



CITY OF EMPORIA

Memorandum

May 1, 2014

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Brian S. Thrower, City Manager *BST*
SUBJECT: Proposed FY15 General and Utility Fund Budgets

General Fund Budget

The proposed FY15 General Fund budget is \$19,520,597. Departmental requests totaled \$21,686,195. 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). I am also proposing a 2% COLA increase (\$41,881) effective January 11, 2015. 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\$100,000 loss of leachate acceptance revenue that had been transferred from the Utility Fund to the General Fund has been replaced by a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (\$124,106) from the Utility Fund.

In terms of school funding, the School Board requested a total of \$8,225,631 in local funds. This is an increase of \$1,067,492 over the approved FY14 budget (\$7,158,139). City of Emporia and Greensville County Administration have tentatively agreed to a joint funding increase figure of \$237,000. 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. 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). The proposed local funding increase will help offset health insurance and Virginia Retirement System (VRS) rate increases.

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. 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. I may be asking you to consider funding these projects separately over the course of FY15 after plans have been more fully developed and actual bids have been received. Any City funding for these projects will need to be appropriated from Fund Balance.

In terms of vehicles and major equipment, I am 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). These vehicles and equipment will be financed for three years.

In order to balance the proposed FY15 budget, I am proposing a 7 cent increase in the real property tax rate. Approximately 2 cents of this proposed increase is to offset the decline in real estate values. The other 5 cents is primarily attributed to the aforementioned increases in health insurance, school funding, and Commonwealth Attorney's Office debt service. This would increase Emporia's real property tax rate to \$0.92 per \$100 valuation. According to the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, the mean (average) real property tax rate for Virginia cities is 97 cents. The median is \$1.03. As such, should you 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

The proposed FY15 Utility Fund budget stands at \$17,631,869. Departmental requests totaled \$18,513,368.

The proposed FY15 water rates are as follows:

Current Water Rates		Proposed FY15 Water Rates	
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%

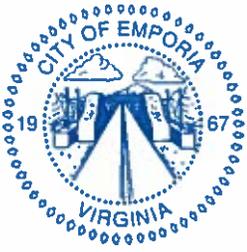
The proposed FY15 sewer rates are as follows:

Current Sewer Rates		Proposed FY15 Sewer Rates	
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%

As you are aware, the Water Treatment Plant Upgrade Project is currently underway. Construction is expected to be completed by September 2015. 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). 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.

Attachments

Proposed FY15 General and Utility Fund Budgets



CITY OF EMPORIA

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Proposed FY15 General and Utility Fund Budgets

AGENDA
EMPORIA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
TUESDAY, June 3, 2014 - 6:30 P.M.

OPENING PRAYER

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 20, 2014 ~ Regular Meeting

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

14-31 – FY15 Greensville County School System Budget – Request to Adopt Resolution

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

14-33 – Planning Commission – Board Appointment

14-34 – Mosquito Control Commission – Board Appointment

14-35 – Social Services – Board Appointment

14-36 – Southside Regional Jail Authority – Board Appointment

PUBLIC COMMENT

CLOSED SESSION

**MINUTES
EMPORIA CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF EMPORIA MUNICIPAL BUILDING
May 20, 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, May 20, 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
Don Wyatt, Chief

Absent:

Tessie Wilkins, City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVAL

Councilwoman Temple moved to approve the minutes from the Tuesday, May 6, 2014, City Council Regular meeting and May 6, 2014 and May 14, 2014 Budget Work Sessions 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

APPROVAL OF BILLS

A listing of the May 20, 2014 bills was presented to City Council members.

General Fund	\$	1,061,393.85
Utility Fund	\$	339,928.20

Councilwoman Temple moved to approve the May 20, 2014 bills as presented, 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

FINANCIAL AND TAX REPORTS

Honorable W. S. Harris, Jr., City Treasurer provided his report to City Council members. There were no questions regarding his report.

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.

FIRE REPORT

A report was provided by the Emporia Volunteer Fire Department. There were no questions regarding this report.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

C. Butler Barrett, City Attorney had no matters to report to City Council members.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Councilman Ewing 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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

14-13. Southside Virginia Education Center Board of Directors – Unexpired Term (Alton F. Owen, Jr.)

Mr. Thrower stated that this item had been carried over from previous regular meetings of City Council. He reported that Alton F. Owen, Jr. submitted his letter of resignation from the Southside Virginia Education Center Board of Directors effective February 6, 2014 and has an expiration date of July 1, 2015.

Councilwoman Temple nominated Peggy Jones.

Councilman Harris made a motion to appoint Peggy Jones to serve on the Southside Education Center Board of Directors, to fill the unexpired term of Alton F. Owen, Jr., with a term expiration date of July 1, 2015, 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

NEW BUSINESS

14-30. VRS Employer Retirement Contribution Rate Election – Request to Adopt Resolution

Mr. Thrower reported that the language in the 2013 Appropriations Act, Item 468(H), allowed localities to make an election regarding their VRS employer contribution rate every biennium. He also reported that Council must approve one of the following employer contribution rate option for the defined benefit retirement plan in the biennium beginning July 1, 2014:

- 12.27% - This is the rate certified by the VRS Board of Trustees for the FY15-16 biennium; or
- 10.16% - This is the alternate rate, which is the higher of the rate certified by the VRS Board for FY12 or 80% of the VRS Board-certified rate for FY15-16

He recommended Council adopt the resolution approving the 12.27% rate certified by the VRS Board of Trustees for the FY 15-16 biennium.

Councilman Harris stated that the lower percentage rate was not actually a savings in any sense but the short term. Mr. Thrower stated that this was correct.

Councilman Harris made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 14-03 approving the 12.27% certified by the VRS Board of Trustees for the FY15-16 biennium, 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

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Ovis Blunt, Jr., 2-28th Street, Newport News, Virginia 23607 addressed Council stated that he was sentenced to three and a half years for distribution of a controlled substance. He also stated that when he returned home he tried to get his life straight but was still facing some issues. He further stated that he was charged again with possession of marijuana while on probation and sentenced to five years in the state penitentiary. He advised that while he was incarcerated his fines accumulated with interest. He also advised that he felt like the punishments for possession should include some type of rehabilitation program as opposed to serving years in a penitentiary.

Mayor Person stated that she appreciated Mr. Blunt expressing his concerns to Council but as expressed to him in a prior conversation, these laws are regulated by the court system and City Council did not have any jurisdiction over these areas. She advised that the information that was provided to him could be helpful. He advised that he was currently exploring those avenues.

Councilman Harris stated that the laws that Mr. Blunt referenced are not municipal infractions but rather state legal violations that Council does not have the authority to control. He also stated that many of the issues that he had mentioned are things that the Department of Corrections and the General Assembly are reviewing. He further stated that it would be helpful to them to hear of his experiences. He advised that it may be helpful to begin with Delegate Tyler as she is representative for this area in Richmond.

He also stated that he hoped things would get better for him in the future.

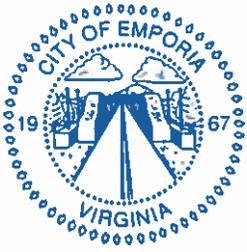
With there being no further comments to come before City Council, Mayor Person closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mary L. Person, Mayor

Lori R. Jarratt, Executive Secretary



CITY OF EMPORIA

Memorandum

May 30, 2014

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Brian S. Thrower, City Manager *BST*

SUBJECT: FY15 Greensville County School System Budget – Request to Adopt Resolution

ITEM # 14-31

The Greensville County School System requested \$8,225,631 in combined local funding for FY15. The City of Emporia and Greensville County have proposed combined local funding of \$7,395,143, which is an increase of 3.31% over FY14. Per the school funding contract, the City's share is \$3,420,258 and Greensville County's share is \$3,974,885.

The confirmed average daily membership (ADM) numbers are as follows:

- 1,039.77 (Emporia)
- 1,286.43 (Greensville County)
- 2,326.20 (Total)

The City's ADM numbers increased by 25.91, while the County's numbers decreased by 20.45.

Recommendation

Attached is the Greensville County School System budget resolution for your consideration.

Attachment

Resolution

Resolution No. _____

Resolution

A Resolution To Set The Dollar Amount For The
Greensville County School Budget For Fiscal Year
2014-2015

WHEREAS, the Greensville County School Board has, on March 10, 2014, adopted a budget for the 2014-2015 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the Code of Virginia, 1950, section 22.1-93, states that the governing body of a municipality shall approve an annual budget for educational purposes by May fifteen or within thirty days of the receipt by the City of the estimates of state funds, whichever shall occur later;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Emporia City Council approves a budget consisting of \$7,395,143.00 in local funds of which \$3,420,258.00 is projected to be the City of Emporia's share.

Adopted: June 3, 2014

City of Emporia, Virginia

By _____
Mary L. Person
Mayor

Attest:

Form Approved:

City Clerk

City Attorney



CITY OF EMPORIA

Memorandum

May 30, 2014

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Brian S. Thrower, City Manager *BST*
SUBJECT: July 1, 2014 Meeting – Request to Cancel
ITEM #: 14-32

As has been done in previous years, I am recommending you cancel your July 1, 2014 meeting due to the July 4th holiday.



CITY OF EMPORIA

Memorandum

May 30, 2014

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Brian S. Thrower, City Manager *BST*
SUBJECT: Planning Commission – Board Appointment
ITEM: 14-33

Effective, June 30, 2014, the four (4) year terms of Woodrow L. Bryant, Jr. and Thomas L. Vaughan will expire on the City's Planning Commission. Both individuals have indicated they wish to be considered for reappointment.

Recommendation

The information is provided to City Council for consideration.

BST/lrj



CITY OF EMPORIA

Memorandum

May 30, 2014

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Brian S. Thrower, City Manager *BST*
SUBJECT: Mosquito Control Commission– Board Appointment
ITEM: 14-34

On June 30, 2014, Doris White's four (4) year term on the Mosquito Control Commission will expire. Mrs. White has indicated she does *not* wish to be considered for reappointment.

Recommendation

The information is provided to City Council for consideration.

BST/lrj



CITY OF EMPORIA

Memorandum

May 30, 2014

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Brian S. Thrower, City Manager *BST*

SUBJECT: Social Services – Board Appointment

ITEM: 14-35

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. Appointments to fill unexpired terms shall not be considered full terms, and such persons shall be eligible to be appointed to two consecutive full terms. No person shall serve more than two consecutive full terms.

As such, on June 30, 2014, my term on the Social Services Board will expire. I am currently filling an unexpired term and wish to be considered for reappointment for a full four year term with an expiration date of June 30, 2018.

Recommendation

The information is provided to City Council for consideration.

BST/lrj



CITY OF EMPORIA

Memorandum

May 30, 2014

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Brian S. Thrower, City Manager *BST*
SUBJECT: Southside Regional Jail Authority– Board Appointment
ITEM: 14-36

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.

As such, the four year terms consisting of myself, Don Wyatt, Chief, and F. Woodrow Harris, Council Member will expire. Each member wishes to be considered for reappointment for an additional four years with a term expiration date of June 30, 2018.

Recommendation

The information is provided to City Council for consideration.

BST/lrj