

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

January 9, 2023 7:00 P.M.

REGULAR SESSION

PRESENT: The Honorable Gordon C. Helsel, Jr., Mayor
The Honorable Carey L. Freeman, Vice Mayor
The Honorable Charles M. Southall III
The Honorable David A. Hux
The Honorable Jana D. Andrews
The Honorable Keith A. Feigh
The Honorable Alison Fox

Randy 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:

Councilwoman Andrews rendered the invocation and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CLOSED SESSION:

- 1. Closed Session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended to discuss personnel matters; City Manager's Contract and to discuss an appointment to the School Board, and pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(8) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended to consult with the City Attorney**

Vice Mayor Freeman moved, seconded by Councilman Southall, to go into Closed Session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, to discuss personnel matters: City Manager's Contract and to discuss an appointment to the School Board, and pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(8) of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended to consult with the City Attorney. Recorded vote on the motion:

YES: Councilmembers Andrews, Feigh, Southall, Hux, Fox, Vice Mayor Freeman and Mayor Helsel

NO: None

RECONVENEMENT:

Upon reconvening from Closed Session, Vice Mayor Freeman moved, seconded by Councilman Southall, to adopt a resolution certifying that only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed during the Closed Session. Recorded vote on the motion:

YES: Councilmembers Hux, Southall, Fox, Andrews, Feigh, Vice Mayor Freeman and Mayor Helsel

NO: None

- **Election of Vice Mayor and Appointment of the City Manager, City Attorney, City Clerk and Deputy City Clerk**

Councilman Southall moved, seconded by Councilwoman Andrews, to adopt the resolution electing Carey L. Freeman as Vice Mayor of the City of Poquoson, Virginia. Recorded Vote on the motion:

YES: Councilmembers Feigh, Andrews, Fox, Southall, Hux and Mayor Helsel

NO: None

ABSTAIN: Vice Mayor Freeman

Vice Mayor Freeman moved, seconded by Councilman Southall, to adopt the resolution appointing J. Randall Wheeler as City Manager of the City of Poquoson, Virginia. Recorded Vote on the motion:

YES: Councilmembers Fox, Hux, Feigh, Southall, Andrews, Vice Mayor Freeman and Mayor Helsel

NO: None

Vice Mayor Freeman moved, seconded by Councilwoman Andrews, to adopt the resolution appointing D. Wayne Moore as City Attorney of the City of Poquoson, Virginia. Recorded Vote on the motion:

YES: Councilmembers Andrews, Southall, Feigh, Hux, Fox, Vice Mayor Freeman and Mayor Helsel

NO: None

Vice Mayor Freeman moved, seconded by Councilman Southall, to adopt the resolution appointing Kimberly Healy as City Clerk of the City of Poquoson, Virginia. Recorded Vote on the motion:

YES: Councilmembers Hux, Southall, Fox, Andrews, Feigh, Vice Mayor Freeman and Mayor Helsel

NO: None

Vice Mayor Freeman moved, seconded by Councilwoman Andrews, to adopt the resolution appointing Christina Snapp as Deputy City Clerk of the City of Poquoson, Virginia. Recorded Vote on the motion:

YES: Councilmembers Southall, Hux, Fox, Feigh, Andrews, Vice Mayor Freeman and Mayor Helsel

NO: None

AUDIENCE FOR VISITORS:

None

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Vice Mayor Freeman moved, seconded by Councilwoman Andrews, to adopt the minutes of the Regular Session held December 12, 2022 as submitted. Recorded vote on the motion:

YES: Councilmembers Andrews, Feigh, Southall, Hux, Fox, Vice Mayor Freeman and Mayor Helsel

NO: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Ordinance Amending the City Code Chapter 74, Article III, Division 1, Sections 91 & 92

City Assessor, Stephenie Love, presented an Ordinance to amend the City Code by activating a section that is currently Reserved. Chapter 74, Article III, Division 1, Sections 91 and 92 refer to the State Code which is not specific to jurisdictions and their individual assessment procedures and processes. The first proposed section (91) establishes the Office of the City Assessor and confers the duties upon the Office through the City Manager. The second proposed section (92) identifies the biennial re-assessment, as well as the effective date of assessment, July 1st, and the date upon which the assessment is based, preceding January 1st. The City is now required to report to the State which assessment calendar it is using, Fiscal, Calendar or Hybrid. Activation of these sections was recommended by the Virginia Department of Taxation as a codified indication of a hybrid biennial assessment calendar. The City has been acting under the hybrid calendar model for at least the past 16 years and is the most common calendar model for jurisdictions in Hampton Roads and the Peninsula area.

Vice Mayor Freeman moved, seconded by Councilman Southall, to adopt an Ordinance Amending the City Code Chapter 74, Article III, Division 1, Sections 91 and 92. Recorded vote on the motion:

YES: Councilmembers Feigh, Andrews, Fox, Southall, Hux, Vice Mayor Freeman and Mayor Helsel

NO: None

2. Resolution Approving an Employment Agreement with the City Manager

Vice Mayor Freeman moved, seconded by Councilwoman Andrews, to adopt a Resolution Approving an Employment Agreement with the City Manager as amended in Closed Session. Recorded vote on the motion:

YES: Councilmembers Fox, Hux, Feigh, Southall, Andrews, Vice Mayor Freeman and Mayor Helsel

NO: None

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER:

City Manager, Randy Wheeler, thanked Council for approving his new employment contract and looks forward to working with them for the next two years.

COUNCIL DIRECTIVES:

Councilman Hux congratulated high school athletics, in particular the teams he had the privilege of transporting, specifically the varsity football with support of the varsity cheerleading team competed for the semi-final Championship in December. He also transported the One Act Drama team to compete for the State Championship where they finished in 2nd Place out of about 30 teams.

Councilwoman Fox expressed her excitement to be a new member of City Council and looks forward to learning from everyone.

Councilman Feigh thanked the City for allowing him and Councilwoman Fox to attend the Virginia Municipal League's newly elected officers training. Mr. Feigh showed an article from the January 6th edition of the Daily Press that talked about getting involved with City events and wanted to encourage the public to get involved with the City and volunteer to fill positions on the Board and Commissions that are available. Mr. Feigh also stated he has resolved to do his best to clean up the City and encourages others to do so. He also acknowledged Public Works for keeping the City Clean and Parks and Recreation for the improvements that they make.

Councilman Southall thanked the citizens present and at home for paying attention to their local government and encouraged others to do so as well. Mr. Southall stated it was a pleasure to be sworn in again as a City Council member of the best City with the best City Manager and City staff and he enjoys living here.

Councilwoman Andrews welcomed Alison Fox to City Council and stated she will make a great addition.

Vice Mayor Freeman thanked Council for the opportunity to continue to serve as the Vice Mayor and welcomed Councilwoman Fox.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

YES: Councilmembers Andrews, Southall, Feigh, Hux, Fox, Vice Mayor Freeman and Mayor Hesel

NO: None

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:17 p.m.