**Present Council Members:** Mayor Robert Brown

Mayor Pro-Tem Beth Chafin

Councilman Kevin Brown

Councilman Marvin Love

**Others Present:** Perry McAlhaney, Police Chief

Lewis Ramsey, HFD Chief

Dylan Brabham, HFD

1. **Call to Order:**

The Town of Hampton Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Brown at 7:00 pm.

The meeting was held in the Hampton Town Hall Council Chambers.

1. **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:**

Mayor Brown gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. **FOIA Compliance:**

Mayor Brown reported the Town is in compliance with the FOIA.

1. **Agenda Adoption:**

Councilwoman Chafin motioned to adopt the agenda. Councilman Brown seconded. All were in favor, motion passed.

1. **Approval of Minutes for February 7, 2023:**

Councilwoman Chafin motioned to approve the February 7, 2023, minutes as presented. Councilman Love seconded. All were in favor, motion passed.

1. **Public Comment:**

Norma Jarrell wanted to thank the Mayor and Council for all of their support at the Hampton Museum and Visitor Center. She reported 118 visitors for 2022, encouraging those in attendance to visit when they have an opportunity.

Mayor Brown thanked Norma and all of the museum workers for all that they do for the Museum.

1. **Old Business:**

* **Museum Doors:**

The work on the museum doors has been completed and looks great.

* **Tennis Court:**

Shannon reported that she heard back from the company completing the resurfacing and they have ordered all supplies and will be starting the prep work soon.

* **2024 Budget:**

Shannon reported the 2024 Budget Public hearing and second reading will be held on March 7, 2023, at the regular scheduled meeting.

1. **New Business:**

* **Election Commission Appointments:**

Mayor Brown presented the following on election commission appointments to fill the unexpired terms for Mr. Murdaugh and Mr. Richards who are no longer able to serve:

* + Sheila Platts’ term will expire January 2024.
  + Appoint David Ellis to serve the remainder of a term that will expire January 2026.
  + Appoint Marcella Jenkins to serve the remainder of a term that will expire January 2028.

Councilman Love motioned to accept the appointments of Mr. Ellis and Mrs. Jenkins. Councilwoman Chafin seconded. All were in favor, motion passed.

* **Zoning Board of Appeals Appointments:**

Mayor Brown reported that there are 5 applicants for the Zoning Board of Appeals, they should be 3 year terms, overlapping. The names for the 5 applicants for the Board of Appeals:

* + Robbie Poston – 1 year
  + Ray Thames – 2 years
  + Gregory Jenkins – 2 years
  + Freddie Mixson – 3 years
  + William Koger – 1 year

Councilwoman Chafin motioned to approve the appointments with said terms. Councilman Brown seconded. All were in favor, motion passed.

Mayor Brown mentioned that there are still 2 openings on the Planning Commission.

* **American Legion (Boys and Girls State Request):**

Mayor Brown presented requests from American Legion for Boys State ($300.00) and Girls State ($340.00).

After a discussion about where to find this money in the budget, it was determined that this would come from the 2024 budget if approved and that there is a line item in the budget for donations such as this.

Councilman Brown motioned to approve this donation to Boys and Girls State and if he cannot find someone to donate these funds to the Town to cover it, he would make the donation to cover it. Councilwoman Chafin seconded. Councilman Love opposed, motion passed.

* **Bids for Gazebo Park Renovation:**

No bids received.

1. **Supervisors’ Report:**

* **Fire Department**:

Chief Ramsey reported that they are still waiting on one item from a recent grant and the air packs should be delivered soon.

* **Police Department:**

Chief McAlhaney had to step out due to a police case from this afternoon.

* **Administration:**

Shannon Altman had nothing to report at this time.

Councilman Love asked for the status of the report he asked for. Shannon stated that she had emailed him back after he sent the instructions over and the instructions created the same report that he said did not want, she will print this report for January.

1. **Mayor’s Report:**

* Mayor Brown opened it up for any Councilmember comments and discussion.
  + Councilman Love appreciates receiving the requested report and asked for clarification on the number of hours that police officers are paid per week. Shannon reported that the police officers normal weekly hours are 43 hours per week before overtime is earned and the Chief is salaried at 40 hours per week.
  + Councilman Brown had no reports at this time.
  + Councilwoman Chafin mentioned that there is a pretty big hole at the entrance to the parking lot of the soccer field. Mayor Brown stated that dirt had already been ordered to fill it.
  + Councilman Mixson not in attendance.
* Mayor Brown reported:
  + He is working on getting the hand painted Hampton sign replaced, coming in from Varnville to Hampton. It was damaged when a car ran in to it last month. The original sign maker is deceased. The insurance provider for the person responsible for damaging it has reached out to take care of the cost.
  + Miss Hampton applications will be available at the Town Hall starting tomorrow.
  + Reminded those in attendance about the Black History month program at the Old Colored School Museum, it will be held Saturday at 1:00 pm.
  + Kimberly Mullinax will be in town tomorrow to tour the parks and look at them for potential projects.

Councilman Love asked Mayor Brown about the potential ordinance for the Fire Fee. Mayor Brown stated this was one of the options being looked at to help with the budget shortfall and that it had been sent over to the Town attorney.

1. **Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Brown. Councilman Love seconded. All were in favor, motion passed. The meeting was adjourned by Mayor Brown at 7:22 pm.

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Mayor Robert J. Brown

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Councilman Kevin A. Brown

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Councilwoman Beth Chafin

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Councilman Marvin Love

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Councilman Travis L. Mixson

Shannon Altman (Recorder) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_