

Minutes of October 20, 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, Jerre Grefe, Bill Holmstrom, Barry Lamos, Patrick Palmer, and Kristin Roode. Also present were City Manager Ron Dunt, Police Chief Mark Morrison and Public Works Director Doug Tarr.

Mayor Birdsall read the Mayors Leadership Statement. Mayor Birdsall offered time for public comment. There was none.

Public Works Director Tarr and Police Chief Morrison updated the council on nuisances and answered questions from the council.

Jason Lubben of Giddings Signs presented information regarding entrance sign conditions. There has been significant peeling and fading on the West and South entrance signs. Giddings Signs has presented two options for the council to consider. After discussion, the consensus of the council was to further discuss the project during a budget workshop in early 2026.

Mary Amsbaugh, Director of the Franklin County Development Association gave an update on her activities.

Elisa VanWert, Chamber Director, presented a request for street closures for the Chamber's annual Halloween Howl. The request is the same as last year. The consensus of the council was to include this request on the agenda for the Thursday, October 23 Council Meeting.

The council continued the discussion regarding the possibility of chickens being allowed in the city limits of Hampton. City council members reported hearing both positive and negative comments regarding the issue. Much research has been done by Council, Mayor and City Manager regarding ordinances in other towns. Jennifer Gruelke and Sarah Kolb reiterated their request to keep the chickens already at their residences. City Manager Dunt shared information from Attorney Kristine Stone. At the Thursday, October 23 meeting, the council will consider the individual requests for chickens submitted by Jennifer Gruelke, Mary Rodriguez and Sarah Kolb.

The workshop concluded at 7:11 p.m.