

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 22, 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:

Certificates of Appreciation

Mayor Hunt, on behalf of Council, presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Nancy Akers for her years of service on the York/Poquoson Social Services Board; and to Shawn Avery and Greg Gardy for their years of service on the Planning Commission.

Urban Crescent Education Funding Initiative

The City Manager, J. Randall Wheeler, stated that over the past several years, due to the ongoing recession, state funding for schools has been greatly reduced while local funding has increased. He explained that in December 2015 more than 150 government, school division and business representatives from Virginia's Urban Crescent met to discuss concerns over the Commonwealth's share of funding for public education. As a result of that meeting a letter, signed by over 105 Urban Crescent members to include the City, was sent to the Governor and members of the 2016 Virginia General Assembly calling upon them to meaningfully increase funding for public education. He also pointed out that state funding reductions have been exacerbated by the School's ongoing reduction in students and he encouraged citizens to contact their legislators to request a significant funding increase for public education. In conclusion, Mr. Wheeler showed a video produced by Virginia's Urban Crescent emphasizing the critical need for increased state funding for public schools.

Subsequent to viewing the video, Mayor Hunt thanked Council Members for their support of the City's School System during the difficult recessionary years.

AUDIENCE FOR VISITORS:

There were no speakers.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Councilman Green moved, seconded by Councilman Ayer, to adopt the minutes of the regular session held February 8, 2016 as submitted. Recorded vote on the motion:

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

NO: None.

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN (CIP) FOR FY 2017 AND BEYOND 2021

Since the City Manager had provided a detailed presentation on the recommended CIP at the work session held immediately prior to the meeting, he highlighted the following 4 capital projects that are recommended for inclusion in the FY 2017 budget:

- High School track;
- Primary School HVAC replacement;
- High School HVAC; and
- Messick Point Beach.

Mayor Hunt opened the public hearing.

Mr. Alan Moody, 207A Browns Neck Road, expressed support for the proposed CIP; however, he also expressed concern over the state-funded expansion of the southern portion of Wythe Creek Road. He stressed that the Victory Boulevard widening would be a much better use of these funds and asked to whom at the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) should he share his comments.

Since there were no other speakers, the public hearing was closed.

A resolution adopting the proposed five-year CIP was presented for consideration and Councilman Green moved, seconded by Councilman Southall, that it be adopted. Recorded vote on the motion:

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

NO: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR AN AIRBOAT

Fire Lieutenant Joe Breeden stated that the City had applied for and been awarded a 100% State Homeland Security Program Grant (SHSP) to purchase a \$65,000 airboat. He provided a brief presentation which explained how an airboat would greatly enhance the Fire Department's ability to support rescue and evacuation operations. He emphasized that an airboat will enable rescue personnel to access any area in the City regardless of water depth, ice or other extreme weather conditions. Subsequent to thorough research, Lt. Breeden stated that staff is recommending purchase of the vessel from Diamondback Airboats, LLC using the GSA Cooperative Purchasing Program. In response to Council queries, Lt. Breeden stated that yearly maintenance would be minimal due to the Department's high level of ongoing equipment maintenance; the boat, when not in use, will sit on a trailer; and the boat motor will have a 2-year warranty. In conclusion, he stated that training for staff was included in the price and that every effort would be made to limit any adverse impact on the environment and on recreational boaters/commercial watermen.

A resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Diamondback Airboats, LLC to purchase an airboat was presented for consideration and Councilman Green moved, seconded by Councilman Southall, that it be adopted. Recorded on the motion:

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

NO: None.

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

Mr. David Callis, Economic Development/Community Recreation Director, reminded Council that on January 11, 2016 they authorized City staff to submit a grant application to the Virginia Port Authority for an additional breakwater at Messick Point along with water, electrical and lighting for the City's dock at this location. He explained that staff is currently preparing the application, to be submitted by the March 1, 2016 deadline, which includes the total cost of \$337,500 for the requested breakwater and dock improvements. Based upon this cost estimate, Mr. Callis stated that the City's required 25% grant match would be \$84,375.

An ordinance appropriating the City's match was presented for Council consideration and Councilman Green moved, seconded by Councilman Ayer, to dispense with the second

reading of the ordinance and to adopt it on first reading to be effective immediately.
Recorded vote on the motion:

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

NO: None.

3. RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPOINTMENT TO THE WETLANDS BOARD

A resolution making an alternate appointment to the Wetlands Board was presented for Council's consideration. Councilman Green moved, seconded by Vice Mayor Freeman, to reappoint Sally Smith as an alternate on the Wetlands Board and to adopt the resolution with her name inserted. Recorded vote on the motion:

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

NO: None.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER:

The City Manager offered the following comments:

- He thanked the Planning Commission for their excellent discussion on and consideration of the proposed CIP at their February 18, 2016 meeting.
- He thanked State Delegate Gordon Helsel who had already extended his support for the City's request for a VPA grant to fund the additional breakwater at Messick Point and pointed out that Delegate Helsel had been instrumental in the City receiving the VPA grant for the first Messick Point breakwater.

COUNCIL DIRECTIVES:

Councilman Vernall reiterated his support for the proposed CIP and expressed delight that the City is again in a position to begin funding needed capital projects. He congratulated the High School Wrestling Team for their 3rd overall placement in the recent State Wrestling Tournament and Patrick McCormick and Ross Graham for taking first place in their respective divisions.

Councilman Green, in response to comments made during the CIP public hearing, stated that he serves on the regional Transportation Planning Organization and that if the City were to cancel the Wythe Creek Road widening project that VDOT would require thousands of dollars to be reimbursed by the City for the work they have already completed. In addition, he pointed out that localities cannot transfer VDOT funds from one project to another, i.e. from Wythe Creek Road to Victory Boulevard. Lastly, he explained that the City is working hard to get the Victory Boulevard improvements into VDOT's 2040 plan and that Delegate Helsel is doing everything possible to find funds to

support this project for which most of the right-of-way has already been purchased and drainage improvements completed.

Councilman Ayer commended staff for the recent *Island Tide* publication which he pointed out is full of activities for every age group.

Councilman Southall echoed all previous comments and thanked the City Manager and staff for the excellent CIP. He encouraged citizens to contact their state legislators to request increased funding for schools.

Councilwoman Crawford thanked the public who were in attendance and commended the City Department Heads for also being present. Lastly she reminded everyone that the Poquoson Kiwanis Boating & Fishing Flea Market will be held on March 12, 2016 from 8 a.m. to noon.

Vice Mayor Freeman stated that state emergency funding may be available to support the needed Victory Boulevard widening project since the City has only two ingress/egress points.

Mayor Hunt announced that the City will be holding a Community Food Drive very soon and asked Councilman Green to elaborate on this upcoming event.

Councilman Green stated that the Community Food Drive will be held on March 21 through March 25, 2016 with all donations going directly to the local Parish Thrift Store. He pointed out that non-perishable food items will be accepted at the Police and Fire Stations on Monday and Tuesday, and that Wednesday through Friday, items can be dropped off at Farm Fresh. Lastly, he reminded everyone that the monthly Foodbank distribution will be held on Tuesday, February 23rd from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the old Municipal Building.

Mayor Hunt reminded citizens that the City will soon be included in the 2nd Congressional District and that Congressman Randy Forbes will be our representative. He thanked City staff for their hard work on the CIP and expressed delight that this year the City had funds to support CIP projects.

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 Crawford, Ayer, Southall, Freeman, Vernall, Green and Mayor Hunt.

NO: None.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:50 p.m.