

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 5, 2019 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

A meeting of the Hopewell City Council was held Tuesday, March 5, 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

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 5:30 p.m. Roll call was taken as follows:

Mayor Gore	-	present
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	absent (arrived at 5:35 p.m.)
Councilor Randolph	-	absent (not on dais)
Councilor Partin	-	present
Councilor Holloway	-	present
Councilor Denton	-	present
Councilor Pelham	-	present

WORK SESSION

Council partook of TIMS training in the Council Conference Room. The training was provided by the IT Department with assistance from Debbie Pershing.

Mayor Gore requested a roll call, which 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*

*Councilor Pelham left after the TIMS training, announcing that she would be attending the Hopewell Girls Basketball team in support of her daughter and granddaughters. She said she would return at the end of the game. Mayor Gore allowed and excused this absence.

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CLOSED MEETING

At 6:36 p.m., Councilor Partin moved to go into closed meeting for discussion and consideration of specific appointees of city council (boards, commissions, authorities); (2) discussion of specific appointees or employees of city council (city manager, city clerk, city attorney); and (3) consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by city council related thereto and regarding specific legal matters, (Praxair, TJ Video) requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel in accordance with Virginia Code § 2.2-3711 (A) (1) [two items], and (8), respectively. Mayor Gore seconded the motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 6-0

RECONVENE OPEN MEETING

Council returned to the dais at 7:39 p.m. and announced that they would not be coming out of closed meeting.

Mayor Gore requested a roll call, as follows:

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

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 Rev. Pamela Cooper of the John Randolph Pastoral Care, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, led by Charles Dane, Assistant City Manager.

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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: Feb. 12, 2019 and Feb. 26, 2019
- C-2** Pending List:
- C-3** Routine Approval of Work Sessions: review of Budget Calendar
- C-4** Personnel Change Report & Financial Report:
- C-5** Ordinances on Second & Final Reading:
- C-6** Routine Grant Approval:
- C-7** Public Hearing Announcement: March 26, 2019 - Conditional Use Request and Zoning Ordinance Amendments
- C-8** Information for Council Review: Minutes:
- C-9** Resolutions/Proclamations/Presentations: Presentation by Hopewell Downtown Partnership by Executive Director Evan Kaufman; presentation on Riverwalk project by Aaron Reidmiller, Director of Parks & Recreation and Austin Anderson, Construction Manager; Cities of Opportunity Grant by Jasmine E. Gore, Mayor
- C-10** Additional Announcements:

Mayor Gore read to the audience the items that were on the Consent Agenda. Evan Kaufman gave a presentation. He also recognized HDP members and volunteers and thanked them for their hard work. Austin Anderson, Construction Engineer, gave a presentation regarding the Riverwalk, including a video. Mayor Gore requested that the video be put on the City's YouTube page. Mayor Gore spoke on the Cities of Opportunity Grant, in conjunction with Charles Dane. Mr. Altman requested that the Cities of Opportunity videos also be included on the city's YouTube page.

Mr. Dane advised that he was contacted by public outreach TV. Lawrence Fishburne is providing a program whereby they run 3-5 minute snippets about Hopewell, airing in 50 states, and 5-6 minute corporate documentary that we can use, and that they will make available to 1 million viewers. A one-minute video will be aired 400 times regionally, which 84 million viewers will see. The cost for this is \$23,000, which funds are already available in the economic development fund. Mr. Altman spoke in support of the project, as did Councilor Denton, who asked as to the timeframe for the project. Mr. Dane replied that it would be about a 120-day process.

Councilor Partin moved to adopt the agenda with the exception of item C-1 under the Consent Agenda, and to have a work session on real estate assessment at the March 26, 2019 meeting. Councilor Denton seconded his motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 6-0

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PUBLIC HEARINGS

There were no public hearings.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

Lisa Stables of Ward 1 came forward to voice her concerns about the last Council meeting. There were no other speakers.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Reports of City Manager:

R-1 Francisco Landing Project – March Altman and Charlie Dane provided information about this item. Councilor Partin moved to approve the 90-day extension of the closing date for the agreement with Francisco Landing Holdings LLC. Vice Mayor Bennett seconded his motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 6-0

R-2 Appropriation of funds for Hummel Ross Road project – Johnnie Butler, City Engineer, presented information to Council regarding this item, along with Jerry Byerly, Director of Hopewell Water Renewal. Vice Mayor Bennett moved to approve accepting the Hopewell Water Renewal Commission funding for the 50% local match of the Hummel Ross Road project per the Wastewater Renewal Capital Budget Improvement, of the total project cost \$146,000 from Hopewell Water Renewal and the remaining \$490,000 to be included in next year's budget. Vice Mayor Gore seconded the motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 6-0

R-3 Approval of refund to Praxair Inc. – Joan Gosier, Hopewell Treasurer, with assistance from Deborah Reason, Commissioner of Revenue, presented information to Council regarding the need for the refund. Councilor Partin moved to approve the issuance of \$425,431.86 for amended tax returns to Praxair Inc. Vice Mayor Bennett seconded his motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Pelham	-	absent
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	yes
Councilor Randolph	-	yes

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Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Partin	-	yes
Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes

Motion passed 6-0

Reports of City Clerk:

Board, Commission, Committee	Current members	Vacancies
Ashford Civic Plaza	1	6
Board of Building Cod and Fire Prevention Code Appeals	2	3
Board of Equalization	1	3
Board of Zoning Appeal	4	1
Central Virginia Waste Management Authority	1	1
Community Policy and Management Team	9	1
Dock Commission	0	5
Economic Development Authority	4	3
Historic Preservation Committee	5	2 (citizens)*
Friends of the Appomattox River	1	1
Keep Hopewell Beautiful	4	6
Planning Commission/Wetlands Board	4	1
Recreation Commission	4	3
Social Services Advisory Board	2	5
Transportation Safety Board	4	1
Youth Services Commission	7	8
Virginia Gateway Region	1	1

Councilor Partin stated that he thought there was an error in the Keep Hopewell Beautiful listing—that he believed it was reversed. The Clerk requested that he provide her with his list of members for comparison, and stated she would get back to him.

Councilor Pelham returned and announced that the Hopewell Girls Basketball Team had been victorious.

Reports of the City Attorney: Council rules – Stefan Calos of Sands Anderson PC, City Attorney presented Council with several revised rules. By consensus of Council, each Rule was voted on individually:

Rule 405 – Councilor Partin moved to approve the Option 2 version of Rule 405 as the new rule. Councilor Denton seconded his motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 7-0

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Reports of City Council:

Committees

Councilor Randolph noted that, earlier in the meeting, Mayor Gore had spoken about burial plots and that since she (Councilor Randolph) and Councilor Denton were on the Historical Preservation Committee and asked if they could be included in that.

Establish and appoint members to the City Council Retreat Committee

Councilor Randolph moved to postpone the “establish and appoint members to the City Council Retreat Committee until the March 5, 2019 meeting. Mayor Gore seconded her motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 7-0

Individual Councilors

- | | | |
|------|--------|--|
| IR-1 | Gore | Gun violence (return item) – <i>Discussion. No action taken on this item.</i> |
| IR-2 | Gore | Shooting Task Force (return item) – <i>Discussion. Council agreed by consensus for Mr. Altman to look into reestablishing the Citizen Review Board, which was comprised of one representative from every neighborhood watch in the City. Altman explained that this would go hand-in-hand with what the Police Chief, Kamran Afzal is working on. Altman to discuss with Police Chief and come back to Council with information and a recommendation.</i> |
| IR-3 | Gore | Letterhead- <i>Discussion. Council agreed by consensus that each would pick the style of letterhead they preferred by midnight the following Friday. Each councilor would have individual letterhead, and there would be letterhead for all of Council that could only be used by approval.</i> |
| IR-5 | Denton | Proclamations and condolence certificates (return item) – <i>Discussion. Councilor Denton moved to approve the City of Hopewell Proclamation Guidelines with the following amendments: to include the Certificate of Recognition and the Condolence in the title and in the document, to amend the first bullet under “Other” to add “upon recommendation of the City Attorney,” and to delete the last bullet under “Other,” and for these changes to be reflected in the application form, as well. Mayor Gore seconded her motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:</i> |

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

Motion passed 7-0

- IR-6 Gore Tyler (TIMS) training – Asking Council to set date(s) for Tyler (TIMS) training for itself and for the City Clerk. (return item) – *This item already DONE*
- IR-7 Gore ClearGov – ClearGov is a budget app that assists cities with transparency and budgeting. I am asking Council to use a portion of its marketing budget to purchase this tool (return item). *Discussion. By consensus, City Manager to research this and other companies to verify best costs/options for the City and to bring information back to Council within 30 days.*

It being close to 10:30 p.m., Councilor Pelham moved to extend the meeting past 10:30 p.m. only to hear the IR items and remaining two closed session items. Mayor Gore seconded the motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	no
Councilor Randolph	-	no
Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Partin	-	no
Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	no

Motion failed 4-3

Mayor Gore advised Council of the many items that would have to be moved to the next agenda, and asked if they wanted to reconsider not staying past 10:30 p.m., but Council disagreed.

ADJOURN

The meeting ended at 10:31 p.m.

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

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