

February 10, 2009

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 10, 2009**

A Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Hopewell, Virginia, was held Tuesday, February 10, 2009, at 6:00 PM in the City Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 300 North Main Street, Hopewell, Virginia.

PRESENT: Brenda S. Pelham, Mayor  
N. Gregory Cuffey, Vice Mayor  
Christina J. Luman-Bailey, Councilor  
Curtis W. Harris, Councilor  
Kenneth B. Emerson, Councilor  
Gerald S. Stokes, Councilor  
K. Wayne Walton, Councilor

Ann M. Romano, City Clerk  
Edwin C. Daley, City Manager  
Stefan M. Calos, Interim City Attorney

Vice Mayor Cuffey opened the meeting at 6:30 PM. Roll call was taken as follows:

Mayor Pelham	-	ABSENT (arrived at 6:50 PM)
Vice Mayor Cuffey	-	present
Councilor Bailey	-	ABSENT (arrived at 6:35 PM)
Councilor Harris	-	present
Councilor Emerson	-	ABSENT (arrived at 6:41 PM)
Councilor Stokes	-	present
Councilor Walton	-	present

**CLOSED SESSION**

**Motion** was made by Councilor Stokes, and seconded by Councilor Walton, to convene into Closed Session to discuss Boards & Commissions, Legal Matters, and Economic Development Project Update, in accordance with Virginia Code Sec. 2.2-3711 (A) (1) & (7). Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Walton	-	yes
Vice Mayor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Stokes	-	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 Walton	-	yes
Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Stokes	-	yes

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**REGULAR MEETING**

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

Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Stokes	-	yes
Councilor Walton	-	yes

Prayer was offered by Vice Mayor Greg Cuffey, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion** was made by Councilor Emerson, and seconded by Vice Mayor Cuffey, to approve the Consent Agenda: Minutes: January 6, 2009 Work Session; January 13, 2009 Regular Meeting; January 27, Work Session; Pending List; Information for Council Review: HRWTF Notice 1/12/09, HRWTF Comm. Agenda 1/26/09 & min 12/15/08; HRHA agenda 1/12/09 & minutes 10/13/08; Social Services Advisory Board minutes 11/3/08 & 2008 Annual Report; Senior Citizens Advisory Comm. Agenda 1/20/09 & min 11/18/08; District 19 CSB minutes 12/4/08; Recreation Commission report 1/29/09; TSB agenda 2/3/09 & minutes 12/4/08; Personnel Change Report & Financial Report; Public Hearings Announcements: none; Routine Approval of Work Sessions: February 17, 2009; February 18, 2009; and, February 24, 2009; Ordinances on second and final reading: none; Routine Grant Approval: none; Proclamations/Resolutions/Presentations: Employee of the Quarter - Brenda Barricks, HRWTF. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Walton	-	yes
Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Stokes	-	yes

Mayor Pelham, along with staff from the HRWTF, presented the Employee of the Quarter plaque to Brenda Barricks. She thanked everyone and was commended for doing a good job.

Mayor Pelham also asked that everyone stand and observe a moment of silence for Walter "Bones" Moore Altman, Jr. who served as Hopewell's City Engineer for many years. He was the grandfather of March Altman, Assistant City Manager for Development, and step-father of Councilor Jerry Stokes.

**PUBLIC HEARING - BUTTERWORTH'S LOFTS, LLC - DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT**

This was the night advertised for a public hearing to receive public comments regarding whether to sell or give any or all of the City of Hopewell's right, title and interest in the former Butterworth's Furniture Store and Warehouse property, located at 245 East Broadway and 244 East Cawson Street, for the development of a mixed-use development containing approximately 25 to 33 luxury residential units; approximately 3,947 square feet of commercial/retail space; and associated parking lot improvements on the vacant lots along East Cawson Street and to enter into a Development Agreement with Butterworth's Lofts, LLC for the mixed-use development of said property.

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The City Administration requests authorization from City Council to sell certain parcels of land identified as parcel numbers: 0800800, 0800815, 0800820, 0800825, and 0800830; containing approximately 0.482 acres more or less of land and improvements; also known as Lots 18-21, Lots 32-37, and Part of Lot 22, Block 8, West City Point Subdivision (commonly referred to as the “former Butterworth’s Furniture Store and Warehouse property”), located at 245 E. Broadway and 244 E. Cawson Street (the “Property”) to and enter into a Development Agreement with Butterworth’s Lofts, LLC for the development of a mixed-use development containing approximately 25 to 33 luxury residential units; approximately 3,947 square feet of commercial/retail space; and associated parking lot improvements on the vacant lots along E. Cawson Street.

The City of Hopewell solicited proposals for adaptive reuse of the Property. The City received five (5) proposals and interviewed two (2) developers. City Council authorized the City Administration to negotiate the terms of a Development Agreement with the Developer. The Developer has identified the Property as prime development opportunity and foresees the development of a mixed-use project on the site that will enhance retail/commercial and residential opportunities while improving the downtown. The Developer plans to use the Federal and State Historic Preservation Tax Credit programs to finance the project.

Mr. Altman reported that Monument Development changed its name to Butterworth’s Lofts LLC for this project.

Butterworth’s Lofts LLC introduced Chris Johnson and Tim Dickie, owners of Monument Construction & Development; Lee Shadbolt of Commonwealth Architects, and Mark Galt of Development Strategies. They gave a brief presentation about the proposed adaptive reuse project for the former Butterworth’s furniture building. (The report and plans are filed in the City Clerk’s Office.)

The building is currently not in good shape. Plans include a back terrace, added windows, exposing all brick, and introduction of some new elements. The front façade has good detailing, but needs repainting and signage. There will be all tile bathrooms; granite countertops; all hardwood floors; ceiling fans in the bedrooms and living room; washers & dryers; all stainless steel appliances; and mahogany cabinetry.

DISCUSSION: There will be an elevator in the three-story building. The first floor will be half residential and half retail, 60 feet deep. They would like to attract a restaurant for the first floor space. There will be a deck in the back that would serve a restaurant as an anchor tenant. The one-half residential space would be in the rear of the building, and the entrance would be from the courtyard. The company did great work in Suffolk and the hope is to spur development here in Hopewell. Work could begin as early as mid-March 2009. This project will go to the BZA on February 18 for consideration of the variance and special exception, and back before Council for second reading in March and then they will start. The project is expected to be completed within 10 to 13 months. Councilors congratulated and thanked the developers for their interest in Hopewell.

The public hearing was opened at 8:09 PM.

**Katherine Podlewski**, 507 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Hopewell, was excited about the rehabilitation and hoped the project would be finished. She urged City Council to also consider riverfront focus. She referred to the residents at the end of Broadway and at Cornez Manor and wondered if they were aware of this project. She mentioned other possible rehabilitation sites: the old jail building; Mallonee School; and many other buildings. She thanked the developers for coming.

There being no other speakers the public hearing was closed at 8:11 PM.

**Motion** was made by Vice Mayor Cuffey, and seconded by Councilor Harris, to approve an ordinance on first reading authorizing that the sale by city of the following described real estate: parcel #0800800, 0800815, 0800820, 0800825, and 0800830; containing approximately 0.482 acres

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more or less of land and improvements; also known as Lots 18-21, Lots 32-37, and Part of Lot 22, Block 8, West City Point Subdivision (commonly referred to as the “former Butterworth’s Furniture Store and Warehouse property”), located at 245 E. Broadway and 244 E. Cawson Street be authorized, and that execution by the city manager of the Development Agreement (filed in the City Clerk’s Office) and incorporation by reference hereby be approved and authorized. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Walton	-	yes
Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Stokes	-	yes

### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS**

There being no speakers, Communications from Citizens was closed at 8:13 PM.

### **PRESENTATION - HOPEWELL EMERGENCY CREW**

Captain Aubrey J. Taylor, Captain & CEO of the Hopewell Emergency Crew provided a brief report. Capt. Taylor has volunteered for over 20 years, and previously served as Equipment Officer and Training Officer, as well as Fire Medic at Ft. A. P. Hill. He presented Certificates of Appreciation to Mayor Pelham for the City of Hopewell, to Elesteen Hager, in the absence of the Fire Chief, for the Bureau of Fire, and to Chief Martin for the Bureau of Police, in recognition of valuable contributions to the Hopewell Emergency Crew.

There is a requirement to provide 36 hours per month in the area. In 2008, members clocked 18,097 hours in training, meetings and duties. Some members volunteered over 1,000 hours. They received 1,309 calls for service in 2008. They are not always able to cover all the calls, and in those cases they call the Hopewell Fire Department for help. All 911 calls go to the Hopewell Police Department dispatch. He also presented their Quarterly Newsletter, and introduced some of the members of the crew.

Council members thanked the crew for the service they provide.

### **PRESENTATION - RECREATION COMMISSION**

Chairman Bobby Pershing introduced Recreation Commission members Jim McMillen, John Loshkreff, Marion Hebert, and Brooke Hines, student representative. Unable to attend were Shalik Spencer, student representative, and Chris Jamison, who started as a student representative and was recently appointed a full member.

A Power Point presentation was given by Brooke Hines, member of the Recreation Commission (copy filed in the City Clerk’s Office).

The Hopewell Community Center is designated as the main shelter in an emergency. Mr. Pershing thanked everyone involved in the programs.

**DISCUSSION:** Council commented that the “Day at the River” was in September 2008. Geo thermal and solar panels, in reference to the Go Green initiative, are now moving to being involved with more community groups. The Commission received a grant from Dominion Virginia Power. Council expressed appreciation for all their hard work, and especially congratulated Brooke Hines on making the PowerPoint presentation.

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**PRESENTATION - SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Shirley Brannan, Chairman, made the presentation to City Council on behalf of the Senior Citizens Advisory Commission, with assistance from Verna Hock from the Recreation Center (copy filed in the City Clerk's Office). Ms. Brannan introduced the commission members who were present: Herndon Smith, Vice Chair; Paul Karnes; Debbie Cruppenik; Olivia Dragoo; and Tommy Wells; and those who were unable to attend: Brenda Bland; Myrtle Casey; Wilma Crowder; and Mildred Lindsey.

She reported that the Moose Lodge has been inviting the Respite Group to many of their functions. The Respite Program is held on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. The following individuals were inducted into the Senior Citizens Hall of Fame in 2008: Tommy Wells; Connie Wilde; James Casey; and Riley Ingram, Sr.

City Council expressed appreciation for all the commission does for the city.

**CITIZEN/COUNCILOR REQUEST - MAYOR PELHAM, STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS**

Mayor Pelham reported on the State of the City (filed in the City Clerk's office). It was indicated that the Council Advance was held the last week of January. Council developed new visions for the city. They hope to get together to finish the work they started at the Advance. She thanked all of Council for their attendance and participation; and everyone who assisted in the preparation, and afterwards. It was a success. There is a new president, Barack Obama. There is a change of administration in the nation and in city government. The ethanol plant was approved and its ground breaking was held in October 2008; we affirm our appreciation of Hopewell's existing industries, the origin and lifeblood of Hopewell; and she welcomed Osage to Hopewell. But because it is a national priority, Hopewell is now one of the first communities in the nation, definitely the first on the east coast, helping meet the national goal of increasing investment in alternative and renewable energy in order to end our addiction to foreign oil. There is commercial and residential growth in the city. Anchor Point continues to grow, the new subdivision across from Anchor Point, Cameron Landing, is moving forward, and the new housing division has begun at the end of Jackson Farm Road. The Mayor wished to see continued growth throughout the city. The Go Green initiative is in Hopewell.

Regarding the budget, the city will be losing many appropriations from the state. The city's greatest resource is its employees. She thanked all city employees. The John Randolph Medical Center wrote off \$2M in debt due to services to indigents. She encouraged everyone to volunteer for the city's boards and commissions, or agencies. Volunteers perform many activities throughout the city.

Mayor Pelham thanked the Fire Chief and those who worked to assist the 13 displaced families on Sunday morning, February 8. She gave thanks for any and all support to those individuals. She indicated that she would like a city-wide faith-based program for the summer for students, and perhaps to join with the churches on the Hopewell/Prince George Chamber of Commerce listing, to work on one major goal. Choose action over inaction; hope over fear. Let's care for the things that matter.

**CITIZEN/COUNCILOR REQUEST - KATHERINE PODLEWSKI - REQUEST THAT CITY PARK OFFICIALLY RECLAIM ITS NAME**

Katherine Podlewski, 507 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Hopewell, requested that City Council officially name the city park at the former Patrick Copeland School site.

**REGULAR BUSINESS - PLANNING COMMISSION - REQUEST SUBMITTED TO RESUBDIVIDE A 1.35 ACRE PARCEL INTO TWENTY-THREE (23) TOWNHOUSE LOTS FORMING SECTION B, ANCHOR POINT SUBDIVISION**

The City Administration has received a request from Anchor Point Ventures, LLC to re-subdivide a 1.35 acre parcel of land into twenty-three (23) lots for development as townhouses. Currently, Section

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B is subdivided into fifteen (15) townhouse lots. This re-subdivision represents an increase of eight (8) lots. The property is zoned PUD/R-4, Planned Unit Development/Residential Apartments, and is located off of Anchor Point Boulevard. The lots will be served by public water and sewer and will be located off of Schooner Lane. The proposed lots meet the minimum lot area and width requirements of the zoning district and the proffered conditions approved by City Council.

The Hopewell Planning Commission reviewed this request at its January 8, 2009 meeting and has recommended approval of the request to City Council. City Council approved an amendment to the Plan of Development (POD) with proffered conditions at the April 25, 2006 Council meeting. The POD was amended to include 53 single-family detached dwellings, 155 townhouse units (100 - 1600 square foot minimum units and 55 - 1900-2400 square foot units), and four (4) additional high-rise condominium buildings.

**DISCUSSION:** The traffic situation was looked at in 2004 and 2006. The entrance was off of Atwater Road. Visitor parking is an issue. They are trying to find some off site parking down the street. Appreciation was expressed for this investment in Hopewell. There was a request to see more grass in the development. There was concern for topographical issues and wetlands, and building eight of the townhouses elsewhere. Concern was raised that none of Anchor Point's ads indicate that they are located in Hopewell. Work on the additional four high rise buildings will start some time in the next two years.

**Motion** was made by Councilor Emerson, and seconded by Councilor Harris, to resolve to approve the request to resubdivide a 1.35 acre parcel into twenty-three (23) townhouse lots forming Section B, Anchor Point subdivision. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Walton	-	yes
Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Stokes	-	yes

**REGULAR BUSINESS - 2009-2010 CHALLENGE GRANT VIRGINIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS - WESTON MANOR and LOCAL ART CHALLENGE GRANT**

The Historic Hopewell Foundation (HHF) is seeking a Challenge Grant from the State Commission for the Arts for which we must apply on their behalf. HHF has requested to maintain the grant amount of \$4,150. This grant will enable HHF to conduct art and art-related programs at Weston Manor which programs they are expanding.

The City will file for the grant, under the following conditions:

- (1) The grant will not be accepted unless matching funds are provided by a local agency.
- (2) The City will serve as fiscal agent but not provide matching funds.

Attached, you will find a copy of the proposed budget for HHF for the arts program under the Challenge Grant for FY 09-10.

The City of Hopewell through the Recreation and Parks department has been applying for said grant annually.

The fiscal impact is that \$8,300 (of which 50% or \$4,150) will be reimbursed by the state through the Challenge Grant. The other 50% would be through a private source.

**Motion** was made by Councilor Emerson, and seconded by Councilor Walton, to resolve to authorize application by the Department of Recreation and Parks for this 50/50 matching grant, thereby continuing programs for the community, with 50% reimbursed by the state, and 50% through a private source. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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Councilor Walton	-	yes
Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Stokes	-	yes

**REGULAR BUSINESS - TERESA BATTON, CITY TREASURER - PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDING HOPEWELL CITY CODE CHAPTER 34, ARTICLE 1, TAXATION, TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF FEES ASSESSED FOR RETURN CHECKS, ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS AND ATTORNEY'S FEES**

The current check and administrative fees allowed per City Code Chapter 34, Article 1, Taxation are less than allowed by State Code Section 15.2-106 and 58.1-3958, respectively. Attorney's fees as currently stated do not allow the payment of attorney's fees without court action.

It is recommended that the check fee be increased from \$20 to \$35 and administrative fees be increased to allow up to the maximums per State law. It is also recommended that the existing city ordinance regarding 20% attorney's fees be changed to allow charging of attorney's fees without a court action.

The Treasurer is planning to hire an attorney and/or debt collection firm to assist in collecting some of the City's delinquent taxes. The current wording in the city ordinance does not allow the payment of 20% attorney's fees except with court action, and the proposed City ordinance allows the payment of 20% attorney's fees without court action. In addition, the fees for returned checks and administrative fees are below what is allowed by State law, and the increase will more adequately cover the costs associated with such actions.

It is estimated that annual revenues collected by the Treasurer's Office may increase approximately \$10,000 to \$15,000 by changing the fee limits for return check fees and administrative fees. The attorney's fees are added to the delinquent bills and, if collected, are paid by the person with the delinquent bill and have no impact on City revenues.

**Motion** was made by Vice Mayor Cuffey, and seconded by Councilor Harris, to approve an ordinance on first reading amending Hopewell City Code Chapter 34, Article 1, Taxation, to increase the amount of fees assessed for return checks, administrative costs and attorney's fees. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Walton	-	yes
Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Stokes	-	yes

**REGULAR BUSINESS - RECOMMENDATION TO THE JUDGE FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION FOR A TERM EXTENDING TO OCTOBER 31, 2009**

**Motion** was made by Councilor Stokes, and seconded by Vice Mayor Cuffey, to recommend to the Honorable Judge Sharrett the name of Paige Owen for appointment to the Board of Equalization for a term extending to October 31, 2009. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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Councilor Walton	-	yes
Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Stokes	-	yes

**REPORTS OF THE CITY CLERK - APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS**

**Motion** was made by Vice Mayor Cuffey, and seconded by Councilor Emerson, to appoint Karl Bostaph, Ashland Aqualon, to the HRWTF Commission for a term extending through October 31, 2011. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Walton	-	yes
Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Stokes	-	yes

**Motion** was made by Councilor Walton, and seconded by Councilor Emerson, to appoint John Hill, from Ward #5, to the Neighborhood Watch Advisory Council for a term extending through October 31, 2009. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Walton	-	yes
Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Stokes	-	yes

**Motion** was made by Councilor Bailey, and seconded by Councilor Stokes, to appoint Joyce Pritchard to the Planning Commission/Wetlands Board, for a term extending through October 31, 2010. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Walton	-	yes
Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Stokes	-	yes

**Motion** was made by Councilor Emerson, and seconded by Vice Mayor Cuffey, to appoint Elliott Eliades to the Planning Commission/Wetlands Board, for a term extending through October 31, 2012. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Walton	-	yes
Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes

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Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Stokes	-	yes

### **REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEES:**

Councilor Bailey reported on the Go Green Advisory Committee meeting on Wednesday, February 4, 2009. A large crowd attended, including Ann Williams, Hopewell School Board Vice Chair. The commission has partnered with VACo, as well as VML. The Virginia School Board Association is considering taking on its own version. The next step is to reach out to the communities. The ICKLY Program will be involved. Councilor Bailey suggested that Hopewell get a membership to ICKLY; the cost is \$600 per year. They can provide information and programs for carbon emission monitoring.

Vice Mayor Cuffey reported on the Hopewell/Prince George Chamber of Commerce Liaison. At their recent meeting they presented the Economic Development Report and Vice Mayor Cuffey worked with them to get more involved with businesses in the city. The 2009 Brochure and city map are available to the public. Finally, there have been many ribbon cuttings.

### **REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Councilor Walton mentioned the recent fire on Sunday in City Point. There is an urgent request for clothes at the Shepard's Place. The City's ladder truck has been disabled for over a year. That issue needs to be looked at. He reported on the park, the new pier and new pavilions. The Soccer Complex is a great addition to the western part of the City.

Councilor Stokes reported on the Council Advance. After 15 hours, he was delighted. Everyone basically had the same idea for where the city should go in the next 20 years. Council members had the same priorities, good foresight, and vision for the City. He was pleased with the Advance.

Councilor Emerson had a Ward #3 meeting at the Library. He divided his ward into Neighborhood Watch groups. Two new candidate areas were designated. Neighborhood Watch is key to helping the Hopewell Police Department to deal with crime in Hopewell. All communities should be urged to participate. He suggested that all Council members divide their wards and establish Neighborhood Watch groups. The Food Pantry has very little food to distribute. He urged more food contributions to stock the pantry, and clothes to the Shepard's Place. WHAP will make some announcements on the radio. The next Ward #3 meeting will be on April 6, 2009. Councilor Emerson invited everyone from Ward #3 to attend.

Councilor Bailey remarked on the Council Advance. Quality of life was one issue that all Councilors had in common. She is interested in doing things for the elderly. She also mentioned digging out the old amphitheater behind the old Patrick Copeland school site. She mentioned the Parkside Apartment fire in City Point on Sunday. She thanked the Hopewell News for getting out the letter she sent to them on Sunday evening. She has already received calls. She has also received calls from the residents. Councilor Bailey thanked Quick Lunch for bringing meals for the residents and fire fighters, and she thanked the H/PG Red Cross. The Red Cross needs donations. The victims need places to stay, but the Red Cross has no resources. She mentioned having a fund raiser to give money to the Red Cross for victims of this fire. Helen & Sherman Wingate have new furniture that they can donate. Some people lost their laptop computers; she does not know how to go about helping to replace some items. She urged citizens to contact Councilor Bailey or Ann Romano. The fire fighters stated that they were glad that this building was so well built because it could have collapsed. The structure is a landmark for many citizens in Hopewell.

Councilor Harris is trying to get the Smithfield Packing Company to give meat to the Food Pantry. Apparently they donated 1,000 lbs. of meat, but it went to Richmond. Union Baptist Church members volunteer at the pantry every day. In another matter, he mentioned that there have been recent bomb threats at Hopewell High School and at Carter G. Woodson Middle School. The City should be

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alert so that when we have threats of any kind, we could make contact with the Hopewell Police Department, the schools and the students. Chief Martin commented on the bomb threats. The one at HHS was in November 2008. The investigation revealed that there were intruders on that day. But, they could not verify who the intruders (from Petersburg) said those words to about the bomb threat. There was talk through the investigation that someone heard that, but it could not be verified. The police identified all four subjects; three have been arrested and the fourth will be advertised this week. They have been charged with trespassing. The CGW threat came through a phone call to the school. They police are looking to find the original call; it is still under investigation. They are trying to find who or where the call came from. They received excellent help from the Sheriff's Department, the Fire Department, and the Virginia State Police with bomb sniffing dogs. Police met with the School Board on each occasion. There have been several debriefings with each case with critical discussion.

Councilor Harris continued his reports. He referred to the Advance, and he indicated that he was glad he went. He found out that he had to leave before the Advance was finished. But, he said that he was convinced that everyone there had gotten "some religion" including himself. This Council will do the right thing. Someone asked whether the complaints that he filed would go away and if he would put it in writing. He has not put it in writing yet. But he said that he would withdraw all complaints against members of Council. He was inspired by Council members and the way that they conducted themselves at that meeting. The Council can do many things for the City and its citizens. The responsibility is bigger than any one member of Council.

Vice Mayor Cuffey walked away from the Advance learning something about each Council member. They tore down barriers and built bridges. IT was very productive and they all want to move the city forward. Finally, he said that he was proud of Hopewell students.

Mayor Pelham thanked all the presenters at the meeting. She thanked everyone who worked on the Advance; it was successful. In honor of Walter "Bones" Moore Altman, Jr., for all the work he did for the City as City Engineer, she asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence. Mayor Pelham appointed Councilor Bailey, Vice Mayor Cuffey, and Councilor Walton to a newly formed CDBG Committee. The Mayor asked Council to provide available dates in April for the Annual Boards & Commissions Appreciation Banquet, which is scheduled to be at the Elks Club. She thanked Herbert Bragg, Co-chair, with Willie Hayes of the Annual Black History Program at the Art Gallery; there are limited tickets. She reported on the Walgreen's grand opening. They have broken all records and goals for their first week. Hopewell has been blessed in not seeing foreclosures as much as throughout the country. She thanked Colonial Heights, Ft. Lee, and Prince George fire departments for their assistance. She asked that citizens contact the City Clerk regarding any assistance for the fire victims.

## ADJOURN

At 9:37 PM **motion** was made by Councilor Emerson, and seconded by Vice Mayor Cuffey, to adjourn the meeting. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Walton	-	yes
Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Vice Mayor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Stokes	-	yes

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Brenda S. Pelham  
Mayor

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Ann M. Romano, City Clerk