

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD DECEMBER 12, 2019

A special meeting of the Hopewell City Council was held Thursday, December 12, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers at 300 North Main Street, in Hopewell, Virginia.

PRESENT: Jasmine Gore, Mayor, Ward 4
Deborah Randolph, Councilor, Ward 1
Arlene Holloway, Councilor, Ward 2
Johnny Partin, Councilor, Ward 3
Janice Denton, Councilor, Ward 5
Brenda Pelham, Councilor, Ward 6 (arrived at 6:50 p.m.)

John M. Altman, Jr., City Manager
Ronnieye L. Arrington, City Clerk

ABSENT: Patience Bennett, Vice Mayor

This special meeting was called as a direct result of the increase in shootings and other violent crimes here in Hopewell, including the tragic death of a Richmond firefighter. Council requested a meeting to get information and make a determination as to what could be done. The below is not a word-for-word report of Council's discussions, but is rather a brief synopsis for recordkeeping purposes only.

OPEN MEETING

Mayor Gore called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. She thanked the visitors for attending.

SB-1 Set a date for a Crime Summit – John “March” Altman, City Manager presented Council with three dates on which a Summit could be held, namely: January 8, January 15 and/or January 22, 2020. Council to advise as to which date works best.

SB-2 Discuss crime statistics and criminal activity - March Altman and Kamran Afzal, Chief of Police, provided Council with three maps. One map depicted “Shooting Crimes by Type from January 1, 2019 through December 8, 2019. The map showed homicide, aggravated assault, vandalism, weapon offenses and shots fired. The second map depicted “Shooting Crimes from January 1, 2019 through December 8, 2019. This map showed only shooting crimes. The final map depicted “Shooting Crimes Hotspots,” from January 1, 2019 through December 8, 2019. Chief Afzal gave a brief description of each map.

SB-3 Update on Chief of Police Citizen Advisory Committee – Chief Afzal went over the *Purpose, Vision and Mission Statements* for the *Chief's advisory Committee*. He explained to Council the purpose of the CAC and how it was different that a Council-appointed board. He noted that this board had already met twice and come up with and shared some good ideas as to addressing come issues.

SB-4 Community policing and possible ward community police officers – Chief Afzal defined community policing as a partnership between the police and the community. He said that community policing was already in place, but to have more of a presence, he would need additional staff. Chief Afzal said there were currently community police officers (“CPO”) assigned to neighborhood watches. He said he would not mind

attaching CPO's to the wards, but again, that would require more personnel and more funding. He submitted a memo entitled "Budget Justification for Additional Sworn Positions."

SB-5 Cities of Opportunity Grant presentation – Mayor Gore presented information relating to the Cities of Opportunity Grant, as well as showing all the available software that could be use through this program. She showed videos, as well. At the end of her presentation, Council requested that she provide that information to all of Council She agreed that she would do so. Alton Hart, Jr., MD, MPH, Director for the Crater District Health Departments/Virginia Department of Health, was in the audience at Mayor Gore's invitation. She asked him to come forward and speak, which he did.

ADJOURN

At 7:45 p.m. Councilor Randolph moved that the meeting be adjourned. Her motion was seconded by Mayor Gore. Council unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting.

Ronnieye Arrington, City Clerk

Jasmine Gore, Mayor