these facilities.

Ms. Bunting gave the following report on the reopening of libraries: We are going to begin to re-open those (libraries) next Monday, April 19. We will have to continue to have some modified hours for a period of time, but we will be opening all of our branch locations to the public. We will also continue curbside service. We know that some residents are still uncomfortable going into buildings. We still have many residents who have not yet vaccinated, so the library department staff put forward a plan that will allow curbside collection Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., but you may also come into the physical branches Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Saturday, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Every location will operate at these reduced hours to minimize the risk of spreading the COVID virus. There is extra cleaning that we will be doing. I do want to remind folks that face masks will be required for all staff and required for all customers who are five years old or older. If a customer comes and does not have a face mask, we will offer the face mask to those. Patrons without a medical reason for not wearing a face mask will be denied service and asked to leave, although we will be able to do the curbside collection. Patrons will be allowed to visit the library for one hour per day because we do have to operate under governor constraints of how many people we can have in the library at a given time, so we want to make sure there's enough turn over in our libraries so that everyone who wants to come into the facility can do so.

Ms. Bunting gave the following report on the reopening of community centers and other related centers: It will take us a little bit longer to open our community centers because we have more community center staff helping to support our vaccine clinics and we do have to finish out our services there. I am pleased to announce that our four community centers (North Phoebus, North Hampton, West Hampton and Fort Monroe Community Centers) will open on May 3, as will our senior center (open on May 3). The community centers will have a slightly different operation and they will have COVID protocols as well. We do need to try to make sure, for

instance, in our fitness and gym areas that we keep proper social distance, so we are going to be using them as what the National Parks and Recreation Association under a nationwide program calls Wellness Hubs. Wellness activities will include access to the fitness equipment by appointment, plus physically-distanced classes like Zumba, Aerobics, Stretch & Strengthen, and Line Dancing, among others. We will be able to offer the after-school fitness from 2pm-6pm for kids who have been missing structured physical activities under the pandemic. These “wellness hubs” will open from 9am-6pm Monday through Friday at our Fort Monroe, North Phoebus, Northampton, and West Hampton Community Centers. We hope to expand the center hours in June and offer modified summer camps to assist working parents. Our neighborhood centers (Y.H. Thomas, Little England and Fox Hill) partner with our neighborhoods and they have neighborhood boards. We do want to work with the neighborhood boards and allow them to decide when they are ready to reopen. We will be working with the board at Y.H. Thomas and the Little England Center as well as the newly formed board at Fox Hill Center to decide when it is proper for them to re-open or open in the case of the Fox Hill Neighborhood Center. Regardless of the time and date that they decide to re-open, we will have our “USDA Pick-Up & Go” Feeding Program at all of these centers as we will at the community center. The Fox Hill Center: we’ve been working with them to do some pre-planning meetings, but we have not yet scheduled a ribbon cutting, so we will not be able to open that until some of the final renovations are done there. The Senior Center will open on May 3rd as well from 8:30am-4:00pm on Monday through Friday for fitness activities and classes, which I’m sure is welcome news for typically active seniors most affected by isolation over this past year. Staff will also begin offering a virtual bingo activity in May for those seniors who remain homebound. Our therapeutic recreation participants can look forward to a full summer camp beginning June 22 at the Therapeutic Recreation Center on Kecoughtan Road.

Ms. Bunting gave the following report on the reopening of pools: We’ve been asked a lot about pools. During COVID, we were limiting our access to pools in accordance with some of the guidelines that we had from the governor. The aquatic center had only been open for swim teams which had strict COVID protocols they were following in concert with USA swimming, but with the re-opening of our community centers, we will also open the Fort Monroe Pool and the Hampton Aquatics Center for lap swims by appointment beginning on May 3 as well, for all residents. Just as a recap: the James T. Wilson Fishing Pier had already reopened for the season on April 3rd, and the Hampton Tennis Center just reopened this week.

Ms. Bunting gave the following report on outdoor activities: We will be resuming our outdoor volleyball and basketball courts for at-your-own-risk play on May 3. The Downtown Hampton Carousel will re-open on June 1. At Sandy Bottom Nature

Park, the nature center will reopen, and boat rentals and camping will resume on May 3, but we will not be doing the Yurt Rentals which will remain closed until further notice.

Ms. Bunting concluded her report by speaking about large-scale Citywide festivals: At this time, with the Governor's restrictions, outdoor events that cannot be contained are subject to a limitation and we want to honor that; therefore, outdoor permit applications for events such as private weddings and graduation celebrations, we will accept, but they have to honor the Governor's guidelines of no more than 100 attendees. Picnic shelters will be available for rental under social-distancing capacities, that is generally 25 per shelter, with the exception of the larger River Birch Shelter at Gosnold's Hope Park which can safely hold more than 100 (persons), but under the Governor's guidelines, 100 persons. We are not going to be planning at this point in time, the large scale festivals that we normally do (like the Blackbeard Festival) as they do not appear to be in accordance with the Governor's guidelines.

Ms. Bunting again thanked the citizens for their understanding and patience while some City facilities have been closed for an extended period of time to support our vaccine operations, but with the state coming in to help us run the vaccine clinics at the convention center, we will now be able to resume operations.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chris Snead and seconded by Councilmember Billy Hobbs, that this Use Permits be approved with seven (7) conditions. 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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Glass read the protocol for the public comment period.

Ms. Pamela Withrow greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I'm here tonight to bring forward an issue that I am currently facing daily and nightly regarding feral cats visiting my property. It's an issue to me because I feed wild birds. I have numerous feeders and bird houses and this year, I have already had at least probably eight birds that have been killed. The remnants of feathers in my yard - I've fed these birds for many years and have never had this issue before. I'm here also because I hope that you all can work together and come up with some

short-term and long-term strategies to deal with the feral cat issue and the trapping issue and the animal control staffing issue that has been going on way too long. I did call animal control and asked for assistance in getting the cats trapped and was told there is a staffing shortage which I'm reasonable, that is perfectly understandable, but honestly, I've been told that on numerous issues regarding animal control and it has been going on for too long. So, you all please, please try to come up with some short-term solution to help me in my situation as I'm sure other citizens and businesses are also dealing with feral cats on their properties. Things like maybe contract with the city of Newport News to be able to do some trapping for citizens who need help or contract with a local company or an animal group, but there has to be a solution. We can't keep waiting until the unit gets fully staffed because the next thing you are told, is it's a six-week training course, it's this, it's that, and we need help at this point, right now. In terms of long-term strategies, I urge you all, to please consider, perhaps, removing it from the Police Division. If that has impediments in terms of being able to get personnel because of the background requirement, then perhaps a better solution would be to re-generalize the function with the City of Newport News. I think that would just be a win-win situation for everyone since they do have, currently, an effective animal control function. So, again, I am here on this specific issue and I'm just asking for help. I would like to note, for the record, that City Manager Bunting and Interim Chief Ferguson, they have expressed a willingness to get animal control to help me in my situation which is great and I greatly appreciate it, but other citizens need the help as well, I'm almost certain, but thank you for anything that you can do. I'd appreciate it.

Ms. Linda Seely greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I'm here tonight to talk about the feral cats. It's back the way it was. My husband and I took a tour of Buckroe in Hampton. It's just like it was in 2003. Much worse. It's bad. I was at a political function this past weekend and you would never think a cat or a dog would be mentioned at one, but people know that I love animals, but this one guy - I brought this up - I said do you have any animal problems? He said, yeah, I have some feral cat problems. My sister does too. I said, really. He said, but we can't give the animal control manger any work. I said do what now? Say it again. Because I wanted to make sure I heard him. I don't want her to know by all means that we are giving her any work. I let it go because someone interrupted me and I'm glad they did because I was getting a little aggravated. So, I got home and I told my husband about it. He said, Linda, they are every place - why do you even go to a social function like that and start talking about it? Why don't you just walk away when someone brings it up? I can't. I can't cut myself off from this stuff. It's awful now in my neighborhood. I've tried to feed the cats so much, they can't hardly get off my little stoop my husband has built to put all of his grills on, so they won't kill more birds, but it doesn't stop them, and they are precious. If I could save them all,

I would do it. But see, I called Angie about it and I told her where I thought it was coming from, well, it must be somebody rescuing. But it took me four hours to find this place and people were getting mad because I was asking them do they see feral cats. What's that? I said I understand they are coming from over in this area, a neighbor told me. Well, to cut it short, I'm telling you, I found the place where they are coming from, not one has been picked up at that place. She says now that they are showing up on their property. Someone's not telling the truth and we need to get that. Please do something Councilmen. Please do something. I've been down here more than I've got fingers and toes. Unless you all like to see me and love to have me down here. Do something or I'll keep coming. If you don't do nothing, that tells me that you don't care about the cats and number two, that you love seeing me down here. So, you know, which is it? Steve, Jimmy, somebody give me an answer. We've got to do something now. It's so out of control, it will take us years to get back to where we were. Years. And, these cats are precious. They're wild as a bug, but they are innocent. I also got threatened. If I feed them, I go to jail. I'm not going to jail. I'll feed anything on my property. Man, woman, cat, dog - anything that comes to my property hungry gets fed.

Ms. Tequilla Duru greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I'm here representing myself as a student of the area, resident of the area, sprained tendon and all, liking it, good physical therapist in the area as well. I am pleased to have met some of you during the course of my now almost six years in here, Hampton, coming here from Charlotte and some other areas. I've seen my first submarine; my first school of dolphin; my first battleship, aircraft carrier; Hampton History Museum. This is nothing but a diamond in the rough. I've said this before and I really do mean this from my heart. The Hampton History Museum is another little jewel here. But, all of this and more only exists if you know it exists. I am still surprised after all this time at the number of people who are born and raised here who don't know what's in their own backyard. I am very, very shocked and surprised. I look for the unique; I look for the special; I look for the reason why this is so special. I have family here. My son finished at Hampton University. I have family members that finished at Hampton University. I have some connections here as well. Because of where I grew up, which is Washington D.C., and went to school and worked, again, I look for the unique and special. I come to you asking that the City of Hampton give it the attention it needs to have; giving it the promotion and the branding in order to attract the tourists and their dollars. From my lens (and I've only been here just under six years) Hampton has a lot of superlatives that are not readily seen or heard. I wonder why and I wonder why I am still learning a lot. I should be able to drive in this area and see "welcome to Hampton", this and that, giving me something special. Why are we special? Why are we unique? I don't see it still. Only because I look for it, do I understand it and realize it. And if that's what you want, that's what you are going to have, but Hampton has gained

national spotlight and will continue to gain national spotlight because of national media that has already put its spotlight on this City. It happened, 1619. It's going to happen again in the very, very near future. The spotlight is here. We should know, the world should know that Hampton is the oldest English-speaking city in America. Part of the superlatives. People should know that Mercury Boulevard is named in honor of the Mercury seven astronauts. My family members, born and raised here for the most part, didn't know that.

In response to Ms. Duru, Mayor Tuck confirmed that Ms. Duru's speaking time had expired.

Ms. Duru continued with her comments: Essentially, I'm here again asking that you give it the promotion that it really needs. I really do ask for that. Not just for me, but for the world.

Mr. Craig Knopp greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I just want to talk about a couple of things tonight. First off, Mayor, the little session you had with the other Mayors on Monday night, phenomenal. I'm glad to see that Hampton is getting involved with helping our young folks out by doing the mentor programs and all the other initial programs that we have that you are endorsing. I urge everybody to go back and watch that video from Monday night, very informative. Secondly, as I have said before, Hampton hands down has one of the best City Councils in the Hampton Roads area. Hands down. I'm talking from experience and seeing other things and getting involved with other City Councils. Also, the police department, hands down, Hampton. I've seen that Hampton has had a couple of hiring posts on Facebook and I'm just kind of curious if we have researched what other area towns or cities are doing to help try to recruit more officers. I was just kind of curious whether we've looked into additional ways, bonuses or whatever means there might be with stuff, just kind of curious on that. That's all I have. Thank you.

Mr. A. C. Cordoza greeted those on the dais and made the following statement: I'm a resident of Hampton. I'm just coming to thank you guys for your leadership. I want to thank you for allowing Amazon to come and build the warehouse here. That's going to bring a lot of business to the City that we desperately need after the COVID incident. I know you guys don't normally see me come here and say thank you. It's not what you are used to, but I'm glad to be able to come to say thank you and give some praise where it is due. So, I just want to say thank you. We appreciate you. As Craig said, you guys are the best City Council in Virginia. I have been to several and they do not have the level of respect for their citizens that you do and I want to thank you. That's all I have to say. City Manager as well and of course our City Attorney. Thank you guys.

Mayor Tuck thanked everyone for coming. He also thanked Ms. Duru for her consistency and effort to promote the City. He continued saying that we are trying to brand it and 2019 did a lot for our City and a lot of great things are happening and we believe it is a great place to live. He again thanked Ms. Duru for her comments.

Mayor Tuck also thanked Mr. Knopp and Mr. Cordoza for their kind and cordial comments. He said we were elated to put on the Mayor's forum and hope to have more dialogues with Mayors as the problem with youth and young adult violence is something that is not specific to one city, but affects all cities in our region. He then called upon Ms. Bunting to address the concerns brought up by Ms. Withrow and Ms. Seely.

Ms. Bunting noted that Ms. Withrow and Ms. Seely had already left the meeting; however, she had an opportunity to speak with them prior to the meeting and they understand what the City will be doing with regard to their concern.

GENERAL ITEMS

Ordinances

4. [21-0133](#) Ordinance to Amend and Reenact Section 24-37 of the City Code of the City of Hampton, Virginia, entitled, "Unlawful Property Maintenance Conditions," Pertaining to High Grass and Overgrowth in Areas Required to be Vegetated Under the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act

Attachments: [Redline Ordinance Amendment Presentation](#)

Ms. Glass read the title for the item.

Ms. Bunting introduced Property Maintenance and Zoning Enforcement Manager Kimberly Mikel to give the presentation.

Ms. Mikel greeted those on the dais and explained that this amendment will amend the high grass and overgrowth ordinance to clarify how it applies to properties located in the Chesapeake Bay Districts. She also provided an overview of what is currently enforced in the City with regard to high grass and overgrowth; announced that the goal is to clarify and update the exceptions to the ordinance due to questions regarding properties located in the Chesapeake Bay Districts; and reminded everyone that currently, properties that are located in the Chesapeake

Bay Districts are exempt from the high grass and overgrowth ordinances.

The next few slides of the presentation that Ms. Mikel reviewed provided information about State law; the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (1988); representation of the Chesapeake Bay overlay; General Provisions (goals) of the Chesapeake Bay Act; and the purpose of City Code 24-37 being proposed for amendment.

Ms. Mikel also announced that the desired outcome of the amendment is to allow the Bay Act and the City Code Ordinances to work together with the result of having the tools to enforce maintenance of properties to prevent unsafe conditions resulting from high grass or overgrowth conditions including those located within the Chesapeake Bay Districts. She noted that this will be done while upholding the regulations of the Bay Act by requiring that the home owner or contractor abide by all Bay Act requirements throughout the abatement of the violation.

The next several slides of the presentation provided examples of the overgrowth exception, and the high grass exception.

Mayor Tuck referenced the slide which depicted the example of the overgrowth exception and questioned whether the overgrowth can be mitigated under this act.

Ms. Mikel explained that currently, this scenario would fall within the Chesapeake Bay District and the City would not be able to enforce the overgrowth ordinance as it stands.

Ms. Bunting added that the amendment before Council will clarify that the City can deal with properties that are already effectively developed and have an existing lot (as opposed to a living shoreline), therefore, the goal is to have an amendment to correct this problem. She assured everyone that staff wants to have the ability to deal with the problem; however, the language needs to be tweaked in order to accomplish that.

Ms. Mikel continued speaking about the high grass exception and then provided an example of a legally established lawn that falls within the Chesapeake Bay Overlay. She reiterated that this amendment would codify the interpretation that all legally established lawns within the Chesapeake Bay District shall be maintained in conformance with the high grass ordinance.

The next few slides of the presentation that Ms. Mikel reviewed provided information about the Department of Environmental Equality (DEQ) guidance for restoration of established lawns; the provisions under the Chesapeake Bay High Grass Waiver; and an example of an established riparian buffer.

The final slide of the presentation that Ms. Mikel reviewed recapped what is being proposed related to high grass and overgrowth.

Ms. Mikel opened the floor for questions.

Councilman Brown asked Ms. Mikel to speak about the purpose of the buffer on a property.

Ms. Mikel explained that the City will want to promote a vegetated buffer because there are a lot of tidal waterways here and a buffer is a last line of defense for protecting the Chesapeake Bay as it collects pollutants and nitrogen, and phosphorus.

In response to Councilman Brown, Ms. Mikel also explained that it is not ideal for people to go back and forth with their decision, for example, establish a buffer and cut it down six months later. Therefore, once someone has signed the application indicating establishment of a buffer, this action also signs away their right to a legally established lawn. Choosing to remove vegetation or clear the property will require obtaining a permit.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chris Snead and seconded by Councilmember Steven Brown, that this Ordinance-Coded 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

Resolutions

5. [21-0125](#) Resolution to Approve an Encroachment Agreement Pursuant to Hampton City Code § 34-86 Between the City of Hampton and Antwain C. Richardson and Relita Mallory to Allow an Encroachment into a Portion of City of Hampton Drainage Easement for the Installation of a Six-Foot Wood Privacy Fence.

Attachments: [Encroachment Agreement](#)
[Presentation](#)

Ms. Glass read the title for the item.

Ms. Bunting made the following statement regarding the item: The property owners

located at 231 Hampton Roads Avenue have approached the City about allowing a 15 foot drainage easement. The City has a 15 foot drainage easement and they would like to encroach upon that drainage easement so as to build a six foot privacy fence. Their request for permission to encroach is into a 42 plus or minus square foot area (illustrated on exhibit A). The request was routed to City staff and local utility companies and none had any objections. There are conditions that are included in the encroachment agreement. With those conditions, staff recommends approval of the encroachment agreement.

Mayor Tuck opened the floor for questions or comments from Council. No questions or comments were posed, therefore, the Mayor called for the motion.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chris Snead and seconded by Councilmember Chris Bowman, that this Resolution 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

6. [21-0131](#) Resolution to Approve an Encroachment Agreement Pursuant to Hampton City Code § 34-86 Between the City of Hampton and Kenneth R. Trietch and Tammy Ann Gaudet a/k/a Tammy A. Trietch to Allow an Encroachment into a Portion of City of Hampton Drainage Easement for the Installation of a 6-foot Privacy Fence

Attachments: [Presentation](#)
[Encroachment Agreement](#)

Ms. Glass read the title for the item.

Ms. Bunting made the following statement regarding the item: Similar to the last request, the property owners at 714 Erskine Street have approached the City about encroaching 37.5 plus or minus square feet into the City's easement. The City has a five foot wide drainage easement along the northern property line of their parcel. The request was routed to City staff and local utility companies and none had any objections. The recommended conditions are attached to the encroachment agreement. Staff recommends approval of the agreement.

Mayor Tuck opened the floor for questions or comments from Council. No questions or comments were posed, therefore, the Mayor called for the motion.

A motion was made by Councilmember Chris Snead and

seconded by Councilmember Chris Bowman, that this Resolution 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

Appointments

Ms. Glass read the motion required for the appointments.

7. [21-0127](#) Consideration of an Appointment to the Coliseum Advisory Committee

A motion was made by Councilmember Chris Snead that Dana S. Hubbard be appointed to a first term which will expire on April 30, 2025. 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

8. [21-0105](#) Consideration of nominations to the Virginia Municipal League 2021 Policy Committees

A motion was made by Councilmember Chris Snead that the following appointments take place:

Billy Hobbs - Community and Economic Development
Eleanor Brown - Environmental Quality
Chris Snead - Finance
Chris Bowman- General Laws
Steve Brown - Human Development and Education
Jimmy Gray - Transportation

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

REPORTS BY CITY MANAGER, CITY COUNCIL, STAFF, COMMITTEES

9. [21-0135](#) Update on Comprehensive Violence Reduction Strategies

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

Ms. Bunting introduced the item.

Program Manager for the Office of Youth and Young Adult Opportunities, Synethia White, greeted those on the dais and began updating Council on the comprehensive violence reduction strategies which will work to address the underlying causes for violence in our community. The goal of this initiative is to reduce shootings and deaths.

Ms. White reviewed the planning timeline for this initiative. She also updated Council on the components of one of the City's internal programs called the Mini Grant Program. Program components include program assessment findings, request for proposals, sustainability series training and the grant information session. Ms. White noted that the application process was open for seven weeks and the review period will end on April 29.

In response to Mayor Tuck, Ms. White reported that no responses were received related to the re-entry portion of the request for proposals component of the Mini Grant Program.

Ms. White continued speaking about additional concerns that her office is addressing, beginning with employment. She spoke about the partnership with the WorkOne Resource Center and the effort to consider what resources and support the general population could benefit from receiving. Through this partnership, other partners who provide various services were corralled in the effort to provide assistance related to application support, interview preparation, career fair preparation and computer and internet capabilities. Ms. White noted that the plan is to build on the original Y. H. Thomas model.

Ms. White paused to speak about the potential for an extension to the summer employment program. She explained that this plan involves connecting older youth who need better wages and training to a workforce training program that will help them move further in their careers and not depend on a summer employment program. This plan also involves providing stipends for these youth to pursue a workforce training program in an attempt to lead them to other employment opportunities.

Ms. White continued speaking about the Office of Youth and Young Adult Opportunities efforts to work with local partners and programs, specifically, local hospitals and the Newport News Commonwealth Attorney's Office.

Mayor Tuck referenced the portion of the presentation which showed that Sentara does not yet have a program and asked if Hampton has considered taking a regional approach to mirror the program at Sentra Norfolk.

Ms. White replied saying that Norfolk and Riverside programs are little brothers of the Richmond program. Mayor Tuck questioned whether it would be easier to partner with Sentara since there is a Sentara location in Hampton and Sentara is dominant on the Southside.

Ms. White said that staff is considering where Hampton falls in both programs and then noted that additional information about the Riverside partnership will be provide later in the presentation.

Ms. White reviewed the next slide of the presentation which provided additional information about potential programs and partnerships with Sentara, Riverside and the Newport News Commonwealth Attorney's Office.

Ms. White continued with the presentation and spoke about the following programs. (1) The Re-entry program involves assessing citizens who re-enter into society after incarceration. This program also involves internal system comparisons based on real life experiences. (2) Youth Connect, a prevention program for youth who do not rise to the level of juvenile intake services or child services intervention. This program's coordinator has recommended that the City consider utilizing internal departments to ease youth into programs and activities. (3) Outreach Team Development. Vacancies are in the process of being filled in this area. Technical assistance requests are also being worked and developed.

In response to Mayor Tuck, Ms. White defined some of the terms listed on the slide related to outreach team development. Cultural competency is the ability to have candid conversations in spaces that people may not be familiar with and ensure that people understand that the makeup of our communities are different. Confidentiality refers to everyone involved remaining confidential about the work being done to help youth and their families and not sharing information outside of team meetings, etc., as this trust cannot be replaced once it is damaged. Motivational interviewing refers to allowing individuals to be open to share information during conversations. Program design and implementation involves ensuring that the components of violence and intervention programs are the appropriate ones to be utilized.

Ms. White spoke about the role of some of those involved in the process. (1) The Hampton United Steering Committee will reorganize with the purpose of focusing on leaders and decision makers connecting to the support areas for each initiative. This committee will also support implementation of initiatives. (2) Credible

Messengers. These individuals have had past experiences similar to what some of our youth are currently experiencing. They often feel responsible for their negative actions from early in life and therefore are committed to giving back to the community through their work to help our youth.

Ms. White briefly spoke about some of the challenges associated with credible messengers including fatigue and funding for the program. She then turned the floor over to gun violence roundtable member and credible messenger, Mr. Adrian Cook, to share his experience about his work advocating for our youth.

Mr. Cook thanked Council for the opportunity to speak. He also thanked those in attendance as their participation indicates that they care about our youth and the community. He also shared that after beginning this form of work, he realized that Hampton has many programs designed to help our youth including summer youth programs, the Violence Prevention Mini Grant Program, and others; however, some of these programs are not marketed toward the people we are trying to reach.

Mr. Cook paused to speak about some of his childhood experiences while growing up in Hampton including experiences related to homelessness, drugs, molestation, incarceration and witnessing murder. He explained that he painted that picture so that everyone could understand the types of things that some of Hampton's youth currently face on a day to day basis.

Mr. Cook shared a few examples of his work. One example was of a mother who recently reached out to him for assistance with her troubled son who has not had any progress as a result of counseling. Another example was of his visit to a group of teens who possessed guns and the conversation that he had with them to convince them not to do something crazy.

Mr. Cook noted that back when he did not know any better, he spent many of his early years destroying the community, but now that he knows better, he is proud to be dedicated to building up the community.

Mr. Cook read letters from two of Hampton's youth that he mentors. These letters are testaments to Mr. Cook's work and mentorship in the community.

Mr. Cook also spoke about the difficulty of doing this important work while having another job. He provided examples of other important figures in the community, such as teachers and police officers, who are not asked to do their important work on a part-time basis, yet activists who do this type of work are. He assured everyone that he does the work because he loves it and would do it regardless; however, he believes that he would be more effective if he was able to do the work

on a full-time basis. In addition, these individuals who may be contemplating reckless behavior may have more access and more time to reach out to him. In an attempt to explain how important this work is to him, Mr. Cook shared that he has used his personal time and money for this effort and is willing to be held accountable. He then complimented Mayor Tuck for hitting the ground running following his election and for being involved in this process. He closed his comments by making a plea to Council to show the community that we care by giving this initiative the needed resources to continue this work.

Mayor Tuck commented that he and Vice Mayor Gray thought it was important for Council to hear Mr. Cook's story and be aware of his work in the community. He continued saying that others who have remorse about their past and want to give back to the community shared similar stories at the recent Urgency of Now Symposium. These individuals have similar stories about re-entry and the impediments they deal with such as obtaining a driver's license and housing. He also explained that a challenge for credible messengers has been that they attempt to do this full-time work while simultaneously managing fulltime responsibilities of taking care of families and paying court fines. He emphasized that if our goal is to fix the problem of youth violence and help returning citizens stay on the straight path, we need to provide opportunities for them so that they do not return to doing what they previously did. He thanked Mr. Cook for sharing his story.

Ms. White spoke about the outreach collaborative effort. She noted that Mr. Cook and other credible messengers have open communication with the Office of Youth and Young Adult Opportunities and also applauded them for their ability to reach young people at a different capacity as this leads to the intent of the initiative which is to reach highest risk individuals and groups.

Ms. White concluded the presentation by providing some information about the summer youth employment program; funding opportunities; 2021 Youth Violence Prevention Week; and Urgency of Now sessions. She then opened the floor for questions.

Councilwoman Snead thanked Ms. White for the excellent presentation and asked if there are funds in the budget for credible messengers, and if so, how many credible messengers are supported with those funds.

Ms. White stated that funds are available for credible messengers through the Mini Grant Program (\$20,000 per year limit), the Violence Prevention Network with Youth Connect, and through re-entry and intervention efforts; however, it is difficult to determine how many are supported because that figure depends on the services they provide. She noted that she would research the fee for service scales and

provide that information to Council.

Councilwoman Snead asked if the Urgency of Now sessions are being recorded in the event Council wants to view them later.

Ms. White replied yes and that this morning's session can be found on the webpage under the pastor's dialogue for racism, poverty and violence. She noted that the recording is a bit challenging to locate, and, therefore, she will assist anyone needing assistance with locating it online.

In response to Councilwoman Brown's questions about game night, an event taking place as part of the Hampton Youth Violence Prevention Week, Ms. White stated that 50 game night kits and snack packages have been purchased; Marketing Inc. has shared information about the event with the community; flyers have been distributed by community partners; and the event is open to all Hampton residents.

Vice Mayor Gray commended Ms. White on the presentation and thanked Mr. Cook for his participation today. He encouraged anyone interested in hearing more stories similar to what Mr. Cook shared, to listen to last night's session which was broadcast on the Are You on Facebook Page entitled "My Past Will Not Define My Future or My Community". During this session, candid conversations took place with men who have had similar experiences as Mr. Cook, some of whom have spent years in prison and are now speaking about returning to the community and working to prevent our youth from being the next victims or shooters.

Vice Mayor Gray continued stating that oftentimes, Council is questioned about their plans to solve the problem of crime, and in his opinion, this initiative is something that Council is trying to do about the crime in Hampton, particularly since it is impossible to send police to every corner in every neighborhood to check on every young person who may potentially have a gun. Vice Mayor Gray also spoke about the relationship that Mr. Cook has with young people and his ability to intervene in these situations before they occur. He noted that most crimes are committed by young black males or the victims of crimes are young black males and expressed the importance of not only intervention, but also funding strategies to make Hampton successful in the long run. He added that this is not a problem that will be solved overnight, but he believes we can gradually turn our youth around and become effective in trying to reduce this problem.

Vice Mayor Gray continued speaking about funding for the initiative. He referenced Councilwoman Snead's inquiry about how many credible messengers will be funded through the Mini Grant Program and commented that \$20,000 will only buy part-time service. He emphasized the importance of building good relationships with men in

the community including Adrian Cook, Paul Taylor, Prince Dunn and others who are committed to assisting with solving this problem; however, more members of Council in support of funding this initiative is needed versus them only verbalizing that violence and crime will not be tolerated in Hampton. He assured everyone that he is committed to supporting these strategies and programs with needed resources in order to see serious change in our community. He noted that the Mayor is also in support of this and he believes that there is a plan in place which can pay some dividends and reduce violent crime in the City.

Councilman Bowman commended Ms. White for the good report and asked her to explain the stipend component of the workforce program.

Ms. White explained that the individuals in that program will not be brought into the summer employment program; instead, they will be compensated at a rate equitable to what they would receive in the summer employment program. She continued explaining that there are young people who could benefit from training, but are unable to because they have to take care of themselves in the process. She noted that funding for this will be pulled from existing funding in the summer employment program.

Mayor Tuck asked what partners other than Thomas Nelson Community College (TNCC) and Goodwill participate in this form of training.

Ms. White stated that the Youth Workforce Council is a primary partner because it targets this population and is involved with young people who are court-involved or being served by Human Services. She continued saying that The Office of Youth and Young Adult Opportunities encourages young people to take advantage of that program and provides additional support to them while in the program. In response to Mayor Tuck, Ms. White noted that the length of this program depends on which area of interest the participants select. Participants are encouraged to select programs that are of most interest to them.

Vice Mayor Gray asked how the re-entry program will get set up if currently, there is no organization willing to take on that project.

Ms. White reminded everyone that grants will open twice per year; however, the process may require setting up a request for services.

In response to Councilwoman Snead, Ms. White stated that researching and planning of the credible messenger program began in September. Councilwoman Snead suggested that the Office of Youth and Young Adult Opportunities maintain a matrix of results to show the program's success as this action may lead to the

potential for additional funds to support the effort. She also emphasized the need for intervention and continued work like the work being done by Mr. Cook and others because our youth can relate to those who have had similar experiences. She emphasized that oftentimes funds are allocated to policing; however, another vital part of solving this problem is allocating funds for intervention.

Mayor Tuck shared his experience at the Urgency of Now function several years ago at which he assumed high schoolers in attendance would view him as a role model, but they instead were more interested in shadowing people like Mr. Cook who have had experiences similar to theirs. He referenced Councilwoman Snead's idea about documenting outcomes and added that another important factor in solving the problem is addressing mental health concerns for those in these situations and for those who have experienced trauma. He reminded everyone that Cities United is about saving lives with the goal of reducing the number of black male homicides by 50% by the year 2025. He noted that if the numbers begin to go down, then that will be a reflection of the work being done.

Councilwoman Snead clarified that her suggestion was meant to be an example of a form of measurement because she does not know enough about the topic to say what the outcomes should be.

Ms. Bunting spoke about additional related issues of concern including the number of aggravated assaults and suicides among young people. She continued saying that when violence, suicide and other related issues of concern are treated as a public health crisis, the effectiveness of the work being done to improve the problem will be able to be measured more clearly.

Councilwoman Brown spoke about Dave's Killer Bread, a private sector company which provides opportunities to people in these circumstances who need to be given a second chance to obtain skills, training and a place to work. She added that hopefully, we can engage with additional private sector companies in helping us understand that people with these types of stories want a second chance and want the opportunity to give back to the community as these types of programs are life changing for them.

Mayor Tuck noted that there are private sector businesses in the community which make these types of hires, for example, Mr. John Smith with McDonalds. He noted that the challenge has been that there are not many large private sector companies in our area.

Vice Mayor Gray applauded Mayor Tuck for his leadership around this issue and everyone for considering these bold strategies in an attempt to reduce violent crime

in the community. He referenced a Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) meeting a few years ago at which Mayor Tuck called for his peers from surrounding jurisdictions to discuss ways to address violent crime in the Hampton Roads Region. He also spoke about what is currently being done about this regional problem beginning with the Urgency of Now event where Mayor's from our area participated in the discussion about this concern. He emphasized the need to continue to put our energy, resources and focus toward this problem in order to see change. He again commended Mayor Tuck for the work he has done not only in local initiatives, but also in national initiatives, such as Cities United, in an attempt to solve violent crime in our community and across the country.

Mayor Tuck thanked City Manager Bunting for allowing Ms. White to do the work she does. He noted that Ms. White is highly respected in Cities United. He also commended Vice Mayor Gray for being the principal organizer of the gun violence round table and thanked Ms. White for the excellent presentation. He opened the floor for additional discussion. No other discussion took place.

MISCELLANEOUS NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Hobbs announced that Saturday morning will be the 64th birthday and opening day of Northampton Little League with an induction into their Hall of Fame.

Mayor Tuck announced that the budget public hearings begin at the next meeting on April 28th and that a special meeting will be held May 5th regarding the proposed budget.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Contact Info:
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Donnie R. Tuck
Mayor

Katherine K. Glass, CMC
Clerk of Council

Date approved by Council _____