

MINUTES
EMPORIA CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF EMPORIA MUNICIPAL BUILDING
April 16, 2013

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 16, 2013 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 S. Carey, Council Member offering the invocation.

Mr. Thrower stated that the City of Emporia received the 2013 Risk Management Performance Award from VML Insurance Programs.

ROLL CALL

The following City Council members were present:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris
Councilman James E. Ewing, III
Councilwoman Doris T. White
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey
Councilwoman Carol Mercer
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple

Others present: C. Butler Barrett, City Attorney
Brian S. Thrower, City Manager
Tessie S. Wilkins, City Clerk
Don Wyatt, Chief of Police
W. S. Harris, Jr., Treasurer
Joyce E. Prince, Commissioner of the Revenue
Sheila Cutrell, Finance Director
Ken Ryals, Emergency Service Coordinator

MINUTES APPROVAL

Councilwoman White moved to approve the minutes from the Tuesday, March 19, 2013, City Council Public Hearing and Regular meeting, Tuesday, March 29-30, 2013, Retreat meeting and Tuesday, April 2, 2013 minutes as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Temple, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilman James E. Ewing	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye

Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch	aye
Councilwoman Carol Mercer	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple	aye

APPROVAL OF BILLS

A listing of the April 16, 2013 bills was presented to City Council members.

General Fund	\$	903,726.72
Utility Fund	\$	142,379.65

Councilwoman Temple moved to approve the April 16, 2013 bills as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Carey, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilman James E. Ewing	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch	aye
Councilwoman Carol Mercer	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple	aye

FINANCIAL AND TAX REPORTS

Honorable W. S. Harris, Jr., City Treasurer provided his report to City Council members. There were no questions regarding his report.

COMMISSIONER OF THE REVENUE REPORT

Honorable Joyce E. Prince, Commissioner of the Revenue provided her report to City Council members. There were no questions regarding her report.

PERMIT AND INSPECTION REPORT

Randy C. Pearce, Building/Fire Official provided his report to City Council members. There were no questions concerning his report.

POLICE REPORT

Don Wyatt, Chief of Police provided his report to City Council members. There were no questions concerning his report.

CITY SHERIFF REPORT

Sam C. Brown, Sheriff provided his report to City Council members. There were no questions concerning his report.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

C. Butler Barrett, City Attorney had no matters to report to City Council members.

AGENDA APPROVAL

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

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilman James E. Ewing	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch	aye
Councilwoman Carol Mercer	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple	aye

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

13-16. Recreation Advisory Commission – Term Expirations

Councilwoman Temple moved to nominate Councilwoman Deborah Lynch to serve a one-year term on the Recreation Advisory Board.

Councilwoman Carey moved to nominate Clinton Threatt to serve a one-year term on the Recreation Advisory Board.

Councilman Harris made a motion to expand the Recreation Advisory Commission committee and appoint Clinton Threatt and Deborah Lynch to serve a one-year term, expiring on April 1, 2014, seconded by Councilwoman Temple, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilman James E. Ewing	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch	aye
Councilwoman Carol Mercer	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple	aye

13-18. VML 2013 Policy Committees – Request for Nominations

Mr. Thrower reported that the annual submission of nominations to VML’s Policy Committees was needed by City Council members.

Councilman Harris made a motion to nominate the following to VML’s Policy Committees as indicated:

Councilwoman Doris T. White.....	Environmental Quality
Mr. Thrower.....	Finance
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch.....	General Laws
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey.....	Human Development & Education

Councilwoman Dale Temple.....Human Development & Education

Councilwoman Mercer seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilman James E. Ewing	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch	aye
Councilwoman Carol Mercer	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple	aye

13-19. Budget Work Session Dates – Request to Approve

Mr. Thrower stated that the following is the proposed FY14 budget development work session dates and times, which will be held in the Municipal Building Conference room:

Tuesday, April 30, 2013 at 6:00PM
 Wednesday, May 1, 2013 at 6:00PM
 Thursday, May 2, 2013 at 6:00PM
 Tuesday, May 14, 2013 at 6:00PM
 Wednesday, May 15, 2013 at 6:00PM
 Thursday, May 16, 2013 at 6:00PM

Mr. Thrower stated that Dr. Philip Worrell is scheduled to present the Greenville County School Board’s budget request at tonight meeting. He also stated that the school budget resolution is tentatively scheduled to be considered at Council’s May 7th meeting. He further stated that a public hearing on the proposed budget is scheduled to be conducted at Council’s Tuesday, June 4th meeting. He stated that the proposed budget is scheduled to be adopted at Council’s Tuesday, June 18th meeting.

He recommended Council approve the proposed budget development work session dates and times.

Councilwoman Temple made a motion to approve the FY14 budget development work session dates and times, as flexible, seconded by Councilwoman Carey which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilman James E. Ewing	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch	aye
Councilwoman Carol Mercer	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple	aye

13-20. FY12 Audit – Presentation by Creedle, Jones & Alga, PC

Councilman Ewing made a motion to approve the FY12 Audit, seconded by Councilwoman Carey which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilman James E. Ewing	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch	aye
Councilwoman Carol Mercer	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple	aye

NEW BUSINESS

13-21. Greenville County Public School System FY14 Budget Request – Presentation by Dr. Worrell

Dr. Worrell stated that the total budget adopted by the Greenville County School Board is increasing by approximately \$800,000. He also stated that the total budget amount was \$1,393,813. He further stated that out of the request for local funds, \$768,000 was for debt service. He stated that the budget included a two percent raise for all staff, two additional School Resource Officers and facility improvements in the schools for additional security, two additional math teachers for Wyatt Middle School, two additional special education aides, and a 2.2 percent increase in health insurance and a \$15,000 reduction in erate funding have been absorbed into the current budget. He further stated that some additional state money may become available to help with the security for resource officers and facility's upgrades.

Dr. Worrell stated that the proposed operation's budget for 2013-14 is \$775,000 higher than the current year but \$2.6 million less than in 2008-09 and over \$600,000 less than in 2006-07. He also stated that the school division was operating with less money than was available seven years ago. He further stated that the differences from 2008-09 and 2006-07 are expected to increase once we receive projected federal funds for next year due to the sequestration.

Dr. Worrell stated that the request for local funds is \$955,000 higher than in 2008-09. He also stated that local funds for operation's increases by \$186,000 from 2008-2009, a 3.2 percent increase. He further stated that these were averages of 0.64 percent a year for the last five years.

Dr. Worrell stated that Greenville County School had made significant gains in student achievement over the last several years. He also stated that the budget cuts were beginning to have a negative effect on these gains. He further stated that two years ago 75 percent of our SOL tests for economically disadvantaged students were above the state average. He stated that last year this percentage dropped to 63 percent. He also stated that Greenville County students were getting closer to the state average every year. He further stated that restoration of local funds for operations is critical is we are to reverse this trend.

No action taken by Council.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Williams Clark, 504 High Street, addressed Council with concerns about his water bill being high.

Cora Hines, 212 Lowground Road, addressed Council with concerns with the water having a smell to it.

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

*****CLOSED SESSION*****

Councilwoman Temple moved that Closed Session be entered for the purpose of discussing Virginia Code Sections § 2.2 3711 (A) (1) **a personnel matter involving the salary and job assignment of a specific employee and (A) (29) concerning a contract for water supply where public discussion of the terms or scope of the contract would affect our bargaining position or negotiating**, seconded by Councilwoman Carey, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilman James E. Ewing	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch	aye
Councilwoman Carol Mercer	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple	aye

*****Regular Session*****

Councilwoman Lynch moved that the meeting be returned to Regular Session. Councilwoman Temple seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilman James E. Ewing	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch	aye
Councilwoman Carol Mercer	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple	aye

CERTIFICATION

Councilwoman Lynch 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 Temple seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilman James E. Ewing	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch	aye
Councilwoman Carol Mercer	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple	aye

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mary L. Person, Mayor

Tessie S. Wilkins, City Clerk