

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Voting District Map – Request to Re-Adopt Ordinance

Emporia's City Council held a Public Hearing on Tuesday, December 6, 2011, 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 session.

The following City Council members were present:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris
Councilman James C. Saunders
Councilwoman Doris T. White
Councilwoman Deborah D. Dixon
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey
Councilwoman Beverly White

Others present: Samuel W. Adams, III, Mayor
C. Butler Barrett, City Attorney
Brian S. Thrower, City Manger
Steven B. Hall, Assistant City Manager
Tessie S. Wilkins, City Clerk
Don Wyatt, Chief of Police

1. Voting District Map – Request to Re-Adopt Ordinance

Mr. Thrower stated every decennial census marks the opportunity for localities to engage in the redistricting process. He further stated that over the course of this year he has been exploring redistricting scenarios and options with the assistance of Crater Planning District Commission staff, the City Attorney, and Troutman Sanders Law Firm. He further stated that in reviewing Emporia's 2010 census data, current and potential district boundaries, and thoroughly analyzing Voting Rights Act requirements legal counsel recommends that City Council retain its current Voting District Map.

Mr. Thrower stated that at Council November 1, 2011 meeting he had present Council with two options going forward. He also stated that Option 1 was for Council to maintain the current Voting District Map, as recommended. He further stated that Option 2 was for Council to form a committee to study options for amending the Voting District Map and make a formal recommendation to City Council. He stated that Council elected to pursue option 1 and authorized holding a public hearing at tonight's meeting to seek citizen input.

Mayor Adams asked if anyone else wished to speak concerning the matter.

With no further matters to be presented before City Council members, Mayor Adams declared the public hearing closed.

Samuel W. Adams, III, Mayor

Tessie S. Wilkins, City Clerk

**MINUTES
EMPORIA CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF EMPORIA MUNICIPAL BUILDING
December 6, 2011**

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 6, 2011 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 Bishop Vincent Lowery, offering the invocation.

ROLL CALL

The following City Council members were present:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris
Councilwoman Beverly White
Councilwoman Doris T. White
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey
Councilwoman Deborah D. Dixon
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple
Councilman James Saunders

Others present:

Samuel W. Adams, III Mayor
C. Butler Barrett, City Attorney
Brian S. Thrower, City Manger
Steven B. Hall, Assistant City Manager
Tessie S. Wilkins, City Clerk
Don Wyatt, Chief of Police
Ken Ryals, Emergency Service Coordinator

MINUTES APPROVAL

Councilwoman Temple moved to approve the minutes from the Tuesday, November 15, 2011 Regular Meeting and Budget Review Session Minutes as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Dixon, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilman James Saunders	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Dixon	aye

Councilwoman L. Dale Temple aye
Councilwoman Beverly White aye

AGENDA APPROVAL

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

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris aye
Councilman James Saunders aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Dixon aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple aye
Councilwoman Beverly White aye

NEW BUSINESS

11-103. Voting District Map – Request to Re-Adopt Ordinance

Mr. Thrower stated every decennial census marks the opportunity for localities to engage in the redistricting process. He further stated that over the course of this year he has been exploring redistricting scenarios and options with the assistance of Crater Planning District Commission staff, the City Attorney, and Troutman Sanders Law Firm. He further stated that in reviewing Emporia’s 2010 census data, current and potential district boundaries, and thoroughly analyzing Voting Rights Act requirements legal counsel recommends that City Council retain its current Voting District Map.

Mr. Thrower stated that at Council November 1, 2011 meeting he had presented Council with two options going forward. He also stated that Option 1 was for Council to maintain the current Voting District Map, as recommended. He further stated that Option 2 was for Council to form a committee to study options for amending the Voting District Map and make a formal recommendation to City Council. He stated that Council elected to pursue option 1 and authorized holding a public hearing at tonight’s meeting to seek citizen input.

He recommended that Council re-adopt the ordinance to establish the election districts, voting precincts and polling places for elections in the City of Emporia.

Councilwoman Carey made a motion to adopt **Ordinance No. 11-31** to re-adopt the election districts, voting precincts, and polling places for elections in the City of Emporia, seconded by Councilwoman Temple, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris aye
Councilman James Saunders aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple aye

Councilwoman Deborah D. Dixon aye
Councilwoman Beverly White aye

11-104. Code Red Emergency Notification System – Briefing by Ken Ryals, Emergency Services Coordinator

Mr. Ken Ryals, Emergency Services Coordinator, stated that the City of Emporia had installed a Code Red pre-disaster and emergency response phone system which will inform residents of potential emergencies situation via phone messages. He stated that the Code Red is Internet based system out of Florida. He also stated that all City residents who have a land-based phone in their homes and businesses are already on the new system.

He stated that Code Red was tested today and was working as expected. He also stated that doing the first five minutes of testing the Code Red message it had reached 56.72 percent of the household in the City of Emporia. He stated that for the City of Emporia, Verizon provided them with 2,054 phone numbers. He also stated that some of those numbers are multiple landline extensions for industries and businesses that cannot accept incoming calls so that figure will improve after this test. He further stated that in addition to warnings and information issued by the City, residents of Emporia may opt-in to automatic calls with regard to sever weather. He stated that residents who sign up for the severe weather warnings will be notified as severe weather approaches their homes and neighborhoods.

No formal action is required of Council.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Mayor Adams welcomed Troop 209 for being in attendance at the Council Meeting.

Grant Bradley, 4710 Belfield Road, addressed Council by thanking them for having Troop 209 at the Council meeting. He also thanked Councilman Harris and Councilman Saunders for presenting merit badges to Troop 209. He further thanked Councilwoman Dixon for being scout mother and helping them. He also thanked Mr. Thrower, City Manager, for helping with the Eagles Board of reviews.

With there being no further comments to come before City Council, Mayor Adams 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) (3) **Disposition of publicly held real property pertaining to the former elementary school** seconded by Councilman Saunders, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris aye
Councilman James C. Saunders aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White aye

Councilwoman Deborah D. Dixon aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple aye
Councilwoman Beverly White aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey aye

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

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

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris aye
Councilman James C. Saunders aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey aye
Councilwoman Beverly White aye
Councilman Deborah D. Dixon aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple aye

CERTIFICATION

Councilman Saunders moved to certify the following:

1. only public business matters 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 C. Saunders aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Dixon aye
Councilwoman Beverly White aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple aye

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