

**January 26, 2021
Regular Meeting
Hopewell City Council**

A regular meeting of the Hopewell City Council was convened on Tuesday, January 26, 2021. Pursuant to Va. Code §2.2-3708.3 and the City of Hopewell Emergency Ordinance #2020-428, the meeting was conducted electronically via Zoom Video Communications.

PRESENT: **Councilors/Elected Officials**

Mayor Patience Bennett
Vice Mayor Johnny Partin
Debbie Randolph, Councilor
Arlene Holloway, Councilor
Jasmine Gore, Councilor
Janice B. Denton, Councilor
Brenda S. Pelham, Councilor

Staff

John Altman, Jr., City Manager
Charles Dane, Assistant City Manager
Sandra Robinson, City Attorney
Sandra Robinson, Clerk Pro Tem [pore]
Dr. Concetta Manker, IT Director

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m. Prior to the start of the meeting, Mayor Bennett designated the City Attorney to serve as Clerk pro tempore due to the vacancy in the positions of City Clerk and Deputy City Clerk.

ROLL CALL

Due to technical difficulty experienced by the Clerk pro tem, roll call was taken by the City Manager in the order as follows:

| | | |
|--------------------|---|----------------------|
| Mayor Bennett | - | Present |
| Vice Mayor Partin | - | Present |
| Councilor Randolph | - | Present |
| Councilor Holloway | - | Present |
| Councilor Gore | - | Arrived at 5:52 p.m. |
| Councilor Denton | - | Present |
| Councilor Pelham | - | Present |

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CLOSED SESSION

Vice Mayor Partin moved to go into closed session pursuant to Va. Code Sections 2.2-3711 A)(1) to discuss and consider personnel matters, including the recruitment and appointment of a City Clerk, and to consider prospective candidates for appointment to various boards and commissions; (A)(39) to discuss and consider information related to economic development, including (A)(5) a prospective new business (where no previous announcement has been made) and existing business interest in expanding its facilities in the City; (A)(6) to discuss and consider the investment of public funds where bargaining is involved and discussion in open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining or negotiation strategy of the City adversely affecting the financial interest of the City; and (A)(4) for the protection of the privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Pelham. Mayor Bennet called for the vote by roll call; the vote resulted:

Ayes: 7 Voting yes: Gore, Denton, Pelham, Bennett, Randolph, Holloway, Partin
Noes: 0 Voting no: None

Motion passed: 7-0

The City Council went into closed session; the City Council reconvened in open session at about 6:35 p.m.

Vice Mayor Partin moved to come out of closed session. The motion was seconded by Mayor Bennett. Mayor Bennet called for the vote by roll call; the vote resulted:

Ayes: 6 Voting yes: Gore, Denton, Pelham, Bennett, Randolph, Holloway, Partin
Noes: 0 Voting no: None

Motion passed: 7-0

There was then a certification regarding closed session. All members vote "aye" certifying that only the items identified in the closed meeting motion were discussed in closed meeting.

Ayes: Voting yes: Partin, Gore, Denton, Pelham, Bennett, Holloway, Randolph

WORK SESSION

Councilor Partin moved to adopt the work session agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilor Randolph. Mayor Bennet called for the vote by roll call; the vote resulted:

Ayes: 7 Voting yes: Gore, Denton, Pelham, Bennett, Randolph, Holloway, Partin
Noes: 0 Voting no: None

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Motion passed: 7-0

WS- 1 Francisco Landing Project Update

Assistant City Manager Charles Dane and Chip Bowman and Ed Bowman from W.E. Bowman Construction combined to give a presentation to City Council regarding the status of The Francisco Landing project.

The work session ended at 7:38 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

The City Council reconvened the regular business meeting. Before calling the meeting to order, Mayor Bennet recognized Ben Gomes of the Hopewell Fire Department for having been presented with 2020 Firefighter of the Year award in recognition of a peer support project that he spearheaded. Mayor Bennett called it to order at 7:39 p.m.

Roll Call was taken a second time, in the following order:

| | | |
|--------------------|---|---------|
| Mayor Bennett | - | Present |
| Vice Mayor Partin | - | Present |
| Councilor Randolph | - | Present |
| Councilor Holloway | - | Present |
| Councilor Gore | - | Present |
| Councilor Denton | - | Present |
| Councilor Pelham | - | Present |

INVOCATION/PRAYER

Assistant City Manager Charles Dane offered the prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Mayor Partin led the members of Council and staff in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice Mayor Partin moved to adopt the regular meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilor Denton. Before the motion was put to the floor for discussion, Councilor Pelham moved to amend the motion to approve subject to moving R-2 to fall under the City Manager. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gore. During discussion, Councilor Gore asked if she could

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make a friendly amendment to take C-4 out of the consent agenda and remove IR numbers 1, 2, 6, 8, 11, and to add a CAF to IR-13. The amendment was accepted. Mayor Bennett called for the vote by roll call, the vote resulted:

Ayes: 7 Voting yes: Partin, Gore, Denton, Pelham, Bennett, Randolph, Holloway
Noes: 0 Voting no: None

Motion passed 7-0

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Mayor Partin moved to amend the consent agenda to include the resolution of appointments to the standing committees of City Council. The motion was seconded by Councilor Denton. Mayor Bennet called for the vote by roll call; the vote resulted:

Ayes: 7 Voting yes: Partin, Gore, Denton, Pelham, Bennett, Randolph, Holloway
Noes: 0 Voting no: None

Motion passed 7-0

C-9 Resolution/Proclamation/Presentations

(1) On behalf of the sorority Phi Gamma Zeta Inc., its President, Misty Thompson, and Ms. Frenchi Jones made a presentation regarding the sorority and its contribution to and activities in the community.

(2) On behalf of the Hopewell Downtown Partnership, its Director, Heather Lyne, made a presentation the organization and its efforts on behalf of the community.

***Vice Mayor Partin moved to extend the meeting until the entire agenda is completed. The motion was seconded by Mayor Bennett. There was no discussion. Mayor Bennett called for the vote by roll call, the vote resulted:

Ayes: 7 Voting yes: Partin, Gore, Denton, Bennett, Randolph, Holloway
Noes: 0 Voting no: None

Motion passed 6-0

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

UB-1 Colonial Corner Demolition – Debris Removal

The City Manager gave a brief presentation regarding the status of the project and confirmed that all of the bids that were in place for the project fell within the City's small purchase policy for contracting without competition.

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Vice Mayor Partin moved to approve the transfer of \$55,000 from the unassigned fund balance and authorize the City to execute the contract. The motion was seconded by Councilor Randolph Mayor Bennett called for the vote by roll call, the vote resulted:

Ayes: 6 Voting yes: Gore, Denton, Pelham, Bennett, Randolph, Holloway, Partin
Noes: 0 Voting no: None
Abstain (nonvote): 1 No response: Pelham

Motion passed 6-0-1

REGULAR BUSINESS

Reports of the City Manager

R-1 CARES Act CRF Expenditure Update

The City Manager made a presentation relative to the City's spending/expenditures of the CARES Act funding it received. Discussion ensued relative to status of vaccinations.

Vice Mayor Partin moved to charge the City Manager to write a letter to the [Virginia] Governor, Lt. Governor, Virginia Department of H Commissioner, and Senator Morrissey and Delegate Coyner to request more vaccines, medical support, and logistical support for Hopewell and the entire Crater Health District. The motion was seconded by Councilor Denton. Mayor Bennett called for the vote by roll call; the vote resulted:

Ayes: 7 Voting yes: Partin, Gore, Denton, Pelham, Bennett, Randolph, Holloway
Noes: 0 Voting no: None

Motion passes 7-0

R-2 Communications from Citizens

The City Manager made a presentation relative to the reinstating the Communications from Citizens portion of the City Council's Order of Business in the context of the electronic meetings being utilized due the COVID pandemic and the social distancing requirements imposed by Governor Northam's executive orders.

Councilor Gore moved to direct the City's IT Director to work with the City Manager and City Attorney to develop an online form to receive public comments, to develop a method for us to play video messages that are vetted and/or voice messages for public comments, from communications from citizens and for these submissions, are a process has been approved to be read in the city

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council meetings and posted on the City's website for public inspection and to bring the information back to Council. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pelham. Discussion ensued. Mayor Bennett called for the vote by roll call; the vote resulted:

Ayes: 6 Voting yes: Partin, Gore, Denton, Pelham, Bennett, Holloway
Noes: 1 Voting no: Randolph

Motion passes 6-1

***As the final item in his reports, the City Manager announced that former City Manager, Doug Hamner, passed away. Mr. Hamner's service as City Manager extended from 1963-1966.

REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL

Committees

Vice Mayor Partin gave a report to update the Council on the Water Renewal Commission and the plant.

Individual Councilors

IR-3 Special Meeting Request for Backlog

Councilor Gore moved to set a special meeting to go through the backlog agenda submissions. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pelham. Discussion ensued. Mayor Bennett called for the vote by roll call, the vote resulted:

Ayes: 3 Voting yes: Gore, Pelham, Holloway
Noes: 4 Voting No: Partin, Denton, Bennett, Randolph

Motion fails: 4-3

IR-4 Request for Council to vote on IRs and CCRs

This item was tabled by Councilor Gore after she informed that she would call a special meeting to deal with the subject matter.

IR-5 Crater Workforce Development Board Representation

Councilor Gore moved for the City Council to approve the submitted application for Wonder City Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center to be appointed to the Crater Workforce Development Board. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pelham. Discussion ensued. Mayor Bennett called for the vote by roll call, the vote resulted:

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Ayes: 3 Voting yes: Gore, Pelham, Holloway
Noes: 4 Voting no: Partin, Denton, Bennett, Randolph

Motion fails 4-3

IR-7 Red Book Minutes Backlog

Councilor Gore made a presentation relative to the reasons that this item has been placed on the agenda. She indicated that she will sign off on the official documents that were prepared during her tenure as Mayor when the City Clerk's position is filled and the documentation is in proper order.

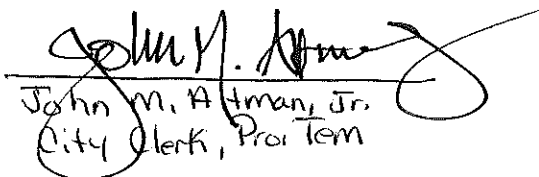
IR-9 City's Financial Audit changes to executing contract agreements

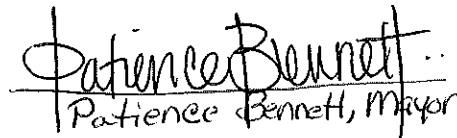
Councilor Gore moved to direct the City Manager to work with the Finance Director to come back to Council at its second meeting in February, and to identify all of the contractors, deliverables from the contractor, cost of the contracts and provide a status on the completion of audits from FY16-present, and all overdue SEFAs to the present, and for any parties related to the completion of the audits to present to City Council as a team: that means Schools, the City Treasurer, VML (whomever is involved), along with the Finance Department. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pelham. Discussion ensued. Mayor Bennett called for the vote by roll call, the vote resulted:

Ayes: 6 Voting yes: Partin, Gore, Pelham, Bennett, Randolph, Holloway
Noes: 1 Voting no: Denton

Motion passes 6-1

Councilor Randolph moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Gore. The meeting adjourned at about 10:57 p.m.


John M. Altman, Jr.
City Clerk, Pro Tem


Patience Bennett, Mayor