



Legislation Text

File #: 23-0063, Version: 1

Public Hearing to Consider the Relocation of a Cannon known as the "Braddock Cannon," which is Currently Located in the Victoria Boulevard Right-of-Way Adjacent to the Hampton Yacht Club

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:

The Hampton Yacht Club has requested vacation of a portion of the Victoria Blvd. right-of-way in order to make improvements to their entrance and parking while preserving views to the waterfront. This particular item concerns a cannon currently within the area proposed to be vacated. The cannon in question was erected by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America on May 9, 1916, on City property and is located in the Victoria Blvd. right-of-way adjacent to the Hampton Yacht Club. The cannon is located in the City right-of-way to the south of a parcel addressed as 4701 Victoria Blvd. (LRSN 2003824) and to the north of a parcel addressed as 4706 Victoria Blvd. (LRSN 2003821). The cannon commemorates the date upon which French and Indian War general Edward Braddock disembarked into Hampton. The Hampton Yacht Club has proposed to relocate the cannon approximately 50' from its current location to an area at the Northeast corner of the intersection of Victoria Blvd. and Bridge Street, on property currently owned by the Hampton Yacht Club, which is addressed as 4701 Victoria Blvd. This portion of land is proposed to be dedicated to and owned by the City of Hampton and the cannon is proposed to remain in City ownership. Public access to the cannon will be preserved.

This public hearing was advertised pursuant to the authority set forth in § 15.2-1812 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended. The purpose of this hearing will be to obtain public comment on the proposed relocation. While the Virginia Code only requires one advertisement for 30 days, this public hearing was advertised three times.

If the City Council votes to pursue relocation of the cannon, then pursuant to section 15.2-1812 of the Code of Virginia, the cannon will then also be offered to any "museum, historical society, government, or military battlefield" for 30 days. The Hampton City Council retains the sole authority to determine the final disposition of the cannon.

All related items will appear on the April 12, 2023 City Council agenda, including the Hampton Yacht Club's applications for: (1) a rezoning; (2) a use permit; (3) vacation of a portion of Victoria Blvd. right-of-way; and (4) cannon relocation.

Recommendation:

Conduct a public hearing and vote as to whether to pursue relocation of the cannon. Final disposition of the cannon can be decided at a later date.