

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 22, 2010, 5:30 P.M.  
WORK SESSION**

**PRESENT:** The Honorable Gordon C. Helsel, Jr., Mayor  
The Honorable W. Eugene Hunt, Jr.  
The Honorable Carey L. Freeman  
The Honorable Frank A. Kreiger  
The Honorable E. T. "Tom" Meree  
The Honorable Traci-Dale Crawford

J. Randall Wheeler, City Manager  
D. Wayne Moore, City Attorney  
Judy F. Wiggins, City Clerk

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Helsel at approximately 5:38 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Capital Improvements Plan (CIP)

J. Randall Wheeler, City Manager, stated that the proposed CIP was very similar to that considered and approved by City Council in 2009. However, he did point out that this year's Plan differed in that it included projects beyond the normal 5-year span; that funding for smaller projects may become available due to the recent City debt refinancing; that very few capital projects are included in FY 2011; and that the more significant projects have been delayed until the latter years.

Dr. Jennifer Parish, School Superintendent, offered the following comments/information on the School's proposed capital projects:

- That the proposed School capital projects were similar to those adopted in last year's Plan;
- That School projects had been shifted to coincide with the City's debt service and recent refinancing;
- That a much needed school bus replacement schedule had been added to the Plan;
- That new bus routes are being seriously considered in order to reduce the bus fleet and save on maintenance costs;
- That a new HVAC system at the Middle School is badly needed;
- That the School System continues to educate parents on the school's economic crisis and that many parents are contacting and actively seeking the support of our State representatives;

- That the only mandate changed by the State thus far pertains to allowing larger classroom sizes;
- That the total State budget cuts for Poquoson schools are still unknown; however, they could be as high as \$2.2 million; and
- That the School System is thankful for City Council's unwavering support and that they would continue to do everything possible to absorb the State reductions with as little impact as possible on the quality of education.

City Manager, J. Randall Wheeler, offered the following specific information/comments on the City's proposed capital projects:

- That a new Public Works building is badly needed and that staff will take 6-7 months to examine plans for a new facility and bring a proposal back to Council for its consideration in the spring;
- That existing City drainage problems continue to be addressed while additional storm water projects are continually surfacing and that City staff will develop a plan to prioritize and address these projects for Council's consideration; and
- That the Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Study will be funded by the City's Sewer Fund and the proposed Messick Point pier and beach project with grants.

During Council's discussion, the following comments/suggestions were made:

- That the construction of a new Middle School was not feasible at this time and that the School System should investigate a phased-in renovation project for this facility;
- That if the City's financial consultants identify 0% interest funds for School projects that the City should consider using these funds for the Middle School HVAC system and/or school bus replacement; and
- That if the new debt refinancing is insufficient to fund the needed School projects, they should then be quickly transformed into "shovel ready" projects in case additional Federal and/or State funds become available.

Council commended the City Manager for proposing a CIP with no projects in FY 2011 being funded by the City's General Fund. Although it appeared that Council agreed that the Middle School HVAC project should be commenced in FY 2011 if included in the debt refinancing, there was no clear consensus on how the debt service should be scheduled, i.e. consistent payments versus balloon payments at the end.

#### Sidewalk Committee

Ms. Margaret Kubilins and Mr. Donald Booth, Sidewalk Committee members, gave a verbal report on behalf of the entire Committee. They recapped City Council's assignment to the Committee which was to develop a vision for implementing sidewalks within the community; to provide feedback to City staff for the creation of a sidewalk prioritization tool; and to develop a long-term plan for constructing bike trails and sidewalks throughout the City.

In addition, Ms. Kubilins and Mr. Booth provided a brief overview of the Committee's written report and specifically pointed out the following:

- That over 20 desired sidewalk projects were identified and prioritized using the decision-making tool with the top five segments being:
  - Little Florida Road – from Wythe Creek Road to Poquoson Avenue
  - Wythe Creek Road – from Huntlandia Way to the City limits
  - Victory Boulevard – from Wythe Creek Road to City limits
  - Yorktown Road – from Hunts Neck Road to City limits
  - Poquoson Avenue – from Poplar Road to Park Street
  
- That the recommendations of the Committee are:
  - General implementation of the Plan;
  - Form a new committee to move the Plan forward using advocacy via civic organizations as an important tool;
  - Request a City staff liaison to assist with Plan implementation; and
  - Assist the City with the preparation and submittal of the needed grants, i.e. Bike/Pedestrian Safety Program Grant and the Safe Routes to School Grant.

Mayor Helsel, on behalf of the Council, thanked the Committee for all of their hard work and for an excellent report. Council requested the Committee to include working with the City of Hampton in order to provide a bike trail/sidewalk that will allow our citizens to walk/bike to work at NASA or LAFB. In conclusion, Mayor Helsel asked the Committee to keep Council apprised of its ongoing efforts. City Manager, J. Randall Wheeler, stated that Joseph Carter, Principal Planner, would serve as the primary staff support person for the Committee.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:40 p.m.

**ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TESTE:** \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk