

**MINUTES OF THE JUNE 8, 2023 CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING**

A special meeting of the Hopewell City Council was held on Thursday June 8, 2023 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

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Tax Rate Resolution: For Personal Property Tax, Business Property Tax, and Machine and Tools Tax.**

Dr. Manker requesting all M&T to remain the same, real estate at \$1.13, personal property at \$3.50, machinery and tools tax at \$3.10 meals at 6 % and lodging at 8%. Mayor Partin closes public hearing after confirming no one was present to speak.

Councilor Denton made a motion to approve the Tax Rate Resolution: For Personal Property Tax, Business Property Tax, and Machine and Tools Tax, motion was seconded by Councilor Joyner.

**Roll Call:**

Councilor Joyner –	Yes
Councilor Harris –	Yes
Mayor Partin –	Yes
Vice Mayor Gore –	Yes
Councilor Denton –	Yes
Councilor Pelham -	Yes
Councilor Holloway –	No

**Motion Pass 6 -1**

**WORK SESSION:**

Dr. Manker moves into work session to review outstanding items, and reconsider council request. Dr. Maker would like to discuss 4 items within the work session. Those four items are the council budget, outside agencies. Required positions, and ARPA funding for accounting remediation services and/or PMO services, and look at the list of funding opportunities council may wish to fund. Council budget was provided to all council and the consensus was discussed regarding the councilor budget for travel budget. Councilors expressed concern regarding the current amount being discussed. Councilor Holloway expressed he was not in agreement with the new budget being discussed. Further conversation was discussed among all councilors. Vice Mayor Gore speaks on the budget amount in agreement with other councilors that the amount being discussed is not feasible for the necessary annual trainings they should attend.

Councilor Holloway moves to waive the rules to be able to vote, Vice Mayor Gore seconded the motion.

<b>ROLL CALL:</b>	Councilor Joyner-	Yes
	Councilor Harris-	Yes
	Mayor Partin -	No
	Vice Mayor Gore -	Yes
	Councilor Denton -	No
	Councilor Pelham -	Yes
	Councilor Holloway -	Yes

**Motion Passes – 5-2**

Councilor Holloway makes a motion to set the travel budget to \$10,500.00, motion is seconded by Councilor Pelham.

<b>ROLL CALL:</b>	Councilor Joyner-	No
	Councilor Harris-	Yes
	Mayor Partin -	No
	Vice Mayor Gore -	Yes
	Councilor Denton -	No
	Councilor Pelham -	Yes
	Councilor Holloway -	Yes

**Motion Passes – 4-3**

Dr. Manker moves on to outside agencies for discussion with councilors, showing where cuts have been made. Dr. Manker yield the floor for open discussion with Councilors. Councilor Pelham requested to have the ORG- Concerned citizen and church moved to ARPA funds. Dr. Manker responded it can be moved to ARPA. Vice Mayor Gore request that Feed More and Legal aid be added to ARPA list for consideration. Vice Mayor Gore suggested that Crater Regional Workforce Dev be increased back up to \$10,00.00. Mayor Partin speaks on ongoing expenses for specific positions. Councilor Holloway suggested moving city of refuge to the ARPA funds to decide how much will be split, Dr. Manker responded that it cannot be done or reduced at all. Councilors have discussion regarding the Beacon Theatre. After discussion it was explained by Michael Terry that he was unable to give a finance report to determine the amount of profit they are currently making so councilors would like to reduce their budget. Vice Mayor Gore suggested an asking from the Beacon about their finances by doing an earmark. Dr. Manker states the consensus on the floor is to reduce the Beacon Theater to 150 and earmark it until they produce audit information in order to receive dollars. For every year they provide their audit information they will receive an amount of the agreed upon amount, they are also to produce an audit plan. Dr. Manker moves onto the FY24 new position requests. Councilors discuss their opinions for each new proposed position. Councilor Holloway mentioned the State lied in regards to the help that was offered by State that they have not done. He stated the State sent out and RFP that showed there was a phase two which included assistance with hands on. Council went down the line of all proposed positons to get a consensus on the jobs to determine which positions should be moved forward on.

Councilor moved to extend the meeting for 15 minutes. Vice Mayor Gore

seconded the motion.

<b>ROLL CALL:</b>	Councilor Joyner-	Yes
	Councilor Harris-	Yes
	Mayor Partin -	Yes
	Vice Mayor Gore -	Yes
	Councilor Denton -	Yes
	Councilor Pelham -	Yes
	Councilor Holloway -	Yes

**Motion Passes – 7-0**

Council went down the line of all proposed positions to get a consensus on the jobs to determine which positions should be moved forward on. For assistance city manager position 4 hands were raised. For the assistant procurement officer 5 hands were raised. For accounting tech reconciliation report 5 hands were raised. For grants manager officer three hands were raised, for internal auditor with grant manager responsibilities, 7 hands were raised. For assistant finance director for the budget, 3 hands were raised. For deputy fire chief 3 hands were raised. For EMS captain 7 hands were raised.

Councilor Denton moves to get an accounting remediation service and the PMO, Councilor Pelham seconded the motion.

<b>ROLL CALL:</b>	Councilor Joyner-	Yes
	Councilor Harris-	No
	Mayor Partin -	Yes
	Vice Mayor Gore -	No
	Councilor Denton -	Yes
	Councilor Pelham -	Yes
	Councilor Holloway -	No

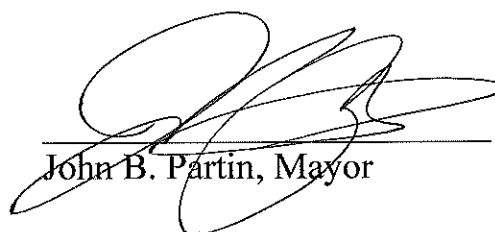
**Motion Passes 4-3**

Councilor Holloway motions to adjourn, seconded by Vice Mayor Gore.


Yes = 7

No = 0

**AJOURNMENT**



John B. Partin, Mayor



Brittani Williams, City Clerk