

Minutes of the March 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. Ward 3 vacant. Also present were Police Chief Mark Morrison and City Manager Ron Dunt, 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.

Chief Morrison reported the police department is continuing to send nuisance notices and violations. Public Works Director Tarr reported 25 6th St SW was being burned by the fire department at 6pm, a garage on 3rd St SW was being demolished this week, and asbestos testing at 321 5th St SW will be happening soon.

Rachelle Thompson CPA presented the council with the FY24 audit report. Thompson reported she issued an unmodified opinion, which is the best possible opinion to receive, and the audit went well. (Justin Lieth arrived during Thompson's report at 6:05 p.m.)

Lili Velasco from Franklin County Extension presented the council with information regarding the LEAP Grant. The committee recently did a walk audit from downtown to the hospital and will also be doing walk audits around the schools. The information gathered from the committee will be available to the city and county and is intended to assist communities in applying for grants.

Mayor Birdsall invited the candidates for the Ward 3 council position to introduce themselves. Candidates are Bill Holmstrom, Justin Lieth, Crystal Wolvers and Jeanne Fay. The candidates then answered 2 rounds of questions from the council. The council will make an appointment at the March 27, 2025 council meeting.

Public Works Director Tarr presented the council with a draft ordinance to change zoning at 1013 4th St SE. Tarr reported the Planning and Zoning Commission met twice regarding this issue and is recommending to council to approve the zoning change. The first reading of the ordinance will be at the March 27, 2025 council meeting.

The workshop concluded at 7:43 p.m.