

Regular Meeting of the Suffolk City Council was held in the City Council Chamber, 442 West Washington Street, on Wednesday, February 19, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Council Members -

Linda T. Johnson, Mayor, presiding

Leroy Bennett, Vice Mayor

Michael D. Duman

Roger W. Fawcett

Donald Z. Goldberg

Timothy J. Johnson

Curtis R. Milteer, Sr.

Lue R. Ward, Jr.

Patrick G. Roberts, City Manager

Helivi L. Holland, City Attorney

Erika S. Dawley, City Clerk

ABSENT

None

CALL TO ORDER/INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION CERTIFICATION

City Clerk Dawley presented a resolution certifying the Closed Meeting of February 19, 2020, pursuant to Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

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

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

A RESOLUTION OF CERTIFICATION OF THE CLOSED MEETING OF FEBRUARY 19, 2020, PURSUANT TO SECTION 2.2-3712 OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA (1950), AS AMENDED

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Council Member Milteer, on a motion seconded by Vice Mayor Bennett, moved to approve the minutes from the December 4, 2020, Regular Meeting, as presented, by the following vote:

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

There were no items under this portion of the agenda.

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

Mayor Johnson 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 vote:

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

AGENDA SPEAKERS

There were no speakers under this portion of the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

City Clerk Dawley presented the following Consent Agenda items:

Consent Agenda Item #7 - A resolution to accept a donation of personal property for the Suffolk Department of Fire and Rescue

Consent Agenda Item #8 - An ordinance to accept and appropriate funds from the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Aviation for the Suffolk Executive Airport

Consent Agenda Item #9 - An ordinance to accept and appropriate funds from the United States Department of Agriculture for the Summer Food Service Program

Consent Agenda #10 - An ordinance amending the Agricultural Advisory Committee

Referring to Consent Agenda Items #7 through #10, City Manager Roberts submitted a review of the background information as printed in the official agenda.

Mayor Johnson acknowledged representatives from the Project Lifesaver Search and Rescue that were in attendance.

Council Member Milteer, on a motion seconded by Council Member Fawcett, moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented, by the following vote:

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearing - A resolution to adopt the Capital Improvements Program and Plan for Fiscal Years 2020-2021 through 2029-2030

Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, Finance Director Tealen Hansen provided a summary of the background information as printed in the official agenda.

Art Graves, 5821 Bernhowe Manor Lane, representing self, called for funding for the installation of a deceleration lane into Bernhowe Manor.

The following individuals spoke in support for the funding for the new downtown library as included in the proposed resolution:

Sean Bilby, 5252 Pruden Boulevard, representing the Library Board.

Margaret Cross, 2304 Kings Fork Road, representing self.

Katherine Cross, 2304 Kings Fork Road, representing self.

Edna Graves, 5821 Bernhowe Manor Lane, representing self, spoke in support of the installation of a deceleration lane into Bernhowe Manor.

Larry Arrington, 5832 Bernhowe Manor Lane, representing self, spoke in support of the installation of a deceleration lane into Bernhowe Manor.

Claudia Holland, 9351 Rivershore Drive, representing the Crittenden-Eclipse-Hobson Heritage Civic League, called for funding for Eclipse.

Sheronda Robinson, 5821 Bernhowe Manor Lane, representing self, spoke in support of the installation of a deceleration lane into Bernhowe Manor.

Shirley Bowen, 5853 Bernhowe Manor Lane, representing self, spoke in support of the installation of a deceleration lane into Bernhowe Manor.

Hearing no additional speakers, the public hearing was closed.

Council Member Duman queried about a traffic study to determine the feasibility of the installation of a deceleration lane into Bernhowe Manor. City Manager Roberts explained that the City has asked the Virginia Department of Transportation to expand the scope of their study of the Route 17 Corridor to include Bernhowe Manor to the City of Chesapeake line which could potentially result in funding for the installation of a deceleration lane into Bernhowe Manor.

Council Member Duman inquired about the possibility of including the installation of a deceleration lane into Bernhowe Manor in next year’s Capital Improvement Plan. City Manager Roberts said that the City should be able to seek funding after receiving the study from the Virginia Department of Transportation, which should happened before next year’s Capital Improvement Plan.

Council Member Duman called for a timeline about the new recreation center in the northern part of the City. City Manager Roberts replied that the building has not been turned over from the United States National Guard. He added that additional environmental surveys required before the project could be put out to bid.

Referring to the presentation, Council Member Duman opined the proposed increase in the funding for the Human Resources Building Renovation – School Administration project, specifically the relocation of the School Administrative Offices from their current leased space. City Manager Roberts stated that the funding in the first year of the proposed plan will be used for a space lease study of the current leased space.

Referring to the presentation, Council Member Duman opined about the relationship between the funding for the Schools Major Repairs/Systems Replacement as included in the proposed plan, as it relates to the joint City/Schools facilities study. He called for information regarding the funds spent by Suffolk Public Schools for major repairs and system replacements.

Council Member Fawcett sought clarification about the funding source for the lanes near Bridgeport. Public Works Director Louis Hansen reported that the developer funded those lanes.

Council Member Johnson asked for information regarding the funds spent by Suffolk Public Schools for major repairs and system replacements.

Vice Mayor Bennett called for the City to publicize any detours as a result of railroad track repairs.

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

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

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM AND PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2020-2021 THROUGH 2029-2030

Public Hearing - An ordinance to grant a Conditional Use Permit to establish a place of worship, small, under 6,000 square feet in the main sanctuary, on property located at 2484 Pruden Boulevard, Zoning Map 25A(7) Parcels B*1 and B*2; CUP2019-018

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

David Taylor, 2901 Lynnhaven Parkway, Virginia Beach, Virginia, Timmons Group, representing William Gross, applicant and agent, spoke in support of the proposed ordinance, as presented.

Hearing no additional speakers, the public hearing was closed.

Council Member Duman, on a motion seconded by Council Member Johnson, moved to approve the ordinance, with conditions, as presented, by the following vote:

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

AN ORDINANCE TO GRANT A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO ESTABLISH A PLACE OF WORSHIP, SMALL, UNDER 6,000 SQUARE FEET IN THE MAIN SANCTUARY, ON PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2484 PRUDEN BOULEVARD, ZONING MAP 25A(7) PARCELS B*1 AND B*2; CUP2019-018

Public Hearing – An ordinance to rezone and amend the official zoning map to the City of Suffolk to change the zoning from M-2, Heavy Industrial zoning district, to RU, Residential Urban zoning district, and B-2, General Commercial zoning district, for property located at 611 and 711 Factory Street, Zoning Map 35H(3), Parcels X14, X*14A, and X17; RZN2019-012 (Conditional)

Council Member Duman announced that he abstain from voting on the above referenced item in order to avoid any appearance of impropriety based on a potential investment endeavor related to this matter.

Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, Planning and Community Development Director Hainley gave a synopsis of the background information as printed in the official agenda,

The following individuals spoke in support of the proposed ordinance:

Whitney Saunders, 705 West Washington Street, agent, representing Goodman Square, LLC, and Goodman Developers, Incorporated, property owners.

Betty Montgomery, 911 Barbour Crescent, Assistant Pastor, Greater First Baptist Church Orlando.

Lilton Pitts, 416 Collier Crescent, Deacon, Greater First Baptist Church Orlando.

Ephraim Goodman, address inaudible, Virginia Beach, Virginia, Goodman Square, LLC, and Goodman Developers, Incorporated, property owners.

Moses Ware, 501 Sawgrass Court, Pastor, Greater First Baptist Church Orlando.

William Hill, 117 Halifax Street, representing self.

Hearing no additional speakers, the public hearing was closed.

Council Member Fawcett, on a motion seconded by Vice Mayor Bennett, moved to approve the ordinance, with proffers, as presented, by the following vote:

AYES:	Mayor L. Johnson, Vice Mayor Bennett, and Council Members Fawcett, Goldberg, T. Johnson, Milteer and Ward	7
NAYS:	None	0
ABSTAIN:	Council Member Duman	1

AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE AND AMEND THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP TO THE CITY OF SUFFOLK TO CHANGE THE ZONING FROM M-2, HEAVY INDUSTRIAL ZONING DISTRICT, TO RU, RESIDENTIAL URBAN ZONING DISTRICT, AND B-2, GENERAL COMMERCIAL ZONING DISTRICT, FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 611 AND 711 FACTORY STREET, ZONING MAP 35H(3), PARCELS X14, X*14A, AND X17; RZN2019-012 (CONDITIONAL)

ORDINANCES

Ordinance – An ordinance to rezone and amend the official zoning map of the City of Suffolk in order to amend the previously approved proffered conditions of Bennett’s Creek Quarter residential development for properties located at 3347 Bridge Road, Zoning Map 12, Parcels 32 and 55*1J; RZN2020-001 (Conditional)

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

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

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

AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE AND AMEND THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF SUFFOLK IN ORDER TO AMEND THE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED PROFFERED CONDITIONS OF BENNETT’S CREEK QUARTER RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT FOR PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 3347 BRIDGE ROAD, ZONING MAP 12, PARCELS 32 AND 55*1J; RZN2020-001 (CONDITIONAL)

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 4, 2020, at 4:00 p.m., unless cancelled

Vice Mayor Bennett, on a motion seconded by Council Member Johnson, moved to schedule a Work Session for Wednesday, March 4, 2020, at 4 p.m., unless cancelled, by the following vote:

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

Motion – A motion to schedule a public hearing on March 4, 2020, to consider the adoption of an ordinance authorizing the acquisition of right of way and easements for the Pruden Boulevard/Prudence Road Intersection Improvement Project

Council Member Goldberg, on a motion seconded by Vice Mayor Bennett, moved to schedule a public hearing on March 4, 2020, to consider the adoption of an ordinance authorizing the acquisition of right of way and easements for the Pruden Boulevard/Prudence Road Intersection Improvement Project, by the following vote:

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

NON-AGENDA SPEAKERS

Claudia Holland, 9351 Rivershore Drive, was not present when called.

NEW BUSINESS

City Clerk Dawley presented the following board and commission nominations to the respective bodies: Agricultural Advisory Committee (Forestry Industry representative); Economic Development Authority of the City of Suffolk (Cypress Borough) – Wesley King; and Farm Service Agency Local Administrative Area – Chuckatuck representative; and Human Services Advisory Board – Margret Jones.

Council Member Fawcett, on a motion seconded by Vice Mayor Bennett, moved to nominate and appoint the above referenced individuals to the aforementioned bodies, by the following vote:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS

Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, Media and Community Relations Assistant Director Timothy Kelley reported on the following: the acquisition of new cardiopulmonary resuscitation equipment; open burn law and upcoming Suffolk Humane Society adopt-a-thons.

Council Member Duman reported he attended a reception at Riddick's Folly and the Nansemond-Suffolk Branch of the NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet.

Council Member Duman recognized Council Member Ward's receipt of an award from the Nansemond-Suffolk Branch of the NAACP Freedom Fund and Marie Hill's birthday.

Council Member Duman acknowledged City Manager Roberts' response to a constituent concern.

Council Member Ward announced he attended the Nansemond-Suffolk Branch of the NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet.

Council Member Ward recognized Marie Hill's birthday.

Council Member Ward reported he attended a Valentine's Day event at Mount Gethsemane Church.

Council Member Fawcett encouraged residents to register for the City's new emergency notification system.

Council Member Fawcett announced he attended the Nansemond-Suffolk Branch of the NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet.

Vice Mayor Bennett recognized Marie Hill's birthday.

Mayor Johnson acknowledged the Public Works Department for their responsiveness.

Mayor Johnson reported she attended the Nansemond-Suffolk Branch of the NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet and acknowledged Council Member Ward's receipt of an award from the organization.

Mayor Johnson recognized Marie Hill's birthday.

Mayor Johnson opined about the ongoing General Assembly Session, specifically as it relates to transportation funding.

Council Member Goldberg, on a motion seconded by Vice Mayor Bennett, moved to adjourn, by the following vote:

AYES:	Mayor L. Johnson, Vice Mayor Bennett, and Council Members Duman, Fawcett, Goldberg, T. Johnson, Milteer and Ward	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: _____
Linda T. Johnson, Mayor

APPROVED: JUNE 3, 2020