

Minutes of the January 18, 2024 Hampton City Council Budget Workshop

The Hampton City Council Budget Workshop was called to order at the Hampton City Council Chambers by Mayor Steve Birdsall at 6:00 p.m. The workshop was also offered electronically through Zoom. Council members in attendance were Kevin Blanford, James Davies, Bill Hodge, Jerre Grefe, Barry Lamos, and Patrick Palmer. Also, present were Police Chief Mark Morrison, Public Works Director Doug Tarr, and City Manager Ron Dunt. Mayor Birdsall invited those present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag.

Mayor Birdsall offered time for public comment. There was none.

Public Works Director Doug Tarr informed the council there was district court Wednesday on the properties at 4 & 6 1st St NW and now will wait for the court's decision. He also updated the council on notices sent out this week for snow removal from sidewalks and the process he will follow. Police Chief Morrison updated the council on nuisance properties and said they are continuing to address them.

The council then heard FY25 budget funding requests from Kim Manning Hampton Public Library Director, Bill Hittle Chamber Director representing the Design Committee of the Greater Franklin County Chamber of Commerce and Main Street Hampton Building Improvement Grant program, and Mary Amsbaugh FCDA Executive Director. The council acknowledged a written funding request from the Hampton Municipal Band and Hampton Senior Center. Jim Davies presented a request for funding for the Hampton Historic Preservation Commission.

During Ms. Manning's funding request, City Manager Dunt explained that due to House File 718 the budget process will take longer than usual. In prior years city budgets were due at the end of March. That has been extended to the end of April due to additional steps in the budgeting process required by HF 718. HF 718 also combines a number of general levies, and one of those is the library levy. However, with the negative growth in taxable valuation for Hampton, we fall into Tier 1 formula which still provides similar revenue that the library levy created. Once we have the entire budget assembled and have a feel for total expenses and revenues the council will then determine priorities. At this time Dunt didn't anticipate major cuts in the budget, however, the final budget will be the determining factor. Dunt cautioned Manning to prepare for a 'fiscal cliff' in the next couple of years regarding what used to be levy revenue for the library.

City Manager Dunt recapped prior discussions on setting the transient merchant fees. After much discussion, the Mayor asked the council to consider the fees over the weekend and it would be placed on the workshop agenda again for Monday in hopes of voting on a resolution Thursday. Other regulations regarding noise, hours of operation, etc. would need to be set by ordinance and discussed at a future workshop.

City Manager Dunt updated the council on the upcoming Budget Workshops. There will be a workshop on Monday, January 22, but the budget workshop on Monday, January 29th is canceled.

The workshop concluded at 6:53 p.m.