

**MINUTES
EMPORIA CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF EMPORIA MUNICIPAL BUILDING
September 4, 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, September 4, 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 Doris T. White
Councilwoman Deborah D. Dixon
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple

Others present:

Samuel W. Adams, III, Mayor
Brian S. Thrower, City Manager
C. Butler Barrett, City Attorney
Tessie S. Wilkins, City Clerk
Don Wyatt, Chief of Police

Absent:

Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey
Councilwoman Beverly White
Steve B. Hall, Assistant City Manager

MINUTES APPROVAL

Councilwoman Temple moved to approve the minutes from the Tuesday, September 4, 2012 Regular City Council meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Dixon, 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 L. Dale Temple 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 Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Deborah D. Dixon	aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple	aye

NEW BUSINESS

12-70. Southside Regional Jail Authority (SRJA) Refinancing – Request to Approve Guarantee Resolution

Mr. Thrower reported the results of the RFP that was issued for refinancing of the Authority's 2005 Bond. He stated that the recommended proposal was received from SunTrust with an eleven year fixed rate of 1.96%. He also stated that the refinancing proposal is expected to save the Authority approximately \$44,400 per year.

He recommended that Council approve the resolution approving a guarantee agreement with the SRJA.

Councilman Saunders made a motion to adopt **Resolution No. 12-12** approving a guaranty agreement with the Southside Regional Jail Authority, seconded by Councilman Harris, 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 L. Dale Temple	aye

12-71. Enterprise Zone Program – Request to Approve Resolution Authorizing Submittal of Application

Mr. Thrower reported that the City of Emporia and Greensville County are in the process of developing an application for submission to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for the designation of a joint Emporia-Greensville Enterprise Zone program. He stated that the applications are due by October 1, 2012.

He recommended that Council adopt the resolution authorizing submittal of the joint enterprise zone application.

Councilwoman Temple made a motion to adopt **Resolution No. 12-13** authorizing submittal of the joint enterprise zone application, seconded by Councilwoman Dixon, 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 L. Dale Temple	aye

12-72. VCU Massey Cancer Center – Request for Permit Fee Waiver

Mr. Thrower reported that VCU Massey Cancer Center rented an office at 332 S. Main Street. He stated that VCU Massey Cancer Center is requesting the City to waive the \$25 zoning compliance permit fee required to occupy the building.

Councilman Saunders made a motion to waive the \$25.00 zoning compliance permit fee required to occupy the building at 332 S. Main Street, 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 L. Dale Temple	aye

Councilman Harris inquired if the City was going to revisit its policy for situations like this so it can be handle by Administration.

12-73. Carrying the Cross Ministry – Request for Permit Fee Waiver

Mr. Thrower stated that Carrying the Cross Ministry was requesting the City to waive the building permit fees associated with the planned improvements to its building. He also stated that according to the City’s Building Official, the permit fees are \$624.24. He further stated that Mr. Randy Pearce, Building Official, stated that to his knowledge that he doesn’t know of any other churches that has made repairs, and or renovations to request a fee waiver.

Mayor Adams reported that this item be delayed until the City Administration revisit the permit fee waiver policy. Mayor Adams stated that Carrying the Cross Ministry should go ahead and pay the fees at this time if they intend to go forward with the work and that Council may decide to rebate the fees to the church at a later date.

12-74. Halifax Street Wall Repair – Appropriation Ordinance

Mr. Thrower reported that during FY12, the City entered into an agreement with Grizzard Construction Company, Inc. for repairs to the walls on Halifax Street after the demolition project was completed. He stated that a portion of the work was not completed prior to the close of the fiscal year and therefore must be paid for from the FY13 budget. He also

stated that there were funds remaining in the FY12 budget to cover the cost of this work which totals \$10,517.00. He further stated that City Administration requests that Council re-appropriate the funds remaining from the FY12 budget into the FY13 budget to cover the cost of this work.

He recommended that Council adopt the ordinance.

Councilwoman Temple made a motion to adopt **Ordinance No. 12-23** appropriating \$10,517.00 from the Unappropriated Funds Balance of the General Fund for repairs to the walls on Halifax Street, 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 L. Dale Temple	aye

12-75. Farmers Market Trailhead Improvements Project – Appropriation Ordinance

Mr. Thrower stated that the City entered into an agreement with B & B Consultants, Inc. for engineering work related to the Farmers Market Trailhead Improvements Project in early June. He also stated that the work was not completed prior to the close of the fiscal year and therefore must be paid from the FY13 budget. He further stated that there were funds remaining in the FY12 budget to cover the cost of this work which totals \$9,950.00. He stated that the City Administration request that Council re-appropriate the funds remaining from the FY12 budget into the FY13 budget to cover the cost of work to be done.

He recommended that Council adopt this ordinance.

Councilman Saunders made a motion to adopt **Ordinance No. 12-24** to appropriate the sum of \$9,950.00 from the Unappropriated Fund Balance of the General Fund for Engineering Services for the Farmers' Market Trailhead Improvements Project, 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 L. Dale Temple	aye

12-76. Emergency Services Communications – Appropriation Ordinance

Mr. Thrower reported that the City had placed an order for a telephone desk set for the Emergency Operations Center in FY12. He also reported that the telephone desk set was not delivered prior to the close of the fiscal year and therefore must be paid from the FY13 budget. He further reported that that City also needed to purchase another radio frequency for the emergency communications. He stated that there were funds remaining in the FY12 budget to cover the telephone desk set and the cost of another radio frequency. He also stated that the City Administration request that Council re-appropriate funds in the amount of \$3,889.00 remaining from the FY12 budget into the FY13 budget to cover the cost of these items.

He recommended that Council adopt the ordinance.

Councilman Saunders made a motion to adopt **Ordinance No. 12-25** to appropriate the sum of \$3,889.00 from the Unappropriated Fund Balance of the General Fund for the Purchase of a telephone desk set and a radio frequency, seconded by Councilwoman Dixon, 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 L. Dale Temple	aye

12-77. Fire Program Funds – Appropriation Ordinance

Mr. Thrower reported that the City annually receives grant funds from the Virginia Department of Fire programs for the Emporia Volunteer Fire Department (EVFD). He stated that the Virginia Department of Fire Programs allows the City to carry the unspent funds over from one fiscal year to the next. He also stated that the City has \$117,969.18 in carry over funds remaining. He further stated that Council will need to re-appropriate \$117,969.18 into the FY13 Operating Budget so that the EVFD can utilize these grant funds.

He recommended that Council adopt the ordinance.

Councilwoman Temple made a motion to adopt **Ordinance No. 12-26** to appropriate the sum of \$117,969.18 in previously received grant funds from the Virginia Department of Fire Programs from the unappropriated fund balance of the General Fund for Fire Programs, 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 L. Dale Temple	aye

12-78. Resolution Supporting Restoration of State Funding for Aid to Localities – Request to Adopt

Mr. Thrower reported that the Commonwealth of Virginia has crippled Virginia localities over the last several years with severe budget cuts to state mandated and high priority local programs and functions including public education, public safety, health and human services, and constitutional officers. He stated that the Virginia Municipal League has requested each locality to adopt a resolution and send a letter to Governor McDonnell requesting that he submit a budget amendment in the next legislative session to restore the FY13 budget cut to localities and eliminate it altogether in FY14.

He recommended that Council adopt the resolution and authorize Mayor Adams to send the letter.

Councilwoman Temple made a motion to adopt **Resolution No. 12-14** supporting restoration of State Funding for aid to localities and authorizing Mayor Adams to send the letter, seconded by Councilwoman Dixon, 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 L. Dale Temple	aye

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

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

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