

**MINUTES**  
**EMPORIA CITY COUNCIL**  
**CITY OF EMPORIA MUNICIPAL BUILDING**  
**May 1, 2012**

*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 1, 2012 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 James C. Saunders  
Councilwoman Doris T. White  
Councilwoman Deborah D. Dixon  
Councilwoman Beverly White  
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple  
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey

Others present:

Samuel W. Adams, III, Mayor  
C. Butler Barrett, City Attorney  
Brian S. Thrower, City Manager  
Steve B. Hall, Assistant City Manager  
Tessie S. Wilkins, City Clerk  
Joyce E. Prince, Commissioner of the Revenue  
Don Wyatt, Chief of Police  
Sheila Cutrell, Financial Director  
Royal Jones, Public Works Director  
W. S. Harris, Jr., Treasurer  
Ken Ryals, Emergency Service Coordinator

**MINUTES APPROVAL**

Councilwoman Temple moved to approve the minutes from the Tuesday, April 17, 2012, Public Hearing and City Council meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Councilwoman D. White, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris                      aye

Councilman James C. Saunders	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Dixon	aye
Councilwoman Beverly White	aye
Councilwoman Dale Temple	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

Councilwoman B. White moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Councilwoman D. White, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	nay
Councilman James C. Saunders	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Dixon	aye
Councilwoman Beverly White	aye
Councilwoman Dale Temple	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	nay

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

***12-27. Cigarette Tax Ordinance – Request to Adopt***

Mayor Adams stated that this item was continued from the April 17, 2012 City Council meeting.

Councilman Saunders made a motion to defer this matter until the June 5, 2012 City Council meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Temple, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilman James C. Saunders	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Dixon	aye
Councilwoman Beverly White	aye
Councilwoman Dale Temple	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye

**NEW BUSINESS**

***12-33. FY12-13 School Administration Budget***

Mr. Thrower reported that the proposed FY12-13 Operating Budget for the Greenville County Public School System is \$29,015,548.00 or a 3.271% increase over FY12.

He stated that in regards to the proposed budget, \$7,327,663 is attributed to the local share; \$1,815,070 is attributed to debt service; the remainder of \$5,512,593 to operations. He also stated that if the City was to fully fund the School Administration’s request, the City would appropriate \$3,474,152 or a 7.0% increase over FY12. He further stated that the City is proposing to budget \$3,182,215 (\$3,529,691 – County’s share), which is an increase of 2.29%

regarding the total local funding of the budget. He advised that the ADM numbers regarding student population have been confirmed by School Administration, which are 1049.11 (Emporia) and 1328.79 (Greensville) for a total of 2,377.90. He also advised that the ADM numbers for the County decreased by 14.51, and the City's ADM numbers decreased by 5.32.

He recommended Council approve the budget resolution.

Councilman Saunders made a motion to approve Resolution No. **12-05** to set the dollar amount for the Greensville County School Budget for FY12-13, seconded by Councilwoman Temple which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilman James C. Saunders	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple	aye
Councilwoman Beverly White	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Dixon	aye

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Councilman Saunders asked if anyone wished to bring a matter before City Council members adhering to the three minute time limitation.

*Mary Woodruff, 24485 Blue Star Hwy*, addressed Council with concerns in why the Foundation had to decline the offers by Garcia Development. She stated that Brian Thrower, City Manager informed them of the interest for Garcia Development to turn the school into apartments and that the Foundation was only being offered the Auditorium. She further stated that the vision for the venue for the City where people from Emporia can go to have social gatherings and banquets than could not be possible. She stated the Auditorium alone could not function without supporting space. She also stated that on March 22, 2012 Barbara Slate, Brian Thrower, City Manager, Steve Hall, Assistant Manager, and herself met and the Foundation laid out the space they needed to operate which would include: the cafeteria for gatherings and banquets, part of the space from the kitchen, hallway space to move people back and forth from the cafeteria and auditorium, and space for restrooms.

She stated that the space offered by Garcia Development killed any possibility that the foundation would have in turning the auditorium into a civic center. She also stated that the Foundation could not accomplish their mission without space to function and signing a lease set forth would spell failure from the beginning.

She reported that it seems evident that the Foundation's 12 year dream to have a venue on Main Street in the heart of the City where programs and social events could enhance quality of life has taken a back seat to 40 plus apartments on Main Street in the heart of Emporia.

She stated that even with the effects of the depression still being felt in 1933, the school board and the board of supervisors took a bold step to build such a great facility. She also stated that the auditorium would serve the community for only 34 years before being abandoned. She further stated that when the developers took over the school facility, the auditorium will no longer be of service to the community without restrooms pretty much ends it life.

She stated that as Foundation prepares to dissolve there corporation they want all of Council to know that we appreciate all of the support that the City has given the Foundation from the very beginning.

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

**\*\*\*Closed Session\*\*\***

Councilman Saunders moved that Closed Session be entered for the purpose of discussing Virginia Code § 2.2 3711 (A) (3) **Disposition of publicly held real property pertaining to the former Emporia Elementary School**. Councilwoman Temple seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilman James C. Saunders	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Dixon	aye
Councilwoman Beverly White	aye
Councilwoman Dale Temple	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye

**\*\*\*Regular Session\*\*\***

Councilwoman Dixon 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 C. Saunders	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Dixon	aye
Councilwoman Beverly White	aye
Councilwoman Dale Temple	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye

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**CERTIFICATION**

Councilwoman Dixon moved to certify the following:

1. only public business matters 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.

Councilman Saunders made the motion to not accept the proposed purchase contract with the developers for the old Elementary School on S. Main Street. Furthermore, he made the motion to procure a contractor to demolish the entire structure unless and individual or group presents a business plan and financing acceptable to City Council, which indicates the intent to purchase all or part of the property, before a demolition agreement is executed between the City and contractor.

Councilwoman Temple seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	nay
Councilman James C. Saunders	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Dixon	nay
Councilwoman Beverly White	aye
Councilwoman Dale Temple	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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Samuel W. Adams, III, Mayor

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Tessie S. Wilkins, City Clerk