

**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 14, 2009, 7:00 P.M.
REGULAR SESSION**

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

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

ABSENT: The Honorable Arthur V. Holloway, Jr., Vice Mayor

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The regular session of Council was called to order by Mayor Helsel at approximately 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Helsel rendered the invocation and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AUDIENCE FOR VISITORS:

Mr. Roy Insley, 17 Kelsor Drive, expressed concern about a recently distributed flyer which inferred that Council may identify two vacant parcels, adjacent to his neighborhood, for high-density development in the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Mayor Helsel assured Mr. Insley that Council had no intention of designating these two properties for high-density development.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Councilman Hunt moved, seconded by Councilman Freeman to adopt the minutes of the regular session held August 24, 2009. Recorded vote on the motion:

YES: Councilmembers Hunt, Kreiger, Crawford, Meree, Freeman and Mayor Helsel.

NO: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY CODE TO INCREASE BUILDING CODE FEES (2nd Reading)

City Manager, J. Randall Wheeler, reminded Council that at the last meeting they had approved, on first reading, an amendment to the City Code increasing the building permit and inspections fees. City Attorney, D. Wayne Moore, clarified that the ordinance had been amended to include the stipulation that beginning January 1, 2010 the fees would be adjusted annually, if necessary, to reflect the consumer price index as determined by the Federal government rounded upwards to the nearest dollar amount. The ordinance was presented for a second and final reading at this meeting.

Councilman Kreiger moved, seconded by Councilman Meree to adopt the ordinance.
Recorded vote on the motion:

YES: Councilmembers Meree, Freeman, Kreiger, Hunt, Crawford and Mayor Helsel.

NO: None.

2. RESOLUTION MAKING APPOINTMENTS TO THE PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Councilman Hunt moved to appoint Deborah Banton to fill one of the Western Precinct vacancies on the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and to postpone the other appointments since there did not appear to be sufficient eligible applicants. However, since other Councilmembers were prepared to make all three appointments, Councilman Hunt withdrew his motion.

Councilman Meree moved, seconded by Councilman Hunt to appoint Deborah Banton and Carrie Rodgers to fill the Western Precinct vacancies and to reappoint Nikki Mas'Sey as the At Large member to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and to adopt the resolution with those names inserted. Recorded vote on the motion:

YES: Councilmembers Crawford, Hunt, Kreiger, Freeman, Meree and Mayor Helsel.

NO: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE UPDATED HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

City Manager, J. Randall Wheeler, stated that during the preceding work session Ms. Leigh Morgan Chapman, with Salters Creek Consulting, gave an overview of the revisions to the Hazard Mitigation Plan which was adopted in 2004 and responded to questions from members of Council. He further stated that the Plan was now ready for adoption unless additional revisions needed to be made.

Councilman Hunt moved, seconded by Councilman Kreiger to adopt the updated Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan as presented. Recorded vote on the motion:

YES: Councilmembers Freeman, Meree, Crawford, Kreiger, Hunt and Mayor Helsel.

NO: None.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER:

City Manager, J. Randall Wheeler, reported the following:

- That the Sidewalk Committee had held its second meeting, but that citizens could still volunteer to serve on this Committee by calling the City Manager's office at 868-3000 or the Planning Department at 868-3040.
- That City staff continues to make presentations to various civic organizations on the new Revenue Recovery Program.
- That no proposals were submitted in response to the City's Request For Proposals for a Public/Private Partnership to develop a water related business(s) and to oversee City infrastructure/improvements at Messick Point and that guidance from Council will be sought on how to proceed in this matter.
- That a grant application will be submitted for installation of a sewer pump-out at Messick Point by the end of this month; however, grant funds will not be awarded until next spring.
- That, pursuant to Council's directive, the draft Comprehensive Plan will be amended by: eliminating the proposed high-density and medium-density zoning designations and eliminating all Mixed-Use Waterfront Zoning designations except for the Poquoson Marina site.
- That Council should submit all requested amendments to the Comprehensive Plan to the Planning Department by close of business on Friday, September 18th.

COUNCIL DIRECTIVES:

Councilwoman Crawford requested that the recommendations submitted by the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board be incorporated into the draft Comprehensive Plan. She thanked everyone who attended the work session and this meeting. She expressed appreciation to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board for its thoughtful input on the Comprehensive Plan. Lastly, she encouraged citizens to complete an application for the

Poquoson commemorative license plate and wished Vice Mayor Holloway continued recovery and return to Council.

Councilman Hunt voiced concern that senior citizens may not fully understand the new emergency transport fee program. He, therefore, requested a second mailing to every household on the Revenue Recovery Program and frequently asked questions.

Councilman Meree thanked everyone who commented on or was involved in the update of the Comprehensive Plan. He especially thanked the Planning Commission for its hard work on the document. He requested that a work session be scheduled, after the Comprehensive Plan is adopted, to discuss the development and/or use of Messick Point. He commended City Manager, J. Randall Wheeler, for developing a pro-active process for monitoring all Conditional Use Permits in the City to ensure compliance with Permit specifications. Councilman Meree also offered best wishes to Vice Mayor Holloway for his continued recovery. In conclusion, he asked staff to consider supplying Council with electronic agendas to save time and money even though laptops could not be purchased at this time.

In response to Councilman Meree's suggestion, City Manager, J. Randall Wheeler, recommended placing the complete agenda packet on the City's website so that both Council and the public would have access to it. By doing so, an electronic archive of Council agendas would also be established.

Councilman Meree questioned the difference in memberships and term limits of the various boards and commissions and suggested that Council, after the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan, consider placing a two-term limit on all board/commission appointments so that more citizens would have an opportunity to serve.

Mayor Helsel stated that he had spoken with Vice Mayor Holloway and that he was convalescing nicely; however, he asked that everyone remember him in their prayers. He noted that he and specific members of the Poquoson Police and Fire Departments had attended the Home Town Heroes ceremony at Hampton Bay Days. He expressed his gratitude for and pride in the City's Fire and Police Departments and asked that the City Manager relay his comments to them. Lastly, he stated that he had recently attended a 9/11 Memorial Ceremony in Gosnold Hope Park and expressed a desire that Poquoson might soon have a similar ceremony.

CLOSED SESSION:

Councilwoman Crawford moved, seconded by Councilman Kreiger to go into closed session pursuant to Sections 2.2-3711(A)(3) and (A)(7) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended to discuss the disposition of publicly held real property; i.e. Victory Boulevard and potential litigation. Recorded vote on the motion:

YES: Councilmembers Hunt, Kreiger, Crawford, Meree, Freeman and Mayor Helsel.

NO: None.

RECONVENEMENT:

Upon reconvening from closed session, Councilman Meree moved, seconded by Councilman Kreiger to adopt a resolution certifying that only the disposition of publicly held real property and potential litigation were discussed in the closed session. Recorded vote on the motion:

YES: Councilmembers Crawford, Hunt, Kreiger, Freeman, Meree and Mayor Helsel.

NO: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Councilman Meree moved, seconded by Councilman Freeman to adjourn the meeting. Recorded vote on the motion:

YES: Councilmembers Hunt, Kreiger, Crawford, Meree, Freeman and Mayor Helsel.

NO: None.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.

ADOPTED: _____

TESTE: _____
City Clerk