

March 8, 2011
Regular Council Meeting

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD MARCH 8, 2011

A Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Hopewell, Virginia, was held Tuesday, March 8, 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 (illness)

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	-	ABSENT (arrived at 6:47 PM)
Councilor Shornak	-	yes

CLOSED SESSION

Motion was made by Councilor Bujakowski, seconded by Vice Mayor Walton, and unanimously passed to convene into Closed Session to discuss Acquisition/Disposition of Property, as permitted by Virginia Code § 2.2-3711 (A) (3); Personnel, as permitted by Virginia Code § 2.2-3711 (A) (1); and, Appointments to Boards and Commissions, as permitted by Virginia Code § 2.2-3711 (A) (1).

OPEN SESSION

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

March 8, 2011
Regular Council Meeting

REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Luman-Bailey opened the regular meeting at 7:45 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. James Clements, Chaplain-JRMC, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Luman-Bailey offered an amendment to the City Council minutes dated February 8, 2011, regarding the presentation by the Virginia Main Street Program. Hotels and restaurants cannot be members of the Main Street Program. Members of the Main Street community maximize downtown assets: community, personal service, cultural heritage, and rich architecture.

Motion was made by Councilor Shornak, seconded by Councilor Pelham, and unanimously passed to approve the Consent Agenda: Regular meeting February 8, 2011, as amended, and Work Session February 22, 2011; Pending List; Information for Council Review: School Board minutes 1/4/11 (Spec. Mtg.), 1/13/11, agenda 2/8/11 & Budget WS 2/24/11; Recreation Commission minutes 1/12/11 & agenda 2/9/11; HRWTF Comm. draft minutes 10/25/10 & agenda 2/7/11; HRHA minutes 12/13/10 & Spec. Mtg. 12/21/10, agenda 2/14/11 & 2/15/11 officer announcement; Senior Citizens Advisory Comm. minutes 1/18/11 & agenda 2/15/11; Personnel Change Report & Financial Report; Public Hearings Announcements: none; Routine Approval of Work Sessions: March 29, 2011 Work Session; Ordinances on second and final reading: #2011-01 – Hopewell Real Estate LLC, “B” Village; Routine Grant Approval: none; Proclamations/Resolutions/Presentations: none.

PUBLIC HEARING – REQUEST TO DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO AMEND THE LOCAL ENTERPRISE ZONE PROGRAM INCENTIVE PACKAGE BY ADDING TWO ADDITIONAL INCENTIVES

This was the night advertised as a Public Hearing to hear citizen comments regarding a request that will be submitted by the City of Hopewell to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development to amend the local Enterprise Zone Program incentive package by adding the following two incentives: (1) A partial real estate tax exemption on the increase in assessed property value resulting from rehabilitation/revitalization/replacement of commercial, multi-family, hotel/motel, or mixed-use real estate located in the Enterprise Zone; and (2) A partial exemption from taxation of machinery and tools tax for certain businesses located in the Enterprise Zone. The general purpose of the Enterprise Zone is to stimulate economic development activity and to create an improved business climate for private sector investment, development and expansion within the targeted zone area.

The public hearing was opened at 7:48 PM. There being no speakers, the public hearing was closed at 7:48 PM.

Mr. Altman gave brief remarks regarding the Enterprise Zone, begun in 2005. Cavalier Square is not included in the Enterprise Zone.

March 8, 2011
Regular Council Meeting

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Walton, and seconded by Councilor Stokes, to resolve to adopt a Resolution authorizing application for additional incentives to the City of Hopewell Enterprise Zone Program. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

RESOLUTION
AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR ADDITIONAL INCENTIVES TO
THE CITY OF HOPEWELL ENTERPRISE ZONE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, in 2005, the City of Hopewell applied for and was granted designation for a Virginia Enterprise Zone area pursuant to § 59.1-538 et seq. Code of Virginia, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hopewell continues to have an interest in stimulating economic development activity and to create an improved business climate for private sector investment, development and expansion within the targeted zone area; and

WHEREAS, the City's Enterprise Zone program currently offers seven local incentives in addition to the financial incentives provided by the Commonwealth of Virginia, and desires to add additional incentives to the City's Enterprise Zone Real Estate Rehabilitation program, to provide for an increase in the length that the partial exemption of real estate tax is effective compared to properties located outside of the City's Enterprise Zone area to 10 years versus 5 years and to provide for partial exemption from machinery and tools taxes for businesses located in the Enterprise Zone which is newly constructed, expanded, renovated or replaced; and

WHEREAS, having reviewed and considered the Virginia Enterprise Zone program requirements, it appears that the additional incentives being considered would qualify as amendments to the City's Enterprise Zone program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Hopewell hereby authorizes the City Manager to submit an application for amendments to the City's Enterprise Zone program to add incentives to the Real Estate Rehabilitation program, increasing the length that the partial exemption of the real estate tax is effective compared to properties located outside of the City's Enterprise Zone area to 10 years versus 5 years and to provide for partial exemption from machinery and tools taxes for businesses located in the Enterprise Zone which is newly constructed, expanded, renovated or replaced.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

Communications from Citizens were opened at 7:52 PM.

Rogers Henry, 2303 Boston Street, Hopewell, had concerns from the citizens on Boston Street and Dublin Street regarding speeding vehicles (cars and dirt bikes), and drugs. Citizens want to know what they can do to stop these activities. Mr. Henry is working with the Neighborhood Watch, but needs a phone number to call to let police officers know when these activities are taking place. His own phone number is 943-8924.

Ruth Johnson, 3911 Williamsburg Drive, Hopewell, is a concerned citizen. Regarding the issue of Police Chief Martin's resignation, she has not heard any resolution for him to stay. Council members are the representatives elected by the people. She does not want to see Hopewell digress. The city should

March 8, 2011
Regular Council Meeting

become safe and secure. Police officers are more visible in the city. Ms. Johnson was concerned that a decision about the Police Chief had not been made yet. She wants to see the city grow, and she would hate to see progress stop if the Chief leaves. (7:57)

James Moore, 1102 Heretick Avenue thanked Council for the opportunity to speak. He presented a petition circulated among Hopewell citizens, with 232 signatures in support of Police Chief Martin staying, which he distributed to Council (filed in the City Clerk's office).

The petition was entitled, "*Action Petition from Concerned Citizens of Hopewell, Virginia to City Officials Request that City Officials ask the Chief of Police to Reconsider Resignation.*" Petition summary and background: *Chief Steve Martin was appointed as Hopewell, Virginia's Chief of Police in 2008. Since becoming the Chief of Police, he is responsible for the reduction of crime, increased trust and improved relationships between the police and the citizens of the community, which has led to a safer community. Currently, he is being hampered in his duties, by various city officials and is seeking employment elsewhere. But, Chief Martin has stated that he will continue in his position as the Chief of Police, if the City Council will ask him to stay.*" Action petitioned for: "*We, the undersigned, as concerned citizens are urging City Council, City Manager and the Commonwealth Attorney, to act now to 1) ask our Chief of Police, to stay in his position as the Chief of Police of Hopewell, 2) to support Chief Martin in his efforts and all his endeavors to reduce crime in our city, and 3) demand that city officials and any and all government sanctioned organizations, stop the tirade of maligning attacks on Chief Martin's reputation, work ethics and his department immediately!! Publically and Privately!!*"

Mr. Moore stated that there may have been a problem with communication between the Chief, the Commonwealth's Attorney, and the City Manager. If everyone involved communicated, more could be done in the city. He indicated that Councilor Shornak assured that she would get the three people to sit down together. (*Councilor Shornak emphasized that she said she would try, not assure.*) Law enforcement in the City of Hopewell is the common topic for their discussion. Citizens want to see a functional Police Department. He will fight this issue with whoever is the Chief, should Chief Martin leave. If the miscommunication continues, there will be no progress. He urged Council, the Police Chief, City Manager and Commonwealth's Attorney to get together and talk. The longer a Chief stays at one locality the better the city will run. It costs a lot of money to solicit a new chief. (8:04)

Lisa Middleton, 3901 Kippax Drive, Hopewell, thanked Councilor Stokes regarding the light on Hercules Road. She is not from Hopewell; she is not from Virginia. She has lived here for fourteen years and is a single mother with two sons. She felt that taxes on everything in this city are excessive. It was unclear to her why citizens are still paying a license fee when there is no sticker. It might be cheaper to raise the tax and eliminate the license tax. She asked Council to consider that. (8:07)

Joyce Porter, 2406 Lee Street, Hopewell, addressed Council regarding the Police Chief. She urged community mindedness. Hopewell does not stand together and needs to unify as one body. City Council represents citizens. Chief Martin is doing a great job. Please think about what we are doing to one another. Think about the business Chief Martin has done already. (8:09)

Valerie Claiborne, [redacted] High Avenue, Hopewell, supported Chief Martin. She felt that he has done a phenomenal job, and she would hate for Hopewell to lose someone so good for the City. She hopes that Council will listen to the citizens. Council was voted in to represent the citizens. There was a Neighborhood Watch City Wide meeting on March 8. She urged Council not to be like Colonial Heights where they discussed a Neighborhood Watch, but before it was formed two individuals were murdered in their home. Let Hopewell be the city that is safe day and night. (8:12)

There being no speakers, Communications from Citizens were closed at 8:12 PM.

March 8, 2011

Regular Council Meeting

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – PRESENTATION – MARCH ALTMAN, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT, AND POLICE CHIEF STEVE MARTIN, ON CODE ENFORCEMENT AND OVERSIZED RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

March Altman, Assistant City Manager for Community Development, and Police Chief Steve Martin distributed handouts entitled “Enforcement of the Zoning Ordinance Provision related to the parking or Storage of Recreational Vehicles, Utility trailers, or Watercraft and Trailers.” (Copy filed in the City Clerk’s Office). Mr. Altman reviewed Residential districts; Exceptions; and Enforcement of the Zoning Ordinance provision. Chief Martin reviewed the involvement of the Bureau of Police related to the same subject.

DISCUSSION: Appeals go to the General District Court and not the Circuit Court because it is not a criminal violation. There have been no requests as yet to park watercraft. It will start in the areas with the most calls, in this case Farmingdale. Then it will work its way into the rest of the community. The City Engineer has a policy for roll offs during construction. PODS are allowed for a certain number of consecutive days.

No action was required.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – ADVERTISE THE MARINA PPEA FOR PUBLIC HEARING UPON RECEIPT OF A COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Walton, seconded by Councilor Pelham, and passed unanimously to direct the City Manager to advertise the Marina PPEA for public hearing upon receipt of a Comprehensive Agreement.

CITIZEN/COUNCILOR REQUEST – COUNCILOR BUJAKOWSKI – PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO COUNCIL’S RULES THAT COUNCIL WILL NOT VOTE ON ANY FINANCIAL ISSUES ON THE NIGHT OF FIRST PRESENTATION

Councilor Bujakowski proposed that Council will not vote on any financial issues on the night of first presentation. When material is distributed to City Council on the night of a meeting there is no time for Council to review and ask questions before taking action. Therefore, Councilor Bujakowski proposed that action cannot be taken until Council has had an opportunity to read the material and have time to develop questions. Council would then take action at a subsequent meeting.

DISCUSSION: About two-and-a-half years ago Council requested discussion at a Work Session before being required to vote at a Regular or Special Meeting. Staff will provide as much information as possible for Council review, before being required to take action, but occasionally there are extenuating circumstances. If an item is on the agenda, all the supporting documentation should be part of the agenda packet. If not, then it should not be discussed. If information is not available the issue should be tabled.

No action was taken.

REGULAR BUSINESS – EXTEND URBAN ARCHERY SEASON

At the City Council Work Session held on August 24, 2010, Council discussed Deer Hunting – Urban Archery, Sec. 37-9. The City Manager and Police Chief proposed October to December 2010, and September to March 2011. The City Manager introduced the subject of deer hunting within the City of Hopewell. He met with the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, but missed the April 1 deadline in 2010. An ordinance was prepared in September, to be in compliance with the state. On September 14, 2010, Council waived the rules to allow public comments regarding the Deer Hunting Ordinance, Urban Archery. Council adopted Ordinance No. 2010-23, amending Hopewell City Code, Chapter 37, Weapons, on one and only reason as an emergency measure, on a 6/1 vote.

March 8, 2011
Regular Council Meeting

If the City of Hopewell desires to be a part of the urban archery program in the fall of 2011, a letter must be sent to Nelson Lafon, District Wildlife Biologist, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, 7938 Hog Island Road, Surry, VA 23883 or 517 Lee Highway, P. O. Box 996 Verona, VA 24482, nelson.lafon@dgif.virginia.gov.

The City Manager explained that last Fall Council amended the City Code to allow Urban Archery Season during October, November and December 2010. Eight deer were checked with the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries: three bucks, four does, and one button buck. Part of the code states that the hunter must remove the deer, it cannot be left behind after being killed. If Council wants to expand the Urban Archery Season to include the six months of October through March, the state must be notified before April 1, 2011. Council's choices: (1) leave the program as is; (2) cancel the program and amend the City Code; (3) extend the program to six months by sending a letter to the state by April 1, 2011; or (4) changing the regulations.

DISCUSSION: A recommendation was made to extend the season to six months, but get more bow-hunters. Try to find more bow hunters available in the morning or during the day time. Next year hunters would know in advance and there would be hunters. There would have to be a schedule. Also, concern was expressed about this past year. Extending the program through March raises a concern about safety. Calls were received from some people who do not want the deer killed, and others want them out of their property by any means. Councilor Bujakowski remarked that his vehicle was hit by deer. Few people expressed concerns. If three to five deer per month are killed, is that enough to change the deer pattern to not eat the flowers? If we are not going to change the deer's pattern, then is it something we should do? Other Councilors received comments regarding safety of residents who may encounter deer running after being shot with an arrow. Residents of Cobblestone just want the deer gone. Without hunting, 8-12 deer will be killed on Hopewell streets after running out and getting hit by cars. An average of five or six deer per month for six months will slow down the deer population. There was a good attempt during the three months of the program in the fall. There have not been any injuries related to the Urban Archery thus far. Hunters who currently have permits would be contacted next Fall to determine if they wish to continue with the program. The Police Department issues hunting permits. Urban Archery has not proved to be a major success tool in any city.

By consensus of Council the issue was postponed to the Work Session on March 29, 2011.

REGULAR BUSINESS – PRESENTATION – ELESTEEN HAGER, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, AND SANDRA HUGHES, REAL ESTATE ASSESSOR, BI-ANNUAL REAL ESTATE REASSESSMENT

Elesteen Hager, Finance Director introduced Sandra Hughes, Real Estate Assessor, who gave a brief presentation on the Bi-Annual Real Estate Reassessment in Hopewell.

The purpose of the presentation was to provide Council with a better understanding of the general reassessment process. The City of Hopewell conducts a biennial reassessment on all real property every two years. The 2011 Biennial Reassessment has been completed and notices were mailed. The State requires a general or annual reassessment by all localities and that the properties are assessed at 100% of market value in a fair and equitable manner.

The steps used in determining the assessed values of properties are as follows:

- Sales ratio studies are done for the sales of properties the prior two years before the reassessment year. In the 2011 reassessment the ratios used were for the years 2008 and 2009. The combined ratio for the two years indicated our overall ratio was 96%. The sales ratios indicate what percent our assessments are of the sales. The residential properties are separated into 41 neighborhoods and in addition to overall sales ratio, sales ratios are done for each individual neighborhood. Neighborhoods are made up of subdivisions which adjoin and have similar types of dwellings.

March 8, 2011
Regular Council Meeting

- Sales ratios are also calculated for vacant land, multi-family, commercial and industrial sales, but this presentation will focus on single-family residential properties.
- Once the ratios are analyzed, including any vacant residential land sales which have taken place, field inspections are performed on the sales and then on the other properties in a given neighborhood. Upon the completion of the field inspections, new assessments are determined by using replacement cost new less depreciation. If the valuation for sales is less than the selling price or higher than the selling price, a neighborhood adjustment is applied to the calculated assessments.
- When the reassessment is completed for all properties in the City, notices are sent to the property owners, showing the old assessment and the new assessment which is effective January 1 of a given year. The 2011 Reassessment has an effective date of January 1, 2011.
- Single-family residential properties decreased an average of 3% for the reassessment just completed.
- Property owners have 15 days to appeal their assessment during the Assessor's Hearings and if they are not satisfied, they can then appeal to the Board of Equalization. The Board of Equalization hearings will be held April 5, 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14 from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. and appointments are required. The final step in the appeal process is to the Circuit Court.
- A sales ratio study has been completed for the 2010 sales, using the 2011 assessments and the study indicates that our 2011 assessments are 96% of market value.
- We have had 98 foreclosures in calendar year 2010 and 58 in 2009, which indicates a 60% increase in foreclosures since 2009.
- Many of the bank-owned homes were resold at values less than market value and are considered distressed sales. Per code and best appraisal practices, these sales are not used in our reassessment process.

Residential properties in Hopewell currently on the market may remain on the market longer (current average 124 days), but 2011 sales indicate that the selling prices are close to the same or lower than the 2009 assessments.

If Council should have questions or concerns or would like to know more about the functions of the Assessor's Office, please contact Sandra Hughes at 541-2234.

DISCUSSION: A property value could go up due to new siding, replacement windows, addition of a garage, etc. Fees associated with appeals are the responsibility of the property owner. Since the fall, every piece of property in Hopewell is already on line. Council received at least two complaints that homes could not be sold at the assessed values. Some examples will be posted on the wall outside the door to the Real Estate Assessor's office. A public computer is available inside the office for citizen use, where they can look up whatever they want. (9:00 pm)

No action was required.

REGULAR BUSINESS – ORDINANCE AMENDING AND REENACTING AND ADDING SECTION 34-40, PARTIAL EXEMPTION FROM TAXATION OF MACHINERY AND TOOLS TAX FOR CERTAIN BUSINESSES LOCATED IN THE ENTERPRISE ZONE, TO ARTICLE II, TAX ON REAL ESTATE, MACHINERY AND TOOLS, OF CHAPTER 34 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF HOPEWELL

Motion was made by Councilor Pelham, and seconded by Vice Mayor Walton, to approve an Ordinance on **first** reading, to amend and reenact, and add Section 34-40, Partial Exemption from Taxation of Machinery and Tools Tax for certain businesses located in the Enterprise Zone, to Article II,

March 8, 2011
Regular Council Meeting

tax on Real Estate, Machinery and Tools, of Chapter 34 of the Code of the City of Hopewell. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

REGULAR BUSINESS – REPORT OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

Mr. Lacheney addressed the issue of Councilor Curtis W. Harris’ absence from his seat due to extended illness. Council does not have the authority to put a temporary replacement on Council to represent Ward #2 during his illness.

Citizens in Ward #2 with any problems were welcomed to contact any Council member; they are all available to offer assistance.

A Ward #6 Meeting will be held on the first Monday in April (April 4), at Turner Bland Funeral Home, on Arlington Road in Hopewell, at 6:00 PM. Councilor Pelham announced that a Ward #6 meeting will be held at that time and location on the first Monday of each month.

Mayor Luman-Bailey encouraged all Ward #2 residents to bring issues to Council meetings. A Ward #2 meeting may be planned in the future.

REGULAR BUSINESS – CITY CLERK – APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Motion was made by Councilor Pelham, seconded by Vice Mayor Walton, and unanimously passed to appoint Tonya Pulliam, Private Provider, and Josie Craighead-Bailey, Parent, to the CPMT.

Mayor Luman-Bailey announced the current vacancies on City boards and commissions: Architectural Review Board – one 4-year term to 10/31/14; Clean City Commission – one unexpired term to 10/31/11 and one unexpired term to 10/31/12; Industrial Development Authority – one 4-year vacancy to 10/31/15; NWAC – two vacancies Ward 35 to 10/31/11 and one vacancy, Ward #7 to 10/31/12; Transportation Safety Board – one 4-year term to 10/31/14; JTCC-Local Board – one 4-year term to 6/30/15; Technology Fund Committee – one vacancy.

In addition, the Mayor suggested a revision to the Talent Bank Resume form to include which boards require Statements of Economic Interests, Financial Disclosure Statements, or Real Estate Disclosure Statements.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

- **RC&D – Councilor Pelham** congratulated Woodlawn Learning Center for receiving a National Award for three and four-year old gardeners. The RC&D provided four \$500 grants this year.
- **Legislative Committee – Councilor Shornak** reported on behalf of herself and Mayor Luman-Bailey as members of the Legislative Committee, (Councilor Harris is also a member who has been unable to participate due to his illness). Councilor Shornak thanked Herbert Bragg, Legislative Liaison for the great job he has done. He attended many meetings in Richmond. The committee accomplished much during the 2011 session. She also thanked the legislators for their work and assistance to the City. Mr. Bragg will provide a summary presentation at a later date. Mayor Luman-Bailey was pleased with the success of keeping the M & T Tax.

March 8, 2011
Regular Council Meeting

- **Law Library Committee – Councilor Stokes** announced that the committee met last week. The Law Library is located in the Courts Building, and is open to the public. Court fees help to promote the Law Library. The committee decided to name the Law Library after a local attorney who also serves on the John Tyler Community College-Local Board, Homer C. Eliades. A formal ceremony will be held in another month and will be publicized.
- **Vice Mayor Walton** reported on behalf of the **Crater Planning District Commission** and mentioned Ft. Lee and Rolls Royce. The CPDC is doing well regionally.
- **Mayor Luman-Bailey** reported that about 2500 Harley Davidson motorcycles are coming to town, and should be good for the local economy. She also mentioned the Sesquicentennial Committee.

REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Stokes referred to earlier comments by a Ward #4 constituent regarding paying the fee for no vehicle stickers. He illuminated that before stickers, metal plates were issued until 1963 when he, as City Treasurer, changed to the stickers. Those fees generate approximately \$300,000, and the city cannot afford to eliminate that. Before voting on tax rates for personal property, the city should explore how much it could be raised before getting rid of the fee. Review that rate before adopting it.

Councilor Pelham thanked everyone who participated in the Black History Month in February. She especially thanked Kim Bennett who held a jubilee at A Touch of Red. Activities were also held at Sunlight Elks Lodge at which the First Presbyterian Choir performed; she thanked their pastor. She announced the Fine Arts Festival at Carter G. Woodson Middle School on the last weekend in March. On the first Monday in April, there will be a focus group to discuss city issues.

Vice Mayor Walton reported that the Scenic River Bill passed. That will add to regional help with grants, etc.

Mayor Luman-Bailey reported on the Quartermaster “Night at the Museum” which is live re-enactment at Ft. Lee on Saturday, March 12, 2011, 6:00-9:00 PM. She thanked Col. Bingham for being the guest speaker.

ADJOURN

At 9:26 PM **motion** was made and unanimously passed to adjourn the meeting.

Christina J. Luman-Bailey
Mayor

Ann M. Romano, City Clerk