

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF HOPEWELL CITY COUNCIL HELD MAY 18, 2021

An Electronic (Zoom) Public Hearing of the City Council of the City of Hopewell, Virginia, was held Thursday, May 18, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Patience A. Bennett, Mayor, Ward 4
 John B. Partin, Jr., Vice Mayor, Ward 7
 Arlene Holloway, Councilor, Ward 2
 Councilor Deborah Randolph, Ward 1
 Jasmine E. Gore, Councilor Ward 3
 Janice B. Denton, Councilor, Ward 5
 Brenda S. Pelham, Councilor, Ward 6

 John March Altman, Jr., City Manager
 Sandra Robinson, City Attorney
 Charles E. Dane, Assistant City Manager
 Mollie P. Bess, Acting City Clerk

 Dr. Melody Hackney, Superintendent, Hopewell Schools
 Janel English, Finance Director, Hopewell Schools

Mayor Bennett turned the Meeting over to City Manager, Mr. March Altman. Mr. Altman then turned the meeting over to Dr. Hackney for her presentation FY22 Budget for the Hopewell City Schools. Ms. Janel English went over the presentation for the budget and questions were welcomed upon completion.

Councilor Randolph asked does the class and comp you are looking at \$630,000, are those staffers entitled to the 5% increase through the state. Dr. Hackney responded it depends, the state only provides raises for the positions that they fund from the standards of quality, they are position in the organization as well as the group that has yet to have their classifications reconciled that are in both of those groups. Ms. English added there are about 40% of the positions that are SOQ positions that the state will give the 5% for, that equates to only about \$127,000 of the 5% could be used for the class and comp.

Councilor Randolph – why not look at doing \$127,000 less for your class and comp if they are already getting a 5% raise. The \$300,000 from munis was not included in this budget. Would like to do away with all of the class and comp for this year and push it to another year that would give you approximately \$886,965 of money you would need to find for those additional request. Earlier you said you had a savings of about \$800,000 which would almost offset the cost we got rid of class and comp for the new request. That would leave us still looking for a way to fund that \$1.1 million and as you said you have a saving of \$1.8. Getting close to \$1 million each year that you save, concern is budget request are looking at million dollar additions to your budget yet, we turn around and save that amount. Would like to view more of budget and see how we can come closer to what you are needing.

Dr. Hackney wanted to respond to the class and comp that the city council understand that these employees last year offered up their raises that they deserved last year to get their classifications to the regional average of four years ago, so already behind, they waited a year due to it being a difficult budget year and every other employee has received their reconciliation of moving their classification to the regional average. The School Board has approved this budget as you see it.

Rental Inspection,

Staff needs from Council guidance which positions you look to implement in the budget so we can prepare the budget resolution. Positions are Lab Technician, Munis Administrator and Animal Control Officer (two part time to one full time).

Councilor Gore – Did we get answer as to the idea as for schools to use the 5% first and then go back and use the remainder? City Manager Altman responded that he does not have the answer to that question as of yet, they have not come up with a calculation Did you ask where the last few years the money savings are coming from? CM responded class and comp was big item and what areas had the schools consistently saved money in over the past. CM will follow up to get the requested information.

Staff Potions – Councilor Prstin is in favor of adding staff position for lab technician position at wastewater plant. Would result in major savings for the City.

Council Randolph in favor of lab tech and part time to full time in animal control positions as well as the Munis administrator. Councilor Denton stated she is also for all of the positions.

City Manager Altman stated that the lab technician position is an enterprise fund positon and does not have an impact or effect on the general operating budget. Conversion of two part time positon to one full time positon in animal control is an increase of about \$19,373 increase to make that a full time positon. The other positions talked about was the additional rental inspector, it has a \$57,000 impact on budget and the munis administration position is about an \$88,000 impact on the budget.

Motion made by Councilor Denton and seconded by Councilor Randolph to adjourn.

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

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 7:13pm


Patience Bennett, Mayor


Mollie Bess, Acting City Clerk