

MINUTES
EMPORIA CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF EMPORIA MUNICIPAL BUILDING
October 2, 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, October 2, 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 James C. Saunders, Council Member offering the invocation.

ROLL CALL

The following City Council members were present:

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

Others present: Samuel W. Adams, III, Mayor
C. Butler Barrett, City Attorney
Brian S. Thrower, City Manager
Steven B. Hall, Assistant City Manager
Lori Jarratt, Executive Secretary

Absent:
Tessie S. Wilkins, City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVAL

Councilwoman Temple moved to approve the minutes from the Tuesday, September 18, 2012 and Thursday, September 20, 2012, City Council Regular and Special Meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Councilwoman D. White, which passed as follows:

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

Councilwoman Beverly White	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye

AGENDA APPROVAL

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Mayor Adams stated that in early 2011, the Navy issued a request for proposals (RFP) for localities interested in being considered for this project. He also stated at the March 9, 2011, meeting of the City and County Liaison committee this matter was discussed. He reported that the local Airport Commission was then given the authority to submit a response of interest to the request of proposals with the clear understanding that should the Navy; after preliminary evaluations expressed an interest in considering the use of the Emporia Greenville airport certain conditions would be met. He also reported there were both announced and unannounced flyovers and simulation runs to allow the Council, Board of Supervisors, and the public to gauge the noise impact of the program in our community. He further reported that additional discussions will be held to define the scope of activity, the maximum days of use, the duration of use, the number of flights, and etc. of the program. He stated that following these discussions a determination of interest affirmative votes of the County Board of Supervisors and City Council would be necessary for any contract to enter into.

He stated that the Navy has indicated that they do not intend to conduct these test flights in any areas in which they are not welcomed. He stated that the City and County's interest in evaluating such an arrangement stems from the potential multi million dollar savings to the City and County taxpayers that will be used for repaving costs and fire suppression crash truck equipment that could be purchased and paid for by the Navy. He further stated that in the current economic environment dismissal of a cost savings of this magnitude would be irresponsible by the City and County.

He reported that the City and County are now at a point in which the Navy has concluded its environmental review of the areas under consideration. He also reported that it appears that Wallops Island and Emporia Greenville are the two major airports being evaluated. He further reported that the Navy has not yet announced a preference or asked to meet and develop an agreement for use of either airfield. He stated that Wallops Island is closer to the existing naval

base and field and they already have scientific and military applications on site and would require less costly upgrades to render it usable for this purpose. He also stated that this is in a more isolated area, and it appears that this airport was be favorable, but the Navy has not given any indication of this to date.

He stated that the questions and concerns of those residents near the airport are understandable and in many cases are shared by both City and County officials. He also stated that until the City knows that the Navy is interested in pursuing an agreement with Emporia and Greenville for use of the Emporia-Greenville Airport, the City would not begin discussions with the Navy.

Joey Doyle, 1626 James River Junction, addressed Council by thanking them for the opportunity to be heard. He stated that he live seven-tenths of a mile away from the airport. He also stated that this is a group of concerned citizens. He further stated that their first concern is the noise. He stated that in September of 2011 the Farm Bureau Board of Directors signed a resolution not to support the touch and go landing project. He stated that they met with the Airport Commission and received vague information when question were asked, and that the noise impact would be minimum. He also stated that at the September meeting with the Navy their report showed that the noise level would be significant. He further stated that a public comment portion should be added to the Airport Commission meeting. He stated that he spoke with Mr. Franklin and Mr. Griggs and asked who does the Airport Commission report to and they told him to no one. He reported that a memorandum dated in 1976 stated that the "Commission shall submit to the joint governing bodies all proposals for rent, lease and sale of the airport property, and the said joint governing bodies shall approve and execute all instruments of lease, rental, acquisition or sale of the said airport property."

Jessie O'Neary, 1912 Sunnyside Road, addressed Council with concerns about the Navy touch and go landing project affecting there property value. He also stated that City Council should adopt a resolution in opposition of the Touch and Go.

Ricky Harrell, 24247 Green Plain Road, addressed Council with concerns about the Navy touch and go landing project polluting the community and affecting the citizen health.

Lori Poole, 4431 Southampton Parkway, addressed Council by stating that the Navy touch and go landing project should not inconvenience the citizen's everyday life.

Janet Whitehead, 4281 Southampton Parkway, addressed Council with concerns about the noise and the impact that the Navy touch and go landing project will have on the environment.

Clint Slate, 103 Beech Tree Lane, addressed Council with concerns regarding the October 5, 2012 deadline for public comment about this issue. He also stated that he was concerns about the Airport Commission role in this process.

Mayor Adams stated that the October 5, 2012 deadline was for Navy purposes. He also stated that citizens would be able to voice their opinion at the public hearings on this matter. He further stated that the City Council and Board of Supervisors will have the final say on the matter.

Scott Lifsey, 4955 Little Lowground Road, addressed Council with concerns about the safety and noise issues associated with the Navy touch and go landing project. He stated that Council and the Board of Supervisor should demand flight demonstrations by a full compliment of aircraft during both day and night time hours so that the public could get the full benefit of navy flight operation impact.

Christian Rodriguez, addressed Council with concerns about safety issues and noise associated with this project.

Mayor Adams stated if this issue moves forward citizens would have ample opportunity to weigh in on the issue.

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 Sections § 2.2 3711 (A) (5) **Discussion concerning a prospective business and (A) (7) Legal matters pertaining to the Citizens National Bank Building and Virginia Pork Festival**, seconded by Councilwoman Dixon, which passed as follows:

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

*****Regular Session*****

Councilwoman Dixon moved that the meeting be returned to Regular Session. Councilman Saunders seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

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

CERTIFICATION

Councilman Saunders 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.

Councilwoman Dixon seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

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

Councilman Saunders made the motion authorizing staff to advertise and conduct a public hearing on the proposal to issue a general obligation bond to finance the Citizens National Bank Building project at City Council's November 20, 2012 meeting. Furthermore, he made the motion authorizing a joint meeting with the Emporia Redevelopment and Housing Authority at City Council's November 20, 2012 meeting; Councilwoman Carey seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

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

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