

**August 28, 2018
Special Meeting**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL HELD AUGUST 28, 2018

A Special Meeting of Hopewell City Council, was held Tuesday, August 28, 2018, at 6:00 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 (arrived at 6:22 p.m.)
Christina Luman-Bailey, Councilor

John Altman, City Manager
Charles Dane, Assistant City Manager
Stefan Calos, Sands Anderson PC, City Attorney
Ronnieye Arrington, City Clerk

ABSENT: Brenda S. Pelham, Councilor
Frazelle Hampton, Assistant City Clerk

ROLL CALL

Mayor Shornak opened the meeting at 6:00 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: 22 p.m.) |
| Councilor Denton | - | present |
| Councilor Pelham | - | absent |

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 Charles Dane, Assistant City Manager, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America led by Councilor Luman-Bailey.

EXTEND MEETING

Vice Mayor Gore moved to extend the meeting beyond the three-hour limit if needed to complete the items on the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilor Holloway. During discussion, the Vice Mayor noted that she only made the motion to ensure Council would be able to complete the agenda. Councilor Denton made a motion to move the motion to extend to 8:30 p.m. so Council could see the status of where they were with items then and proceed as necessary. After further discussion both the Vice Mayor and Councilor Denton withdrew their respective motions.

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ADOPT AGENDA

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Gore to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilor Luman-Bailey. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

| | | |
|------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Councilor Holloway | - | yes |
| Councilor Zevgolis | - | absent (arrived 6:22 p.m.) |
| Vice Mayor Gore | - | yes |
| Councilor Denton | - | yes |
| Mayor Shornak | - | yes |
| Councilor Luman-Bailey | - | yes |

Motion passed 5-0

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 | - | absent (arrived at 6: 22 p.m.) |
| Councilor Denton | - | present |
| Councilor Pelham | - | absent |

SPECIAL BUSINESS

Reports of City Manager:

SB-1 Resolution appointing Assistant City Manager as Alternate to Riverside Regional Jail Authority (RRJA) - March Altman explained to Council that the purpose of this item was to appoint Charlie Dane as his alternate to the Riverside Regional Authority in case he was unable to attend a meeting for any reason. Councilor Denton made a motion to appoint Charlie Dane as March's alternate to the Riverside Regional Jail Authority. The motion was seconded by Councilor Luman-Bailey. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted.

| | | |
|------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Councilor Holloway | - | yes |
| Councilor Zevgolis | - | absent (arrived 6:22 p.m.) |
| Vice Mayor Gore | - | yes |
| Councilor Denton | - | yes |
| Mayor Shornak | - | yes |
| Councilor Luman-Bailey | - | yes |

Motion passed 5-0

SB-2 Request to establish two full-time permanent Benefit Program Specialist positions with the Hopewell Department of Social Services - March Altman introduced the item and then asked Ray Spicer to come forward to answer questions. Mayor Shornak clarified that these positions were being funded for this fiscal year by the State and would not come forward to our budget until FY19-20. Councilor Denton moved to resolve to approve the immediate hiring of two full-time permanent Benefits Program

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Specialists positions. The motion was seconded by Councilor Holloway. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted.

| | | |
|------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Councilor Holloway | - | yes |
| Councilor Zevgolis | - | absent (arrived 6:22 p.m.) |
| Vice Mayor Gore | - | yes |
| Councilor Denton | - | yes |
| Mayor Shornak | - | yes |
| Councilor Luman-Bailey | - | yes |

Motion passed 5-0

Mayor Shornak submitted a Transactional Disclosure Statement because her daughter Michelle Ingram works for the City of Hopewell.

SB-3 Request authority to approve renewal of service agreements for refuse and recycling services with CVWMA – March Altman introduced this item and presented Monique Robertson, City Council’s appointed representative to CVWMA to provide additional information and respond to any questions. Ms. Robertson advised that the proposed contract was actually less expensive than its predecessor. Both the Mayor and Councilor Denton noted that CVWMA’s customer service was not good and needed to be fixed. Councilor Zevgolis asked about senior discounts, for which Ms. Robertson said the contract did not provide. Councilor Zevgolis also noted that there was no provision for people who had a smaller amount of trash. Charlie Dane said that it was too expensive of a proposition. Councilor Luman-Bailey thought it was a good idea and noted that Lynchburg had done something similar. Councilor Luman-Bailey moved to approve the renewal of the service agreements with CVWMA, and to authorize the City Manager to sign any and all documents related thereto. Councilor Holloway seconded the motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 5-1

SB-4 General Registrar Request for Appropriation – March Altman introduced this item, and noted that Yolanda Stokes, the General Registrar for Hopewell was present in the meeting to answer questions. Councilor Denton moved to deny the registrar’s request for appropriation, which motion was seconded by Mayor Shornak. Extensive discussion ensued. Councilor Luman-Bailey asked if she could renew the motion from the previous agenda, to which Councilor Denton stated that meeting was done and past. There was heated discussion between Mayor Shornak and Registrar Stokes. Councilor Zevgolis noted that there appeared to be mistakes on the part of the City and the Registrar regarding this matter, but that none of that should impact the citizens. Stokes stated that her budget was made prior to her being hired, and therefore was insufficient from the beginning. She also noted the discrepancy between the Deputy Registrar and the Assistant Registrar, and the mistake made by City officials between the two titles. Mayor Shornak asked the City Attorney if she were able to vote on this matter since she was a candidate. Mr. Calos asked her if she had a personal interest in the outcome (she said no); and if there were three other people that were also candidates (she said yes). He said that not only could she vote, she was required to vote. Mr. Calos also noted that his prior silence during the discussion regarding alleged mistakes by the City and/or City officials

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did not mean he agreed that there had been any kind of error made on behalf of the City. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted.

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

Motion passed 5-1

Mayor Shornak submitted a Transactional Disclosure Statement because she is a candidate for City Council.

SB-5 Review and approval of active boards and commissions list – Vice Mayor Gore presented information on this item. She asked Council to note the revised and updated Boards and Commissions list given to each of them, and asked if there were any boards, committees, authorities or commissions that any councilor wanted permanently removed from the list. Councilor Denton suggested that the Historic Hopewell Preservation board be removed. Vice Mayor Gore and Councilor Luman-Bailey both stated that they wanted to renew that particular board and bring it back to its former stature. Councilor Denton moved to approve the revised boards and commissions list. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Gore. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted.

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

Motion passed 6-0

SB-6 Ward Improvement Fund Policy– Vice Mayor Gore presented information on this item. She noted that she and Councilor Denton were working together on this project. The draft policy was based upon a similar policy in Chesterfield County. Each councilor will receive a specific sum of \$3,000 plus any proceeds remaining from the Council Suite revisions for use on ward improvement. Councilor Denton stated that she was very excited about this and looked forward to assisting her ward. There was further discussion including revisions to the draft policy. Vice Mayor Gore moved to approve the Ward Improvement Policy with amendments, including removing the word “Hopewell”, change “county” to “city” throughout, and removing the back page. The motion was seconded by Councilor Denton. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted.

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

Motion passed 6-0

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SB-7 Panhandling –Mayor Shornak led the discussion regarding issues with panhandling in her ward. She spoke of specific instances and how she had spoken with Mr. Altman as well as with police to address her concerns. She noted that she had done quite a bit of investigation to determine where the people were coming from and returning to. Mayor Shornak noted it was a serious concern and could be very dangerous. Councilor Zevgolis said he too had received complaints in his ward about panhandling and that he, too, had spoken with the City Manager about it. March Altman spoke up and said he had received several complaints and asked that council advise what areas they needed the signs and he would have them placed there. Vice Mayor Gore noted that part of the area affected by the panhandling was also in her ward. She asked about the wording on the signs, and if Social Services would be involved, and if so, did they provide the services to assist the homeless. She also asked whether the businesses had also complained. Councilor Luman-Bailey expressed concern over too many signs creating “sign clutter.” No action was needed by council on this item.

SB-8 Littering – The Mayor also spoke on this issue. She said she had received many complaints about littering for various roads, including Courthouse and Oaklawn. She mentioned putting up cameras in some of the worst areas to act as a deterrent and to aid the police in catching the people who dump and litter. The City Manager again asked Council to let him know specific areas that needed signs and/or cameras and he would work toward seeing them installed. No action was required of council on this item.

ADJOURN

At 8:47 p.m. motion was made by Councilor Zevgolis to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Mayor Shornak. 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