

Minutes of the December 11, 2023 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. Council members in attendance were Kevin Blanford, James Davies, Jerre Grefe, Bill Hodge, Barry Lamos and Pat Palmer. Also present were Police Chief Mark Morrison, Public Works Director Doug Tarr and City Manager Ron Dunt.

Mayor Birdsall offered time for public comment. Matt Grohe from Mid-American Publishing introduced to the council Jennifer Burnham, the new editor at the Hampton Chronicle.

Chad McCleary from ION Environmental Solutions joined by Zoom. He reported the current samplers at the Wastewater Treatment Plant need to be replaced and presented the council with options. The council asked various questions and requested McCleary evaluate shipping versus having staff pick up the samplers. The consensus was supportive of ordering the samplers.

Public Works Director Tarr gave a summary of the Code Enforcement Conference he attended in November. He reported there was a lot of good information shared and the city is following the correct procedures with nuisance properties.

Mark Crawford from Crawford Engineering was in attendance to present the council with FY25 paving options. After discussion, the consensus of the council was to include mill and overlay of 2nd St NE from 1st Ave to 3rd Ave NE and the curb and gutter replacement of 6th and 7th St SE from Central Ave to 1st Ave SE. Mark will finalize a project scope and bring back to the council. The council also asked Crawford to look at the drainage at the intersection of 2nd St NE from 1st Ave NE to 3rd Ave NE and provide a rough estimate to add storm sewer infrastructure.

The council discussed the request for additional lighting at Memorial Park. After discussion, the council requested Public Works Director Tarr get estimates for placing an additional light at the park.

City Manager Dunt presented the council with a draft vacant building ordinance. The council will review and continue to discuss at the next council workshop.

City Manager Dunt provided the council with the FY25 budget calendar. Councilman Lamos had additional questions for Doug Tarr regarding a port-o-potty at the pool parking lot prior to the lighted parade, water quality, garbage can ordinance, Brothers Auto parking cars in ROW and status of some dilapidated houses. Tarr stated he would provide notice by publication on one property. Mayor Birdsall reminded everyone of the progress Tarr and Chief Morrison are making on the dilapidated properties. Dunt also gave an update on the unsuccessful attempt to seek demolition reimbursement on the Mulford property on Central Ave E.

The workshop concluded at 7:00 p.m.