

April 28, 2009

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION HELD APRIL 28, 2009

A Work Session of the City Council of the City of Hopewell, Virginia, was held Tuesday, April 28, 2009 at 6:30 PM in the City Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 300 North Main Street, Hopewell, Virginia.

PRESENT: N. Gregory Cuffey, Councilor - Ward #7
Christina J. Luman-Bailey, Councilor - Ward #1
Curtis W. Harris, Councilor - Ward #2
Kenneth B. Emerson, Councilor - Ward #3
Gerald S. Stokes, Councilor - Ward #4
K. Wayne Walton, Councilor - Ward #5

Edwin C. Daley, City Manager
Ann M. Romano, City Clerk
Thomas E. Lacheney, City Attorney

ABSENT: Brenda S. Pelham, Councilor - Ward #6

Vice Mayor Cuffey opened the work session at 6:30 PM. Roll call was taken as follows:

Mayor Pelham	-	ABSENT
Vice Mayor Cuffey	-	present
Councilor Bailey	-	ABSENT (arrived at 6:35 PM)
Councilor Harris	-	present
Councilor Emerson	-	ABSENT (arrived at 6:36 PM)
Councilor Stokes	-	yes
Councilor Walton	-	yes

Prayer was offered by Vice Mayor Cuffey, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion was made by Councilor Walton, and seconded by Councilor Harris to convene into closed session to discuss Personnel, in accordance with Virginia Code Sec. 2.2-3711 (A)(1). Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Vice Mayor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Stokes	-	yes
Councilor Walton	-	yes

OPEN SESSION

At 7:00 PM 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:

Vice Mayor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes

April 28, 2009

Councilor Stokes	-	yes
Councilor Walton	-	yes

WORK SESSION – RICHMOND COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY

Tom Wagstaff gave a PowerPoint presentation from the Richmond Community Action Agency who had proposed to provide services to the City of Hopewell in the amount of \$50,000, with no match from the City, resulting from stimulus funds the agency had received.

WORK SESSION – PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION - SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET - DR. WINSTON O. ODOM, SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Avon Miles, Chairman provided opening comments for the Hopewell City School Board. Dr. Odom made a PowerPoint presentation on the FY 2010 School Board Budget (copy filed in the City Clerk's office). He addressed: Unprecedented Budgets; Economic Situation; FY 2010 Proposed Budget; FY2010 Proposed Budget Factors; Revenue Sources FY 2010 Operating Fund; Stimulus Funding; and the Expenditures FY 2010 Operating Fund.

Total Requested Appropriation:	
Building/Bus Replacement Fund	\$ 456,333
School Operating Fund	\$44,351,139
Textbook Fund	\$ 950,000
Food Service Fund	\$ 2,441,936
TOTAL	\$48,199,408

WORK SESSION – CDBG PROGRAM ALLOCATIONS - VICE-MAYOR CUFFEY, PRESENTATION - TEVYA GRIFFIN, CITY PLANNER

Tevya Griffin, City Planner reported that the CDBG Committee (Vice Mayor Cuffey, Councilor Bailey, Councilor Walton, Mrs. Griffin and March Altman) met last week. She presented the Overview of the Community Development Block Grant Program and the proposed budget (copy filed in the City Clerk's office).

DISCUSSION: Federal Program to give teachers and law enforcement employees low interest rate home in the City; Façade Program and National Objectives; definition of a blighted area is contained in the State Code of Virginia; Hopewell's downtown does not meet that blighted area definition; VDOT Revenue Sharing Program; Dinwiddie Avenue project down to Gilbert Street - \$120,000.

WORK SESSION – REGIONAL WASTEWATER AGREEMENT - COUNCILOR EMERSON

Councilor Emerson asked Mark Haley, Director, Hopewell Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility, to explain the lack of support from industry for the cost of the primary plant relocation. Mr. Haley received notification that the Algae Pilot Study will receive \$600,000; that is directly related to City Council raising the sewer rates. The RFP is scheduled to be opened next week.

In December 2008 industry decided that they should not have to participate in what they referred to as a hydraulic upgrade. This is a \$30M project for the City of Hopewell, with no partner. We have the legal right to limit the amount of nitrogen coming into the plant so that Hopewell would not have to treat it. Mr. Haley will let industry know how much they need to reduce. The Algae Project could bring those costs down. It is a city asset and a city-owned facility. The HRWTF Commission has a "right of use." City Council has the right to overrule anything that the commission does.

A resolution should go before City Council in June or July. The bid will go out in the fall with construction to begin at the beginning of 2010.

April 28, 2009

**WORK SESSION – 2009/2010 PROPOSED PROGRAM OF SERVICES - ED DALEY-CITY
MANAGER & ELESTEEN HAGER-FINANCE DIRECTOR**

City Manager Ed Daley presented a PowerPoint Budget Review (copy filed in the City Clerk's Office). He plans to take \$1.2M from the Meals & Hotel tax. He would like to see more funds go to Parks & Recreation. CDBG funds cover some fees for children who cannot afford it. Leasing the marina could bring in some money. In May 2008 Council decided not to raise taxes but took money from the reserves to balance the budget. It also anticipated some business coming in with revenue. But they did not come until one year later; that affected revenue. The City Manager will provide a report to Council at the August meeting regarding what was projected and what actually came in. Monthly reports will be provided by the Finance Department.

ADJOURN

Motion was made at 9:35 PM by Councilor Walton, and seconded by Councilor Emerson, to adjourn the meeting. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Vice Mayor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes
Councilor Stokes	-	yes
Councilor Walton	-	yes
Mayor Pelham	-	yes

Brenda S. Pelham, Mayor

Julie B. Sharp, Assistant City Clerk