

**MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 31, 2023 CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL
MEETING**

A SPECIAL meeting of the Hopewell City Council was held on Thursday
August 31, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT: John B. Partin, Mayor
 Jasmine Gore, Vice Mayor (Not Present)
 Rita Joyner, Councilor
 Michael Harris, Councilor (Virtual)
 Janice Denton, Councilor
 Brenda Pelham, Councilor
 Dominic Holloway, Councilor(Not Present)

Council Joyner moves to make a motion to allow Councilor Harris to participate
virtually. Councilor Denton seconds the motion.

ROLL CALL:

Councilor Joyner-	Yes
Councilor Harris-	Abstain
Mayor Partin-	Yes
Councilor Denton-	Yes
Councilor Pelham-	Yes

Motion Passes 4-0

CLOSED MEETING:

Councilor Pelham Move to go into closed meeting pursuant to Va. Code § 2.2 - 3711(A) (3) to discuss or consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose or the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body and to the extent such discussion will be aided thereby; Councilor Joyner seconds the motion.

ROLL CALL:

Councilor Joyner-	Yes
Councilor Harris-	Yes
Mayor Partin-	Yes
Councilor Denton-	Yes
Councilor Pelham-	Yes

Motion Passes 5-0

RECONVENE OPEN MEETING:

Councilor Joyner moves to make a motion to reconvene open meeting.
Councilor Pelham seconds the motion.

ROLL CALL:

Councilor Joyner-	Yes
Councilor Harris-	Yes
Mayor Partin-	Yes
Councilor Denton-	Yes
Councilor Pelham-	Yes

Motion Passes 5-0

CERTIFICATION:

Immediately thereafter, council responded to the question pursuant to Virginia § 2.2-3712 (D): Were only public business matters (1) lawfully exempted from open-meeting requirements and (2) identified in the closed meeting motion discussed in closed meeting?

ROLL CALL:

Councilor Joyner-	Yes
Councilor Harris-	Yes
Mayor Partin-	Yes
Councilor Denton-	Yes
Councilor Pelham-	Yes

Motion Passes 5-0

OPEN MEETING

R-1-Grant Approval Request-Charles Bennett This is a request for permission to apply for grant (for \$750,000) to go towards the Preservation of Shiloh Lodge 601 Prince Henry. Mr. Bennett explains the history and gives great details of the property. He describes where the grant money would be applied in relation to the buildings structure. The grant does not include rebuilding the north wing.

The grant is a Non matching grant, meaning no money has to be contributed to receive the grant. However, it is encouraged to put some match towards the application to be more competitive. Council agreed a few months ago to a \$100,000 match for foundation repairs of the Shiloh Lodge but the grant application was denied by the Cameron Foundation. The initial \$100,000 amount has not been allocated. This request to apply for African American Civil Rights (AACR) Program for the preservation and restoration of the Shiloh Lodge is due on 10/10/2023. Charles Bennett is recommending to authorize Economic Development to apply for the AACR grant and spend the \$8,000 to prepare the application.

Councilor Pelham moves to make a motion to authorize the Economic Development department to apply for the AACR Grant and spend \$8,000 from his budget to prepare the application. Councilor Joyner seconds the motion.

ROLL CALL:

Councilor Joyner-	Yes
Councilor Harris-	Yes
Mayor Partin-	Yes
Councilor Denton-	Yes
Councilor Pelham-	Yes

Motion Passes 5-0

R-2- Request for Approval of the support agreement and requested funding
Charles Bennett- The support agreement is for the acquisition of 1.95 acres of Industrial land (M1) and structure identified as historic African American School House Building located at 15 Rev CW Harris Street. The land is valued at \$191,100. This property has been identified in the City of Hopewell as a

significant historical site and industrial development opportunity due to M1 Zoning. The M1 land is the key to the development of a larger piece of property behind it, the city owns, that is landlocked. Mr. Bennett requests the City Council to give a support agreement that conveys the land (7 acres behind), to purchase the land (2 acres) in front of it. The two areas would be combined, to carve off the African American historic cultural site and tourist destination. The non performing land behind and in front of the building would be sold. Mr. Bennett is asking council to approve a support agreement with EDA for property acquisition in Industrial Property 15 Rev CW Harris Street.

Council Joyner moves to make a motion and to Approve the support agreement with EDA for property acquisition industrial property 15 Rev CW Harris Street, to Approve and Resolve the support agreement and requested funding. The support agreement has conveyed the parcel #0480339 as part of the support agreement. Mayor Partin seconds the motion.

ROLL CALL:

Councilor Joyner-	Yes
Councilor Harris-	Yes
Mayor Partin-	Yes
Councilor Denton-	Yes
Councilor Pelham-	No

Motion Passes 4-1

R-3- Public Safety Radio Equipment Request- Ben Ruppert. Chief Ruppert speaks about the loss of the uninterrupted power supply for the radio system. The interrupted power supply they currently have is over 25 years old and was purchased in the late 90's. In 2015 council approved a measure to replace the radio system as it was aging, at the time it was determined to keep the UPS as a cost saving measure and they were able to get another 10 years out of it. This past week it broke and is now no longer repairable. He stated they got a quote from the vendor that the city uses for the other UPS systems that it has. The quote is \$69,000.00 which gives them two hours of power, which is enough time for the generator to start. He stated other jurisdictions are getting three hours of power, and they are only asking for two hours because three would have increased the necessary amount by \$50,000.00. He stated it would have also caused challenges with space in the room. Two hours means no modifications are required with this upgrade. He stated the outline sent over from City Manager shows the remaining balance for ARPA is \$390,000.00 and she recommended \$191,100.00 be used for the African American school house and \$69,000.00 for the UPS system, and the remaining 129,900.00 be reserved for any additional cost that may be associated with the Robert Bobb Group. Councilor Denton made a motion to authorize the city manager to utilize the \$69,000.00 in city funds formerly ARPA to order a new UPS for the city's public safety radio system and also to accept the city managers suggestion of how to designate the left over ARPA funds, Councilor Pelham had a point of order stating that what Councilor Denton said is considered two motions, the city attorney agreed. Mayor Partin confirmed Councilor Denton's motion is to utilize the \$69,000.00 in city funds formerly ARPA to order a new UPS for the city's public safety radio system, Councilor Denton confirmed. Councilor Pelham asked Chief Ruppert did they know the system was going down during budget time and why didn't they add it to their budget. Chief Ruppert responded stating they had an older one they harvested parts from and attempted to make repairs, and unfortunately they were unable to do that, so now the only option is this. Councilor Pelham asked that city manager make a list of all old equipment so it can be included into next year's budget to avoid waiting on something to break down before replacing it. Councilor Pelham asked the Mayor if they needed to go back to add that the money for the African American School house is coming from ARPA Funding, the City Attorney agreed they will need to say where the funding is coming from, they agreed to go back to do that following this motion.

Councilor Denton made a motion to authorize the city manager to utilize the \$69,000.00 in city funds formerly ARPA to order a new UPS for the city's public safety radio system, Councilor Joyner seconds the motion.

ROLL CALL:

Councilor Joyner -	Yes
Councilor Harris -	Yes
Mayor Partin -	Yes
Councilor Denton -	Yes
Councilor Pelham -	Yes

Motion Passed 5-0

R-2- Councilor Joyner moves to make motion to adjust the motion for Open Meeting R-2 item, to specify the funding for the purchase of the school house at **15 Rev CW Harris Street Hopewell VA** come from the City funds formerly ARPA funds. Mayor Partin seconds the motion.

ROLL CALL:

Councilor Joyner -	Yes
Councilor Harris -	Yes
Mayor Partin -	Yes
Councilor Denton -	Yes

Councilor Pelham - No

Motion Passed 4-1

ADJOURNMENT:


Mayor Partin motions to adjourn, motion is seconded by Councilor Denton

Yes- 5

No- 0



Johnny Partin, Mayor



Brittani Williams, City Clerk