

MINUTES OF THE JULY 23, 2024 CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

A REGULAR meeting of the Hopewell City Council was held on Tuesday July 23rd, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

John B. Partin, Mayor
Jasmine Gore, Vice Mayor
Rita Joyner, Councilor
Michael Harris, Councilor
Janice Denton, Councilor
Brenda Pelham, Councilor
Dominic Holloway, Councilor (Virtual)

Motion by Councilor Denton and seconded by Councilor Pelham to appoint Kelly Pratt to the architecture review board Robert Sergeant to the board of Building Code and Fire Prevention Code Appeal and Matthew Melon to the Dock commission

ROLL CALL

Mayor Partin-	Yes
Vice Mayor Gore -	Yes
Councilor Pelham -	Yes
Councilor Denton -	Yes
Councilor Holloway -	Yes (Virtual)
Councilor Joyner -	Yes

Motion Passes 7-0

Reconvene Open Meeting

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO VIRGINIA CODE § 2.2-3712 (D): Were only public business matters (1) lawfully exempted from open-meeting requirements and (2) identified in the closed-meeting motion discussed in closed meeting.

WS-1- Conditional Use Permit for 3104 St. Charles - Chris Ward, Director of Development

Beginning with a request to construct a single-family dwelling on a non-conforming lot, Mr. Chris Ward explained how the applicant is MMS Rental Group LLC this particular property is located in ward five. It is a vacant lot without a structure on it in with the minimum lot size is 75ft wide and 10,000 square ft for single family dwelling this particular parcel is only 60 ft wide and a total of 8,700 square ft. Mr. Chris Ward informed the council that the staff recommends approval of the CMP request. Mr. Ward explained the new structure details to the council and the planning commission agreed to all but the third option. Adding that a driveway of asphalt or concrete will be installed. Councilor Pelham asked, when would the driveway be taken care of?" Councilor Denton made a request to have city manager Dr. Concetta Manker to "implement a process to make sure that when the lots are for sale that all taxes, expenses, liens be taken care of." City Manager Manker asked Mr. Ward "Is there a process in place?" Mr. Chris Ward proceeded to illuminate various processes such how the city incurs the cost whether it is a demolition, etcetera and the owner has 30 days to pay those funds. Mr. Ward stated how the actual sale of this property has not occurred and the at the end of sale will liens and back taxes are settled. Th council was stern to be sure that the city received those funds back from the owner.

WS-1- Conditional Use Permit for 3421 Oaklawn – Mr. Chris Ward, Director of Development

Mr. Chris Ward announced a conditional use permit request to allow single family dwelling use in the B4 District also identified as 3421 Oaklawn Boulevard the applicant for this property is River City Ventures LLC and the property itself is located in Ward 7- and single-family dwelling use is allowed. The property has been renovated, per Chris Ward. The property has been vacant for over two years and now requires a CUP. The property is now against city code. The applicant meets the requirements and can gain approval under two requirements. One, applicant will complete and administer a resub division. Next, the applicant will address the and improve the gravel driveway with new dressing.

REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Partin calls the regular meeting to order and asks for attendance roll call.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Partin-	Yes
Vice Mayor Gore -	Yes
Councilor Joyner -	Yes
Councilor Harris -	Yes
Councilor Denton -	Yes
Councilor Pelham -	Yes
Councilor Holloway -	Yes (Virtual)

Prayer by Pastor Collier, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America led by Councilor Pelham

Councilor Denton makes a motion to adopt the regular meeting agenda, Councilor Pelham seconds the motion.

ROLL CALL

Councilor Harris-	Yes
Mayor Partin-	Yes
Vice Mayor Gore -	Yes
Councilor Denton -	Yes
Councilor Pelham -	Yes
Councilor Holloway -	Yes (Virtual)
Councilor Joyner -	Yes

Motion Passes 7-0

Councilor Denton makes a motion to adopt the consent agenda, Councilor Pelham seconds the motion.

ROLL CALL

Councilor Harris-	Yes
Mayor Partin-	Yes
Vice Mayor Gore -	Yes
Councilor Denton -	Yes
Councilor Pelham -	Yes
Councilor Holloway -	Yes (Virtual)
Councilor Joyner -	Yes

Motion Passes 7-0

INFORMATION/PRESENTATIONS

“Safe Streets” by Marshal Hartless - Marshal Hartless introduces Larry Marcus to council concerning Safe Streets Mr. Larry Marcus went into clarify his presentation with how it is an outreach and enforcement attempt for the community. This insight was explained from a federal and progressive city perspective. Mr. Marcus and team are looking to make aware and improve areas of vulnerability for walkers and travelers. Mr. Marcus also emphasized his agenda to work with local police on the high-risk areas and to review that data. Councilman Harris expounded upon the dangers of having the tractor trailers on route 10 near his residence and wanted to know a process to what could be done to alleviate such traffic. Vice Mayor Gore expressed her concern of where did “Safe Streets” fit into the process of the community.

“Guys with Ties” by Sha’rah Fuller – Sha’rah Fuller explains to the council the functionality of “Guys with Ties.” Ms. Fuller spoke about her concern, process and results of the young men and how they excelled all year and how the young men tackled every task with zero failure. Ms. Fuller also spoke to the violence within Hopewell and what should and needs to be addressed. The mayor and council then had all guys with ties present to approach and receive their letter of recognitions and take photos.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

Richard Commander of the Hopewell Food Pantry/Clothing Place enlightened the room and council of the 20,000 plus residents that were served within the last fiscal year. Mr. Commander shared how the pantry raised \$130,000 on food for the residents. Also, Mr. Commander described what took place with the “Shepherd’s Place” now being called the “Clothing Place” which takes in \$3-\$4,000 in sales a month.

Councilor Pelham makes a motion for Mr. Commander to complete his presentation, Councilor Joyner seconds the motion.

ROLL CALL

Councilor Harris-	Yes
Mayor Partin-	Yes
Vice Mayor Gore-	Yes
Councilor Pelham-	Yes
Councilor Holloway-	Yes (Virtual)
Councilor Joyner-	Yes

Motion Passes 6-0

Mr. Commander wrapped up his statements by saying how The Clothing Place has scaled up 50% since new management and has partnered with the Social Services to help clothe citizens if they are less fortunate.

PH-1 – Modification to Development Standards for 5105 Oaklawn Blvd – Chris Ward, Director of Development

Mr. Ward opened with a petition to have a modification for a freestanding (sign) added to the new “Cookout” building. There will be a two-way opening and the builder would like the council’s consent. Mr. Ward went on to remind the council that the city’s ordinance only allows one sign, but the council has approved a second sign in the past. Councilor Pelham asked “Is it possible to have zoning ordinance changed for one sign unless it is a safety hazard?”

Councilor Denton makes a motion to approve the modification to development standard as presented. Councilor Joyner seconds the motion.

ROLL CALL

Councilor Harris-	Yes
Mayor Partin-	Yes

Vice Mayor Gore- Yes
 Councilor Denton- Yes
 Councilor Pelham- Yes
 Councilor Holloway- Yes (Virtual)
 Councilor Joyner- Yes

Motion Passes 7-0

PH-2 – CDBG Funding for FY24/FY25 – Chris Ward, Director of Development

Mr. Chris Ward spoke about the CDBG Fund being an entitled entity where the program doesn't have to petition for funds, they're regularly given funds on a yearly basis. However, one of the requirements are to benefit low to moderate income persons. Mr. Ward stated how the program is in its fifth and final year. Mr. Ward displayed via PowerPoint how HUD plays a crucial role in the funding of the program. Mr. Ward is asking for 48,483 which meet the 20% standard that HUD sets. Various programs (i.e. Rocks 2 Rulers) have benefitted from previous funds and will benefit in the future, according to Mr. Chris Ward. Mr. Ward elucidated to the Winston Churchill project to which Public Works declared an "emergency situation." Mr. ward asked council to approve the budget of \$242,214 also, an additional \$200,000 for a total of \$424,214. Councilor Joyner asked concerning "unspent funds and the timeframe for those funds?" Vice Mayor Gore expressed her concern about how those funds are being spent, and should be invested into particular wards. There are wards who are in need of significant improvements and they're being overlooked." Councilor Denton alluded to the city of Hopewell not having those funds in the current budget."

Councilor Denton makes a motion to approve the \$242,214 for 2024/2025 CDBG budget.
 Councilor Pelham seconds the motion.

ROLL CALL

Councilor Harris- Yes
 Mayor Partin- Yes
 Vice Mayor Gore- Yes
 Councilor Denton- Yes
 Councilor Pelham- Yes
 Councilor Holloway- Yes (Virtual)
 Councilor Joyner- Yes

Motion Passes 7-0

R-1 Revised Language for Chapter 14 Erosion and Settlement control and Stormwater Ordinance – Marshal Hartless, Deputy Director of Engineering and Stormwater

Marshal Hartless began giving the council knowledge about how Department of Environmental Quality had a Norm water program and Erosion and Sediment Control that they were separate but now they're combined. This act was done meet the requirement needs for an ordinance with the Department of Environmental

Quality. Mr. Hartless went to explain that the city owns a municipal separate storm sewer system which is the MS4 program, regulated under the federal Clean Water Act through a permit. The Department of Environmental Quality has engaged the community with a sample ordinance. Mr. Hartless explained the intention behind these regulation changes is to eliminate confusion, redundancy and conflicts that may have existed between the State storm water management and erosion and sediment control regulations and the extent of the revisions made to the ordinance include but not limited to minute changes to definitions to align with the state codes.

R-2 -Request for part-time to full-time position for real estate clerk- Russell Branson, Interim Finance Director

Russ Branson set out to alert the council of an immediate need within the assessor's office to increase an existing position from part-time to full-time. Mr. Branson made the council aware that this adjustment would save the city \$300,000 and will only cost about \$11,000 covered by salary savings.

Councilor Denton makes a motion grant the full-time position for the assessor's office changing the position from part time to full-time. Councilor Pelham seconds the motion.

ROLL CALL

Councilor Harris-	Yes
Mayor Partin-	Yes
Vice Mayor Gore-	Yes
Councilor Denton-	Yes
Councilor Pelham-	Yes
Councilor Holloway-	Yes (Virtual)
Councilor Joyner-	Yes

Motion Passes 7-0

Councilor Pelham made remarks concerning the recent shooting murder of two youths on early Sunday morning July 21st, 2024. Councilor Pelham gave honor to Chief Talyor and his team as "no one was further harmed thanks to your leadership." Mayor Partin added an extra "kudos" to the Chesterfield and Prince George Counties police departments for their joint efforts concerning this matter. Mayor Partin went on to remind the citizens of Hopewell that "this town's police department doesn't mind going out to check on things. You're not a burden," says Partin. Councilor Denton makes a motion to adjourn, second by Councilor Pelham no discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Partin motions to adjourn,


Yes- 7

No- 0

Respectfully Submitted,



Brittani Williams, City Clerk



Johnny Partin, Mayor