

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 31, 2020 CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

A regular meeting of the Hopewell City Council was held Tuesday, March 31, 2020, at 7:30 p.m. The meeting was held by electronic communication only, pursuant to Va. Code § 15.1-1413, and by emergency ordinance adopted by Council at its March 24, 2020 meeting.

PRESENT: Jasmine 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
Sandra R. Robinson, City Attorney
Ronnieye L. Arrington, City Clerk

Mayor Gore opened the meeting at 7:34 p.m. Due to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), the meeting was held via Zoom Video Communications. Council either called in on the telephone, or joined the meeting via video using a smart phone, computer, laptop, or tablet. Citizens were also able to call in and hear the meeting. Mayor Gore requested a roll call, as follows:

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

REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Gore thanked everyone for joining the meeting. Herbert Bragg, Director of Intergovernmental and Public Affairs offered the prayer, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Councilor Randolph.

AMEND/ADOPT AGENDA

Councilor Pelham moved to amend the agenda to move items R-6 and R-7 from under Report of City Manager, to Reports of City Council under Individual Councilors as Items IR-16 and IR-17, and to move items IR-13, IR-14, and IR-15 to after item R-2 for discussion. Her motion was seconded by Mayor Gore. There was discussion of Council.

Vice Mayor Bennett requested to amend Councilor Pelham’s motion to add items. Her request was seconded by Councilor Pelham. 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

Vice Mayor Bennett moved to amend Councilor Pelham’s original motion to add as item R-8, for Council to take action for the Vice Mayor to continue a the point of contact with overall responsibility of the Clerk’s Office, and to determine the start date for same; and to add as item R-9, for Council to take action for the Vice Mayor to continue her supervision of the agenda and its process. Her motion was seconded by Councilor Denton. There was discussion of Council.

Councilor Denton requested of Council to make a substitute motion. Her request was seconded by Councilor Randolph. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 4-3

Councilor Denton moved to break up the original motion of Councilor Pelham and Vice Mayor Bennett into separate motions, and for Council to vote on each one separately. City Attorney, Sandra Robinson, opined that the previous motion was invalid and should have been made as separate motion, so therefore, Councilor Denton’s motion was unnecessary as Council needed to break up the motion.

Councilor Pelham moved to amend the agenda to move items R-6 and R-7 from under Report of City Manager, to Reports of City Council under Individual Councilors as Items IR-16 and IR-17. Her motion was seconded by Mayor Gore. There was considerable discussion of Council. Councilor Pelham called for the vote and to end discussion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion failed 4-3

Upon completion of discussion, Council voted on the original motion (move items R-6 and R-7 from under Report of City Manager, to Reports of City Council under Individual Councilors as Items IR-16 and IR-17). Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion failed 4-3

Council requested that the Clerk research to determine if/when there was discussion and agreement/consensus of Council to split the Council travel.

Councilor Pelham moved to insert item IR-13, IR-14 and IR-15 after item R-2 on the agenda. Her motion was seconded by Mayor Gore. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 4-3

Vice Mayor Bennett moved to add as item R-8, for Council to take action for the Vice Mayor to continue as the point of contact with overall responsibility of the Clerk's Office, and to determine the start date for same. Her motion was seconded by Councilor Denton. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 4-3

Vice Mayor Bennett moved to add as item R-9, for Council to take action for the Vice Mayor to continue her supervision of the agenda and its process. Her motion was seconded by Councilor Partin. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 4-3

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilor Randolph moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Her motion was seconded by Councilor Partin. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 6-1

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

UB-1 City Owned Property –Bank Street Garages Demolition – John M. (“March”) Altman, Jr., the City Manager, introduced the topic. Tevya Griffin, the Director of Development then presented information to Council regarding this item. The Architectural Review Board held a public hearing regarding the demolition of the Bank Street garages on February 24, 2020. The Board approved the demolition and, because the garages are located on public property, is asking City Council to endorse the approval so demolition can proceed. Ms. Griffin noted that the Department of historical Preservation had already reviewed the proposal and had no issue with the demolition. Councilor Pelham moved to agree to the demolition, but for it to be deferred until after the COVID-19 crisis, at least the end of June, to see if the City would need those funds elsewhere. Her motion was seconded by Mayor Gore. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Partin	-	yes
Mayor Gore	-	--- (absent from dais)
Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	yes
Councilor Randolph	-	yes

Motion passed 7-0 (per council rules)

R-1 Coronavirus (COVID-19) Briefing – March Altman updated Council on the status of the Novel Coronavirus, and what the City is doing to combat it, and to prepare for problems related to the virus. He noted that items already purchased to aid in combatting and preparing for the virus were purchased without the need to transfer funds. Mr. Altman noted that Council would receive a draft budget on Wednesday, April 1, 2020, but that he was aware the budget would need to be revised due to COVID-19. Councilor Partin moved to charge the City Manager with checking on different economic relief options for the City and to bring back information to Council for discussion at the next meeting in July, and for the City Manager to answer the questions submitted by Mayor Gore in the agenda packet. His motion was seconded by Councilor Denton. 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

Mayor Gore called for a special meeting to discuss the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). She asked that the meeting be set for Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. She said that she would work with the City Manager on information for the special meeting.

R-2 CAFR Update – Mr. Altman presented a brief update on the status of the CAFRS.

ADJOURN

Councilor Pelham moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mayor Gore. 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	-	Yes

Motion passed 7-0

Jasmine E. Gore, Mayor

Ronnieye L. Arrington, City Clerk