

**MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 18, 2020 CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

A regular meeting of the Hopewell City Council was held Tuesday, August 18, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was scheduled to be held by electronic communication only, pursuant to Va. Code § 2.2-3708(A)(3).

**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  
Camisha M. Brown, Assistant City Clerk

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor Gore opened the meeting at 5:32 p.m. Due to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), the meeting was held via Zoom Video Communications. Council was allowed to either call in on the telephone, or were able to video in using a smart phone, computer, laptop, or tablet. Citizens were able to watch the meeting live via YouTube. Mayor Gore waited a couple of minutes for everyone to get logged in or to call in. At 5:32 p.m., Mayor Gore requested a roll call, as follows:

Mayor Gore	-	present
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	present
Councilor Randolph	-	absent (would be arriving late)
Councilor Holloway	-	absent
Councilor Partin	-	present
Councilor Denton	-	present
Councilor Pelham	-	present

**CLOSED MEETING**

At 5:33 p.m., Councilor Denton moved to go into closed meeting pursuant to Va. Code Sections 2.2-3711 (A)(1) to discuss and consider personnel matters, including the consideration, interview, and appointment of prospective candidates for employment (City Clerk) and appointment (boards and commissions); and to the extent such discussions will be aided thereby, (A)(4) for the protection of the privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business. Councilor Partin seconded the motion. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

**Motion passed 5-0**

**RECONVENE OPEN MEETING**

At 6:59 p.m., Councilor Partin moved that Council come out of Closed Session. His motion was seconded by Councilor Holloway. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Pelham	-	-- (not present during roll call)
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	yes
Councilor Randolph	-	-- (absent)
Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Partin	-	yes
Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes

**Motion passed 5-0**

**CERTIFICATION**

Immediately thereafter, Council 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:

Councilor Pelham	-	-- (not present during roll call)
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	yes
Councilor Randolph	-	-- (absent)
Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Partin	-	yes
Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes

Councilor Denton moved to recess until 7:30 p.m. Her motion was seconded by Councilor Partin. Upon roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Pelham	-	-- (not present during roll call)
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	yes
Councilor Randolph	-	-- (absent)
Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Partin	-	yes
Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes

**Motion passed 5-0**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

At 7:38 p.m., Mayor Gore called the meeting to order and requested roll call as follows:

Mayor Gore	-	present
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	present (was on call but did not answer)

Councilor Randolph	-	absent (would be arriving late)
Councilor Holloway	-	present
Councilor Partin	-	present
Councilor Denton	-	present
Councilor Pelham	-	present

The prayer was led by Herbert Bragg, Director, Intergovernmental & Public Affairs, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, led by Councilor Pelham.

**AMEND/ADOPT AGENDA**

Councilor Denton moved to amend the regular agenda to move Reports of City Manager CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund to R-1, make R-2 the sink hole emergency repair at Broadway Baptist Church, R-3 Colonial Corner demolition, R-4 the 2020 National Endowment for the Arts Grant, move R-9 to R-5, and R-6 to move R-3 through R-27 with the exception of R-9 to the IR section. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Bennett.

Councilor Pelham moved to make a substitute motion. Her motion was seconded by Mayor Gore. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	no
Councilor Randolph	-	no (joined meeting at 7:40 p.m.)
Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Partin	-	no
Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	no

**Motion failed 4-3**

After Council discussion, Vice Mayor Bennett called for the vote to limit discussion. Her motion was seconded by Councilor Denton. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

**Motion passed 7-0**

Council voted on the original motion made by Councilor Denton.

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

**Motion passed 6-2**

**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:**

**C-3 Routine Approval of Work Sessions: September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020- Development**

**C-4 Personnel Change Report & Financial Report: August 6, 2020**

**C-5 Ordinances on Second & Final Reading:**

**C-6 Routine Grant Approval:**

- 1. FY20 Department of Justice JAG Grant

**C-7 Public Hearing Announcement:**

**C-8 Information for Council Review:**

**C-9 Resolutions/Proclamations/Presentations:**

**SUGGESTED MOTION: To amend/adopt consent agenda**

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

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

**Motion passed 7-0**

Councilor Randolph moved to extend the meeting past 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. Her motion was seconded by Councilor Partin. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

**Motion passed 5-2**

**R-1 CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds-** March Altman, City Manager present to Council and requested to accept the funds for the CARES Act. Councilor Denton moved for City Council to approve the receipt of \$1,965,568 in CARES Coronavirus Relief Funds from the Commonwealth of Virginia. Her motion was seconded by Councilor Partin. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

**Motion passed 7-0**

**R-2 Emergency Sink Hole Repair at Broadway Baptist Church-** Mr. Altman discussed due to the excessive rain we've had, there is an extreme need to repair a growing sink hole located at Broadway Baptist Church. Joe Batitata, Stormwater, discussed what action needed to be done. After discussion by Council, Councilor Partin moved to approve the resolution approving the emergency procurement of the storm drain/ sink hole repair as prepared by the City Attorney and to schedule a Work Session for a meeting in September to discuss storm water issues and possible funding opportunities and solutions. The motion was seconded by Councilor Denton. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

**Motion passed 7-0**

Councilor Partin moved to extend the meeting until Council completes R-5. The motion was seconded by Councilor Randolph. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Pelham	-	-- (not present on call)
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	no
Councilor Randolph	-	yes
Councilor Holloway	-	no
Councilor Partin	-	yes
Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes

**Motion passed 4-2**

**R-3 Colonial Corner demolition-** Mr. Altman discussed the options on how to proceed with the demolition of Colonial Corner. Tevya Griffin, Director, Department of Development, discussed with the Council the steps

her department has done to take care of issues with this property. After discussion by Council, Councilor Partin moved that City Council have the City Manager identify the money to burn Colonial Corner and have the Fire Chief identify a date for burning and bring this information back to Council no later than the first October City Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Denton. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Bennett	-	yes
Councilor Randolph	-	yes
Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Partin	-	yes
Mayor Gore	-	-- (stepped away from meeting at 9:26)
Councilor Denton	-	yes

**Motion passed 6-0**

**R-4 2020 Endowment for the Arts Grant-** Stacey English, Economic Development, presented to Council information needed in order to gain approval to obtain this grant. There was discussion by Council. Councilor Partin moved to approve the City of Hopewell to apply for a 2020 National Endowment for the Arts Grant with the understanding that no financial commitment from the City is required or will be given. His motion was seconded by Mayor Gore. Upon roll call, the vote resulted:

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

**Motion passed 7-0**

**R-5 Healthy Hopewell-** Mayor Gore discussed with Council a donation of sanitizer from Evonik. Mayor Gore was requesting permission from Council to accept the donation of sanitizer for Ward 4. She advised Council she has forwarded all information in regards to PPE donations. There was discussion by Council. Councilor Partin moved that the City of Hopewell accept the 200 bottles of sanitizer from Evonik and for it to be used where the greatest need is. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pelham which she later withdrew then the motion was seconded by Councilor Denton. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

**Motion passed 4-3**

**ADJOURN**

Per the motion the previous motion, the meeting adjourned at 10:02 p.m.

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Jasmine E. Gore, Mayor

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Camisha M. Brown, Interim City Clerk

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