

May 14, 2008
D R A F T

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD MAY 14, 2008

A Budget Work Session and Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hopewell, Virginia, was held Tuesday, May 14, 2008, at 6:00 PM at the Hopewell Community Center, 100 West City Point Road, Hopewell, Virginia.

PRESENT: Steven R. Taylor, Mayor
Brenda S. Pelham, Vice Mayor
Christina J. Luman-Bailey, Councilor
Curtis W. Harris, Councilor
Kenneth B. Emerson, Councilor
E. Randy Sealey, Councilor
N. Gregory Cuffey, Councilor

Edwin C. Daley, City Manager
Edwin N. Wilmot, City Attorney
Ann M. Romano, City Clerk

Mayor Taylor opened the meeting at 6:00 PM. The roll call was taken as follows:

Mayor Taylor	-	present
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	present
Councilor Bailey	-	present
Councilor Harris	-	present
Councilor Emerson	-	present
Councilor Sealey	-	present
Councilor Cuffey	-	present

WORK SESSION - CHIEF STEVE MARTIN - PUBLIC SAFETY PRESENTATION

Chief Steve Martin prepared a presentation to Council of a supplemental proposal from the Hopewell Bureau of Police. The department requested an additional five officers, to include weapons, duty weapons, tazers, leather gear and training costs; seven additional marked patrol cars (five for the new officers and an additional two to replace older vehicles). (Handouts filed in the City Clerk's office.)

Salary Enhancements: The starting salary for new police officers with no certification is approximately \$32,000. After the first year, it is 11-14 years before they top out on patrol.

Deployment: Pro-active measures. Some in patrol cars and some on other than 911 calls. Regional Drug Task Force. Safe Street Crime Support Units. (The former Street Crime Unit was disbanded and will be redesigned.) Community Policing. Family Youth Initiative. Enhanced Investigations Section. Chief Martin's goal is pro-active policing to prevent crimes. Five new officers are a first step toward that goal.

Technology: Advance Surveillance and Protection (ASAP). Calls for Shots Fired in Hopewell: 2002-208; 2007-318. The price range is approximately \$300,000 for two square miles. Deployment based on statistics. The system is portable and can be moved from location to location.

- The brand name "Shot Stoppers" must have police officers available to go to the crime scene.

May 14, 2008
DRAFT

- Auto License Plate Recognition System (ALPR). Starting costs are between \$250,000-300,000 plus maintenance for 12 cameras for multiple police vehicles. Stolen cars in Hopewell: 2002 - 90; 2007 - 82; YTD - 40.
- Lensec - allows any business with a surveillance camera system to be accessed by the Police Department.
- Crime Eye - Closed Circuit TV Recording Surveillance System. The cost of one immovable unit is approximately \$5,000.

DISCUSSION: There was some Council interest in the gun shot detection system, as well as the ALPR. Perhaps there are Homeland Security Grants to assist in their purchase. It would make a statement to the public about public safety. There was a consensus that there is a need for five additional officers and associated costs, and the seven new patrol vehicles. Eliminating the human element and using automation cuts downtime. Business owners in Hopewell are concerned about being robbed. Chief Martin preferred the gun shot detection system and the portability of Shot Stoppers. The department is also getting ready to implement bike patrols once again. The plan is to use them in the business district and some residential areas. Cornez Manor is a problem area downtown and there has been loitering at the library. The Police Department is authorized 54 positions. They can only add five new positions at a time. There are concerns at Davisville also. The HRHA talked about installing lights on the poles in that area. There are not enough police officers to clean up the area. Technology could assist in those efforts.

Council will be voting on the FY 2008-2009 Budget Resolution at the first meeting in June on the 10th. Chief Martin was asked to bring information to Council prior to that vote: How much coverage the gun shot protection system provides. Crime Eye cost for downtown and Route 36.

RECESS

At 7:40 PM Mayor Taylor called for a 10-minute recess. At 7:55 PM the meeting reconvened.

SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET APPROVAL

The City Manager plans for Council to approve the FY 2008-2009 City Budget on June 3 or June 10. The FY 2008-2009 School Board Budget Resolution came before Council for approval. The City Manager recommended \$445,000 of the \$939,000 requested. The budget resolution indicates a transfer from General Fun-011 of \$11,400,000. If the School Bus Mechanics remain at the schools for another year that figure will be changed to \$11,500,000 to reflect the \$100,000 for the mechanics.

Motion was made by Councilor Emerson, and seconded by Councilor Cuffey, to adopt the FY 2008-2009 School Board Budget Resolution recommending \$445,000 of the \$939,000 requested. An amendment was made and accepted by the maker and the seconder to amend the Transfer from General Fund-011 in the School Operating Fund-014 from \$11,400,000 to \$11,500,000.

Over \$600,000 is coming out of reserve already to balance the budget. The City Manager has considered an adjustment to the tax rate. A 40¢ increase in the Personal Property Tax Rate would give the schools the additional \$500,000. The City must still fund employee and retiree health insurance and pay increases. The Finance Director did not recommend one-time money to fund the schools recurring expenses. The City Manager indicated that if staff could find \$500,000 more in revenue in the next two weeks, the City would split the difference with the schools. Reduced school lunches are up to 70% in Hopewell.

A substitute motion was made by Councilor Cuffey, and seconded by Councilor Sealey, to adopt the FY 2008-2009 School Board Budget Resolution recommending \$445,000 of the \$939,000 requested,

May 14, 2008
DRAFT

and one-half of the difference between \$939,000 and \$445,000 (\$200,000). After further discussion the motion and the second were withdrawn.

The City Manager reminded City Council that the City just got off the watch list financially. If we do not maintain reserves, we could go back on the watch list and lose our bond rating.

Avon Miles, Chairman of the School Board pointed out that the 40-year old high school needs improvements.

The City Manager addressed the unfunded items in the City budget: (1) Five police officers plus expenses - \$250,000; (2) COLA raises for City employees at 2%, and Merit raises for City employees at 2% - \$400,000 combined; (3) City Health Insurance - \$230,000. The total is \$880,000. That does not include the Grants Position with the Schools.

The Mayor recommended funding the schools \$445,000 and continue the budget process. If the City can give more money to schools, then address that later.

Motion to Call for the Question was made by Councilor Emerson, and seconded by Councilor Cuffey. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes

Upon the roll call on the original motion, the vote resulted:

Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes

ADJOURN

At 8:55 PM **motion** was made by Councilor Cuffey, and seconded by Councilor Sealey, to adjourn the meeting. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes

May 14, 2008
DRAFT

Steven R. Taylor, Mayor

Ann M. Romano, City Clerk