

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 25, 2021 7:00 P.M.
REGULAR SESSION

PRESENT: The Honorable Gordon C. Helsel, Jr., Mayor
The Honorable Carey L. Freeman, Vice Mayor
The Honorable Herbert R. Green, Jr.
The Honorable David A. Hux
The Honorable Charles M. Southall III
The Honorable Thomas J. Cannella II
The Honorable Jana D. Andrews

J. Randall Wheeler, City Manager
Kimberly Healy, City Clerk
D. Wayne Moore, City Attorney

ABSENT: None

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Mayor Helsel called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Councilman Green rendered the invocation and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AUDIENCE FOR VISITORS:

None

AMENDMENT:

Councilman Green requested an amendment to the Agenda to add a resolution making appointments to the Library Advisory Board and the Architectural Review Board as item number 2 under New Business.

Councilman Green moved, seconded by Vice Mayor Freeman, to amend the agenda as requested.
Recorded vote on the motion:

YES: Councilmembers Southall, Hux, Green, Cannella, Andrews, Vice Mayor Freeman and Mayor Helsel

NO: None

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Councilman Green moved, seconded by Councilman Southall, to adopt the minutes of the regular session held on January 11, 2021 as submitted. Recorded vote on the motion:

YES: Councilmembers Southall, Cannella, Hux, Green, Vice Mayor Freeman and Mayor Helsel

NO: None

ABSTAIN: Councilwoman Andrews

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Pre-budget for Fiscal Year 2021

Mayor Helsel opened the Public Hearing. Having no speakers the public hearing was closed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resolution and Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2021 for General Fund – UTV Grant Funding

Finance Director, Tonya O’Connell presented a Resolution and Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2021 for General Fund for a Grant from Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation, Inc. awarded to the Poquoson Police Department to purchase a Polaris XP 1000 EPS Utility-Terrain Vehicle with light kit/siren/PA system, winch and rescue skid in the amount of \$24,476.08.

Councilman Green moved, seconded by Councilman Cannella, to approve the resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant for a Polaris XP 1000 EPS Utility-Terrain Vehicle with light kit/siren/PA system, winch and rescue skid. Recorded vote on the motion:

YES: Councilmembers Andrews, Cannella, Southall, Hux, Green, Vice Mayor Freeman and Mayor Helsel

NO: None

Councilman Green moved, seconded by Councilman Cannella, to approve an ordinance making additional appropriations for Fiscal Year 2021 in general fund. Recorded vote on the motion:

YES: Councilmembers Green, Hux, Cannella, Southall, Andrews, Vice Mayor Freeman and Mayor Helsel

NO: None

2. Resolution Making Appointments to the Library Advisory Board and the Architectural Review Board

Councilman Green moved, seconded by Vice Mayor Freeman, to adopt a Resolution appointing Kathleen Powell and Billie Borders to the Library Advisory Board, with terms expiring January 31, 2024 and for the Architectural Review Board appointing Timothy O. Trant, II with a term expiring January 31, 2024 and Patricia E. Gillis with a term expiring January 31, 2022. Recorded vote on the motion:

YES: Councilmembers Hux, Southall, Green, Andrews, Cannella, Vice Mayor Freeman and Mayor Helsel

NO: None

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER:

City Manager, Randy Wheeler, advised Council that a new restaurant named Blue Crab & Purple Pig Bistro will be opening in the previous space of R&R Seafood on or around May 1, 2021.

Mr. Wheeler provided a community update on the COVID response that is available on the Department of Health's website. He stated Poquoson has had 551 reported cases since March 2020 and 65 of those cases have been in the past week, with 16 residents being hospitalized and 7 passing away. As of January 25, 2021, 568 residents have had their first vaccination and 82 residents have been fully vaccinated. Numbers from the Department of Defense (DOD) and the Veterans Administration (VA) are not included in these statistics. On Friday, January 22, 2021 the Hampton and Peninsula Health Districts moved to Phase 1b. The vaccination is being distributed to our districts at a rate of only about 1000 doses per week. Mr. Wheeler stated due to this frustration the Manager's from the region to include Hampton, Poquoson, York County, Newport News, James City County and Williamsburg are working together to coordinate a vaccination site to transition into a mass vaccination site in 3 venues to help citizens get vaccinated. Citizens should contact their primary healthcare providers or the health department to obtain information for being vaccinated. The region is pulling together to be ready to assist the Health Department in any way possible. Mr. Wheeler recognized Riverside and Sentara for allocation of vaccinations for First Responders, Police and Fire Departments.

COUNCIL DIRECTIVES:

Councilman Southall thanked Mr. Wheeler for his efforts with coordinating the vaccinations. Mr. Southall recognized Kim Healy and Christina Snapp for their new appointments as City Clerk and Deputy City Clerk.

Councilman Cannella offered Mr. Wheeler the Council's support in the vaccination efforts.

Councilman Hux recognized State Delegate Martha Mugler and Councilman Cannella for their assistance with State House Bill 1917 which references the publication of certain notices.

Councilman Green reminded everyone that the Food Bank is Tuesday, January 26th and is sponsored by the Virginia Peninsula Realtors Association.

Mayor Helsel wished Councilman Cannella a Happy Birthday. Mayor Helsel stated the Assistant City Manager, Graham Wilson, is very ill and could use prayers and well wishes. He also stated he has inquired about HB 1917 which appears to have been dropped through the cracks after being sent from Committee to Sub-Committee and back again.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

YES: Councilmembers Cannella, Andrews, Green, Southall, Hux, Vice Mayor Freeman and Mayor Helsel

NO: None

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:31 p.m.