

MINUTES OF THE MAY 31st, 2023 CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting of the Hopewell City Council was held on Wednesday May 31, 2023 at 7 :30 p.m.

PRESENT: John B. Partin, Mayor
Jasmine Gore, Vice Mayor
Rita Joyner, Councilor
Michael Harris, Councilor
Janice Denton, Councilor
Rita Joyner, Councilor
Brenda Pelham, Councilor
Dominic Holloway, Councilor

Motion to Amend agenda to include discussion on ARPA funds resolution

Motion was made by Councilor Holloway seconded by Councilor Joyner.

Roll Call: John B. Partin – Yes
Vice Mayor Gore – Yes
Councilor Denton – Yes
Councilor Pelham – Yes
Councilor Holloway – Yes
Councilor Joyner – Yes
Councilor Harris – Yes

Motion Pass 7 -0

WORK SESSION:

Dr. Manker invites the city of Hopewell superintendent Dr. Melanie Hackney and

her staff to present their budget for FY 23-24 school year. Dr. Hackney stated she would need 1.4 million beyond total appropriation for 2023 if the finalized state budget does not offset the difference. The total appropriation was 13,580,075.00 for Hopewell School System. She stated they are asking for that same number for appropriation this year with an additional 1.4 million. The compensation supplement is a 5 % raise given to the school board. Dr. Hackney mentioned the 330,362.00 is the amount overall they will lose from the state in revenue, starting them out in a deficit. They discussed inflation costs as well which was 200,000 increase. It was then stated there are 40 positions being cut, resources, construction projects, and landmarks, after all these are cut, it leaves the 1.4 million being requested. They stated cost for inflation has increased, and they intend to put all custodian cost back into local funding. Ms. Hackney stated there is a significant staffing crisis due to salary increases outside of Hopewell, but within the region. Councilor Holloway asks Dr. Hackney if doing anonymous surveys with current staff, teachers, and students would aid in the reduction of further staff departure as well as about how they felt about the all year schooling and how they felt about school in general. Dr. Hackney acknowledged that councilor offered several good ideas and offered to meet with him personally to discuss them further. Vice Mayor Gore commented that city council is committed to reinitiating quarterly meetings with the school board. Mr. Holloway asks Dr. Hackney about staff who are making 12 dollars an hour and what is their plan to get their income raised. Dr. Hackney stated she wanted to find the money to do that and present it as part of the budget, but 3 million dollar cut prevented that, she stated they needed to do a study to see how far they are from minimum wage and prioritize it that way. She stated she will get it to council as soon as possible.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Mayor Partin discussed the status of the ARPA funds and the potential for ARPA funds to be withdrawn by the federal government according the secretary of the comments on May 30, 2023 city council meeting. The City Attorney and the City Manager prepared a resolution at the request of Mayor Partin to commit the city's ARPA funds. The city's various departments provide an expeditious list to the city manager for the funds. City Council tasked Dr. Manker with providing information about specific community services and their impact. Councilor Pelham asked questions regarding silver sneaker and was told we do not do it anymore, Councilor Pelham suggested to get the program into the community center to help assist to make sure seniors have the opportunity to get that service free of charge. Councilor Pelham also asked about the fire burn building. Dr. Manker stated there

is no building available to train the firefighters, which stops them from hiring anyone who will need training, the current one is no longer safe and able to be used. Councilor Holloway stated he agrees with Vice Mayor Gore about the PMO needs to be tabled and it does need to be funded, but he is passionate that some of the programs need funding, such as Hopewell youth football association and central Virginia tigers are programs for the kids that cannot play football in public schools because of age or other scenarios. Both programs are requesting 10,000 a piece for gear and other supplies needed. Councilor Holloway ask that that amount be approved. Capital budget is agreed upon council, the football budget for 10,00 was agreed by council. Dr. Manker recommends approving capital items, take out councilor request and pmo, discuss on June 8, declare all remaining money as lost revenue. Councilor Holloway suggest taking the drone budget out to be discussed later as well. He stated they already had a grant for the drones and would like to remove it from tonight's vote. Vice Mayor Gore moves to "approve all items minus councilor request and the pmo" and to declare all remaining money as lost revenue. The items approved are Healthy Families, Social Services, Police, Recreation, Fire, and Public Works. Mayor Partin seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL:

John B. Partin –	Yes
Vice Mayor Gore –	Yes
Councilor Denton –	Yes
Councilor Pelham –	Yes
Councilor Holloway –	Yes
Councilor Joyner –	Yes
Councilor Harris –	Yes

Motion Pass 7-0


Councilor Holloway motions to adjourn, seconded by Vice Mayor Gore.

Yes = 7
No = 0

AJOURNMENT



John B. Partin, Mayor



Brittani Williams, City Clerk