

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH 28, 2023 CITY COUNCIL REGULAR
MEETING**

A regular meeting of the Hopewell City Council was convened on Tuesday March
28, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: John B. Partin, Mayor
 Jasmine Gore, Vice Mayor (Not Present)
 Rita Joyner, Councilor
 Michael Harris, Councilor
 Janice Denton, Councilor
 Dominic Holloway, Councilor
 Brenda Pelham, Councilor (Not Present)

Roll Call: Mayor Partin – Yes
 Councilor Denton – Yes
 Councilor Holloway – Yes
 Councilor Joyner – Yes
 Councilor Harris – Yes

Motion Pass 5-0

CLOSED MEETING

Councilor Denton moves to go into closed meeting pursuant to Va. Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) to discuss and consider personnel matters, including board and commission appointments; the assignment and performance of specific appointee and employees of the City Council, and to the extent such discussion will be aided thereby, (A) (4) to discuss for the protection of privacy of individuals personal matters not related to public business, motion is seconded by Councilor Holloway.

Roll Call:

Councilor Joyner –	Yes
Councilor Harris –	Yes
Mayor Partin -	Yes
Councilor Denton –	Yes
Councilor Holloway –	Yes

Motion Pass 5-0

City Clerk reads 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 in closed meeting?

Roll Call:

Councilor Joyner –	Yes
Councilor Harris –	Yes
Mayor Partin -	Yes
Councilor Denton –	Yes
Councilor Pelham -	Yes
Councilor Holloway –	Yes

Motion Pass 6-0

Councilor Joyner makes a motion to allow Councilor Pelham to participate virtually, Councilor Harris seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Councilor Joyner –	Yes
Councilor Harris –	Yes
Mayor Partin -	Yes
Councilor Denton –	Yes
Councilor Pelham -	Abstain
Councilor Holloway –	Yes

Motion Pass 5-0

Councilor Joyner makes a motion to appoint Stacy English to Petersburg area regional tourism board and William Wise and William Hyatt to the Dock Commission, motion is seconded by Councilor Denton.

<u>Roll Call:</u>	Councilor Joyner –	Yes
	Councilor Harris –	Yes
	Mayor Partin -	Yes
	Councilor Denton –	Yes
	Councilor Pelham -	Yes
	Councilor Holloway –	Yes

Motion Pass 6-0

WORK SESSION

WS-1 - Christopher Ward begins his presentation going over an overview of the mission of HUD and the purpose of the program. CBDG funds must meet at least one of three national objectives. He goes over all three of those objectives. He then speaks about the goals that the program has currently. He stated they received \$225,305.00 for the program. He speaks about the HUD and needs to spend at least 80 percent of the money or there will be a timeliness warning. He is requesting an amendment to the CDBG substantial amendment. He goes over a few small infrastructure projects within the city and explains they will not be finished on time. He is proposing defund two projects and replace them with HUD qualified which will be the purchase of 3 ½ street park and refund the other two infrastructure projects in the next program year. He stated they will be back on the April 11 meeting as a public hearing asking for action.

Mayor Partin states they will take a 15 minute recess until 7:30 to begin the regular meeting.

RECONVENE OPEN MEETING

Mayor Partin opens the regular meeting with roll call.

<u>Roll Call:</u>	Councilor Joyner –	Yes
	Councilor Harris –	Yes
	Mayor Partin -	Yes
	Councilor Denton –	Yes
	Councilor Pelham -	Yes
	Vice Mayor Gore -	Yes
	Councilor Holloway –	Yes

Motion Pass 7-0

Councilor Holloway makes a motion for Vice Mayor Gore to participate virtually, motion is seconded by Councilor Joyner.

<u>Roll Call:</u>	Councilor Joyner –	Yes
	Councilor Harris –	Yes
	Mayor Partin -	Yes
	Councilor Denton –	Yes
	Councilor Pelham -	Yes
	Vice Mayor Gore -	Abstain
	Councilor Holloway –	Yes

Motion Pass 6-0

Prayer by Reverend Danny Tucker, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the

Flag of the United States of America led by Mayor Partin.

Councilor Holloway makes a motion to amend the agenda to allow a presentation a retired proclamation for Chief Stark, motion is seconded by Councilor Joyner.

<u>Roll Call:</u>	Councilor Joyner –	Yes
	Councilor Harris –	Yes
	Mayor Partin -	Yes
	Vice Mayor Gore -	Excused
	Councilor Denton –	Yes
	Councilor Pelham -	Yes
	Councilor Holloway –	Yes

Motion Pass 6-0

Councilor Holloway makes a motion to adopt the agenda, motion is seconded by Councilor Joyner.

<u>Roll Call:</u>	Councilor Joyner –	Yes
	Councilor Harris –	Yes
	Mayor Partin -	Yes
	Vice Mayor Gore -	Excused
	Councilor Denton –	Yes
	Councilor Pelham -	Yes
	Councilor Holloway –	Yes

Motion Pass 6-0

City Clerk reads the proclamation for Chief Stark as council take place with Chief Stark to take a photo with him. Chief Stark shares a few words with council and audience. He thanks everyone for allowing him to serve and he thanks his wife and his children. He thanks God for keeping him for 31 years in the city.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

City Clerk reads the communications from citizens' policy prior to citizens speaking to council.

1. Jose Peachtree – Jose speaks to council about his church, he is here to speak on R2 so he will speak later in the meeting.
2. Pastor Charles Bennett – Mr. Bennett speaks in honor of the Chief that resigned stating he appreciated him and he appreciates council for hiring someone with such a strong testimony. He states that testimony had them create a radio station called PAC, Pastors against Crime broadcasted every Saturday Morning. He gives a detail of what the program is for and what it represents.

REGULAR BUSINESS

R1 – Sewer Use Ordinance – Jerry Byerly – Mr. Byerly begins his presentation stating it is a required modification. He goes into detail what recommendations for changes the audit team made during the period of being audited. He gave a brief description of what he needs from council. Councilor Denton makes a motion to approve the updates to the sewer ordinance as presented, motion is seconded by Councilor Holloway.

<u>Roll Call:</u>	Councilor Joyner –	Yes
	Councilor Harris –	Yes
	Mayor Partin -	Yes
	Vice Mayor Gore -	Excused
	Councilor Denton –	Yes
	Councilor Pelham -	Yes
	Councilor Holloway –	Yes

Motion Pass 6-0

R2 – La Iglesia Renacer Tax Exempt App – Dr. Manker – Dr. Manker begins her presentation requesting a tax exempt for La Iglesia Renacer that was approved by city council at the last city council meeting. This date is to approve the tax exemption for the church. Mr. Iglesia speaks to council and shares an

opportunity for the city which are benefits he does. He states they serve the community twice a year with an outreach even that gives clothes, food, bibles and prayer. He also mentioned that there is a member of the church who gives away 10 scholarships every year of at least \$1000.00.

Councilor Denton makes a motion to approve the recommendation of exemption, councilor Holloway seconds the motion.

<u>Roll Call:</u>	Councilor Joyner –	Yes
	Councilor Harris –	Yes
	Mayor Partin -	Yes
	Vice Mayor Gore -	Excused
	Councilor Denton –	Yes
	Councilor Pelham -	Yes
	Councilor Holloway –	Yes

Motion Pass 6-0

R3 – Bridge and Emergency Vehicle Rating Inspections – Maurice Wilkins –

As Mr. Wilkins approached the podium Dr. Manker states there was a slight change in the request, the finance director indicated they can preserve the ARPA fund and move to make a motion through salary savings from the public works department. Mr. Wilkins approaches the podium stating he is requesting \$92,670.00 for the bridge and emergency vehicle inspections. They were due Dec of 2022 and they are now non-compliant.

Councilor Holloway makes a motion to approve the funding of \$92,670.00 from salary savings to the general fund for the bridge and emergency vehicle rating inspections from public works salary savings, councilor Joyner seconds the motion.

<u>Roll Call:</u>	Councilor Joyner –	Yes
	Councilor Harris –	Yes
	Mayor Partin -	Yes
	Vice Mayor Gore -	Excused
	Councilor Denton –	Yes

Councilor Pelham -	Yes
Councilor Holloway –	Yes

Motion Pass 6-0

R4 – Art on the art – Tabitha Martinez – Ms. Martinez begins her presentation giving details of the project and recommending public display in the city parks. She gives a brief history and description of the art provided and the reason for the project. She mentions this project is to help raise awareness for local non-profit organizations. Recreation and parks is asking to allow the art to be publicly placed in city park for a duration of 6 months to a year. At the end of that Hopewell downtown partnership will consume the art for their next stop. Councilor Denton states they have known of this since 2021, and they want this displayed on city property. She asked has it already been planned? The answer is it is currently in the planning stage. Councilor Denton states she has a problem with getting this far without the city knowing that something was going to be placed on city property. There was further discussion about the Ashford plaza for art to have something as an art commission. Dr. Manker states there was a consensus to add to Ashford plaza commission to add the art review. Councilor Joyner also says she believes this went to the downtown review board. Council continues to discuss further about the Ashford plaza with further comments and questions.

Councilor Holloway makes a motion to approve the Sturgeon artwork to be installed in city park for no longer than 1 year from installation date, motion is seconded by Councilor Joyner.

<u>Roll Call:</u>	Councilor Joyner –	Yes
	Councilor Harris –	Yes
	Mayor Partin -	Yes
	Vice Mayor Gore -	Yes
	Councilor Denton –	Yes
	Councilor Pelham -	Yes
	Councilor Holloway –	Yes

Motion Pass 7-0

R5 – Land and Water Conservation Fund Status – Tabitha Martinez – Ms. Martinez opens up her presentation with an update stating March of 2022 recreation parks was authorized to proceed with a 50 percent match of local funds. She states the city funds of 1.4 million were not allocated and the LWCF did not fund their portion on the first round due to no environmental analysis. She states the next opportunity to reapply would be 2024 and request three items, first to allocate the 1.4 million city match, to ask permission to resubmit the application, and lastly request allocation for 20,000 dollars to complete the environmental analysis. Councilor Holloway asks Ms. Martinez did council approved the match for this design as is last year, Ms. Martinez says yes but the funds were not allocated. He states he is not in favor of the design as is. Councilor Denton says she is concerned about this and the worst thing is the money. She mentions they are in the middle of a budget currently and she can't justify appropriating this money. Councilor Joyner echoes Councilor Denton's comments stating she does not think it would be wise because it has not been maintained up to standard and it gives her pause. Vice Mayor Gore made point of clarification that majority agreed to this previously and made a few other points to why this would be necessary. Further discussion takes place with Ms. Martinez and council in reference to the land and water funds requests.

Councilor Holloway makes a motion to not apply for the land and water conservation fund for this project for the Hopewell Marina. Vice Mayor Gore has point of order that Mayor cannot make a motion. Mayor states he asked for the motion and Councilor Holloway made the motion. Councilor Pelham has a point of order that because this was voted on by previous council and because the Mayor was on the opposition side, does there need to be a motion to reconsider, Dr. Manker states attorney is out of town but she is correct there needs to be a motion to reconsider. Vice Mayor Gore states the prevailing side has to put the motion back on the floor so only her or Councilor Pelham can put it back on the floor. Councilor Holloway asked if they are not approving the funding tonight can he put a motion on the floor to deny any funding for the land and water conservation, Mayor stated he can do that so Councilor Holloway makes the motion, and Councilor Denton seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Councilor Joyner –	Yes
Councilor Harris –	Yes
Mayor Partin -	Yes

Vice Mayor Gore -	No
Councilor Denton –	Yes
Councilor Pelham -	No
Councilor Holloway –	Yes

Motion Pass 5-2

Councilor Holloway makes a motion to appropriate \$20,000 from salary savings from the parks and recreation department funds to complete an environmental analysis of the Marina for any path forward, Councilor Denton seconds the motion. Councilor Pelham ask why can't they go through economical developer and use those funds so it can be looked at overall because they do not know what it will cost to do an environmental study, Charles Bennet responds stating he recommends the study take place because of the length of time.

<u>Roll Call:</u>	Councilor Joyner –	Yes
	Councilor Harris –	Yes
	Mayor Partin -	Yes
	Vice Mayor Gore -	Yes
	Councilor Denton –	Yes
	Councilor Pelham -	Yes
	Councilor Holloway –	Yes

Motion Pass 7-0

Councilor Denton makes a Motion to allow economic development department and park and recreation department to bring additional plan options for city council review, motion is seconded by Councilor Holloway.

<u>Roll Call:</u>	Councilor Joyner –	Yes
	Councilor Harris –	Yes
	Mayor Partin -	Yes
	Vice Mayor Gore -	Excused
	Councilor Denton –	Yes
	Councilor Pelham -	Excused
	Councilor Holloway –	Yes

Motion Pass 5-0

Vice Mayor Gore makes a motion to table the item until city attorney can answer a specific question regarding the ability to apply for the grant going forward, Councilor Pelham seconds the motion. There was discussion with council in reference to if they were directed or if they were given permission to apply.

<u>Roll Call:</u>	Councilor Joyner –	No
	Councilor Harris –	No
	Mayor Partin -	No
	Vice Mayor Gore -	Yes
	Councilor Denton –	No
	Councilor Pelham -	Yes
	Councilor Holloway –	No

Motion Fails 5-2

Councilor Denton makes a motion to waive the rules so they can vote on not applying for the grant on tonight's meeting, Councilor Holloway seconds the motion.

<u>Roll Call:</u>	Councilor Joyner –	Yes
	Councilor Harris –	Yes
	Mayor Partin -	Yes
	Vice Mayor Gore -	No
	Councilor Denton –	Yes
	Councilor Pelham -	No
	Councilor Holloway –	Yes

Motion Passes 5-2

Councilor Holloway makes a motion to direct staff to not apply for any grants for this design presented for the marina, motion is seconded by Councilor Denton. Vice

Mayor Gore asks for clarity of the motion on the floor. After discussion Councilor Holloway makes a motion that they do not apply for this conservation land and conservation fund grant, Councilor Joyner seconds the motion.

<u>Roll Call:</u>	Councilor Joyner –	Yes
	Councilor Harris –	Yes
	Mayor Partin -	Yes
	Vice Mayor Gore -	No
	Councilor Denton –	Yes
	Councilor Pelham -	Yes
	Councilor Holloway –	Yes

Motion Passes 6-1

Reports of City Manager – Dr. Manker begins her presentation by asking approval to allow the city to participate in opioid settlement with tavia, alergin, Walgreens and CVS. She goes over the packet that was provided to council and the amount that will be rewarded to each locality.

Councilor Joyner makes a motion to approve the opioid settlements as presented in the packet, Councilor Denton seconds the motion. Councilor Pelham asked when do they decide what to do with the money, Dr. Manker stated they can discuss when they talk about outside agencies they can talk about where to allocate those dollars.

<u>Roll Call:</u>	Councilor Joyner –	Yes
	Councilor Harris –	Yes
	Mayor Partin -	Yes
	Vice Mayor Gore -	No
	Councilor Denton –	Yes
	Councilor Pelham -	Yes
	Councilor Holloway –	Yes

Motion Passes 7-0

Councilor Holloway makes a motion to adjourn. Meeting is adjourned.

AJOURNMENT:

Respectfully Submitted,

John B. Partin, Mayor

Brittani Williams, City Clerk