

**MINUTES**  
**EMPORIA CITY COUNCIL**  
**CITY OF EMPORIA MUNICIPAL BUILDING**  
**February 5, 2008**

*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.*

**INVOCATION**

Emporia City Council held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, February 5, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building. Mayor Adams presided over the meeting with Council President Nancy B. Squire offering the invocation.

**ROLL CALL**

Upon roll call, the following City Council members indicated their presence:

Councilwoman Nancy B. Squire  
Councilman John R. White  
Councilman F. Woodrow Harris  
Councilman James C. Saunders  
Councilwoman Doris T. White  
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey  
Councilman Ned V. Lankford

Others present: C. Butler Barrett, City Attorney  
Sam Brown, Sheriff  
Jean V. Whiting, City Clerk

Absent: Brian S. Thrower, Interim City Manager

**MINUTES APPROVAL**

The Minutes of the January 15, 2008 Regular Meeting were distributed to City Council members. Councilman White moved to approve the minutes as presented. Councilman Saunders seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

Councilwoman Nancy B. Squire	aye
Councilman John R. White	aye
Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilman James C. Saunders	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye
Councilman Ned V. Lankford	aye

## **AGENDA APPROVAL**

Mayor Adams requested that item **3806. Prohibition Against Tethering of Dogs** be moved from *Tabled Items* to New Business as item **08-11. Prohibition Against Tethering of Dogs**. He also requested that item **08-12. Personnel Matter** be added to the Agenda.

Councilman Harris moved to approve the Agenda as amended. Councilwoman Carey seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

Councilwoman Nancy B. Squire	aye
Councilman John R. White	aye
Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilman James C. Saunders	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye
Councilman Ned V. Lankford	aye

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### ***08-08. Proclamation – Black History Month***

Mayor Adams stated that Debra Brown, President of the local NAACP Chapter, composed the following Black History Month Proclamation for City Council’s review and approval:

#### **Proclamation**

#### **Black History Month**

**Whereas**, February is recognized nationally as Black History Month and Dr. Carter B. Woodson, a distinguished African American author, editor, publisher and historian, is the acclaimed “Father of Black History Month”. Dr. Woodson believed that African Americans should know their past in order to participate in the affairs of the country; and

**Whereas**, Black History Month acknowledges both past and present African and African-American icons whose courage, sacrifices, and relentless efforts have sought to improve the quality of life for all in the name of justice, honor, and freedom; and

**Whereas**, such noted African-Americans icons as Ida B. Wells, the renowned writer, teacher, women’s suffragist and anti-lynching crusader; and Rosa Parks, whose famous decision to remain in her seat symbolized the spirit of the Civil Rights Movement, have made imperative contributions to our society; and notable local African Americans as Joseph C. Bond, a mortician, was the first African American to serve on Emporia City Council and a founder of the local NAACP branch; Dr. Willie Joyner, a physician and entrepreneur, owned a medical building, a movie theater, and rental properties; Dr. Joseph Macklin, a pharmacist, was the first African American druggist to manage his own business; Charles Harris, a mechanic, was the first African American to own and operate a service station; Edward Westwood Wyatt, an advocate for improved school conditions for African Americans and a zealous educator, legacy lives on as the first African American High School (E. W. Wyatt High School) was named in his honor; Charlie Stephen Thomas, a businessman and a founder of the local NAACP branch, operated a grocery store across from Greensville County Training School to provide snacks for the

students, since there was no cafeteria at that time; Etta Revis, a homemaker, provided hot meals and shelter for local teachers at R. R. Moton Elementary School; Elizabeth R. Allison, Reverend and Mrs. Willie Curley, Sr. , Annie Green, and Helen Kindred provided shelter and meals for the teachers on the North side of town; George C. Williams, a local farmer, purchased a bus to transport students and teachers to school that resided in the county; and

**Whereas**, it is essential to learn from the many lessons of history from world renowned leaders as well as the contributions of local African Americans to continue the pursuit of our Founding Fathers' visions of liberty, justice and equality for all;

**Now, Therefore, I**, Samuel W. Adams, III, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Emporia do hereby proclaim February 2008 as Black History Month in the City of Emporia.

Councilman White moved to approve the proclamation as presented. Councilwoman White seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

Councilwoman Nancy B. Squire	aye
Councilman John R. White	aye
Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilman James C. Saunders	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye
Councilman Ned V. Lankford	aye

***08-09. Loan Proceeds – Appropriation Ordinance***

Mayor Adams stated that the concept of taking out a loan to pay for an integrated financial management system and to extend the water main under Interstate 95 had been previously approved by City Council members. He also stated that the water main project had not been completed during Fiscal Year 2006 – 2007 as anticipated. He further stated that the final draw on the loan had been made and that loan proceeds for the project needed to be appropriated into the Fiscal Year 2007 – 2008 budget.

He requested that City Council members to review and approve the following ordinance:

**Ordinance**

**An Ordinance To Appropriate The Sum Of \$17,778  
In Loan Proceeds For The Completion Of The  
Water Main Project**

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the City of Emporia, Virginia as follows:

1. That the sum of \$17,778 in loan proceeds be, and the same hereby is, appropriated into the City's Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2007-2008.
2. Said appropriation shall be reflected in the 2007-2008 Operating Budget as the sum of \$17,778 in Loan Proceeds, and the sum of \$17,778 appropriated to Utility Fund Expenditures, Account 41620-8211 New Lines & Meters.
3. The City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to do all things necessary to implement this ordinance.
4. This ordinance shall be in effect on and after its adoption.

Councilman White moved to approve the ordinance as presented. Councilman Lankford seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

Councilwoman Nancy B. Squire	aye
Councilman John R. White	aye
Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilman James C. Saunders	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye
Councilman Ned V. Lankford	aye

***08-10. City Code – Article III §38-68. Use and Discharge.***

Mayor Adams reported that it had been brought to the Administration's attention that the State law references in the City Code – Article III §38-68. Use and Discharge had been repealed. He requested that City Council members review and approve the following ordinance reflecting the updated references:

**Ordinance**

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND A CERTAIN SECTION  
OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF EMPORIA, VIRGINIA

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Emporia, Virginia, in regular session that:

State law reference for Section 50-26 of the Code shall be amended and re-enacted to read as follows:

Sec. 50-26. Loitering, assembling or collecting of persons on streets and sidewalks.

The loitering, assembling, or collecting of persons on the streets and sidewalks in such manner as to block and obstruct free passage shall be unlawful. Should any person neglect or refuse to leave such place on being notified or required to do so by a uniformed police officer, or other officer, he shall be guilty of a further violation.

(Code 1972, § 14-40)

State law references: Prohibiting loitering, Code of Virginia, § ~~15.1-33.4~~. §15.2-926

Councilwoman Squire moved to approve the ordinance as presented. Councilwoman Carey seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

Councilwoman Nancy B. Squire	aye
Councilman John R. White	aye
Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilman James C. Saunders	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye
Councilman Ned V. Lankford	aye

***08-11. Prohibition Against Tethering of Dogs***

Councilman Harris made the motion to have item ***08-11. Prohibition Against Tethering of Dogs*** stricken from Tabled Items and permanently stricken from the Agenda. Councilman Saunders seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

Councilwoman Nancy B. Squire	aye
Councilman John R. White	aye
Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilman James C. Saunders	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye
Councilman Ned V. Lankford	aye

**08-12. Personnel Matter**

Councilman Harris made the motion to authorize the execution of employment of Mr. Thrower as city manager and the execution of an employment agreement specifying such conditions, retroaction February 1, 2008 by Mayor Adams. Councilman Saunders seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

Councilwoman Nancy B. Squire	aye
Councilman John R. White	aye
Councilman F. Woodrow Harris	aye
Councilman James C. Saunders	aye
Councilwoman Doris T. White	aye
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey	aye
Councilman Ned V. Lankford	aye

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Adams asked if there was anyone who wished to bring a matter before City Council members adhering to the three (3) minutes per-person speaking limitation.

*Ms. Debra Brown*, President of the local NAACP expressed gratitude to City Council members for accepting the Black History Month Proclamation as she had presented. She stated that she had several concerns regarding problems within Emporia's Police Department. She requested to meet with the city manager and Chief of Police to discuss concerns. She also stated that she contacted Mr. Johnson of the Justice Department to address concerns as well.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

---

Samuel W. Adams, III, Mayor

---

Jean V. Whiting, City Clerk