

**MINUTES  
EMPORIA CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF EMPORIA MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
April 1, 2014**

*Note to Reader: Although the printed agenda document for this City Council meeting is not part of these minutes, the agenda document provides background information on the items discussed by City Council during the meeting. A copy of the agenda document for this meeting may be obtained by contacting the Office of the City Clerk.*

Emporia City Council held a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 1, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, located at 201 South Main Street, Emporia, Virginia. Mayor Mary L. Person presided over the meeting with Carolyn Carey, Council Member, offering the invocation.

**ROLL CALL**

The following City Council members were present:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris  
Councilwoman Doris T. White  
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey  
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch  
Councilwoman Carol Mercer

Others present:

Mary L. Person, Mayor  
C. Butler Barrett, City Attorney  
Brian S. Thrower, City Manager  
Lori R. Jarratt, Executive Secretary  
Lloyd Carter, Sergeant

Absent:

Councilman James E. Ewing, III  
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple  
Tessie Wilkins, City Clerk

**MINUTES APPROVAL**

Councilwoman Carey moved to approve the minutes from the Tuesday, March 18, 2014, City Council Regular meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Mercer, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch	aye
Councilwoman Carol Mercer	aye

## **AGENDA APPROVAL**

Councilwoman Carey moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Mercer, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch	aye
Councilwoman Carol Mercer	aye

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### ***14-07. Industrial Development Authority – Request for Appointments***

Mr. Thrower reported that Mr. J. Reid Wrenn submitted his resignation to the Industrial Development Authority effective January 31, 2014 with a term expiration date of February 28, 2015.

He also reported that Mr. Roland Weaver submitted his resignation letter to the Industrial Development Authority effective December 31, 2013 with a term expiration date of February 28, 2016.

Councilman Harris made a motion to nominate Robert Grizzard who verbally agreed to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Roland Weaver on the Industrial Development Authority, seconded by Councilwoman Lynch which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch	aye
Councilwoman Carol Mercer	aye

### ***14-13. Southside Virginia Education Center Board of Directors – Unexpired Term (Alton F. Owen, Jr.)***

Mr. Thrower reported that Alton F. Owen, Jr. submitted his letter of resignation from the Southside Virginia Education Center Board of Directors effective February 6, 2014 and has an expiration date of July 1, 2015.

There were no nominations to the Southside Education Center Board of Directors.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### ***14-18. Through Truck Traffic – Request by Council Member Harris***

Councilmember Harris stated that this item was placed on the agenda at the request Councilman Ewing who could not be present.

Councilman Harris made a motion to adopt **Ordinance No. 14-05** to amend City Code Section 74-13 – *Commercial vehicle routes; certain streets closed to commercial vehicles except receiving loads or making deliveries* in order to add - (d) Exempted from this ordinance are loaded log or chip trucks traveling on Main Street in the City through December 31, 2015), seconded by Councilwoman Lynch which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch	aye
Councilwoman Carol Mercer	aye

***14-19. City Council Retreat – Request to Approve Dates***

Mr. Thrower reported that the City Clerk had contacted council members regarding available dates to hold the annual retreat. He also stated that dates of Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> appeared to be the dates everyone was available.

He recommended Council approve holding the retreat on the dates of April 11<sup>th</sup> and April 12<sup>th</sup> at the VPI Extension Office.

Councilwoman Lynch made a motion to approve the dates of April 11<sup>th</sup> and April 12<sup>th</sup> to hold the City Council Retreat, seconded by Councilwoman Mercer which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch	aye
Councilwoman Carol Mercer	aye

***14-20. April 15, 2014 City Council Meeting – Request to Cancel***

Mr. Thrower reported that due to lack of agenda items and holding the retreat the previous weekend, he recommended Council cancel the April 15<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

Councilwoman Mercer made a motion to cancel the April 15<sup>th</sup> regular City Council meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Mercer, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	
Councilwoman Doris T. White	
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch	
Councilwoman Carol Mercer	

***14-21. FY13 Audit – Presentation by Creedle, Jones and Alga, PC***

Mayor Person welcomed Scott Thompson of Creedle, Jones and Alga, PC.

Mr. Thompson opened by thanking City Council for allowing Creedle, Jones and Alga, PC to work with the City and looks forward to serving the City and its residents in the future. He stated that he would also like to thank the offices of the Treasurer and Commissioner of the Revenue along with Mr. Thrower and Ms. Cutrell for their cooperation and assistance during the audit.

Mr. Thompson reported that the City complied with all general accepted accounting principles. He also reported that there were no instances of noncompliance or material weakness in the financial reporting.

He reported that the overall position of the City has total assets of \$38,417,198 exceeding total liabilities of \$16,604,586 leaving a total net position of the city of \$21,812,612. He also reported that of this amount \$11,563,511 is invested in capital assets net of related debt. He stated that this represents a modest increase in net position over last year of \$369,914 while increasing debt by \$954,263.

Councilman Harris thanked Mr. Thompson for providing the audit report. Mr. Thompson stated that the audit report was a representation of what Council has tried to do with the upcoming projects through the implementation of various tax structures and water rates to where they may be onerous for the taxpayers. He also stated that City Council has seen the challenges that await for the city and this report shows that these challenges are being met currently.

Councilman Harris commended the strong fiscal management from the City Manager as well as Sheila Cutrell.

Councilman Harris made a motion to accept the FY13 audit by Creedle, Jones and Alga as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Lynch which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch	aye
Councilwoman Carol Mercer	aye

Mayor Person presented a proclamation for Confederate History Month ~ April 1- 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and Child Abuse Prevention Month ~ September 1 – 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Person asked if anyone would like to bring a matter before City Council members adhering to the three-minute time limitation.

With there being no comments to come before City Council, Mayor Person closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

**\*\*\*CLOSED SESSION\*\*\***

Councilman Harris moved that Closed Session be entered for the purpose of discussing Virginia Code Sections § 2.2 3711 (A) (5) **Discussion concerning a prospective business or**

**industry where no previous announcement has been made**, seconded by Councilwoman Mercer, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris  
Councilwoman Doris T. White  
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey  
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch  
Councilwoman Carol Mercer

**\*\*\*Regular Session\*\*\***

Councilman Harris moved that the meeting be returned to Regular Session. Councilwoman Carey seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris  
Councilwoman Doris T. White  
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey  
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch  
Councilwoman Carol Mercer

**CERTIFICATION**

Councilwoman White moved to certify the following:

1. only public business matters are lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act were discussed in the Closed Session to which this certification applies, and
2. only such public business matter as were identified in the motion by which the Closed Session was convened were heard, discussed, or considered by City Council.

Councilwoman Mercer seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris  
Councilwoman Doris T. White  
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey  
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch  
Councilwoman Carol Mercer

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Councilman Harris made a motion authorizing the City Manager to execute the water and sewer agreement between the City of Emporia and Greensville County Water and Sewer Authority, subject to amendments discussed, seconded by Councilwoman Lynch which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris  
Councilwoman Doris T. White  
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey  
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch  
Councilwoman Carol Mercer

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before City Council, Mayor Person adjourned the meeting.

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Mary L. Person, Mayor

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Lori R. Jarratt, Executive Secretary