

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 13, 2023 CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

A regular meeting of the Hopewell City Council was held on Tuesday June 13, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: John B. Partin, Mayor
Jasmine Gore, Vice Mayor
Janice Denton, Councilor
Rita Joyner, Councilor
Dominic Holloway, Councilor
Michael Harris, Councilor
Brenda Pelham, Councilor

Closed Meeting:

Councilor Holloway and second by Councilor Pelham to go into closed session pursuant to Va. Code Section § 2.2-371 1 (A)(I) to discuss and consider personnel matters, including board and commission appointments; the assignment and performance of specific appointee and employees of City Council, and to the extent such discussion will be aided thereby, and VA Code 2.2 -3711(A)(3) for the discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.

Roll Call:

Councilor Harris-	Yes
Mayor Partin-	Yes
Vice Mayor Gore-	Arrived at 6:25 p.m.
Councilor Denton-	Yes
Councilor Pelham-	Yes
Councilor Holloway-	Yes
Councilor Joyner-	Yes

Motion Passes 6-0

RECONVENE OPEN MEETING:

Councilor Denton moved to reconvene open meeting and seconded by Councilor Joyner

Roll Call:

Councilor Harris-	Yes
Mayor Partin-	Yes
Vice Mayor Gore-	Yes
Councilor Denton -	Yes
Councilor Pelham -	Yes
Councilor Holloway -	Yes
Councilor Joyner-	Yes

Motion Passes 7-0

CERTIFICATION:

Immediately thereafter, council responded to the question pursuant to Virginia § 2.2-3712 (D): Were only public business matters (1) lawfully exempted from open-meeting requirements and (2) identified in the closed-meeting motion discussed in closed meeting?

Roll Call:

Councilor Harris-	Yes
Mayor Partin-	Yes
Vice Mayor Gore-	Yes
Councilor Denton -	Yes
Councilor Pelham -	Yes

Councilor Holloway - Yes
Councilor Joyner- Yes

Motion Passes 7-0

REGULAR MEETING

Roll Call:

Mayor Partin - Yes
Vice Mayor Gore - Yes
Councilor Denton - Yes
Councilor Pelham - Yes
Councilor Holloway- Yes
Councilor Joyner- Yes
Councilor Harris- Yes

Motion Passes 7-0

Prayer by Reverend Danny Tucker, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America led by Councilor Holloway

Motion to move into Regular Meeting Agenda by Councilor Holloway and second by Councilor Denton

Roll Call:

Councilor Harris- Yes
Mayor Partin- Yes
Vice Mayor Gore- Yes

Councilor Denton -	Yes
Councilor Pelham -	Yes
Councilor Holloway -	Yes
Councilor Joyner-	Yes

Motion Passes 7-0

Motion to adopt the consent agenda by Councilor Joyner and second by Mayor Partin

Roll Call:

Mayor Partin-	Yes
Vice Mayor Gore-	Yes
Councilor Joyner-	Yes
Councilor Harris-	Yes
Councilor Denton-	Yes
Councilor Pelham-	Yes
Councilor Holloway-	Yes

Motion Passes 7-0

INFORMATION/PRESENTATIONS

1. **Finance Report-** Michael Terry, Finance Director

Mr. Terry Presents the financial report for month ending May 31, 2023 which covers four sections: the finance and compliance reporting section, the operation and assignment, the budget for fiscal year 2024 and internal reporting. Mr. Terry explained the school got the two smaller funds completed meaning they did the cash, trial balance and detail work that needs to be done. Mr. Terry highlights operation and assignments, and goes into detail about payroll, accounting, procurement, real estate assessor, financial reporting, and budgeting. Mr. Terry concluded his report

explaining his team worked on the ones that could be processed easily thru Munis. He stated they are working with other departments to show how to use the right object code. When the current auditor gets to the time frame of 2020-2022, he can see there have been changes made eliminating prior concerns.

2. **Police Report**- Chief Taylor

Chief Taylor gave a slide presentation for the City of Hopewell crime summary from May 9, 2023 to May 31, 2023. Information was outlined such as violent crimes total from the report is -15 percent. Forceful rape is -75 percent. Robberies down -75 percent. Aggravated assault is up 23 percent. Violent crimes currently are -15 percent. Approximately 12 aggravated assaults are domestic violence cases. Property crimes and burglaries are -40 percent overall, larceny is 27 percent and there is an increase in motor vehicle thefts. Property crime total is -23 percent and major crimes are -22 percent. Mr. Taylor states there were 11 fatal opioid overdose deaths and 40 nonfatal, a grand total for 51. For shots fired there have been a total of 20 shots fired, which has been the lowest since 2020. Chief Taylor talks about Special events that are upcoming for the remainder of the year.

3. **Hopewell Downtown Partnership**-Heather Lyne

Heather Lyne presents information regarding the Hopewell downtown Partnership. She discusses commercial property improvements, five new brick and mortar businesses that opened, real property assessments in the district of the historic district of \$29,391,200.00. She discussed total food tax generated for the city of \$305,016.27. She went over vacancy rates of 50 percent in 2011 to 16.67 percent. She discussed a year of fun up-coming activities for 2023. She discussed paddle in the park and ways to register. She went over open house tour and reception, and passed around photos of previous successful events.

PUBLIC HEARING

PH-1 Amendment of Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Hopewell Public Schools
Operating Budget.

Supplemental appropriation amending the FY23 Hopewell Public Schools operating budget by a total of \$6,447,432.00 in additional federal, state and other grant funds increasing the total operation budget to \$74,931,313.00. Staff recommendations is for City Council to approve the resolution to amend the FY23 Hopewell Public Schools supplemental budget appropriation as it is presented. The Hopewell Public school division has received supplemental appropriations of state and federal funding along with grant funds in the total amount of \$6,447,432.00. HPS received federal American Rescue Plan Act grants, a Virginia Department of Health grant, a School Security Officer grant, a Project Hope grant, a School Based Health Workforce grant, state construction funds, a Digital mapping Grant from CDJS, a Gear Up grant, a John Randolph Foundation Grant, a School Security Equipment grant, a Head Start Carryover grant, and a Department of Behavioral Health and Development Services grant. These fund will increase the total Hopewell Public Schools Operating Fund to \$74,931,313.00

Motion to approve the resolution to amend the FY23 Hopewell Schools Supplemental Budget appropriation as presented by Councilor Joyner and second by Mayor Partin

Roll Call:

Mayor Partin-	Yes
Vice Mayor Gore-	Yes
Councilor Joyner-	Yes
Councilor Harris-	Yes
Councilor Denton-	Yes
Councilor Pelham-	Yes
Councilor Holloway-	Yes

Motion Passes 7-0

PH-2- School Board Vacancies-There are three applicants that applied Carol Carr, Linda Hyslop and Ruth Johnson. Interviews will be scheduled at a later date with these applicants for the vacancies.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

1. **Phillip Hughes** is a business owner in downtown Hopewell. He has a letter for city council and a signed petition from the business owners in downtown Hopewell about the event fees in downtown Hopewell. The charged amounts begin with \$250 then the commissioner of Revenue adds \$40. He goes on to say the entire fee amount is more than double his entire event for Celebrate America on July 1, 2023. Dr. Manker has supplied help for event holders to cover some of the fees. Some of the event participators want to cover the fees for the street festivals from their own pockets. He mentions several brick and mortar businesses have shut down since he has been in Hopewell within a year. Business owners of Hopewell want to be part of the solution. Event and street festivals create more foot traffic to Hopewell. He has partnered with several businesses in Hopewell to have a band, showcase of classic cars and inflatables at the Celebrate Hopewell event to create a fun family focused event. But there is a \$3,000.00 fee charged by the City of Hopewell. Business owners in the past held events and street festivals but stopped because of the fees they were charged by the City of Hopewell. He is asking for a motion to be made tonight to remove the fees for holding events for a year. The business owners are willing to hold several events throughout the year from local and surrounding areas if they can get help with the fees. Business owners are ready and willing to pour their own money into tourism and economic development. They are ready to make downtown Hopewell a more pleasant place. Information was handed to Dr. Manker for review and Motion consideration.

2. **Feedmore- Grace Calis**

Grace Calis Presents a Meals on Wheels program that delivers meals Monday thru Friday to homebound elderly and disabled individuals. Currently meals are delivered by help from volunteers and Doordash. A grant provided by Doordash from the pandemic helped solidify the food program at Feedmore but the grant is ending June 30, 2023. Her ask is advise and recommendations on how to better recruit more volunteers. The commitment is once a month minimum two hours. Mayor Partin informs Ms. Calis where the order of business is for the City Council and that she gives her information to Dr. Manker for a response. Direction from Vice

Mayor Gore leads G. Calis to give her information to the City Clerk as a point of contact for possible funding for Feedmore.

REGULAR BUSINESS

R-1 Fiscal Year 24 Operating and Capital Budget Resolution

Dr. Manker-City Council for consideration of the proposed FY24 City of Hopewell Budget and Resolution.

Dr. Manker is requesting the approval of the FY24 City of Hopewell Budget on the 2nd reading and approve the Budget Resolution. A public hearing for the FY24 City of Hopewell Budget was held on April 25, 2023. Adoption of budget is required by June 30, 2023. The proposed FY24 Operating and Capital Budget appropriates a total of approximately \$200,265,567.00 which is an increase of \$14,121,671.00(7.59%) increase over FY23. The proposed General Operating Fund is approximately \$62,511,781.00, an increase of \$5,098,362.00(9%) over FY23. She provides an overview of everything included in the FY24 Budget.

Some Q&A from the Council.

Motion to adopt the FY24 Budget Resolution as presented by Vice Mayor Gore and second by Mayor Partin

Roll Call:

Mayor Partin-	Yes
Vice Mayor Gore-	Yes
Councilor Joyner-	Yes
Councilor Harris-	Yes
Councilor Denton-	Yes
Councilor Pelham-	Yes

Motion Passes 6-0

R-2 Extension of Time for Board of Equalization Interim City Assessor, Michael Chow is asking for City Council to extend the time for the Board of

Equalization in order to hear all pending appeals. Lost several board members since last fiscal year. Time is needed to provide training to new BOE members, schedule appointments with taxpayers and give public notice on the meetings and hearing times. The first available training date offered by the Dept. of Taxation was June 15, 2023. The requested extension is August 30, 2023. Mr. Chow is recommending action by June 13, 2023. City Council to provide ample time to allow the board to hear all the appeals. There are approximately 80 cases to be heard by the BOE.

Councilor Pelham moves to approve request as presented and second by Vice Mayor Gore

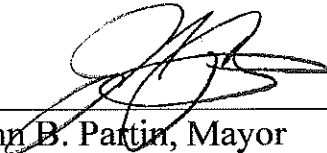
Roll Call:

Mayor Partin-	Yes
Vice Mayor Gore-	Yes
Councilor Joyner-	Yes
Councilor Harris-	Yes
Councilor Denton-	Yes
Councilor Pelham-	Yes


Motion Passes 6-0

AJOURNMENT:

Mayor Partin ends meeting. No roll call was taken.



John B. Partin, Mayor



Brittani Williams, City Clerk