

Minutes of the March 10, 2025 Hampton City Council Workshop

The Hampton City Council 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 and YouTube. Council members in attendance were James Davies, Bill Hodge, Jerre Greffe, Barry Lamos, and Patrick Palmer. Ward 3 vacant. Also present were Police Chief Mark Morrison and City Manager Ron Dunt. Public Works Director Doug Tarr was absent. 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.

Chief Morrison said the police department is working on addressing cars parked in front yards and the garbage issues at the Coonley building. Planning for spring community cleanup has started and details will be advertised soon.

The council considered options to fill the Ward 3 vacancy created by Kevin Blanford's resignation. Options are to either hold a special election or council appointment. The consensus of the council is to fill the vacancy by council appointment. City Manager Dunt then presented the council with two timelines of events. The consensus of the council was to use the shorter version and accept applications for one week. The council will vote on the matter at Thursday's regular session meeting.

Josh Englar from Barga Incorporated discussed crack sealing the tennis courts. With the courts re-cracking so soon, it appears there is an issue with the base layer and the company they work with was not comfortable providing a quote given the conditions. Other suggested options were to consider an overlay, complete reconstruction, or tile that is placed over the current courts.

The council reviewed a proposal for the purchase of a new fire truck. Rory Fender from the Fire Department said with the mandate in 2026 for a different type of DEF the fire department wants to get a truck before the changeover. The current truck is 25 years old and there is hope to resell it. The new truck would be a pumper tanker with the same specs as the current truck. Dunt explained it was not in the budget for FY26 and without adequate cash on hand, the city would have to acquire a loan. Also, since the truck purchase and loan were not budgeted for, it would require a budget amendment. The consensus of the council was to proceed with ordering the new truck.

City Manager Dunt reported after recent concerns with the idea of vacating the 500 block of 1st St SE city staff is changing their recommendation. Instead, it is recommended to be placed on a future council workshop to discuss different street and traffic enforcement options. The item will be placed on a future workshop agenda.

City Manager Dunt informed the council if the city discontinued fluoridating water, it would have no cost savings impact on the current water treatment plant project. The only cost savings would be the fluoride operation itself, which would save the city \$10,000 annually if removed. The council will continue to discuss at a future council workshop.

The workshop concluded at 6:40 p.m.