

Minutes of the January 20, 2025, Hampton City Council Budget Workshop

The Hampton City Council Budget Workshop was called to order at the Hampton City Council Chambers by Mayor Steve Birdsall at 6:00 p.m. The workshop was also offered electronically through Zoom and YouTube. Council members in attendance were Kevin Blanford, James Davies, Jerre Grefe, Bill Hodge, Barry Lamos, and Patrick Palmer. Also present were City Manager Ron Dunt, Police Chief Mark Morrison, and Public Works Director Doug Tarr. Mayor Birdsall invited those present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag.

Mayor Birdsall offered time for public comment. There was none.

Public Works Director Tarr and Police Chief Morrison updated the council on nuisance properties. A few properties were cleaned up last week.

Eric Merritt, Merritt Computers, presented a managed service agreement for IT services. The consensus of the council was to place this item on the Thursday, January 23, 2025 Regular Session agenda. Lamos questioned if the library could hire Merritt as well. City Manager Dunt will give the library director Mr. Merritt's contact information so she can reach out to him if the library is interested.

City Manager Dunt presented a banking service agreement draft with First Security Bank & Trust. Dunt had sent out a request for proposals as another way to optimize the city's revenue due to uncertainty from the state level, and First Security submitted a proposal that was the most beneficial for the city. The agreement is for 3 years. The consensus was to place this item on the agenda for the Thursday, January 23, 2025 Regular Session.

City Manager Dunt also presented a draft Resolution Naming Depositories. The resolution authorizes the City Manager to deposit City of Hampton funds in amounts not to exceed the maximum approved for each respective financial institution. The consensus was to place the resolution on the January 23, 2025 regular session agenda.

City Manager Dunt presented several items relating to a bond issuance for structurally securing 4 & 6 1st Street NW. City Manager Dunt presented a not to exceed \$700,000 bond and recommended to the council that they do a 5-year bond and get it paid so we can move on to other project funding. Dunt reported that we have applied for grants to help minimize the amount we will need to borrow. Lamos questioned if we could dip into our reserves so we wouldn't have to bond as much. City Manager Dunt stated that the city could do so, but he does not recommend that approach due to the uncertainty of property tax reform from the state. Also related to the bond issue were engagement letters with Ahlers & Cooney (bond council) and Public Financial Management (PFM) as financial advisor for bond issuance. The general consensus of the council was to place all of these items on the Thursday, January 23, 2025 regular council agenda.

The council then discussed various FY26 Budget Considerations. City Manager Dunt announced there will be no budget workshop on Monday, January 27th. A budget workshop will be held on Monday, February 3 and the regular council workshop will be held Monday, February 10.

The Workshop ended at 6:38 pm.