

April 22, 2008

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD APRIL 22, 2008**

A Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Hopewell, Virginia, was held Tuesday, April 22, 2008, at 6:00 PM in the City Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 300 North Main Street, Hopewell, Virginia.

PRESENT: Steven R. Taylor, Mayor  
Brenda S. Pelham, Vice Mayor  
Christina J. Luman-Bailey, Councilor  
Kenneth B. Emerson, Councilor  
E. Randy Sealey, Councilor  
N. Gregory Cuffey, Councilor

Edwin N. Wilmot, City Attorney  
Ann M. Romano, City Clerk  
Edwin C. Daley, City Manager

ABSENT: Curtis W. Harris, Councilor

Mayor Taylor opened the meeting at 6:00 PM. Roll call was taken as follows:

Mayor Taylor	-	present
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	present
Councilor Bailey	-	present
Councilor Harris	-	ABSENT
Councilor Emerson	-	present
Councilor Sealey	-	present
Councilor Cuffey	-	present

1. **WORK SESSION - BUDGET PRESENTATION - CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS**

A. **Kay Rackley, Clerk of the Circuit Court**

Ms. Rackley commented on the state budget cuts. According to the City Manager the City will be sending a check for its portion of the \$400,000.00 over the next two years. The City does carry the fifth employee in the office of the Circuit Court Clerk. The City pays \$17,000 of the \$23,000 salary. The criminal case load has increased as well as the civil case load.

B. **Debra Reason, Commissioner of the Revenue**

Ms. Reason distributed a handout (filed in the City Clerk's Office). She indicated that she would like her office to join the City's proposed pay plan. Her report revealed that the Delinquent Tax Collector in her office collected a total of \$322,845.14 from September 2007 until April 22, 2008.

C. **Teresa Batton, City Treasurer**

Ms. Batton requested (1) Renewal of the Tax Collector position for another four years; (2) Reclassification of the Deputy IV position from Grade 18 to Grade 19; and (3) Alignment of the two State-funded positions with the City and include them on the City's Pay Plan. The Tax Collector position was under a sunset clause, which is coming up for renewal again. The administrative fees cover that salary. It would cost less than \$1,000 each to elevate two employees in the Treasurer's Office. It could be in effect until she is no longer in office or it can be Council action by notification in 30 days by either party. Most of the Treasurer's functions are 50% state. Regarding Dog Licenses, Hopewell charges the least amount in the surrounding area.

April 22, 2008

The State Code allows a maximum of \$10. She asked that Council consider raising the \$1.00 license for spayed or neutered dogs to \$2.00, and raising the \$5.00 license for *non*-spayed or *non*-neutered dogs to \$10.00.

**D. Greg Anderson, Sheriff**

Sheriff Anderson was pleased with his budget. The City Manager has agreed to his requests. Council has shown a cooperative spirit with the Sheriff's Office. He was available to answer any questions. It cost almost \$30,000 to get one position and one car. Traffic on I-295 has slowed down a great deal indicating that the speeding ticketing has been successful. The City reaps \$30,000 net from that. The average is \$1,600-1,700 per month. Finally, half of the Sheriff's Deputies are Police Certified.

**E. Anthony Sylvester, Commonwealth's Attorney**

Mr. Sylvester distributed a handout (filed in the City Clerk's Office) containing a letter from the President of the Virginia Association of Commonwealth's Attorneys to Governor Tim Kaine regarding budget cuts. He requested \$5,000 for the Juvenile Attorney I and the Administrative Assistant II positions in his office. Those amounts would be scaled in. A 2% salary increase equals \$12,000 to his salary. He indicated that he would not have a problem giving that increase back to the City. The average beginning salary for an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney I is approximately \$52,000-53,000.00.

**CLOSED SESSION**

At 7:00 PM **Motion** was made by Councilor Sealey, and seconded by Councilor Cuffey, to convene into Closed Session to discuss Appointments to Boards and Commissions, and Potential Underwater Work and Exploratory Archaeology and Scanning of Portions of the James and Appomattox Rivers, in accordance with Virginia Code Sec. 2.2-3711 (A) (1) (3) (5) & (29). Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes

**OPEN SESSION**

At 7:30 PM Council convened into Open Session. Councilors responded to the question: "Were the only matters discussed in the Closed Meeting public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements; and public business matters identified in the motion to convene into Closed Session?" Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes

April 22, 2008

**REGULAR MEETING**

Mayor Taylor opened the regular meeting at 7:30 PM. Roll call was taken as follows:

Mayor Taylor	-	present
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	present
Councilor Bailey		present
Councilor Harris	-	ABSENT
Councilor Emerson	-	present
Councilor Sealey	-	present
Councilor Cuffey	-	present

Prayer was offered by Rev. Eva Brown, Christal Cathedral Ministries, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion** was made by Councilor Vice Mayor Pelham, and seconded by Councilor Sealey, to approve the Consent Agenda: Minutes: Minutes of Regular Meeting April 8, 2008; Pending List; Information for Council Review: [Minutes TSB 4/1/08; Recreation Commission 4/9/08; School Board 4/10/08; Minutes HRWTF Commission 1/15/08 & Agenda 4/15/08; HRHA Agenda 4/14/08; minutes Building Code Appeals Board; Hopewell Twinning Assn. minutes 3/17/08; and ARLS minutes 3/18/08]; Personnel Change Report; Public Hearings Announcements: None; Routine Approval of Work Sessions: Reminder - Budget Work Session April 29, 2008 - 6:00 PM; Ordinances on second and final reading: none; Routine Grant Approval: none; Proclamations/Resolutions/Presentations: Bishop Thomas Blanding. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes

Mayor Taylor invited Bishop Thomas Blanding and his wife to the podium and read the proclamation to him. Bishop Blanding thanked Council.

**PROCLAMATION**

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**WHEREAS, Bishop Thomas L. Blanding** was born to Leroy and Katie Blanding at John Randolph Hospital on September 6, 1952; and **Thomas's** siblings are Alberta Barnes, John Blanding, Myrtle Blanding-Haynes, Edith Baker, and Alfred Blanding; and

**WHEREAS, Bishop Blanding's** children are Shalonda Blanding, Latetia Blanding, Senithia Hewlett, Namtasha Joyner, and Kinshasa Joyner; his grandchildren are Jahlen Hewlett, Micah Chatman and Karmaria Ford; and on December 8, 2001 he made Helen Wilkins his wife; and

**WHEREAS,** the people that most influenced his life were his parents Leroy and Katie Blanding, Deacon John Studavant, and Deacon Fred Persons; and

**WHEREAS, Bishop Blanding** founded and began the TLB Outreach for Christ Ministry in Hopewell in 1990 and some of his outreach programs were the Foodbank, the Clothing Closet, and a Substance Abuse Program. Also birthed out of that ministry was The Patricia Blanding Scholarship Relief Program as part

April 22, 2008

of the TLB Outreach for Christ Ministry which takes students on tours to college campuses, sends children to summer camps, and helps children with other needs for their schooling; and

**WHEREAS, Bishop Blanding** also is a part of the Community Gang that began in March 2006 with a vision that it would teach children to Pray the Lord's Prayer in school during the School's Moment of Silence (meaning they would really revere the Lord and not take the opportunity for granted).; and

**WHEREAS,** the program is now working with the Boys and Girls Club and extending to the children there an opportunity to accentuate their talents through Stepping & Fancy Drill, Majorette Baton Twirling, Singing, and Dancing; and,

**WHEREAS, Bishop Blanding's** vision is to build a Ministry in Ghana, West Africa where he has been several times and will be returning to in March of 2009. He sees the need for bridging the gap between the youth here and the youth there in Ghana.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED,** by the City Council of Hopewell, Virginia that the City of Hopewell recognizes the contributions of

**Bishop Thomas L. Blanding**

in the City of Hopewell.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April 2008.

*/s/Steven R. Taylor, Mayor*  
City of Hopewell, Virginia

**PUBLIC HEARING - PROPOSED FY 2008/2009 CITY BUDGET**

**PROPOSED BUDGET  
FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2009**

In accordance with the Code of Virginia, Section 15.2-2506, herewith is published a synopsis of the proposed annual budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009 and is only for informative and fiscal planning purposes.

This was the night advertised for a Public Hearing on the proposed City Budget, at which time citizens stated their views concerning the proposed city budget. Copies of the proposed budget were made available for public inspection in the office of the City Clerk, Room 218 of the Municipal Building and at the Appomattox Regional Library at 220 Appomattox Street, Hopewell, Virginia.

**SUMMARY OF FUNDS BUDGETS**

Fund	2007/08	2008/09	INCR (DECR)	PERCENT CHANGE
	ACTUAL BUDGET	PROPOSED BUDGET		
General Fund	\$39,609,902	\$40,659,596	\$1,049,694	2.58%
Recreation Fund	1,692,473	1,754,935	62,462	3.56%
Social Services Fund	4,607,814	5,254,618	646,804	12.31%
CSA Fund	2,546,443	2,925,531	379,088	12.96%
Self-Insurance Fund	370,950	668,510	297,560	44.51%
Cemetery Care Fund	80,950	59,300	-21,650	-36.51%

April 22, 2008

Anti-litter Fund	6,000	6,000	0	0.00%
Marina/Harbor Fund	108,500	130,500	22,000	16.86%
School Operating Fund	42,726,557	45,786,059	3,059,502	6.68%
School Textbook Fund	950,000	950,000	0	0.00%
School Cafeteria Fund	2,040,740	2,149,230	108,490	5.05%
Building & Bus Fund	1,234,495	1,263,556	29,061	2.30%
Solid Waste Fund	2,066,665	2,203,412	136,747	6.21%
Sewer Services Fund	6,431,701	8,639,493	2,207,792	25.55%
HRWTF Fund	12,124,795	15,978,006	3,853,211	24.12%
CDBG Fund	218,552	218,552	0	0.00%
Capital Projects Fund	4,071,821	4,304,330	232,509	5.40%
Econ. Development Fund	404,748	482,175	77,427	16.06%
Interfund Transfers	-16,397,003	-16,022,235	374,768	-2.34%
TOTALS	\$104,896,103	\$117,411,568	\$12,515,465	10.66%

PROPOSED TAX RATES ON ASSESSMENT VALUES

	2007	2008
Real Estate	\$1.09 per \$100	\$1.09 per \$10
Machinery and Tools	3.05 per \$100	3.05 per \$100
Personal Property	3.05 per \$100	3.05 per \$100
Mobile Homes	1.09 per \$100	1.09 per \$100

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:45 PM.

**Steve Thomas**, 3509 N. Colonial Drive, Hopewell, representing FOLAR addressed City Council seeking support for their request of \$2,000.00.

**Jane McCullen**, 511 Mansion Drive, Hopewell, representing Historic Hopewell Foundation, asked for \$18,000.00 for a full-time secretary. They would like to be able to keep the gift shop open year round. She also reviewed some of their accomplishments and fund raising efforts.

**Valerie Claiborne**, 1801 Arlington Road, Hopewell, stated her support and concern for the youth and senior citizens of this city.

**Brenda Harrup**, The Heritage Gardens Foundation, Inc., Hopewell, reported on the partnership with the Hopewell Department of Recreation and Parks. She introduced 11-year-old Miss Jordan McDowell, the first Junior Master Gardener. The Heritage Gardens Foundation asked that Council reconsider the \$5,000 for the coming year. They requested \$18,500 which includes \$12,500 for an entire irrigation system replacement, and \$6,000 for capital improvements.

**Mary Forbes**, Hooray for Hopewell Festival, voiced appreciation for approval of their full budget request.

**Bettina Coghill**, Riverside Regional Jail Authority, requested \$96,000; the City Manager recommended \$43,000. Without the full funding, services would have to be cut to Hopewell, or they would have to cut staff. There are currently three full-time staff members. There were 740 placements last

April 22, 2008

year. So far this year there have already been 649 placements. It costs \$37.00 per day per placement. She asked that City Council please reconsider the full request.

There being no other speakers, the Public Hearing was closed at 8:20 PM.

**PUBLIC HEARING - REQUEST FROM HARLAN ENTERPRISES AND HOPEWELL CRAFTS CO., INC. TO VACATE THE NORTHERN PORTION OF WESTOVER AVENUE LOCATED AT ITS INTERSECTION WITH ELM STREET**

The City of Hopewell received a request from Harlan Enterprises and Hopewell Crafts Company, Inc. to vacate the northern portion of Westover Avenue located at its intersection with Elm Street. The right-of-way is situated adjacent to Part of Lots 2-5, Block 27, Highland Park also identified as Sub-Parcel #042845, and all of Blocks 28-29, 31-36 and Vacated Pine, Oak and Birch, Willow and Park Place Streets known as Sub-Parcel #042875. The total area of the right-of-way would be divided equally between the applicants. Hopewell Crafts Company, Inc., owners of Sub-Parcel #042845, has plans to construct a building on their property. Harlan Enterprises, owners of Sub-Parcel #042875, have plans to extend the gate currently on their property.

The Public Hearing was opened at 8:25 PM.

**Robert Ellis**, 7019 W. Quaker Road, Disputanta, owns Hopewell Craft Company with his son Jerry Ellis. They have been in business for over 50 years. He asked Council's support of the vacation request.

There being no other speakers, the Public Hearing was closed at 8:27 PM.

**Motion** was made by Councilor Emerson, and seconded by Councilor Sealey, to approve an ordinance on first reading to authorize the vacation of the northern portion of Westover Avenue located at its intersection with Elm Street. The right-of-way is situated adjacent to Part of Lots 2-5, Block 27, Highland Park also identified as Sub-Parcel #042845, and all of Blocks 28-29, 31-36 and Vacated Pine, Oak and Birch, Willow and Park Place Streets known as Sub-Parcel #042875. The total area of the right-of-way would be divided equally between the applicants. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS**

**Valerie Claiborne**, 1801 Arlington Road, Hopewell, recognized the work of builder Jimmy Jones at the corner of Arlington Road. He has put in some lovely homes. She also voiced thanks to Vice Mayor Pelham and Councilor Bailey for always working and networking; and thanks to City Council in general.

There being no other speakers, that portion of the meeting was closed at 8:30 PM.

**CITIZEN/COUNCILOR REQUEST - MAYOR TAYLOR - UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY AND SCANNING PROJECT**

Mayor Taylor requested that City Council consider allocation of funds necessary to move forward with underwater exploratory archaeology and scanning of portions of the James and Appomattox Rivers.

April 22, 2008

**Motion** was made by Councilor Emerson, and seconded by Councilor Cuffey, to resolve to allocate \$46,407.00 from the Economic Development Fund, to move forward with underwater exploratory archaeology and scanning of portions of the James and Appomattox Rivers. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes

**CITIZEN/COUNCILOR REQUEST - MAYOR TAYLOR - DEDICATE CITY PROPERTY NEAR BAILEY'S CREEK WETLANDS AS A PARK**

Mayor Taylor requested that City Council consider dedicating City property near Bailey's Creek wetlands as a park for contact and precontact period Indian history interpretation and environmental stewardship education. The area is bordered by Route #10, Hummel Ross Road and Bailey's Creek and is surrounded by wetlands. The park will be developed later through grants obtained by the Historic Preservation Committee.

Mayor Taylor thanked Joe Jones from the College of William & Mary, Center for Archaeological Research for their assistance with the project. He also recognized Ken Tomko of Honeywell for his work on the nature preserve.

Mr. Jones indicated that the College of William & Mary, Center for Archaeological Research has served the City of Hopewell since 2003. The knoll feature at the proposed site is surrounded by wetlands. He presented some slides of the artifacts found at the site. From a Heritage/Tourism standpoint, there is no other interpretive park with this aspect of prehistoric site in Virginia or perhaps elsewhere.

**Motion** was made by Councilor Bailey, and seconded by Councilor Sealey, to resolve to dedicate City Property near Bailey's Creek wetlands as a park for contact and pre-contact period Indian history interpretation and environmental stewardship education. The area is bordered by Route #10, Hummel Ross Road and Bailey's Creek and is surrounded by wetlands. The park will be developed later through grants obtained by the Historic Preservation Committee. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes

**CITIZEN/COUNCILOR REQUEST - TAMMY BUFFKIN, OWNER OF POINTE OF PROMISE DANCE STUDIO IN DOWNTOWN HOPEWELL**

Ms. Tammy Buffkin, owner of Pointe of Promise Dance Studio, 206 Appomattox Street, Hopewell, and its patrons, addressed parking issues, related safety concerns, and courtesy to businesses during street construction in Historic Downtown Hopewell. Ms. Buffkin indicated that her business has grown from 23 students to 89 ranging in age from 2 to 70 years old. Her main concern is location. The downtown renovations have created safety hazards for her business. As a result of the renovation process, on-street parking has been eliminated. Parking is now across the street. It is a very hazardous place to cross the street to enter her building. They would like for Council to consider helping with cross walks,

April 22, 2008

signs, more police presence, speed limit signs, etc. Also present were the Office Manager and a parent representative from the business.

Mayor Taylor indicated that this issue should be referred to the Transportation Safety Board. The City Manager will explore a 25 MPH speed limit sign and a cross walk. Ms. Buffkin's phone number is 895-1758.

**Julie Helmer**, Office Manager at Point of Promise Dance Studio reported that at the Open House in July 2007 the streets downtown were closed. Patrons became accustomed to crossing the street with no traffic. Now there is traffic, and no cross walk, no reduced speed signs, and most students are under age 10.

**Jeannie Underwood**, Dance Studio parent (no address given), asked why parking is allowed on the other side of Appomattox Street. It seemed to her that the City is planning for future business and not taking care of current businesses. Mr. Altman provided a detailed answer to her question.

### **WAIVE COUNCIL'S RULES AND PROCEDURES**

**Motion** was made by Councilor Emerson, and seconded by Councilor Cuffey, to Waive Council's Rules and Procedures to consider a concern in Ward #4. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes

Councilor Sealey stated that as a Councilor he has always decided on issues about the whole City. But sometimes there are issues about individual wards. Saturday morning he was in Woodside Court. He found out from a citizen that there has been a drainage problem in that area for 25-35 years. They were told that they were in the Flood Plan. The issue dates back to when Paul Karnes served on City Council. One citizen said that his concerns had not been addressed for 20 years. There is a creek behind their homes. The water line in the citizen's garage was at eight inches. The citizen would like to clear the creek. The City told him that he could not clear it; yet the City also did not clear it. Councilor Sealey asked administration to look at this issue. They would need the permission of all the property owners on the street, but probably would not encounter any opposition. Further, he requested that this item be included on the City Council Agenda for May 13, 2008 to give these people some relief after all these years.

**DISCUSSION:** Perhaps the City as a whole should be looked at. A Work Session should be planned. Some areas are worse than Woodside Court. Public Works needs a GIS system for this purpose. This issue has been raised several times before, in other areas. The more impervious the surface, the more drainage problems there will be. There was a suggestion to attend the VML sponsored forum in Lynchburg next month on Development and Sustainability. There should be no problem with an overall plan for the City. But these people do not want to wait any longer. Councilor Sealey asked that this be investigated for a quick cure.

### **REGULAR BUSINESS - HOPEWELL BUREAU OF POLICE - BULLETPROOF VEST PROGRAM - 2008 GRANT APPLICATION**

The City of Hopewell is eligible to apply for \$5,029 in Bulletproof Vest Program funding for 2008. The Hopewell Bureau of Police requested that City Council approve the grant application on April 22, 2008. The application deadline is April 23, 2008.

April 22, 2008

The Hopewell Bureau of Police has participated in the Bulletproof Vest Program for 10 years. \$21,634 in funding has been approved in the last five years. 50% of costs for bulletproof vests will be reimbursed as receipts are submitted. For the past two years, annual reimbursement has been approximately \$7,000.

**Motion** was made by Councilor Emerson, and seconded by Councilor Cuffey, to resolve to authorize the Hopewell Bureau of Police to apply for 2008 Bulletproof Vest Program funding. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes

**REGULAR BUSINESS - HOPEWELL BUREAU OF POLICE & HOPEWELL SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT - CRATER CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING ACADEMY - MEMBERSHIP RESOLUTION - EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008**

The Hopewell Bureau of Police requested approval to transfer membership from the Chesterfield County Police Training Academy to Crater Criminal Justice Academy. The effective date of the transfer is July 1, 2008.

The Hopewell Bureau of Police has held membership with Chesterfield County Police Training Academy since 2003. The academy has provided basic law enforcement and in-service training for police officers and communications officers. The fee for membership in the Chesterfield County Police Training Academy has increased incrementally by about 3%. For the 2007/2008 membership year, the annual fee was \$13,428. Chesterfield County Police Training Academy instructors are employees of the Chesterfield County Police Department. Crater Criminal Justice Academy is multi-jurisdictionally based. The academy provides basic law enforcement and in-service training for police officers, animal control officers, and communications officers. The instructors are representative of the cities and counties holding membership with the academy: Greensville, Emporia, Petersburg, Prince George, Surry, Sussex, and Waverly. The fee for membership is \$316.74 per employee. Accounting for 60 sworn personnel (police officers and animal control officers), the membership fee is \$19,004. The upfront fee for membership at Crater Criminal Justice Academy is higher when compared to Chesterfield County Police Training Academy's membership fee, however, the cost of Chesterfield is exclusive of the costs for duty uniforms for the academy. The average cost to clothe a police officer recruit for Chesterfield's Academy is \$300. The cost of all other duty gear is about \$1,700 and includes items such as raingear, protective vests, tactical boots/shoes, and a handgun. Further, membership at Crater affords the department's trained instructors to teach new recruits in the classroom setting.

**Motion** was made by Councilor Cuffey, and seconded by Councilor Emerson, to resolve to authorize the Hopewell Bureau of Police to transfer membership from the Chesterfield County Police Training Academy to Crater Criminal Justice Academy effective July 1, 2008. The annual membership fee with Crater Criminal Justice Academy is approximately \$19,004. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes

April 22, 2008

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the Crater Criminal Justice Training Academy (the “Academy”) is located in Prince George, Virginia and provides training to twenty separate law enforcement agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, Hopewell’s Bureau of Police has been conducting training through Chesterfield County’s training program, the contract for which expires June 30, 2008, and the Hopewell Sheriff’s Office is currently a contractual member of the Academy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Police Chief and Sheriff have recommended that Hopewell become a member of the Crater Criminal Justice Training Academy to address the long-term training needs of the members of both departments.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the City Council of Hopewell that, pursuant to Section 15.2-1747 of the Code of Virginia and Section 6 of the Agreement Establishing the Crater Criminal Justice Training Academy dated July 1, 2002 (the “Agreement”), the City of Hopewell hereby requests that the City be allowed to join the Academy as a member effective July 1, 2008. In the event that the Board of the Academy approves the request for membership, the City agrees to be bound by the Agreement to the same extent as the other members of the Academy.

Adopted this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April 2008.

*/s/Ann M. Romano, City*

**REGULAR BUSINESS - 2008 VML POLICY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS - REQUEST FOR COUNCIL INTEREST**

The Virginia Municipal League is now accepting nominations for its 2008 policy committees. The form should be completed and returned to VML by May 9, 2008. Although Hopewell has a May election, the form should be returned by the requested date even if we must revise it later. VML relies on the policy committee nominations to select steering committee members. They have added a policy committee addressing community and economic development issues to their list of standing policy committees.

Two individuals may be nominated to a committee. Only elected and appointed officials of the Council are eligible to serve. No individual may serve on more than one committee. The mayor must sign the nomination form. The committees are: Community & Economic Development Committee; Environmental Quality Committee; Finance Committee; General Laws Committee; Human Development & Education Committee; and Transportation Committee. The form must be submitted by May 9, 2008.

**REGULAR BUSINESS - APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

**Motion** was made by Vice Mayor Pelham, and seconded by Councilor Sealey, to resolve to appoint Myria Thompson from Ward #4 to the Ad Hoc City Song Committee. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes

April 22, 2008

## REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Bailey reported on Go Green Virginia and provided website information at 222.gogreenva.org through VML. She discussed City fleets and switching to bio-diesel or ethanol fuel. She announced a DEQ Public Hearing on April 23, 2008 - 4:00-4:30 PM - Information; 4:30 - PH Public Hearing at Carter G. Woodson Middle School. DEQ's website has more information. That information is also available in the City Manager's office. Osage has appointed a president to the Hopewell Plant which should be announced soon.

Councilor Cuffey reported that Sheriff Anderson will introduce Delegate Riley Ingram at the Sheriff's Organization on Friday, April 25, 2008, in Portsmouth, Virginia. He congratulated youth who achieved "A" honor roll. His soccer team was defeated, but they played a good year.

Councilor Sealey spent last Tuesday at Hopewell High School visiting Mr. Whipp's and Mr. Bronner's Government Classes. He explained to the students how the City works and answered their questions, which were very similar to those of Hopewell's voting public.

Councilor Emerson thanked the City Clerk for her work on the recent Boards and Commissions Appreciation Banquet. He solicited Talent Bank Resumes for the Neighborhood Watch Advisory Council. He was very pleased about the progress at The Bluffs.

Vice Mayor Pelham congratulated Barbara Crosby upon her retirement after 35 years. She started her own business and was a pastor of a local church. Ms. Pelham attended the prom and after prom event. She thanked the vendors and volunteers who participated. She wished a Happy Birthday to her two granddaughters. She appreciated Councilor Sealey's visit to HHS and Councilor Bailey's visit in October 2007. She invited all members of Council to visit the high school.

Mayor Taylor praised the Police Chief for his work in Hopewell. The first meeting of Hopewell's Former Mayors was held on April 25, 2008 in Council Chambers. Mayor Taylor provided an update of activities in Hopewell. In the next two to three weeks the new Walgreens will begin redevelopment of the block behind WaWa in Hopewell. Neighbors of The Bluffs had many complaints while it was occupied. They are now complimentary; the demolition has raised their quality of life. He reminded voters of the Council election on the first Tuesday following the first Monday in May - the 6<sup>th</sup>. He urged everyone in Wards 4, 5 and 6 to vote.

## ADJOURN

At 9:45 PM, **motion** was made by Councilor Cuffey, and seconded by Councilor Sealey, to adjourn the meeting. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes

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Steven R. Taylor, Mayor

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Ann M. Romano, City Clerk