**Present Council Members:** Mayor Robert Brown

Mayor Pro-Tem Beth Chafin

 Councilman Kevin Brown

 Councilman Marvin Love

 Councilman Travis ‘Pete’ Mixson

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

 Lewis Ramsey, 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 Mixson seconded. All were in favor, motion passed.

1. **Approval of Minutes for January 17, January 24 and February 2, 2023:**

Councilwoman Chafin motioned to approve the January 17, 2023, minutes as presented. Councilman Love seconded. All were in favor, motion passed.

Councilwoman Chafin motioned to approve the January 24, 2023, minutes as presented. Councilman Love seconded. All were in favor, motion passed.

Councilwoman Chafin motioned to approve the February 2, 2023, minutes as presented. Councilman Love seconded. All were in favor, motion passed.

1. **LCOG Public Needs Assessment:**

Kimberly Mullinax, LCOG, gave an update on the Block Grant Needs Assessment/CDBG Program. She also reviewed information on fair housing, available programs, purpose of the program and an overview of the work already completed in the Nix Street neighborhood area. Kimberly took questions and comments from the mayor, council and the public. She then asked mayor and council to set a priority list of things they would like to have done in the town of Hampton.

Councilwoman Chafin motioned to add the following items to the priority list: 1) Playground at the Nix St ball field, including ADA options 2) Bathroom updates at the Nix St ball field, updating the bathrooms as well as making them ADA compliant 3) Basketball court resurfacing and playground at the Holly St ball field area 4) Sidewalks in the Hoover St N area. Councilman Brown seconded. All were in favor, motion passed.

1. **Public Comment:**

Suzanne Crosby of Rail Road Ave West expressed her concern over an unsafe structure in her neighborhood the residents are continuously burning things in the yard and there is a lot of crime coming from the residents of that property. Chief McAlhaney will follow up with the crime complaints. Shannon Altman stated that there have been property maintenance letters sent to the property owners and she will check to see what the status of ownership is.

1. **Old Business:**
* **Museum Doors:**

Councilman Love presented an estimate from Harry Jackson to sand and varnish the three doors with marine varnish. The quote is for $1300.00.

Councilman Love motioned to accept the quote of $1300.00 for the refinishing of the doors. Councilman Brown seconded. All were in favor, motion passed.

* **Tennis Court:**

A quote of $56,180 was obtained to repair and refinish the tennis court at the Kinard Lane ball park area. The Hampton County School District approved $30,000 in funds to assist with the cost of this repair.

Councilman Love asked if this tennis court would remain locked once the repair was complete. Shannon explained that in the past the court was locked and a sign was placed at the gate to instruct anyone playing tennis to call and have this unlocked. It was locked due to children being allowed to skateboard and ride scooters on the tennis court, causing damaging the court and the nets, sometimes even using the court in the manner preventing people from using as a tennis court. Councilman Love stated that there was no longer a sign up and Shannon stated she would look into having one placed there.

Councilman Brown motioned to accept the quote and pay the balance after the school’s $30,000 contribution. Councilwoman Chafin seconded. All were in favor, motion passed.

1. **New Business:**
* **First Reading of the 2024 Budget:**

Mayor Brown presented the proposed budget for the fiscal year ending 2024, for a first reading, explaining that by not filling 2 open positions in the police department and adding a fire fee of $5 per month to all water accounts in the Town of Hampton, we were able to get the projected expenses more in line with the projected revenue. Councilman Love expressed his concern over not filling the 2 police officer positions and feels like this will only affect patrol and not command staff, he also feels like it is not fair for citizens to have to pay a fire fee. Mayor Brown stated there are several things that have cost increases over the last year that the town has no control over, for example the cost of gas.

Councilwoman Chafin motioned to accept this first reading of the budget. Councilman Mixson seconded. All were in favor with the exception of Councilman Love, motion passed.

* **Black History Month Request from Elaine Faison:**

Mayor Brown relayed a request from Elaine Faison asking the town to provide water and drinks for an event at the old colored school for Black History month on February 25.

Councilman Love motioned to approve the request for the water and drinks for this event. Councilman Brown seconded. All were in favor, motion passed.

* **Appointment of Section 504 Coordinator:**

The town is required to have a section 504 coordinator and needs to have one appointed since Keith Browning is no longer employed here. This coordinator is responsible for making sure there are policies in place to prevent discrimination.

Councilwoman Chafin motioned to appoint Mayor Brown as the 504 Coordinator. Councilman Mixson seconded. All were in favor, motion passed.

1. **Executive Session: Contractual Negotiations**

Councilman Brown motioned to enter in to executive session at 7:51pm. Councilwoman Chafin seconded. All were in favor, motion passed.

Councilwoman Chafin motion to come out of executive session at 7:55pm. Councilman Love seconded. All were in favor, motion passed.

Mayor Brown reported that there was no action to take after the executive session.

1. **Supervisors’ Report:**
* **Police Department:**

Chief McAlhaney reported the police department has no requests at this time. They have been working on the Rail Road St problems for quite some time, the people that are frequently in that area causing problems have been arrested multiple times.

A citizen in attendance asked Chief McAlhaney to have some extra patrol in the Holly Ridge area, there are elderly people living in that complex and there was an attempted break in recently. Chief McAlhaney stated he would take care of this.

* **Fire Department**:

Chief Ramsey reported that they are working on getting the purchases for the forestry grant, they are close to closing out the vsafe grant and will be applying for another. He also reported that they are still looking for volunteer fire fighters.

* **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 stated that he thinks training needs to be suspend any training unless it is mandatory.
	+ Councilman Brown had no reports at this time.
	+ Councilwoman Chafin had a complaint from a property owner about the spillage of the grease going in to a grease trap. Mayor Brown is familiar with the area and will check with the property owner.
	+ Councilman Mixson had no reports at this time.
* Mayor Brown reported:
	+ South East Housing and Development will hold a community benefits day on February 23, at the James Pete Hagood Learning Center.
	+ A Retail Strategies update has been emailed out.
1. **Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Mixson. Councilwoman Chafin seconded. All were in favor, motion passed. The meeting was adjourned by Mayor Brown at 8:07 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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_