

April 12, 2011
Regular Council Meeting

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD APRIL 12, 2011

A Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Hopewell, Virginia, was held Tuesday, April 12, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. 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
 Debra W. Pershing, Acting City Clerk

ABSENT: Curtis W. Harris, Councilor (illness)
 Ann M. Romano, City Clerk (medical leave)

ROLL CALL

Mayor Luman-Bailey opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. 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 Stokes and seconded by Councilor Bujakowski to convene into Closed Session to discuss Appointments to Boards and Commission; motion was **amended** by Councilor Pelham, seconded by Councilor Bujakowski and unanimously passed to convene into Closed Session to discuss Appointments to Boards and Commissions and potential pending litigation, as permitted by Virginia Code § 2.2-3711 (A) (1) (7).

REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Luman-Bailey opened the regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. 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

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Prayer was offered by Rev. Ethleen Blanding, Lambs of God Baptist Church followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

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:

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Councilor Stokes to move item R-4 City Treasurer’s refund over \$2,500 to the Consent Agenda, seconded by Vice Mayor Walton, and unanimously passed to approve the Consent Agenda as amended: Regular meeting March 8, 2011, as amended, and Work Session March 29, 2011; Pending List; Information for Council Review: ARLS Minutes 2/15/11; District 19 CSB minutes 1/27/11; Recreation Commission minutes 3/10/11; School Board Budget WS minutes 2/24/11, Regular Meeting minutes 2/8/11; TSB Minutes 2/1/11; Personnel Change Report & Financial Report; Public Hearings Announcements: none; Routine Approval of Work Sessions: April 26, 2011 Work Session; Ordinances on second and final reading: #2011-02 – 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, tax on Real Estate, Machinery and Tools, of Chapter 34 of the Code of the City of Hopewell; Refund over \$2,500 to Van Ert Electrical Inc.; Routine Grant Approval: none; Proclamations/Resolutions/Presentations: Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week April 10-16, 2011; Administrative Professionals Week April 24-29, 2011; Employee of the Quarter Recipient – Wanda Walker; and PAL Certificates of Appreciation.

PUBLIC HEARING – REQUEST FROM BAY DESIGN GROUP ON BEHALF OF MPD VENTURES, LLC TO AMEND A PROFFERED CONDITION OF THE ANCHOR POINT MASTER PLAN APPROVED IN 2006

This was the night advertised as a Public Hearing to receive citizen comments regarding a request from Bay Design Group to amend a proffered condition (specifically condition #4) of the Anchor Point Master Plan approved in 2006. The applicant is requesting to reduce the minimum square footage of the smaller town units from 1,600 square feet to 1,400 square feet.

The public hearing was opened at 7:50 p.m.

The applicant, **Charlie Ayers** along with **engineer Dan Caskey** spoke on their own behalf. They requested a reduction in square footage. There are three price points in the housing (entry level townhouse; 3-story townhouse with garage; and single family house). Currently, there is no way for builders to build at 1,600 sq. ft. and make a profit. There are 41 lots of which 10 lots are owned by Craftmaster Homes. Without this relief, their price point will not be met. Mr. Ayers indicated it would be an economic benefit to the City. The townhouse is larger than most adjacent properties and most things are more expensive based upon retail. They want to maintain the three price points. None of the houses

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can be rental property with these price points. There is not a rental unit in the project today. It is not designed for any rental. They sought Council's help to have a third price point. Units will be identical in appearance. They asked for Council support to create a tax base. This gives them opportunity to sell more property. Dan Caskey with Bay Design Group, P.C. indicated that he researched an adjacent real estate assessor's lot information. The average house size is 1,313 sq. ft. The City rates property based on heated square footage. Theirs is in the 1,600 sq.ft. range and has the ability to be in 1,400 sq. ft. range, which is still above the average in the Prince George Court area. In looking at the house values in 2010, the values in Prince George Court have decreased by 2-4%; theirs have increased by 5%. To say that tax values are being lowered is incorrect. The reality is that perceived loss of tax value is empty discussion if a builder is not willing to build on the lots. The lowest sold for \$168,000 and the highest for \$179,000.

DISCUSSION: Councilor Stokes's biggest concern is the discussion on taxation and values. When he checked with the Hopewell Treasurer, he checked MPD and Anchor Point; they have almost \$35,000 in unpaid taxes. Mr. Ayers indicated it was announced there were outstanding tax bills at the beginning of their last meeting. Bills were paid three days after the meeting. According to Mr. Ayers, Anchor Point Ventures does not own any property at Anchor Point, nor do they own anything within 200 ft. of Atwater Drive. Councilor Stokes suggested the City Treasurer bring it up for sale since it is three years delinquent. There is quite a bit owed by MPD that Councilor Stokes had the City Treasurer pull today as of 5:00 p.m. He checked and \$16,000 was paid in March; they still owe quite a bit of taxes. Mr. Ayers indicated they may owe some back taxes.

The Mayor called upon Mr. Morene to speak as chairman of the Planning Commission, who had nothing to add.

Brad Kaufman, 3904 Cambridge Place in Prince George Court, had a few concerns about decreasing the size. He takes issue with average square footage. His house is almost 3,000 sq. ft. The average does not seem accurate to him. Also, it was said that the values in Anchor Point had increased 5% since the time of building. He takes issue that homeowners who bought may take issue with decrease in size for same amount. He was going to raise the tax issue which was also an issue back in 2005. They paid taxes when they wanted something from the City. Now they want to "compromise the compromise" that was done in 2005. He understands the real estate market. There is a home in his subdivision for rent. Hopewell has enough rental property. If you want to attract affluent people, you need to have appropriate housing and not lower the standards. Look at the long-term plan for the City. He asked that Council deny the request.

Vice Mayor Walton remarked that houses do not pay for themselves. Tax revenue helps pay for roads, schools, and infrastructure. There are enough small houses in Hopewell, and the City is trying to figure out diversity to have businesses come in with disposable income. You cannot downsize to greatness. Consider the river credit. He loves the river and works on it all the time. It is a waste of riverfront property. He is in support of the Planning Commission's recommendation.

There being no other speakers, the public hearing was closed at 8:10 p.m.

Councilor Pelham received a phone call from a property owner. The fact is that they have already sold 23 of 24 units. She supports the Planning Commission's recommendation.

Mr. Altman briefly remarked regarding the recommendation from the Planning Commission, which was to deny this request. The Planning Commission's preference is to remain at 1,600 sq. ft. The Planning Commission held a public hearing. At the end of their discussion, they resolved to deny the request as it only benefited one entity and how it would be distributed across the City. The Planning Commission voted 4-1 to deny the request.

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Motion was made by Councilor Pelham, seconded by Vice Mayor Walton, and unanimously passed to resolve to deny this request.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

Tom Wagstaff, President and CEO of **Capital Area Partnership Uplifting People** and **Florence Griffith**, Board Member, gave an update on what is being done in Hopewell. Mr. Wagstaff reported that they started two years ago with their community action program by assisting emergency services and Social Services with rent and utilities. They will participate in the Chamber of Commerce's youth program. They have been fortunate in their HHS Project Discovery which is a college access and high school dropout prevention program that began this school year. Last year, they provided computer training operations and literacy training. It is a 5-week program for seniors. They continue to add new things. Currently, they are working with the Department of Social Services on providing transportation for employment. They are looking at new programs. If Council is aware of anything, please let Tom Wagstaff, David Waller, or Phil Quinn know.

Mary Shiflett, Downtown business owner. She has been fighting for downtown since 2006. A positive outlook for the City should be first and foremost for Council. Past comments have hurt businesses. What is said in public is not only heard in the City, but in other communities and states. She has only been here six years. Other long-time businesses are tired of fighting. She calls the police over and over again and it does no good. The next time Council speaks of Downtown, remember that livelihoods depend on it. Please speak positively.

Jim Poe, Downtown merchant came to Hopewell eight months ago. Since he came, downtown merchants formed a merchants association. They have problems and have been working on them, but there has been little success. In November, they invited police to come to their meeting, but were told the HPD did not have enough manpower. The business owners told the police that they are taking their neighborhood over. Winter prostitutes disappeared. Drug lords went away. He was told that a lieutenant was going to the meeting but sent a sergeant instead. The beat cop cannot work 24/7. Skateboarders and bicyclers are running up and down the sidewalk. He was personally pinned against a vehicle by a bicycle. As the day goes along, prostitutes come out. He sought help from Council. He has seen three businesses come and go since he came there. A new police chief is coming. This is not just his problem or the merchants' problem. It is City Council and the citizens' problem. Downtown is alive. They are not going to run him off, and he begged for Council's help, to do what they can for him. He also had pictures.

Kathryn Podlewski, 507 N. 2nd Avenue. In the newspapers, there are weekly entries denouncing Downtown Hopewell. She feels that newspapers are looking for sensationalism. Derogatory comments should not sell papers. Words have weight. Council members should edit themselves before speaking. For those who complain about Downtown, if you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem.

Valerie Claiborne, 1300 block of High Avenue, addressed Council regarding issues pertaining to the City such as the upcoming budget. She was hopeful that Council could work on infrastructure and get the City back on task. She is hearing people talk about concerns and ongoing problems, and sees that Rev. Harris has been missing in action for awhile and prays for his recovery. This is a small city and small budget. Citizens cannot afford to have the City fall apart—the City needs to work together. Things like discussion on deer that took up 20 minutes, when you compare to infrastructure, it is more important than deer running in the City. Tearing down trees and leaving the animals' homeless takes away from growth. The community must be studied to utilize what current resources. She urged City Council to make better use what we have. Ms. Claiborne lives off Rt. 156 which is a busy thoroughfare. How can Hopewell use its money to put back into our school system? Hopewell is losing its School Superintendent. When that position is filled, use that money to go back into the school system to keep our teachers by giving them raises. Hopewell needs to focus on things important to Hopewell. Council gets sidetracked because it does

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not prioritize. Maybe a traffic light should move to the top of the list versus the deer. She is concerned about what takes Council longer on some meeting nights. As you have Closed Sessions, then you decide what needs to take priority when you have everyone's needs in consideration. All citizens are important. It is time for each of us to come together to get back on track.

Councilor Shornak said items are not meant to be derogatory. She felt that before Council puts any more money into Downtown, it must be cleaned up. The City has fallen short. She takes responsibility, too. There was talk about priorities. She would like to see Downtown thrive. Reality is what it is. She has ridden many months through there and has not seen any improvements. It needs to be cleaned up and rid the area of the prostitution and drug activity. It is Council's problem, and must be addressed. Business owners need to take responsibility for business fronts. City Council needs money-generating projects.

Councilor Pelham stated again, for Downtown, that several years ago the City invested \$20 million. Downtown is not the best it can be, but police have done its best. They have to catch them committing the crime. One of the issues that the new chief can take on is the boarding house. The Downtown Partnership is struggling hard to do the infrastructure. Merchants can apply for grants/loans to improve the face of Downtown.

Mayor Luman-Bailey remarked that there will be foot patrols conducted in Downtown.

PRESENTATIONS FROM BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET – Dr. Winston Odom, Superintendent of Hopewell Public Schools, presented FY 2012 School Board Budget. Dr. Odom provided an overview and hard copy of the PowerPoint presentation. Councilor Bujakowski asked about consolidation of efforts. This is one of Council's priorities; Dr. Odom agreed. The bus transportation facility is operating well. More school buses are being parked in the parking lot at the School Board Office. The Rolls Royce project plans to do a feasibility study. It will take two years to look at the technology aspect. They put the schools on notice that the schools' finances could shut down because of the age and financial aspects of the operation. They are waiting for Rolls Royce to get back with the schools. They stand ready to look at various ways to conserve funding. Councilor Stokes is aware that the compensation of Dr. Odom and another administrator are making more money than him. Dr. Henry, School Board Chair, thanked Council for help with working on the high school renovations. He also thanked Council for help with allowing mid-year bonuses. He recognized financial problems in the nation. There will be no salary increases for employees once again. There will also be a continued freeze on non-capital maintenance. There is over \$9 million that is needed by the school system. These items could curtail the school system over the next couple of years. He hopes that state and local bodies would look favorably on the school system and increase funding. Dr. Odom thanked Council for its support and asked that the budget be approved as presented by the School Board.

Councilor Bujakowski recommended appointing someone to serve on a committee for the feasibility study and continue to work on some of the projects and some key issues that have to be addressed before it can move forward. For example, whenever Council and SBO are ready to do so, an actuarial study could be done to consolidate health insurance. Until the two groups are ready and schools release the information, the project cannot move forward. \$100,000 was put on the table for vehicle consolidation but was removed. Councilor Bujakowski suggested that the Mayor meet with the School Board Chair and discuss ideas.

REDISTRICTING 2011 – March Altman presented information on the redistricting effort. There is a process to go through in order to come up with numbers on redistricting. Ward population must be considered. Ward #2 had a lot of growth while other ward numbers have decreased. The next step is to

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identify ideal Ward population. Total population divided by the number of Wards then standard deviation. The amount above or below the "ideal" Ward population of 3,227 by Ward. Total deviation equals 21% (largest deviation and smallest deviation added together). Average deviation equals 6.9%. Results: The City's average deviation of 6.9% is not within the suggested -5% to +5% range. The population of Ward #2 has the greatest deviation from the "Ideal Ward Population" with a population of 3,590, and the deviation of 11% is well outside the recommended range of -5% to +5%. House of Delegates Districts will be split between Delegates Ingram and Dance. The Voter Registrar does not want a split Ward. The state will do this, and there is no way to avoid it if it gets passed. That will increase costs at election time. The problem is it encompasses Old Iron Road and takes part of Ward #7 which puts it in Dance's District. Wards #2, #6, and a portion of #7 will go to Delegate Dance. A portion of Ward #7 will also go to Delegate Ingram. Next steps: adjust Ward boundaries to bring Wards into compliance; adjust Ward boundaries to reduce the total deviation to 10 percent; and establish goals for redistricting.

Councilor Shornak asked Mr. Altman if he would be making the recommendation to the legislative body. Mr. Altman responded that staff will develop scenarios at a proposed work session, hold a public hearing, and then send it to the Department of Justice to sign off. The House and Senate have voted, but he does not think that the Governor has signed it yet.

CITIZEN/COUNCILOR REQUEST – VICE MAYOR WALTON – COUNCIL PRIORITIES

Vice Mayor Walton discussed Council priorities. He listened to citizens who said that what is important to some may not be to others. He wanted to go through some numbers. First, Council has done some exercises on prioritizing. Last week was a good start. Therein lies a concern that Council should change its priorities. Citizens will be encouraged to let their Councilors know what is important to them. He discussed tax revenues and return on investments in Downtown (sales tax revenues). He challenged Council and staff about where the City wants to be in the future. We all want good quality of life. We need to address problems in Downtown. There is a lot of negative talk, but there are a lot of good people, and the City can do better. Council cannot jump from one place to another. We have to do better on the way we do business.

The Mayor briefly explained a discrepancy. Councilor Pelham was correct with \$20 million bond. Part of the money was used to demolish the Bluffs. Public investment should be used for public use and not for private gain. She also noted that Council was able to check off many of its priorities.

After this discussion, no action was taken.

CITIZEN/COUNCILOR REQUEST – COUNCILOR BUJAKOWSKI – CREATE A COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE OPTIONS FOR THE BEACON AND MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL ON HOW TO BEST USE THE FACILITY GOING FORWARD AND THE BEST WAY TO RESTORE IT TO A FULLY OPERATIONAL FACILITY.

Councilor Bujakowski asked that, in interest of time, tabling this item to the next meeting. A group should be tasked to work on this project and have a plan to allow individuals to review potentials without restraints from Council, and then come to Council with its plan.

CITIZEN/COUNCILOR REQUEST – COUNCILOR BUJAKOWSKI – APPOINT FIVE CITIZENS TO THE COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE BEACON

Councilor Bujakowski requested that this item be tabled.

REGULAR BUSINESS – CLEAN CITY COMMISSION

The Clean City Commission scheduled its Spring Citywide Clean-up from Saturday, April 16 to Saturday, April 23. The hours of operation at the Citizens Convenient Center are Monday-Friday from 12:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Citizens are encouraged to participate in this effort by cleaning up around their homes and along their streets. During this week, Hopewell residents may dispose of trash at no charge at the Citizen Convenience Center located behind Fire Station #1 at 200 South Hopewell Street. There will be the usual \$10.25 fee for the removal of Freon to dispose of appliances.

Motion was made by Councilor Bujakowski, seconded by Councilor Shornak, and unanimously passed, to authorize the Spring Citywide Clean-up Week.

REGULAR BUSINESS – HISTORIC HOPEWELL FOUNDATION, INC. – REQUEST FOR FUNDING TO REFURBISH ST. DENNIS CHAPEL

Jane McCullen, President, Board of Trustees for Historic Hopewell Foundation, Inc. submitted a request for funding assistance for shutters for St. Dennis Chapel. Currently, the shutters are in very poor condition and need to be repaired. It will cost approximately \$4,000 to restore the shutters and keep the appearance of the building historically accurate. According to the City Manager, the action is to approve, as the monies are in the budget and to send a check in July. There is no funding source tonight.

Motion was made by Councilor Stokes, seconded by Councilor Bujakowski, and unanimously passed to approve the request.

REGULAR BUSINESS – SCHOOL BOARD APPOINTMENT – SET PUBLIC HEARING ON MAY 10, 2011, AT 7:30 PM TO RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING NOMINEES OR APPLICANTS TO THE SCHOOL BOARD TO FILL TWO TERMS EXTENDING JULY 1, 2011 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2014

The annual cycle to begin the process of making School Board appointments is about to begin. Two appointments will expire on June 30, 2011. The Code of Virginia, Sec. 22.1-29.1 states that, *“At least seven days prior to the appointment of any school board member pursuant to the provisions of this chapter of §§15.2-410, 15.2-531, 15.2-627 or §15.2-837, or any municipal charter, the appointing authority shall hold one or more public hearings to receive the views of citizens within the school division. The appointing authority shall cause public notice to be given at least ten days prior to any hearings by publication in a newspaper having a general circulation with the school division. No nominee or applicant whose name has not been considered at a public hearing shall be appointed as a school board member.”*

The code requires that an ad is published a minimum of 10 days before the public hearing. The appointment should be made no later than the City Council meeting of June 7, 2011 (unless Council wants to schedule a Special Meeting) and the term will extend from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2014.

Following is a tentative schedule for appointments:

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| March 29, 2011 | Advertise notice in local newspaper regarding vacancy on School Board |
| April 26, 2010 | Advertise notice in local newspaper of Public Hearing to receive citizen comments (minimum of 10 days before the public hearing) |

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- May 10, 2011 Public hearing to receive comments of citizens. No nominee or applicant whose name has not been considered at the public hearing shall be appointed as a school board member.
- _____, 2011 Interview candidates if Council so desires.
- June 14, 2011 Appointment of two school board member, term extending July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2014.

Motion was made by Councilor Pelham, seconded by Vice Mayor Walton, and unanimously passed to authorize a Public Hearing.

REGULAR BUSINESS – CITY TREASURER – REFUND OVER \$2,500 FOR VAN ERT ELECTRICAL INC.

This item was approved on Consent Agenda.

REGULAR BUSINESS – RIVERSIDE REGIONAL JAIL RESOLUTION – SUPPLEMENTAL CHARGES FOR PRISONER CARE

This is a Resolution authorizing supplemental charges for prisoner care at Riverside Regional Jail. This amount comes from the Jail to the City. There is no additional money, just a transfer.

Motion to approve the Resolution was made by Councilor Stokes, and seconded by Councilor Pelham. 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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the riverside Regional Jail Authority (the “Authority”) has notified the City of Hopewell of a supplemental charge for prisoner care in the current fiscal year in the amount of \$384,621 which is due no later than June 30, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Authority has provided funds to the City of Hopewell in an amount equal to such supplemental charge, and has requested that the City of Hopewell advise the Authority as to whether all or a portion of such amount is to be applied as a credit to the supplemental charge or paid to the City of Hopewell; and

WHEREAS, the Authority advises funds sufficient for the supplemental charge to the City of Hopewell and supplemental charges to the other members of the Authority are on deposit with the Authority and had been earmarked in the Authority’s budget to be applied towards Authority expenses, however, on the recommendation of the Authority’s bond documents, the Authority was advised to distribute the funds and seek payment back in like amount as a supplemental charge; and

WHEREAS, the Authority further advises that it desires to amend the existing Service Agreement with the member jurisdictions of the Authority to provide flexibility in establishing charges for housing

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prisoners of non-member jurisdictions to allow the Authority to increase revenue generated from operations and potentially reduce member jurisdiction charges, and the Authority has recommended language to effect such amendment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF HOPEWELL AS FOLLOWS:

1. The officers of the City of Hopewell are authorized to accept \$384,521 from the Authority.
2. The amount specified in paragraph 1 is appropriated for payment to the Authority for prisoner care during the current fiscal year, and shall be paid not later than June 30, 2011. The officers of the City of Hopewell are authorized to pay such amount to the Authority in one or more payments, and are further authorized to direct the Authority to apply all or a portion of such amount as a credit towards the supplemental charge.
3. The following language amending and restating Section 4.2 of the Service Agreement is hereby approved as requested by the Authority;

“Within the limits allowed by law, the Authority shall establish a per diem charge for the care, maintenance and subsistence of Prisoners from non-member jurisdictions, including the state and federal governments. Charges for non-member jurisdictions need not be uniform and shall be due and payable as the Authority and any non-member jurisdiction shall agree.”
4. All other actions in furtherance of the intent of this Resolution are authorized including the execution and delivery by the officers of the City of Hopewell of all documents, instruments, agreements and amendments thereto herein approved.
5. This resolution shall take effect upon adoption

Adopted this 12th day of April, 2011 by the City Council for the City of Hopewell, Virginia.

City Clerk

REGULAR BUSINESS – UPDATE ON CEDAR LEVEL ROAD PROJECT

The Mayor provided an update on the Cedar Level Road Project. Mr. Hawthorne with VDOT will be providing information at the MPO meeting on Thursday. He is looking at what is possible to do (options) in the budget to have a safer road. Vice Mayor Walton indicated that the City Engineer had broken the project down into two parts to get it approved in the VDOT budget. If the Mayor can work toward that goal, he would like to see it completed and not slowed down, and to keep Council abreast. Councilor Shornak asked who was changing the plans. The Mayor said the whole point is to make the road safer. Councilor Shornak asked why it was being changed now. The Mayor pointed out that it is all about the money. Councilor Pelham commented on previous discussions about changing it into a two-fold phase when she was mayor. If the project is phased into two projects, according to the City Manager the City could fund the first phase to get a lower price to be in position to move into phase 2 immediately. The Mayor shared that this conversation started at an MPO meeting. She asked whether or not it is feasible to do something within our budget so as not to put the project on hold. VDOT is part of MPO meeting. There is a new rule with MPOs (within past two months) that even if money is allocated, if it is not used by a certain time, the money is gone. Councilor Shornak asked whether or not the Department of Development was approached by VDOT. Their concern is lack of funding. The cost estimate is adjusted every year. “We chase a number we never catch.” The concern is that the City does not have the dollars. RSTP funds go online to bid in 2016 to get phase 1 of the project. Councilor Stokes requested adding this

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to a work session due to time if not voting tonight. Any resolution to change will have to come before Council for discussion. Because it is so outdated, a public hearing is necessary.

REGULAR BUSINESS – ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH WESTHILL AVENUE AS A ONE-WAY STREET

Per Vice Mayor Walton, this request to make Westhill one-way is the least costly way to provide safety for children. The Transportation Safety Board had four alternatives per the City Manager.

Motion to approve Ordinance No. 2011-04 on first reading was made by Vice Mayor Walton and seconded by Councilor Bujakowski.

Councilor Pelham asked about the turn off for the HHS parking lot from Westhill. It was suggested to make Westhill a one-way street for one block from Sussex Drive to Jackson Farm Road.

Motion was made by Councilor Pelham, and seconded by Councilor Bujakowski, to **amend** the **original motion** to make Westhill one-way from Sussex Drive to Jackson Farm Road. Upon 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

ORDINANCE NO. 2011-04

An Ordinance instructing the City Manager to cause Westhill Road to be converted to a one-way street.

WHEREAS, Westhill Road is currently a two-way street that connects Jackson Farm Road and Patrick Copeland Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, traffic turning onto Westhill Road from Jackson Farm Road creates a traffic hazard and a dangerous condition.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOPEWELL, that:

The City Manager is authorized and instructed to convert Westhill Road into a one-way street running in a southward direction from Patrick Copeland School to Jackson Farm Road, and to place such signs and warnings as are necessary to make the citizens aware that Westhill Road is a one-way street and cannot be accessed from Jackson Farm Road.

REGULAR BUSINESS – FINES FOR TRASH AND DEBRIS

A discussion was held on establishing fines for trash and debris.

Motion made by Councilor Stokes, seconded by Councilor Pelham, and unanimously passed to have the City Attorney prepare a recommendation for the April 26 work session.

REGULAR BUSINESS – 2011 QSCB SCHEDULE

A discussion was held on the proposed issuance of general obligation school bonds to finance the renovations and expansion of Hopewell High School.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Walton, seconded by Councilor Shornak, and unanimously passed to direct the City Clerk to advertise for a public hearing on May 10, 2011.

REGULAR BUSINESS – APRIL 26, 2011 WORK SESSION – PRELIMINARY AGENDA

The City Manager presented the preliminary agenda for the April 26, 2011 Work Session as follows:

- Cemetery Renovations
- Fines for Trash and Debris
- City Budget
- Redistricting

REGULAR BUSINESS – REPORT OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

Mayor Luman-Bailey asked the City Attorney to explain what is going on with the row house on 3 ½ Street. One unit of the four-unit structure must be demolished. Mr. Altman hired Balzer to do an engineering study to determine the ramifications of demolishing the center unit with regard to the integrity of attached units. All units have a common roof and foundation. There is a good chance that one piece cannot be taken down without damaging the other units. City records still show the current owner who is not responding and not spending another dime on project. He will be billed for any demolition. Mr. Altman hopes to receive the engineering report in less than 30 days. The owner will be charged and a lien put on the property. The owner is on the verge of bankruptcy.

REGULAR BUSINESS – CITY CLERK – APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Walton seconded by Councilor Stokes, and unanimously passed to appoint Toni Cortese to the Historic Preservation Sub-Committee and Toni Cortese and Louis Corletto to the Senior Citizens Advisory Commission.

Motion made by Councilor Stokes, seconded by Councilor Bujakowski, and unanimously passed to appoint Homer Eliades as a citizen representation to the Special Beacon Theatre Committee.

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 – one vacancy Ward #3 to 10/31/11; two vacancies Ward #5 to 10/31/11; and one vacancy, Ward #7 to 10/31/12; Transportation Safety Board – two vacancies 4-year term to 10/31/14; JTCC-Local Board – one 4-year term to 6/30/15; Technology Fund Committee – one vacancy.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mayor Luman-Bailey reported on Virginia's Gateway Region and the Crater Planning District Commission. The Commonwealth Center for Advanced Manufacturer groundbreaking was held March 31, which was attended by the Governor. The Presidents of Virginia State University, Virginia Tech, and UVA spoke. Rolls Royce is very active and interested in the community. The VA Logistic Research Center approached the Commonwealth Center. The Mayor was disappointed that Hopewell was not asked to be part of Board. Hopewell set the process in motion about four years ago.

April 12, 2011
Regular Council Meeting

REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Shornak reported that she is working with neighborhood watch groups (Autumn Woods and Woodlawn). She walked the neighborhoods and handed out flyers. The Woodlawn Neighborhood Watch Group and the Williams' have been helpful to expand concern. The group grew from eight people to over 22 people at the last meeting. Autumn Woods grew from two people to over 15 people. They have made a major impact and will keep up efforts. Neighborhood Watch Groups are very essential to watch out for crime. Larcenies have increased within the City. She extended thanks to all the members of neighborhood watch.

Councilor Pelham announced a March Against Crime on Saturday, May 7. She extended an invitation to all neighborhood watch groups to participate. She can be reached at 720-8619 for more details. She hopes to make this a City-wide event.

Councilor Bujakowski reported that Ward #3 and the City in particular had a significant loss with the passing of Cecil Ellis. He was an instrumental part of the Westmoreland Neighborhood Watch as well as a key component in the National Night Out event held last year. He is not sure what will be done to replace him. Mr. Ellis will be missed. Councilor Bujakowski announced a Ward #3 meeting on April 19 in Council Chambers from 7:00–8:30 p.m. Everyone in the City is invited. He announced that the Easter Bunny will be at Weston Manor on Saturday, April 16 at noon. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt, lunch, and other activities.

Vice Mayor Walton wished his son a happy birthday.

Mayor Luman-Bailey added that if anyone misses the Easter Bunny on Saturday, he will be making another appearance on April 23 from 1:00 -4:00 p.m. in Downtown. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt and crafts.

ADJOURN

At 10:10 p.m., **motion** was made by Councilor Bujakowski, seconded by Councilor Stokes, and unanimously **passed** to **adjourn** the meeting.

Christina J. Luman-Bailey, Mayor

Debra W. Pershing, Acting City Clerk