

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2020 CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

A regular meeting of the Hopewell City Council was held Tuesday, September 15, 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, Interim City Clerk

ROLL CALL

Mayor Gore opened the meeting at 5:34 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 5:35 p.m., Mayor Gore requested a roll call, as follows:

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

CLOSED MEETING

At 5:36 p.m., Councilor Pelham 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);(A)(29) to discuss the award of a public contract (Finance Director Services) involving the expenditure of public funds, the terms and scope of such contract and where discussion in open session would adversely affect the bargaining position of the City, 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:

Vice Mayor Bennett	-	-- (not on call)
Councilor Randolph	-	yes
Councilor Holloway	-	yes
Councilor Partin	-	yes
Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes

Motion passed 6-0

RECONVENE OPEN MEETING

At 7:35 p.m., Councilor Partin moved that Council come out of Closed Session. His motion was seconded by Councilor Denton. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 7-0

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:

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

At 7:38 p.m., Councilor Partin moved to adopt the Work Session agenda. His motion was seconded by Councilor Pelham. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passed 7-0

At 7:40 p.m., Mayor Gore requested a roll call for the Work Session as follows:

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

WS-1 HRHA Rezoning- Tevya Griffin, Director, Department of Development presented a PowerPoint to Council. In her presentation, she explains the Hopewell Redevelopment and Housing Authority's Rezoning request from R-3/B-3 to R-4 in the Highland Park Subdivision. The property is located off Westover Avenue and Cedar Street. Mrs. Griffin introduced Mr. Tarvaris McCoy, Chief Development Officer, HRHA, who was on the call to answer any questions from Council. Mr. McCoy answered Council's questions and there was discussion among Council.

Councilor Partin moved to extend the meeting until Council finishes R-7. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Bennett. Councilor Pelham requested to make a substitute motion to adjourn at 10:30 p.m. regardless of where Council is on the agenda. Her motion was seconded by Mayor Gore. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion failed 4-3

ADJOURN

Due to the rules of Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Jasmine E. Gore, Mayor

Camisha M. Brown, Interim City Clerk