

Regular Meeting of the Suffolk City Council was held in the City Council Chamber, 442 West Washington Street, on Wednesday, March 3, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Council Members -
Michael D. Duman, Mayor, presiding
Leroy Bennett, Vice Mayor
Shelley Butler Barlow
Roger W. Fawcett
Donald Z. Goldberg
Timothy J. Johnson
Lue R. Ward, Jr.
LeOtis L. Williams

Albert S. Moor, Interim City Manager
Helivi H. Holland, City Attorney
Erika S. Dawley, City Clerk

ABSENT

None

CALL TO ORDER/INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Duman called the meeting to order. Council Member Goldberg offered the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Clerk Dawley called the roll, and all members of City Council were in attendance.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT CERTIFICATION

City Clerk Dawley presented a resolution certifying the Closed Meeting of March 3, 2021, pursuant to Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

Council Member Fawcett, on a motion seconded by Council Member Williams, moved to approve the resolution, as presented, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Mayor Duman, Vice Mayor Bennett, and Council Members Butler Barlow Fawcett, Goldberg, T. Johnson, Ward and Williams	8
NAYS:	None	0

A RESOLUTION OF CERTIFICATION OF THE CLOSED MEETING OF MARCH 3, 2021, PURSUANT TO SECTION 2.2-3712 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA (1950), AS AMENDED

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Council Member Williams, on a motion seconded by Council Member Ward, moved to approve the minutes from the September 28, 2020, Special Meeting and October 7, 2020, Work Session and Regular Meeting, as presented, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Mayor Duman, Vice Mayor Bennett, and Council Members Fawcett, Goldberg, T. Johnson, and Ward	6
NAYS:	None	0
ABSTAIN:	Council Members Butler Barlow and Williams	2

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Special Presentation - COVID-19 Vaccination Update

Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, Dr. Lauren James, Interim Director, Western Tidewater Health Department, supplied a report on the above referenced item.

Referring to the presentation, Council Member Johnson sought information about the feasibility of hosting vaccination clinics at smaller churches in the rural areas. Dr. James advised that at this point, there is no plan to conduct such clinics as no specific requests have been made. She added that if City can provide a list of churches in those areas that would like to host such clinics in the future, it is something that can be explored.

Referring to the presentation, Vice Mayor Bennett opined about the use of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine for upcoming vaccination clinics. Dr. James reported that the Johnson and Johnson vaccine is reserved for larger vaccination clinics, unlike the smaller vaccination events that will held in this area.

Referring to the presentation, Council Member Ward inquired about the possibility of conducting vaccination clinics at churches in the northern part of the City. Dr. James said if City can provide a list of churches in those areas that would like to host such clinics in the future, it is something that can be explored.

Council Member Williams queried about the cost of receiving the vaccine. Dr. James reported that there is no charge to receive the vaccine from the Western Tidewater Health Department, but she could not speak to any cost associated with receiving the vaccine from a pharmacy.

Mayor Duman opined the process used to administer the vaccine at the recent event held at the Hilton Garden Inn Riverfront, held by Bayview Physicians. Dr. James explained that the event was cohosted by Bayview Physicians and the Western Tidewater Health Department. She added that in order to efficiently allocate the limited number of vaccines, appointments were required, and walk-ins were not feasible.

Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, Deputy Fire Chief Brian Spicer offered information on the City's efforts as it relates to COVID-19 vaccinations.

REMOVAL OF ITEMS FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Duman advised that a motion was in order at this time to adopt the agenda, as presented.

Council Member Fawcett, on a motion seconded by Council Member Goldberg, to adopt the agenda, as presented, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Mayor Duman, Vice Mayor Bennett, and Council Members Butler Barlow Fawcett, Goldberg, T. Johnson, Ward and Williams	8
NAYS:	None	0

AGENDA SPEAKERS

There were no speakers under this portion of the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

There were no items under this portion of the agenda.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearing – An ordinance authorizing the Interim City Manager to enter into a lease agreement with Arne Free Fall Solutions, L.L.C. for Box Hangar #7 at the Suffolk Executive Airport

Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, Interim Deputy City Manager Kevin Hughes gave a summation of the background information as printed in the official agenda.

John Babineau, no address provided, representing Arne Free Fall Solutions, LLC, spoke in support of the proposed ordinance, as presented.

Hearing no additional speakers, the public hearing was closed.

Council Member Johnson, on a motion seconded by Council Member Goldberg, moved to approve the ordinance, as presented, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Mayor Duman, Vice Mayor Bennett, and Council Members Butler Barlow Fawcett, Goldberg, T. Johnson, Ward and Williams	8
NAYS:	None	0

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH ARNE FREE FALL SOLUTIONS, L.L.C. FOR BOX HANGAR #7 AT THE SUFFOLK EXECUTIVE AIRPORT

Public Hearing – An ordinance authorizing the Interim City Manager to enter into a lease agreement with Skydive Suffolk Training Center, LLC, for Box Hangar #9 at the Suffolk Executive Airport

Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, Interim Deputy City Manager Hughes provided an overview of the background information as printed in the official agenda.

John Babineau, 150 Boush Street, Suite 601, Norfolk, Virginia, representing Skydive Suffolk Training Center, LLC, spoke in support of the proposed ordinance, as presented.

Hearing no additional speakers, the public hearing was closed.

Council Member Fawcett, on a motion seconded by Council Member Goldberg, moved to approve the ordinance, as presented, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Mayor Duman, Vice Mayor Bennett, and Council Members Butler Barlow Fawcett, Goldberg, T. Johnson, Ward and Williams	8
NAYS:	None	0

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH SKYDIVE SUFFOLK TRAINING CENTER, LLC, FOR BOX HANGAR #9 AT THE SUFFOLK EXECUTIVE AIRPORT

Public Hearing – An ordinance authorizing the Interim City Manager to enter into a ground lease agreement with Skydive Suffolk Training Center, LLC concerning +/- 1.75 acres adjacent to Box Hangar #9 at the Suffolk Executive Airport

Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, Interim Deputy City Manager Hughes submitted a synopsis of the background information as printed in the official agenda.

John Babineau, no address given, Virginia, representing Skydive Suffolk Training Center, LLC, spoke in support of the proposed ordinance, as presented.

Hearing no additional speakers, the public hearing was closed.

Council Member Goldberg, on a motion seconded by Council Member Williams, moved to approve the ordinance, as presented, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Mayor Duman, Vice Mayor Bennett, and Council Members Butler Barlow Fawcett, Goldberg, T. Johnson, Ward and Williams	8
NAYS:	None	0

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A GROUND LEASE AGREEMENT WITH SKYDIVE SUFFOLK TRAINING CENTER, LLC CONCERNING +/- 1.75 ACRES ADJACENT TO BOX HANGAR #9 AT THE SUFFOLK EXECUTIVE AIRPORT

ORDINANCES

Ordinance – An Amended and Restated Ordinance to grant a conditional use permit to establish an automobile auction, automobile graveyard, and automobile storage yard, on property located on Old Somerton Road, Zoning Map 44, Parcels 92A, 92D, and 94; Account Numbers 151214000, 153665900 and 151438000; CUP2020-004

Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, Planning and Community Development Director David Hainley supplied a report of the background information as printed in the official agenda.

Council Member Fawcett, on a motion seconded by Council Member Williams, moved to approve the ordinance, as presented, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Mayor Duman, Vice Mayor Bennett, and Council Members Butler Barlow Fawcett, Goldberg, T. Johnson, Ward and Williams	8
NAYS:	None	0

AN AMENDED AND RESTATED ORDINANCE TO GRANT A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO ESTABLISH AN AUTOMOBILE AUCTION, AUTOMOBILE GRAVEYARD, AND AUTOMOBILE STORAGE YARD, ON PROPERTY LOCATED ON OLD SOMERTON ROAD, ZONING MAP 44, PARCELS 92A, 92D, AND 94; ACCOUNT NUMBERS 151214000, 153665900 AND 151438000; CUP2020-004

RESOLUTIONS

There were no items under this portion of the agenda.

STAFF REPORTS

There were no items under this portion of the agenda.

MOTIONS

Motion – A motion to schedule a City Council Work Session, for Wednesday, March 17, 2021, at 4:00 p.m., unless cancelled

Council Member Goldberg, on a motion seconded by Council Member Johnson, moved to schedule a City Council Work Session, for Wednesday, March 17, 2021, at 4:00 p.m., unless cancelled, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Mayor Duman, Vice Mayor Bennett, and Council Members Butler Barlow Fawcett, Goldberg, T. Johnson, Ward and Williams	8
NAYS:	None	0

NON-AGENDA SPEAKERS

Shawna Goodman, 5113 Queen Street, Chesapeake, Virginia, was not present.

William Horner, 119 Brewer Avenue, representing self, opined about flooding on Brewer Avenue and First Street.

Douglas Branch, 307 Lida Avenue, representing self, opined about transparency in the Suffolk Public Schools budget.

Janet McKinney, 2804 Lake Cahoon Point, representing self, spoke in support of a line item budget for Suffolk Public School budget.

Sherri Story, 4429 Cherokee Drive, representing self, opined about fully funding classrooms.

The following individuals spoke in support of a line item budget for Suffolk Public Schools:

Brianne Ihlenburg, 3420 Archers Mills Road, representing self.

John Lee, 1481 Cedar Creek Lane, representing self.

Dawn Bachman, 4000 Belleharhour Circle, representing self.

Deborah Wahlstrom, 137 Pitchekettle Point Circle, representing self.

George Mears, 4304 Ainslie Court South, representing self.

Elizabeth Horne, 133 Niblett Circle, representing self, opined about the City's false alarm fee.

Mavis Milteer Penn, 315 West Constance Road, representing self, opined about CSX Railroad.

Karen Hurd, 1024 Centerbrooke Lane, representing self, spoke in support of a line item budget for Suffolk Public Schools.

Alex Stidham, 827 General Pickett Drive, representing self, spoke in support of a line item budget for Suffolk Public Schools.

Kelly Hengler, 9345 Eclipse Drive, representing the Crittenden-Eclipse-Hobson Heritage Civic League, opined about the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Troy Jean, 6625 Crittenden Road, representing self, opined about the historically African-American oystermen on the Nansemond River.

The following individuals spoke in support of a line item budget for Suffolk Public Schools:

Miller Cary, 1002 Macarthur Drive, representing self.

Audrey Mehring, 2214 Gentry Street, representing self.

David Fulkerson, 100 Massey Drive, representing self, opined about the re-opening of Suffolk Public Schools.

NEW BUSINESS

City Clerk Dawley presented the following board and commission nomination to the respective body:
Tidewater Emergency Medical Services Council – Deputy Fire Chief Brian Spicer

Council Member Williams, on a motion seconded by Vice Mayor Bennett, moved to nominate and appoint the above referenced individual to the aforementioned body, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Mayor Duman, Vice Mayor Bennett, and Council Members Butler Barlow Fawcett, Goldberg, T. Johnson, Ward and Williams	8
NAYS:	None	0

Council Member Fawcett, on a motion seconded by Council Member Johnson, moved to approve a resolution appointing William Hutchings, Jr. to the position of Interim City Attorney and setting the salary of the Interim City Attorney, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Mayor Duman, Vice Mayor Bennett, and Council Members Butler Barlow Fawcett, Goldberg, T. Johnson, Ward and Williams	8
NAYS:	None	0

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY AND SETTING THE SALARY OF THE INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS

Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, Media and Community Relations Assistant Director Timothy Kelley provided a report on the following: the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Department’s Officer, Firefighter, and Paramedic of the Year – Captain Leon Ratliff, Jr; Amy Dunn-Brown and Lucas D. Weaver, respectively; the Suffolk Economic Development Authority’s Small Business Assistance Grant Program; the upcoming Work Zone Road Closure on Shoulders Hill Road; the Suffolk Parks and Recreation Department’s Before and After School Programs; and the Suffolk Parks and Recreation Department’s 2021 Summer Camp Programs.

Council Member Williams welcomed Council Member Butler Barlow.

Council Member Williams congratulated City Attorney Holland on her appointment the Suffolk General District Court.

Council Member Williams requested that Interim City Manager Moor provided information on the total number of women and minority owned contractors that the City uses and a report comparing that information to other localities in the region.

Council Member Goldberg welcomed Council Member Butler Barlow.

Council Member Goldberg congratulated City Attorney Holland on her appointment the Suffolk General District Court.

Council Member Ward welcomed Council Member Butler Barlow.

Council Member Ward congratulated City Attorney Holland on her appointment the Suffolk General District Court.

Council Member Butler Barlow extended her condolences to the family of the late Ruby Walden.

Council Member Johnson welcomed Council Member Butler Barlow.

Council Member Johnson congratulated City Attorney Holland on her appointment the Suffolk General District Court.

Council Member Johnson acknowledged the speakers in attendance.

Council Member Fawcett extended his congratulations to the individuals who were recognized by the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Department.

Council Member Fawcett opined about the upcoming Work Zone Road Closure on Shoulders Hill Road.

Council Member Fawcett welcomed Council Member Butler Barlow.

Council Member Fawcett congratulated City Attorney Holland on her appointment the Suffolk General District Court.

Vice Mayor Bennett welcomed Council Member Butler Barlow.

Vice Mayor Bennett asked Interim City Manager Moor to research the concern raised by Ms. Horne about the City's false alarm fee.

Vice Mayor Bennett acknowledged the speakers in attendance.

Vice Mayor Bennett extended his congratulations to the individuals who were recognized by the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Department.

Vice Mayor Bennett congratulated City Attorney Holland on her appointment the Suffolk General District Court.

Mayor Duman welcomed Council Member Butler Barlow.

Mayor Duman congratulated City Attorney Holland on her appointment the Suffolk General District Court.

Mayor Duman acknowledged Interim City Attorney Hutchings on his appointment as the Interim City Attorney.

Mayor Duman acknowledged his absence and the absences of Council Member Butler Barlow and Council Member Ward at the February 17, 2021, City Council meeting.

Mayor Duman acknowledged the 100th birthday of Marie Hill.

Council Member Fawcett, on a motion seconded by Council Member Williams, moved to adjourn, by the following vote:

AYES:	Mayor Duman, Vice Mayor Bennett, and Council Members Butler Barlow Fawcett, Goldberg, T. Johnson, Ward and Williams	8
NAYS:	None	0

There being no further business to come before City Council, the regular meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Teste: _____
Erika S. Dawley, MMC, City Clerk

Approved: _____
Michael D. Duman, Mayor

APPROVED: SEPTEMBER 1, 2021