

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD JULY 31, 2017

A special meeting of the City Council of Hopewell, Virginia, was held Monday, July 31, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 300 North Main Street, Hopewell, Virginia.

PRESENT: Jackie M. Shornak, Mayor
Jasmine E. Gore, Vice Mayor (arrived at 6:40 p.m.)
Christina Luman-Bailey, Councilor
Arlene Holloway, Councilor
Anthony Zevgolts, Councilor
Janice Denton, Councilor
Brenda S. Pelham, Councilor

Mark Haley, City Manager
Stefan Calos, City Attorney
Ronnieye Arrington, City Clerk

ABSENT:

ROLL CALL

Mayor Shornak opened the meeting at 6:32 p.m. Roll call was taken as follows:

Mayor Shornak	-	present
Vice Mayor Gore	-	absent (arrived at 6:40 p.m.)
Councilor Luman-Bailey	-	present
Councilor Holloway	-	present
Councilor Zevgolts	-	present
Councilor Denton	-	present
Councilor Pelham	-	present

Motion was made by Councilor Zevgolts and seconded by Councilor Pelham to move the motion to amend or adopt the agenda to after the Closed Meeting. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 6-0

**July 31, 2017
Special Meeting**

CLOSED MEETING

Motion was made at 6:37 p.m. by Councilor Luman-Bailey and seconded by Councilor Denton to go into closed meeting for (1) discussion of appointment of specific appointees of city council (city manager, city clerk, city attorney, and Office on Youth Commission); and (2) consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by city council related thereto and regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel, in accordance with Virginia Code §§ 2.2-3711 (A) (1) and (8), respectively. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 6-0

OPEN MEETING

Council came out of Closed Meeting at 7:36 p.m. Councilors were asked if they complied with Virginia Code § 2.2-3712(D), namely, that only public business matters (I) lawfully exempted from open-meeting requirements and (II) identified in the closed-meeting motion were discussed in closed meeting, to which they all responded yes.

AMEND/ADOPT AGENDA

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Gore to amend the agenda by removing item SB-2 Advertisement for Deputy Clerk, and by moving item SB-3 Acceptance of City Attorney's Resignation to the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Luman-Bailey. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 7-0

Motion was then made by Councilor Pelham and seconded by Councilor Luman-Bailey to adopt the amended agenda. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Pelham	-	yes
------------------	---	-----

**July 31, 2017
Special Meeting**

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

Motion passed 6-1

REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Shornak opened the regular meeting at 8:29 p.m. Prayer by Herbert Bragg, Director of Intergovernmental and Public Affairs, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, led by Councilor Holloway.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS – Mayor Shornak opened the floor to any citizen wishing to speak. Mike Bujakowski of Ward 3 came forward. He asked that Council consider Charlie Dane for the position of City Manager. Since the city manager item was on the agenda, Councilor Pelham moved to waive the rules to allow discussion on the City Manager from the audience. Councilor Denton seconded the motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 7-0

Councilor Zevgolis noted that Communications from Citizens should not appear on a special meeting agenda. Stefan Calos, said that it was okay to have Communications from Citizens on the special meeting agenda.

Mr. Bujakowski asked everyone in the audience who came out to support Mr. Dane as City Manager to stand. Approximately 85% of the audience stood.

Brian McDonald of Cobblestone came forward to talk about the traffic issues in Cobblestone. He said that a petition, signed by 181 residents, had been put forth seeking to have something done about controlling the traffic, especially the speeders in Cobblestone.

Steve Romano of Ward 3 came forward to discuss the Boathouse. He asked what we are getting from it. He asked why Council doesn't change the rules so that the next city manager or director must live in town. He said that the City Clerk hours should be 8:30-5, instead of those worked by the current clerk. He recommended freezing the Director's balances until unless they move to Hopewell.

**July 31, 2017
Special Meeting**

Carol Saunders of Ward 4 came forward regarding Cobblestone. She said she had put a flyer out in Cobblestone and read the note on the flyer regarding appointing Mr. Dane as the new City Manager.

Brenda McQueen said that she agrees with Mr. Romano. She said if you don't live here you shouldn't be on a board here.

Sam Jean from Petersburg, came forward to speak on behalf of Charles Dane for City Manager.

Debbie Randolph of Ward 1 came forward and advised Council on the impact of animosity at the top on potential new deals for the City. She implored Council to work together.

Jeannie Grandstaff, Director of Hopewell Water Renewal came forward to speak in support of Charles Dane for City Manager.

Cassandra Vanderkrief came forward to speak to Council regarding the Food Bank. She said that she had gone there and found food that was not fit for human consumption. She said she was concerned and thought it was unfair to give people in need inferior food, dented and rusty cans, and bad fruit.

REGULAR BUSINESS

SB-1 Appointment of City Manager or Advertisement for City Manager and/or Appointment of Interim City Manager – Council discussed its options regarding the position of City Manager. The ensuing discussion was quite lengthy. Vice Mayor Gore made a motion to call for the vote and limit discussion, which was seconded by Councilor Pelham. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion failed 4-3

Councilor Pelham made a motion to advertise the position of City Manager, which motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Gore. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Mayor Shornak	-	no
Councilor Luman-Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Zevgolis	-	yes

**July 31, 2017
Special Meeting**

Vice Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	no

Motion passed 5-2

Councilor Denton then made a motion to appoint Charles Dane as City Manager. The motion was seconded by Mayor Shornak. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion failed 4-3

Councilor Luman-Bailey then moved to appoint Charles Dane as interim City Manager effective September 1, 2017. The motion was seconded by Councilor Denton. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 7-0

Councilor Luman-Bailey made a motion to amend Councilor Pelham's motion to advertise for City Manager "to advertise for City Manager internally for two months." The motion was seconded by Councilor Denton. Lengthy discussion ensued. Councilor Pelham called for a vote on the motion, which was seconded by Vice Mayor Gore. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 6-1

Council voted on the motion to advertise for City Manager internally for two months. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

**July 31, 2017
Special Meeting**

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

Motion failed 4-3

SB-2 Advertisement for Deputy Clerk - this item removed from the agenda.

SB-3 Acceptance of City Attorney's resignation - this item moved to the next meeting agenda.

SB-4 Schedule Council Retreat – given the lateness of the hour, Councilor Pelham moved to continue this item to the next agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilor Zevgolis. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

SB-5 RFP for Internal Audit – Vice Mayor Gore advised Council of the need for an internal audit of all of the issues related to the late CAFRs and all of the issues and errors found relating thereto. Vice Mayor Gore then made a motion to approve working on an RFP or to schedule a meeting with the Office of Public Accounts for assistance with these issues. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pelham. Discussion followed.

Councilor Zevgolis made a substitute motion to contact the Inspector General and the State Auditor to request assistance. That motion was seconded by Councilor Pelham. Councilor Luman-Bailey asked to be excused, which was granted by the Mayor. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 4-2

**July 31, 2017
Special Meeting**

There was additional discussion. Councilor Luman-Bailey made a motion to continue this item to the August 8, 2017 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Shornak. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion failed 4-3

Vice Mayor Gore moved for the City Clerk to contact the Inspector General and the State Auditor to request and schedule a meeting between them and City Council. Councilor Luman-Bailey asked to be excused, which was granted by the Mayor. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 4-2

Mayor Shornak submitted a Transactional Disclosure Statement.

REPORTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY: None

REPORTS OF THE CITY CLERK: None

REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL:

Denton – reminded citizens to come out for National Night Out and stated that there would be ice cream.

Pelham – provided the location of the National Night Out and thanked the officers who moved improperly parked vehicles during the night.

**July 31, 2017
Special Meeting**

Gore – reminded everyone of her Ward meeting scheduled for August 7, 2017 in Council Chambers. She also invited Councilor Denton to attend a website committee meeting to discuss transparency.

Holloway – Thanked everyone for coming out

Luman-Bailey – will report on the Resilient Virginia Conference she attended at a later date.

Pelham – requested an update from Johnnie Butler, City Engineer, on what streets had been paved, and how much money was left for additional paving.

Individual Councilors

IR-1 Gore – request for discussion on open government – Council approved adding this item to a forthcoming agenda.

IR-2 Gore – Request department report from the Office on Youth and VaPro Elite After-School and Summer Camp self-funded initiative, FY17 program budget expenditures and planned FY18 budget expenditures. Council agreed that Vice Mayor Gore would schedule a meeting with Mayor Shornak, Shanelle Ebanks, VaPro Elite, and Dr. Hackney regarding this item.

IR-3 Request City Council adopt a balanced budget resolution for all funds; to include corrected errors and fund transfers and updated General Fund Rainy Day Fund, Assigned Fund and Unassigned Fund amounts at the August 8th Meeting. Council decided to table this request until the August 8, 2017 meeting.

IR-4 Request a closed meeting with the Department of Social Services and the Community and Policy Management Team as appointed by Council, to discuss pending legal items and investigations – Council agreed to place this item in the Closed Session portion of the August 8, 2017 agenda.

Mayor Shornak requested that her report on the Workforce Development Board and CLEO be placed on the September agenda.

ADJOURN

At 10:23 p.m., Councilor Pelham made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Councilor Zevgolis, and unanimously passed.

Jackie Shornak, Mayor

**July 31, 2017
Special Meeting**

Ronnieye Arrington, City Clerk