

**Special Meeting
Joint Meeting with the Hopewell School Board
July 31, 2018**

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
JOINT MEETING WITH THE HOPEWELL SCHOOL BOARD HELD JULY 31, 2018**

A Special Meeting of Hopewell City Council, was held Tuesday, July 31, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. at Patrick Copeland Elementary School in the Library, at 400 Westhill Drive, Hopewell, Virginia.

City Council

PRESENT: Jackie M. Shornak, Mayor, Ward 7
Jasmine E. Gore, Vice Mayor, Ward 4
Arlene Holloway, Councilor, Ward 2
Anthony Zevgolis, Councilor, Ward 3
Janice Denton, Councilor, Ward 5
Brenda S. Pelham, Councilor, Ward 6

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

ABSENT: Christina Luman-Bailey, Councilor, Ward 1

School Board

PRESENT: Nelson G. Cuffey
Linda E. Hyslop
Wesley Joyner
Christopher Reber

Dr. Melody Hackney, Superintendent

ABSENT: Shirl Jefferson

ROLL CALL

Mayor Shornak opened the meeting at 6:36 p.m. Roll call was taken as follows:

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

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

Mayor Shornak called the meeting to order, and thanked all for attending. The prayer was led by Chris Reber of the School Board, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America led by Mayor Shornak.

Dr. Melody Hackney, Superintendent of Hopewell Public Schools, introduced the agenda and explained that the School Board was seeking some sort of guidance or action from Council on the first two items, and the other items were items that needed to be discussed.

The first item on the agenda was a Security Upgrade for the schools. Dr. Hackney turned the program over to Mr. Greg Cuffey, a member of the School Board. Mr. Cuffey presented information on the need for additional security, particularly in the high school. He noted that the School Board had looked at other municipalities to see if Hopewell's standard of security was average, which it was not. Dr. Hackney then gave a PowerPoint presentation detailing the stages of the project and explaining how much money would be requested of the City (\$570,000). Council requested a follow up "town hall" meeting at the high school auditorium to gather more information and to include public input.

At 7:33 p.m. the meeting was halted so that all present could eat dinner. At 8:03 p.m. Mayor Shornak restarted the meeting. She asked that the audience hold their questions until the end of the meeting.

The next item on the agenda was the Balanced Calendar. Sr. Hackney introduced Chris Reber and had him speak to Council regarding the Balanced Calendar. Mr. Reber noted that the School Board had received a \$60,000 grant to enable them to do a study as to the efficacy of the Balanced Calendar in Hopewell schools. They are now in the second year of that study. He further noted that, right now, the State is heavily seeking schools to pilot this program and are offering to fund it at \$300,000 a year for three years. After the third year, each municipality would have to pay for the program. He stated that he believed the School Board could actually do the program for less than the \$300,000 price tag established by the State. Dr. Hackney gave a PowerPoint presentation to provide more information. She stated that the ultimate goal of the presentation was for the School Board to get a "blessing" or conceptual approval of the plan.

Councilor Zevgolis made a motion to amend the agenda to allow Council to make a motion. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pelham. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Mayor Shornak	-	yes
Vice Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	yes

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Councilor Zevgolis then made a motion to allow the School Board to take the next step in moving toward a Balanced Calendar, and to report back to Council regarding same. His motion was seconded by Councilor Denton. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Mayor Shornak	-	yes
Vice Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	yes

Linda Hyslop came forward to discuss the Early College Academy. She introduced Peggy Westcott who is a Coordinator for the program. Ms. Hyslop said that the program includes a 4-year program for high school students, and enables them to get an Associate's Degree at the same time as they are obtaining their high school diploma. She stated that in 2019, Hopewell High School will have 20 students graduating and participating in this program.

Ms. Westcott discussed the cost analysis for the program. She said that John Tyler worked with the schools on this program. The program originally cost \$8.50 per student per credit hour. That cost has now increased to \$50 per credit hour, per student. The School has the funds in the budget for this year and next, but may be problematic thereafter.

Dr. Hackney skipped the Teacher Recruitment Incentive due to the lateness of the hour. She said that item could be revisited at a later date. She moved on to Taskforce Development. She asked March Altman, the City Manager to put forth their communications regarding reinstating the Schools Construction Committee. Mr. Altman spoke of the School Construction Committee and the purpose it served. He said that he thought it would be helpful to both Council and the School Board to resurrect that committee. He said he would put that on the August 14, 2018 agenda for discussion by Council.

ADJOURN

At 9:27 p.m., Councilor Zevgolis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Holloway. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Mayor Shornak	-	yes
Vice Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	yes

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The meeting was adjourned.

Councilor Pelham submitted a Transactional Disclosure Statement stating that she was an employee of the Hopewell Public Schools system.

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

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