

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 23, 2019 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

A meeting of the Hopewell City Council was held Tuesday, April 23, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 300 North Main Street, Hopewell, Virginia.

PRESENT: Jasmine E. Gore, Mayor, Ward 4
Patience Bennett, Vice Mayor, Ward 7
Deborah Randolph, Councilor, Ward 1
Arlene Holloway, Councilor, Ward 2
John B. Partin, Jr., Councilor, Ward 3
Janice B. Denton, Councilor, Ward 5
Brenda Pelham, Councilor, Ward 6 (arrived at 5:33 p.m.)

John M. Altman, Jr., City Manager
Charles Dane, Assistant City Manager
Stefan M. Calos of Sands Anderson PC, City Attorney
Ronnieye L. Arrington, City Clerk
Michelle Hicks, Interim Assistant City Clerk

ROLL CALL

Mayor Gore opened the meeting at 5:31 p.m. Roll call was taken as follows:

Mayor Gore	-	present
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	present
Councilor Randolph	-	present
Councilor Partin	-	present
Councilor Holloway	-	present
Councilor Denton	-	present
Councilor Pelham	-	absent (arrived at 5:33 p.m.)

CLOSED MEETING

At 5:31 p.m., Councilor Partin moved to go into closed meeting (1) discussion and consideration of specific appointees of city council (boards, commissions, authorities); (2) discussion, consideration and interviews of specific appointees or employees of city council (city manager, city clerk, city attorney); (3) consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of city council (registrar); and (4) 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) [two items], (7), and (8), respectively. Councilor Denton seconded the motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Partin	-	yes
Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	---- (arrived at 5:33 p.m.)
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	yes
Councilor Randolph	-	yes

Motion passed 6-0

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RECONVENE OPEN MEETING

At 7:33 p.m. Council returned to the dais 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 responses resulted:

Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Partin	-	yes
Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	yes
Councilor Randolph	-	yes

AMEND/ADOPT AGENDA

Councilor Pelham moved to adopt the agenda. Her motion was seconded by Councilor Partin. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Partin	-	yes
Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	yes
Councilor Randolph	-	yes

Motion passed 7-0

Mayor Gore requested a roll call, which resulted as follows:

Councilor Holloway	-	present
Councilor Partin	-	present
Mayor Gore	-	present
Councilor Denton	-	present
Councilor Pelham	-	present
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	absent
Councilor Randolph	-	present

REGULAR MEETING

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

Mayor Gore called the meeting to order, and thanked all for attending. The prayer was led by Herbert Bragg, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, led by Councilor Holloway.

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CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered routine by Council and will be approved or received by one motion in the form listed. Items may be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion under the regular agenda at the request of any Councilor.

- C-1** Minutes: March 5, March 19, March 21, and March 28, 2019
- C-2** Pending List:
- C-3** Routine Approval of Work Sessions: April 30, 2019 (budget work session); May 14, 2019 (two conditional use permits); May 28, 2019 (spot blight, amendment of Enterprise Zone ordinance)
- C-4** Personnel Change Report & Financial Report:
- C-5** Ordinances on Second & Final Reading:
- C-6** Routine Grant Approval:
- C-7** Public Hearing Announcement: April 30, 2019 (Project Laguna); May 7, 2019 (FY2020 tax rate, FY2020 school division budget, FY2020 city budget); May 14, 2019 (school board candidates)
- C-8** Information for Council Review: CPMT minutes – March 26, 2019; BZA August 1, 2018; DDRRC minutes February 6, 2019 and March 6, 2019)
- C-9** Resolutions/Proclamations/Presentations: Sexual Assault Awareness proclamation; Alcohol Awareness proclamation; ClearGov and Open Finance software presentations; NLC-Congressional Cities presentation
- C-10** Additional Announcements:

Mayor Gore elected to table the NLC Presentation until the next meeting.

The Sexual Assault awareness proclamation was not read at this meeting due to the scheduling of a proclamation signing for April 30, 2019 on the Municipal Building steps.

Mayor Gore announced that Hopewell had been chosen to receive the free year of Polco, with the City only having to pay for the individual Councilor platforms, and those platforms also being offered at a discount. The Mayor announced that the City would only have to pay \$3,000 for the Polco service *en toto*.

Councilor Pelham moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Her motion was seconded by Councilor Partin. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Partin	-	yes
Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	yes
Councilor Randolph	-	yes

Motion passed 7-0

Mayor Gore then announced that the youth who had participated in Youth in Government day were present in the Council Chambers, and she asked those youth to come forward and join Council on the dais. She allowed a recess from 8:35 p.m. to 8:55 p.m. to allow the youth to come forward and get settled.

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PUBLIC HEARINGS

PH-1 Amendment of FY19 Hopewell Public Schools Budget – John M. Altman, Jr., City Manager, reminded Council that the Hopewell Schools budget had not been fully approved because we were waiting on state and federal allocations. Mr. Altman explained that these allocations had now been received, and he provided Council information regarding increases and decreases. Mayor Gore opened the public hearing at 9:00 a.m. There being no one signed up to speak, and no one coming forward to speak at the meeting, Mayor Gore closed the public hearing at 9:01 p.m. Councilor Partin moved to resolve to approve the amended FY 18-19 Hopewell School budget as amended and presented. His motion was seconded by Councilor Denton. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Partin	-	yes
Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	--- (abstain)
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	yes
Councilor Randolph	-	yes

Motion passed 6-1

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

Annette Bennett of Ward 2 thanked the police department for their arrest of a drug user and dealer in her neighborhood.

Mary Epperson said she had just moved to Hopewell and she loved it. She said that she lives in Butterworth Lofts and thinks it is beautiful. She asked if it would be possible to erect a small dog park in the area of Appomattox and Hopewell streets.

Iris Walker of Ward 4 spoke regarding her request to install the Curtis Harris monument in Ashford Civic Plaza.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Reports of City Manager:

R-1 The Local Choice (TLC) Annual Insurance Renewal – March Altman presented information to Council regarding this item. Councilor Partin moved to the 2019-2020 The Local Choice health care rates as proposed by One Digital, the City’s benefit consultant. Vice Mayor Bennett seconded the motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Partin	-	yes
Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	yes
Councilor Randolph	-	yes

Motion passed 7-0

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R-2 Downtown Refuse Collection – Charles Dane, Assistant City Manager presented information to Council regarding a proposed change in refuse collection in Downtown Hopewell. He said they were considering replacing the current toters with dumpsters. He said they had already spoken with several Downtown businesses and were aware that not all businesses would like it, but said that some agreed with the proposal. No action of Council was required for this item.

Report of City Attorney – Council Rules

Stefan Calos of Sands Anderson PC, City Attorney, presented his revisions to Council Rule 203, as requested by Mayor Gore. There was discussion. Councilor Pelham moved to approve the third option of Rule 203 provided by Mr. Calos. Her motion was seconded by Mayor Gore. Mayor Gore then offered a substitute motion to have Rule 203 prohibit questions until the conclusion of the presentation, and then allow discussion or debate upon a motion, then limit the debate to three turns up to a 10-minute limit, including questions, excluding for public hearings and work session. Councilor Pelham seconded the substitute motion. Upon additional discussion, Councilor Denton made the substitute motion to give Rule 203 back to the City Attorney for modification based on Council discussion and have him come back with a motion for Council. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Partin	-	yes
Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	yes
Councilor Randolph	-	yes

Motion passed 7-0

Ashford Civic Plaza Committee

Mayor Gore explained that the Ashford Civic Plaza Committee still lacked sufficient members to make a decision regarding the request to add Rev. Harris to the Plaza. She asked Council if they would be willing to act as the Committee for the sole purpose of making that decision. Councilor Randolph moved that Council be the Ashford Civic Plaza Committee temporarily to work with the group that wants to talk about putting a bust of Curtis Harris in Ashford Civic Plaza, and then afterwards continue working on members for that Committee. Councilor Partin seconded the motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Partin	-	yes
Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	yes
Councilor Randolph	-	yes

Motion passed 7-0

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Item No.	Councilor	Item Description
IR-1	Partin	<p>Semi-Annual/Quarterly "Employee Day to Serve" - Prince George County does an Annual "Employee Day to Serve", where a group of county employees go out into different areas of the county to pick up trash in order to tackle the litter problem they are facing. For years, Hopewell has talked about this multi-decade long problem. This initiative will continue to show that the City of Hopewell is very serious about cleaning up the community. I am requesting that council allow the City Manager to look into having Semi-Annual or Quarterly Employee Days to Serve in order to further tackle the growing litter problem that our city faces</p> <p><i>Allow the City Manager and Staff to research idea of Employee Day to Serve, and to report back to Council in 30 days.</i></p>
IR-2	Gore	<p>Access to Munis/Budget Reporting – Request for Staff to implement Council’s access to Munis. Last year signed the documents needed to have access to Munis through the shared drive. We need to continue next steps and have our accounts set up so that we can view the budget and other financial documents in real time. Request Finance Committee be set up immediately during this budget cycle. <i>CM advised this item had already been completed, but that Council needed to be trained. Mr. Altman said he would check on training for Council and get back to them regarding same.</i></p>
IR-3	Gore	<p>Rule 203 options – Stefan Calos to provide options regarding request to limit discussion to ensure that the Council meetings are more efficient. <i>This item addressed during City Attorney – Rules section of agenda.</i></p>
IR-4	Gore	<p>30-day Report Out – ClearGov – <i>Move this item for to next agenda.</i></p>
IR-5	Gore	<p>Hopewell B-Corp creation - In 2018, I started the “Pillars” initiative in response to the Cities of Opportunity Grant award. Pillars calls on all “pillars of the community” to share what they provide as free or low cost resources to the City and its residents. The goal is to create a local database of services and resources to begin to fill in the gaps within the community. Request City Council to approve using a \$10,000 budget decrease from City Council’s budget to create a community incentive for business to become a “local” variation of B-Corps and to demonstrate that they are “Pillars of the Community”. Money to be provided in the form of a grant to any local organization that provides free services, supports community events, provides goods, manpower, leave for employees to support community initiatives/Big Brother’s Big Sisters, etc. Request that Mayor work with City Manager to develop a policy and guidelines for submission in anticipation of the FY20 budget adoption. I will be investing a portion of the Ward 4 Improvement to create “Pillar” decals to provide to businesses that are members. The goal is honor and display the “Pillars in the Community” during the “I ♥ Hopewell” festival by conducting a Community Awards program. Invite City Council participation to join efforts to co-host Community Call to Action and Awards Program. <i>Move this item for to next agenda.</i></p>

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- IR-6 Gore **Beacon Theater Sunday use** - Last year, City Council supported adding an additional \$100,000 to the Beacon Theaters budget for community programs. Requesting Beacon Theater financial report to show expenditures from that amount and current plans for remaining community funding. Request City Council to approve FREE access to theater on Sundays after the Beacon Church service for community events. Request City Council develop an Ad-Hoc Committee to review submissions and recommended approval of programs to be offered at theater for the public. Request that the City Manager serve as the Chair of the Ad-Hoc since his role serves as the Chair of the Beacon Theater LLC. *Move this item for to next agenda.*
- IR-7 Gore **Pending List** - Request City Manager and City Clerk meet to create list for the re-established pending list. City Council approved including the list in the City Council Agenda Packet. Since Feb, City Council has requested several Work Sessions and IR items. We need a list to visualize order of requests, action deadline and next steps. Request City Council approve list to be included in the next City Council Agenda Packet for initial approval and then to be updated by the City manager's Office and submitted to Clerk per agenda rules for inclusion in City Council's Agenda Packet. *Move this item for to next agenda.*

Councilor Pelham spoke about the Bike Run and advised the citizens to bring their children out to the event.

Assistant City Manager Charles Dane advised that the Beerfest attendance was double that of last year.

ADJOURN

Councilor Denton moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Partin seconded the motion. All councilors present responded "aye" to the question, and the meeting was adjourned.

/s/ Jasmine E. Gore
Jasmine E. Gore, Mayor

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