

**May 8, 2018**  
**Regular Meeting**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL HELD MAY 8, 2018**

A Meeting of Hopewell City Council, was held Tuesday, May 8, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 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, Assistant City Clerk

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor Shornak opened the meeting at 6:31 p.m. Roll call was taken as follows:

Mayor Shornak	-	present
Vice Mayor Gore	-	present
Councilor Luman-Bailey	-	present
Councilor Holloway	-	present
Councilor Zevgolis	-	absent (arrived at 6: 35p.m.)
Councilor Denton	-	present
Councilor Pelham	-	absent (arrived at 6:36 p.m.)

**CLOSED MEETING**

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Gore, to go into Closed Meeting for (1) discussion, consideration, and interviews of prospective candidates for employment (city attorney); (2) discussion of appointment of specific appointees of city council (Ashford Civic Plaza, HRHA); (3) discussion of performance of specific appointees of city council (EDA); (4) discussion of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of city council (water renewal, cemetery, stormwater); (5) consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, negotiating or litigating posture of city council (cemetery), and (6) 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) [three items], (3), (7) and (8), respectively. The motion was seconded by councilor Luman-Bailey. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

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Councilor Pelham	-	absent (arrived 6:36 p.m.)
Councilor Zevgolis	-	absent (arrived 6:35 p.m.)

**Motion passed 5-0**

**RECONVENE OPEN MEETING**

Council convened into Open Session at 7:32 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	-	yes

**Motion passed 7-0**

**ADOPT AGENDA**

Motion was made by Councilor Denton to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pelham. 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	-	yes

**Motion passed 7-0**

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor Shornak requested a roll call as follows:

Mayor Shornak	-	present
Vice Mayor Gore	-	present
Councilor Luman-Bailey	-	present
Councilor Holloway	-	present
Councilor Zevgolis	-	present
Councilor Denton	-	present
Councilor Pelham	-	present
Councilor Zevgolis	-	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 Minister Ernest Armstrong of Hopewell, Virginia, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America led by Mayor Shornak.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilor Denton moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Mayor Shornak raised concerns about the electoral board minutes, and wanted to know if Council approved the Consent Agenda, would it also be approving the minutes. Vice Mayor Gore stated the minutes are only for review. Stefan Calos, City Attorney, agreed with Vice Mayor Gore. Councilor Zevgolis requested to remove C-8 and add to regular agenda. There was no motion was required and C-8 was moved to regular agenda as R-5. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pelham

- C-1 Minutes:**
- C-2 Pending List:**
- C-3 Routine Approval of Work Sessions:**
- C-4 Personnel Change Report & Financial Report:**
- C-5 Ordinances on Second & Final Reading:**
- C-6 Routine Grant Approval:**
- C-7 Public Hearing Announcement: Budget: May 22, 2018**
- C-8 Information for Council Review: Minutes: ARLS April 2018; Electoral Board – 3-28-18, 4-12-18; Certification of Special Meeting 4-23-18; Hopewell Water Renewal 1-16-18**
- C-9 Resolutions/Proclamations/Presentations: Proclamations: Police Week; Kids to Parks Day**
- C-10 Additional Announcements: Award from James River Associates**

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	-	yes

**Motion passed 7-0**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**PH-1** A public hearing was held to receive comments regarding the proposed FY2019 budget. The Public hearing opened at 7:56 p.m. Johnny Partin, of Ward 3, came forward and recommended cuts to city council's budget and to use those funds for infrastructure and storm water management program. Public hearing closed at 8:05pm. A motion was made by Councilor Luman-Bailey to approve the FY2019 city budget on first of two readings. The motion was seconded by Councilor Denton.

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Councilor Pelham expressed several concerns about the FY2019. She wanted to vote on the entire FY2019 budget and piecemeal it; that it was okay to remove the schools, but really wanted to vote on the budget as a whole. City Manager Altman said the capital budget can be separate, but to finalize the general budget and budget resolution and it will not include capital projects. Councilor Pelham was not in agreement with adding the three Full Time Employees (FTE) this year when positions were frozen last because of the CAFR.

A substitute motion was made by Councilor Pelham to amend the motion to approve School Board portion of the budget and bring back the remaining budget with CIP. Councilor Luman-Bailey spoke about the multiple work sessions and three Finance Committee meeting, and that is not uncommon to pass operating budget first and do the CIP later. Councilor Luman-Bailey stated that the 2.9% increase is very small and that two of the FTE were already part-time.

Vice Mayor Gore also stated that she is not comfortable approving the budget without the CIP. She would like a work session to go over the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Vice Mayor Gore inquired about the many projects are still frozen from last year, the CIP fund, the debt service and the bond ratings for city or sewer. Vice Mayor Gore is in favor of approving school board portion. City Manager Altman responded to Vice Mayor's request to have a work session to discuss issues, COLA and health care and positions. Mayor Shornak called for the vote. Upon the roll call the vote resulted

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

**Motion failed 5-2**

Councilor Zevgolis stated he would like to see the budget passed with a 7-0 vote but understood it may not happen at this time. Councilor Zevgolis reminded everyone about the meeting the state has set for May 16<sup>th</sup> and that the Resolution of indebtedness must be passed by the ordinance in two readings; passing a budget requires an ordinance.

Mayor Shornak express her concerns about the budget and all being in support of the City Manager. In addition, she also expressed her concerns about some members of council texting. Councilor Pelham called a Point of Order regarding comments made by the Mayor. Mayor Shornak expressed her concern again and stated that the budget should be passed on the first reading. Councilor Pelham called another Point of Order regarding the Mayor speaking about members of council in a negative way.

Councilor Pelham would like to see money given back to the citizens. Councilor Luman-Bailey asked the March Altman, City Manager, what would be held up if the budget is only partially approved. Mr. Altman said nothing and that is just the best practice to approve the city and school budget at the same time. Mr. Altman requested guidance on do we bring back with the COLA and insurance. Councilor Luman-Bailey stated that the budget would not be effective until July 1 and there is no negative impact, just uncertainly regarding COLA, and wanted to recognize the finance committee for their hard work.

Councilor Denton also expressed her concerns about the budget and felt that is council's responsibly to support and trust the City Manager and Assistant City Manager. City Council should not

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micromanage the City Manager. She praised the City Manager and Finance Director. Vice Mayor Gore replied that the City Manager prepares the budget and City Council approves the budget. Mayor Shornak called for the vote. Upon the roll call the vote resulted

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

**Motion passed 4-3**

Vice Mayor Gore submitted a Transactional Disclosure Statement about the budget regarding the Health Insurance portion.

Council Pelham submitted a Transactional Disclosure Statement about the budget stating that she is a City of Hopewell School employee.

Councilor Pelham moved to approve the school board budget only and bring back the rest of the budget with the CIP. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Gore. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

**Motion passed 5-2**

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS:**

Shamika Lewis, Ward 7 spoke to council. Ms. Lewis expressed concerns about only seeing Councilors during election season and not seeing them in the community after that. She also spoke about the numerous murders in the city and fear. Ms. Lewis spoke about her group the Community on Change and how it plans to protect all the citizens of Hopewell in several ways. She invited everyone to a community forum that will take place May 31<sup>st</sup> from 6pm-8pm at the Elks Lodge.

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

**Reports of City Manager:**

**R-1 Virginia Brownfields Restoration and Economic Redevelopment Assistance Fund Program: Site Assessment and Planning Grant-** Jake Elder, Economic Development Coordinator, presented. He spoke about the grant and ended his presentation by fielding questions from Council. Councilor Denton

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made a motion to approve the Virginia Assessment and Planning Grant and authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement once approved by the City Manager. The motion was seconded by Mayor Shornak. 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	-	yes

**Motion passed 7-0**

**R-2 Appropriate \$70,000.00 for Fire Department to Repair/Replace Equipment-** Fire Chief Hunter presented. He discussed and provided updates about the repair and replacement of equipment for the Fire Department. He ended his presentation by answering questions from Council. Vice Mayor Gore wanted to know if there was projected timeline and Mr. Hunter said he would like to have this complete as soon as possible. Councilor Holloway asked Mr. Hunter to express the importance of this equipment; and Mr. Hunter said that the equipment is vital. Mayor Shornak made a motion to approve the appointment of up to \$70,000.00 from uncommitted funds from the Public Safety Buildings project to repair/replace the fire station alerting system, and authorize the City Manager to sign all documents related thereto. The motion was seconded by Councilor Denton. 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	-	yes

**Motion passed 7-0**

**R-3 Request from the Hopewell Redevelopment and Housing Authority to rezone property-** Tevya Griffin, Director, Department of Development, introduced Tavares McCoy from HRHA who presented. He provided updates to the rezoning and discussed the displacement of 52 families in the Davisville community. Councilor Pelham requested a work session and asked that the HUD requirements, and additional programs available also through HUD, be brought back to discuss during that work session. A public hearing will be held at a later date to discuss this matter. No action required of council at this time.

**R-4 Request by Freedman Point Limited Partnership for Easement Agreement-** Austin Anderson, Public Works Engineering Construction Manager presented. He ended his presentation answering questions from Council. Council requested to see the agreement. Bruce Watts, VP from WODA stated that in order to stay on schedule to close with HUD on May 30<sup>th</sup> and the easement is needed to close with Riley Ingram on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Councilor Pelham made a motion to approve the Freedom Point Limited Partnership Easement Agreement, and authorize the City Manager to sign the Agreement once approved

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by the City Attorney. The motion was seconded by Councilor Zevgolis. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted.

Mayor Shornak submitted a Transactional Disclosure Statement about the budget stating that her Daughter, Michelle Ingram, is an employee of the City of Hopewell.

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

**Motion passed 6-1**

**R-5 Information for Council Review(C-8) to Accept the Minutes received for filing only-** This item was initially on the consent agenda was moved to regular business. Councilor Pelham made a motion accept the minutes received for filing only. The motion was seconded by Councilor Denton. 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	-	yes

**Motion passed 7-0**

**Reports of City Attorney:** - there was nothing to report

**Reports of City Clerk:** - there was nothing to report

**Reports of City Council:** - there was nothing to report

**ADJOURN**

At 10:32 p.m. motion was made by Councilor Pelham to extend the meeting. The motion failed for lack of a second. Vice Mayor Gore made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Councilor Denton. All council responded "aye" to all in favor say "aye". Meeting was adjourned.

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

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