

**June 5, 2018
Special Meeting**

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL HELD JUNE 5, 2018

A Special Meeting of Hopewell City Council, was held Tuesday, June 5, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, Municipal Building, and 300 North Main Street, Hopewell, Virginia.

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

John Altman, City Manager
Charles Dane, Assistant City Manager
Stefan Calos, Sands Anderson PC, City Attorney
Ronnieye Arrington, City Clerk
Frazelle Hampton, Deputy City Clerk

ROLL CALL

Vice-Mayor Gore opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Roll call was taken as follows:

Mayor Shornak	-	absent (arrived at 7:00 p.m.)
Vice Mayor Gore	-	present
Councilor Luman-Bailey	-	present
Councilor Holloway	-	present
Councilor Zevgolis	-	present
Councilor Denton	-	present
Councilor Pelham	-	present

CLOSED MEETING

At 6:32 p.m., Councilor Zevgolis made a motion to go into Closed Meeting for (1) discussion, consideration, and interviews of prospective candidates for employment (city attorney); in accordance with Virginia Code § 2.2-3711 (A) (1). The motion was seconded by Councilor Denton. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 6-0

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RECONVENE OPEN MEETING

Council convened into Open Session at 8:40 p.m. and responded to the question pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3712 (D): were only public business matters (I) lawfully exempted from open-meeting requirements and (II) identified in the closed-meeting motion discussed in closed meeting? Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Mayor Shornak	-	yes
Vice Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Luman-Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	not on dais

Motion passed 7-0 (per counsel rule 105)

WORK SESSION- City Manager discussion regarding the FY19 Operating & Capital Budgets

John Altman, City Manager introduced James Sanderson, Senior Vice President of Davenport & Company. Mr. Sanderson presented and discussed the summary of debt and agency ratings for the City of Hopewell. He also discussed the tax-supported bonds that are outstanding, and provided information about the bonds' maturity dates. He noted that currently, Moody's and S & P have withdrawn their ratings on the City; however, Fitch is still reporting the City as having an AA-rating, which is a very strong rating for a locality. Mr. Sanderson clarified that once the CAFRs are completed, the other agencies will likely restore Hopewell's ratings, which have been historically excellent. Mr. Sanderson reviewed the tax-supported debt services and provided Council a breakdown of the total debt services over a twenty-year period. Mr. Sanderson then fielded questions from Council, which completed his presentation.

Mr. Altman, City Manager, discussed the FY19 operating and capital budgets. He provided an update, which included the fact that revenues had been reduced by a million dollars due to a coding error, which resulted in Staff having to reduce items in the capital improvement budget accordingly. He noted that the courthouse had a roof leak which is categorized as an emergency, which further reduced the amount remaining for capital improvements projects. Councilor Pelham expressed concern that the reduced CIP budget would adversely affect the paving and curb and gutter work that Public Works was doing. Johnnie Butler, the City Engineer advised that even with the cuts, due to the matching grants from VDOT, they would still be able to continue all road, paving, curb and gutter projects. Mr. Altman fielded additional questions of Council, and then yielded the floor to Vice Mayor Gore.

Vice Mayor Gore discussed plans to make improvements to the council conference room, council chambers, and the additional conference room, in council chambers, currently being used for storage. She provided estimates for each of the items being renovated and explained the need for the renovation. Some councilors expressed concern over the costs, but the Vice Mayor explained that all would be purchased using the approximately \$67,000 the clerk has in salary savings. The City Attorney

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confirmed that Rule 414 provides that all decisions about the use of chambers shall be made by the Clerk, subject to appeal to Council, that the chambers shall not be rearranged by anyone except with the permission of the Clerk, who is the sole keeper of the keys to the chambers, and is the person who gives permission for use of the chambers' equipment. Councilor Zevgolis advised he was okay with the project as long as there were funds to cover it. He then asked to be excused from the meeting on an unrelated issue. The Clerk indicated she would make revisions to the second conference room but would hold off on revisions to the Council Chambers pending meetings with individual councilors.

MOTION TO EXTEND THE MEETING

At 10:32 p.m. motion was made by Vice Mayor Gore to extend the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Holloway. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted.

Mayor Shornak	-	no
Vice Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Luman-Bailey	-	no
Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	no
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	abstain

Motion passed 4-3 (per counsel rule 105)

ADJOURN

At 10:50 p.m., Councilor Denton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Gore. All councilors responded “aye” to the question. Meeting was adjourned.

/s/ Jackie M. Shornak
Jackie M. Shornak, Mayor

/s/ Ronnieye L. Arrington
Ronnieye L. Arrington, City Clerk