

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL HELD FEBRUARY 9, 2023**

A special council meeting of the Hopewell City Council was convened on Thursday, February 9, 2023, in the City Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 300 North Main Street, Hopewell, Virginia.

**PRESENT:** John B. Partin, Jr., Mayor, Ward 3  
Jasmine E. Gore, Vice Mayor, Ward 4  
Rita Joyner, Councilor, Ward 1  
Michael Harris, Councilor, Ward 2  
Janice B. Denton, Councilor, Ward 5  
Brenda S. Pelham, Councilor, Ward 6  
Dominic Holloway, Councilor, Ward 7

Dr. Concetta Manker, Interim City Manager  
Danielle Smith, City Attorney  
Alyson Reyna, Myasia Jackson, City Clerks Pro Tem

**ROLL CALL**

Vice Mayor Gore opened the meeting at 6:30 PM.

Mayor Partin	-	absent
Vice Mayor Gore	-	present
Councilor Joyner	-	present
Councilor Harris	-	present
Councilor Denton	-	present
Councilor Pelham	-	present
Councilor Holloway	-	present

**Quorum established.**

Councilor Joyner moved to go into Closed Session pursuant to Va. Code Section § 2.2-3711 (A) to discuss and consider business contracts and personnel matters and to the extent of such discussion will be aided thereby, (A)(4) for the protection of the privacy of individuals personal matters not related to public business. The motion was properly seconded by Councilor Pelham.

**Roll call:** Vice Mayor Gore - yes  
Councilor Joyner - yes  
Councilor Harris - yes  
Councilor Denton - yes  
Councilor Pelham - yes  
Councilor Holloway - yes

**Motion passed: 6-0**

An attempt to reach Mayor Partin via telephone was made, but he did not answer on the dais.

**CERTIFICATION**

Certification pursuant to Va. Code § 2.2-3712 (D): Were only public business matters (1) lawfully exempted from open-meeting requirements and (2) identified in the closed-meeting motion discussed in closed meeting?

<b>Roll call:</b>	Vice Mayor Gore	-	yes
	Councilor Joyner	-	yes
	Councilor Harris	-	yes
	Councilor Denton	-	yes
	Councilor Pelham	-	
	Councilor Holloway	-	yes

**Motion passed: 5-0**

Councilor Harris moved to authorize the City’s Finance Director to repurpose funds related to the City’s second audit and the assessor project to support a plan to address our audit deficits to make the city current. The motion was seconded by Councilor Denton. The first amount \$181,000 for the second is amount is of \$303,000 for the assessor’s project. For clarification for the public, Vice Mayor Gore explained the monies are to be used for the finance department to provide additional financial support to become current with the audit and to separate every-day finance services from those from the auditing team. This will allow the support and resources to focus on the audit with a separate wing of staff.

<b>Roll call:</b>	Vice Mayor Gore	-	yes
	Councilor Joyner	-	yes
	Councilor Harris	-	yes
	Councilor Denton	-	yes
	Councilor Pelham	-	
	Councilor Holloway	-	yes

**Motion passed: 5-0**

**RECONVENE OPEN MEETING**

Councilor Denton motioned for Council to come out of Closed Session. Councilor Holloway seconded the motion.

<b>Roll call:</b>	Councilor Joyner	-	yes
	Councilor Harris	-	yes
	Vice Mayor Gore	-	yes
	Councilor Denton	-	yes
	Councilor Pelham	-	
	Councilor Holloway	-	yes

**Motion passed: 5-0**

## **REGULAR BUSINESS**

**R-1** Jennifer Murphy-James presented regarding OneHopewell. She introduced herself as the contractor program manager for OneHopewell, a community health and enhancement initiative. Mrs. Murphy-James explained an overview of the program and reviewed what benefits and implementations would follow with the start of the program.

Shanika McClelland, a program officer with LISC Virginia, stated that in the last fiscal year, LISC was able to help over 700 individuals via their financial opportunity centers, through employment, financial, and income supports. She explained the importance of financial opportunity centers in regards to helping individuals find resources to improve their financial wellbeing.

Mrs. Kelly Evans explained why community health workers are important to the health of the community, and she stated that they are available to assist individuals with access to community programs and benefits assistance.

Dr. Cliff Morris, a cardiologist, described “Blue Zones”, which are areas where the average lifespan is 10-15 years longer than the national average. He mentioned a potential partnership with the Blue Zone organization and OneHopewell to provide community engagement and improve the health of citizens.

Jennifer Murphy-James noted that one of the partners that would be part of the Community Resources building was Virginia State University’s corporate extension of their Family Nutrition Program. Their goal would be to educate individuals on nutrition and how to prepare nutritious meals. Mrs. Murphy-James stated that OneHopewell was seeking 501(c)(3) charitable organization status, and achieving this would allow the program future grants and funding. She noted the partner organizations that would be in the Community Resources building, including District 19 Community Services board, Department of Veterans Services, Commonwealth Catholic Charities, LISC, Central Virginia Health Services, Central Virginia Legal Aid Services, and Homebase Credit Union.

Jennifer Murphy-James reviewed the line items for the budget, giving a brief overview of the necessity of each. Vice Mayor Gore noted that the funding would be appropriated from American Rescue Plan Act funds that had not yet been used. She stated that the \$107,000 requested from the City of Hopewell would likely be the last of the necessary funding for OneHopewell, with the organization being close to 501(c)(3) status, and would be using grant funding moving forward.

Councilor Holloway spoke in favor of the program, and clarified for citizens the eligible uses of ARPA funds for revenue replacement for provisions of government services to the extent of reduction of revenue and COVID-19, relative to revenues collected in the most recent fiscal year and prior. These funds are also used for expenditures for negative economic impacts, including assistance to small businesses and households, for the purpose of economic recovery. He stated that he felt it was the right thing to do for the citizens, and asked his fellow Council members to vote in favor of the program.

Councilor Denton thanked Mrs. Murphy-James, but stated that she was hesitant for council to be spending any money before the FY2023-2024 budget was completed. She asked Mrs. Murphy-James if the \$107,000 was a one time commitment or if it would be committing the city to future obligations. Mrs. Murphy-James explained that the money would not be a commitment, noting that it would merely be to cover expenses until non-profit status was achieved.

Mrs. Murphy-James asked if she could state something for the record and council agreed. She stated that the City of Hopewell's comprehensive plan addresses health and healthy equity in detail, adding that OneHopewell is the City's way of addressing that. Councilor Denton stated that she still could not support the funding allocation.

Vice Mayor Gore clarified that the program was designed for working families whose income was too high for government aid. She noted that poverty and crime rate correlate, and that the solution would be to provide citizens with the OneHopewell program.

Councilor Holloway noted that the funds for the program would come out of ARPA monies and would not affect the normal yearly budget. Councilor Holloway motioned to authorize OneHopewell to appropriate American Rescue Plan funds in the amount of \$107,000. Councilor Joyner seconded the motion.

<b>Roll call:</b>	Councilor Joyner	-	yes
	Councilor Harris	-	yes
	Vice Mayor Gore	-	yes
	Councilor Denton	-	no
	Councilor Pelham	-	yes
	Councilor Holloway	-	yes

**Motion passed: 5-1**

Councilor Pelham thanked Jennifer Murphy-James for her time.

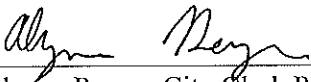
**ADJOURN**

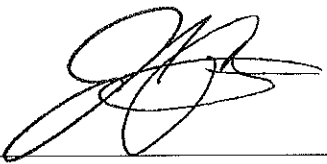
Councilor Denton motioned to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Holloway seconded the motion.

**Aye – 6**

**No – 0**

The meeting was adjourned.

  
Alyson Reyna, City Clerk Pro Tem

  
Johnny Partin, Mayor