

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD APRIL 11, 2017**

A special meeting of the City Council of Hopewell, Virginia, was held Tuesday, April 11 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  
Christina Luman-Bailey, Councilor  
Arlene Holloway, Councilor  
Anthony Zevgolis, 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 6:30 p.m. Roll call was taken 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

**Motion** was made by Councilor Denton and seconded by Councilor Luman-Bailey to amend the agenda to add item (3) to the closed meeting motion “discussion concerning a prospective business where no previous announcement has been made of the business interest in locating its facilities in the community,” and to add paragraph designation (5) to the code section cited so that it reads “Virginia Code sections 2.2-3711 (A) (1) (5) and (7), respectively, and to move the Closed Meeting to the end of the agenda. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

**Motion passed 7-0**

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**CLOSED MEETING**

Motion was made at 6:33 p.m. by Councilor Zevgolis and seconded by Councilor Luman-Bailey to go into closed meeting 1) discussion of the appointment or resignation of public officers (city councilor, constitutional officer) and specific appointees of city council (city clerk, finance committee), (2) discussion concerning a prospective business where no previous announcement has been made of the business interest in locating its facilities in the community, and (3) consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by city council related thereto and regarding specific legal matters (the Beacon) requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel, in accordance with Virginia Code sections 2.2-3711 (A) (1), (5) and (7), respectively. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

**Motion passed 7-0**

**OPEN MEETING**

Council came out of Closed Meeting at 7:33 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.

**WORK SESSIONS**

**WS-1 Economic Development Authority** - Debbie Randolph of the Economic Development Authority came forward and presented to Council the status of various projects, including providing financial information. She fielded questions from Council and was asked to provide additional information at a later meeting.

**WS-2 Hopewell Redevelopment and Housing Authority** – Mr. Steve Benham, Chairman of the HRHA presented Council with an update of its projects. He spoke about the partnerships with other agencies, such as H.E.A.L. and how through that they encourage people to learn how to cook instead of eating fast food. He also noted that the HRHA set up an initiative for its staff to embrace healthy living, including having a chiropractor visit the office. Council asked about community gardens, and he said he would look at it. Vice Mayor Gore asked if the federal budget would have an impact on HRHA at the local level. Mr. Benham said he would get back on that. Pelham asked if the Summit paid property tax. Mr. Benham said that they do. Mr. Dane clarified that they were currently

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part of a rebate system, but that they would eventually be tax-paying. Mr. Benham discussed future plans for some of the affordable housing units.

**REGULAR MEETING**

Mayor Shornak opened the regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. Prayer by Charles Dane, Assistant City Manager, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion** was made by Councilor Pelham and seconded by Vice Mayor Gore to approve the Consent Agenda

<b>C-1</b>	<b><u>Minutes:</u></b> None
<b>C-2</b>	<b><u>Pending List:</u></b> None
<b>C-3</b>	<b><u>Routine Approval of Work Sessions:</u></b> Council Finance Committee meeting April 13, 2017; Budget Work Session April 18, 2017
<b>C-4</b>	<b><u>Personnel Change Report &amp; Financial Report:</u></b> None
<b>C-4</b>	<b><u>Ordinances on Second &amp; Final Reading:</u></b> None
<b>C-5</b>	<b><u>Routine Grant Approval:</u></b> None
<b>C-6</b>	<b><u>Public Hearing Announcement:</u></b> <b>April 18, 2017</b> – <i>Finance</i> – City Manager Adjusted Budget; <b>April 25, 2017</b> – <i>Development</i> – Requests to amend the Zoning Ordinance; <i>Finance</i> – FY 2018 School Division Budget
<b>C-7</b>	<b><u>Information for Council Review:</u></b> Hopewell Water Renewal minutes for January 30, 2017
<b>C-8</b>	<b><u>Resolutions/Proclamations/Presentations:</u></b> Condolence Proclamation for Juanita Coles Chambers; Fair Housing Act proclamation; Appomattox Regional Library System 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Invitation

Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

**Motion passed 7-0**

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**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**PH-1** A public hearing was held to receive comments consider citizen comments regarding real property tax levy increase of \$.04 per \$100 (from \$1.13 to \$1.17) for Fiscal Year 2018. Councilor Luman-Bailey made a motion to postpone a decision on real property taxes until a later meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Gore. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

**Motion passed 6-1**

Councilor Pelham noted that the item should have been discussed prior to the roll call. Stefan Calos advised that, even though the vote was already completed, there could still be discussion on the issue. Council then discussed their concerns regarding the proposed increase in real property tax. After the discussion, Mr. Calos voiced concern as to if the vote had been completed, but was informed that the vote was completed with Councilor Pelham's vote. The public hearing was closed at 8:08 p.m.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS** – Mayor Shornak opened the floor to any citizen wishing to speak. Steven Barnes of Oaklawn Boulevard came forward. He gave his praise and support of the Hopewell Fire Department and EMS Crew. He said he had been a victim of a bad accident, and the crew saved his life. He also praised Chief Keohane for his efforts.

Thomas Hobbs of Ward 7 also came forward. He said that two weeks ago in the rain, he was coming to speak at the meeting, but there was a loss, and he offered condolences for that loss, for which the Mayor thanked him. He also said that on that day there was a rainbow with the Municipal Building showing as the pot of gold. Mr. Hobbs spoke of Chapter 23 of the City Ordinance, Sec. 23-18, which covered noise related to dumpster emptying. He noted that CFS has been emptying the dumpster that is 35 steps from his house in the middle of the night. He noted the steps he had taken to correct the problem, to no avail. Time ran out while Mr. Hobbs was speaking. Councilor Pelham moved to allow him to continue speaking, which was seconded by Councilor Zevgolis. By consensus, Council agreed to let him continue speaking. Mr. Hobbs mentioned that Ed Watson, Director of Public Works, had not been helpful to him. Mayor Shornak advised Mr. Hobbs that he could not bash anyone. She further stated that Council wanted to, and would, help him. She tasked the City Manager with getting with CFS to assist Mr. Hobbs.

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Mr. Haley asked Mr. Hobbs when the most recent event was because he (Haley) had reached out to CFS. Mr. Hobbs said it had been a week after he spoke with Mr. Haley and it was the recycle people. Mr. Haley thanked him and advised that the recycle was under another contract and he would reach out to them.

June Goho of Ward 4 then came forward to thank the City of Hopewell for the Code Red system. She said it was so valuable. She said when she received the call on her phone, she knew it was Hopewell specific and it gave her time to do whatever she needed to do to keep herself safe. She further stated that she did not have a computer or a smart phone, and Code Red was vital to her wellbeing.

Lavern Jones of Ward 6 had not signed up to speak, but asked to come forward. He request was granted. She said that she was provided information regarding real estate taxes. Mayor Shornak advised that Ms. Jones had missed the public hearing on real estate taxes, and asked if that was about what she wanted to speak. Mayor Shornak, after consultation with Mr. Calos, advised Ms. Jones that, because the public hearing regarding the real estate taxes had already been closed, they could not allow her to speak. She said the item would come up on the agenda again and she would be allowed to speak at that time. Councilor Pelham told Ms. Jones that she could call her and she would provide Ms. Jones with an update.

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

**R-1 Approval of Fiscal Year 2017 General Fund/Finance Budget appropriation for additional audit, consulting, and other professional service costs** - Presentation was made by Lance Wolff, Interim Finance Director regarding this item. Mr. Wolff said that this request included amounts that were pending along with an estimate of future expenses through the end of the year. Council clarified that the \$250,000 requested was included in the \$574,000 total spent for the audit. Mr. Wolff said the portion of the funds requested that consisted of “new money” was only \$177,000. Councilor Pelham moved to appropriate an additional \$250,000 to supplement the FY2017 budget, which 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 Zevgolis	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	no

**Motion passed 6-1**

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**R-2 Presentation regarding the classification and compensation study results by Ann Antonsen of Springsted Incorporated** – Mr. Haley introduced Renia Coles, Director of Human Resources. Ms. Coles then introduced Ann Antonsen of Springsted Incorporated. Ms. Antonsen presented the findings of the classification and compensation study performed by Springsted. Council asked if there was an actual report that would include the data regarding personnel whose salaries needed to be increased. Mr. Haley noted that the study provided several options to address the deficiencies. Council requested that Ms. Springsted come back and do a work session to further discuss the issues. **No action was required of Council for this item.**

**R-3 Presentation of Capital Improvements Budget and financial requests from outside agencies by City Manager** - Mr. Haley asked that Council review their packets regarding the capital improvement budget and financial requests from outside agencies. Council then reviewed the packet and Mr. Haley answered Council’s question regarding both the capital improvements and financial requests from outside agencies. Charles Dane, Assistant City Manager, came forward and addressed the issue of M&T tax and how several industries had requested its removal. Council requested follow up on if Prince George is paying its chair for the HPG Chamber, and also to follow up from recipients on what was done with the money received from Hopewell. Council also requested that requestors use the Hopewell “grant” form to request funding. Councilors Luman-Bailey and Pelham asked that if any of the Constitutional offices had special requests that they be present so that Council could ask questions. **No action was required of Council for this item.**

**R-4 Approval of health care rates for employees and retirees, and other recommendations proposed by OneDigital** - presentation was made by Renia Coles with remarks by the City Manager and the Assistant City Manager requesting the approval of the increase in TLC healthcare rates. Councilor Luman-Bailey moved to approve the new rate schedules and recommendations of OneDigital regarding the City’s health insurance program, as was presented to Council at its April 4, 2017 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Shornak. Councilor Pelham called for point of order and asked if it was proper that the Mayor second a motion. Mr. Calos verified that she could do so. Regardless, Councilor Denton then seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. The Mayor asked about the retirees’ spouses and the portion of insurance paid by the City.

As the discussion was continuing and it was approaching 10:30 p.m., the Mayor asked for a motion to extend the meeting past 10:30 p.m. Councilor Pelham made that motion, and it was seconded by Councilor Zevgolis. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

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Councilor Zevgolis	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes

**Motion passed 7-0**

Council then voted on the health care rates. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

**Motion passed 7-0**

**R-5 Update on 2017 real estate tax assessments by the Interim Finance Director** – Mr. Wolff and Patrizia Waggoner, the Real Estate Assessor both came before Council and provided a presentation and information on the 2017 real estate tax reassessment, and provided information on the status of 2016 appeals for both commercial and residential. Council noted that there was insufficient time between the mailing of the real estate assessment and the time for appeal, and requested that the time be extended. **No action was required of Council for this item.**

**REPORTS OF THE CITY ATTORNEY:** None

**REPORTS OF THE CITY CLERK:** None

**REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL:**

Gore – Website Committee is calling a meeting to review the second half of the website changes. Mr. Lark reported that the Office on Youth page has 2,500 hits. When Mr. Lark first came there were only 500 hits. She also noted that 650 people watched the Council meeting live. She asked the Clerk to comment on Municode.

Luman-Bailey – The Hopewell Water Renewal had a meeting. The minutes were included in Council’s packet. Please advise if there are questions. Attended Virginia Gateway Board meeting Thursday morning, and several councilors attended the annual meeting that evening.

Councilor Zevgolis wished everyone a Happy Easter, and noted that both the Greek orthodox Easter and the Christian Easter are on the same date.

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Pelham – Attended an RC&D meeting a week ago. The RC&D is an organization that provides a service for environmental options for Hopewell. They don't receive governmental funds at all, so they depend on the localities to subsidize their efforts. Saturday, April 22, is a clean-up for Ward 6. They will pass out flyers to let the residents come out and help. Wish everyone a Happy Resurrection Day. Thanked Ms. Denton for preparing dinner.

Denton – Wished her husband a Happy Birthday.

Shornak – thanked the City Manager, Assistant City Manager, Mr. Lance and the Department heads for their help with preparing the budget.

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Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes

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**OPEN MEETING**

Council came out of Closed Meeting at 7:33 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.

**ADJOURN**

At 11:20 p.m., Councilor Zevgolis made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Councilor Luman-Bailey, and unanimously passed.



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Jackie Shornak, Mayor

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Ronnieye Arrington, City Clerk