

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 24, 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:**

*Councilman Vernall – Gift to the City*

Councilman Raymond Vernall presented to City Council, on behalf of the Polynesian Voyaging Society (PVS) President and the crew of the traditional Hawaiian canoe, Hokule'a, a beautiful photograph of the Hokule'a and its sister canoe. He pointed out that the photograph was presented to him as an official representative of the City, at a reception for the crew sponsored by the Poquoson Yacht Club in appreciation for the warm welcome they had received from the City.

Mayor Hunt expressed appreciation for the photograph and asked that it be framed and appropriately displayed in the lobby of City Hall.

*Councilman Green – Legislative Item*

Councilman Green reminded Council that at the September 26, 2016 meeting, he pointed out that many critically ill persons are not receiving needed medical attention as they do not qualify for Medicare, Medicaid or cannot afford health care premiums. He stated that State Delegate Gordon Helsel had provided him with three alternative bills, which were considered but not adopted at the 2016 General Assembly that could potentially address

the current health care gap if the preferred option is resubmitted to the General Assembly for consideration in 2017. He provided a brief overview of each of the following three draft bills for Council's consideration and possible inclusion in the City's legislative program for 2017.

- *HB 350 Certificate of Public Need; changes to Medical Care Facilities Certificate of Public Need Program.*
- *HB 193 Certificates of Public Need (COPN); creates three-phase process to sunset requirements for medical care.*
- *HB 1083 Medical Care Facilities Certificate of Pubic Need Program; changes to Program, report.*

In conclusion Councilman Green stated that he is recommending HB 350 as the optimal alternative as it will provide the best coverage for those who currently fall in the health care insurance gap.

The City Manager, J. Randall Wheeler, suggested that, if Council so desires, staff can prepare a resolution in support of whichever House Bill they deem the best option so that it can be considered and possibly adopted at a future meeting and subsequently forwarded to our state legislators.

In response to Council queries, Councilman Green explained that HB 350 was endorsed by the study group who was tasked by the General Assembly to consider the three aforementioned bills.

Mayor Hunt thanked Councilman Green for his extensive research into the three draft health care bills and sought Council's comments/recommendations on them. Following Council's discussion, it was apparent that HB 350 was the favored option.

In conclusion, Mayor Hunt asked staff to draft a resolution reflecting the desires of Council regarding this matter and include it in the next Council agenda.

#### **AUDIENCE FOR VISITORS:**

There were no public comments.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

Councilman Green moved, seconded by Vice Mayor Freeman, to adopt the minutes of the regular session held October 11, 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 October 11, 2016 as submitted. Recorded vote on the motion:

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

**NO:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 70 OF THE CITY CODE BY REVISING SECTION 5, INTERFERING WITH SIGNS, POLES OR STRUCTURES WITHIN STREET RIGHT-OF WAY**

Mayor Hunt reminded City Council that at the October 11, 2016 work session they reviewed the draft Sign Ordinance amendments and it was the consensus of Council to delay adoption of these amendments until after the first of the year so that the ordinance could be more thoroughly reviewed and additional amendments could be considered if necessary. However, he pointed out that the amendment to Chapter 70 of the City Code, allowing the removal of illegal signs in the public right-of-way, was included on this agenda for consideration since it was not part of the Sign Ordinance.

An ordinance approving the amendment was presented for Council's consideration and Councilman Green moved, seconded by Councilman Ayer, that it be adopted. Prior to the vote, Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, Judy F. Wiggins, stated that Council has the option of adopting the ordinance on first reading or dispensing with the second reading and adopting it to be effective in 30 days. Both Councilmen Green and Ayer amended their motion by dispensing with the second reading and adopting it on first reading. Recorded vote on the motion:

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

**NO:** None.

**2. RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPOINTMENT TO THE WETLANDS BOARD**

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

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

**NO:** None.

### **3. RESOLUTION CANCELLING THE SECOND MEETINGS OF THE MONTHS OF NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2016**

A resolution was presented cancelling the second meetings of November and December 2016 and Councilman Green moved, seconded by Vice Mayor Freeman, that it be adopted. 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 expressed appreciation to the entire community, City employees and all of the volunteers for an extremely successful Seafood Festival. He particularly thanked residents for their patience relative to the increased traffic experienced by the City over the Festival weekend.

In response to Mayor Hunt's request for an update on the pending Little Florida Road drainage improvements, the City Manager stated that the City used its social media, website and Code Red to update everyone on the imminent project and that signs, in response to Council's request, had also been erected to inform the public of the forthcoming, associated detours.

#### **COUNCIL DIRECTIVES:**

Councilman Southall applauded everyone that helped to make the Poquoson Seafood Festival (PSF) and the Workboat Races so successful.

Councilwoman Crawford echoed Councilman Southall's comments.

Vice Mayor Freeman also expressed gratitude for everyone who had worked so hard to make the Festival great and he pointed out that approximately 45,000 persons had attended this year's event.

In response to Councilman Vernall's query regarding the status of the Messick Point Breakwater, the City Manager stated that the City is currently working with its insurance firm, Virginia Municipal League, who will pay for a structural analysis of the damaged breakwater to determine why it failed.

Councilman Vernall reminded everyone to drive cautiously on Halloween.

Councilman Green stated that he had attended and enjoyed the first annual Sarah Bonwell Hudgins Run/Walk that Councilman Ayer, owner of Pomoco Nissan, had graciously sponsored and served as emcee. Lastly, he reminded everyone that the Foodbank distribution in the City would occur on October 25, 2016 with members of the Poquoson Woman's and Poquoson Garden Clubs assisting.

Councilman Ayer echoed all previous accolades relative to the PSF. He stated that the recent fundraiser at Sarah Bonwell Hudgins had been a very humbling experience. He stated that the PSF Workboat Races were well attended and that he appreciated the City's assistance with this important event.

Mayor Hunt stated that the Festival was great and congratulated everyone on its success. He also commended Councilman Ayer, Sonny Insley and the volunteers for doing such a great job organizing and overseeing the Workboat Races. He particularly pointed out that these individuals had to work extra hard since they had to cancel the original event due to severe weather. He announced that the recent City Business Breakfast was well attended and quite successful. He thanked Councilman Green for representing the City on the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization and the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission to ensure that the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel (HRBT) expansion project moves forward. He also expressed appreciation for Virginia Delegate David Yancey whose collaborative efforts led to the approval of the best transportation alternative by the participating localities.

Councilman Green stated that the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission staff should also be commended for developing a hybrid alternative that was unanimously supported by all participating localities as well as the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) ensuring the forward movement on the HRBT improvements.

Mayor Hunt thanked all of the Council Members who represent the City on various regional boards/committees. Lastly he stated that he had signed and sent a letter to Colonel Kelly, on behalf of Council, expressing support for the Surry-Skiffes Creek Project and the need for a speedy decision regarding this issue.

**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 7:45 p.m.