

March 29, 2011  
Special Meeting & Work Session

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING and  
WORK SESSION HELD MARCH 29, 2011**

A Special Meeting and Work Session of the City Council of the City of Hopewell, Virginia, was held Tuesday, March 29, 2011 at 6:30 PM, in 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 Romano, City Clerk

ABSENT:                   Curtis W. Harris, Councilor (illness)

Mayor Luman-Bailey opened the Work Session at 6:30 p.m. Roll call was taken as follows:

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

**CLOSED SESSION**

**Motion** was made by Councilor Bujakowski, seconded by Councilor Stokes, and unanimously approved to convene into Closed Session to discuss Pending Litigation (Beacon Theatre), in accordance with Virginia Code Sec. 2.2-3711 (A)(7), Appointments to Boards and Commissions (Temporary appointment of Council representatives to committees), and Personnel, in accordance with Virginia Code Sec. 2.2-3711(A)(1).

**OPEN SESSION**

Council convened into Open Session at 8:00 PM. 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:

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

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At the request of the City Manager the Update of the Hopewell High School funding schedule and progress of the renovation and addition was moved up on the agenda to accommodate Mr. Ray Watson who will be having back surgery on Friday. Mayor Luman-Bailey, with the consent of Council, invited Mr. Ron Caricofe, School Board Member, and Mr. Ray Watson, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, to make their presentation.

**WORK SESSION**

**REGULAR MEETING – UPDATE OF HOPEWELL HIGH SCHOOL FUNDING SCHEDULE –  
RON CARICOFE, HOPEWELL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER and RAY WATSON, ASSISTANT  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Mr. Caricofe introduced the presentation to update City Council on the Hopewell High School Funding Schedule and progress report of the renovation and addition. (Copy of the PowerPoint Presentation filed in the City Clerk's Office.)

One of the new classrooms is finished, and part of the main offices. Much of the work will be done in the summer of 2011.

Funding Schedule:

\$5million	GO Bonds	5.25%
\$2.8million	QZAB	1.83% (energy related)
\$7,635,000	QSCB	0%
\$5million	QSCB	0%
\$2,565,000	TBD	TBD (to complete the project)

The architects and contractors are still saying that the completion date will be February 2012. Mr. Caricofe talked about the new Gymnasium. He thanked Mr. Hager and Mr. Watson and their financial staffs for apply for the 17-year bonds. \$12,635million of the \$23million is at no interest. The money will be phased over the 17-year life of that loan. Mr. Caricofe indicated that there would be a new entrance to the gym; new lockers; new weight room. They will apply for a grant for a new work out room. There are three new locker rooms. The trophies will be displayed recessed in the wall and there will be a new concession stand. The School Board is grateful that City Council provided funds for a new gym. Mr. Watson reported that the Wall of Fame will move into the lobby area.

Regarding the Game Day Facility at Merner Field, it is progressing and is up and framed. The Current addition is for the football and soccer programs. Visiting football teams and officials have expressed displeasure about where they are presently required to change clothes. The Game Day Facility had to meet the historic conditions because Merner Field is on the Historic Register as it is attached to the former Mallonee School, now Mallonee Lofts. There will be a loft above for viewing and filming; two locker rooms with benches, hooks, shower, restrooms and offices. Mr. Caricofe thanked Mr. Garcia and Mr. Stevenson for building the Game Day Facility, the Historic Hopewell Foundation, and the Hopewell Athletic Association for donations.

Donor plaques may be located on the outside of the Game Day Facility, protected from the weather. As soon as the building is given to the School Board they will work with the Athletic Association to place the plaques in a prominent place. They should be located where they will be easily visible by donors and the public. Mr. Watson reported that there are plans for a concession stand should

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there be interested donors in the community. The expected completion date is possibly before school is out, but September 2011 at the latest.

In conclusion, Mr. Caricofe reported that every area of HHS has been improved. \$61M has been spent on Hopewell Public Schools since 1987. Three new elementary schools were built, renovations and additions to Carter G. Woodson Middle School and the current renovations and additions at HHS. (8:42 PM)

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**REGULAR BUSINESS – COUNCIL CONSIDERATION TO APPOINT TEMPORARY MEMBERS TO COUNCIL COMMITTEES: CDBG COMMITTEE; NON-ATTAINMENT PLANNING ORGANIZATION (VDEQ); LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE; AND, SCHOOL FACILITIES (CONSTRUCTION) COMMITTEE**

**Motion** was made by Councilor Pelham, seconded by Councilor Bujakowski, and unanimously passed to temporarily appoint Mayor Luman-Bailey to the CDBG Committee; Councilor Pelham to the Non-Attainment Planning Organization (VDEQ); Vice Mayor Walton to the Legislative Committee; and Councilor Bujakowski to the School Facilities (Construction) Committee, until such time as Councilor Harris returns from sick leave, and to appoint Councilor Bujakowski and Councilor Stokes to a Special Committee to Study Options for the Beacon Theatre.

**REGULAR BUSINESS – EXTEND URBAN ARCHERY SEASON**

Mayor Luman-Bailey opened a Public Comment Period at 8:45 PM to receive citizen comments regarding the proposed extension of the Urban Archery Season.

Mr. John Hunter spoke on behalf of fellow bow hunters regarding the proposed extension of the Urban Archery Season. During October-December 2010 eight deer were harvested; 13 deer were hit by vehicles; 1 deer broke through the glass window at K & L Restaurant; 1 deer crashed into a mini van parked at an auto parts store; and finally one buck was trapped in the basketball court at Thomas Rolfe Court and was retrieved and transported to safety. Of the 12-15 archers registered in Hopewell, four or five actually did hunt. Many others belong to hunt clubs. The extended season would give all hunters ample opportunity to hunt in Hopewell. Does drop one or two babies in the spring. There is construction throughout the city and area displaces deer. Urban archery has been proven safe. He urged City Council to extend the Urban Archery season. (8:47 PM)

DISCUSSION: There was Council interest in extending the deer hunting season for the same reasons explained by Mr. Hunter. There are reports of deer damage to personal property during January, February and March. The City should allow some daylight hours also. There could be more hunters if the season is extended. Councilor Bujakowski, Ward 3, sent out an e-mail asking people's opinions about Urban Archer. Fifty-six people responded. Of those, 35 support extending the season; nine want it to remain the same; and 12 want hunting eliminated. Other discussion was about what happens to the meat. Most hunters butcher and use the meat themselves. There is a program in Virginia identified as Hunters for the Hungry which butchers and directly delivers meat to needy families. It cannot be donated to the Food Pantry because they do not accept perishable food. Regarding restrictions on hunting bucks, does, etc., does usually drop their offspring in April and May. During the extended season only antlerless deer may be hunted. During the regular season there are Any Doe Days. The Game Warden has indicated that unless Hopewell sets specific Doe Days, they can be harvested at any time. The extended season would be September thru March. Mayor Luman-Bailey suggested increasing the area to larger than one acre.

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Motion was made by Councilor Stokes, and seconded by Councilor Bujakowski, to authorize participation in the State Urban Archery Program, extended the Hopewell season from September thru December, to September thru March. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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

**WORK SESSION**

**REGULAR BUSINESS – REPORT ON CEMETERY – PHIL ELLIOTT, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, and MARCH ALTMAN, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT**

Phil Elliott, Director of Public Works, presented the report on the cemetery prepared by himself and March Altman, Director of Development, who was unable to attend the meeting. (Copy of report filed in the City Clerk’s Office.)

There are approximately 7,000 grave sites at the cemetery. Forty-two sites are available for infants and cremations only. Approximately 2,100 sites are privately-owned, but no one is currently buried in the site. There are approximately 4,858 persons buried in the Appomattox Cemetery.

The report addressed Buy Back Option; Reconfiguration of the Cemetery Layout; Expand Footprint of Cemetery – Riverside/Jaycee Park, Riverside Park Apartments, Vacant land at Riverside Park Apartments, Appomattox Mobile Home Park; Long Range Plan; and, Options Outside the City.

DISCUSSION: It is not the responsibility of each locality to provide burial plots. Some Councilors favored expansion by about 770 plots and not to consider the 2,100 privately-owned plots. Cremation is becoming a more popular alternative to traditional burials, but there are still those who favor traditional burials. The City Manager indicated that administration will bring a proposal to City Council to amend the code to purchase lots. They will look at options at the Fern Street lot, and eliminate other options for the present. Further discussion included consideration of keeping the price at approximately \$400 per plot. (John Fountain, Administrative Services Manager–Public Works, cautioned Council about changing the policy.) Councilor Bujakowski shared that he asked for this issue to be discussed at a Work Session, and for administration to come up with every potential option on the table. Citizens must be kept informed of the outcome when a decision is made.

**REGULAR BUSINESS – LIGHTING POLICY and COST OF LIGHTS – PHIL ELLIOTT, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS**

Phil Elliott, Director of Public Works, presented the report on the Street Lighting Policy. City Council Policy CC-1 governs the policy dated February 9, 1999.

**STREET LIGHTING POLICY**

City Council Policy (CC-1) covers City street lighting along the roadways, providing night-time visibility at critical locations especially at intersections for the protection of pedestrians and motorists.

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The Policy is a valuable tool for Public Works providing typical guidance that enables us to handle requests for additional lighting. Without the policy guidelines, future lighting requests would not have specific criteria for validation.

Public Works is budgeted solely for the electrical usage of existing streetlights and traffic signals. This budget has not increased in over 12 years and is projects to run about \$8,000 short this fiscal year. Current budgeted amount is \$220,000 and projections indicate that we will need at least \$228,000. Fiscal year 2011-2012, an additional funding was requested to take into account the shortfall as well as the electric charges for the new streetlights from Park View Point, Cameron's Landing, and Anchor Point Subdivisions (estimated +50).

From a Public Works standpoint and Policy CC-1: "Street Lighting Policy," this program is for right-of-way safety along roadways and is not designed or funded to provide residential "security lighting." If desired, an enhanced lighting program should be separate in policy, guidance, administration, and have its own funding, particularly lighting specifically design to deter crime.

About eight years ago, Hopewell started projects to upgrade existing streetlights by increasing the lumens (light intensity) and quickly ran out of funds and never completely upgraded streetlights City-wise. A streetlight improvement project was forecasted for FY 2005/2006 but was not funded. A street lighting program was offered by Virginia Dominion Power to offer citizens, businesses or civic groups the ability to procure additional enhanced lighting. Information on that program is available at [www.dom.com/products/product-catalog/outdoor-lighting/detail.jsp](http://www.dom.com/products/product-catalog/outdoor-lighting/detail.jsp).

Its primary purpose is to light street intersections/dead ends (500 feet or 300 feet) with secondary purpose to increase residential safety. In 1999, 2000, and 2001 there were four Capital Improvement Projects to convert street lighting to HP Sodium which decreases energy and increases lumens. Lack of Capital Improvement Project funding left two quadrants of the city uncompleted (in the southern area of the city). The only funding left is Public Works' annual allocation to fund the electric bill. Installation of new streetlights would 'draw' funding from other maintenance activities such as repair of concrete or asphalt work. Consequently, very few new streetlight installations are approved by Public Works.

The Streetlight electric bill funding (\$225,000 annually) has not been increased for over 12 years and is projected to have an \$8,000 shortfall this fiscal year. Funding is needed for the shortfall as well as bringing in new streetlights from the three major new residential subdivisions (Cameron's Landing, Anchor Pointe, and \_\_\_\_\_).

Virginia Dominion Power does have a relatively inexpensive program for residential security lighting. The website is listed above. The cost is \$150 for installation of the light on an existing pole, and between \$8.00 and \$9.00 per month for the monthly use.

DISCUSSION: Most Neighborhood Watch groups all see a need for more street lights to deter crime. Councilor Pelham disagreed that it is not the city's responsibility to light the city.

(Attachment #1 (City Council Policy CC-1 – Street Lighting Policy), Attachment #2 Streetlight Improvements, Attachment #3 Virginia Electric & Power Company, Schedule 27 – Outdoor Lighting Service high Pressure Sodium Vapor filed in the City Clerk's Office).

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Mayor Luman-Bailey announced that because of the lateness of the hour the Discussion of Two-Hour Parking Downtown and the City Manager's Budget Report would be continued to the next work session or Council Advance.

The City Manager mentioned the 2011 Redistricting Report prepared by March Altman, for Council's consideration and review at a future date.

**ADJOURN**

**Motion** was made by Councilor Stokes, seconded by Vice Mayor Walton, and unanimously passed to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 PM.

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Christina J. Luman-Bailey, Mayor

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Ann M. Romano, City Clerk