

MINUTES
EMPORIA CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF EMPORIA MUNICIPAL BUILDING
July 16, 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, July 16, 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
Don Wyatt, Chief of Police

MINUTES APPROVAL

Councilwoman Temple moved to approve the minutes from the Tuesday, May 1, 2, 14, 15, and 21, 2013, Budget Work Session and Tuesday, June 18, 2013 City Council and Public Hearing Regular meeting minutes 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

APPROVAL OF BILLS

A listing of the July 16, 2013 bills was presented to City Council members.

General Fund	\$	331,389.60
Utility Fund	\$	293,704.46

Councilwoman Temple moved to approve the July 16, 2013 bills 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

FINANCIAL AND TAX REPORTS

Honorable W. S. Harris, Jr., City Treasurer provided City Council members with highlights of the City's financial position. He requested that City Council members authorize the treasurer to submit a listing of all delinquent taxes, as of July 1st, to the local newspaper for publishing in accordance with § 58.1-3924 of the Code of Virginia. He also requested that the treasurer be authorized to omit individual names from the delinquent tax list, prior to submission to the local newspaper, if respective delinquencies have been satisfied.

Councilman Harris moved to approve that the delinquent tax listings be published once in the local newspaper with the provision that individuals satisfying respective tax obligations, prior to submission to the local newspaper, be stricken from the listing by the treasurer, Councilman Ewing 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 Dale Temple	aye

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

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 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)

Mr. Thrower stated that on June 30, 2013, Mr. George W. Pugh's three-year term on the District 19 Community Service Board would expire. He also stated that Mr. Pugh had indicated that he does not wish to be considered for reappointment.

Mayor Person stated that this item be held until the August 6, 2013 Council meeting.

13-40. Southside Community Criminal Justice Board Expirations – William S. Newsome/Dr. Philips L. Worrell/F. Woodrow Harris

Mr. Thrower stated that on June 30, 2013, the four-year term of Mr. William Newsome, Council Member F. Woodrow Harris and Dr. Philip Worrell on the Southside Community Criminal Justice Board will expire. He also stated that Dr. Worrell and Council Member Harris had indicated that they do wish to be considered for reappointment. He further stated that Mr. Newsome had indicated that he does not wish to be considered for reappointment.

Mayor Person stated that the appointment for William Newsome's term on the Southside Community Criminal Justice Board be held until the August 6, 2013 Council meeting.

13-41. Southside Community College Board – Term Expiration (Peggy Jones)

Mr. Thrower stated that on June 30, 2013, Ms. Peggy Jones' three-year term on the Southside Community College Board expired. He also stated that Ms. Jones had indicated that she does not wish to be considered for reappointment.

Councilman Harris nominated Betsy Sharrett to serve a three-year term on the Southside Community College Board.

Councilman Harris made a motion to appoint Betsy Sharrett to serve a three-year term on the Southside Community College Board, 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

NEW BUSINESS

13-42. October 15, 2013 City Council Meeting – Request to Cancel

Mr. Thrower stated that the Virginia Municipal League (VML) Annual Conference would be held Sunday, October 13, 2013 through Tuesday, October 15, 2013. He also stated that he was recommending that Council cancel the Tuesday, October 15, 2013 meeting.

Councilman Harris made a motion to cancel the October 15, 2013 meeting due to the VML Annual Conference, 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

13-43. Liaison Committee – Request for Appointments

Mr. Thrower stated that he was requesting Council to make appointments to the City/County Liaison Committee. He also stated that Councilman Harris currently sits on the Committee and has indicated he wishes to continue serving on the committee, if asked to do so.

He further stated that the purpose of the committee is for elected officials of both the City of Emporia and Greensville County to discuss issues of mutual concern.

Councilwoman Temple nominated Councilman Harris to continue serving on the City/County Liaison Committee.

Councilman Harris nominated Mayor Person to serve on the City/County Liaison Committee.

Councilwoman Temple made a motion to appoint Councilman Harris and Mayor Person to serve on the City/County Liaison Committee, seconded by Councilwoman Carey, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	abstained
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

13-44. Fire Committee – Request for Appointments

Mr. Thrower stated that he was requesting Council to make appointments to the Fire Committee. He also stated that White and Harris currently sit on the Committee. He further stated that Councilwoman White had indicated that she wishes to continue serving on the Committee. He stated that Councilman Harris had indicated that he wishes to continue serving on the Committee, if asked to do so. He reported that Mayor Person also attended the last Fire Committee meeting. He stated that the purpose of the committee is for officials from the City of Emporia, Greensville County, and the Emporia Volunteer Fire Department to discuss issues of mutual concern.

Councilman Harris nominated Councilwoman White to continue serving on the Fire Committee.

Councilwoman Temple nominated Councilman Harris to continue serving on the Fire Committee.

Councilwoman Temple nominated Councilman Ewing to serve on the Fire Committee.

Councilwoman Temple made a motion to appoint Councilman Harris, Councilman Ewing, and Councilwoman White to serve on the Fire Committee, seconded by Councilwoman Lynch, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	abstained
Councilman James E. Ewing	abstained
Councilwoman Doris T. White	abstained
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch	aye
Councilwoman Carol Mercer	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye

Councilwoman L. Dale Temple aye

13-45. VJCCCA Program – Appropriation Ordinance

Mr. Thrower stated that the City annually receives grant funds from the Department of Juvenile Justice for the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act (VJCCA) Program. He also reported that in the FY14, the City of Emporia will receive an additional \$6,779.00 in grant funds from the State for this program. He stated that Council would need to appropriate the additional revenue of \$6,779.00 into the FY14 Operating Budget so that these grant funds may be utilized for the VJCCA Program.

Councilwoman Temple made a motion to adopt **Ordinance No. 13-12** appropriating the sum of \$6,779.00 in Grant Funds from the Department of Juvenile for the VJCCCA program, seconded by Councilwoman Mercer, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	abstained
Councilman James E. Ewing	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch	aye
Councilwoman Carol Mercer	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple	aye
Councilwoman Doris. T. White	aye

13-46. Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) – Appropriation Ordinance

Mr. Thrower stated that the City of Emporia has been awarded an Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) from the United States Department of Justice. He also stated that this \$9,717.00 grant would be used in conjunction with \$1,080.00 in matching funds from the FY14 budget to purchase and install two in car camera systems in new patrol vehicles.

Councilwoman Temple made a motion to adopt **Ordinance No. 13-13** appropriating the sum of \$9,717.00 in DOJ Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Funds, seconded by Councilwoman Mercer, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilman James E. Ewing	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch	aye
Councilwoman Carol Mercer	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye

13-47. Paving – Appropriation Ordinance

Mr. Thrower stated that Council approved \$150,000 in the FY13 budget for annual paving projects. He also stated that the paving projects had been awarded and that the work has begun, the projects were not completed as of June 30, 2013, and the funds were not expended.

Councilman Ewing made a motion to adopt **Ordinance No. 13-14** appropriating the sum of \$150,000.00 from the Unappropriated Fund balance of the General Fund for Paving, seconded by Councilwoman Mercer, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilman James E. Ewing	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch	aye
Councilwoman Carol Mercer	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	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.

Lynwood Matthews, 766 Courtland Road, addressed Council inquiring if the City of Emporia is still doing research on a boat launch for the Meherrin River.

Mr. Thrower stated that yes a plan was in the works.

Christine Dubose, 206 Lowground Road, addressed Council with concern of her water being disconnected. She also stated that she paid her water bill on June 14 and on June 25, she was turned off for non-payment because she was \$.40 short on her water bill. She further stated that she was charged a \$15.00 penalty plus a cut on/off fee of \$60.00 to have her water restored because she honestly misread her water bill.

Mr. Thrower stated that the City Code was equally enforced.

Mayor Person stated that this matter would be discussed between Council and staff to see if any changes need to be made.

Councilman Harris stated that this was the type of issue that Council has discussed in the past stating that the utility collections need to be more customers friendly. He also stated that water should not be cut off for \$.40. He further stated Council changed the policy of granting two months to pay a water bill because too many customers were abusing the grace period. He stated that the City needed a way to adjust this in a way that it is fair to all citizens who are making a good-faith effort to pay.

It was the consensus of Council for the City administration to research language that could be included in City Ordinances that would allow some flexibility in utility's collection.

With there being no further comments to come before City Council, Mayor Person closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mary L. Person, Mayor

Tessie S. Wilkins, City Clerk