

Minutes of the September 23, 2024, 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 Kevin Blanford, James Davies, Jerre Greffe, Bill Hodge, and Patrick Palmer. Council member Barry Lamos joined by Zoom. Also present were City Manager Ron Dunt, Police Chief Mark Morrison, 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. Carolee Philpott, Hampton, presented the council with plans for the flagpole base she is donating to Memorial Park. The council asked Public Works Director Tarr to review. Philpott also requested permission for her family to take down 2 small dead pine trees in the park. Public Works Director Tarr will meet with Ms. Philpott and assess the trees she is referring to.

Public Works Director Tarr and Police Chief Morrison updated the council on nuisance properties. Both departments are continuing to issue notices and have several cases pending in court. Chief Morrison and Tarr answered questions from the council.

Matt Stoffel from PFM Financial Advisors LLC presented the council with information and an engagement letter to have PFM act as a financial advisor to the city including the development of financial planning models. Stoffel answered various questions from the council. After discussion, the consensus of the council was to include the engagement letter on Thursday's regular session agenda.

Georgia Arevalo, new executive director at La Luz, addressed the council regarding their requested street closure on Friday, September 27th from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for a block party. The closure requested is 2nd Ave NE from the intersection of N Federal St to the alley and a portion of the alley. The council asked questions and Chief Morrison if he had any concerns. His only concern was when alleys are blocked off people drive down them not realizing and have a hard time getting back out. Arevalo said there will no longer be anything placed in the alley so the alley can remain open for traffic flow. The street closure request will be included on Thursday's regular session agenda for approval.

Chief Morrison presented the council with speeding concerns from Amber Rodgers on 6th St SW. Rodgers feels there is speeding on the road and thinks there should be a stop sign added, speed bumps, or more patrol. Morrison reported the police department has done extra patrol in the area, added speed limit signs, placed the speed trailer in multiple locations and times in the area, contacted specific drivers pointed out by the complainant, and checked traffic crash data. Public Works Director Tarr contacted DOT Engineering Operations Mike Frank and DOT Traffic Tech Craig Wood. The Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices specifically states yield or stop signs should not be used for speed control, and the measures taken are what the DOT would do with a similar concern. The only other item the DOT would look at is a speed study to make sure it is an appropriate posted speed. After discussion, the council would like to review data from the speed trailer being in the area and asked for further information on the cost of a speed study.

Chief Morrison followed up on concerns from a prior workshop regarding dog regulations. He said he did not find a lot of communities that had tethering regulations. Council member Grefe believes there are some state regulations regarding tethering that Chief Morrison will look into. Chief Morrison also presented the council with examples of chipping regulations and the updated vicious dog ordinance. After discussion, the consensus of the council was to have the City Attorney add chipping of dogs that have been deemed vicious to the updated vicious dog ordinance.

Chief Morrison presented the council with an updated noise ordinance. The sound level limits were tested in a variety of circumstances, and they appear to be fair limits. The consensus of the council was to move forward with the proposed ordinance and to include it on a future regular session agenda.

Public Works Director Tarr presented a cost estimate for transverse crack repairs. After discussion, the consensus of the council was to discuss during budget planning.

Mayor Birdsall adjourned the workshop at 6:57 p.m.