

**March 22, 2016
Regular Meeting**

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL HELD MARCH 22, 2016

A Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hopewell, Virginia, was held Tuesday, March 22, 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 6:00 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 APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilor Walton, and seconded by Councilor Gore to approve the March 22, 2016 agenda. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Vote Result: 7-0 Agenda Approved

CLOSED MEETING

A motion was made by Councilor Walton, and seconded by Councilor Gore to go into closed meeting for: (I) discussion of specific appointees of City Council (Board of Equalization, John Tyler Community College Board and Hopewell Redevelopment Housing Authority); (II) discussion or

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consideration of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body; (III) discussion and consideration of the investment of public funds where bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the city would be adversely affected; and (IV) consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by city council regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel, in accordance with Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) (3) (6) & (7), respectively. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Vote Result: 7-0 Approved

OPEN SESSION

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

Vote Result: 7-0 Yes

REGULAR MEETING

ROLL CALL

Mayor Pelham opened the regular meeting at 7:43 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

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

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

REGULAR MEETING

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Councilor Walton, and seconded by Councilor Gore, to approve the Consent Agenda, Minutes: None; Pending; Pending List: Updated provided March 15, 2016; Information for Council Review – None; Personnel Change Report/Financial Report – NONE; Public Hearing Announcement – April 12, 2016 – Proposed Real Property Tax; Work Session – None; Ordinances on second and final reading – Adopt Ordinance 2016-3-22A Revising The City Code, Chapter 2a, Article I And Revising The City’s Procurement Policy, And Allow By Inclusion, The Written Procedures For Design–Build and/or Construction Management Contracts, As Outlined In §2.2-4318 Of The Virginia Public Procurement Act, Which Govern The Administration Steps, Selection, Evaluation And Award Of Design-Build And Construction Management Contracts; Adopt ORDINANCE 2016-3-22B Revising City Code Chapter 2a, Article I And Revising The City’s Procurement Policy, And Allow By Inclusion, The Additional Small Purchase Category Of Non-Transportation-Related Construction, If The Aggregate Or The Sum Of All Phases Is Not Expected To Exceed \$50,000 (Amount Per City Policy) As Outlined In §2.2-4303.G Of The Virginia Public Procurement Act, Which Allows For A Public Body To Establish “Small” Purchase Procedures Not Requiring Competitive Sealed Bids Or Competitive Negotiation; Adopt the release of the city easement located at 100 South Kippax Street, a Hopewell Redevelopment and Housing Authority property and authorize the City Attorney to prepare proper documentation to release the city's easement on the property and further authorize the signature of the City Manager on said documentation; Routine Grant Approval – NONE; Proclamations/Resolutions/Presentation - Proclamation in Honor of Virginia Organizing’s 20th Anniversary; Mayor & County Recognition Day for National Services. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Vote Result: 7-0 Consent Agenda Approved

Proclamation

WHEREAS, service to others is a hallmark of the American character, and central to how we meet our challenges; and

WHEREAS, the nation’s counties are increasingly turning to national service and volunteerism as a cost-effective strategy to meet county needs; and

WHEREAS, participants in AmeriCorps and Senior Corps address the most pressing challenges facing our cities and nation, from educating students for jobs of the 21st century and supporting

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veterans and military families to providing health services and helping communities recover from natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, national service expands economic opportunity by creating more sustainable, resilient communities and providing education, career skills, and leadership abilities for those who serve; and

WHEREAS, national service participants increase the impact of the organizations they serve, both through their direct service and by managing millions of additional volunteers; and

WHEREAS, national service represents a unique public-private partnership that invests in community solutions and leverages non-federal resources to strengthen community impact and increase the return on taxpayer dollars; and

WHEREAS, national service participants demonstrate commitment, dedication, and patriotism by making an intensive commitment to service, a commitment that remains with them in their future endeavors; and

WHEREAS, the Corporation for National and Community Service shares a priority with city and county officials nationwide to engage citizens, improve lives, and strengthen communities; and is joining with the National League of Cities, National Association of Counties, Cities of Service, and mayors and county officials across the country for the Mayor and County Recognition Day for National Service on April 5, 2016.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Brenda S. Pelham, Mayor of the City of Hopewell, do hereby proclaim April 5, 2016, as National Service Recognition Day, and encourage residents to recognize the positive impact of national service in our community and thank those who serve; and to find ways to give back to their communities and I have hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of the City of Hopewell to be affixed on this 22nd day of March, 2016.

/s/ Brenda S. Pelham

Mayor, City of Hopewell

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Proclamation

WHEREAS, Virginia Organizing is a non-partisan statewide grassroots organization dedicated to challenging injustice by empowering people in local communities to address issues that affect the quality of their lives, and

WHEREAS, Virginia Organizing encourages the participation of those who have traditionally had little or no voice in our society, and

WHEREAS, the organization encourages individuals and groups throughout the Commonwealth and in local communities to bring about change by working together and building relationships, and

WHEREAS among Virginia Organizing's Statement of Beliefs is the belief that all people should be treated fairly and with dignity in all aspects of life, regardless of race, class, gender, religion, sexual orientation, age, ability or country of origin, and

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WHEREAS, the organization also believes in the enhancement and celebration of diversity in our communities and in our state, and

WHEREAS, Virginia Organizing believes that community, economic, social and environmental policy should be developed with the greatest input from the people it is meant to serve, and that policies should promote, celebrate and sustain the human and natural resources of Virginia, and

WHEREAS, leaders, members and staff of the organization work tirelessly to connect children, low-income residents, immigrants, veterans, retirees, people with disabilities and other under-represented groups to the resources that they deserve and need, and

WHEREAS, in August of 2015, Virginia Organizing is celebrating 20 years of grassroots organizing and bringing about real change for real people through countless campaigns to improve the quality of life for all Virginians,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Brenda S. Pelham, do hereby recognize Virginia Organization on celebrating its 20th Anniversary in November 2015 and PROCLAIM that the 23rd day of March as VIRGINIA ORGANIZING DAY in the City of Hopewell and we encourage others to learn about and support this organization in its efforts.

I have hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of the City of Hopewell to be affixed on this 22ndth day of March, 2016

/s/ Brenda S. Pelham
Mayor, City of Hopewell

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COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

Ms. Jeannine Commander with the Hopewell Food Pantry addressed Council and informed Council that they were having to vacate the current location of the Food Pantry by April 30th, 2016 due to the raise of rent by the owner. Mayor Pelham and Councilor Shornak requested the City Manager and Assistant City Manager to assist the Food Panty in finding a new location and to report back to Council.

Mr. Steve Romano addressed Council and found it offensive that Council had made another loan to the Beacon in the amount of \$95,000. Mr. Romano felt that the money loaned to the Beacon would be better off serving the needs on the citizens of Hopewell.

REGULAR BUSINESS

R-1 – Regular Business – Vacant Building Registry Presentation

Ms. Tevya Griffin, Director of Planning provide City Council will the overview of the implementation of the vacant property registry program. The City Council for the City of Hopewell passed the Vacant Building Registry Ordinance in March of 2015. The draft and approval of this ordinance was in accordance with the September 2014 Strategic Plan goal to enhance code enforcement ordinances and training to ensure higher levels of compliance and effective enforcement. The purpose of the program is as follows: (1) To keep an inventory of buildings in the City that might endanger the public’s health, safety

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or welfare; (2) To ensure owners of vacant buildings are known to the City and other parties can be reached if necessary; (3) To ensure that owners of vacant buildings are aware of the obligations of ownership and; (4) To ensure owners meet minimum standards of maintenance. Ms. Griffin informed Council that in May 2016 the process would begin and that the initial registration fee would be \$100 and an Annual Registration fee of \$75 would be due within 15 days of the anniversary date of the building's initial registration. A failure to register your vacant building would result in a \$200 civil penalty or a \$400 civil penalty if the property was located within the designated historic area, conservation/rehabilitation district or blight area. Mayor Pelham and Council praised the work that had been done on the Vacant Building Registry.

R-2 – Regular Business – Request for Matching Funds for the 2016 Local Government Challenge Grant presented by the Virginia Commission for the Arts

Mr. Aaron Reidmiller, Director, Recreation and Parks explained to Council that each year, the Historic Hopewell Foundation offers a variety of programs and events for citizens that focus on arts and entertainment, while incorporating local history. These programs include the Summer Concert Series held at Weston Manor, the Lunch and Lecture Series, and an annual summer program for children. The Recreation and Parks Department has been awarded grant funding from the Virginia Commission for the Arts in past years to assist with these programs. The grant requires the City to match the \$5,000 provided by the Virginia Commission for Arts, totaling \$10,000 in support of the proposed programs. A motion was made by Vice Mayor Luman-Bailey, and seconded by Councilor Shornak to appropriate matching funds in the amount of \$5,000.00 for the local government challenge grant presented by the Virginia Commission for the Arts. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Vote Result: 7-0 Appropriation Granted

R-3 – Regular Business – Citywide Cleanup Initiative Report for the 100th Anniversary

Assistant City Manager Charles Dane informed Council that over the next week a City wide cleanup would be taking place and that members of Keep Hopewell Beautiful, Fort Lee and other neighborhood organizations would be out in the neighborhoods picking up trash and that drop off locations had been setup for citizens to take the items that had been picked up during the cleanup and would be available for the next week.

R-4 - Regular Business - Cold Weather Warming Shelter Update

Mr. Ray Spicer of the Department of Social Services reported to Council that the City's Cold Weather Warming Shelter has closed for the season. He thanked and welcomed the shelter workers and informed Council that the warming shelter had been open for 119 nights, most stayed 1-2 nights and that there were 30 regulars who stayed each night. Males stayed at the shelter the most and that the shelter had housed 3 Veterans and that some of the individuals were able to find jobs. Mr. Spicer reported that the warming shelter will continue next year at St. James Catholic School.

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CLOSED MEETING

Council returned to the closed meeting for: (I) discussion of specific appointees of City Council (Board of Equalization, John Tyler Community College Board and Hopewell Redevelopment Housing Authority); (II) discussion or consideration of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body; (III) discussion and consideration of the investment of public funds where bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the city would be adversely affected; and (IV) consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by city council regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel, in accordance with Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) (3) (6) & (7), respectively.

RECONVENE OPEN MEETING

Certification pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3712 (d): only public business matters (I) lawfully exempted from open-meeting requirements and (II) identified in the closed-meeting motion were discussed in closed meeting. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Vote Result: 7-0 Yes

ADJOURN

At 10:10 p.m., motion was made by Councilor Zevgolis, and seconded by Councilor Gore. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Vote Result: 7-0 Meeting Adjourned at 10:10 P.M.

Brenda S. Pelham, Mayor

Ross A. Kearney III, City Clerk