

April 4, 2016
Special Meeting-Work Session

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL WORKSESSION MEETING HELD
APRIL 4, 2016

A Special Work Session Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hopewell, Virginia, was held Monday, April 4, 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 Luman-Bailey, Vice Mayor
Arlene Holloway, Councilor
Anthony J. Zevgolis, Councilor
Jasmine E. Gore, Councilor
K. Wayne Walton, Councilor

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

ABSENT: Jackie Shornak, Councilor

ROLL CALL

Mayor Pelham opened the meeting at 6:05 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	-	absent (sick)

MOTION TO ADOPT AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilor Walton, and seconded by Councilor Gore to adopt the agenda of April 4, 2016. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Shornak	-	yes
Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	yes
Councilor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Walton	-	yes

Vote Result: 6-0 Agenda Adopted

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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.

WORK SESSION

WS-1 – Work Session – Finance Committee Budget Recommendations & Tax Rate

Discussion

City Manager Mark Haley explained the Finance Committee recommendations and informed Council that the on May 3, 2016 the Personal Property Tax Public Hearing would be held. Mr. Haley continue and explained that John Tyler Community College would receive the amount requested from the City. It shows that a lot of our graduating students and citizens are attending John Tyler Community College to further their education. Mr. Haley informed Council that the Hopewell Downtown Partnership had requested an additional \$7,700 on top of the already allocated \$70,000 and would defer to Council as to allowing the additional funding request. City Staff has been working with The Food Pantry of Hopewell in locating a new location and they have requested an additional \$6,000 in funding. Mr. Haley recommends this additional funding because of the additional 12,000 citizens it serves each year. The Machinery and Tools tax rate is not recommended of which Vice Mayor Luman-Bailey and Councilor Walton commented that this could be looked at for next year's budget but were not in favor of this tax increase. Commissioner of Revenue Deborah K. Reason was asked by Mayor Pelham to address City Council regarding the Machinery and Tools tax. Ms. Reason explained that the Machinery and Tools tax had not been raised in years and that it was an additional source of income that would relieve the City from having to go out and borrow money. Ms. Reason explained that if the Machinery and Tools tax was raised by .10 cents it would bring in an additional \$251,000 a year. Councilor Zevgolis comments and agreed with Ms. Reason and was in favor of raising the Machinery and Tools tax. Mr. Haley went on to explain the addition of new positions with the first being a Grant Writer of which said position would serve the Department of Development and the Assistant City Manager and the EDA. Mayor Pelham commented that this position could start out as a part-time position to evaluate its necessity. Mr. Haley replied that this was a necessary position and that by hiring a grant writer would pay for itself within a year.

Mr. Haley reported that the COLA for the proposed Fiscal Year 2016-17 budget is \$350,000 and that each employee would be receiving a \$1,000 raise, the Compensation Board is giving 2% and Department of Social Services would be receiving 2%. Councilor Zevgolis commented that this year Senior Citizens would not be receiving a COLA increase therefore, they would benefit from a 2-3% tax decrease. Councilor Gore commented that this would be unrealistic to do and if a 2-3% tax decrease was implemented the City would then put themselves in a \$700,000 deficit. Councilor Walton commented and agreed with Councilor Gore and also agreed with the \$1,000 employee raise. Councilor Zevgolis commented that this budget is \$10 million dollars more this year than last. Vice Mayor Luman-Bailey asked the City Manager about the school budget and if they had asked for an increase, Mr. Haley replied no that in this year's budget the schools had a surplus therefore, no increase was requested. Councilor Zevgolis asked if the surplus from the schools should be reimbursed back to the City. Mr. Haley then concluded his presentation and asked Council if they had any further questions and having none Mr. Haley reported that Human Resource Director Gail Vance is leaving a Director of Human Resources and has taken a job with the Commonwealth of Virginia. All Council members wished her the best and thanked her for her service to the City of Hopewell. Mr. Haley announced that the next City Council meeting will be held on April 12, 2016. The City wide clean-up will also be ending on Saturday. Mayor

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Pelham announced that she had adopted High Street as her clean-up project and Councilor Holloway announced she had adopted Arlington Road.

ADJOURN

At 7:30 p.m., motion was made by Councilor Zevgolis, and seconded by Councilor Walton. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Shornak	-	yes
Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	yes
Councilor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Walton	-	yes

Vote Resulted: 6-0 Meeting Adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Brenda S. Pelham, Mayor

Ross A. Kearney III, City Clerk