

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL HELD FEBRUARY 28, 2023

A special council meeting of the Hopewell City Council was convened on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, in the City Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 300 North Main Street, Hopewell, Virginia.

PRESENT: John B. Partin, Jr., Mayor, Ward 3
Jasmine E. Gore, Vice Mayor, Ward 4
Rita Joyner, Councilor, Ward 1
Michael Harris, Councilor, Ward 2
Janice B. Denton, Councilor, Ward 5
Dominic Holloway, Councilor, Ward 7

Dr. Concetta Manker, Interim City Manager
Danielle Smith, City Attorney
Alyson Reyna, City Clerk Pro Tem

ABSENT: Brenda S. Pelham, Councilor, Ward 6

ROLL CALL

Mayor Partin opened the meeting. Roll call was taken, as follows:

Mayor Partin	-	present
Councilor Joyner	-	present
Councilor Harris	-	present
Councilor Denton	-	present

Quorum established.

Interim City Manager, Dr. Concetta Manker called Councilor Pelham via telephone. A motion to allow Councilor Pelham to attend telephonically was made by Councilor Joyner, seconded by Councilor Harris.

Roll call:	Councilor Joyner	-	yes
	Councilor Harris	-	yes
	Mayor Partin	-	yes
	Councilor Denton	-	yes

Motion passed 4-0

Councilor Denton moved to go into Closed Session pursuant to Va. Code Section § 2.2-3711 (A) to discuss and consider business contracts and personnel matters, including board and commission appointments; the assignment and performance of specific appointee and employees of City Council; and to the extent of such discussion will be aided thereby, (A)(4) for the protection of the privacy of individuals personal matters not related to public business. The motion was seconded by Councilor Joyner

Roll call: Councilor Joyner - yes
 Councilor Harris - yes
 Mayor Partin - yes
 Councilor Denton - yes

Motion passed 4-0

RECONVENE OPEN MEETING

Councilor Joyner moved for Council to come out of Closed Session, seconded by Councilor Holloway. Councilor Pelham had exited the call after Closed Session.

Roll call: Councilor Joyner - yes
 Councilor Harris - yes
 Mayor Partin - yes
 Vice Mayor Gore - yes
 Councilor Denton - yes
 Councilor Holloway - yes

Motion passed 6-0

Councilor Holloway moved to appoint to the following boards, commissions, and committees that required Council appointees, and the following citizen appointees:

- Councilor Harris and Councilor Joyner to the Ashford Civic Plaza Commission
- Councilor Pelham to the Community Policy and Management Team
- Councilor Harris and Councilor Holloway to the Crater Planning District Commission
- Councilor Harris and Councilor Joyner to the Ethics Committee
- Councilor Joyner and Councilor Holloway to the Historic Preservation Committee
- Mayor Partin to the Hopewell Water Renewal Commission
- Councilor Harris to the Law Library Committee
- Vice Mayor Gore and Councilor Joyner to the Legislative Committee
- Mayor Partin to the Metropolitan Planning Commission
- Councilor Joyner and Councilor Denton to the Joint School Facilities Committee
- Councilor Joyner and Councilor Holloway to the Joint School Board Working Committee
- Vice Mayor Gore to the Technology Fund Committee
- Vice Mayor Gore to the Virginia First Cities Coalition
- Vice Mayor Gore to the Crater Workforce Development Commission
- Councilor Joyner as the Chamber of Commerce Liaison
- Mayor Partin to the Investment Policy Committee
- Vice Mayor Gore to the Telecommunications Regulations Committee
- Councilor Joyner to the Virginia Gateway Region
- Councilor Joyner to the National Park Service Waterfront Committee
- Councilor Joyner and Councilor Holloway to the Operation Ceasefire/GVI Committee
- Councilor Denton and Councilor Pelham to the Hopewell/Prince George Healthy Families
- Patience Bennett to the Recreation Commission
- Rubin Peacock to the Architectural Review Board
- Dorothy Gerard to the Community Policy and Management Team

Vice Mayor Gore seconded the motion.

Roll call:

Councilor Joyner	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Mayor Partin	-	yes
Vice Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Holloway	-	yes

Motion passed 6-0

REGULAR MEETING

Roll call:

Councilor Joyner	-	present
Councilor Harris	-	present
Mayor Partin	-	present
Vice Mayor Gore	-	present
Councilor Denton	-	present
Councilor Holloway	-	present

Prayer was led by Reverend Danny Tucker, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilor Harris.

AMEND/ADOPT AGENDA

Councilor Holloway motioned to amend the agenda to include R-3: Change the start time of Closed Session to begin at 6:00 PM. Councilor Joyner seconded the motion.

Roll call:

Councilor Joyner	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Mayor Partin	-	yes
Vice Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Holloway	-	yes

Motion passed 6-0

AMEND/ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

Councilor Denton moved to adopt the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilor Joyner.

Roll call:

Councilor Joyner	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Mayor Partin	-	yes
Vice Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	yes
Councilor Holloway	-	yes

Motion passed 6-0

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PH-1 Chris Ward presented a public hearing for the Zoning Amendment Request in the B-1 Zoning District. He explained that per state requirements, ads were aired and neighboring businesses were notified of the Public Hearing that night. The applicants, Elizabeth Spence and Kayla Walker, were present. They spoke about their research into similar localities’ zoning requirements for overnight boarding. Ms. Spence noted that the ways in which the noise and odor would be mitigated. Mayor Partin then opened the floor for the Public Hearing.

Andre Post, Ward 2, stated that he was speaking on behalf of expansion of B1 (zone). He noted that he was a veteran, and stated that Hopewell had the largest population of veterans in the Tri-Cities area. He noted that active duty members often need pet care during field training, and often active duty members had to travel to board their pets. He said he felt it would be a service to Fort Lee military personnel to have a pet boarding facility so close.

Elliot Elaides, Ward 3, stated he was excited about the expansion of Downtown Pups, LLC. He stated that as a former member of the Planning Commission, he felt it was in line with the Comprehensive Plan for the expansion of Downtown Hopewell, and would improve the offerings there.

Councilor Denton motioned to approve the Planning Commission’s recommendation to add “Pet Shop,” with incidental Boarding Kennel, with Conditional Use Permit. Councilor Holloway seconded the motion.

Roll call:	Councilor Joyner	-	yes
	Councilor Harris	-	yes
	Mayor Partin	-	yes
	Vice Mayor Gore	-	yes
	Councilor Denton	-	yes
	Councilor Holloway	-	yes

Motion passed 6-0

COMMUNICATION FROM CITIZENS

Steve Romano, Ward 3, said he was a Hopewell resident for over 50 years. He noted that overall, Council should seek to please the Public. He asked City Council about the cost of the bike lanes from the City’s portion of the federal grant. He suggested that, as the lines were drawn on Broadway Avenue, nobody would be parking three (3) feet from the curb. Mr. Romano asked Mayor Partin what the citizens paid for the bike lanes. Interim City Engineer, Maurice Wilkins, answered from the pews that the City of Hopewell only paid 20% of the total amount of \$407,000, totaling \$81,400.

Susan Daye, Ward 5, stated that she concurred with the previous gentleman, and asked if there was a plan for fixing the present bike lanes. Interim City Engineer, Maurice Wilkins, stated that the plans were drafted by the engineering firm Kimley-Horn engineer, David Capparuccini. Mr. Wilkins noted that Mr. Capparuccini constructed the bike lanes in accordance with the National Association of Transportation Officials, so that the plans and bike lanes met national standards.

Larry Scarce, Ward 3, spoke about raises for the police department. He noted that officers did not get a cost-of-living raise, and stated that the staffing problems in the Hopewell Police Department were as a result of low pay.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

UB-1 Interim City Manager, Dr. Concetta Manker was tasked by City Council to explore options to provide citizens with Ring doorbell cameras to assist police investigations. Dr. Manker noted three options she had researched and the potential cost of each. Two of the options would require a Wi-Fi connection but would allow investigators and police the option to view cameras real-time and aid in swift response. The third option would require manually accessing the Ring camera and would present a lower monthly maintenance cost. Dr. Manker explained that the information presented at the time did not require action at the time.

REGULAR BUSINESS

R-1 Fire Chief, Benjamin Ruppert, presented a routine grant approval for the Fire Department. He explained that the State Homeland Security Grant Program granted the City of Hopewell a 100% unmatched grant for \$115,329. Councilor Holloway motioned to appropriate \$115,329 to Hopewell Fire and EMS. Councilor Joyner properly seconded the motion.

Roll call:	Councilor Joyner	-	yes
	Councilor Harris	-	yes
	Mayor Partin	-	yes
	Vice Mayor Gore	-	yes
	Councilor Denton	-	yes
	Councilor Holloway	-	yes

Motion passed 6-0

R-2 Kimberly Parson, Administrative Support Manager for Hopewell Police Department, presented to City Council the continuation grant for the School Resource Officer position at Carter G. Woodson High School. She asked Council for permission to apply for the grant, and noted that for this fiscal year there would be a required 20% match. The total amount for salary and benefits only would be \$98,546 for the SRO, meaning the grant funding would cover \$78,620 and the cash match would be \$19,926.

Vice Mayor Gore moved to apply for the \$78,620 School Resource Officer Grant fund and take the matching funds in the amount of \$19,926 from salary savings. Councilor Holloway seconded the motion.

In discussion, Councilor Denton asked if the schools participated in the grant match funds, or if the money strictly came from the City of Hopewell. Ms. Parson answered that the city was responsible for the funds. Councilor Denton expressed that she had read from the agenda packet that the school was taking part in the grant. Ms. Parson explained that the grant allowed law enforcement to apply for a School Resource Officer, and allowed schools to apply for School Security Officers. She noted that on the police side, the SRO's were certified law enforcement officers. The School Security Officers did not have to be certified law enforcement officers. Ms. Parson explained that should duty outside of the school call for an officer that the SRO may leave the school as a certified officer, whereas the School Security Officer would not answer in the same way.

Roll call:	Councilor Joyner	-	yes
	Councilor Harris	-	yes

Mayor Partin	-	yes
Vice Mayor Gore	-	yes
Councilor Denton	-	no
Councilor Holloway	-	yes

Motion passed 5-1

R-3 Councilor Holloway moved to change the Closed Session start time from 6:30 PM to 6:00 PM. Councilor Joyner properly seconded the motion.

Roll call:	Councilor Joyner	-	yes
	Councilor Harris	-	yes
	Mayor Partin	-	yes
	Vice Mayor Gore	-	yes
	Councilor Denton	-	yes
	Councilor Holloway	-	yes

Motion passed 6-0

ADJOURN

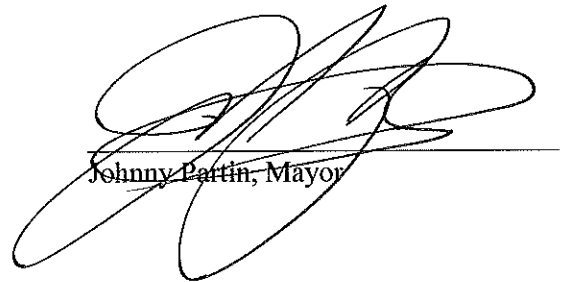
Councilor Holloway motioned to adjourn.

Aye – 6

No – 0

The meeting was adjourned.


Alyson Reyna, City Clerk/Pro Tem


Johnny Partin, Mayor