

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD JUNE 13, 2017

A regular meeting of the City Council of Hopewell, Virginia, was held Tuesday, June 13, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 300 North Main Street, Hopewell, Virginia.

PRESENT: Jackie M. Shornak, Mayor
Jasmine E. Gore, Vice Mayor
Brenda Pelham, Councilor (arrived - 6:47pm)
Arlene Holloway, Councilor
Anthony Zevgolis, Councilor
Christina Luman-Bailey, Vice Mayor
Wayne Walton, Councilor
Jackie Shornak, Councilor

Charles Dane, Assistant City Manager
Stefan Calos, City Attorney
Ronnieye Arrington, City Clerk

ABSENT: Janice Denton, Councilor (arrived- 8:33pm, left - 9:01pm)
Mark Haley, City Manager

ROLL CALL

Mayor Shornak opened the meeting at 6:31 p.m. Roll call was taken as follows:

Mayor Shornak	-	present
Vice Mayor Gore	-	present
Councilor Luman-Bailey	-	present
Councilor Holloway	-	present
Councilor Zevgolis	-	present
Councilor Denton	-	absent
Councilor Pelham	-	absent (arrived - 6:47 pm)

Motion was made by Councilor Zevgolis and seconded by Councilor Luman-Bailey to adopt the agenda. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Vice Mayor Gore	-	yes
Mayor Shornak	-	yes
Councilor Luman-Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	yes

CLOSED MEETING

Motion was made at 6:33 p.m. by Councilor Zevgolis and seconded by Councilor Luman-Bailey to go into closed meeting for (1) discussion of appointment of specific appointees of city council (School Board, HRHA, VASAP); (2) discussion concerning a prospective business where no previous announcement has been made of the business' interest in locating its facilities in the community; (3) consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual litigation (VAWCO), where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of City Council; and (4) consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by city council related thereto and regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel, in accordance with Virginia Code section 2.2-3711 (A) (1), (5), and (7) (two items), respectively. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Vice Mayor Gore	-	yes
Mayor Shornak	-	yes
Councilor Luman-Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	yes

OPEN MEETING

Council came out of Closed Meeting at 7:33 p.m. Councilors were asked if they complied with Virginia Code § 2.2-3712(D), namely, that only public business matters (I) lawfully exempted from open-meeting requirements and (II) identified in the closed-meeting motion were discussed in closed meeting, to which they all responded yes.

Roll call was taken as follows:

Mayor Shornak	-	present
Vice Mayor Gore	-	present
Councilor Luman-Bailey	-	present
Councilor Holloway	-	present
Councilor Zevgolis	-	present
Councilor Denton	-	absent
Councilor Pelham	-	present

REGULAR MEETING

Prayer by Chaplain Judy Bailey of John Randolph Medical Center Pastoral Care, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Councilor Pelham and seconded by Vice Mayor Gore to approve the Consent Agenda—Personnel Change and Financial Reports; Public hearing announcement: request to vacate a portion of Gray Street, City-School Board land exchange; Union Baptist Church proclamation. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Mayor Shornak	-	yes
Vice Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Luman-Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PH-1 A public hearing was held to receive comments regarding nominees or applicants for the School board. The applicants are: Wesley Joyner, Anthony Sylvester, Linda Hyslop, Rogers Henry, Ruth Johnson, and Deborah Marks) for two positions, each beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2020, pursuant to Va. Code § 22.1-29.1 (*Public hearing before appointment of School Board members*). No one signed up for the public hearing so it was closed. Councilor Luman-Bailey made a motion to move the appointment to the School Board to the June 27, 2017 meeting, which motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Gore. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Mayor Shornak	-	yes
Vice Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Luman-Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS – Mayor Shornak opened the floor to any citizen wishing to speak, as none had signed up. There being no citizen comments, communications from citizens was closed at 7:38 p.m.

REGULAR BUSINESS

R-1 Downtown Stormwater Drain Art - Presentation was made by Kevin Orlosky of Art on Wheels and Jake Elder, Economic Development Coordinator, with input by Charles Dane, Assistant City Manager, requesting approval of a grant from the James River Association to fund artwork on 15-20 storm drains in downtown Hopewell on East Broadway, East Cawson, Appomattox, and Library Streets. Councilor Luman-Bailey made a motion which was seconded by Councilor Pelham to approve the stormwater drain art project and the proposed locations. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Mayor Shornak	-	yes
Vice Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Luman-Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes

R-2 Approval of 2017 Sewer Service Rate Adjustment - presentation was made by Jeanie Grandstaff, Director of Hopewell Water Renewal, requesting a 5% increase in sewer rates, and to approve an ordinance changing metered consumption from cubic feet to gallons. Councilor Gore questioned if the proposed rate increase was included in the budget. Grandstaff confirmed it was, in anticipation of council approval. Councilor Gore questioned how much was written off, Grandstaff said \$600k write-off included 2013, 2014 and 2015. Grandstaff said they were hiring a consultant to assist with the collection issue. Dane said they were going to request that PB Mares look into the failure to produce a 2015 and 2016 CAFR timely. Luman-Bailey said that the operating budget, recurrent expenses and recurrent revenue was different to which Grandstaff advised this was due to the Enterprise Fund. Shornak confirmed that the requested increase would equate to an average increase of \$1.14 per month, per household. Motion was made by Councilor Luman-Bailey to approve the requested 5% increase and ordinance. This motion was not seconded and so failed.

Councilor Pelham completed a Transactional Disclosure Statement.

R-3 Adoption of FY 2018 City Budget Resolution - presentation was made by Charles Dane, with input and remarks by the Mr. Haley and Lance Wolff, Interim Finance Director, regarding the adoption of the FY 2018 City Budget Resolution. Council approved the budget at its May 23, 2017 meeting. Councilor Pelham moved to adopt the FY18 budget resolution, which motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Gore. Discussion ensued. Gore and Pelham both expressed concerns that the resolution contained errors. Dane advised that the errors would be corrected. Zevgolis argued that the adoption of the resolution should wait until the errors were fixed. Dane advised council of the risks associated with not adopting the resolution at this time.

Gore substituted a motion to approve the FY 2018 City Budget Resolution, but to do nothing under Sec. 31 of the resolution, other than the Riverwalk, until the 2016 CAFR is complete. Discussion ensued. Luman-Bailey was concerned that the 2016 CAFR would not be done until December (Dane agreed this was true). Shornak expressed her concerns that council was modifying the motion because she felt it was wrong to pick and choose. Denton said she didn't understand why the CAFR was a problem since it had not been a problem the previous year. Wolff advised council that he had completed all of the journal entries required to submit to Cherry Bekaert for them to complete the 2015 CAFR. He further stated that he was working on the transmittal letter and other final documents. He stated that he believed the 2015 CAFR would be complete by the end of June 2017. He said that normally a CAFR takes seven months, so the 2016 CAFR could be completed by as soon as December 2017. A call for the vote was given, to which all council agreed. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Mayor Shornak	-	no
Vice Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Luman-Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	no
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	no

Councilor Zevgolis requested that the clerk read the motion on the floor, which was done. Upon the reading of the motion, Councilor Zevgolis changed his vote from “no” to “yes,” making the final vote:

Mayor Shornak	-	no
Vice Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Luman-Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	no

After the final vote, Councilor Denton was excused from the meeting.

Mayor Shornak submitted a Transactional Disclosure Statement. Councilor Pelham also submitted a Transactional Disclosure Statement.

R-4 Approval of Hopewell Water Renewal Fund 32 Capital Projects Budget Resolution - presentation was made by Jeanie Grandstaff, with remarks by the City Manager requesting the approval of the increase of the total funding and appropriations by \$2,650,000 to Fund 32. Councilor Luman-Bailey moved to approve the increase, which motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Gore. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Mayor Shornak	-	yes
Vice Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Luman-Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes

R-5 Setting a Date for the Police Station Groundbreaking Ceremony – Mr. Haley advised Council that construction on the new police station will begin very soon and a date needs to be set for the groundbreaking. He proposed to set the groundbreaking for June 27, 2017 at 6:30, and to hold it on the grounds behind the Municipal Building. Vice Mayor Gore moved to accept that date and time for the groundbreaking, which motion was approved by Councilor Luman-Bailey. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Mayor Shornak	-	yes
Vice Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Luman-Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes

REPORTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY:

Stefan Calos advised council of the status of the VAWCO rate increase request application, which litigation was won, and which resulted in a \$2 million refund to the citizens of Hopewell.

REPORTS OF THE CITY CLERK:

By unanimous decision of council, Peter Eliades was re-appointed to the John Tyler Alcohol Safety Action Program.

REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL:

Luman-Bailey stated that she attended the Virginia Gateway and that the City scored well. She thanked Councilor Zevgolis for also attending.

Gore spoke about the V3 veterans program and Hopewell’s involvement in it.

Pelham asked Administration to please post “Children At Play” signs in all of the places where children are seen playing. She reminded everyone that this is the time of year that children playing in the street are mostly at risk. She also noted that between Pine Ave and High Street has a tree which is growing out into the street and needs to be removed.

Councilor Zevgolis requested that Dane come back to council with information regarding Boppers and why they are now located in Chesterfield.

ADJOURN

At 9:20 p.m., Councilor Zevgolis made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Councilor Luman-Bailey, and unanimously passed.

/s/ Jackie M. Shornak
Jackie Shornak, Mayor

/s/ Ronnieye L. Arrington
Ronnieye Arrington, City Clerk