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**CITY OF HAMPTON
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
JANUARY 8, 2019**

MINUTES

Present: Mayor Steve Hutchison; Mayor Pro Tem Errol Mitchell; Councilmembers: Stephanie Bodie, Elton Brown, Henry Byrd, Ann Tarpley and Willie Turner.

Staff: City Clerk Melissa Brooks, City Attorney L’Erin Wiggins, Director of Human Resources Cris Randall, Director of Economic Development James Bumpus, Director of Finance Millie Shah, Director of Community Development Frank Houenou.

Student Interns: Hunter Harper and Ivan Olvera.

Absent: Police Chief Derrick Austin and Public Works Director John Spraggins.

Mayor Hutchison called the January 8, 2019 Regular Session Meeting to Order at 6:30 p.m.

1. Opening Ceremonies.

A. Invocation by Pastor James Murkison.

B. Pledge of allegiance to the flag.

City of Hampton’s Police Department.

Mayor Hutchison took a moment to acknowledge the upcoming Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. He called Economic Development Director Dr. James Bumpus forward to address particulars of the upcoming Holiday. Dr. Bumpus stated that in observance of MLK Day, the City of Hampton will feature art by students from Hampton High School. The art renderings will be on display at the Train Depot and city hall from January 18 – February 28, 2019. He invited the Mayor and members of City Council and Citizens of the community to join in the celebration. Dr. Bumpus stated that in preparation for 2020 King Day celebration he would like to organize a MLK Steering Committee comprised of three senior steering committee members; one white clergy person one black clergy person, one member of the City Council, and members of the community. As it relates to the steering committee, Mayor Hutchison asked when information should be submitted. Dr. Bumpus responded at the next council meeting.

2. Presentation and Approval of City Council Minutes.

A. Regular Session Meeting Minutes held December 11, 2018.

47 **ACTION:** Councilmember Byrd motioned to approve December 11, 2018 Regular Session
48 meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Councilmember Brown.

49

50 **Motion Passed (6-0)**

51

52 B. Special Called Meeting held December 14, 2018.

53

54 **ACTION:** Councilmember Turner motioned to approve December 14, 2018 Special Called
55 meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Councilmember Brown.

56

57 **Motion Passed (4-0)**

58 *Councilmembers Henry Byrd and Elton Brown were not present for the Dec. 14th*
59 *meeting.*

60

61 C. Special Called Meeting held December 27, 2018.

62

63 **ACTION:** Councilmember Turner motioned to approve December 27, 2018 Special Called
64 meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Councilmember Byrd.

65

66 **Motion Passed (5-0)**

67 *Councilmember Mitchell was not present for the December 27th meeting.*

68

69 3. Acknowledgement of Guests/Presentations.

70

71 Mayor Hutchison requested that Denise McKay and Mrs. Linda Hutchison come
72 forward for presentation.

73

74 Mrs. Hutchison gave highlights of Denise McKay's tenure with the City of
75 Hampton. The audience applauded the good work of Denise McKay as she was
76 presented with a rocking chair.

77

78 4. Public Comments.

79

80 • Mr. Brian Keefer, Principal of Hampton Elementary Charter School came forward
81 and gave an update regarding the school. He shared a video highlighting where the
82 school is going. The school is completing a five-year experiment as a charter school.
83 At the completion of the 18-19 school year Hampton Elementary will no longer be a
84 charter school. The school is looking forward to receiving STEM endorsement.
85 Principal Keefer stated that he wants to continue a conversation that started two years
86 ago regarding be recognized as a Georgia State Safe Route to School Partner of the
87 year in 2017. A study was done to make the city more walkable. He shared
88 information regarding a connector that would connect surrounding streets to
89 McBrayer Park.

90

91 • Donna McWhorter Hampton High School came forward to discuss a Community
92 Book Club. The book club is an initiative to promote reading amongst the youth and

93 improve literacy in high schoolers. The community book club is called “Hampton
94 Reads”. The book club will meet January 15 at 6:30 p.m. at Hampton High School in
95 the Media Center. They will be reading the *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the*
96 *Night-Time*.
97

- 98 • Arley Lowe spoke about the reading program at Hampton Elementary Charter
99 School. He expressed concerns regarding the renaming of the old Fortson Library.
100 He suggested that it might be appropriate to name the park behind the senior center in
101 honor of Catherine Williams. Let’s leave the Fortson name on the building.
102
- 103 • Dawn Greer came forward to reflect on successes/opportunities:
104 Need for scrutiny in executive hiring, not heavily rely on GMA recommendation re:
105 hiring, decorum must apply to all, unequal access to city property, restricting public
106 comments, having a more clear understanding on resolution and ordinances before
107 voting on them, rescinding votes because of a lack of understanding, loss of long-time
108 qualified employees, need for a more transparent process for spending city money.
109
- 110 • Michael Rockhart came forward and spoke about Resolution 2019-01 (posting
111 agendas and minutes). Dissemination of information in a timely manner.
112

113 5. Consideration and Action to amend the January 8, 2019 agenda to add “Consideration of
114 Interim City Manager’s position.
115

116 **ACTION:** Councilmember Tarpley motioned to approve the amendment of the
117 January 8, 2019 agenda to add “Consideration of Interim City Manager’s position,
118 seconded by Councilmember Byrd.
119

120 **Motion Passed (6-0)**
121

122 6. Review and Approval of City Manager’s Job Description.
123

124 Human Resources Director Cris Randall came forward and stated that one of the
125 goals for the HR Office is to update all job descriptions for the City to clearly identify
126 specifications, qualifications while aligning with public administration best practices
127 also comply with federal requirements such as ADA.
128

129 HR Director Randall began the review of the job description.
130

131 Tarpley inquired about ordinance 3-10 (a). It was explained that Ordinance 473 was
132 replaced with Resolution 19-03. The City Attorney stated that the ordinance and the
133 resolution contain the same information.
134

135 The following items was brought to the attention of HR Director Randall for
136 revisions: **FUNCTIONS:** Serve as the City’s spokesperson, clarification on budget
137 preparation, ensure that job description reference code section 2-120 (d). Tracking
138 legislative issues and **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS.**

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A brief conversation took place regarding minimum years of service and preferred years as a city manager.

ACTION: Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell motioned to approve Resolution 19-03 (City Manager’s job description) with recommended changes, seconded by Councilmember Tarpley

Motion Passed (6-0)

- 7. Consideration and adoption of Resolution 2019-01 establishing rules for City Committees; to provide for repeal of conflicting resolutions; to provide an effective date; and to provide for other lawful purposes.

Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell motioned to approve Resolution 2019-01, seconded by Councilmember Byrd.

City Attorney offered an explanation regarding the proposed resolution. To standardize the operation of the committees. There would agenda and decorum rules and public participation. The mayor’s interpretation of the committees is to recommend or to Fact gathering.

Councilmember Brown requested that there be guidelines duties or responsibilities for the committees.

ACTION: Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell motioned to approve Resolution 2019-01, seconded by Councilmember Byrd with discussion. Councilmembers: Bodie, Brown, Byrd, Tarpley, and Turner opposed the adoption of Resolution 2019-01

Motion Failed (5-1)

- 8. Consideration and action on Resolution 2019-02 establishing the Complete Count Committee for the 2020 Census.

Mayor Hutchison request to table the item until the February 12, 2019 meeting in order to receive additional information.

ACTION: Councilmember Bodie motioned to table approving Resolution 2019-02 until February 12, 2019 Regular Session, seconded by Councilmember Byrd.

Motion Passed (6-0)

- 9. Consideration and action on renaming of the old Fortson Library to “Catherine Williams Community Center.

184 Mr. Henderson representing the Fortson Foundation came forward and gave background
185 on the item. Mr. and Mrs. Fortson passed away – leaving everything to the Fortson
186 Charitable Trust. Legally the only restriction is that the City would maintain the
187 memorial garden. Mr. Henderson clarified the location of the Fortson Public Library.
188 The foundation assumed that the Fortson name would remain on the building. Mr.
189 Henderson recommended naming the building “The Catherine Williams Community
190 Center at the Fortson Building” The intent is to make sure the Fortson’s would be
191 honored. Councilmember Tarpley read the accolades of Catherine Williams.
192

193 **ACTION:** Councilmember Tarpley motioned to approve the naming of the old Fortson
194 library “The Catherine Williams Community Center at the Fortson Building”,
195 seconded by Councilmember Turner.
196

197 **Motion Passed (6-0)**
198

199 10. Consideration and action on approval of Resolution 2019-04 setting qualifying fees for
200 the November 5, 2019 Municipal Election.

201
202 Qualifying will start on August 19 – 23, 2019.
203

204 **ACTION:** Councilmember Tarpley motioned to approve Resolution 2019-04 setting
205 qualifying fees at \$252.00 for three council seats for November 5, 2019 Municipal
206 Election, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell.
207

208 **Motion Passed (6-0)**
209

210 11. Update on Interim City Manager’s position.
211

212 Attorney Wiggins stated that at the December 27th Special Called meeting the Governing
213 Body authorized her to enter in to contract negotiations with Marie Garrett. Contract
214 negotiations failed with candidate Garret.
215

216 12. Report from Committees.
217

218 Councilmember Byrd gave an update regarding sidewalks in South Hampton and
219 Cobblestone subdivisions and the sidewalk extensions on East King. Looked at lots in
220 the subdivision that was non-buildable. The right of way belongs to the City.
221 Recommendations will be made at the next council meeting.
222

223 13. Positive Happenings in the City of Hampton.
224

- 225 • Councilmember Brown stated that he was happy to see tonight’s turnout at the
226 meeting.
- 227 • Councilmember Bodie Thankful that all worked together re: the naming of the old
228 Fortson library.
- 229 • Councilmember Turner acknowledged new staff members for their efforts.

- 230
- Mayor Pro Tem Mitchell stated that it was an honor to place a statue at the Fortson Library.
- 231
- Councilmember Byrd gave stated that it's a new year and he hope that the council can work together to make a difference and make Hampton a better place to live.
- 232
- Mayor Hutchison stated that he is glad to see the young people here tonight. Thank you for being here.
- 233
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237 **ACTION:** Councilmember Tarpley motioned to enter Executive Session at 7:45 p.m. for the
238 purpose of discussing personnel, possible litigation and real estate, seconded by
239 Councilmember Brown.

240

241 **Motion Passed (6-0)**

242

243 **ACTION:** Councilmember Tarpley motioned to reconvene the Regular Session at 8:00 p.m.,
244 seconded by Councilmember Turner.

245

246 **Motion Passed (6-0)**

247

248 **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

249

250 Councilmember Bodie motioned to approve payment in the amount of \$270.97 to Dajon Little
251 for property damage claim done to the wheel of his vehicle from hitting a metal plate while
252 traveling on City Street. After investigating, it appeared to be negligence of the city, seconded
253 by Councilmember Turner.

254 **Motion Passed (6-0)**

255

256 Councilmember Bodie motioned to appoint Melissa Brooks as Interim City Manager at the same
257 pay rate as previous interim city manager for the time she serves in the interim position,
258 seconded by Councilmember Byrd.

259 **Motion Passed (6-0)**

260

261 Councilmember Tarpley motioned to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Bodie.

262

263 **Motion Passed (6-0)**

264

265 Adjournment at 8:07 p.m.