

February 14, 2012

Regular Council Meeting

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 14, 2012**

A Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Hopewell, Virginia, was held Tuesday, February 14, 2012, 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**

**Motion** was made by Councilor Pelham, seconded by Vice Mayor Walton, and unanimously passed to convene into Closed Session to discuss Appointments to Boards and Commissions, Acquisition/Disposition of Property (Old City Jail), and Legal Matters: probable litigation (Virginia American Water Company) and actual litigation (Osage) in accordance with Virginia Code Sec. 2.2-3711(A) (1) (3) & (7).

**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

**REGULAR MEETING**

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

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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, 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 Walton, to approve the Consent Agenda.

**Motion** was made by Councilor Shornak, seconded by Councilor Bujakowski, and unanimously passed to amend the minutes of the City Council Work Session dated January 30, 2012, on page 2, by adding Councilor Shornak's name to the roll call, having voted, "yes."

Upon the roll call on the original motion to approve the Consent Agenda: Regular Meeting minutes January 10, 2012 and January 30, 2012 (as amended); Pending List; Information for Council Review: HRHA meeting 1/9/12 agenda, minutes 9/12/11; School Board Agenda 1/19/12; Social Services Advisory Board minutes 11/14/11 & 2011 Annual Report; HRWTF Agenda 1/223/12 & minutes 11/7/11; Senior Citizens Advisory Comm. minutes 11/15/11 & agenda 11/17/12; ARLS minutes 12/6/11; Recreation Comm. agenda 2/8/12 & minutes 1/11/12; and TSB minutes 12/6/11 & agenda 2/7/12; Personnel Change Report & Financial Report; Routine Approval of Work Sessions: February 28, 2012; Ordinance on second and final reading: none; Proclamations/Resolutions/Presentations: Proclamation-Investigator Donald E. Reid, Jr., HPD and Certificate of Appreciation-Neighborhood Watch-Donald E. Reid, Jr., the vote resulted:

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

**PROCLAMATION**

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**WHEREAS, Investigator Donald E. Reid, Jr.**, while off duty on January 13, 2012, observed an incident near his residence, in the 3300 block of Portsmouth Street, whereby three unidentified perpetrators were unlawfully at a neighbor's property; and

**WHEREAS, Investigator Reid** grabbed his weapon and radio, and realized that the three fled the scene after they apparently startled an elderly female at the residence; and

**WHEREAS,** he then followed the burglary suspects on foot, keeping them in sight for several blocks; the suspects went behind a residence and **Investigator Reid** contacted telecommunications and requested assistance; and

**WHEREAS,** he then went to the 600 block of Wilmington Avenue and observed a blue and white van parked with the same three suspects sitting in it. **Investigator Reid** walked up to the van with his duty weapon drawn and he gave the suspects in the van verbal orders to keep their hands up where he could see them; the suspects continued to make movements in the van. Once fellow Officers arrived on the scene, the suspects were taken into custody without incident. The elderly female in the residence escaped without injury; and

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WHEREAS, One suspect was an adult and he was charged with burglary and two counts of contributing to the delinquency of minor; the other two males were juveniles and were also charged with burglary; and

WHEREAS, *Investigator Reid* has received accolades from Council members and Neighborhood Watch groups for his heroic actions. He is an asset to the Hopewell Police Department and his community, where he resides and continues about his duties daily in a highly professional manner.

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 formally offer to *Investigator Donald E. Reid, Jr.*, Unit #475, sincere gratitude and appreciation for his bravery and valor for taking three felons off the streets of Hopewell and he is hereby commended for his outstanding actions.

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 14<sup>th</sup> day of February 2012.

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

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**CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION**

This certificate is awarded to  
*Donald E. Reid, Jr.*

In recognition of valuable contributions to  
*the Farmingdale Neighborhood Watch area for his heroic measures*  
*taken while off-duty on January 13, 2012 to keep our citizens safe.*

*/s/ Debra W. Pershing*      2/14/12  
Coordinator-Farmingdale      Date  
Neighborhood Watch Area

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS**

There being no speakers, Communications from Citizens were closed.

**CITIZEN/COUNCILOR REQUEST – HOPEWELL YOUTH CENTER**

Councilor Pelham introduced Katina Moss, Hopewell High School Business Department Chair, and Betty Ware, Supervisor, Career & Technical Education, Hopewell Public Schools. Under their guidance, DeVontae Hampton and Keith Turner made a presentation to City Council for consideration to finance and build a Hopewell Youth Center. During an FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) Activity, students were asked to identify values. Mayor Luman-Bailey invited the students to the podium to give their presentation.

Keith Turner is a Senior at Hopewell High School, and DeVontae Hampton is a Sophomore. They made their presentation and asked for positive Council comments. There are enough partners in Hopewell to develop something like this.

Councilor Pelham thanked Todd McFarland and Shawn Miller with Big Brothers/Big Sisters. These students spoke to Jo Turek, Director of Recreation and Parks also. She will develop some figures for the proposal.

**CITIZEN/COUNCILOR REQUEST – VICE MAYOR WALTON & COUNCILOR BUJAKOWSKI – BLUFFS PROPERTY**

Vice Mayor Walton and Councilor Bujakowski gave a brief presentation regarding the Bluffs property, to subdivide the Bluffs property into private lots and market them through local Real Estate Agencies and have staff do a study on other possibilities of getting City-owned property back on the tax rolls. The Bluffs property is not bringing any tax revenue into the City now and depending on how many lots, could bring in significant sales revenue and real estate taxes. It could also apply to other City-owned property.

They would like to charge staff and the Planning Commission to come back with a conceptual plan for the property; and, to put in place the zoning and parameters that a developer would need to develop the site.

**DISCUSSION:** To consider hiring an Economic Development Director, and give that person the task to integrate this into their priorities. This is a housing project and would not be related to the Economic Development Director. That position would be working on business and industrial recruitment. The property should be specifically owner occupied.

**Motion** was made by Vice Mayor Walton, seconded by Councilor Bujakowski, and passed unanimously to refer this issue to the Planning Commission and the Department of Development, and to come back to City Council in May with a conceptual plan for the Bluffs property.

**CITIZEN/COUNCILOR REQUEST – VICE MAYOR WALTON – DREDGING APPOMATTOX RIVER IN PETERSBURG**

Vice Mayor Walton proposed a Resolution to petition the Department of Conservation and Recreation of the Commonwealth of Virginia to include the dredging of the Appomattox River in Petersburg, Virginia in the Virginia Outdoors Plan for 2013.

**Motion** was made by Vice Mayor Walton, and seconded by Councilor Pelham to adopt a Resolution to petition the Department of Conservation and Recreation of the Commonwealth of Virginia to include the dredging of the Appomattox River in Petersburg, Virginia in the Virginia Outdoors Plan for 2013. 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

**A RESOLUTION TO PETITION THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA TO INCLUDE THE DREDGING OF THE APPOMATTOX RIVER IN PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA IN THE VIRGINIA OUTDOORS PLAN FOR 2013.**

**WHEREAS,** The City of Hopewell, a city within the Commonwealth of Virginia, that borders the Appomattox River; and

**WHEREAS,** The City of Hopewell supports adding language in the Virginia Outdoors Plan for the City of Petersburg's effort to have the harbor area of the river dredged for the economic, tourism, employment and recreational benefits it will create; and

**WHEREAS,** The Virginia Outdoors Plan is the official document for open space planning, conservation of land and outdoor recreation serving as a guide for increasing opportunities for outdoor recreation for all Virginians and many tourists, along with creating jobs; and

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**WHEREAS**, The City of Hopewell supports the added language in the Virginia Outdoors Plan that references the re-establishment the navigational channel and harbor in the Appomattox River in downtown Petersburg to an acceptable depth that will allow for commercial and recreational use.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by unanimous vote at the February 14, 2012, meeting held in Hopewell, Virginia, do hereby request the Department of Conservation and Recreation to include in the 2013 Outdoors Plan for Virginia the dredging of the old harbor area of the Appomattox River in Old Towne Petersburg.

Dated: February 14, 2012

**CITIZEN/COUNCILOR REQUEST – COUNCILOR BUJAKOWSKI ON BEHALF OF GINO CORTESE – ADDRESS CITY COUNCIL**

Gino Cortese, City employee addressed Council. He thanked Council for the Employee Bonus given in December and he voiced his appreciation. The employees have taken care of the City, and he felt it was time that Council took care of the employees. He hoped that Council had considered an employee raise in 2012. It has been four years since the last raise, and he urged Council to look at the figures again.

Councilor Shornak addressed Mr. Cortese and told him that Council does recognize employees going above and beyond. She thinks that City employees deserve a raise. Council is losing good employees who are going to work in other localities for more money. The City needs to retain the employees it has. She supported the employee raise.

**AMEND THE AGENDA**

By consensus of Council the agenda was amended by removing Councilor Bujakowski's Citizen/Councilor Request regarding a "Council Response" period immediately following the "Communications from Citizens" portion on the agenda.

The purpose was to allow Police Chief John Keohane an opportunity to provide Council with an update of his department in the nine months since he has been with the City of Hopewell.

**CITIZEN/COUNCILOR REQUEST – POLICE CHIEF JOHN KEOHANE – UPDATE REPORT ON ACTIVITIES IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT SINCE MAY 1, 2011**

Chief Keohane outlined the department's accomplishments in 2011. The handouts (HPD, Crime Summary, Reporting Date: 1/3/12), were distributed and are filed in the City Clerk's Office.

<b>HOPEWELL POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>	
<b>Report on Activities in the Department (5/2/11–12/31/11) "Professionalism, Integrity and Justice"</b>	<b>2012 Goals "Professionalism, Integrity and Justice"</b>
Reduction in Crime 2010 v. 2011	Reduction in Crime Violent Crime -       -15% Property Crime -       -8% Total Major Crime -   10%
Policy Manual	n/a Completed
Virginia Law Enforcement Accreditation	Virginia Law Enforcement Accreditation 12/1/12-Full Accreditation of HPD
Engaging the Community	Engaging the Community Command Walks; Outdoor Roll Calls; Police Activities League; Faith Leader Academy

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Quality of Life – Drug Operations	Quality of Life – Drug Operations 2 Drug Buy Operations; remove 25 drug dealers from streets of Hopewell; utilize SWAT Team
Neighborhood Watch	Neighborhood Watch National Night Out; reactivate 3 dormant neighborhood watch groups; create 4 new ones; continued attendance/neighborhood watch meetings & Citywide meeting
Police Grants	n/a Completed
Police Fleet Upgrade	Police Fleet Upgrade Requesting capital expenditure funds \$225,000
Police Promotions	Police Promotions 4/1/12 two Lts/four Sgts
Property Room	Property Room Reduce number of items to 14,000 by 12/31/12
New Police Headquarters	New Police Headquarters Continue to evaluate sites
Current HQ Building Upgrades	
Internal Investigations Training	
	Training & Development
	Code Enforcement/Neighborhood Watch Coordinator
	Communications – Radio System Replacement

Mayor Luman-Bailey thanked the Chief for the presentation. Regarding Code Enforcement, there will be cross training with Crime Prevention Specialists. Councilor Pelham thanked him for the fine work he is doing.

**CITIZEN/COUNCILOR REQUEST – COUNCILOR BUJAKOWSKI – (DOCK COMMISSION) MARINA COMMITTEE**

Councilor Bujakowski provided the Marina Committee membership, meeting update and target date for recommendation to Council. Members of the city’s Dock Commission are Lonnie Cooper, George Elder, Johnny Shelton, Frank Whipp (Chair) and Jerry Williams. Of those, Jerry Williams and Frank Whipp attended the first meeting of the Marina Committee on January 17, 2012. Others who attended were: Chuck Frederickson, Vice Mayor Wayne Walton, former City Councilor Randy Sealey, Skeeter Stanley, Terri and Ronnie Ellis, Ray Lawrence, Smith Radford, John Holloway, and Roy Tipton.

Jo Turek and March Altman are working with Timmons, and with Moffett & Nicol. There is a cost for each item in the Development Plan. The committee will meet again and decide what to do. They may add to Council Work Session in February or the meeting in March.

**REGULAR BUSINESS – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR – RESPONSIBILITIES – PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**

Dr. Daley provided City Council with the draft Economic Development Director responsibilities for review. Two of the proposed amendments were: to remove #9. *“Coordinate with the Hopewell Downtown Partnership (HDP) with the development and implementation of business retention and recruitment programs downtown as requested to HDP,”* and, to change the numbers to bullets.

After lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Walton, seconded by Councilor Shornak, and passed unanimously to amend #9 changing the word *“Assist”* in #9 to *“Coordinate with,”* and to delete *“as requested by HDP”* at the end of #9.

**REGULAR BUSINESS – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR – RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Motion** was made by Vice Mayor Walton, seconded by Councilor Bujakowski, and passed unanimously to approve, as amended, the Economic Development Director – Responsibilities.

**REGULAR BUSINESS – BEN RUPPERT, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – REGIONAL EMERGENCY HAZARD MITIGATION AGREEMENT**

Ben Ruppert, Hopewell Office of Emergency Management, reported that a Regional Emergency Hazard Mitigation Agreement was last approved in 2006. FEMA requires it to be updated every six years. In a letter from FEMA dated December 6, 2011, it states that FEMA completed the review of the Richmond Regional And Crater Planning District Commissions Hazard Mitigation Plan, based on the standards contained in 44 CFR, Part 201, as authorized by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA2K). The plan received a “satisfactory” rating for all required criteria and is approvable. However prior to formal approval, each participating jurisdiction in the Planning District Commission is required to provide FEMA an adoption resolution.”

**Motion** was made by Councilor Bujakowski and seconded by Councilor Pelham, to approve the Regional Emergency Hazard Mitigation Agreement. 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

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE RICHMOND-CRATER MULTIREGIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN:**

WHEREAS, the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, as amended, requires that local governments, develop, adopt, and update natural hazard mitigation plans in order to receive certain federal assistance, and

WHEREAS, a Mitigation Advisory Committee (“MAC”) comprised of representatives from cities of Colonial Heights, City of Emporia, City of Hopewell, City of Petersburg, City of Richmond; and counties of Charles City County, Chesterfield County, Dinwiddie County, Goochland County, Greensville County, Hanover County, Henrico County, New Kent County, Powhatan County, Prince George County, Surry County, Sussex County; and towns of Ashland, Claremont, Dendron, Jarratt, McKenney, Stony Creek, Surry, Wakefield, and Waverly; was convened in order to study the Richmond-Crater risks from and vulnerabilities to natural hazards, and to make recommendations on mitigating the effects of such hazards on the Richmond-Crater Region; and

WHEREAS, a request for proposals was issued to hire an experienced consulting firm to work with the MAC to update a comprehensive hazard mitigation plan for the Richmond-Crater region; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of the MAC members and the consulting firm of Dewberry, in consultation with members of the public, private and non-profit sectors, have resulted in an update of the Richmond-Crater Multi-Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan including the City of Hopewell, Virginia.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council for the City of Hopewell that the Richmond-Crater Multi-Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan dated February 14, 2012 is hereby approved and adopted for the City of Hopewell. A copy of the plan is attached to this resolution.

ADOPTED by the City of Hopewell this 14<sup>th</sup> day of February 2012.

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APPROVED: /s/ Christina Luman-Bailey, Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Ann M. Romano, CMC, City Clerk

**REPORT OF THE CITY CLERK – APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS**

**Motion** was made by Councilor Stokes, seconded by Councilor Pelham, and passed unanimously to appoint Betti Washington to the Economic Development for a term extending thru October 31, 2016. (Councilor Pelham filed a Transactional Disclosure Statement. Ms. Washington is a retired teacher. Councilor Pelham is an employee of the Hopewell School Board.)

**Motion** was made by Councilor Bujakowski and seconded by Councilor Pelham to dissolve the 2011 Finance Committee.

Councilor Shornak raised a point of order asking why this was being done, and it was not on the agenda.

City Attorney Lacheney stated that Council could form the committee and can dissolve it by a majority vote. He also reminded Council that the committee currently has an assignment from the City Council meeting on January 10, 2012. Commonwealth's Attorney, Rick Newman, requested a \$60,000.00 Supplemental Budget Request for the purpose of increasing the salaries of each staff member by \$10,000.00. For FY 2011-2012 that would be a \$30,000.00 supplemental request. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to refer to Council's Finance Committee the Supplemental Budget Request for FY 2011-2012 in the amount of \$30,000.00 and to come back to Council with a report.

**Motion** was made by Councilor Pelham, and seconded by Councilor Bujakowski, to amend the agenda to include dissolving the 2011 Finance Committee as well as appoint a new 2012 Finance Committee. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Bujakowski	-	yes
Councilor Stokes	-	yes
Vice Mayor Walton	-	NO
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Shornak	-	NO
Mayor Luman-Bailey	-	yes

The motion passed 4 yes/2 no.

**DISCUSSION:** The original intention when the committee was first formed did not seem to appoint a Council Finance Committee each year, to be dissolved at the end of the year, and then reappoint a new one. The original intention was to help Council understand how the budget worked. It became a living money tree. Council should not be so susceptible to always being asked for money. It should not be dealing with personal wants. The 2011 Finance Committee was thanked for serving.

**Motion** was made by Councilor Bujakowski, and seconded by Councilor Pelham, to dissolve Council's 2011 Finance Committee. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Bujakowski	-	yes
Councilor Stokes	-	yes
Vice Mayor Walton	-	NO
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Shornak	-	NO
Mayor Luman-Bailey	-	yes

The motion passed 4 yes/2 no.

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**Motion** was made by Councilor Pelham, and seconded by Councilor Bujakowski, to appoint the 2012 Finance Committee, to be chaired by Councilor Stokes, with members to be appointed by the chair.

DISCUSSION: Some Councilors did not understand the purpose of a Liaison for finances; whether or not this person would report to Council; would the Liaison be able to make recommendations. Why eliminate the committee and then reappoint one person from the Committee as Liaison. The City Attorney explained that Council cannot appoint a Committee of one member, who would then appoint all other members. They would have to appoint at least two members to a committee. However, one Liaison could be designated, instead of a committee. There was a suggestion to authorize the appointment of Councilor Stokes to the committee, and the Mayor would talk to him more about it; but some did not understand why it could not be discussed at the Council meeting.

**Motion** was made by Councilor Pelham, and seconded by Councilor Bujakowski, to appoint Councilor Stokes as Council Financial Liaison. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Bujakowski	-	yes
Councilor Stokes	-	yes
Vice Mayor Walton	-	NO
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Shornak	-	NO
Mayor Luman-Bailey	-	yes

The motion passed 4 yes/2 no.

**REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES:**

**CENTRAL VIRGINIA FILM OFFICE BOARD** – Councilor Pelham reported on CVFOB Oscar Night America – Richmond on February 25, 2012, 6:00 PM. Interested parties should contact Councilor Pelham or Ann Romano, City Clerk. Or, it can be done on line. The Lt. Governor will attend to accept an award on behalf of the Governor. It is an Economic Development opportunity to network with this committee.

**RC&D** – Councilor Pelham attend a recent meeting and she urged City Council to continue to support the RC&D. She hopes to have money available to help them.

**BEACON THEATRE COMMITTEE** – Councilor Stokes reported that the committee is reviewing a project that will be presented to the City Manager with recommendations and/or suggestions before the next Work Session.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE** – Vice Mayor Walton & Councilor Shornak.

Vice Mayor Walton thanked Herbert Bragg-Legislative Liaison, Debbie Reason-Commissioner of the Revenue, Councilor Jackie Shornak, and Mayor Luman-Bailey, for attending meetings to support the Machinery & Tools Tax. It failed in the House 65/35. That was a good thing. It is currently in the Senate.

Councilor Shornak thanked Herbert Bragg-Legislative Liaison, and Debbie Reason-Commissioner of the Revenue. They spent many hours at the General Assembly, and contacted delegates and senators. Delegate Ingram, Delegate Dance and Delegate Cox are to be commended for their support. She was personally grateful to them. Councilor Pelham urged citizens to call and e-mail Senator Marsh to ask for his support for Hopewell. Mayor Luman-Bailey emphasized that she does not think it should come out of localities.

**REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Councilor Bujakowski announced that at the City Council Work Session on February 28, 2012, the president of Virginia American Water Company will come to discuss the proposed 18% rate increase. He also announced that in the current issue of Old House Journal there is an article on the City of Hopewell and its Sears Homes. Herbert Bragg, PAC and Jane McCullen, coordinated with the magazine to have the article included.

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Councilor Shornak thanked Chief Keohane, Officer Finch and Lt. Whittington, for their work with the recent robberies in the Woodlawn School area. Business owners are very appreciative.

Councilor Pelham urged the Planning Commission and the City Manager to be cognizant of the new ordinance on vehicles parked in yards. If anyone wants to build in the city, do not allow parking in yards. Hopewell has also been designated a "Playful City." Jo Turek, Director of Recreation and Parks was commended for getting this designation. Finally, Councilor Pelham also urged Council to consider a new playground in Hopewell.

Vice Mayor Walton thanked people who attended the recent Joint Ward meeting for Ward 5 and Ward 7. There was good participation. Wednesday morning the Hopewell/Prince George Chamber of Commerce is hosting an event at the Beacon Theatre. Vice Mayor Walton wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

Mayor Luman-Bailey announced an opportunity for small business. Mark Wilson from the Small Business Development Center will be in Hopewell on March 1. He will probably be at the library for the Seminar for Small Businesses. It is open to any small business in the area. Lastly, she thanked CPO Officer Kevin Johnson for his work in Ward #1.

**ADJOURN**

At 9:15 PM **motion** to adjourn the meeting was made by Vice Mayor Walton, seconded by Councilor Pelham and unanimously passed.

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Christina J. Luman-Bailey  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ann M. Romano, City Clerk