

## PUBLIC HEARING

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### 1. Proposed FY15 General and Utility Fund Budgets

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Emporia's City Council held a Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 3, 2014 at 6:30P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, located at 201 South Main Street, Emporia, Virginia. Mayor Mary Person presided over the public hearing.

The following City Council members were present:

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

Others present:

Mary L. Person, Mayor  
C. Butler Barrett, City Attorney  
Brian S. Thrower, City Manager  
Lori R. Jarratt, Executive Secretary  
Dr. Edwin C. Daley, Assistant City Manager  
Sheila Cutrell, Finance Director  
Don Wyatt, Chief

Absent:

Tessie Wilkins, City Clerk

### 1. Proposed FY15 General and Utility Fund Budgets

Mr. Thrower stated that the proposed FY15 General Fund budget is \$19,520,597. He also stated that departmental requests totaled \$21,686,195. He advised that the primary impacts to the City's FY15 budget include a 14.5% health insurance increase (\$65,177), increase in the City's share of funding for the Greensville County Public School System (\$47,745), and the City's share of debt service for the Commonwealth Attorney's Office (\$37,368). He also advised that he was also proposing a 2% COLA increase (\$41,881) effective January 11, 2015. He also stated that the \$100,000 loss of leachate acceptance revenue that had been transferred from the Utility Fund to the General Fund has been replaced by a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (\$124,106) from the Utility Fund.

He reported that in terms of school funding, the School Board requested a total of \$8,225,631 in local funds. He also stated that this was an increase of \$1,067,492 over the approved FY14 budget (\$7,158,139). He further reported that the City of Emporia and Greensville County

Administration have tentatively agreed to a joint funding increase figure of \$237,000. He reported that the City's increase in contribution to the school system using that figure is \$47,745 for a total City contribution of \$3,420,258. He advised that this increase is equivalent to approximately 1.4 cents on the real property tax rate using a 98% collection rate (1 penny @ a 98% collection rate = \$35,087 in revenue). He also advised that the proposed local funding increase will help offset health insurance and Virginia Retirement System (VRS) rate increases.

He stated that in terms of major initiatives, the S. Main Street Enhancement Project, W. Atlantic Neighborhood Improvement Project, and Belfield Downtown Revitalization Project continue to be funded in the proposed budget. He also stated that other projects including Phase II of Farmers Market Trailhead Project, Emporia Industrial Park drainage improvements, improvements to the Emporia Animal Shelter, and the City's share of funding for the E. Atlantic Street Reconstruction Project have not been included in the proposed budget. He further stated that he may be asking Council to consider funding these projects separately over the course of FY15 after plans have been more fully developed and actual bids have been received. He advised that any City funding for these projects will need to be appropriated from Fund Balance.

He advised that in terms of vehicles and major equipment, he is proposing to purchase two Police cruisers (\$66,000), two Public Works pick-up trucks (\$44,796), an asphalt roller (\$18,000), and a pressure washer (\$4,000). He also advised that these vehicles and equipment will be financed for three years.

He stated that in order to balance the proposed FY15 budget, he is proposing a 7 cent increase in the real property tax rate. He also stated that approximately 2 cents of this proposed increase is to offset the decline in real estate values. He further advised that the other 5 cents is primarily attributed to the aforementioned increases in health insurance, school funding, and Commonwealth Attorney's Office debt service. He advised that this would increase Emporia's real property tax rate to \$0.92 per \$100 valuation. He also advised that according to the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, the mean (average) real property tax rate for Virginia cities is 97 cents. He stated that the median is \$1.03. He also stated that should Council approve the proposed real property tax rate increase, Emporia's rate will still be lower than the mean and median for Virginia cities.

**Utility Fund Budget**

He advised that the proposed FY15 Utility Fund budget stands at \$17,631,869. He also advised that departmental requests totaled \$18,513,368.

The proposed FY15 water rates are as follows:

<b>Current Water Rates</b>		<b>Proposed FY15 Water Rates</b>	
Minimum 2,000 gallons	\$17.66	Minimum 2,000 gallons	\$20.31 – 15%
Next 48,000/1,000	\$ 7.90	Next 48,000/1,000	\$ 9.48 – 20%
Over 50,000/1,000	\$ 4.98	Over 50,000/1,000	\$ 5.73 – 15%

The proposed FY15 sewer rates are as follows:

<b>Current Sewer Rates</b>		<b>Proposed FY15 Sewer Rates</b>	
Minimum 2,000 gallons	\$18.27	Minimum 2,000 gallons	\$20.10 – 10%
Next 48,000/1,000	\$ 6.53	Next 48,000/1,000	\$ 7.51 – 15%
Over 50,000/1,000	\$ 5.22	Over 50,000/1,000	\$ 5.74 – 10%

He stated that the Water Treatment Plant Upgrade Project is currently underway. He also stated that construction is expected to be completed by September 2015. He further stated that in terms of new initiatives included in the proposed budget, City Administration proposes to move forward with improvements to the Water Distribution System (\$2,500,000), the W. Atlantic Sewer Main Replacement Project (\$420,000), and improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Plant (\$1,650,000). He advised that the aforementioned water and sewer rate increases are required in order to pay the debt service (20 years) on these projects, as well as cover the proposed 2% COLA increase (\$9,833) effective January 11, 2015, the 14.5% health insurance increase (\$13,623), and the Payment in Lieu of Taxes expenditure (\$124,106) that is shown as revenue in the General Fund budget.

Mayor Person asked if there was anyone present that wished to speak regarding this matter.

*Marva Dunn* of 272 Astrio Street, Emporia, Virginia 23847 addressed Council stating that she was understanding that the proposed budget would be an increase in water and sewer rates for residential users. Mayor Person stated that the proposed FY15 budget did include water and sewer rate increases.

Ms. Dunn asked Council to find other means of paying for projects without having to increase the costs of the water and sewer rates for the citizens.

Mayor Person stated that Council understood her concerns but unfortunately an increase in water and sewer rates was the only means of covering projects that are needed at this particular time.

*Lynwood Matthews* of 766 Courtland Road, Emporia, Virginia 23847 addressed Council thanking them for their time and efforts in having a budget ready for FY15.

With their being no further comments to come before City Council, Mayor Person declared the public hearing closed.

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Mary L. Person, Mayor

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Lori R. Jarratt, Executive Secretary

**MINUTES  
EMPORIA CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF EMPORIA MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
JUNE 3, 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.*

Emporia City Council held a regular meeting on Tuesday, June 3, 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 Carey, Council Member offering the invocation.

**ROLL CALL**

The following City Council members were present:

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

Others present:

Mary L. Person, Mayor  
C. Butler Barrett, City Attorney  
Brian S. Thrower, City Manager  
Lori R. Jarratt, Executive Secretary  
Dr. Edwin C. Daley, Assistant City Manager  
Sheila Cutrell, Finance Director  
Don Wyatt, Chief

Absent:

Tessie Wilkins, City Clerk

**MINUTES APPROVAL**

Councilwoman Temple moved to approve the minutes from the Tuesday, May 20, 2014, City Council Regular meeting as presented, seconded by Councilwoman White, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye

Councilwoman L. Dale Temple	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch	aye
Councilman James E. Ewing, III	aye
Councilwoman Carol Mercer	aye

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

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

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

***14-31. FY15 Greenville County School System Budget – Request to Adopt Resolution***

Mr. Thrower reported that the Greenville County School System requested \$8,225,631 in combined local funding for FY15. He also reported that the City of Emporia and Greenville County have proposed combined local funding of \$7,395,143, which is an increase of 3.31% over FY14. He further reported that per the school funding contract, the City’s share is \$3,420,258 and Greenville County’s share is \$3,974,885.

He stated that the confirmed average daily membership (ADM) number are as follows:

\$1,039.77 (Emporia)  
\$1,286.43 (Greenville)  
 \$2,326.20 (Total)

He advised that the City’s ADM numbers increased by 25.91, while the County’s decreased by 20.45.

Councilwoman Temple made a motion to adopt Resolution **No. 14-04** approving the FY15 Greenville County School System Budget, seconded by Councilwoman Mercer which passed as follows:

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

**14-32. July 1, 2014 Meeting – Request to Cancel**

Mr. Thrower stated that as in previous years, he was recommending Council cancel the July 1, 2014 meeting due to the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday.

Councilwoman Temple made a motion to cancel the July 1, 2014 Regular Meeting due to the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday, seconded by Councilwoman Carey which passed as follows:

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

**14-33. Planning Commission – Board Appointment**

Mr. Thrower advised that effective June 30, 2014, the four year terms of Woodrow L. Bryant, Jr. and Thomas L. Vaughan will expire on the City’s Planning Commission. He also advised that both individuals have indicated they wish to be considered for reappointment.

Councilwoman Temple made a motion to reappoint Woodrow L. Bryant, Jr. and Thomas L. Vaughan to the City’s Planning Commission for a four term with an expiration date of June 30, 2018, seconded by Councilman Ewing which passed as follows:

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

**14-34. Mosquito Control Commission – Board Appointment**

Mr. Thrower reported that Doris White’s term on the Mosquito Control Commission will expire on June 30, 2014. Ms. White has indicated that she does not wish to be reappointed.

Councilwoman White nominated Councilwoman Mercer. Councilwoman Mercer declined the nomination.

There were no nominations for this board.

**14-35. Social Services – Board Appointment**

Mr. Thrower stated that representatives appointed to the Social Services Board shall consist of one At-Large member residing in the City of Emporia and one member of City Council. He also reported that appointments to fill unexpired terms shall not be considered full terms, and such person shall be eligible to be appointed to two consecutive full terms.

He advised that on June 30, 2014 his term on the Social Services Board will expire. He also advised that he is currently filling an unexpired term and does wish to be considered for reappointment to a full four year term with an expiration date of June 30, 2018.

Councilman Harris nominated Brian Thrower to the Social Services Board.

Councilman Harris made a motion to appoint Brian Thrower to the Social Services Board for a four year term with an expiration date of June 30, 2018, seconded by Councilwoman Mercer which passed as follows:

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

**14-36. Southside Regional Jail Authority – Board Appointment**

Mr. Thrower reported that the Southside Regional Jail Authority Board shall consist of a total of nine members to be appointed as follows: four members by the Board of Supervisors of Greensville County; three members by the Council of the City of Emporia; the Sheriff of Greensville County conjointly elected by voters of Greensville County and the City of Emporia – and the Sheriff of the City of Emporia.

He stated that the four year terms consisting of himself, Don Wyatt, Chief of Police, and F. Woodrow Harris, Council Member will expire on June 30, 2014. He also stated that each member wishes to be considered for reappointment for an additional four years with a term expiration date of June 30, 2018.

Councilwoman Temple nominated Brian Thrower, Don Wyatt and Councilman F. Woodrow Harris to the Southside Regional Jail Authority Board

Councilwoman Temple made a motion to reappoint Brian Thrower, Don Wyatt and Councilman F. Woodrow Harris to the Southside Regional Jail Authority Board for an additional four years with a term expiration date of June 30, 2018, seconded by Councilman Ewing which passed as follows:

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

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

*Marva Dunn*, 272 Astrio Street, Emporia, Virginia 23847 addressed Council stating that she would like to thank the Chief of Police for the work that had been done in the area Harje Street.

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.

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Mary L. Person, Mayor

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Lori R. Jarratt, Executive Secretary