

September 13, 2011

Regular Council Meeting

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 13, 2011

A Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Hopewell, Virginia, was held Tuesday, September 13, 2011, at 6:30 PM in the City Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 300 North Main Street, Hopewell, Virginia.

PRESENT: Christina J. Luman-Bailey, Mayor
 K. Wayne Walton, Vice Mayor
 Michael C. Bujakowski, Councilor
 Gerald S. Stokes, Councilor
 Brenda S. Pelham, Councilor
 Jackie M. Shornak, Councilor

 Edwin C. Daley, City Manager
 Thomas E. Lacheney, City Attorney
 Ann M. Romano, City Clerk

ABSENT: Curtis W. Harris, Councilor (illness)

ROLL CALL

Mayor Luman-Bailey opened the meeting at 6:30 PM. Roll call was taken as follows:

Mayor Luman-Bailey	-	present
Vice Mayor Walton	-	present
Councilor Harris	-	ABSENT (medical)
Councilor Bujakowski	-	present
Councilor Stokes	-	present
Councilor Pelham	-	present
Councilor Shornak	-	present

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Luman-Bailey requested to amend the Closed Session by adding Real Estate/Acquisition of Property.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Walton, seconded by Councilor Pelham, and unanimously passed to convene into Closed Session to discuss Personnel (Performance Evaluations-City Attorney); Real Estate/Acquisition of Property; and, Appointments to Boards and Commissions, in accordance with Virginia Code Sec. 2.2-3711(A) (1) (3).

OPEN SESSION

At 7:30 PM Council convened into Open Session. Councilors responded to the question: "Were the only matters discussed in the Closed Meeting public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements; and public business matters identified in the motion to convene into Closed Session?" Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Bujakowski	-	yes
Councilor Stokes	-	yes
Vice Mayor Walton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Shornak	-	yes
Mayor Luman-Bailey	-	yes

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REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Luman-Bailey opened the regular meeting at 7:30 PM. Roll call was taken as follows:

Mayor Luman-Bailey	-	present
Vice Mayor Walton	-	present
Councilor Harris	-	ABSENT (medical)
Councilor Bujakowski	-	present
Councilor Stokes	-	present
Councilor Pelham	-	present
Councilor Shornak	-	present

Prayer was offered by Chaplain Shirley Lovitt, JRMC, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Luman-Bailey thanked the JRMC and the Red Cross for their assistance with Hurricane Irene. She also thanked all first responders and city employees for the great job they did during the emergency.

Motion was made by Councilor Pelham, seconded by Councilor Bujakowski, and unanimously passed to approve the Consent Agenda: Regular Meeting August 9, 2011 and Work Session August 23, 2011; Pending List; Information for Council Review: HRHA agenda 8/8/11, minutes 5/9/11, meeting change from 8/16/11 to 8/23/11, 8/23/11 meeting notice & agenda, Spec. Mtg. notice 9/7/11; School Board minutes 7/5/11, Retreat 7/11&12/11, 7/14/11, 7/26/11, & agenda 8/16/11; and HRWTF Agenda 8/23/11; Personnel Change Report & Financial Report; Routine Approval of Work Sessions: September 27, 2011 WS; Ordinances on second and final reading: Ord. No. 2011-13, Vacation of undeveloped Right of Way S.3rd Ave., located north of Winston Churchill Drive, east of intersection with S. 6th Avenue, South "B" Village Subdivision; Proclamations/Resolutions/Presentations: Proclamation – Col. Michael G. Morrow, Ft. Lee, Retired; Certificates of Appreciation to JRMC & the Red Cross for assistance during Hurricane Irene, August 27/28, 2011; and Announcement: Making Play a Priority: Non-Profit Organization KaBOOM! Names Hopewell Among 151 "Playful City USA" Communities.

Mayor Luman-Bailey presented a proclamation to Col. Michael G. Morrow in recognition of his retirement from the U. S. Army effective July 28, 2011. Col. Morrow thanked City Council and said that it was an honor for him to work with the City of Hopewell while he was at Fort Lee.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Colonel Michael G. Morrow was born in Birmingham, Alabama; is married to the former Tricia D. Karpus of Chester, Virginia, and together they have three daughters: Samantha, Shelby, and Lauren; and

WHEREAS, Col. Morrow was commissioned as an Infantry Officer in 1983 through the ROTC program at the University of Alabama. After serving with the 20th Special Forces (Airborne), Alabama Army National Guard, he entered active duty in 1985; and

WHEREAS, Col. Morrow has a Master of Science Degree from Central Michigan University and a Masters Degree in Strategic Studies from Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, while taking part in Project Warrior, Col. Morrow was assigned to Fort Lee, Virginia, as a Combined Logistics Officer Advanced Course Instructor and later as Director of the Support Operations Course; and

WHEREAS, Col. Morrow's background contains many more forms of education and training, as well as many, many awards and decorations..

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that I, Christina J. Luman-Bailey, Mayor of the City of Hopewell, Virginia, on behalf of the City Council and the citizens of our fair City, hereby offer sincere gratitude for assistance from and communication between Colonel Morrow at Fort Lee and the City of Hopewell, Virginia, and offer sincere thanks and congratulations upon the

**Retirement
of
Colonel Michael G. Morrow
July 28, 2011**

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the City of Hopewell in the Commonwealth of Virginia this 13th day of September 2011.

/s/ *Christina J. Luman-Bailey*, Mayor
City of Hopewell, Virginia

--oo0oo--

Mayor Luman-Bailey presented the Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. Nicols from JRMC.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

**The City of Hopewell Expresses its Appreciation to
The John Randolph Medical Center
For its Assistance in providing over 2,000 bags of ice to the Citizens of Hopewell during Hurricane
Irene which struck on August 27/28, 2011.**

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/s/ *Christina J. Luman-Bailey*, Mayor

--oo0oo--

The Certificate of Appreciation for the Red Cross will be mailed.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

**The City of Hopewell Expresses its Appreciation to
The Hopewell/Prince George Chapter of the
American Red Cross
For its Assistance in Providing 4,500 Meals to the Citizens of Hopewell during Hurricane Irene, and
its aftermath, which struck on August 27/28, 2011.**

September 13, 2011

/s/ *Christina J. Luman-Bailey*, Mayor

--oo0oo--

ORDINANCE NO. 2011-13

An Ordinance authorizing the vacation of an undeveloped right-of-way known as South 3rd Avenue located north of Winston Churchill Drive east of the intersection of South 6th Avenue and Winston Churchill Drive, in the South B Village Subdivision, in the City of Hopewell, Virginia.

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WHEREAS, a request has been filed with the City of Hopewell to vacate the City's interest in an unimproved right-of-way known as South 3rd Avenue located north of Winston Churchill Drive east of the intersection of South 6th Avenue and Winston Churchill Drive, in the South B Village Subdivision, in the City of Hopewell, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission of the City of Hopewell has recommended granting the requested vacation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOPEWELL that the vacation of the following described right-of-way located in the City of Hopewell, Virginia:

ALL that certain piece or parcel of land located in the City of Hopewell, Virginia, identified as a vacant portion of South 3rd Avenue as described on a plat entitled "A PORTION OF SOUTH 3RD AVENUE VACATED, 0.254 ACRES, PARCEL A-1, 0.418 ACRES & LOT 5 OF PARCEL C, 0.204 ACRES SOUTH B VILLAGE FORMING PARCEL A-1R, 0.876 ACRES SOUTH B VILLAGE HOPEWELL, VIRGINIA" prepared by Timmons Group dated June 15, 2011, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof,

be authorized and doth hereby authorize the Mayor to execute, on behalf of the City of Hopewell, one or more deeds of vacation vacating such parcels, as well as a development agreement, after review of said deed or deeds and such resubdivision plat by the City Attorney.

This Ordinance shall become null and void and of no effect if it is not recorded together with all deeds of vacation, and resubdivision plats in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the City of Hopewell within 30 days from passage of this Ordinance, or if the involved property owners do not pay all costs. The party or parties requesting this vacation are responsible for preparing the appropriate deeds to effect vacation, submission of said deeds to the City Attorney for approval prior to execution and recordation, and the recordation of said deeds, all in a timely manner. The vacated parcels shall be assimilated into, and become a part of, each abutting property, in accordance with the resubdivision plat. The party or parties requesting this vacation are responsible for effecting any resubdivision process necessary to accomplish such assimilation. A copy of this Ordinance shall be sent to said parties by the Clerk of the City of Hopewell.

PUBLIC HEARING – REQUEST TO AMEND ARTICLE XIV-B., TOURIST HISTORIC DISTRICT (TH-D), SECTION J-3 OF THE HOPEWELL ZONING ORDINANCE THAT REQUIRES THE BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW TO MEETING TWENTY (20) DAYS AFTER RECEIPT OF A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS OR OTHER PERMIT

The City of Hopewell has received a request to amend Article XIV-B, Section J-3 of the City of Hopewell Zoning Ordinance, to remove the requirement that the review board shall meet within twenty (20) days after notification by the Zoning Administrator of an application for a certificate of appropriateness or permit requiring action by the review board. Staff recommended the review board have one scheduled meeting per month. (Report filed in the City Clerk's Office.)

Mayor Luman-Bailey opened the public hearing at 7:47 PM.

Mr. Altman, Director of Development, presented a summary of the subject to City Council.

There being no speakers, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:49 PM.

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Motion was made by Councilor Pelham, and seconded by Vice Mayor Walton to approve Ordinance No. 2011-14, amending and reenacting Article XIV-B, Section J-3 of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Hopewell – Tourist/Historic District, on first reading. Upon the roll call, the voting resulted:

Councilor Bujakowski	-	yes
Councilor Stokes	-	yes
Vice Mayor Walton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Shornak	-	yes
Mayor Luman-Bailey	-	yes

PUBLIC HEARING – VIRGINIA AMERICAN WATER COMPANY (VAWC0) AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (DEQ), CITY OF HOPEWELL WATER CONSERVATION PLAN – INCORPORATE THE CITY OF HOPEWELL INTO THE REGIONAL PLAN

Janet L. Rogel, P.E. Project Manager, Virginia American Water Company, P.O. Box 60, Hopewell, requested that a Public Hearing be added to the City Council Agenda re: “*Virginia American Water Company, in concert with the City of Hopewell and the Appomattox River Water Authority Regional Water Supply Plan partners, are moving forward with the water supply planning process as outlined in 9 VAC 25-780 Local and Regional Water Supply Planning, including the required public hearings for program adoption.*”

Mayor Luman-Bailey opened the public hearing at 7:47 PM.

Ms. Rogel gave a brief review to City Council. The purpose of the request is to allow DEQ to determine if the State of Virginia has enough water supply for 10, 20, 30 years into the future.

DISCUSSION: City Council posed a number of questions and comments. Ms. Rogel reported that the timeline is to adopt by November 2011. It must go to the State Water Control Board. Council asked for copies of the full 2011 Hopewell Water Supply Plan, which Ms. Rogel will provide.

The document describes ‘no significant increase in demand’ anticipated from 2025 to 2040 due to build out. The 2011 Hopewell Water Supply Plan contains paragraphs about the historic resources, VPDES point sources, etc. These additions help satisfy the required elements in the regulation. The City of Hopewell Water Conservation Plan which documents support (voluntary) of the regional partners drought declarations (Voluntary, Mandatory and Emergency) is sufficient. Virginia American Water Company is considering amending the conservation plan as future negotiations unfold with industrial customers. Any revision to the conservation plan could be submitted as part of the five year review. Ms. Rogel’s goal was to move forward with the ‘chapter’ for City of Hopewell approval. The City’s action will be incorporated into the approved 2011 Hopewell Water Supply Plan, perhaps with a resolution or copies of minutes, into the formal regional submittal. The goal of the DEQ was to incorporate the City of Hopewell into the regional plan to meet the November deadline. The DEQ foresees no shortage of water. There should be no Statement of Need. The DEQ has waived the requirement for an ordinance from the City of Hopewell. Ms. Rogel indicated that she could advertise a link from DEQ to the City of Hopewell. She emphasized that this will be a living document. It is an evaluation of the state. The next review will be five years from now, and the City can make changes.

City Council would like the DEQ to come back to the Work Session scheduled for September 27, 2011.

There being no speakers, the public hearing was closed at 7:58 PM.

Council action was not required at this time.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

There being no speakers, Communications from Citizens were.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – VRS PLAN – RESCIND POLICY THAT EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2011, ALL EMPLOYEES HIRED AFTER THAT DATE SHALL PAY THE VRS EMPLOYEE 5% CONTRIBUTION TO VRS ON A PRE-TAX BASIS

Motion was made by Councilor Stokes, seconded by Councilor Pelham, and unanimously passed to rescind the policy that effective July 1, 2011, all employees hired after that date shall pay the VRS Employee 5% contribution to VRS on a pre-tax basis.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – THE SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD REQUEST TO RECOGNIZE NANCY TREANOR, DIRECTOR OF THE HDSS ON THE NEW SOCIAL SERVICES BUILDING BY PLACING A PLAQUE INSIDE THE BUILDING

At the City Council meeting held on July 12, 2011, Council unanimously passed a motion to coordinate with the Social Services Advisory Board on the placement of a plaque on the inside of the new Social Services building to honor Nancy Treanor, Director. At the City Council meeting held on August 9, 2011, there was an amended motion to name the Multi-Purpose Room after Mrs. Ruth Harris, but there was no vote. There was finally a motion to table (postpone) the issue to the September 13, 2011 Council Meeting.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Walton and seconded by Councilor Pelham to name the Conference Room at the Social Services Building in honor of Nancy Treanor, Director, and to name the Multi-purpose Room in honor of Mrs. Ruth Harris.

Although there was some confusion during the discussion, the issue of a plaque for Nancy Treanor had been unanimously approved at the July 12th meeting.

Motion was made by Councilor Bujakowski to amend the minutes of August 9, 2011, to reflect Council action to table the request from the board regarding naming of a room for Mrs. Ruth Harris.

Motion was made by Councilor Bujakowski to postpone indefinitely.

The issue of the request from the board regarding naming of a room for Mrs. Ruth Harris will be added to the Pending List; if no action is taken after two City Council meetings, and the Pending List item is not on the agenda, it is automatically deleted and no further action is required.

CITIZEN/COUNCILOR REQUEST – UPSIDE TO YOUR DEVELOPMENT, INC., JAMES C. COLEMAN, DIRECTOR – NEWLY DEVELOPED NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION VISION FOR THE HOPEWELL COMMUNITY

James C. Coleman is Director of Upside To Your Development, Inc., located at 320 East Broadway, Hopewell, Virginia. He and other representatives introduced the organization's initiatives and requested support and collaboration from the City of Hopewell. They briefly discussed the following initiatives:

1. Holistic approach to Transitional Reentry to aid in stopping Recidivism.
2. Teen Pregnancy Prevention.
3. Students Dropout Prevention Program. (They plan to open a computer lab in the Hopewell area soon to provide mentoring, tutoring, counseling in aid in the prevention of student dropout.)
4. Request support and collaboration.

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CITIZEN/COUNCILOR REQUEST – DR. JANE McCULLEN AND DANNY BIRCHETT, HOPEWELL TWINNING ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCEMENT AND INVITATION TO HOPEWELL TWINNING EVENT WITH ASHFORD, ENGLAND VISITORS

Mr. Danny Birchett and Dr. Jane McCullen addressed Council regarding the 20 visitors from Ashford October 5-12, 2011. The schedule of activities, prepared to by the Hopewell Twinning Association, was distributed (filed in the City Clerk's Office). Members of City Council and spouses are invited as guests of Hopewell Twinning to the lunch on Thursday, October 6, at Brickhouse Run and to the Farewell Dinner at The Beacon Theatre on October 11. City Councilors are invited to attend any other activities or events, at their own expense.

Anyone interested in joining the Hopewell Twinning Association may pick up a brochure from the lobby of the Municipal Building, or contact any member. The association meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at Lisa's Café, East Broadway.

CITIZEN/COUNCILOR REQUEST – COUNCILOR STOKES, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY'S REQUEST FOR SALARY INCREASE

Councilor Stokes, as Chairman of the Finance Committee, asked that his request to consider the Commonwealth's Attorney's request for salary increase be removed from the agenda.

CITIZEN/COUNCILOR REQUEST – COUNCILOR STOKES - \$200,000.00, LEFT OVER FROM THE I-295 PROJECT, TO GO TO THE MAIN STREET PROJECT

Motion was made by Councilor Stokes and seconded by Councilor Pelham, to form a contract between the City of Hopewell and the Hopewell Downtown Partnership, Inc., and authorize allocation of \$200,000, left over from the I-295 Project, to go to the Main Street Project (Hopewell Downtown Partnership, Inc.).

The City of Hopewell shall contract with the Hopewell Downtown Partnership, Inc. to include:

- 1. The City shall provide \$70,000 each fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011. The funds shall be allocated from the I-295 project and shall be subject to review and appropriation by the Council each year.*
- 2. The City shall retain all funds and shall disperse said funds, as directed by the Partnership Board of Directors, in accordance with all City procedures to include procurement and human resource. A monthly report of expenditures shall be provided to the Council and Partnership by the City Finance Department.*
- 3. All expenses including staff, benefits and operational expenditures shall be charged to the \$70,000 annual appropriation. The City shall not overspend this account.*
- 4. The City Tourism Director shall be available to assist the Partnership with the organization of events to promote downtown. There will not be a charge to the Partnership for this assistance. The Department of Development staff shall assist the Partnership with projects as appropriate at no charge to the Partnership. Requests for tourism and development assistance with projects and events shall be directed to the City Manager.*
- 5. The City shall provide office space for the Partnership staff.*

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6. *The Partnership shall obtain 501(c)(3) designation. The Partnership shall report on the status of this designation to Council with each budget request.*

7. *The Partnership shall be charged with increasing the tax receipts paid to the City in Downtown Hopewell. The partnership shall prepare an annual report to the Council demonstrating the increased tax revenues each year prior to the next appropriation.*

DISCUSSION: Some Councilors voiced concern that the contract was presented to Council at the meeting and they were expected to vote on it, having only just seen it. Some thought that it might have been negotiated elsewhere. There were many questions. The Hopewell Downtown Partnership was requesting appropriation of City funds. There were questions about who the members of the Downtown Partnership were. Apparently the president is moving out of town, and other downtown businesses are closing. In excess of \$12,000 have been spent, unsuccessfully, trying to get the 501(c)(3). Some Councilors requested a Work Session. In response to a question about the contract, the Partnership is required to submit a request to Council each year before receiving funds. There was discussion about making monies available in order to continue; hire a director; schedule events (events must be sent to City Council). It is not a “given” that the Partnership will receive money every year. (Councilor Stokes was asking for money for a three-year period.) There was further comment that this large amount of money was not allocated in the budget and Councilor Stokes was anticipating taking it from the I-295 Project. There was discrepancy about whether or not the Downtown Partnership had received the 501(c)(3). It is required in order to apply for grants or to accept contributions, without which the Partnership would be solely dependent on the City. This is the first time that Council heard the proposal. Council must decide where the money would come from. The Partnership’s by-laws (Articles of Incorporation) state that at all times it would qualify for 501(c)(3). There were some Councilors who felt that the City was not in a position to hand out \$200,000 until the partnership receives the 501(c)(3) designation. They would like to see it thrive, but must first know where the money is coming from since it was not in the City budget. Other organizations in the City of Hopewell have fund raisers. The Downtown Partnership has not had any fund raisers. It was pointed out, however, that the designated funds would be overage funds not allocated, from the I-295 Project. However, there have been no raises in almost four years for city and school employees. Public input was requested before voting on this issue tonight. During discussion congratulations were offered by one Councilor for gaining the Main Street Status. It would be great for Council to remember that past Councils bonded \$20M to make downtown work. To invest in this program would augment that money. The City has given money to Hooray for Hopewell without a 501(c)(3). Money must be invested for it to grow. There was a request for the Downtown Partnership to attend a Council meeting or Work Session to answer some questions.

The City Manager explained that Council would in essence be giving the money to itself. The money will stay in the City’s accounts. The City would create a new department; it would have line items; it would spend money out of that account. Fiscal dollars would stay in the City. In regard to those comments, the question arose of how much more money would be required. Dr. Daley indicated that the new department would be using City offices. However, some felt that that had not been the case in the past. The money in the past went to the Downtown Partnership. Another question arose about whether or not it was customary for the City to pay for legal fees to achieve 501(c)(3) status. Apparently the City paid the legal fees for the Partnership. Dr. Daley added that this proposal is capped at \$70,000.

Although there was a call for the question, there was additional discussion. Some Councilors have never been in favor of this project. The City has received the Main Street Status and should be proud. It either wants Hopewell Downtown to work or it does not. The vote was called for again.

Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Bujakowski	-	yes
Councilor Stokes	-	yes (filed a Transactional Disclosure Statement)
Vice Mayor Walton	-	NO
Councilor Pelham	-	yes (filed a Transactional Disclosure Statement)
Councilor Shornak	-	NO

The motion passed 4/2.

CITIZEN/COUNCILOR REQUEST – COUNCILOR PELHAM – REQUEST A SCHEDULE BE PUBLISHED TO INFORM CITIZENS WHEN THE HURRICANE IRENE DEBRIS PICKUP WILL OCCUR THROUGHOUT THE CITY; IN ADDITION, A REQUEST FOR A SCHEDULE OF TIMES TO BE POSTED ON STREET SIGNS NOTIFYING CITIZENS OF THE RECURRING DATES/TIMES THAT THE STREET SWEEPER WILL BE IN EACH AREA

Councilor Pelham congratulated the City staff for its assistance during and after Hurricane Irene on August 28/29, 2011. There should be a way to provide a schedule to citizens about City clean up. The City Manager indicated that the clean up from the hurricane is being picked up every day. The Public Works Department will provide a map and pickups throughout the City. He invited citizens to contact Public Works or the City Manager.

Chief Tunstall provided an extensive report on Hurricane Irene. Mayor Luman-Bailey thanked Capt. Sam Trikoulis, in particular, of the Fire Department and asked the Chief to share her comments with him. In response to citizen concern about possible individual assistance, Chief Tunstall indicated that he had not heard that it would be available. The City of Hopewell might not qualify, but there are some other programs that the state has.

Motion was made by Councilor Pelham, seconded by Councilor Bujakowski, and passed unanimously to confirm the Disaster Declaration of Emergency by the City Manager and to terminate the emergency effective September 5, 2011.

CITIZEN/COUNCILOR REQUEST – DR. MOORE AND RAY WATSON, HOPEWELL SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE, UPDATE ON HOPEWELL HIGH SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Dr. Francis Moore, Interim School Superintendent addressed Council. He was appointed on July 1, 2011, while the School Board searches for a Superintendent to replace Dr. Winston O. Odom, who retired. Hopewell schools were ready for opening day on September 6. Councilor Pelham had requested that he share the progress of the HHS renovation project. He has had experience with new school construction, but this is his first experience of a renovation while school is in session.

Ray Watson, Deputy Superintendent, provided a PowerPoint presentation of the progress of the HHS renovation project, as requested by the School Construction Committee.

Mayor Luman-Bailey asked that in the future, Council should be notified if a situation such as the Hopewell Quarterback League issue should arise. The practice field could not be used by the HHS football team, therefore they were required to practice at Merner Field, as well as have Home Games there. That eliminated Merner Field from availability to the Hopewell Quarterback League for Saturday games. Mr. Watson shared that the School Board would have liked to have given more notice, but only recently was made aware themselves. They understand the importance of the football field, but must have a field for HHS team to play. In addition, Merner Field is used for soccer in the spring. There is as much wear and tear on the field from little ones as from the HHS team. Five children's games are usually held on Saturday beginning at 9:00 AM at Merner Field. There was discussion of the "crown" on the field being flat. It was redone in 2003, but has since lost some of the "crown." There probably will not be any money left over from the HHS project, due to the many change orders that were necessary. A redone field would probably cost about \$10,000.

The HQL met with the Schools' Athletic Director, who offered them the practice field. Mr. Watson reported that renovations at HHS should be finished at the end of December 2011, according to the contractor.

CITIZEN/COUNCILOR REQUEST – HOPEWELL QUARTERBACK LEAGUE

Robert Pind, President of the Hopewell Quarterback League, addressed City Council. He thanked Vice Mayor Walton for attending their recent meeting. He also thanked Dr. Moore for talking to him. He offered a formal apology to Marshall Parker because changing the field was not his decision.

The HQL stays on the field after the last game to clean the field after HHS games. His research revealed that the Quarterback League has used Merner Field since the 1960's. About 90% of the HHS players started on the Quarterback League. The League has over 350 football players and cheerleaders, with no City funding. They are currently working on their 501(c)(3). They have 60 volunteers and coaches, and also do the Spring playing season. All coaches must be certified at their own expense. The League has played in many tournaments on the East Coast. Mr. Pind met with Marshall Parker and agreed to use the practice field for the 2011 season, but they will be at Merner Field for the 2012 season. No one is to blame for the situation, but he encouraged better communication. They will play in Chester, Petersburg and Ft. Lee the first two weeks of the season. Merner Field is so important because of tradition, control of the field and the concession stand. Using the practice field for games will cost the HQL \$2,000 to fix up. They are considering concrete barriers to prevent anyone from accidentally driving onto the field from the parking lot, which happened last year. Mr. Pind would like to have a permanent fix. He would appreciate any Council help --- not money. In conclusion, he thanked Council for their time.

DISCUSSION: Using Atwater Park would not be better for this year. As far as a permanent location, the HQL would be interested in a dedicated field at Atwater Park that did not conflict with soccer. Mr. Pind would eventually like to build a stadium in Hopewell if possible. He said that Jo Turek and Ronnie Parker were outstanding in assisting in this matter. At Atwater Park there is an existing stand-alone field with concession stand and parking lots. The HQL would consider that a dream! Mr. Pind invited anyone to call the HCC to communicate with the President of the HQL. A Councilor indicated that perhaps the process could be started by late October 2011. Mr. Pind indicated that the League had never felt supported by the City. [Mayor Luman-Bailey apologized and assured him that the City does support them.] They expect to play their first game in two weeks. He invited Council to attend. It is important to continue communication. In that way the Council has supported the HQL.

Vice Mayor Walton appreciated the eloquent manner in which Mr. Pind spoke to Council tonight. He appreciates all he does. Mayor Luman-Bailey suggested that they contact the Optimist League, the HPD P.A.L.s, and other civic organizations for assistance.

REGULAR BUSINESS – CLEAN CITY COMMISSION – REQUESTED NAME CHANGE TO “KEEP HOPWELL BEAUTIFUL” TO BE CONSISTENT WITH THE STATE “KEEP VIRGINIA BEAUTIFUL” AND “KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL” ORGANIZATIONS WITH WHICH HOPEWELL IS AFFILIATED

The Staff of the Clean City Commission, Department of Development, has requested the name, “The Clean City Commission” (CCC) be changed to “Keep Hopewell Beautiful.” The change would be consistent with the Commonwealth’s “Keep Virginia Beautiful” campaign and the nation’s, “Keep America Beautiful” campaign, where the CCC is an affiliate of both. The Clean City Commission is often mistaken as a policing/enforcement commission. The name does not capture the broad function of the group, whereas “Keep Hopewell Beautiful” is inviting and is an attractive slogan that they believe will foster more community involvement.

The Clean City Commission is established by City Council action and currently consists of seven (7) Hopewell citizens appointed by the City Council. The Commission funds the recycling programs in all elementary schools and the middle school. They hope to begin recycling in the high school after the renovation is complete. The group educates students and adults on recycling and litter prevention. The Commission helps to sponsor a biannual citywide clean-up program, facilitates the Adopt-A-Street/Spot

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Program, and awards monthly residential, commercial, and miscellaneous beautification awards that are featured in the Hopewell News. The Commission has purchased an aluminum can recycling bin for the third floor of the Municipal Building and a recycling toter for the School Board Building. Most recently, the Commission added a beautification program that purchases mulch, flowers, trees, vegetation for organizations to plan in areas that need beautification.

The Clean City Commission is excited about the activities they have been able to sponsor and believe that the name change will help to gain even more support of their mission and goals.

Motion was made by Councilor Pelham, seconded by Vice Mayor Walton, and unanimously passed to approve the request to rename the Clean City Commission to Keep Hopewell Beautiful.

REGULAR BUSINESS – DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY – ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT – APPROVED AMOUNT OF THE GRANT: \$79,624.00; CITY’S COST 10% (\$7,962.00) FROM THE FIRE OPERATING BUDGET

Motion was made by Councilor Stokes, and seconded by Councilor Pelham, to authorize acceptance of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the approved amount of \$79,624.00, with the City’s cost 10% (\$7,962.00) from the Fire Operating Budget. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Bujakowski	-	yes
Councilor Stokes	-	yes
Vice Mayor Walton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Shornak	-	yes
Mayor Luman-Bailey	-	yes

REGULAR BUSINESS – TERRI BATTON, CITY TREASURER – REFUND \$16,298.99 – VIRGINIA ONCOLOGY AND HEMATOLOGY P.C.

In accordance with State Code sections 58.1-3981 and 58.1-3990, it is requested that \$16,298.99 be refunded to Virginia Oncology & Hematology, P.C. Said business applies annually to the City of Hopewell for a business license and inadvertent overage errors were reported in gross receipts for tax years 2009 and 2010, causing overpayment for both years.

It is therefore requested by the City Treasurer and the Commissioner of the Revenue, that \$16,298.99, which includes interest, be approved for refund and paid to Virginia Oncology & Hematology, P.C.

Motion was made by Councilor Stokes, and seconded by Councilor Bujakowski, to approve the request requested by the City Treasurer and the Commissioner of the Revenue, that \$16,298.99, which includes interest, be approved for refund and paid to Virginia Oncology & Hematology, P.C. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Bujakowski	-	yes
Councilor Stokes	-	yes
Vice Mayor Walton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Shornak	-	yes
Mayor Luman-Bailey	-	yes

REGULAR BUSINESS – VML 2011 CONFERENCE – CERTIFICATE OF VOTING AND ALTERNATE and NLC 2011 CONFERENCE – CERTIFICATE OF VOTING DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE

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Motion was made by Councilor Pelham, and seconded by Councilor Stokes, and unanimously passed to appoint Mayor Christina J. Luman-Bailey as Voting Delegate, and Vice Mayor Wayne Walton as Alternate Voting Delegate for the Business Session of the VML Annual Conference on October 4, 2011.

Motion was made by Councilor Stokes, seconded by Councilor Bujakowski, and unanimously passed to appoint Mayor Christina J. Luman-Bailey as Voting Delegate, and Councilor Brenda S. Pelham as Alternate Voting Delegate for the NLC 2011 Congress of Cities on November 12, 2011.

REGULAR BUSINESS – HOPEWELL POLICY DEPARTMENT – JAG GRANT 2011 - \$33,009 ALLOCATION WITH NO LOCAL MATCH

The Hopewell Police Department is applying for funds to sustain their basic patrol functions. Purchase items include iForce patrol bikes, patrol bike accessories, Tasers, Taser Cameras, Taser cartridges, mobile laptops, and service weapons. The department is applying for \$33,009 in local JAG funding.

The Hopewell Police Department will purchase five iForce patrol bikes and accessories at a cost of \$13,124; three mobile computers at a cost of \$11,400; five Tasers at a cost of \$4,025; five Taser cameras at a cost of \$2,060; fifteen Taser cartridges at a cost of \$355; and five Glock 22 handguns at a cost of \$2,045.

The department will purchase all items expeditiously. Quotes are in hand for each purchase. Upon notification of grant award, updated quotes will be obtained and the equipment will be purchased. All expenditures will be complete within the thirty-six month grant cycle.

Five Bureau of Justice Assistance indicators that can be associated with proposed project activities are: Community Policing, Equipment-General, Less than Lethal, Officer Safety, and Vehicle-Other.

Motion was made by Councilor Pelham, seconded by Vice Mayor Wayne Walton, and unanimously approved to authorize acceptance of JAG Grant 2011 in the amount of \$33,009, with no local match.

REGULAR BUSINESS – JOHNNIE BUTLER, CITY ENGINEER – RECEIVE UP TO \$80,000 FROM OSAGE TOWARDS A FUTURE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (CIP) ON LaPRADE AVENUE, PER THE APPROVED ROAD IMPROVEMENT PLANS/PERMIT AND DEVELOPER AGREEMENT – CONSTRUCTION (ONLY)

In a report presented by Johnnie Butler, City Engineer he explained that in October 2009, as part of the site plan approval and permit issuance, the City required a multitude of improvements to the surrounding road corridor (6th Avenue/La Prade Avenue/S. Main Street/Winston Churchill Drive). To a large degree planned improvements were performed on all the bordering road sections as indicated. The full package of road section modernizations on La Prade are still pending. Those unfinished improvements are curb & gutter, sidewalk and allied drainage system improvements. The adjacent zone to the proposed improvements received a screening berm and extensive landscaping.

The City and OSAGE officials have been in discussion on completing the road section improvements. Several prices have been procured to perform the proposed work. To date the submitted prices have been over the current budget allocation. Increasing the project budget is not an option at this time, given the pending sale of the plant.

Osage officials are continuing to work on getting better pricing closer to the assignment budget and/or performing acceptable value engineering to trim down the cost.

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Due to the tenuous nature of the current corporate management officials, DPW feels it would be prudent for the City to be in a position to accept a donation of funds. The funding will be placed in an assigned capital improvement account for the designated purpose.

The Council granting the authorization now, places the City Administration in a position to act quickly if: 1) the need arises; or 2) it is decided to be the best course of action.

By taking a cash contribution, OSAGE will be released of their obligations under the plan and permit approval.

OSAGE may still contract and perform acceptable scaled back improvements, or, perform a “not to exceed” level of improvements. The balance of the desired work could be discussed with the new owners, or, done by the City through small project funding program, both at a later date.

Motion was made by Councilor Stokes, and seconded by Councilor Pelham, to authorize acceptance of up to \$80,000 towards future CIP Funds from Osage.

DISCUSSION: In response to several Council questions, the City is not losing any money, and regarding delinquent taxes, the City Attorney reported that the City records indicate that Osage owes back taxes, but Osage disagreed.

Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Bujakowski	-	yes
Councilor Stokes	-	out of the room
Vice Mayor Walton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Shornak	-	yes
Mayor Luman-Bailey	-	yes

REPORT OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

None.

REGULAR BUSINESS – REPORT OF THE CITY CLERK – APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

No appointments.

REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Vice Mayor Walton thanked employees for working during Hurricane Irene. He reminded everyone of Hooray for Hopewell this weekend and the Paddle or Battle on Saturday at City Park at the river, sponsored by FOLAR.

Councilor Pelham recently attended the Central Virginia Film Office Board meeting. She met the casting director for Steven Spielberg’s ABC movie about Abraham Lincoln, parts of which will be filmed in Richmond and Petersburg. The casting agents are looking for extras, and will hold a casting call September 15. Agents are looking for African-American and white men to portray Union and Confederate soldiers, delegates, contraband slaves and citizens of all classes circa 1865. They are also looking for white men who play an orchestral instrument and African-American men younger than 40 who are adept at horseback riding. African-American and white women with shoulder length (or longer) hair of natural color and with dress sizes 6 to 12 are needed to portray contraband slaves, White House staff (and more) and citizens of all classes. The casting call will be held from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Richmond Convention Center, 403 N. Third St. Individuals must be 18 or older and should bring a recent non-returnable photo.

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Anyone who has attended previous open calls need not attend. Filming begins in October. The film is based on the book "Team of Rivals" by Doris Kearns Goodwin. It will star Daniel Day-Lewis as President Abraham Lincoln. Contact the Office of the City Clerk for more information. Councilor Pelham thanked everyone who worked on Hurricane Irene. She encouraged residents to register for Code Red and Nixel, which provide telephone emergency notifications free of charge. She announced the Coalition Against Alcohol and Drugs on Thursday, November 2, 2011 at the Train Station in Petersburg. Contact District 19 or Councilor Pelham for more information. Councilor Pelham thanked everyone for support and prayers during her recent trial, over the past four months.

Mayor Luman-Bailey announced some upcoming events: Council Work Session, September 27; Planning Commission, October 6; Citywide Neighborhood Watch Meeting, October 13. She reminded and invited everyone to Hooray for Hopewell this weekend. On Friday, the Downtown Partnership will sponsor an outdoor movie at City Park. She asked to keep the Wells family in everyone's prayers.

ADJOURN

At 10:36 PM **motion** to adjourn the meeting was made by Vice Mayor Walton, seconded by Councilor Pelham, and unanimously passed.

Christina J. Luman-Bailey
Mayor

Ann M. Romano, City Clerk