

January 11, 2011
Regular Council Meeting
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD JANUARY 11, 2011

A Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Hopewell, Virginia, was held Tuesday, January 11, 2011, at 6:30 PM in the City Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 300 North Main Street, Hopewell, Virginia.

PRESENT: Christina J. Luman-Bailey, Mayor
 K. Wayne Walton, Vice Mayor
 Michael C. Bujakowski, Councilor
 Gerald S. Stokes, Councilor
 Brenda S. Pelham, Councilor
 Jackie M. Shornak, Councilor

 Edwin C. Daley, City Manager
 Thomas E. Lacheney, City Attorney
 Ann M. Romano, City Clerk

ABSENT: Curtis W. Harris, Councilor

ROLL CALL

Mayor Luman-Bailey opened the meeting at 6:30 PM. Roll call was taken as follows:

Mayor Luman-Bailey	-	yes
Vice Mayor Walton	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	ABSENT (illness)
Councilor Bujakowski	-	yes
Councilor Stokes	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Shornak	-	yes

CLOSED SESSION

Motion was made by Councilor Pelham, and seconded by Vice Mayor Walton, to convene into Closed Session to discuss Appointments to Boards and Commissions, Personnel, and Legal Matters (Beacon Theatre-pending litigation), as permitted by Virginia Code § 2.2-3711 (A) (1) (7). An amendment was proposed to add the PPEA Proposal Update to the Closed Session. Councilor Pelham and Vice Mayor Walton accepted the amendment, and the motion passed unanimously.

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:

Mayor Luman-Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Bujakowski	-	yes
Councilor Stokes	-	yes
Vice Mayor Walton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Shornak	-	yes

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REGULAR MEETING

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

Mayor Luman-Bailey	-	yes
Vice Mayor Walton	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	ABSENT (illness)
Councilor Bujakowski	-	yes
Councilor Stokes	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Shornak	-	yes

Prayer was offered by Rev. Sylvia Tucker, Chaplain-JRMC, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Walton, seconded by Councilor Pelham, and unanimously passed to approve the Consent Agenda: Minutes Regular Council meeting December 14, 2010; Pending List; Information for Council Review: Hopewell School Board minutes 11/11/10 & meeting announcement 1/4/11; HRHA minutes 9/13/10, agenda 12/13/10, 12/16/10 & notice of Special Meeting 12/21/10; Recreation Comm. agenda 1/12/11 & minutes 12/8/10; Personnel Change Report & Financial Report; Public Hearing announcements: none; Routine Approval of Work Sessions: none; Ordinances on second and final reading: none; Routine Grant Approval: none; Proclamations/Resolutions/Presentations: none.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

There being no speakers, Communications from Citizens were closed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – COUNCILOR BUJAKOWSKI – HIRING ECONOMIC DIRECTOR TO PURSUE DEVELOPMENT OF ROUTE #36, THE RIVERFRONT, AND DOWNTOWN

Councilor Bujakowski introduced the proposal to hire an Economic Development Director to pursue development of Route #36, the riverfront and downtown Hopewell. Hopewell should not wait for something to happen; but should plan for something to happen. Our options to maintain services to our citizens may be limited to raising taxes, and City Council does not want to do that.

Councilor Bujakowski proposed that City Council instruct the City Manager to seek out possible, financially feasible, alternatives by which City Council can obtain the services of an individual, individuals or entities, experienced in Economic Development, which will provide a current economic evaluation of the opportunities, strengths, and weaknesses as they exist within Hopewell. This evaluation will then be used by Council to develop a financially sound plan to search out, contact, and secure business growth in an effort to increase and diversify our tax base and hopefully reduce the future tax burden on the citizens of Hopewell with regards to providing ongoing and necessary services to such citizens.

Motion was made by Councilor Shornak, and seconded by Councilor Stokes, to resolve to approve.

DISCUSSION: The target for solicitation for such a position would either be an individual, a group, or a retiree with such experience. Councilor Shornak has met with Scott Parsons, Executive Director of the Virginia Small Business Financing Authority, and Liz Povar, Virginia Economic Development Partnership. She also met with Connie W. Long, Executive Director of the Virginia Economic Developers Association. A meeting was coordinated with all entities. The Governor made economic development

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resources available to Virginia. Hopewell probably does not need a full-time position and could consider a part-time director. It was suggested that there be a pilot group. The city should review where in Hopewell to concentrate economic development. Hopewell needs to talk to professionals. Those contacted were very encouraging. The efforts of these associations can help Hopewell to develop. The city needs to be proactive. More information is available at www.yesvirginia.org, which lists the community profile for the City of Hopewell. A guidebook is available from the City Clerk's office. Additional resources are the Crater Planning District Commission, the Hopewell/Prince George Chamber of Commerce, Virginia's Gateway Region and VDEP. Mayor Luman-Bailey commended and thanked Councilor Bujakowski for expanding the vision.

The motion to approve was unanimously passed.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS – VICE MAYOR WALTON – DISCUSSION OF HOPEWELL'S
FEDERAL LOBBYIST AND THE NEED TO CUT COSTS FOR THE CITY**

Vice Mayor Walton reported the need to cut costs, especially for the federal lobbyists. They have done an outstanding job over the past few years. But the stimulus package is over now, and reduced money is available. He wishes to put the lobbyists, Alcalde & Fay, on notice. There may not be money to pay them. Their contract terminates on June 1, 2011.

DISCUSSION: Other Council members favored keeping the lobbyists until there are no funds to pay them. The lobbyists have been able to fill in the gap between the elected officials and localities. They fill in the gap when our representatives cannot get to all the committee meetings. Two years ago some Council members met with Congressman Randy Forbes in Washington, D. C. At that time he indicated that he could only garner a small amount of money for Hopewell. He recommended that Hopewell hire lobbyists. The city has received \$1.8M through the efforts of Alcalde & Fay. Funding should be budgeted for FY 2011/2012. Herbert Bragg, Legislative Liaison, submitted recommendations for the Legislative Lobbyist, dated January 5, 2011 (copy filed in the City Clerk's Office). After speaking with Jim Davenport, Alcalde & Fay, they are waiting for the appropriation to release the \$300,000. The firm brought in \$1.8M in the last two years. Hopewell's expenditure for the lobbyists was \$120,000 over the last two years.

1. \$490,560 Community Oriented Policing Services (Cops) was started one and one half years ago. The city would have received some funding even without the lobbyist.
2. \$523,000 Appomattox River Project is for dredging the river not Hopewell's marina. That is possibly ten years away.
3. \$350,000 Green Buildings and Retrofitting.
4. \$257,000 Emergency Operations Command Center.
5. \$250,000 Health & Human.

The lobbyist did help Hopewell to get the money for the last three items. We would not have found the right place to ask for it.

FURTHER DISCUSSION: The city needs to reevaluate, between now and June 2011, if the lobbyists do not bring in any more money. However, the city has gained \$850,000 from the above five items. Hopewell's representatives cannot touch everyone. Another Councilor's concern was what will happen when the federal funding dries up? What are Hopewell's options? Will we continue to pay the lobbyists? The city may terminate the lobbyist contract with 30 days notice. Funding is budgeted through June 30, 2011.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Walton, and seconded by Councilor Bujakowski to give notice to Alcalde & Fay that as of June 1, 2011 the contract will be terminated unless they are able to acquire additional funds for Hopewell.

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(Jim Davenport of Alcalde & Fay was unable to attend the meeting due to the inclement weather. The company has invited Council to Washington, D. C. each year. Two years ago a delegation from Hopewell went and Mayor Luman-Bailey would like to go again. Three of the listed items were a direct result of the efforts of the lobbyist.)

Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Mayor Luman-Bailey	-	NO
Councilor Bujakowski	-	yes
Councilor Stokes	-	NO
Vice Mayor Walton	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	NO
Councilor Shornak	-	yes

The tied vote fails and results in no action.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – COUNCILOR SHORNAK – TRAVEL POLICY

Councilor Shornak asked for a review of the travel policy. Council needs to be mindful of the money that is spent. Travel expenses must be kept in line. Council attends the Virginia Municipal League conference every year. It might be wise to alternate who goes each year so that everyone is not going each and every year. We need to curtail some of the expenses. Travel should be limited to in state rather than out of state. Some of the conferences may not benefit the City of Hopewell. Gas and transportation costs are going up all the time. If an employee is considering attending a conference, the department head must review it carefully.

DISCUSSION: Last year the per diem amount was cut down to \$43.00 per day. It was difficult to stay within those parameters. Now the proposal is to reduce it to \$30.00 per day making it even more difficult. Transportation costs are limited to \$200 one way, \$400 round trip. With these limitations, no one will be able to attend any training, meetings, conferences, etc. Some people have a lot of money, but others do not. With the new FY 2011/2012 budget it is the hope that the daily per diem amount remains at \$43.00 and is not reduced to \$30.00 per day. (In the past Council was served a sandwich meal at Council meetings, but that has been eliminated.) Reducing the per diem will not balance the budget. Other points of view are that we are best represented in our own state. Costs range from \$2,000-3,000 for the entire conferences with travel, lodging, meals and registration. If someone wants to go to those places it should be looked at to determine if it will benefit Hopewell. There was consideration that this should be added to a Work Session for further discussion. Previous Council had something on the table and did nothing with it.

Motion was made by Councilor Stokes, seconded by Councilor Bujakowski, and unanimously passed to postpone the Travel Policy to the next Work Session.

REGULAR BUSINESS – NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES (NLC) CONGRESSIONAL CONFERENCE, WASHINGTON D. C., MARCH 2011 – COUNCILOR PELHAM

Councilor Pelham plans to attend the NLC Congressional Conference in Washington D. C. in March 2011, because she was unable to attend the conference in December.

Motion was made by Councilor Stokes, seconded by Councilor Pelham, and unanimously passed to authorize Councilor Pelham to travel to the NLC Congressional Conference in Washington D. C. in March 2011.

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REPORT OF CITY CLERK – APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Motion was made by Councilor Bujakowski, seconded by Councilor Shornak, and unanimously passed to reappoint Robert G. Moore to the Industrial Development Authority, for a term extending through October 31, 2014, and to appoint Mike Naulty to the Board of Zoning Appeals, for a term extending through October 31, 2015.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Walton, seconded by Councilor Pelham, and unanimously passed to authorize Mayor Luman-Bailey to appoint to a Special Finance Committee, Councilor Shornak, Councilor Stokes, and Councilor Bujakowski.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Councilor Pelham reported on the RC&D meeting held in November 2010. The organization provided grants to the Hopewell School System; \$500 was given to Woodlawn School for the second year, for the program “Appreciate Mother Earth.”

Councilor Shornak reported on behalf of the Legislative Committee meeting held on Wednesday, January 5, 2011. Mayor Luman-Bailey, Councilor Shornak, Herbert Bragg-Legislative Liaison, and Dr. Daley, City Manager will meet with delegates at the General Assembly to talk about items that Hopewell wants them to focus on. The session begins on Wednesday, January 12, 2011. Councilor Shornak thanked Mr. Bragg for helping with the draft documents.

Councilor Shornak reported on the Emergency Hazards Training held on Saturday, January 8, 2011 and coordinated by Ben Ruppert, Emergency Management Department. Prince George elected officials and administration were invited and several attended also. They were made aware of training if something should happen and what the Emergency Plan would be. The meeting made them aware of what is lacking in that area. There is a need to focus more on this. As a city, we need to do a better job; there are areas of improvement. Vice Mayor Walton, Councilor Pelham, Mayor Luman-Bailey and Councilor Shornak attended. The Mayor reported that experts from Texas A & M presented the training which was paid for by FEMA. It was a very informative session.

REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Shornak thanked administration for the I-Pads, and she thanked Elesteen Hager for the instructions.

Councilor Stokes was happy to be back from sick leave, and he thanked everyone for their thoughts and cards. He was feeling better and would begin physical therapy soon. He hopes that Dr. Curtis Harris improves and returns soon also.

Councilor Pelham reported that Delegate Joe Morrissey sent out surveys to Ward 6 and Ward 2 residents asking for their input in the General Assembly this year. If you need help contact 720-8619, or call the City Clerk or Hopewell High School. In another matter, Virginia’s Gateway Region’s Annual Meeting is on Thursday, January 13, 2011. Councilor Pelham wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Vice Mayor Walton attended the USO Grand Opening at Ft. Lee; there was a good turnout. It was good to support our troops. There will be a Scenic River meeting next week. Mayor Luman-Bailey thanked the Vice Mayor for attending as she was unable to attend.

Mayor Luman-Bailey announced that Thursday, January 13, 2011 there is an MPO meeting to discuss the Transit System in Hopewell. CMAQ funds will be used at no cost to the City. She expressed that everyone misses Rev. Harris. If Ward #2 constituents need assistance while Rev. Harris is unavailable, they were encouraged to contact any other member of Council who would be happy to provide support. On Saturday, January 22, 2011 Dr. Curtis W. Harris will be honored with a Unity Ride

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and Rally held at 12:00 beginning at Riverside Hospital in front of the flag pole, 500 J. Clyde Morris Boulevard and proceeding to the C. W. Harris Empowerment Center, 209 Terminal Street, Hopewell, Virginia. The family of Dr. Curtis W. Harris, including his wife, Ruth Harris and children will be on hand to receive the participants of the unity ride and rally on Saturday, January 22, 2011 upon their arrival to Hopewell, Virginia at 2:00 p.m. Mayor Luman-Bailey wished everyone a Happy New Year.

ADJOURN

At 8:27 PM **motion** was made and unanimously passed to adjourn the meeting.

Christina J. Luman-Bailey
Mayor

Ann M. Romano, City Clerk