

## **Minutes of the May 19, 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, Bill Holmstrom, Jerre Grefe, and Patrick Palmer. Barry Lamos joined by Zoom. Also present were Police Chief Mark Morrison, City Manager Ron Dunt, and Public Works Director Doug Tarr. Mayor Birdsall invited those present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag.

Mayor Birdsall offered time for public comment. Council member Bill Hodge informed the council of his resignation to be effective July 1, 2025. The council will discuss how to fill the upcoming vacancy at Thursday's regular session.

Chief Morrison and Public Works Director Tarr updated the council on various nuisance properties and answered questions from the council.

Laela Ragsdale, ISU Extension, presented the council with a request to paint a bike path lane on Federal St N beginning at the intersection of 12<sup>th</sup> Ave and ending at the Harriman Park entrance on 19<sup>th</sup> Ave NE. Laela explained with the LEAP Grant the extension office would apply for different grants and it would no cost to the city. After discussion the consensus of the council was to place the item on Thursday's agenda.

Carolee Philpott expressed concerns about the Hampton Tree Board planting trees at Memorial Park. Specifically, those that have been planted in the flat area. She is concerned there is no longer a place for kids to play and that it adds security issues to the area. She is requesting the trees to be transplanted somewhere else and thinks the Tree Board should fall under the guidance and direction of the City Council. Randy Sanders from the Hampton Tree Board said they started planting trees in Memorial Park in 2015. In the years of being at the park there have rarely been kids at the park except for a few on the basketball court or in the shelter house. He stated there are just as many trees at the other parks in town that see higher foot traffic, so he does not feel the trees are impacting the park being used. Sanders answered various questions from the council. Dick Lukensmeyer from the Hampton Tree Board explained the tree board is in constant contact with Doug Tarr and there have only been 2 trees planted in Memorial Park this year. Craig Semler from the Hampton Tree Board explained as the tree mature and fencing is removed the trees will be trimmed and visibility will improve. The council asked the tree board to continue to stay in contact and work with the city.

City Manager Dunt asked the council to provide direction on how to proceed with Chapter 56.05, dangerous and vicious animals. After much discussion, the council was split on what direction to go. Three council members favored starting over with the first reading Ordinance 406 as it is, two other council members wanted to consider wording changes to 406, and one favored just leaving the current code in place. The Mayor suggested another 1st reading of Ordinance 406 on the May 22, 2025 agenda.

The workshop concluded at 7:29 p.m.