

MINUTES
EMPORIA CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF EMPORIA MUNICIPAL BUILDING
August 20, 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, August 20, 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.

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 L. Dale Temple
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey
Councilwoman Carol Mercer

Others present: Mary L. Person, Mayor
C. Butler Barrett, City Attorney
Brian S. Thrower, City Manager
Tessie S. Wilkins, City Clerk
W. S. Harris, Jr., Treasurer
Joyce E. Prince, Commissioner of the Revenue
Larry Epps, Water Treatment Plant Supt.
Linwood Pope, Public Utilities Director

MINUTES APPROVAL

Councilwoman Temple moved to approve the minutes from the Tuesday, August 6, 2013, City Council Regular meeting as presented, seconded by Councilwoman White, 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 August 20, 2013 bills was presented to City Council members.

General Fund	\$	1,936,935.54
Utility Fund	\$	220,998.71

Councilwoman Temple moved to approve the August 20, 2013 bills as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Mercer, 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

Mayor Person reported the addition of Close Session Virginia Code Sections § 2.2 3711 (A) (7) **Legal matter requiring the advice of counsel pertaining to Waste Water Treatment Services.**

Councilwoman Temple moved to approve the amended 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

13-39. District 19 Community Services Board – Term Expiration (George W. Pugh)

Councilman Harris nominated Sherry Saunders to serve a three-year term on the District 19 Community Services Board.

Councilman Harris made a motion to appoint Sherry Saunders to serve a three-year term on the District 19 Community Services Board, seconded by Councilman Ewing, 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

13-41. MAMaC RIFA – Request for Appointments

Mr. Thrower reported that the City of Emporia, Greensville County, and Mecklenburg County has formed the Mid-Atlantic Advanced Manufacturing Center (MAMaC) Regional Industrial Facility Authority (RIFA), with the primary purpose of developing the MAMaC site.

Mr. Thrower stated that per the terms of the by-laws, Council need to appoint two individuals to serve on the MAMaC RIFA and one individual to serve as an alternate. He also stated that one appointment shall serve an initial four year term. He further stated that the other appointment shall serve an initial two year term. He stated that the alternate appointment shall serve an initial four year term and may serve as alternate for either Board member. He stated that all appointments must be residents of the City.

Councilman Harris nominated Brian Thrower to serve a two-year term on the Mid-Atlantic Advanced Manufacturing Center (MAMaC) Regional Industrial Facility Authority (RIFA).

Councilman Harris nominated Councilwoman Dale Temple to serve a four-year term on the Mid-Atlantic Advanced Manufacturing Center (MAMaC) Regional Industrial Facility Authority (RIFA).

Councilman Harris nominated Mayor Mary L. Pearson to serve a four-year term as alternate appointment for the Mid-Atlantic Advanced Manufacturing Center (MAMaC) Regional Industrial Facility Authority (RIFA).

Councilman Harris made a motion to appoint Brian Thrower to serve a two-year term on the MAMaC RIFA, Dale Temple to serve a four-year term on the MAMaC RIFA and Mayor Mary L. Person to serve a four-year term as alternate appointment for the MAMaC RIFA, seconded by Councilman Ewing, 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	abstained

13-42. Water Bill Code Amendments – Request to Authorize a Public Hearing

Mr. Thrower stated that at the July 16, 2013, meeting Council requested that staff explore options aimed at creating a more flexible and customer friendly water billing and payment process. He also stated that he is proposing the following code amendments:

- ❖ Extension of the water service disconnection date from the 25th of the month until the 5th of the next month. This allows customers an additional 10 to 11 days to pay their water bill without being disconnected.
- ❖ Customers shall not be disconnected for non-payment or partial payment (for any reason) limited to one occurrence per calendar year. All past due and current balances must be paid in full the next month in order to avoid disconnection of services.
- ❖ Prior to disconnection of service, the City shall issue disconnection notices to each customer informing them of the specific date and time payment is due in order to avoid disconnection. The notice shall also state the total payment due. Notices shall be issued no fewer than 10 calendar days prior to disconnection.

Mr. Thrower stated that the Rural Development funding guidelines require the City to charge late fee penalties, reconnection charges, and disconnect service after sixty days of non-payment.

He recommended that Council authorize conducting a public hearing at the September 17, 2013 Council meeting to consider these code amendments.

Councilman Harris made a motion to authorize conducting a public hearing at the September 17, 2013 Council meeting to consider the water billing code amendments, 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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Person asked if anyone wished 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 Ewing moved that Closed Session be entered for the purpose of discussing Virginia Code Sections § **2.2 3711 (A) (1) Personnel matters regarding job assignments of specific employee and (A) (7) Legal matter requiring the advice of counsel pertaining to Social Services funding and Waste Water Treatment Services**, 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

*****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

Councilman Ewing made the motion to suspend the acceptance of leachate from the Brunswick Landfill seconded by Councilwoman Carey, which failed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	nay
Councilman James E. Ewing	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	nay
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch	nay
Councilwoman Carol Mercer	nay
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