

## **Centerville/Kempsville Town Hall**

Introduction from Bob Dyer and Jessica Abbott

Budget Presentation – David Bradley

To view the budget presentations and read the Executive Summary, visit: [www.vbgov.com/budget](http://www.vbgov.com/budget)

### ***Questions for City of Virginia Beach Officials***

#### **ARENA**

Q: Explain why USM only has to pay \$1.00 a year in rent to the City of Virginia Beach?

A: A Private-Public Partnership is commonplace when municipalities are seeking ways to diversify the local economy. The developer has committed \$220 Million to the Arena Project. The amount and type of City investment is unchanged from what was approved in 2015. The City will lease to the developer the land on which the arena will be constructed for \$1/year for 60 years and provide infrastructure improvements to the area around the building as well as a rebate of certain taxes. You can find detailed information, and much more at: <https://www.yesvirginiabeach.com/resources/special-projects/Pages/Arena-Proposal.aspx>

#### **STORM WATER MANAGEMENT**

Q: Why is the City of Virginia Beach on the hook for fixing the Asheville Park neighborhood storm water issues?

A: During construction, the developers of Asheville Park went into foreclosure. Because the developers were protected under a Limited Liability Corporation (LLC) it allowed for the developer to walk away. If the City of Virginia Beach could go after the developers, they would. The engineers made an error over 12 years ago when in the planning process. During that time, community projects got pushed passed the City of Virginia Beach that shouldn't have. The city approved Asheville Park and now is on the hook for fixing the problem. Bottom line, citizens and residents who live there don't deserve what is happening to them.

Q: How will we prevent another flooding incident from happening if our (Storm Water Management) plan is pushed out 15 years in the future?

A: The year 2016 was one of the wettest years in recent history. During Tropical Storm Julia and Hurricane Matthew more than 24 inches of rain fell on the City of Virginia Beach in less than 30 days. That is 50% of the year's average rain in three weeks. Our normal storm water design isn't

configured to withhold a 500 year event followed by a 1,000 year event.

For more information, visit: <https://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/public-works/storm-water/Pages/default.aspx>

### **MOWING SCHEDULE:**

Q: The proposed budget is allocating more resources to cutting grass. Have we considered not having grass and moving to a hardscape or alternative option for our medians?

A: The new funds allocated in this proposed budget are specifically for mowing neighborhood parks, not the medians. We have numerous neighborhood parks that are currently on a 16-18 day mowing cycle. The proposed budget would move us to a 14-16 day mowing cycle. In addition, having grass (rather than hardscape) does a lot of good for our environment. Grass serves as a filter to our Storm Water. In that same light, we are always looking at areas where we can increase our meadow management program.

Q: Who handles mowing grass?

A: Landscape Management is the primary division handling all landscape across the City of Virginia Beach; however we do contract out when it is financially beneficial.

For more information on Landscape Management, visit: <https://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/parks-recreation/parks-trails/Pages/landscape-management.aspx>

### **KEMPSVILLE COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER:**

Q: When is Kempsville Recreation Center Opening?

A: The Kempsville Community Recreation Center is projected to open Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup> 3:30pm. The building will be open to the public and free for all residents throughout the opening weekend! Memberships will be needed starting on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

For more information on the City of Virginia Beach Community Recreation Centers, visit: <https://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/parks-recreation/recreation-centers/Pages/kempsville.aspx>

### **WOODBRIIDGE PARK**

Comment from Staff: The future home of the new Woodbridge Park is located in the 1700 block of Lynnhaven Parkway and aligns with the City's outdoors plan to provide park space within a 10-minute walk time of all residents.

The park is currently proposed will be the first of its kind in Virginia Beach with a Pump Track (BMX bike track), an amenity that can be utilized by those with inline skates, skateboards, scooters, etc. There will be a playground and has the potential for a walking track should funds become available in the future. This is a great opportunity for us to engage volunteers!

To visit the Kempsville Planning Area for Parks and Recreation, visit: <https://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/parks-recreation/design-development-projects/Documents/outdoors-plan/kempsville.pdf>

## **FEE INCREASES**

Q: When will the fee increases (Storm Water, Property Tax, Parks and Rec Membership & Admission to the Virginia Aquarium) take place?

A: JULY 1, 2017

Comment from Citizen: Citizens recommend breaking out the fees separately based on those we must pay vs. those we elect to pay.

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## **TRAFFIC CONCERNS**

Q: Acredale neighborhood stated they lack safe walking conditions for its residents. Their concerns are for all neighbors but they have seen an increase in seniors and children walking and biking. Due to traffic in the Kempsville/Indian River area, Acredale has become a major cut through (four major concerns). Specifically, “Is there anything that the city can offer or suggest to get the speed down in those four major arteries in Acredale”

A: The City of Virginia Beach has a “Traffic Calming Program” that requires neighborhood consensus, and a four phase action plan that includes increased fines for speeding and physical changes to the infrastructure (may include encroachment). Public Works Traffic Engineers will work to collaborate with Acredale and other nearby neighborhoods that are interested in this four phase program.

For more information on the Traffic Calming Program, visit: <https://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/public-works/traffic/Documents/Brochures/traffic-calming-brochure-6-2-2011.pdf>

Comment from Citizen: Fairfield Civic League is involved in the traffic calming program. The neighborhood has done all three phases and would like to have a collaborative meeting with other neighborhoods interested in the topic.

## **LIGHT RAIL TAX**

Q: Light Rail tax is still included in this year's proposed budget. Why not repeal the existing tax and put a different tax up for a vote?

A: There was a motion made during a city council meeting to do exactly what this citizen is asking for and it did not pass in a counter motion vote in accordance with Roberts Rules.

## **SEA LEVEL RISE**

Q: What are we doing to prepare with ocean level rising and the land sinking?

A: The City of Virginia Beach is planning and working on many projects related to storm surge and tidal water. There is a 3-year study to assess the entire vulnerability across the whole city based on sea level rise. HRSD is working on a plan to treat the waste water to a purified condition and pump it back into the ground. The Sustainable Water Initiative for Tomorrow (SWIFT) is a forward-looking solution to tackle issues such as sea level rise, groundwater preservation and helping the Chesapeake Bay ward off harmful nutrients. Large scale projects like the SWIFT program have the potential to slow subsidence over the next several decades.

For more information, visit: <http://swiftva.com/> and <https://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/public-works/coastal/Pages/default.aspx>

## **LAKE JAMES SPECIFIC QUESTIONS**

*Kempsville/Centerville Town Hall Meeting (4/19/2017)*

**Response to Questions Related to Lake James**

During the recent Town Hall Meeting, many residents of the Lake James Community expressed concerns and questions regarding the City's plans to address algae blooms in the lake. The

City has and continues to take action to address water quality issues related to algal blooms in the lake, including treatment and efforts to identify the root causes. Several actions have already been taken to address water quality, including the construction of a pump to redirect flow from the upstream City landfill to remove potential nutrients from the landfill that could flow into the lake. The City has also installed two Lake James weirs adjacent to the Cedar Hill Canal to reduce the amount of surface water flowing into the lake from canal. The City has provided assistance by funding and treating the lake following the recent algal bloom.

The City has also performed monitoring of the nearby Hampton Roads Recovery Center, and is starting a new comprehensive monitoring effort and analysis of the Lake James watershed on May 19th. The City recognizes that more improvements may be needed in the future, and the upcoming monitoring results are critical to determining the most effective use of the City's and the community's resources in the future to address algal blooms on Lake James.

The City is developing a Lake James webpage that will be published by May 5th as a central resource for the Lake James community to better understand algal blooms impacts and how the City is working with the community to address its concerns. The webpage will be updated as testing and other information becomes available. In addition a fact sheet is being developed for the community in the next couple weeks that will address the Lake James algal blooms and the actions being taken to address it.

Below are City responses to Lake James related questions from the April 19, 2017 Kempsville/ Centerville Town Hall meeting:

*1. Where is the project plan for Lake James?*

The City's Lake James monitoring program will begin May 19<sup>th</sup>. Five field sampling events at 9 different locations are included in the monitoring plan. As monitoring results become available, the results will be posted to the City's Lake James webpage. The draft and final monitoring report will also be available on the website once they have been completed. The monitoring project will be completed by March 2018. Once the monitoring results are completed, plans to mitigate future algal blooms can be developed.

*2. Can you put this all online for the public to view?*

Yes, we will provide all pertinent information on Lake James and the monitoring project on the Lakes James web page.

*3. Provide dates for the water testing*

The monitoring will begin May 19, 2017, and will be completed by March 2018.

*4. Provide historic algae test information available to the public so we can see if this is any worse or better than the past.*

Yes, the City will provide available historic testing information on the Lake James web page.

*5. Where are the 8 testing locations?*

The eight Lake James testing locations as well as an additional test location at Lake Christopher for comparison purposes are at the following locations:

- Site 1: In Lake James, on the lake side of the northern weir.
- Site 2: In Lake James, on the west side of the lake near the inflow/outflow.
- Site 3: In Lake James, on the east side of the lake.
- Site 4: In the Cedar Hill Canal, at the outfall which drains the HRRC. The sample is intended to analyze the quality of base flow leaving the HRRC site.
- Site 5: In the Cedar Hill Canal, at an outfall before influence from the HRRC.
- Site 6: At the lake-side of the southern weir.
- Site 7: Within Lake Christopher.
- Site 8: A sample will be taken directly from the pumped groundwater on the HRRC site.
- Site 9: In the City landfill retention pond, near the outlet.

A map link showing the monitoring locations will be available on the Lake James webpage.

6. *Tell us more about how the HRRC tests are being conducted? Do you set something up to test them randomly or do you give them a heads up you are coming?*

The City is testing both the source (pumped groundwater) and the immediate receiving channel on the HRRC site to understand potential nutrient sources from HRRC. Any testing on the HRRC site will require coordination with HRRC prior to site arrival to gain access to the site.

7. *Share Target Dates - for testing at HRRC*

The monitoring schedule for the HRRC site is the same as the overall Lake James monitoring schedule. See response to question 3 for the specific start and end dates of the project.

8. *Do we have a risk assessment from HRRC?*

An assessment of the discharge from the HRRC will be included in the water quality monitoring plan.

9. *When treating the Lake, what chemicals were used?*

The City worked with Solitude Lake Management and our consultant to determine an appropriate treatment for algae in Lake James. SeClear algaecide and Tribune herbicide were used to treat the algae and aquatic weeds in the lake.

10. *Since the 1<sup>st</sup> of March - a date in which we had horrible test result - why have no further tests been taken?*

Water quality testing is not necessary in conjunction with algae treatment. The City is following up with further tests under the monitoring plan starting on May 19<sup>th</sup>. The testing on March 2, 2017 was performed by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Hazardous Algal Blooms (HAB) Task Force in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). VDH's HAB task force followed up with a site visit on March 17<sup>th</sup>, and did not observe a visible bloom.

*11. Is the Lake safe to swim in?*

The City and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) do not advise swimming in any ponds or lakes that serve as stormwater BMPs. The VDH has a water quality monitoring program in Virginia Beach for the swimming beaches in the City. The VDH and City work together when swimming advisories are issued.

*12. If it gets airborne is that a problem?*

Based on VDH provisional guidance for waters in Virginia experiencing algae blooms, inhalation of lake water with a high concentration of toxic algae is a potential health risk.

*13. Fertilizer nitrogen and phosphorous kicks off the bloom of algae*

A combination of nitrogen and phosphorus, and warm water temperatures can lead to algal blooms.

*14. What is Lake James water shed? Explain what properties have run-off into the Lake.*

The City will provide a link to a watershed map of Lake James on its Lake James webpage. The Lake James watershed area includes residential, commercial and industrial land uses that all contribute nutrients through runoff into the lake. The map will help citizens better understand the contributing areas of the various land use types in the watersheds.

*15. "Storm water is a diluted form of raw human sewage" - this can be included in the "Is it safe" portion*

The City defines stormwater as runoff from precipitation. We would not define stormwater runoff as a diluted form of raw human sewage.

*16. How come Lake Christopher is so clean and Lake James isn't (they both treat their lake - but what is Lake Christopher doing differently)*

The differences in water quality with nearby lakes is tied to many factors, including how long it takes the water to move through the lake, nutrient inflows in the form of nitrogen and phosphorus, lake depth, and overall age of the lake. Lake Christopher will be included in the monitoring project to compare sample results to Lake James.

*17. Is it possible to have a rep from Lake James to observe the testing?*

The City will notify a representative of the Lake James HOA of the expected date and time of the monitoring once it is scheduled. Any observation of testing should be done at a safe distance and should be performed on land.

*18. Quandary is we are a private lake - but we are a "BMP" for the City of Virginia Beach (more of a statement than a question - maybe in the summary explain how this relationship works)*

While Lake James is privately owned, it does function as a public resource, by providing stormwater detention during larger storm events for Cedar Hill Canal and the downstream watershed.

*19. 238 homeowners can't afford to give the lake a makeover*

The City understands that the community may not be able to fund some of the potential solutions to address the root cause of the Lake James algal blooms. It is important to better understand the nutrient sources coming to Lake James, and then decide what solutions are feasible for the community and the City.

If you have further questions or concerns related to Lake James, please call David Hostetler at (757) 385-3730 or email at [DHostetl@vbgov.com](mailto:DHostetl@vbgov.com).