

MINUTES OF THE MAY 28, 2019 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

A meeting of the Hopewell City Council was held Tuesday, May 28, 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 (arrived at 5:38 p.m.)
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
Debra Hogan Knight, 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	-	absent (arrived at 5:38 p.m.)
Councilor Randolph	-	present
Councilor Partin	-	present
Councilor Holloway	-	present
Councilor Denton	-	present
Councilor Pelham	-	present

Councilor John B. Partin, Jr., announced that he would be recusing himself from discussions regarding Project Bamboo as he had a conflict. He noted that when the topic came up on Closed Meeting, he would recuse himself by leaving the room. Councilor Pelham asked Stefan Calos of Sands Anderson PC, City Attorney, how Mr. Partin's conflict differed from hers (reference to a prior event). Mr. Calos said that Councilor Pelham was one of many people who could benefit from a vote made on the Schools, while Mr. Partin is a direct agent of the Company in question.

CLOSED MEETING

At 5:36 p.m., Councilor Pelham moved to go into closed meeting for (1) discussion and consideration of specific appointees of city council (boards, commissions, authorities); (2) discussion, consideration or interviews of specific appointees or employees of city council (city manager, city clerk, city attorney); (3) discussion or consideration 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 the public body (Shiloh Lodge); (4) discussion concerning a prospective business where no previous announcement has been made of the business' interest in locating its facilities in the community (Bamboo); and (5) 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 (Francisco Landing), in accordance with Virginia Code § 2.2-3711 (A) (1) [two items], 3, 5, and (8), respectively.. Councilor Partin seconded the motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

**May 28, 2019
Regular Meeting**

Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	---- (arrived at 5:38 p.m.)
Councilor Randolph	-	yes
Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Partin	-	yes

Motion passed 6-0

RECONVENE OPEN MEETING

At 6:30 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:

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

Motion passed 7-0

AMEND/ADOPT WORK SESSION

Councilor Pelham moved to adopt the agenda for the work session. Her motion was seconded by Mayor Gore. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 7-0

WORK SESSION

WS-1 Warming/Homeless Shelter – City Manager John M. “March” Altman, Jr. said that we had been running the shelter based on volunteer workers. Those workers are now waning, so we are looking at other options. He then introduced Assistant City Manager Charles Dane to provide Council with information on this item. Mr. Dane spoke about other services the City wants to provide, along with the shelter. He stated

**May 28, 2019
Regular Meeting**

that we are currently communicating with Father Joe Goldsmith regarding a property that has sufficient space (5,700 square feet) to allow for a year-round shelter, as well as classrooms we can use for other programs. He specifically mentioned the Opioid Crisis and the Opioid Task Force, and how a larger space can assist with the fight against the opioid epidemic. He also mentioned that District 19 is facing having to leave their current space at John Randolph Hospital, which will cause the loss of their three days' service to Hopewell. Jennifer Tunstall of District 19, was present at the meeting and advised Council of how important the new facility would be to District 19 and their ability to provide services to Hopewell. She said that District 19 provides intensive outpatient substance abuse therapy, as well as Crisis Assessment and Intervention. Mr. Dane mentioned various classes that could be hosted in a new space, including a veterans' resource center. Ray Spicer, Director of the Department of Social Services came forward and presented Council with four options, which included the current facility for the current timeframe, the current facility year round, the new proposed building for the current time frame, and the proposed building for year round use. Both Messrs. Dane and Spicer fielded questions from Council. Council requested that Mr. Dane come back to them with information regarding a cost analysis as to whether it is more reasonable to use the Catholic Charities to manage the building or how much it would cost to hire someone. Council agreed that Community Resource Center was a better and more accurate name than Warming or Homeless Shelter.

REGULAR MEETING

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

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

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. Leroy Mashore of John Randolph Pastoral Care, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, led by Councilor Denton.

**May 28, 2019
Regular Meeting**

AMEND/ADOPT AGENDA

Councilor Randolph moved to amend the agenda to add an item to Regular Business (ostensibly R-1) entitled Acquisition of Shiloh Lodge, and to move the appointment of the City Attorney from IR-2 to R-2, and to renumber remaining R items accordingly. Her motion was seconded by Councilor Partin. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 7-0

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:**
- C-2 Pending List:** Attached
- C-3 Routine Approval of Work Sessions:** 6-4-19 – Budget work session; 6-11-19 spot blight, train station, and two conditional use permit work sessions
- C-4 Personnel Change Report & Financial Report:** Both attached
- C-5 Ordinances on Second & Final Reading:**
- C-6 Routine Grant Approval:**
- C-7 Public Hearing Announcement:** 6-25-19 rezoning request and two conditional use permits
- C-8 Information for Council Review: Minutes:** HRHA 3-11-19; Recreation Commission 1-9-19, 2-13-19, 3-13-19, 4-10-19; CPMT 4-23-19; Planning Commission 2-28-19; **Report:** City of Refuge Hopewell Recovery Center information
- C-9 Resolutions/Proclamations/Presentations:** Census proclamation; EMS Week proclamation
- C-10 Additional Announcements:** June 6 – 8 - City Council Retreat Advance

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PH-1 Conditional Use Permit

ISSUE: Public hearing to receive and consider citizen input on the request for a conditional use permit to conduct a single family home on 219 N 15th Avenue

Tevya Griffin, Director of Development presented information to Council.

**May 28, 2019
Regular Meeting**

Mayor Gore opened the public hearing at 8:17 p.m. No one was signed up to speak, and no one came forward to speak. Mayor Gore closed the public hearing at 8:17 p.m. After discussion, Councilor Partin moved to approve the request for the conditional use permit, with the following eight (8) criteria:

1. The home shall be no smaller than 1,350 square feet;
2. The home shall have 3-4 bedrooms and at least 2 full bathrooms;
3. The architecture style of the home shall be Craftsman Bungalow;
4. The exterior material of the proposed single-family dwelling shall be vinyl with textured accents such as shake;
5. The proposed single-family dwelling shall have a brick foundation on all four (4) sides. A brick foundation consists of foundation block from the block work to the first floor elevation with brick veneer;
6. Consistent with the majority of homes on 15th Avenue from West Broadway to City Point, the home shall have a front porch. The porch shall have tapered columns;
7. The single-family dwelling shall be one or 1 ½ story's; and
8. Home shall have windows on both sides of front door.

His motion was seconded by Councilor Pelham. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 7-0

PH-2 FY20 Hopewell City Operating Budget and FY20 Hopewell School Budget

ISSUE: Council is required to approve and adopt a budget annually.

MOTION: Councilor Pelham moved to approve and adopt the annual budget for FY20 with revisions to the Budget Resolution, namely modify Sec. 8 to include CIP in front of funds; to change Sec. 14 to delete Finance Director and replace it with City Manager; and for the City Manager to come back to Council with revisions and suggested language regarding the City Manager not being able to transfer funds. Her motion was seconded by Councilor Mayor Gore. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed: 4-3

**May 28, 2019
Regular Meeting**

Councilor Pelham submitted a Transactional Disclosure Statement for this item stating that she is an employee of Hopewell City Public Schools, but that she is able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

Councilor Partin submitted a Transactional Disclosure Statement noting his affiliation with FOLAR, SCC RCD, VSU, Hopewell Water Renewal, Historic Hopewell Foundation and CPDC, but that he is able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

UB-1 Request to place Rev. Harris bust in Ashford Civic Plaza

ISSUE: In honor of the late Rev. Dr. Curtis West Harris, Sr., the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Foundation would like to erect a monument in Ashford Civic Plaza. The sculptor that created the bust of Martin Luther King, Jr. currently in the Plaza is available and willing to do one for Rev. Dr. Curtis W. Harris. The Foundation will raise the money for the project, but seeks Council's approval to place the bust in Ashford Civic Plaza.

Council discussed this item at length. Councilor Randolph moved to end discussion and called for the vote. Her motion was seconded by Councilor Denton. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 6-1

Councilor Randolph moved to allow the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Foundation to place a bust of Rev. Dr. Curtis Harris in the Ashford Civic Plaza, and for Council to include Ms. Allen in further discussion. Her motion was seconded by Councilor Denton. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 6-1

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

No one signed up to speak and no one came forward.

REGULAR BUSINESS

**May 28, 2019
Regular Meeting**

Reports of City Manager:

R-1 Acquisition of Shiloh Lodge – Councilor Randolph moved to appropriate \$85,375 for the purchase of the Shiloh Mason Lodge in City Point for the purpose of a museum, and authorize the City Manage to sign all necessary documents. 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	-	yes
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	yes
Councilor Randolph	-	yes

Motion passed 7-0

Councilor Pelham submitted a Transactional Disclosure Statement for this item stating that her father is a member of the Masonic Temple Shiloh Lodge 33, but that she is able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

R-2 Appointment of City Attorney – Councilor Partin moved to appoint Sandra R. Robinson as Hopewell City Attorney. His motion was seconded by Mayor Gore. Councilor Partin and Councilor Randolph both said Ms. Robinson was an excellent candidate, but that they could not vote for her because she was not a Hopewell resident, nor was she willing to move to the City and become a resident. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 5-2

R-3 Request to accept State Grant to fund I Love Hopewell Youth Summer Workforce Opportunity Program.

ISSUE: The Commonwealth of Virginia is granting \$300,000.00 for the City’s Youth Employment Program which will commence on June 17, thru August 15, 2019. The grant will serve 60 city youths.

Councilor Partin moved to accept the Commonwealth of Virginia grant to fund the City’s Youth Employment Program which will commence June 17, through August 15, 2019, and to appropriate \$300,000 to fund the program. His motion was seconded by Councilor Pelham.

**May 28, 2019
Regular Meeting**

Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed: 7-0

R-4 Economic Development Incentive Grant for Project Bamboo

ISSUE: In a competitive process, in attempting to secure a major expansion to one of our existing Industries (AdvanSix), City Staff has negotiated a potential additional incentive grant in order to win the project for the City rather than one of two other sites apparently under consideration. This grant is in the form of a partial rebate of taxes actually paid, not in cash payment from City funds. The efforts have been successful in that it now appears the project will be built at the Hopewell site beginning later this year.

*Charles Dane, Assistant City Manager, presented information to Council. Councilor Denton moved to approve the economic development agreement with AdvanSix, and to authorize the City Manager to sign all necessary documents. Vice Mayor Bennett seconded the motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed: 6-0

Councilor Denton submitted a Transactional Disclosure Statement for this item stating that her daughter-in-law works for AdvanSix, but that she is able to participate in this transaction fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

Councilor Partin submitted a Transactional Disclosure Statement for this item stating that he is an employee of AdvanSix, and that he prefers to recuse himself.

**Before discussion began, Councilor Partin excused himself from the meeting for the presentation, discussion and vote.*

**May 28, 2019
Regular Meeting**

R-5 Francisco Landing Agreement Extension

ISSUE: A request to extend the closing date for the Francisco Landing Project from the June date to November 1, 2019.

Charles Dane presented information to Council. Vice Mayor Bennett moved to allow the City Manager to sign all necessary documents to grant the extension of the closing date for the Francisco Landing project from June to November 1, 2019. Councilor Partin seconded the motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed: 7-0

EXTEND MEETING

Councilor Partin moved to waive the rules and extend the meeting beyond the three-hour limit to complete the R-items and discuss the Council Retreat only. His motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Bennett. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed: 6-1

R-6 Warming/Homeless Shelter

ISSUE: The lease Agreement for the current Shelter expires in October 2019. Council is asked to consider the options provided in the work session regarding future facility rent and use.

Charles Dane, Assistant Manager and Ray Spicer, Director of Department of Social Services, presented information to Council and fielded questions. Councilor Pelham moved to the St. James facility for one year at a cost of \$33,000 to include a multitude of services, not including management options, the lease effective July 1, 2019. Mayor Gore seconded the motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

**May 28, 2019
Regular Meeting**

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

Motion passed: 7-0

Council requested that Mr. Dane come back to them with options for the management and services for the Warming/Homeless Shelter.

R-7 VDOT Revenue Sharing

ISSUE: The current Programmatic Project Administration Agreement (PPAA) between the City of Hopewell and VDOT expires on June 30, 2019. The current PAAA was effective from June 1, 2013 until June 30, 2019. The City is required to enter into a new agreement every three to six fiscal years in order to participate in the VDOT Revenue Sharing Program.

Johnny Butler, City Engineer, presented information to Council and fielded questions. Councilor Pelham moved that the current PPAA agreement for the Revenue Sharing Program between the City of Hopewell and VDOT be renewed and effective July 1, 2019, and authorize the City Manager to sign all necessary documents. Council Partin seconded the motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed: 7-0

R-8 Riverside Regional Jail – Budget and Appropriate Funding

ISSUE: To amend the General Fund for Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019 by increasing the appropriations by \$300,723 to appropriate a distribution of funds from Riverside Regional Jail Authority (RRJA) back to RRJA in compliance with bond requirements.

Councilor Partin moved to amend the General Fund for Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2019 by increasing the appropriations by \$300, 723 to appropriate a distribution of funds from Riverside Regional Jail Authority (RRJA) back to RRJA in compliance with bond requirements. His motion was seconded by Councilor Denton. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

**May 28, 2019
Regular Meeting**

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

Motion passed: 7-0

R-9 Virginia Department of Health Funding Agreement

ISSUE: The Crater Health Department submitted the annual renewal of the Hopewell Health Department Local Government Agreement Contract for 2019. This is time-sensitive as the current agreement expires June 30, 2019.

March Altman presented the information to Council. There was discussion and questions. Councilor Partin moved to accept the Health Department Local Government Agreement, and authorize the City Manager to sign all necessary agreements. His motion was seconded by Councilor Denton. There was additional discussion.

Councilor Partin moved to postpone further discussion on this item until the June 11, 2019 meeting. Mayor Gore seconded the motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed: 7-0

RETREAT

Vice Mayor Bennett moved to set June 21, and June 22, 2019 as the next meeting date for the Council Advance—the location to be decided. Councilor Partin seconded her motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed: 7-0

May 28, 2019
Regular Meeting

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