

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 26, 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. Vernal
The Honorable Henry W. Ayer III

Judy F. Wiggins, Assistant City Manager/City Clerk
D. Wayne Moore, City Attorney
Victoria H. Diggs, Deputy City Clerk

ABSENT: J. Randall Wheeler, City Manager

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 PRESENTATION:

Mayor Hunt presented outstanding citizenship plaques to the three young men, Mason McGavran, Ashton Withrow and Jared Goodson, who recently helped a man obtain critical medical attention that likely saved his life.

AUDIENCE FOR VISITORS:

Ms. Randie Trestrail, 212 Beach Road, asked that Council send a letter to our state legislators soliciting their support during the 2017 General Assembly Session for an appropriation of funds for the Stormwater Assistance Fund to assist localities in meeting TMDL and Stormwater Permit requirements.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Councilman Green moved, seconded by Councilman Ayer, to adopt the minutes of the regular session held September 12, 2016 as submitted. Recorded vote on the motion:

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

NO: None.

Councilman Green moved, seconded by Councilman Vernall, to adopt the minutes of the work session held September 8, 2016 as submitted. Recorded vote on the motion:

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

NO: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. RESOLUTION ENDORSING VMRC'S LEGISLATIVE AGENDA RE: AQUACULTURE LEASES AND REQUESTING THE DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN SHALLOW WATERS AT THE CONFLUENCE OF THE POQUOSON RIVER, ROBERTS CREEK AND BENNETTS CREEK AS "PUBLIC CLAMMING GROUNDS"

The Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, Judy F. Wiggins, reminded Council that Ben Stagg, Chief Engineer of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) for the Western area, at a recent work session cited several legislative items that the VMRC would be asking the General Assembly to approve and asked for Council's support. In addition, Mr. Stagg explained how certain shallow waters could be designated "public clamming grounds" and thus could not be leased for aquaculture activities. He specifically pointed out that the area at the confluence of Poquoson River, Roberts Creek and Bennetts Creek would definitely qualify as such.

A resolution expressing the City's support for specific legislative items identified by the Commission and for the designation of the shallow water at the confluence of the Poquoson River, Roberts Creek and Bennetts Creek as "public clamming grounds" was presented for Council's consideration. Councilman Green moved, seconded by Councilman Vernall, to adopt the resolution. Recorded vote on the motion:

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

NO: None.

In conclusion, Mayor Hunt emphasized that should the aforementioned area be designated public clamming grounds, it will not exclude watermen from harvesting shellfish in this area using traditional methods.

2. RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPOINTMENT TO THE COLONIAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD

A resolution making an appointment to the Colonial Behavioral Health (CBH) Board was presented for Council's consideration. Councilman Green moved, seconded by Councilman Ayer, to appoint Cynthia Spitzer to the CBH Board and to insert her name in the resolution. Recorded vote on the motion:

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

NO: None.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER:

The Assistant City Manager had no comments.

COUNCIL DIRECTIVES:

Councilman Southall thanked the CBH Executive Director, David Coe for his excellent presentation during the earlier work session. He also thanked those in the audience and those viewing the meeting from their homes for their interest in local government.

Councilwoman Crawford commended the Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, Judy F. Wiggins, for a job well done in the City Manager's absence.

Vice Mayor Freeman stated that he had recently read two interesting newspaper articles, one on red algae and the other on Poquoson Police Officers and local residents, Hamilton and Brandy Gills, who developed a "Find Program" to assist in locating missing persons. He applauded the officers and pointed out that this is an excellent example of how our citizens are pro-active in identifying and resolving community issues.

Councilman Vernall applauded the three young men who were recognized earlier in the meeting for their quick action to assist a critically ill resident. He also commended the Police Department for participating in training to help them in identifying and assisting mentally ill/challenged individuals.

Councilman Green reminded everyone that the Foodbank distribution in the City would occur on Tuesday, September 27th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the old Municipal Building with members of the Tabernacle United Methodist Church assisting. He also pointed out that it had come to his attention that many residents who are critically ill are not receiving medical attention since they do not qualify for Medicaid or Medicare, but cannot afford health insurance. He stated that three alternatives to resolve this issue were identified by state legislators last year; however, only one of the options was formally considered and it did not successfully address the issue. He explained that, with Council's approval, he would provide a synopsis of the three aforementioned options so that Council may consider and formally adopt the best alternative to be forwarded to our state legislators for their endorsement during the 2017 General Assembly Session.

In response to Councilman Green's inquiry, Mayor Hunt asked that a work session be scheduled as soon as is practicable discuss the aforementioned health insurance alternatives.

Councilman Ayer stated that upon Council's selection of the best insurance alternative, citizens should contact their state legislators to express support for it and to also request expeditious, good medical care for our veterans and active-duty military personnel. Lastly, he congratulated the three young men that were honored earlier in the meeting.

Mayor Hunt reminded everyone that the Poquoson Seafood Festival is quickly approaching and will be held on October 14, 15 and 16, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Councilman Green moved, seconded by Councilman Ayer, 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 7:20 p.m.