



CITY OF EMPORIA

AGENDA
EMPORIA CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2016 - 6:30 P.M.

OPENING PRAYER

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 16, 2016 ~ Regular Meeting

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Joseph Day - Police Officer

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

16-55. Water Discoloration

NEW BUSINESS

16-56. BZA Item 16-01 - Zoning Appeal - Request by Mayor Person and Council Member Harris

PUBLIC COMMENT

CLOSED SESSION

**MINUTES
EMPORIA CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF EMPORIA MUNICIPAL BUILDING
August 16, 2016**

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, August 16, 2016 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
Councilman James E. Ewing, III
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple
Councilwoman Carol Mercer
Councilwoman Doris T. White
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch

Others present:

Mary L. Person, Mayor
C. Butler Barrett, City Attorney
Brian S. Thrower, City Manager
Dr. Edwin C. Daley, Assistant City Manager
Tessie S. Wilkins, City Clerk
W. S. Harris, Jr., Treasurer
Joyce E. Prince, Commissioner of the Revenue
Ricky Pinksaw, Chief of Police
Royal Jones, Public Works Director

Absent:

MINUTES APPROVAL

Councilwoman Temple moved to approve the minutes from the Tuesday, August 2, 2016, Regular meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Mercer, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilman James E. Ewing	aye

Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye
Councilwoman Carol Mercer	aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch	aye

APPROVAL OF BILLS

A listing of the August 16, 2016 bills was presented to City Council members.

General Fund	\$	1,899,628.28
Utility Fund	\$	425,285.99

Councilwoman Mercer moved to approve the August 16, 2016 bills as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Carey, which passed as follows:

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

Ricky Pinksaw, 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 with the addition of a presentation of **RAM from Elsie Brown**, seconded by Councilwoman Carey, which passed as follows:

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

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Mayor Person congratulated Mr. and Mrs. Carey on their 50th wedding anniversary.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

16-34. Boards and Commission – Various Term Expirations

Mayor Person asked if anyone wished to make a nomination concerning the Southside Virginia Education Center Board of Directors.

Councilman Harris nominated Jonathan Ewing to serve a four-year term on the Southside Virginia Education Center Board of Directors.

Councilman Harris made a motion to appoint Jonathan Ewing to serve a four-year term on the Southside Virginia Education Center Board of Directors, seconded by Councilwoman Lynch, which passed as follows:

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

NEW BUSINESS

16-41. Lease Purchase Financing Resolutions – Request to Approve

Mr. Thrower stated that in order to finance the purchase of two police vehicles, one emergency services vehicle, one sheriff's vehicle, one code enforcement vehicle, one forklift, and one tractor, the City solicited proposals from all the local banks as well as from financing companies. He also stated that the City received two proposals. He further stated that BB&T

Governmental Finance offered the lowest interest rates. He reported that the financing for the police vehicles will not exceed \$76,000.00 and will be for a three-year term at an interest rate of 1.51%. He also reported that the financing for the emergency service's vehicle, the sheriff's vehicle, and the code enforcement vehicle will not exceed \$76,000.00 and will be for a five-year term at an interest rate of 1.67%. He further reported that the financing for the forklift, and the tractor will not exceed \$56,000.00 and will be for a seven-year term at an interest rate of 1.78%. He stated that the bank requested that a resolution approving the financing terms be approved by City Council.

He recommended that Council approve the financing resolution and authorize him to enter into a lease purchase financing agreement with BB&T Governmental Finance for the purchase of the vehicles and equipment.

Councilwoman Temple made a motion to adopt **Resolutions No. 16-06 ~ 16-08** authoring the City Manager to enter into a lease purchase financing agreement with BB&T Governmental Finance for the purchase of the vehicles and equipment, seconded by Councilwoman Mercer, which passed as follows:

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

16-42. South Main Street Project Loan Funds – Appropriation Ordinance

Mr. Thrower stated that items numbered 16-42 through 16-53 are all appropriation ordinances carrying unspent funds from FY16 into the current fiscal year. He also stated that the funds pertained to the following project programs:

16-42. South Main Street Project Loan Funds – Appropriation Ordinance

16-43. Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) – Appropriation Ordinance

16-44. Victim Witness Program – Appropriation Ordinance

16-45. Sexual Assault Program – Appropriation Ordinance

16-46. Greenville Memorial Foundation Grant – Appropriation Ordinance

16-47. Paving – Appropriation Ordinance

16-48. Drug Seizure Fund – Appropriation Ordinance

16-49. Fire Program Funds – Appropriation Ordinance

16-50. Belfield Business District Project Grant Funds – Appropriation Ordinance

16-51. Owner Contribution – Belfield Business District Project – Appropriation Ordinance

16-52. Water Treatment Plant Upgrade – Appropriation Ordinance

16-53. Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade – Appropriation Ordinance

He recommended that Council approve all 12 appropriation ordinances relating to the above mention projects.

Councilman Ewing made a motion to adopt **Ordinances No. 16-14 through 16-25** appropriating the unspent funds for the above mention projects, seconded by Councilman Harris abstaining to Ordinance No. 16-17, which passed as follows:

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

16-54. Emporia Redevelopment & Housing Authority – Term Expiration (Carolyn S. Carey)

Mr. Thrower stated that on August 19, 2016, Mrs. Carolyn Carey’s four-year term on the City of Emporia’s Redevelopment & Housing Authority Board will expire. He also stated that Mrs. Carey indicated that she does wish to be considered for reappointment.

Councilwoman Temple moved to approve that Council Member Carolyn Carey be reappointed to the City of Emporia’s Redevelopment & Housing Authority Board to serve an additional four-year term, seconded by Councilman Harris, which passed as follows:

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

RAM Presentation by Elsie Brown

Ms. Brown stated that she was in attendance to talk about RAM, which is a Remote Area Medical Clinic that provides general medical, dental, vision, preventive care and education. She also stated that RAM prevent pain and alleviate suffering by providing free, quality health care to those in need. She further stated that RAM was open to all citizens of the U.S. She stated that RAM was mostly known in Wise County, but she is proposing for Emporia to host a RAM event named Southside RAM to serve approximately 2,000 people. She also stated that the Southside RAM would include communities from Suffolk to Amelia to Patrick County so it will not be financially harsh for the Emporia area. She further stated that a RAM event cost approximately \$30,000.00, and the size depended on the donations and efforts put into the event. She stated

that she was asking all localities involved to contribute \$1,500.00 or more. She also stated that she would be requesting help from organizations and businesses. She further stated that she would provide more information about the Southside RAM to City Council members in the near further.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Mr. James Given, 607 Edgewood Lane, Emporia, VA, addressed Council stating that his water from his faucet has been coming out brown for over a month. He also stated that he contacted EPA in Norfolk, and they believed there is bacteria build up in the pipe but did not know the type of bacteria. He further stated that Linwood Pope also took a sample of his water to be tested in Richmond, but the results are not back yet. He also stated that with his current health issues he was not looking forward to compounding those issues also not knowing what type of bacteria is actually there.

Mr. Thrower stated that a press release was issued in this matter that the City has had discoloration issues for the past few weeks. The Public Utility staff is looking into correcting the problem. He also stated that the issue was iron and magnesium sediment in the water. He further stated that the City continues to meet all states and federal regulations. He advised Council that Mr. Pope did take a water sample from Mr. Given's home and sent it to Virginia Health Department in Richmond to be tested. He also advised Council that the water is still being tested every day in the plant and continues to meet all states and federal regulations and that the water is safe to drink.

Councilman Ewing stated that this issue has been going on now greater than three weeks, and it has been addressed by the press release, however, the residents are concerned about the health of the water. He also stated that he could not imagine the frustration that the resident are going through especially having to pay for water. He further stated that he would like to have a meeting with Public Utility staff to put a plan in place to address this issue.

Mr. Thrower stated that he would have the Public Utility staff to attend the next Council meeting September 6, 2016.

Councilwoman Carey stated that having a problem with your water is a big concern and should be address quickly.

Mr. Thrower stated that the upgrades to the water plant have increased the force of the water running through the pipes, which is pushing more iron and magnesium sediment through the waterlines, causing the water discoloration. He also stated that water lines are being flushed every day. He further stated that the staff also added more chlorine to the water as recommended by the Health Department.

Councilman Ewing asked Mr. Thrower if he had been notified of how long the discoloration will last if it is coming from the plant upgrades.

Mr. Thrower stated that he was not notified when the discoloration will stop.

Councilman Harris stated that the City could not address the problem if they do not know the cause of it. He also stated that he realized this happens in a lot of places, and that it's been hot, but he thinks the coincidental timing of this so soon after the water-treatment plant upgrade is highly suspicious. He further stated that flushing the lines with two old tanks that are likely to have sediment could be a factor and should be tested as well. He advised that staff should have a meeting to update officials and the citizens.

Mr. W. Harris, Treasurer, advised Council that he is being confronted by this issue daily with customers stating that they cannot drink the water and are afraid to use it.

Councilman Ewing stated that if the citizens are not happy with the discoloration of the water that they are paying for, then it is Council obligation to act.

Mayor Person suggested that Council holds a special meeting Tuesday, August 23, 2016 to assure the citizens that Council was looking forward to finding a solution for the water issues.

It was the consensus of Council to hold a special meeting Tuesday, August 23, 2016.

Mayor Person stated that the citizens need to be ensured that Council is doing all they can to make sure their drinking water is safe.

Chief Pinksaw, 310 Budd Street, Emporia, VA, addressed Council inviting them to Community Night Out at ERGA Park from 6pm to 9pm to build a relationship with the community.

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

*****CLOSED SESSION*****

Councilwoman White moved that Closed Session be entered for the purpose of discussing Virginia Code Sections § 2.2 3711 (A) (7) **Legal matter requiring the advice of Counsel and briefings by staff pertaining to City/County contractual issues**, seconded by Councilwoman Mercer, which passed as follows:

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

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

Councilwoman Mercer moved that the meeting be returned to Regular Session. Councilwoman Carey seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilman James E. Ewing	aye

Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye
Councilwoman Carol Mercer	aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch	aye

CERTIFICATION

Councilwoman Mercer moved to certify the following:

1. only public business matters are 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 Harris made the motion authorizing the Mayor to execute the agreement by and among Greensville County, the City of Emporia, and the Greensville/Emporia Department of Social Services for a satellite kiosk facility, Councilwoman Carey seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

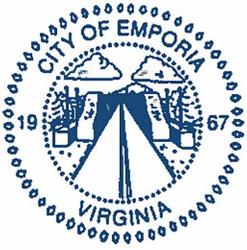
Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilman James E. Ewing	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye
Councilwoman Carol Mercer	aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Lynch	aye

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mary L. Person, Mayor

Tessie S. Wilkins, CMC
City Clerk



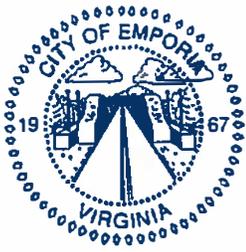
CITY OF EMPORIA

Memorandum

August 19, 2016

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Brian S. Thrower, City Manager *BST*
SUBJECT: Water Discoloration
ITEM #: 16-55

As requested at your August 16th meeting, City staff is in attendance to brief you on the water discoloration issues we have been experiencing recently.



CITY OF EMPORIA

Memorandum

September 2, 2016

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

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

SUBJECT: BZA Item 16-01 – Zoning Appeal – Request by Mayor Person and Council Member Harris

ITEM #: 16-56

Mayor Person and Council Member Harris requested this item be placed on the agenda.