

**MINUTES
EMPORIA CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF EMPORIA MUNICIPAL BUILDING
February 4, 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.

Mayor Person stated that the Council meeting will be opened with a moment of silence in honor of Deputy Lee House.

Emporia City Council held a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 4, 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 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 Carolyn S. Carey
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple
Councilwoman Carol Mercer
Councilwoman Doris T. White

Others present:

Mary L. Person, Mayor
C. Butler Barrett, City Attorney
Brian S. Thrower, City Manger
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, January 21, 2014, City Council Public Hearing and Regular meeting 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
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye

AGENDA APPROVAL

Councilwoman Temple moved to approve the agenda as presented, 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
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye

NEW BUSINESS

14-05. Black History Month – Proclamation

Mayor Person presented Mr. Cornell Hines with a proclamation for Black History Month.

Whereas, February is recognized nationally as Black History Month and Dr. Carter B. Woodson, a distinguished African American author, editor, publisher and historian, is acclaimed “Father of Black History Month”. Dr. Woodson believed that African Americans should know their past in order to participate in the affairs of the country; and

Whereas, Black History Month acknowledges both past and present African and African-American icons whose courage, sacrifices, and relentless efforts have sought to improve the quality of life for all in the name of justice, honor and freedom; and

Whereas, such noted African-American icons as Ida B. Wells, the renowned writer, teacher, women’s suffragist and anti-lynching crusader; and Rosa Parks, whose famous decision to remain in her seat symbolized the spirit of the Civil Rights Movement, have made imperative contributions to our society; and notable local African Americans as Joseph C. Bond, a mortician, was the first African American to serve on Emporia City Council and a founder of the local NAACP branch; Dr. Willie Joyner, a physician and entrepreneur, owned a medical building, a movie theatre, and rental properties; Dr. Joseph Macklin, a pharmacist, was the first African American druggist to manage his own business; Charles Harris, a mechanic, was the first African American to own and operate a service station; Edward Westwood Wyatt, an advocate for improved school conditions for African Americans and a zealous educator, legacy lives on as the first African American High School (E.W. Wyatt High School) was named in his honor; Charlie Stephen Thomas, a businessman and a founder of the local NAACP branch, operated a grocery store across from Greensville County Training School to provide snacks for the students, since there were no cafeterias at that time; Etta Reavis, a homemaker, provided hot meals and shelter for local teachers at R.R. Moton Elementary School; Elizabeth R. Allison, Reverend and Mrs. Willie Curley, Sr., Annie Green, and Helen Kindred provided shelter and meals for the teachers on the North side of town; George C. Williams, a local farmer, purchased a bus to transport students and teachers to school that resided in the county; and

Whereas, the Honorable Mary L. Person was elected as the first African American female to serve on Emporia City Council, made history again when she was elected on November 6, 2012, as the first African American and first female to serve as Mayor for the City of Emporia; and

Whereas, it is essential to learn from the many lessons of history from world renowned leaders as well as the contributions of local African Americans to continue the pursuit of our Founding Fathers' vision of liberty, justice and equality for all; and

Now, Therefore, I, Mary L. Person, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Emporia, Virginia do hereby proclaim February 2014 as Black History Month in the City of Emporia.

Done this 4th day of February in the year 2014.

14-06. MAMaC Regional Industrial Facility Authority Funding Request

Mr. Thrower stated that the City of Emporia, Greenville County, and Mecklenburg County have formed the Mid-Atlantic Advanced Manufacturing Center Regional Industrial Facility Authority (MAMaC RIFA). He also stated that the purpose of the MAMaC RIFA is to develop the Mega Site property located in Greenville County.

Mr. Thrower reported that at the January 16, 2014 meeting, the MAMaC RIFA requested that each locality approve an extra \$7,000.00 in the current fiscal year to pay for the services of Troutman Sanders Strategies through June 30, 2014. He also reported that Troutman Sanders' monthly fee is \$4,000.00. He further reported that according to the proposal and Greenville County staff, Troutman Sanders propose to continue assisting the MAMaC RIFA with securing Tobacco Commission and other grant funding assisting with any other opportunities that may lead to a potential developer.

He recommended that Council do not fund the request for two reasons. He stated that this is a request from an external organization and is outside of the budget process. He also stated that the current year budget request from the MAMaC RIFA was \$27,550.00. He further stated that the recommended and approved FY14 funding amount was \$3,000.00. He stated that the City has already contributed its budgeted amount this fiscal year. He also stated that per the MAMaC RIFA agreement, the City will not receive any tax revenue from this development. He further stated that the City's only commitments to the project include the costs associated with upgrading the water treatment plant and minimal administrative expenses. He reported that if Council agree with the recommendation, no action is needed. He also reported that if Council wish to approve the request, Council will need to adopt the appropriation ordinance.

No action taken by Council.

14-07. Industrial Development Authority – Request for Appointments

Mr. Thrower reported that J. Reid Wrenn submitted his letter of resignation from the Industrial Development Authority Board effective January 31, 2014. He stated that the unexpired four year term on the Industrial Development Authority Board has an expiration date of February 28, 2015.

Mr. Thrower reported that Roland E. Weaver submitted his letter of resignation from the Industrial Development Authority Board effective December 12, 2013. He stated that the unexpired four year term on the IDA Board has an expiration date of February 28, 2016.

Mr. Thrower stated that City Council would need to make a nomination(s) to fill the vacant seats.

Mayor Person stated that this item be carried over until the February 18, 2014, Council meeting.

14-08. OAG Grant – Appropriation Ordinance

Mr. Thrower stated that the City of Emporia was awarded a grant of federal asset forfeiture funds in the amount of \$23,488.40 by the Commonwealth of Virginia, Office of the Attorney General. He also stated that the funds are designated for the purchase of a Harley-Davidson motorcycle to be used for law enforcement activities. He further stated that in order for the City to utilize the funds, Council need to appropriate these funds into the City’s FY14 operating budget.

Councilwoman Temple made a motion to approve **Ordinance No. 14-03** to appropriate the sum of \$23,488.40 in Federal Asset Forfeiture Grant Funds from the Commonwealth of Virginia, Office of the Attorney General, seconded by Councilwoman Carey, 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
Councilwoman Doris. T. White	aye

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Judy Matthews, 766 Courtland Road, addressed Council with concerns about the Railroad Crossing arms not functioning correctly.

With there being no more 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) (5) **Discussion concerning a prospective business or industry where no previous announcement has been made and (A) (7) Legal matter requiring the advice of counsel pertaining to Social Services Funding**, 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
Councilwoman Doris T. White	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 Carolyn S. Carey	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch	aye
Councilwoman Carol Mercer	aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	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 Carolyn S. Carey	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch	aye
Councilwoman Carol Mercer	aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	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