CITY OF HAMPTON
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
JUNE 9, 2026
6:30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL
17 EAST MAIN STREET SOUTH, HAMPTON, GA 30228

Present: Mayor Ann N. Tarpley; Councilmember Mitchell; Councilmember Duchesne; Councilmember Meeks, Councilmember Kesha White-Williams; Councilmember Chaney; Councilmember Brooks.

Staff: Chief James Turner, City Clerk, Michelle Hood; Director of Community Development, Wanda Moore; IT Technician, Michelle Arthur; Captain Brownlee, Police Department; Executive Assistant, PD, Samantha Kingsley.

1. Opening Ceremonies

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

B. Invocation by Pastor Herman, Southside Christian Fellowship Church

Councilmember Meeks led the invocation.

C. Pledge of allegiance to the flag.

2. Presentation and Approval of City Council Agenda

A. Regular Session Meeting Agenda for June 9, 2026.

Councilmember Meeks motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Councilmember Chaney.

VOTE: 6-0

3. Presentation and Approval of City Council Minutes

A. Special Called Meeting Minutes January 28, 2026

Councilmember Mitchell motioned to approve the Special Called Minutes for January 28, 2026, seconded by Councilmember Meeks.

VOTE:6-0

B. Work Session Minutes April 14, 2026

Councilmember Chaney motioned to approve the Work Session Minutes April 14, 2026, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell.

Voting Yea: Councilmembers: Mitchell, Brooks, Chaney, Meeks
Voting Nay: Councilmembers: Duchesne and White-Williams
VOTE: 4-2

C. Regular Meeting Minutes April 14, 2026

Councilmember White-Williams motioned to approve the Regular Session Minutes April 14, 2026, seconded by Councilmember Meeks.

VOTE: 6-0

D. Retreat Minutes April 17-19, 2026

Councilmember Mitchell motioned to approve the Retreat Minutes April 17-19, 2026, seconded by Councilmember Chaney.

Voting Yea: Councilmembers: Mitchell, Brooks, Chaney, Meeks
Abstain: Councilmembers: Duchesne and White-Williams
VOTE: 4-2

E. Special Called Meeting Minutes May 7, 2026

Councilmember Meeks motioned to approve the Special Called Minutes May 7, 2026, seconded by Councilmember White-Williams.

VOTE: 6-0

F. Regular Meeting Minutes May 12, 2026

Councilmember Meeks motioned to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes May 12, 2026, seconded by Councilmember Chaney.

VOTE: 6-0

4. Acknowledgement of Guest(s) Proclamations and Plaques

A. Recognition of the Finance Department for receiving the Trifecta from 2024.-**omitted**

The Trifecta Award presentation was postponed due to the Finance Director's absence.

B. Presentation by Lisa Dawodu on **CASA** "Court Appointed Special Advocates"

Lisa Dawodu presented information regarding CASA of Henry County and its volunteer advocacy program for children in foster care, encouraging community involvement and volunteer participation.

C. Branding Presentation- **Jason Orme of Design Club/Jazz Firm**
Jason Orme of Design Club provided a presentation on municipal branding, discussing the importance of community identity, economic development, stakeholder engagement, and branding strategies for the City of Hampton.

5. Public Comments

Debbie Palmer expressed concerns about the council's conduct, professionalism, and cooperation among elected officials. She spoke about the stalking laws and needing to get themselves together or the citizens are going to come after them, because they pay their salary.

Mr. Cleveland asked the Mayor several questions regarding prior ethics matters and administrative actions.

Lisa May expressed concerns about crime and rental property management following a recent shooting incident in a residential neighborhood.

Shelia Clark noted she is proud of them and that it is not abnormal to have chaos, but to do it behind closed doors. She noted that when they are in front of the public, there should be cohesiveness and teamwork.

Everett Hooper requests improved communication regarding power outages. He noted that theirs is always the last to come back on.

Mayor Tarpley advised him to meet with the chief and the public works director to obtain the needed information.

Councilmember White-Williams asked about the date of the shooting, and the name of the subdivision.

Lisa May noted it was on the 24th and in the Cobblestone Ridge Division.

Kendra Sutherland had recommendations regarding the proposed gas station ordinance, including increased spacing requirements and market studies for future gas station developments.

6. Appointments

A. Consideration and Action to approve **RES. 2026- 39** Hampton Development Authority Appointment.

Councilmember Brooks is appointing Sherina Daniel.

Councilmember Mitchell is appointing Eugene B. Holt

Councilmember Mitchell motioned to approve **Res. 2026-39**, seconded by Councilmember Chaney.

VOTE: 6-0

B. Consideration and Action to approve **RES. 2026- 40.** Appointment of members to the Hampton Historic Preservation Commission.

Sherry Chaney's appointment is Kim Lunn.

Councilmember Chaney motioned to approve **Res. 2026-40**, seconded by Councilmember Meeks.

VOTE: 6-0

C. Consideration and Action to approve **RES. 2026- 44** Downtown Development Authority appointments.

Councilmember Chaney's appointment is Clyde King.

Councilmember Mitchell's appointment is Glory Holt.

Mayor Tarpley's appointment is Kim Boatman. (and) Errol Mitchell as Council representative.

Councilmember Mitchell motioned to approve Res. 2026-44, seconded by Councilmember Meeks.

Ms. Lewis asked inquired about the Downtown Development Authority membership requirements according to the Georgia law, the appointment procedures, board representation, and the designation of the Council representative.

Councilmember White-Williams discussed provisions of state law and the City Charter concerning service by elected officials on the Authority, prior appointments to the board, and opportunities for council members to recommend board appointments.

Attorney Washington noted he would have to look at the law in order to make a informed decision.

Councilmember Duchesne motioned to postpone the appointment until the July Meeting to receive clarity on this item.

Councilmember Meeks said they should table the last section and move forward with the other appointees.

Councilmember Duchesne said they should table the whole thing because they were asked if the other appointees had any business interest.

Councilmember Mitchell rescinded his motion.

Councilmember Duchesne motioned to table the motion to postpone Res. 2026-44 for the downtown development authority appointee.

VOTE: 6-0

7. Youth Council Update

No Youth Council update was provided.

8. City Manager's Update

City Manager Jeff Baker provided an update on city operations and ongoing initiatives. He announced the departure of Planner Tiffany Dobbins and advised that the City was actively conducting interviews to fill planner positions. Mr. Baker reported that the City currently has few vacancies and remains operationally stable.

Mr. Baker further advised that staff had prepared a resolution to modernize the City's procurement policy, which was last updated in 2014, for Council consideration. He also reported that staff was finalizing a water rate study and proposed ordinance amendments related to water and sewer base rates, as well as reviewing the City's agreement with the Henry County Police Department.

Mr. Baker informed Council that the City had been served with a civil matter filed in Henry County Superior Court, which had been forwarded to legal counsel for review. He concluded by providing updates on ongoing infrastructure and economic development projects involving water, stormwater, and reuse systems, noting that related agreements, easements, and incentives would be presented to Council as they progress.

Councilmember Chaney inquired about the 4 million dollar sewer bond. She asked has the first payment been made and where the funds are coming from.

City Manager Baker said he would have to get with the finance director on that.

Councilmember Chaney asked if the Asst. Director R.J. was aware.

Mayor Tarpley asked where the payment was coming from for the bond on the stormwater infrastructure.

R.J. Shumaker noted that those are utility sinking funds he knows of, as well as a revenue account. He noted it has it's own separate account, and that is all he knows so far.

Councilmember Chaney asked him what kind of account he said.

RJ Shumaker said Utilities Bond Account, he said Mr. Forsyth would know more about it than he.

Mayor Tarpley inquired about signage. Noting in their conversation, he stated they were waiting for the procurement policy to be approved.

City Manager Baker noted they have numerous bids once they get the procurement policy

squared away.

Mayor Tarpley asked whether there is a reason it cannot go under the current policy.

City Manager Baker noted he hesitates because of the opinion from the attorney. He noted he will feel more comfortable with all these going out under the new policy.

Mayor Tarpley said that if the policy is not passed. Is that holding the city up from progressing and doing what needs to be done regarding putting out the bids? She asked why they are not operating under the current policy.

City Manager Baker said yes, ma'am. Noting that after discussion with the city attorney, they are out of compliance in a number of areas.

Councilmember Chaney noted that the funding for the signage has been approved, and did they not move forward after the approval.

City Manager Baker noted he is not aware of the funding approval.

Mayor Tarpley noted it was approved to come from SPLOST instead of the fund balance.

City Manager Baker noted he does not have any bids to apply that funding.

Mayor Tarpley said and the reason we don't have bids is the procurement policy.

City Manager Baker said that is the hesitation right now.

Mayor Tarpley asked about the stop work order on the park and why the payment was not made on time. She inquired about the time between the submittal of the invoice and the payment.

City Manager Baker noted that they were going through the procurement policy because it was a split payment to come from to separate funds. He noted Mr. Forsyth handled that, but it was about a couple of weeks before they received payment.

Councilmember Chaney asked if they had any bids for a new financial advisor and if the bid had closed.

City Manager Baker noted there were several bids and some were pulled out by the attorney. He noted if the policy is approved today the bids will be approved tomorrow.

Mayor Tarpley said the financial advisor was posted, bid on, and closed on May 1st, and asked why they did not receive information from everyone who submitted a proposal.

City Manager Baker said yes, but based on the recommendation, they held off on that.

Mayor Tarpley said, based on what recommendation, and what was the recommendation?

City Manager noted that they had questions from April regarding the professional services section of the procurement policy and its construction portion.

Mayor Tarpley noted she understands but what does that have to do with bids that have been closed waiting on council to approve to be awarded.

City Manager Baker noted they can proceed if they choose, but the recommendation was to rebid them.

Councilmember Chaney asked how many bids there were and if they could disclose their name.

City Manager Baker noted he can probably share them with them.

Police Department Report

Chief Turner presented the Police Department monthly report and provided an overview of departmental operations and public safety activities. The department reported an average response time of approximately 3 minutes and 28 seconds, significantly below the national average. During the reporting period, officers responded to approximately 827 calls for service and the department received three citizen complaints.

Chief Turner highlighted the department's continued commitment to maintaining effective response times, enhancing community safety, and providing quality service to Hampton residents. Council members discussed public safety matters and received clarification regarding departmental operations and service statistics.

Public Works Department Report

Public Works Director Louis King Jr provided an update regarding departmental operations, infrastructure maintenance, roadway improvements, stormwater management activities, fleet maintenance, and ongoing capital projects. Staff reported on completed projects, current work assignments, and upcoming initiatives. Council members discussed departmental operations and received clarification regarding project timelines and maintenance activities.

Utilities Director Report

Utilities Director Alton West provided an update regarding the City's water and wastewater infrastructure systems. Mr. West presented information concerning utility assets, system operations, ongoing maintenance efforts, and infrastructure improvements. Discussion included water storage facilities, utility system capacity, and current operational projects within the department. Mr. West also provided updates on utility-related initiatives and responded to questions from Council regarding utility operations and future infrastructure needs.

Community Development Report

Community Development Director Wanda Moore provided an update on departmental operations, including planning, zoning, permitting, code enforcement, and development-related activities. Staff reported on current projects, development inquiries, and ongoing efforts to support responsible growth within the City. Discussion included staffing matters, development review processes, and department priorities. Council members were afforded the opportunity to ask questions and receive updates regarding community development activities. No formal

action was taken by Council.

Information Technology Report

The Information Technology Director Michelle Arthur provided an update regarding the City's technology infrastructure, network operations, cybersecurity efforts, software systems, and ongoing technology initiatives. Staff reported on system maintenance activities, technology improvements, and support services provided to City departments. Updates were also provided regarding equipment, network reliability, and ongoing efforts to enhance operational efficiency through technology solutions.

Council members discussed current technology needs and received clarification regarding information technology operations and planned improvements. No formal action was taken by Council.

Main Street Update

Main Street staff provided an update regarding downtown revitalization efforts, community engagement activities, special events, business outreach, and beautification initiatives. Staff reported on ongoing projects designed to support economic development, promote tourism, enhance the downtown district, and encourage community participation. Updates were provided regarding upcoming events, partnerships, and activities intended to strengthen Hampton's Main Street program and downtown business environment.

Council members received the report and discussed ongoing initiatives and opportunities to further support downtown development and community engagement.

Councilmember White -Williams motioned to take a break and return at 20:30 pm, seconded Councilmember Duchesne.
Vote:6-0

Councilmember Meeks motioned to reconvene the meeting, seconded by Councilmember Duchesne.
Vote:6-0

9. Unfinished Business

A. Consideration and Action to approve the second read of **ORD 2026-10** to Amend Chapter 2 (Administration), Article VII (Code of Ethics), Section 2-307 (Ethics Committee) of the City of Hampton Code of Ordinances. This item is a proposed amendment to the City's Ethics Committee provisions to clarify committee composition and strengthen independence. The ordinance expressly prohibits members of the governing body from serving on the Ethics Committee and maintains existing appointment authority and procedural framework. The amendment is intended to promote transparency, avoid potential conflicts of interest, and reinforce public confidence in the City's ethics process. (Sponsored by Councilmember White-Williams.)

Council Member White-Williams noted this ordinance would prohibit members of the governing body from serving on the Ethics Committee.

Council Member Mitchell moved to deny the ordinance, citing a preference to amend and improve it.

Council Member White-Williams noted the minutes from the prior meeting showed a 6-0 vote on first read, without a referral to committee.

Mayor Tarpley clarified that this ordinance had not previously been referred to the committee. The motion to deny was made and seconded.

Councilmember Mitchell motioned to move this item to the Administrative and Finance Committee, seconded by Councilmember Meeks.

Councilmember Mitchell rescinded his motion.

Councilmember Mitchell motioned to deny Ord. 2026-10, seconded by Councilmember Chaney

Yea: Councilmember Meeks, Chaney, Mitchell
Nay: Councilmember White-Williams, Duchesne, Brooks
Vote: 3-3

Mayor Tarpley broke the tie, voting to deny.

Councilmember Meeks motioned to enter into executive session at 20:38, seconded by **Councilmember Chaney**.

Yea: Councilmembers: Chaney, Meeks, Mitchell
Nay: Councilmembers: Brooks, Duchesne, White-Williams

Mayor Tarpley broke the tie to enter into executive session.

Councilmember Meeks motioned to reconvene the regular session, seconded by **Councilmember Chaney**.
Vote: 6-0

Mayor Tarpley asked for a motion to terminate the contract for Denmark, Ashby, and Matricardi.
Councilmember White-Williams made a motion to deny the termination of Denmark, Ashby, and Matricardi, seconded by Councilmember Duchesne.
Vote: 3-3
Yea: Councilmembers White-Williams, Duchesne, and Brooks.
Nay: Councilmembers Meeks, Mitchell, and Chaney.

Mayor Tarpley broke the tie, voting nay.

Councilmember Duchesne motioned to speak with them to get a different representative, seconded by Councilmember White Williams.
Vote 3-3
Yea: Councilmembers Brooks, Duchesne, White-Williams
Nay: Councilmembers Meeks, Chaney, Mitchell

Mayor Tarpley broke the tie, voting no on getting another representative.

Councilmember Chaney motioned to terminate the contract for Denmark, Ashby and Matricardi, seconded by Councilmember Meeks.
Vote 3-3
Yea: Councilmembers: Meeks, Mitchell, Chaney
Nay: Councilmembers: Brooks, Duchesne, White-Williams

Mayor Tarpley broke the tie, voting to terminate Denmark, Ashby, and Matricardi as the city attorney.

Consent Agenda-none

10. New Business

A. Consideration and Action to approve **RES. 26-45** on the Rosenwald Project to include the City's purchase of 16 Rosenwald Dr. for the purpose of a Cultural Arts Museum.(Sponsored by Mayor Tarpley)

Mayor Tarpley presented a proposal to purchase 16 Rosenwald Drive, a property built by former Hampton Rosenwald School students Richard and Sulu Sloan, and convert it into a Cultural Arts and History Museum honoring the legacy of the Rosenwald School and the broader Rosenwald District. The mayor presented renderings depicting an exhibit hall, a museum gallery, an interactive kiosk learning center, and an art education studio. She noted the Rosenwald District has historically been underinvested compared to other areas of the city, and argued the purchase would spur tourism, revitalization, and economic development.

Council Member White-Williams moved to deny, expressing concern that the property is too small, lacks sufficient parking, and would impact adjacent residential neighbors. She suggested that if the city wishes to honor Rosenwald's history, a more substantial investment in a more suitable property would be more appropriate.

Council Member Duchesne similarly questioned whether the item was budgeted and suggested the park and trail system could incorporate the history without purchasing the house.

Mayor Tarpley noted that there is 266,000 in SPLOST 5 and match money in SPLOST for Rosenwald Park.

Councilmember Brooks inquired about the parking and zoning. She also inquired about doing this at East Hampton Park.

Mayor Tarpley noted that they both have and there is a property they have on the table for consideration of purchasing as well. She noted not with the grant given you can't put a closed structure on it.

Historic Preservation Commission Chair Kim Lunn and a resident who referenced the Montgomery, Alabama Legacy Museum model, supported the spirit of the proposal but recommended starting with a smaller-scale outdoor or trail-based installation and growing incrementally.

Devlin Cleveland raised concerns about the need to invest first in improving existing housing conditions on Daniel Street before pursuing a museum.

Mayor Tarpley noted that huge investments were made in Coley, East Hampton, and McBrayer Park. She noted the only park that no investment has been made in is Rosenwald Park.

Councilmember White-Williams motioned to deny **Res. 2026-45**, seconded by Councilmember Duchesne.

Abstain: Councilmember Chaney
VOTE: 5-1

B. Discussion on city-wide implementation of AI in all departments that is unified and integrates for planning, budgeting, predictability, and efficient operations. (Sponsored by Councilmember Mitchell)

Michelle Arthur, IT staff, presented an overview of current and proposed AI usage across city departments. She noted that AI tools are already in use in police (Flock Safety, Axon body cameras), the clerk's office (minutes software), and various departments using ChatGPT. She outlined near-term recommendations including deploying an AI governance policy, launching staff training, establishing an IT standard operating procedure, deploying a citizen-facing chatbot, and pursuing smart city grants. She indicated that a governance policy draft is ready for council review via email.

Councilmember Mitchell noted AI's potential to accelerate access to financial data and reduce workload. He noted they are not looking to reduce staff but to make workloads easier. He noted he is passionate about staff training and getting educated and certified. Mr. Mitchell noted if they feel like they need to go to a different job, get better paid, they have the tools to do so.

Mayor Tarpley asked Michelle Arthur to email the draft governance policy to the council for review and indicated the council would work toward adopting it.

Councilmember Meeks asked about section 6 on cost and if that was her recommendation. He asked if they approved it tonight if they could go ahead and implement it.

Michelle Arthur noted it was her idea, and she does not want to implement anything until the policy is approved.

C. Consideration and Action to approve repairing the roof(s) at the wastewater treatment buildings. The office/lab area at a cost of $4500. Additionally, the garage/warehouse area is $ 4,500.

Public Works Director King reported active roof leaks at both the office/lab area and the garage/warehouse area at the wastewater treatment facility, with one section allowing rain to enter the warehouse during heavy storms. Quotes of $4,500 per building were presented.

Councilmember Mitchell noted he took a tour a month or two ago and is happy this was brought up.

Councilmember Meeks asked where the funds will come from.

Mayor Tarpley confirmed this was not a budgeted item and that funding would come from fund balance.

Councilmember Meeks moved to approve the total cost of repairs in the amount of $9,000.00, seconded by Chaney.

Councilmember Mitchell motioned to amend the motion to include that it will come from the fund balance, seconded by **Councilmember Chaney**.
Vote: 6-0.

D. Consideration and Recommendation by Mayor and Council on the First Read **ORD. 2026-11**, proposed amendments to Appendix A, Article 2 (Definitions), Article 4 (Use Provisions), Article 5 (Residential Districts), Article 6 (Business Districts), and Article 7 (Mixed Use Districts).

Community Development Director Wanda presented the first read of Ordinance 2026 11, proposing amendments to the zoning code related to Definitions, Use Provisions,

Residential Districts, Business Districts, and Mixed Use Districts. Discussion focused primarily on proposed gas station regulations.

Council Member Duchesne requested that language be added to prohibit EV charging stations on the same premises as a gas station, and asked whether the minimum separation distance could be increased from 1 mile to 2 miles.

Ms. Wanda confirmed both amendments could be incorporated for the second read.

Mayor Tarpley sought clarification on whether a 2-mile minimum would apply regardless of whether gas stations are on opposite sides of a road, and whether it would apply to large-scale retail developments.

Kendra Sutherland asked if anybody could apply for a code variance, noting she thought the cost was around $300.00 to make a petition to do it.

Ms. Wanda noted that variances pertain to development regulations. She noted if they choose to adopt the two miles, then it would be a text amendment that you would request, which negates the fact of updating the ordinance.

Ms. Palmer thinks it is a good idea to close the older gas stations because there are new ones coming. She noted the city needs to be getting as much off the gas as possible, because it is taxes for the city. She noted she is for the gas stations.

Councilmember Duchesne motioned to approve **Ord. 2026-11**, seconded by Councilmember Meeks.

Vote: 6-0

E. Consideration and Recommendation by Mayor and Council on the First Read **ORD. 2026-12,** regarding property owner Dione Smith's variance request (VAR-26-0005) for the property located at 118 Rolling Meadows Ct., Hampton, GA 30228 (Parcel ID No. 021E01022000), zoned R-2 (Single-Family Residential). The property owner is requesting relief from the required rear yard setback, as specified in Article 5, Section 5-3, for property zoned R-2, to accommodate a swimming pool and associated hardscape.

Director Wanda explained the lot is unusually shallow relative to its width, making compliance with the 40-foot rear yard setback effectively impossible for a pool. Neighboring property letters of support were included in the packet.

An adjacent property owner from a neighboring subdivision spoke in opposition, citing concerns about noise and potential encroachment.

Ms. Wanda noted the applicant could potentially install the pool in the side yard without a variance. Council was divided; the motion to approve was made and seconded. The applicant and opposing neighbor were both present, but the applicant had departed by the time of the vote.

Councilmember Meeks motioned to approve **Ord. 2026-12**, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell.

Yea: Councilmember Meeks, White-Williams, Erroll
Nay: Councilmember Brooks, Duchesne, Chaney
Vote: 3-3

Mayor Tarpley broke the tie in favor of First Read on Ordinance 2026-12.

F. Consideration and approval of First Read **ORD 2026-13** Amending Article VII (Code of Ethics) of Chapter 2 (Administration) of the City of Hampton Code of Ordinances. (Sponsor Councilmember White-Williams)

Councilmember Meeks motioned to refer **ORD. 2026-13** to the Administrative and Finance Committee, seconded by Councilmember Chaney.

Yea: Councilmember Meeks, Chaney, Mitchell
Nay: Councilmember White-Williams, Duchesne, Brooks
Vote: 3-3
Mayor Tarpley Broke the tie to move this to the committee for review.

G. Discussion on and review of existing plans to renovate City of Hampton City Hall due to space, configuration, and current maintenance issues. (Sponsored by Councilmember Mitchell)

Council Member Mitchell raised this item in response to deteriorating conditions at City Hall, particularly in the finance department area, where mold and active roof leaks have been observed. He noted that this needed to be fixed to prevent liability issues and employee sickness.

Public Works Director King confirmed that buckets and sheet metal diverters are currently in use in the attic.

Director Wanda recounted prior planning work by TSW Architects, who produced three renovation concepts.

Council Member White-Williams cautioned against replacing the roof in isolation before determining the full scope of the renovation, noting that the design could require HVAC relocation.

Staff was directed to obtain a preliminary cost estimate from TSW Architects for council review.

H. Consideration and Action to approve **RES 2026-41** to approve a 50-year Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Spalding County Water Authority (SCWA) for the assumed responsibility of all future relocations, as needed of the 20-inch water main, installed within Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) right-of-way along HWY 19/41 from Malier Road north to Henry/Spalding County

line.

Utilities Director West explained that this 50-year IGA assigns the City of Hampton responsibility for all future relocations of a 20-inch water main installed within the GDOT right-of-way along Highway 19/41 from Malier Road to the Henry/Spalding County line. The main will become a city asset once transferred, and relocation would only be required if GDOT undertakes road expansion in that corridor.

Councilmember Mitchell motioned to approve **RES.2026-41, seconded by Councilmember Meeks.**

Pam Duchesne inquired about who would be responsible for this.

Mayor Tarpley noted that the city would be responsible for this because it will be a city asset and will belong to the city once transferred.

Mr. West noted that Spaulding County would be responsible only for the actual meter.

Vote:6-0

I. Consideration and Action to approve **RES. 2026-42** to apply for Save America's Treasures (SAT) grant through the National Park Service (NPS), in cooperation with the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The requested funding is for SAT Preservation Grant for the City of Hampton Train Depot. The proposed Resolution authorizes staff to complete the SAT application for NPS FY2025 Historic Preservation funding.

City Manager confirmed that the city does not qualify for this grant. The item was removed from consideration.

J. Consideration and Action on the adoption of **RES. 2026-43** regarding the property owner's, JAY AMBE 25, LLC, request to dedicate property for public use to the City of Hampton portion of Parcel No. 040-01050000, consisting of 0.366 acres, Hampton, GA 30228.

Director Wanda explained that the corrected acreage for this dedication is 0.287 acres (revised from 0.366 as listed in the agenda). The parcel consists primarily of a stream and stream buffers, making it largely undevelopable, but is strategically located near a new sanitary sewer line in GDOT right-of-way. Acceptance of the property could enable a future gravity sewer conversion, eliminating a lift station, and could also support the city's trail plan by providing a crossing point near the Rosenwald area. She noted that the prior city

attorney had recommended a form of transfer other than a quitclaim deed. The property owner will proceed with the title search and legal transfer only if the council expresses interest.

Mayor Tarpley noted that this is going to improve the city systems and possibly have gravity flow in that area.

Ms. Wanda noted that it is set up topographically. Noting if a gravity line was done that eventually went under 20 and served the other side of Henderson Farms, there is a greater possibility of use rather than it just sitting there.

Councilmember Meeks noted that if he goes out Hampton Locust Grove Road to 20, the property is on the right

Councilmember Chaney made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-43, seconded by Councilmember Meeks.
Vote: 6-0.

K. Consideration and Action to approve **RES.26-46** to launch an investigation into the self-dealing and malfeasance of Council Member Pamela Dushesne. (Sponsored by Mayor Tarpley)

Mayor Tarpley presented Resolution 2026-46, which proposed authorizing an investigation into alleged self-dealing and malfeasance by Council Member Duchesne, citing two payments to Hummingbird Flowers—$225 on April 3, 2026, and $365 on September 8, 2023—for flower arrangements provided to the city.

Councilmember Duchesne made a motion to deny resolution 2026-46, seconded by Councilmember White-Williams.

Council Member White-Williams argued that the resolution's own disclosure standard (Section 2-304) requires disclosure only when a matter is presented to the council for discussion or action, and that this transaction never came before the council for a vote.

Main Street Director Tova confirmed that she had contacted Council Member Duchesne on a Sunday night following Valentine's Day to ask for last-minute assistance with flower arrangements for a city welcome reception for the incoming City Manager, that no solicitation had come from Council Member Duchesne, and that other downtown businesses were also engaged for the event.

Councilmember Duchesne noted that she lists Hummingbird Flowers on her annual financial disclosure affidavit and that the 2023 transaction predated her time on the council.

Mr. Duchesne noted that his wife did not approach the city; the city approached her. He stated you are trying to tarnish my business name. He noted they had no flowers, and she made a last-minute judgment call to provide for the city. He noted they are not promoting a black business; they are promoting a service.

Councilmember White-Williams noted that the Mayor's point is disclosure, and noted that a resolution was passed authorizing the former city manager to forward a 2,500.00 check to the Hampton Affordable Housing Initiative to hire legal counsel to form a nonprofit, which was not cashed. She noted that this business had ties to her family and asked whether that was disclosed.

Dawn Greer noted these accusations are serious and should not be taken likely. She asked if these resolutions had anything to do with the previous resolution passed for mileage reimbursement check expenses. If so, there is no place for retaliatory attacks.

Devlin Cleveland noted that the trust of the Mayor has been broken and the citizens do not trust her. He noted that the city will not get any better until she is removed from office.

Ms. Hearn noted that they should be saying thanks and the event was beautiful. She noted that she cannot see how anyone would side with this.

Council Member Meeks stated that it would be a positive development if the inter-council conflict were to end.

Council Member Brooks expressed appreciation for Tova's initiative in coordinating the event. She inquired about the scope of the investigation and noted that she does not see anything for which Councilmember Duchesne is guilty. She noted that it is time to start working together for the betterment of the community.

Vote: 5-0.

Abstain: Councilmember Duchesne.

L. Consideration and Action to approve **RES. 2026-47** to launch an investigation into the self-dealing and malfeasance of Council Member Kesha White-Williams. (Sponsored by Mayor Tarpley)

Mayor Tarpley presented Resolution 2026-47, proposing an investigation into Council Member White-Williams regarding payments of $2,710 (February 21, 2025) and $3,380 (March 8, 2024) made to her husband's transportation company for ground transportation services during the city's annual Washington, D.C. advocacy trip.

Council Member White-Williams argued that, as with Resolution 2026-46, the

disclosure requirement under Section 2-304 is triggered only when a matter comes before the council for a vote, and that travel expenses within an already-approved budget do not require a separate council vote. She noted her husband completed a vendor disclosure form in 2025 that explicitly identified his relationship to a council member. She further stated that city staff obtained competing quotes and that her husband's company provided the most competitive pricing.

Mayor Tarpley noted there was a motion on the floor and in Councilmember White Williams mind it is ok as a councilmember with a small business to do business with the city.

Dawn Greer, a resident, read from state law regarding potential criminal penalties for knowingly submitting false allegations to a government body. She asked they deal with this quickly and get done with it, stop doing payback, but own it and get on with the business of the city.

Darren Williams, Council Member White-Williams's husband, addressed the council to confirm that all correspondence was conducted through official city email channels, that quotes were solicited and compared by city staff, and that the service was provided as contracted. He expressed concern about the reputational impact of the resolution.

Mayor Tarpley stated that she had become aware of the 2024 service upon arriving at the vehicle and had subsequently raised the matter with the then-City Manager. She contended the 2025 booking was improper because the issue had already been identified.

Councilmember White-Williams made a motion to deny Resolution 2026-47, seconded by Councilmember Duchesne.

Vote: 5-0.

Abstain: Councilmember Chaney

M. Consideration and Approval of **RES. 26-48** Adopting an Updated Procurement Policy.

Councilmember Meeks made a motion to give staff an opportunity to review the procurement policy and make suggestions before adopting Ordinance 2026-14, seconded by Councilmember Mitchell.

Councilmember Meeks rescinded his original motion.

Councilmember Meeks made a motion to approve the first read of Ordinance 2026-14, seconded by Councilmember White-Williams.

Vote: 6-0.

11. **Positive Happenings**

Council Member Brooks thanked all who participated in the Mental Health Walk and expressed hope for city funding support in the future.

Council Member Meeks expressed hope that the inter-council conflict would come to an end.

Council Member Mitchell highlighted the opening of the splash pad and the forthcoming completion of the basketball court at Big Bear Park.

Council Member White-Williams offered no further remarks.

Council Member Duchesne stated, "Life is beautiful, and we're going to get it together."

Council Member Chaney noted the Touch-A-Truck event at the library the following day and expressed a desire for greater harmony on the council.

City Manager Baker expressed anticipation for the Juneteenth celebration and the Fourth of July event

12. **Executive Session for the purpose of legal, personnel, real estate, and/or Cyber Security**

13. **Adjournment**

Councilmember Mitchell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Duchesne.

Vote: 6-0.

Ann N Tarpley, Mayor

Michelle Hood, City Clerk

ADA Compliance: Individuals with disabilities who require certain accommodations to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of the meeting, or the facilities are required to contact the City Clerk at 770-946-4306 promptly on the Thursday before the meeting to allow the City to make reasonable accommodations for those needing assistance.