

Minutes of the March 23, 2026, 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, Jeanne Fay, Jerre Grefe, Bill Holmstrom, Barry Lamos, and Kristin Roode. Also present were City Manager Ron Dunt, Police Chief Mark Morrison (arrived at 6:12 p.m.), 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. David Schmitt, retired State Veterinarian, expressed his opposition to urban chickens. He also recommended if allowing chickens in town to require a premises identification number as part of the requirements. Sarah Kolb spoke in favor of allowing chickens in town and the requirement of premises identification numbers.

The council discussed the chicken/livestock draft ordinance. Public Works Director Tarr informed the council that City Attorney Megan Rosenberg said special permission for livestock in town goes with the property owner and not the property itself. The council suggested some wording changes to the draft ordinance. City Manager Dunt will update the ordinance with the final changes. The first reading of the ordinance will be on the agenda Thursday, March 26, 2026.

Police Chief Morrison asked the council to consider increasing police reserve pay for recruitment and retention. The reserve officers are currently making \$15/hr and Chief Morrison is requesting it to be increased to \$30/hr. The consensus of the council was to increase the hourly rate to \$30. The increase will be on the agenda Thursday, March 26, 2026.

The workshop ended at 6:26 pm.