

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL HELD MAY 20, 2019

A Special Meeting of Hopewell City Council was held Monday, May 20, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, Municipal Building, and 300 North Main Street, Hopewell, Virginia.

PRESENT: Jasmine E. Gore, Mayor, Ward 4
Patience Bennett, Vice Mayor, Ward 7 (arrived at 6:50 p.m.)
Deborah Randolph, Councilor, Ward 1
Arlene Holloway, Councilor, Ward 2
John B. Partin, Jr., Councilor, Ward 3
Janice Denton, Councilor, Ward 5
Brenda Pelham, Councilor, Ward 6

Ronnieye L. Arrington, City Clerk
John M. Altman, Jr., City Manager
Stefan Calos, Sands Anderson PC, City Attorney

ROLL CALL

Mayor Gore opened the meeting at 6:32 p.m. Roll call was taken as follows:

Mayor Gore	-	present
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	absent (arrived at 6:50 p.m.)
Councilor Randolph	-	present
Councilor Partin	-	present
Councilor Holloway	-	present
Councilor Denton	-	present
Councilor Pelham	-	present

Councilor Partin moved to amend the agenda so that the Census Committee was Work Session 1, the presentation from Davenport was Work Session 2, the FY20 City of Hopewell Budget was Work Session 3, Council’s Pending List was Work Session 4, and discussion of Council’s Boards, committees, commission and authorities was Work Session 5. The Closed Meeting was moved so that it occurred between items Work Session 3 and Work Session 4. Mayor Gore Seconded the motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Randolph	-	yes
Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Partin	-	yes
Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	--- (arrived at 6:50 p.m.)

Motion passed 6-0

WORK SESSION – 1

Ms. Shirley Gilliam of the Census presented information for Council. She advised about the upcoming 2020 census, and how important it was that Hopewell be accurately represented in that census. She said that the most underreported communities were the homeless, veterans and children under the age

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of five. She also said that quite often people living in HRHA housing were also underreported. Ms. Gilliam advised that the 2020 census would not utilize the long form, but would be available online. She also advised about jobs that will be available for the Census. These jobs will be listed on USA Jobs. Ms. Gilliam noted that the start date for the 2020 census was April 1, 2020.

WORK SESSION -2

James E. Sanderson of Davenport & Company presented information to Council regarding the status of Hopewell's bonds, total debt service, including those supported by taxes. Mr. Sanderson also discussed the City's bond ratings and what items would impact the rating or stop it from returning to its former status once the CAFRs are all completed. Councilor Pelham stated that Hopewell needed an onsite internal auditor to ensure there are no additional glitches with future CAFRs. Councilor Partin asked if increasing the Rainy Day Fund would also increase our bond rating. Mr. Sanderson advised that an increase in the Rainy Day Fund would be viewed as a positive which could improve the bond rating. Mayor Gore asked if the City borrowed money after the CAFRs were completed, would that negatively impact the bond rating. Mr. Sanderson replied that it could, but due to the debt payoffs the City has been doing, it would probably not have an adverse effect. Mayor Gore asked if Mr. Sanderson would meet with the Investment Committee, to which he replied in the affirmative. Councilor Partin asked if the City put up 10% of a project cost and borrowed the remaining 90%, would this fiscal policy have a positive effect on the bond rating. Mr. Sanderson advised that it would have a positive effect.

WORK SESSION – 3

John "March" Altman, city manager, presented Council with responses to requests Council had made of him in previous meetings. Council discussed several items, including the Marina. Mr. Aaron Reidmiller, Director of Parks and Recreation explained to Council that the marina lease will expire in March 2020, and then an RFP would go out. He said they may extend the lease, depending on the situation. He also said that he would come back before Council in either a work session or in closed session to discuss this item when the time came. There was additional conversation regarding the roof for the marina, which needed repair. Mr. Altman said they could use funds left in the Unfounded Balance. Councilor Randolph asked if there were any other emergency items, like the roof, to which Mr. Altman responded in the negative. Mayor Gore requested an updated Cost Analysis for doing the police station—real life analysis. Councilor Randolph asked if the police station was over or under budget. Mr. Altman responded that currently the police station was \$50k under budget. Mayor Gore asked about the funds for the VCU study. Mr. Altman advised that he had placed the \$165k in his budget. Councilor Holloway asked about status of renovation to the DSS building. Mr. Altman said they would only fix that building if someone were interested in purchasing it. In response to a question asked at a previous meeting, Mr. Altman advised that adding \$1 to wastewater fees would result in \$232k additional revenue, according to Joe Battiatto, Stormwater Program Manager.

CLOSED SESSION

Councilor Partin moved to **go into closed meeting for (1) discussion, consideration and interviews of specific appointees or employees of city council (city manager, city clerk, city attorney); (2) discussion and consideration of specific appointees of city council (boards, commissions, authorities); and (3) and 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) [two items], and (8), respectively. His motion was seconded by Mayor Gore. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:**

Councilor Randolph - yes

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

Motion passed 7-0

ADJOURN

At 9:30 p.m., per Council rules, this meeting was automatically adjourned.

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

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