

**MINUTES
EMPORIA CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF EMPORIA MUNICIPAL BUILDING
February 1, 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, February 1, 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
Councilman John R. White
Councilwoman Doris T. White
Councilman Deborah D. Dixon
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple

Others present:

Samuel W. Adams, III Mayor
C. Butler Barrett, City Attorney
Brian S. Thrower, City Manger
Steven B. Hall, Assistant City Manager
Lori R. Jarratt, Executive Secretary
Don Wyatt, Chief of Police

Absent: Councilman James Saunders
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey
Tessie S. Wilkins, City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVAL

Councilman Harris moved to approve the minutes from the Tuesday, January 18, 2011 Regular Meeting and Public Hearing, as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Temple, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilman John R. White	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilman Deborah D. Dixon	aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple	aye

AGENDA APPROVAL

Councilwoman Temple moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Councilman White, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilman John R. White	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilman Deborah D. Dixon	aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple	aye

NEW BUSINESS

11-12. Black History Month - Proclamation

Mayor Adams stated that Council had the following proclamation before them for adoption:

Proclamation 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, 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, Samuel W. Adams, III, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Emporia, Virginia do hereby proclaim February 2011 as Black History Month in the City of Emporia.

Councilman White made a motion to adopt the proclamation for Black History Month, seconded by Councilwoman White, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilman John R. White	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Dixon	aye

11-13. West Atlantic Street CDBG Project – 2011 Fair Housing Activity

Mr. Hall reported that the City's West Atlantic Street Neighborhood Revitalization Project is moving forward. He also reported that one of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development requirements is the City's participation in a yearly "Fair Housing Activity" in accordance with the Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Fair Housing Act).

Mr. Hall stated that this Act protects a citizen's right to live where he or she would like. He also stated that it is against the law to consider race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability or family status when any making decision regarding rental units, sales, lending or homeowner's insurance. He further stated that in 2010, the City placed posters on the bulletin boards indicating it supports fair housing.

Mr. Hall stated that in 2011 a resolution was prepared indicating that the City is committed to affirmatively furthering fair housing as part of the West Atlantic Street project. He also stated if approved, the resolution will be published in the Independent Messenger as well.

He recommended that City Council adopt Resolution No. 11-01 to affirmatively further fair housing as part of the City's West Atlantic Street Neighborhood Revitalization Community Development Block Grant.

Councilman Harris made a motion to adopt **Resolution No. 11-01** to affirmatively further fair housing as part of the City's West Atlantic Street Neighborhood Revitalization Community Development Block Grant, seconded by Councilwoman Temple, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilman John R. White	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye

Councilman Deborah D. Dixon
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple

aye
aye

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 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