

March 17, 2016
Special Meeting-Work Session

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL WORK SESSION MEETING HELD
MARCH 17, 2016

A Special Work Session Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hopewell, Virginia, was held Thursday, March 17, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 300 North Main Street, Hopewell, Virginia.

PRESENT: Brenda S. Pelham, Mayor
Christina J. Luman-Bailey, Vice Mayor
Arlene Holloway, Councilor
Anthony J. Zevgolis, Councilor
Jasmine E. Gore, Councilor
K. Wayne Walton, Councilor
Jackie M. Shornak, Councilor

Mark A. Haley, City Manager
Stefan M. Calos, City Attorney
Ross A. Kearney III, City Clerk

ROLL CALL

Mayor Pelham opened the meeting at 6:06 p.m. Roll call was taken as follows:

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

MOTION TO ADOPT AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilor Gore, and seconded by Councilor Shornak to adopt the agenda. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Vote Result: 7-0 Agenda Adopted

PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Prayer was led by Charles Dane, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

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WORK SESSION

WS-1 – Work Session - Discussion of Budget Revenues & Expenditure

City Manager Mark Haley explained the revenue and expenditures portion of the City Budget to Council. Councilor Walton questioned the City Manager on the Retirees. The City Manager explained that the City was going to encounter an increase in employees retiring and it was anticipated that the cost would be \$350,000.00. Assistant City Manager Charles Dane and Director of Human Resources Gail Vance addressed City Council and explained the potential current employee retirements for 2016-17. Finance Director Jerry Whitaker addressed Council and said that the figures Council were looking at needed to be adjusted because it had been very hectic and dependents were not accounted for in the numbers they were presented with at this meeting. Councilor Walton commented that the information packet that was provided tonight was very confusing to read and requested a more condensed and accurate version. Councilor Zevgolis stated that the retirees needed to decide on which retirement plan they wanted to be associated with and Director Vance commented that they were in the process of holding weekly meetings and explaining the options to the retirees. Mr. Haley added that the Healthcare cost is growing and is a concern. Mr. Haley then reported to Council regarding pay increases for City employees and his plan called for a two-percent COLA increase. And that there would be a 1.62% increase cost for the Virginia Retirement System (VRS). Councilor Zevgolis requested clarification from the City Manager regarding the City Attorney's budget amount of which the City Manager explained. Councilor Shornak asked for clarification on the City Clerks budget and the amount provided to her by the City Manager was \$86,176.65.

City Manager Mark Haley advised Council that the 3rd Budget Work Session scheduled for March 21, 2016, would now be held on March 28, 2016, and that the Finance Committee would be meeting on March 21, 2016. Councilor Zevgolis questioned the City Manager as to why the Economic Budget is included in the General Fund and that the Economic Budget should be separated. The City Manager explained that it was placed in the General Fund for now but when the Final Budget is presented it would be separated. Councilor Gore requested from the Mayor, Councilors Holloway and Zevgolis that if they had any items they wanted placed into the budget to please send them to her and Finance Director Jerry Whitaker before the March 21st meeting of the Finance Committee. Finance Director Jerry Whitaker reported to Council that the Fiscal Year 2016-17 Budget was \$48.2 million dollars. Councilor Zevgolis asked the Finance Director what the affect would be if a tow-percent 2% decrease would be if implemented on personal property tax. Mr. Whitaker explained that it would cost the City \$260,000.00 if done. Councilor Gore asked the Finance Director about a line item that each Councilor could use for City related business such as announcements on Ward meetings. Mr. Whitaker explained that there was such a line item for Councilors. Mayor Pelham, Vice Mayor Luman-Bailey and Councilor Zevgolis requested that this line item appear on the budget and not be hidden, Mr. Whitaker said he would make sure that this appeared in the budget.

ADJOURN

At 7:50 p.m., motion was made by Councilor Zevgolis, and seconded by Councilor Walton. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	yes
Councilor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Walton	-	yes

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Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Shornak	-	yes
Vice Mayor Luman-Bailey	-	yes

Vote Resulted: 7-0 Meeting Adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

Brenda S. Pelham, Mayor

Ross A. Kearney III, City Clerk