MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 11, 2016, 7:00 P.M.
REGULAR SESSION

PRESENT: The Honorable W. Eugene Hunt, Jr., Mayor
The Honorable Carey L. Freeman, Vice Mayor
The Honorable Traci-Dale Crawford
The Honorable Charles M. Southall III
The Honorable Herbert R. Green, Jr.
The Honorable Raymond D. Vernall
The Honorable Henry W. Ayer III

J. Randall Wheeler, City Manager
Judy F. Wiggins, Assistant City Manager/City Clerk
D. Wayne Moore, City Attorney

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Mayor Hunt called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Hunt rendered the invocation and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

New Employee Introduction

Street Maintenance Supervisor, Brad Wilkens, introduced the new Public Works employee, Daniel Reeder. Mayor Hunt, on behalf of Council, welcomed the new employee to the City.

Bay Star Homes

Mayor Hunt recognized and presented a Bay Star Home flag, provided by the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission GoGreen initiative, to Poquoson residents, Traci Crawford and Joseph Zawodny, for making positive adjustments to their home and yard to improve the natural environment and help clean our waterways. Both Councilwoman Crawford and Mr. Zawodny encouraged other citizens to consider taking the appropriate measures to become a Bay Star Homeowner as well.

AUDIENCE FOR VISITORS:

Ms. Randie Trestrail, 212 Beach Road, thanked the City Engineer for her hard work to enable the City to meet its TMDL requirements for 2018. She also emphasized the importance of improving the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay and asked that Council formally request our State legislators to endorse a budget amendment in order to provide

additional funds to assist localities in meeting TMDL and Stormwater Permit requirements. She also asked Council to support no tax increase for waterfront homeowners who had invested money to transform their property into a living shoreline.

Dr. David Maxwell, 111 Lee Avenue, expressed concern that there were no City ordinances that prohibit hanging/cleaning deer carcasses on one's property and asked Council to consider local legislation to prevent or screen such activity.

Ms. Amanda Philbeck, 1 Huntshire Lane, expressed support for the concerns of the two previous speakers and thanked the City Engineer for her hard work to ensure that the City will meet the TMDL requirements. She encouraged the City and the School System to offer classes to the public and students on the TMDL Program and how we can improve the quality of our waterways.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Councilman Green moved, seconded by Councilman Ayer, to adopt the minutes of the regular session held December 14, 2015 as submitted. Recorded vote on the motion:

YES: Councilmembers Southall, Freeman, Vernall, Green, Ayer, Crawford and Mayor Hunt.

NO: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF TWO STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FACILITIES LOCATED NEAR THE OXFORD RUN DITCH**

Mayor Hunt pointed out that during the work session held prior to this meeting, the City's two proposed stormwater best management practices (BMPs) that will enable the City to meet its 2018 TMDL program requirements had been discussed. The City Engineer, Ellen Roberts, explained that the BMPs to be constructed will consist of a Wet Pond located west of the Poquoson Library and a Constructed Wetland located alongside and southeast of the intersection of the Oxford Run and Victory Boulevard ditches. In conclusion, she stated that the City had solicited bids for this project and that staff was recommending that the contract be awarded to the lowest bidder, Northwest Contractors, Inc., at a price of $325,451.10.

A resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contact with Northwest Contractors, Inc. was presented for consideration and Councilman Green moved, seconded by Councilman Southall that it be adopted. Recorded vote on the motion:

YES: Councilmembers Ayer, Crawford, Green, Freeman, Southall, Vernall and Mayor Hunt.

NO: None.

2. REQUEST TO APPLY FOR AN AID TO PORTS GRANT FOR A MESSICK POINT BREAKWATER

Ms. Charity Gavaza, Economic Development Coordinator, stated that with Council's recent approval of a contract to construct a breakwater at Messick Point with a portion of the cost being funded with a Virginia Port Authority grant, she was seeking Council's consideration of a Phase II project. She stated that the second phase would extend this protective barrier to the terminus of Messick Point in order to prevent damage to boats, piers and commercial enterprises located in this area. She pointed out that based upon bid information received from the first breakwater bid, it is anticipated that the next phase will cost $270,000. Since the Virginia Aid to Ports grant provides 75% funding on such projects, the City will request $202,500 in grant funds to design, permit and construct the second breakwater phase.

During Council's discussion, it was agreed that funding to provide electricity and water to the City's existing pier at Messick Point should be rolled into the grant request and that staff should contact the Virginia Marine Resources Commission to inquire if they would provide solar navigational lights for the breakwaters, phases 1 and 2.

Subsequent to a brief discussion, Councilman Green moved, seconded by Councilman Ayer, that City staff be authorized to submit a grant application for the Messick Point Breakwater, Phase II. Recorded vote on the motion:

YES: Councilmembers Crawford, Ayer, Southall, Freeman, Green, Vernall and Mayor Hunt.

NO: None.

3. APPROVAL OF PROPOSED POQUOSON EXCHANGE CLUB COMMUNITY PROJECT AT MESSICK POINT

The Economic Development Director, David Callis, stated that he had been approached by members of the Poquoson Exchange Club to discuss a community project at Messick Point. The project would include a 16' by 24' outdoor interpretive center which could be used for classes and seminars as well as picnic/family gatherings. He explained that the project is proposed to be located on the City's property at 413 Messick Road which is adjacent to the public boat ramps and contains the public restrooms and the former marina store. He pointed out that given the close proximity of the property to the shoreline, the project will likely require approval from the Board of Zoning Appeals and possible mitigation. In conclusion, he stated that the Exchange Club is seeking Council's approval for the project concept and location prior to taking the project to the Club's general membership for vote and expenditure approval. If approved by Council and the membership, the Club will fund and construct the improvement, but will request a waiver of any administrative fees and may ask for initial site prep assistance.

Mr. Ed Hartman, Poquoson Exchange Club President, stated that the Club members were looking for a project that would positively impact the entire community and that the removal of trees on the property would not be necessary in order to construct the facility.

Councilman Green pointed out that a more central location on the site would be preferable as the adjacent property supports an active seafood business.

Councilman Green moved, seconded by Councilman Ayer, to approve the project concept and its location on City property located at 413 Messick Road. Recorded vote on the motion:

YES: Councilmembers Green, Vernall, Ayer, Southall, Crawford, Freeman and Mayor Hunt.

NO: None.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER:

The City Manager offered the following information:

- That in accordance with Council's consensus, a formal letter seeking additional SLAF funding for localities would be drafted and sent to the City's State legislators;
- That proposals from all Poquoson realtors/brokers would be solicited, subject to Council's approval, for the purpose of selling the City-owned home and property located at 826 Poquoson Avenue which was recently purchased and subdivided in order to retain ownership of the rear parcel for City events;
- That Delegate Helsel is to be commended for his sponsorship of the "No Wake Zone" bill, HB289, requested by the City of Hampton and endorsed by Poquoson and many other Hampton Roads localities; and
- That the City plans to install "No Wake Signs" at appropriate locations throughout the City to be used during severe weather/flood events.

COUNCIL DIRECTIVES:

Councilman Southall thanked everyone who was in attendance and those who were watching the meeting from home. He wished everyone a Happy New Year; welcomed Daniel Reeder to the City; congratulated the Bay Star Homeowners; thanked those staff members who had given presentations that evening; and commended the Poquoson Exchange Club for their ongoing community support.

Councilwoman Crawford echoed Councilman Southall's comments and stated that homeowners who are interested in participating in the Bay Star Program should visit the HRGreen website.

Vice Mayor Freeman, Councilmen Vernall, Green and Ayer echoed Councilman Southall's comments.

Mayor Hunt wished everyone a Happy New Year and stated that he looks forward to a great 2016.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Councilman Green moved, seconded by Vice Mayor Freeman, to adjourn the meeting. Recorded vote on the motion:

YES: Councilmembers Southall, Freeman, Vernall, Green, Ayer, Crawford and Mayor Hunt.

NO: None.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:56 p.m.