

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Proposed FY09 General and Utility Fund Budgets

Emporia City Council held a Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 3, 2008, 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 hearing.

The following City Council members were present:

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

Others present: Samuel W. Adams, III, Mayor
C. Butler Barrett, City Attorney
Steven B. Hall, Assistant City Manager
Brian S. Thrower, City Manger
Jean V. Whiting, City Clerk

Public Hearing #1 – Proposed FY09 General and Utility Fund Budgets

Mr. Thrower reported that the proposed FY09 General Fund Budget was \$15,966,006.00, a 2.1 percent decrease over last fiscal year. He also reported that overall debt service was 3.74 percent of the budgeted amount. He further reported that highlights of the proposed budget included, but was not limited to, the following:

- Real estate tax rate proposed to remain at \$.83 per \$100.00 valuation with a projected 98 percent collection rate (possible alternatives are being considered to lower the tax rate to help counterbalance property assessment increases)
- Increase the City's local funding to Greensville County Public School System by \$210,072.00 from last fiscal year (6.9 percent increase), reflecting a total of \$3,259,837.00
- Decrease health care premiums by 2 percent (two options are being provided to employees)
- Freeze the following three City positions:
 - ~ 2 police officer positions
 - ~ 1 equipment operator II position

He stated that the proposed FY09 Utility Fund Budget was \$2,480,400.00, a 4.6 percent decrease over last fiscal year. He also stated that the overall debt service was 31% of the total Utility Fund Budget. He further stated that the loss of major industrial water users negatively impacted the budget.

Mr. Thrower reported that some of the highlights of the proposed FY09 Utility Fund Budget were as follows:

- Increase water and sewer rates by 10 percent each
- Increase water tap fees from \$1,000.00 to \$1,500.00
- Increase sewer tap fees from \$1,000.00 to \$2,000.00
- Increase multiunit facility water connection fees from \$100.00 to \$500.00 per unit

- Increase multiunit facility sewer connection fees from \$100.00 to \$1,000.00 per unit

He also reported that, effective December 1, 2008, all City employees would receive a 2 percent COLA increase. He further reported that, effective December 1, 2008, all City Constitutional Officers would receive a 2 percent increase from the State Compensation Board.

He stated that adoption of the City's proposed budget was slated for June 17, 2008.

Ms. Stacy Gray of the Emporia-Greenville Boys and Girls Club (EGBGC) provided City Council members with information concerning EGBGC's current electrical and propane costs. She requested that City Council members provide an additional funding contribution in the amount of \$2,000.00 to EGBGC's General Operating Fund. She stated that the funds would be used towards efforts to reduce energy costs within the EGBGC facility.

Councilman Saunders asked Ms. Gray if the EGBGC's electrical and propane gas figures, provided to City Council members earlier that day, were based on a 2008 calendar year only.

Ms. Gray advised Councilman Saunders that the figures provided to City Council members were based on August 2007 to May 2008 figures.

Councilman Saunders asked Ms. Gray if anything could be done to prevent heat from rising within the gymnasium portion of the EGBGC to maintain more comfortable temperatures for staff and students.

Ms. Gray advised Councilman Saunders that parachutes were installed during the summer of 2007 to assist in maintaining heat in the lower portion of the facility. She also advised him that temperatures within the gymnasium had changed considerably since the parachutes were installed. She further advised him that air conditioning units were installed and repaired within the facility and that the desired temperature of 72 degrees was being maintained.

She stated that the following energy-saving projects will be implemented within the EGBGC :

- Installation of weather stripping around exterior gymnasium doors and the basement (approximately \$150.00)
- Replacement of gymnasium windows (approximately \$12,380.00)

Ms. Gloria Robinson, Board President of the EGBGC, advised City Council members that a large portion of the EGBGC's budget had been utilized for cost-saving energy measures. She also advised them that it was difficult to maintain comfortable temperatures within the facility's gymnasium and that children are often present when temperatures are not comfortable. She further advised them that the children are willing to endure the temperatures because they want to be there.

Councilman Saunders asked Ms. Gray to provide the number of students currently being serviced at the EGBGC.

Ms. Gray advised City Council members that 215 children were currently serviced during the school year program and an estimated 125 were expected to participate in the summer camp program (June 16, 2008 – August 1, 2008). She also advised him that approximately 51 percent of EGBGC's enrollment was composed of Greenville County residents and approximately 49 percent were City residents.

Mayor Adams asked Ms. Robinson if costs associated with sufficiently heating and cooling the facility's gymnasium was potentially wasted costs due to the gymnasium's size.

Ms. Robinson advised Mayor Adams that, due to inoperable heating and air conditioning within individual classrooms, accommodations were currently being focused on the gymnasium area.

Ms. Gray advised City Council members that the installation of new energy-saver/double-paned windows within the facility will make a drastic difference in retaining warmth during winter months and cooler temperatures during summer months.

Ms. Robinson advised City Council members that installation of the new windows will be cost-free, as Southampton County Correctional Facility will provide the labor.

With there being no comments to come before City Council, Mayor Adams declared the public hearing closed.

Samuel W. Adams, III, Mayor

Jean V. Whiting, City Clerk

**MINUTES
EMPORIA CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF EMPORIA MUNICIPAL BUILDING
JUNE 3, 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, June 3, 2008, 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 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 F. Woodrow Harris
Councilman James C. Saunders
Councilwoman Doris T. White
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey
Councilman Ned V. Lankford

Others present: Samuel W. Adams, III, Mayor
C. Butler Barrett, City Attorney
Steven B. Hall, Assistant City Manager
Brian S. Thrower, City Manger
Jean V. Whiting, City Clerk

Absent: Councilman John R. White

MINUTES APPROVAL

The minutes of the May 1, 2008 Budget Work Session, May 15, 2008 Budget Work Session, May 20, 2008 Budget Work Session, and May 20, 2008 Regular Meeting were distributed to City Council members. Councilwoman Squire moved to approve the minutes as presented. Councilman Saunders seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

Councilwoman Nancy B. Squire	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

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

C. Butler Barrett, City Attorney, had no matters to report to Council.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Mayor Adams requested that the Agenda be amended to include the addition of items **08-52. *Chowan River Basin Study***.

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

Councilwoman Nancy B. Squire	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

08-47. Proposed FY09 General and Utility Fund Budgets

Mr. Thrower stated that a public hearing had been held earlier that day concerning the proposed FY09 General and Utility Fund Budgets. He also stated that formal adoption of the City's budgets was slated for June 17, 2008.

Councilman Saunders asked Mayor Adams if a decision concerning the \$2,000.00 request from the Emporia-Greenville Boys and Girls Club (EGBGC), made during the public hearing held earlier that day, could be made at that time.

Mayor Adams advised Councilman Saunders that it could be decided upon and that adjustments needed to be made to the proposed budget prior to formal adoption.

08-48. Certified Police Officer Salary – Request from Council Member Harris

Mr. Thrower stated that, in reviewing the June 5, 2007 Public Hearing Minutes, it was noted that certified officers would receive \$35,966.00 in base salary. He also stated that the language of the June 5, 2007 minutes was vague concerning its application to newly hired City officer who were hired with certification and officers who obtain certification after being hired.

Councilman Harris stated that, when the matter was discussed by City Council in 2007, a modification was made to the differential between hiring a non-certified police officer and an officer who was certified. He also stated that questions have since been presented concerning how the differential should be applied between the two classifications. He further stated that it was his contention that prior City Council discussions clearly pointed in a direction of it being appropriate, after certification was obtained, to raise the officer's salary to that of a certified officer.

Councilman Harris moved to approve that the City's policy concerning the pay of certified police officers be clarified to stipulate that an officer who receives certification, although hired at the lower level, will have his or her pay increased to the level of a certified officers and that it be retroactive to the point and time that the discrepancy occurred and was first brought to the attention of City Council. Councilman Saunders seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

Councilwoman Nancy B. Squire	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

08-49. 301 N. Main Street Improvement Project – Authorization to Proceed

Mr. Thrower stated that, in 2003, Greensville County and the City of Emporia were awarded a Transportation Equity Grant through the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to construct a new sidewalk leading to Greensville Elementary School. He also stated that the new sidewalk will begin where the existing sidewalk ends, on Route 301/North Main Street, and will lead to the School's main entrance. He further stated that both localities demonstrated that the new sidewalk will be beneficial by increasing safety for local citizens.

He reported that Greensville County obtained bids from qualified contractors, including Castle Heights Construction Company, Inc. of Boydton, Virginia, who was awarded the contract. He also reported that estimated construction costs were \$269,399.00, of which 20 percent will be locally funded (10 percent by Greensville County and 10 percent by the City of Emporia).

He stated that the City's portion of the cost was included in the City's proposed FY09 Budget and recommended that City Council authorize the city manager to proceed jointly with Greensville County in implementing the project, contingent upon contract approval from VDOT.

Councilman Saunders moved to approve that the city manager be authorized to proceed jointly with Greensville County in implementing the sidewalk project leading to Greensville Elementary School as requested. Councilman Lankford seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

Councilwoman Nancy B. Squire	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

08-50. Rescue Squad Committee Appointment

Mayor Adams stated that the request for a new joint committee, consisting of the City of Emporia and Greensville County, had been received to study the issue of rescue squad paid personnel. He also stated that Councilwoman Squire and Councilman Lankford both volunteered to serve on the Rescue Squad Committee on behalf of the City.

Councilman Harris moved to approve that Councilwoman Squire and Councilman Lankford be appointed to serve on the newly formed joint Rescue Squad Committee. Councilman Saunders seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

Councilwoman Nancy B. Squire	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

08-51. Cancellation of July 1, 2008 Meeting

Mayor Adams requested that City Council members cancel the July 1, 2008 Regular Meeting, due to the July 4, 2008 holiday, contingent upon the lack of matters requiring immediate action by City Council at that time.

Councilman Lankford moved that the July 1, 2008 Regular Meeting City Council be cancelled as requested. Councilwoman Carey seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

Councilwoman Nancy B. Squire	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

08-52. Chowan River Basin Study

Mayor Adams stated that the group of individuals conducting the Chowan River Basin study had been meeting quarterly for approximately two years in an attempt to control flooding within the Chowan River Basin.

Mr. Thrower stated that, after the flood of 1999, the City of Franklin, Virginia spearheaded an effort aimed at reviewing preventative measures concerning the effects of major flooding within the area. He also stated that discussions involved the Army Corp of Engineers and the Chowan River Basin communities to determine if a study of the Chowan River Basin would be useful in preventing or limiting potential flooding. He further stated that the City of Franklin requests that the following localities agree to share costs associated with a preliminary study to provide information on flood predictions and preventing or limiting flood effects:

- City of Franklin
- Surry County
- Isle of Wight County
- Greensville County
- Southampton County
- Sussex County
- City of Emporia

He reported that the total cost of the study was \$90,000.00 and that the localities are requested to contribute \$45,000.00 towards the project. He also reported that the cost to each respective locality would be \$6,428.57 and that a more comprehensive study had been requested in the federal budget. He further reported that he recommended that City Council members approve the agreement authorizing the City of Emporia to participate in the Chowan River Basin study and pay the requested fee of \$6,428.57, which would come from the City's current Utility Fund.

Councilman Harris asked Mayor Adams if the meetings that had been previously held contained discussions concerning the impact of how silting in the Emporia Reservoir would contribute to the flow of the Meherrin River and overall concerns.

Mayor Adams advised Councilman Harris that specifics concerning silting had not been discussed and that a number of recommendations had been received concerning clearing the waterway paths.

Councilwoman Squire moved to approve that the City of Emporia approve of the Chowan River Basin study and pay \$6,428.57 as requested by the City of Franklin. Councilman Saunders seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

Councilwoman Nancy B. Squire	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 3-minutes per person speaking limitation.

Mr. Cornell Hines of 1537 Lowground Road, Emporia, Virginia stated that he was pleased to hear that the 301 North Main Street sidewalk project will be implemented. He also stated that he has had the opportunity to serve on the Transportation Safety Commission with Greensville County for approximately 18 years and has dealt with the matter several times previously.

He reported that the Emporia-Greensville Habitat for Humanity will have a dedication service on Sunday, June 8, 2008, concerning its 7th Habitat home, located at 221 Zion Boulevard, Emporia, Virginia. He extended an invitation to all City Council members to attend the event and expressed gratitude to them for their support since the local Habitat for Humanity's inception in 1999.

Councilman Saunders commended Mr. Thrower, Mr. Royal Jones, and all Public Works Department staff for their efforts in clearing the trails along the Meherrin River.

With there being no further comments to come before City Council, Mayor Adams entered a motion to enter into Closed Session.

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

Councilman Saunders moved that Closed Session be entered for the purpose of discussing Virginia Code §§ 2.2-3711 (A) (5) **Industrial Matter** and (7) **Legal Matter**. Councilwoman Carey seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

Councilwoman Nancy B. Squire	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

*****REGULAR SESSION*****

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

Councilwoman Nancy B. Squire	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

CERTIFICATION

Councilman Harris 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 matters as were identified in the motion by which the Closed Session was convened were heard, discussed, or considered by City Council.

Councilman Lankford seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

Councilwoman Nancy B. Squire	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

Councilman Saunders moved to increase the Boys and Girls Club line item by \$2,000.00 for the purchase of new windows, as requested during the public hearing held earlier that day, and that next year's request include a separate line item for capital expenses. Councilwoman Carey seconded the

motion, which passed as follows:

Councilwoman Nancy B. Squire	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

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