

PUBLIC HEARING

1. City of Emporia and Greensville County School Board Appointments

Emporia's City Council held a Public Hearing on Tuesday, August 19, 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 public hearings.

The following City Council members were present:

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

Others present:

Mary L. Person, Mayor
Brian S. Thrower, City Manager
C. Butler Barrett, City Attorney
Tessie S. Wilkins, City Clerk
W. S. Harris, Jr., Treasurer
Joyce E. Prince, Commissioner of the Revenue
Don Wyatt, Chief of Police

Absent:

Councilwoman Doris T. White

1. City of Emporia and Greensville County School Board Appointments

Mayor Person stated that nominations were being accepted at this time for appointments to the City of Emporia and Greensville County School Board.

Mayor Person asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak regarding this matter.

Mr. Clifton Threat, 3711 Davis Street, addressed Council stating that he would like to be considered as a candidate for the City and Greensville County School Board. He also stated that some of his special qualities are being a team player, having genuine concern for community involvement, being open-minded, having strong leadership skills, being a great listener, being a people person and being enthusiastic. He further stated that he serves on the Boys and Girls Club Board, Planning Commission and Recreation Board. He stated that presently, he is a volunteer coach for EGRA and the Pastor at Oak Grove and Mt. Hermon Baptist Church.

Mrs. Gloria D. Robinson, 801 Peachtree Street, addressed Council stating that she have a strong desire to join the local school board and would work to ensure that Greensville County

children have all the tools they needed to be successful. She also stated that she is the President of the PTO at Greenville Elementary School. She further stated that she started the Backpack Buddies Program, which makes sure that children who have food insecurity issues are fed during the weekends. She stated that she also initiated the recycling partnership between Greenville Elementary School and the City of Emporia.

Mrs. Bernadette Battle, 207 Lee Street, addressed Council stating that she would like to be considered as a candidate for the Greenville County School Board. She stated that she has been a member of the City School Board since 2005 and during that time she has served as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. She also stated that she was a highly motivated educational leader with over 14 years of experience in higher education. She further stated that she feels it is important to be an active supporter of the public school system, not only for the sake of her children, but to benefit all children and the entire community.

Ms. Marva Dunn, 272 Astrio Street, addressed Council stating that she would like to be considered as a candidate for the City and Greenville County School Board. She also stated that she has experience working in various public school systems in several different positions. She further stated that her interest in assuring that the youth excelled academically has always been a number one priority. She stated that it was important that children in today's world be equipped with all the tools, they need to obtain academic success.

Mayor Person stated that Caroline J. Gatten had also submitted her letter of interest and resume.

Councilman Harris stated that he nominated Caroline Gatten, Marva Dunn, Clifton Threat, Bernadette Battle and Gloria Robinson for the Greenville County School Board.

Councilman Harris stated that he nominated Caroline Gatten, Marva Dunn, Clifton Threat, and Gloria Robinson for the City School Board.

Mayor Person stated that formal appointments would be made no earlier than seven (7) days after the public hearing.

With there being no further comments to come before City Council, Mayor Person declared the public hearing closed.

Mary L. Person, Mayor

Tessie S. Wilkins, City Clerk

MINUTES
EMPORIA CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF EMPORIA MUNICIPAL BUILDING
August 19, 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, August 19, 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
Councilman James E. Ewing, III
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple
Councilwoman Carol Mercer

Others present:

Mary L. Person, Mayor
Brian S. Thrower, City Manager
C. Butler Barrett, City Attorney
Tessie S. Wilkins, City Clerk
W. S. Harris, Jr., Treasurer
Joyce E. Prince, Commissioner of the Revenue
Don Wyatt, Chief of Police

Absent:

Councilwoman Doris T. White

Mayor Person presented a proclamation to Marguerite Burton family.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Councilwoman Lynch moved to approve the minutes from the Tuesday, August 5, 2014, City Council Public Hearing and Regular meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Temple, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilman James E. Ewing	aye

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

APPROVAL OF BILLS

A listing of the August 19, 2014 bills was presented to City Council members.

General Fund	\$	1,870,957.16
Utility Fund	\$	372,902.92

Councilwoman Carey moved to approve the August 19, 2014 bills as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Temple, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilman James E. Ewing	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch	aye
Councilwoman Carol Mercer	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 Mercer, which passed as follows:

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

NEW BUSINESS

14-51. Public Transportation Initiative – Request for Direction

Mr. Thrower reported that the Southside Virginia Education Center (SVEC) Board of Directors had formed a committee to discuss public transportation opportunities in the Emporia-Greensville area. He also reported that several months ago he was asked whether the City wanted to participate in the planning process. He further reported that at that time, he was under the impression that the initiative was being spearheaded entirely by Greensville County. He stated that he found out that this issue was originally discussed by the Southside Virginia Education Center Board of Directors at its December 11, 2013 meeting. He also stated that a committee was then formed to further study the issue.

Mr. Thrower reported that several months ago he sent a correspondence to Council, requesting input regarding the City’s participation in this initiative. He also reported that at that time, he only received feedback from two Council Members. He further reported that given the fact that he has now been informed this initiative is an outgrowth of discussion by the SVEC Board, he is seeking Council direction on the City’s participation in the planning process and serving on the committee. He stated that he had recently been informed that the Greensville Emporia Department of Social Services may have seed money available to offset initial planning and start-up costs.

Councilman Ewing made a motion for the City to participation in the planning process and serving on the committee, seconded by Councilwoman Temple, which passed as follows:

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

Councilman Harris stated that his only concern is that after participating in the planning process the request for funds will come if it is determined that it is needed. He also stated that at this time the City cannot afford to fund this.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Mr. James Saunders, Battery Avenue, addressed Council stating that funds might not be asked for now for the public transportation initiative, but be prepared that funds will be asked for once it is decided it is needed.

Ms. Sylvia Jeter, 1500 Reese Street, addressed Council stating that she is concerned about her property being zone as industrial.

With there being no further comments to come before City Council, Councilwoman Carey 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) **Personnel matter regarding the performance evaluation of specific employees and consideration of candidates for appointment**, (A) (3) **Acquisition of real property for public purposes** and (A) (7) **Legal matter requiring the advice of counsel pertaining to Social Services Funding**, seconded by Councilwoman Lynch, which passed as follows:

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

*****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	aye
Councilman James E. Ewing	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch	aye
Councilwoman Carol Mercer	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 Mercer seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

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

Councilman Harris made a motion to approve an ordinance and resolution approving the cost sharing agreement for Social Services Programs between and among Greensville County, the City of Emporia, and the Department of Social Services and directing the execution of the agreement by the Mayor or City Manager, seconded by Councilwoman Temple which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilman James E. Ewing	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch	aye
Councilwoman Carol Mercer	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