

**HAMPTON CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2009, 5:30 P.M.**

The Hampton City Council Special Session was called to order at City Council Chambers by Mayor Diane Weldin at 5:30 p.m. Council members in attendance were Patrick Palmer, Bill Hodge, Chad Hanson, Karen Schmidt and Steve Harms. Craig Eckhardt was absent. Mayor Weldin invited those present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag. Mayor Weldin called for a motion to approve the **agenda**. Motion by Harms. Second by Hanson. Motion approved unanimously.

Mayor Weldin called upon Public Works Director Doug Tarr to comment on issues for **discussion regarding closure of the swimming pool, due to chemical levels detected in Squaw Creek**. Tarr explained that he and Water Department personnel had been monitoring water loss and increased need for chemical replacement at the pool this season. In checking the area of pool water outflow to Squaw Creek, chlorine levels were found to be higher than acceptable, and this information was reported to the Department of Natural Resources. The DNR responded that the City had two options; divert the water flow to a storm sewer or close the pool. Tarr advised with no equipment currently in place to divert the water, the decision was made to close the pool, pending Council direction for further action to be taken. Council members asked the cost estimate for making such upgrades. Tarr explained that in order to adequately divert sources of water flow from the facility, an engineering firm would have to be consulted to assist in identifying the various locations of leaks coming from the pool facility, before the City could estimate what repairs and costs would be necessary to comply with DNR requirements. He further advised that staff certification would be jeopardized by any non-compliance with such requirements, as well as other potential penalties to the City.

Mayor Weldin offered those present to address the Council. **Ted Guldborg** stated he'd accompanied Tarr to the pool yesterday and today and confirmed the water loss reported is correct, and he suspects a majority of the loss is related to the circulation system. He believed the pool should be closed, and the City should proceed in planning the construction of a new pool. However, he said it's his opinion that an aquatic center was unnecessary for our city's needs, and a less expensive project should be considered. **Ron Schermer** suggested the City seek the opinion of an engineering firm on what to do now, not necessarily what type of new facility should replace it. It was explained that an engineering firm was contacted and gave a written opinion to close the pool. **Jim Davies** addressed the Council, stating he is a board member of the Franklin Wellness Center, and advised he thought the board would be willing to assist in making their pool available to at least help get any pending swimming lesson sessions completed.

Motion by Schmidt, seconded by Hodge, to close the pool permanently. Schmidt stated she felt it would be fiscally irresponsible to keep the pool open, with the time and money it would take to make necessary upgrades. Hanson said a priority would be to make certain the City complies with DNR requirements to avoid additional liabilities. Discussion was carried out regarding the issue of refunds that will likely be requested, and regrets of how this will affect those employed and contracted for the pool season. Roll call vote: Ayes - Palmer, Schmidt, Harms, Hanson and Hodge. Nays - None. Eckhardt absent. Motion approved.

Motion to adjourn by Palmer, seconded by Hodge at 5:55 p.m. Motion approved unanimously.  
**Adjournment 5:55 p.m.**

Attest:

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Ron Dunt, City Manager

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Mayor Diane Weldin