

**MINUTES
EMPORIA CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF EMPORIA MUNICIPAL BUILDING
December 18, 2012**

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, December 18, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, located at 201 South Main Street, Emporia, Virginia. Mayor Samuel W. Adams, III presided over the meeting with James C. Saunders, Council Member offering the invocation.

ROLL CALL

The following City Council members were present:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris
Councilman James C. Saunders
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey

Others present:

Samuel W. Adams, III, Mayor
Brian S. Thrower, City Manager
C. Butler Barrett, City Attorney
Steve B. Hall, Assistant City Manager
Tessie S. Wilkins, City Clerk
Joyce E. Prince, Commissioner of the Revenue
Don Wyatt, Chief of Police
Linwood Pope, Director of Utilities
W. S. Harris, Jr., Treasurer
Ken Ryals, Emergency Service Coordinator

Absent:

Councilwoman Deborah D. Dixon
Councilwoman Doris T. White
Councilwoman Beverly White

Mayor Adams presented Councilman Jim Saunders a resolution for his service to the City of Emporia.

Whereas, James C. Saunders was first elected to Emporia City Council in 2004 and has represented the citizens of his district in an efficient and effective manner for eight years; and

Whereas, James C. Saunders has diligently and industriously worked on behalf of the interests of the entire City, most especially in the areas of City beautification and improvement, code enforcement, economic development and fiscal strengthening of the City's budget and fund balance; and

Whereas, James C. Saunders has represented the City of Emporia on the Social Services Board, the Highway Safety Commission, the City/County Liaison Committee and has served as President of Council; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that this resolution of commendation be presented to James C. Saunders in appreciation of his dedication and devotion to the City of Emporia and his many years of effort in making our community a better place in which to live.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Council of the City of Emporia, Virginia meeting in Regular Session this 18th day of December, 2012, that it expresses its deepest appreciation to James C. Saunders for his loyalty, industry, and dedication to the City of Emporia. His professionalism and commitment to the responsibilities of this important office will remain the defining impression of his tenure.

Councilman Saunders presented Mayor Adams a resolution for his service to the City of Emporia.

Whereas, Samuel W. Adams, III was first elected to Emporia City Council in 1974; and

Whereas, Samuel W. Adams, III was elected Mayor in 1992 and has represented the citizens of Emporia in an efficient and effective manner for thirty-eight years; and

Whereas, Mayor Adams has diligently and industriously worked on behalf of the interests of the entire City, most especially in the areas of City beautification and improvement, code enforcement, economic development and fiscal strengthening of the City's budget and fund balance; and

Whereas, Mayor Adams has represented the City of Emporia on the Emergency Services Board as Emergency Services Director, Farmers Market Advisory Board, Recreation Advisory Commission, Virginia's Growth Alliance and the Southside Regional Jail Authority; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that this resolution of commendation be presented to Mayor Samuel Adams, III in appreciation of his dedication and devotion to the City of Emporia and his many years of effort in making our community a better place in which to live.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Council of the City of Emporia, Virginia meeting in Regular Session this 18th day of December, 2012, that it expresses its deepest appreciation to Mayor Samuel Adams, III for his loyalty, industry, and dedication to the City of Emporia. His professionalism and commitment to the responsibilities of this important office will remain the defining impression of his tenure.

Mayor Adams stated that due to the lack of quorum no business will be conducted.

Councilman Saunders stated that when he came to City Council in 2004 there were some extremely tumultuous times at that point, but once they got down to business they started making strides and moving in a direction that was very positive.

Councilman Saunders stated that the City of Emporia had totally revamped their economic development effort and that the IDC no longer exists. He also stated that the City of Emporia had joined an economic partnership across the Southside area of the state of Virginia. He further stated that the City of Emporia have become a partner in MegaSite here in Greensville County. He stated that there are things going on behind the scenes right now of which he is very proud that will come to fruition in a relatively short period of time. He also stated that he applaud the Council's direction in taking the bold steps along with the County of making those change along with the help from Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling who has been extremely helpful as far as getting funds and getting that off the ground.

Councilman Saunders stated that it is absolutely amazing the projects that are in the pipeline, the projects that are on going and the projects that will be forth coming and that he tip his hat to the administration of the City for their robust effort in landing grants for our community. He also stated that he does not know the exact dollar amount the City received in grants, but it is well into the seven figures at this point in time.

Councilman Saunders stated that with his regard to City administration that he respect and appreciate the jobs that they do. He also stated to the staff and the City offices, the police, the water treatment, the waste water treatment, public works, public utilities, maintenance, emergency services, fire department, rescue squad, and anyone else he may have missed, thank you for your assistance very much during my time on Council. He further stated that he have not once asked for help and not received it.

Councilman Saunders stated to fellow Council members and those coming into office in January he ask that you remember that you work for the citizens of this city. He also stated that it is their money, corporate funds and tourists' taxes that operate this government. He further stated that this money does not belong to you and your job will be how to create more money as costs continue to rise and the federal and state government continues to reach into your pockets. He stated that his advice to you and your partners is simple make it happen.

Mayor Adams stated that in a few moments he will be stepping down from the podium after thirty eight and half years. He also stated that during that time his goal was simple to help make Emporia a better place to live, work and raise a family. He further stated that it was not always easy to accomplish the many tasks before us, but we did many times over. He stated that the challenges remain but by working together in the future our community will continue to grow and prosper.

Mayor Adams stated that he have been blessed to have worked with so many people during these many years and if he tried to name them all he would certainly miss someone. He also stated to the administrators and staffs at Public Works, Waste Water Department and the Constitutional Officers continue to serve the citizens well.

Mayor Adams stated that he would like to give a special thank you to the first responders of our community who in his opinion are the best in the state of Virginia. He also stated that the personnel of the police and fire departments and the members of the rescue squad will always have his admiration for the job they do for all of us.

Mayor Adams stated to his colleagues of the City Council both past and present it has been my pleasure working with each of you in making our community strong and viable. He also stated to the citizens of Emporia thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve each of you for nearly four decades. He further stated that he hope as we reflect over those many years of working together that we realize Emporia truly is a better place to live, work and raise a family.

Mayor Adams stated thank you and God bless each of you in the years to come.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Adams 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 Adams closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Samuel W. Adams, III, Mayor

Tessie S. Wilkins, City Clerk