

Minutes of the February 24, 2025 Hampton City Council Workshop

The Hampton City Council 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 James Davies, Bill Hodge, Jerre Grefe, Barry Lamos, and Patrick Palmer. Kevin Blanford was absent. Also, present were Police Chief Mark Morrison, Public Works Director Doug Tarr, and City Manager Ron Dunt. Mayor Birdsall invited those present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag.

Mayor Birdsall offered time for public comment. Mickey Ferris addressed the council in support of Councilman Bill Hodge and encouraged the community to find some way to help the illegal people as well. Seth Johnson addressed the council regarding the previous concerns he has brought to the council and his feeling of lack of response. Isaac Vosburg shared his experience studying abroad and what it is like to be living somewhere where you are the minority. Marlene Tapp shared her thoughts and concerns regarding snow removal.

Morrison and Tarr gave an update on nuisance efforts. Planning for spring community cleanup has started and details will be advertised soon.

Chief Morrison presented information regarding parking and requested the council review and suggest any changes they feel would be helpful.

Jerre Grefe opened the discussion on snow removal protocol and asked Public Works Director Doug Tarr to explain the process used by staff when planning for snow removal. Tarr indicated that there are many variables considered with each snow event such as the forecast, consistency of snow, wind speeds, accumulation amounts, duration of the event, timing of the event, weather advisories, temperature, staff availability, safety, and efficiency. There was some Q & A and Mayor Birdsall stated that he appreciated how PWD Tarr kept the council informed of the process.

Jerre Grefe presented information regarding public fluoridation to the drinking water for the council to review. The council also discussed the potential impact on the project at the water treatment plant if fluoridation were discontinued. City Manager Dunt will contact the engineer and request more information on project implications. The consensus of the council is to discuss fluoridated water at a future workshop.

City Manager Dunt presented information regarding a used street sweeper found for sale online. It is in very good shape and has the same John Deere diesel motor as our current sweeper. The consensus of the council was for staff to inspect it and to purchase it if staff deems appropriate. Jim Davies left for another commitment.

Council reports given by Barry Lamos and Pat Palmer. Mayor report given by Mayor Steve Birdsall.

The workshop concluded at 7:06 p.m.