

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 22, 2020 CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

A regular meeting of the Hopewell City Council was held Tuesday, September 22, 2020, at 6:30 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
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

ABSENT: Arlene Holloway, Councilor, Ward 2

ROLL CALL

Mayor Gore opened the meeting at 6:31 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 or Council Live. Mayor Gore waited a couple of minutes for everyone to get logged in or to call in. At 6:32 p.m., Mayor Gore requested a roll call, as follows:

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

Councilor Holloway notified the Mayor she was unable to attend the meeting.

SB-1 VDOT Highway Safety Improvement Program Agreements – 3 Projects (Two locations)- March Altman, City Manager, spoke with Council about three upcoming VDOT projects. Johnnie Butler, City Engineer, summarized the upcoming projects that will take place in the City. After Mr. Butler’s presentation, Council had discussion and asked questions in regards to the projects. Councilor Partin moved that Council accept \$1,145,000 from the VDOT Highway Safety Improvement Program and to authorize the CM to sign and execute all contracts for project number 0156-116-202 UPC Number 110840, project number U000-116-203 UPC Number 110842, and project number 0156-116-201 UPC 110846. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pelham. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passes 6-0

SB-2 National Fish & Wildlife Grant Award & Contract Modification- Mr. Altman explains to Council that the City has received a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in the amount of \$500,000 for a Small Watershed Grant for design, construction, and construction administration of the City Point Road, Liberty Ave, and Princess Anne Outfall Gully Stabilization Projects. He also added that there was an additional \$34,100 for Planning and Technical Assistance Grant for the development of an OGSP Design & Regional Pollutant Reduction Calculator in partnership with Ecosystem Services LLC and he is requesting to modify existing City contract 14-19 with Ecosystem Services, LLC to include Construction Administration of HHS-Mathis Park Stream Restoration and the three Outfall Gully Stabilization Projects for \$61,003 and to execute a new contract with Ecosystem Services, LLC to develop an OGSP Design & Regional Pollutant Reduction Calculator for \$34,100. Joe Battiatia, Stormwater, presented the projects to Council. Councilor Partin moved to accept the \$500,000 Small Watershed Grant for design, construction, and construction administration of the City Point Road, Liberty Ave, and Princess Anne Outfall Gully Stabilization Projects and \$34,100 Planning and Technical Assistance Grant for the development of an OGSP Design & Regional Pollutant Reduction Calculator in partnership with Ecosystem Services LLC and modify existing City contract 14-19 with Ecosystem Services, LLC to include Construction Administration of HHS-Mathis Park Stream Restoration and the three Outfall Gully Stabilization Projects for \$61,003 and execute a new contract with Ecosystem Services, LLC to develop an OGSP Design & Regional Pollutant Reduction Calculator for \$34,100 and to authorize the City Manager to sign and execute all contracts pending the City Attorney’s legal approval. The motion failed for lack of a second. Councilor Pelham requested to make the same motion as Councilor Partin’s motion after seeking clarification of his motion. Her motion was seconded by Councilor Partin. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passes 6-0

SB-3 Small Business Recovery Program – Second Round- Charles Dane, Assistant City Manager, presented to Council. He is requesting that as a result of the second round of Coronavirus Relief funding distributed to the City of Hopewell, the Economic Development office would like to initiate a second round of 2020 Small Business Recovery Program funding for our small businesses. Council asked Mr. Dane question and there was discussion. Councilor Partin moved that we approve the program revisions as presented and approve a second round of funding for the Small Business Recovery Program in the amount of \$500,000. His motion was seconded by Councilor Pelham. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passes 6-0

SB-4 HOPEWELL CARES: Rent/Mortgage and Utility Assistance Program- Tevya Griffin, Director, Department of Development presented to Council that The City of Hopewell is launching a new program to assist low- and moderate-income Renters/Homeowners who have experienced financial hardship due to COVID -19. In partnership with Commonwealth Catholic Charities, this program will provide eligible households with short-term (no more than three months) assistance towards rent or mortgage and utility arrears since April 1, 2020. Assistance is provided up to one time for housing costs and one time for utility costs, and payments are made directly to the landlord, mortgage lender, and/or utility company. Denise Crews, Director of Asset Building Services, Commonwealth Catholic Charities was on the meeting available to answer any questions Council had. Councilor Pelham moved to accept the COVID CARES Rent/ Mortgage and Utility Assistance program that Director Tevya Griffin has presented to Council. The motion was seconded by Mayor Gore. Upon roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passes 6-0

SB-5 HOPEWELL CARES: Homeless Assistance Program- Director Griffin presented the second portion of the CARES program. Hopewell is launching a new program to assist low-and moderate-income residents who have experienced housing loss as a result of or during the coronavirus pandemic. In partnership with Commonwealth Catholic Charities, this program will provide eligible households with short-term assistance towards obtaining housing to decrease the length of episodes of homelessness and reduce overall housing instability. Keke Cody, Operations Supervisor, Supportive Housing and Homeless Services for Commonwealth Catholic Charities was in the meeting to discuss the program and answer any questions. Councilor Pelham moved that Council adopt the program for tom prevent homelessness and the contract being aided by the Catholic Charities Organization. The motion was seconded by Mayor Gore. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passes 6-0

ADJOURN

At 8:38 p.m., Councilor Randolph moved to adjourn. Her motion was seconded by Councilor Denton upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

Motion passes 4-2

Jasmine E. Gore, Mayor

Camisha M. Brown, Interim City Clerk