

DAILY PRESS

LOCAL NEWS

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Candidates address environmental issues

Opinions differ on Tech Center, City Farm development

By **TERESA CLIFT**
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NEWPORT NEWS — City Council South and Central district candidates disagreed on what should become of the former City Farm property during an environment-themed candidate forum Wednesday.

Since the City Farm jail closed last year, rumors have circulated the land could be eyed for water-front development.

City Councilwoman Pat Woodbury said she would "absolutely not" support rezoning for development there, and suggested instead a community garden.

Her opponent, Mike Mullin, did not go that far, but said he would be critical of any development proposed there.

"I would be very wary of any decision being made without sub-

stantial public input and guaranteed access to citizens to the waterfront in a substantial fashion," Mullin said.

Woodbury, who voted against the rezoning for the Tech Center development, responded: "People can say you'd get a lot of public input, but you get four votes on council and that's it, it gets developed."

Councilwoman Tina Vick said she could support a mix of uses there, including new single-family houses as well as park space.

Hakims Muhammad, one of Vick's two challengers, said the city should re-evaluate plans made in 1991 to keep the area as green space.

"Twenty-five years ago they put it on the books; in 2016 we have to rewrite the script," Muhammad said.

Asked whether the candidates

To the question of whether the candidates would support Newport News making a pledge to move to 100 percent renewable energy by 2050, all four said yes.

would support the proposed change in the city's long-term plan from natural areas/open spaces, parks and recreation, and transportation to allow for a shopping center anchored by a Wegmans grocery store, Vick, Woodbury and Mullin said no, while Muhammad passed on answering the question.

The council was scheduled to take that vote April 26, but will now vote May 10 — after the May 3 election but before any new council members take office July 1, City Manager Jim Bourne announced Tuesday.

Asked how the Tech Center Marketplace at the corner of Jefferson Avenue and Oyster Point Road promotes sustainability, the candidates' answers varied.

Woodbury said she voted

against the rezoning for the project, partially for environmental reasons such as the trees being cut down.

Although she plans to vote against the rezoning for Tech Center because of the new shopping options and jobs created, she said.

Mullin said he worried the project would take too many tenants from other shopping centers and too many customers from other grocery stores that already exist in the city.

To the question of whether the candidates would support Newport News making a pledge to move to 100 percent renewable energy by 2050, all four said yes.

The Sierra Club, which sponsored the forum, has been

working with the Southeast Care Coalition to lobby state legislators to install an air monitoring system in the Southeast Community.

The group in December delivered a petition to state leaders with 1,000 signatures, raising concerns about asthma and air quality in the Southeast Community.

All four candidates said they would support that effort.

Vick said she led an effort for the city to tear down the Harbor Homes and Dickerson Courts public housing partially because of coal dust concerns.

"We're not going to advocate for more housing in that area because it has not been the safest thing for our community," Vick said.

Vick's third challenger, Nicole Almondroy and Vice Mayor Rob Coleman and his challenger, Marcellus Harris III, were not present.

Clift can be reached by phone at 757-247-7870.



NEWPORT NEWS



HAMPTON



Hampton School Board and City Council met Wednesday to discuss funding for aging school facilities. It was the first joint meeting of the two groups in several years and was called to address big costs.

have been updated and security systems are in place throughout schools.

"There was awareness created that the money that we're spending on capital improvements is being used and being used wisely and expeditiously and with good results," Mayor George Wallace said.

In 2004, the school division used a panel made up of community members, parents and city and school staff to plan the construction of future facilities. Four pre-K-to-8th-grade facilities were recommended, Phenix and Andrews were part of that vision. Part of the capital funding received is because of recommendations from that panel.

The last major facilities study was done in 2000 and updated in 2012, so a renewed look at facilities using a process like the 2004 panel is in order, Scott said.

Hammond can be reached by phone at 757-247-4951.

School Board, Council address aging facilities

Officials: All but two Hampton schools range in age from 40 to 95 years old

By **JANE HAMMOND**
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HAMPTON — The Hampton School Board and City Council took the first step Wednesday to address the funding needs of aging school facilities during their first joint meeting in several years.

Two buildings, Phenix and Andrews PreK-8 schools, were opened in 2010, but the other 27 schools range in age from 40 to 95 years old. The costs of rebuilding or completely renovating the facilities are not small, school officials said.

That's why, the Board and Council were told, a new joint effort is needed to address how to deal with a large number of

schools that will soon need complete overhauls or replacement.

The division receives \$5,287,500 to spend annually on capital projects, but that amount funds a small portion of maintenance costs — not everything that needs to be done to meet students' needs.

"School learning design and space utilization have evolved significantly during the last several years," said Suzanne Scott, deputy superintendent of operations and support. "The way we use

spaces, the number of different programs that we have, specialty programs, more high needs children, (English as a second language) children, so we have a lot of different things going on and the way we use our buildings has changed significantly."

That \$5.2 million is not spent

without results, though, Scott noted. In the past 10 years, all four

high school gymnasiums have been renovated, 62 bathrooms

Notice of Public Hearing CITY OF POQUOSON, VIRGINIA

Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017

The following budget proposal is prepared and published for information and planning purposes only. No item included in the City Manager's Proposed Budget represents an obligation or commitment on the part of the City Council for appropriations of funds. Any person, firm or corporation wishing to express their views concerning the City Manager's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2017 can be heard, within reasonable time limits, as shall be determined by the governing body, at the public hearing on April 25, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 500 City Hall Avenue, Poquoson, Virginia. Written comments will be received in the City Clerk's office until 4:30 p.m. on April 25, 2016. The meeting will be televised live on Cox Cable Channel 46 and on Verizon Fios Channel 25.

Copies of the proposed budget are available for public review in the City Library and City Clerk's office at 500 City Hall Avenue during normal business hours and on the City's website, www.pocva.gov.

Expenditures by Fund Type	FY 2016 Adopted Budget	FY 2017 Department Request	FY 2017 City Manager Proposed
General Fund			
Expenditures	\$26,832,705	\$28,011,954	\$27,228,139
Interfund Transfers	(2,215,575)	(3,134,614)	(3,061,155)
Total General Fund	\$24,617,130	\$24,877,340	\$24,166,984
Dash Service Fund Expenditures	\$2,910,512	\$2,989,491	\$2,989,491
Capital Projects Fund	880,000	1,498,520	1,498,520
Solid Waste Fund Expenditures			
Expenditures	831,825	843,238	843,238
Interfund Transfers	0	(93,000)	(93,000)
Total Solid Waste Fund	831,825	750,238	750,238
Utilities Fund			
Expenditures	1,893,400	2,130,430	2,130,430
Interfund Transfers	(150,000)	(150,000)	(150,000)
Total Utilities Fund	1,743,400	1,980,430	1,980,430
Internal Service Fund Expenditures	756,516	725,758	725,758
Special Revenue Fund	2,300,636	2,541,860	2,541,860
Total City Budget	\$33,040,019	\$35,406,837	\$34,696,481

Notice of Public Hearing CITY OF POQUOSON, VIRGINIA

PROPOSED TAX LEVIES AND FEES

Pursuant to Section 58.1-2007 and 15.2-1427, Code of Virginia, 1990, as amended, the City Council of Poquoson, Virginia will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, April 25, 2016, beginning at 7:00 P.M., in the Council Chambers, 500 City Hall Avenue, Poquoson, Virginia for the purpose of considering the following proposed tax levies and fees to support the proposed Fiscal Year 2017 Budget of the City of Poquoson. Oral comments can be heard, within reasonable time limits, as shall be determined by the governing body, at the public hearing. Written comments will be received in the City Clerk's office until 4:30 p.m. on April 25, 2016. The meeting will be televised live on Cox Cable Channel 46 and on Verizon Fios Channel 25.

The following maximum levies and increases are proposed for consideration:

Proposed Tax Rates and Fees	Adopted FY 2016	FY 2017 Department Request	FY 2017 City Manager Proposed
General Fund			
Real Estate per \$100 of Assessed Value	\$1.07	\$1.12	\$1.07
Mobile Homes	\$1.07	\$1.12	\$1.07
Personal Property	\$4.15	\$4.15	\$4.15
Machinery and Tools	\$4.15	\$4.15	\$4.15
Boats	\$,000/01	\$,000/01	\$,000/01
Recreational Vehicles	\$1.50	\$1.50	\$1.50
Cigarette Tax	\$,20	\$,20	\$,20
Miscellaneous Tax	0%	0%	0%
Recovery (EMS) Fees:			
BLE	\$430	\$430	\$430
ALS	\$525	\$525	\$525
ALS-2	\$750	\$750	\$750
Mileage	\$9	\$9	\$9
Utilities Fund			
Residential Unit	\$82 bi-monthly	\$82 bi-monthly	\$82 bi-monthly
Commercial Unit	\$82 bi-monthly	\$82 bi-monthly	\$82 bi-monthly
Sewer Availability Fees	\$6,000 per lot	\$6,000 per lot	\$6,000 per lot
Solid Waste Fund			
Fresh Containers/Cart (8-monthly fee (fee based on size/plan chosen))	\$8.25-\$75.00	\$8.25-\$75.00	\$8.25-\$75.00
City of Poquoson green bag	\$1.75	\$1.75	\$1.75
Landscaping Debris residential pickup	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$60.00
Bulky Item pickup	\$63.00	\$63.00	\$63.00

Free Living Trust Event

Who Will Inherit More From Your Estate: The Government Or Your Family?

Attend a FREE Event And Discover How To:

- Keep the government out of your estate
- Avoid the costs and delays of a Virginia probate
- Determine whether you need a Will or Trust
- Create a fast and easy estate plan for your family
- Avoid losing your home and life savings to nursing home costs

About Your Speaker. E. Jane Smart Hansch is an Estate Planning Attorney with Rabalais Law, a multistate estate planning law firm. Jane Smart Hansch is passionate about estate planning because she always had a close relationship with her grandparents. In fact, Jane is named for both of her grandmothers, with whom she always had a special bond. Jane is pleased to be serving the people of Virginia with the education and experiences she has been blessed to receive around the world. E. Jane Smart Hansch is licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the State of North Carolina, and received her law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

RABALAIS LAW
Planning & Settlement Estates



E. Jane Smart Hansch
Estate Planning Attorney

What Our Clients Say!

"This att-a-boy is for the entire team working at Rabalais Law. Like a well oiled machine, all of your team members made our experience in planning our estate directions, a seamless progression of necessary steps from start to finish. Estate planning is a cold and calculating endeavor that was made much easier because each associate at your law firm gave us their absolute best each step of the way. To all of you-Thank you!" **Sam & Barbara Little**

Event	Date/Time	Location
Newport News	Wednesday, April 13th	Al Fresco
Newport News	Friday, April 15th	Schlesinger's
Newport News	11:30am-12:30pm	1106 William Sproun Square
Newport News	11:30am-12:30pm	Lunch Provided!
Newport News	Monday, April 18th	Second Street
Newport News	11:30am-12:30pm	115 Arthur Way
Newport News	Friday, April 22nd	County Grill
Newport News	12:00pm-1:00pm	1215 George Washington Hwy
Newport News	11:30am-12:30pm	Lunch Provided!

If married, attend with your spouse! Seating is limited. Register today!

Call 757-327-7008 To Register!
Rabalais Law: 105 Nat Turner Blvd., Newport News, VA 23606