

# PUBLIC HEARING

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## 1. Rezoning Request – New VPI Extension Office at 100 Oak Street

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Emporia City Council held a public hearing on Tuesday, March 3, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, located at 201 South Main Street, Emporia, Virginia. James C. Saunders, President of Council, presided over the public hearing.

The following City Council members were present:

Councilman John R. White	Councilman Woodrow Harris
Councilman James C. Saunders	Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey
Councilman Edward V. Lankford, IV	Councilwoman L. Dale Temple

Others present: C. Butler Barrett, City Attorney  
Steve B. Hall, Assistant City Manager  
Brian S. Thrower, City Manger  
Jean V. Whiting, City Clerk

Absent: Councilwoman Doris T. White  
Mayor Samuel W. Adams, III

## 1. Rezoning Request – New VPI Extension Office at 100 Oak Street

Mr. Hall reported that the City of Emporia and Greensville County requested rezoning from R-2 Residential District to DT Downtown District to parcels bounded by School Street to the east, Oak Street to the south, and Todd Street to the west, also identified as Tax Map Numbers 162-4 BK-D-1-5, 5A. He also reported that the request was made in an effort to relocate the VPI Extension Office to 100 Oak Street.

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

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James C. Saunders, President of Council

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Jean V. Whiting, City Clerk

**MINUTES  
EMPORIA CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF EMPORIA MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
MARCH 3, 2009**

*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, March 3, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building. James C. Saunders, President of Council, presided over the meeting with Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey offering the invocation.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Councilman John R. White  
Councilman F. Woodrow Harris  
Councilman James C. Saunders  
Councilwoman Doris T. White  
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey  
Councilman Edward V. Lankford, IV  
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple

Others present: C. Butler Barrett, City Attorney  
Steve B. Hall, Assistant City Manager  
Brian S. Thrower, City Manger  
Jean V. Whiting, City Clerk

Absent: Mayor Samuel W. Adams, III

**MINUTES APPROVAL**

Councilman White moved to approve the February 17, 2009 Regular Meeting minutes. Councilwoman Carey seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

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 Edward V. Lankford, IV	aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple	aye

**SPECIAL AWARD**

Mr. Thrower reported that the City of Emporia received a “Top Ten Award” from The Virginia Institute of Government in recognition of consistent contributions of information to the Virginia Institute of Government’s Email Broadcast Information Service.

**CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

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

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

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

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 Edward V. Lankford, IV	aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple	aye

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

***09-13. Crater District Area Agency on Aging Board – Appointment Request***

Mr. Thrower reported that item 09-13 had been before City Council members several times previously and deferred.

With no recommendations for appointment to be presented before City Council members at that time, it was the consensus of City Council members to defer the matter for 2 additional weeks.

***09-14. Board of Equalization – Term Expiration (George Pugh)***

Mr. Thrower reported that Mr. George Pugh’s term on the City of Emporia’s Board of Equalization would expire on March 31, 2009 and that Mr. Pugh did not wish to be considered for reappointment.

Councilman Harris moved to nominate Mr. Chris Link’s to fill the seat being vacated by Mr. Pugh on the City of Emporia’s Board of Equalization. Councilman Lankford seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

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 Edward V. Lankford, IV	aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple	aye

**NEW BUSINESS**

**09-35. Rezoning Request – New VPI Extension Office at 100 Oak Street**

Mr. Hall reported that a public hearing had been held earlier that day concerning a request by the City of Emporia and Greensville County to rezone parcels of land from R-2 Residential District to DT Downtown District. He also reported that the respective parcels were bound by School Street (to the east), Oak Street (to the south), and Todd Street (to the west), also identified as Tax Map Numbers 162-4 BK-D-1-5, 5A. He further reported that the request was made in an effort to relocate the VPI Extension Office to 100 Oak Street.

He stated that, on February 10, 2009, the City of Emporia’s Planning Commission unanimously voted in favor of the rezoning request. He also stated that he was in favor of the request and that no adverse impacts were anticipated as a result of granting approval of the request.

Councilman Harris moved to approve the rezoning request as presented and recommended. Councilwoman Carey seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

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 Edward V. Lankford, IV	aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple	aye

**09-36. Broadband Planning Grant Request – Resolution to Apply for Funding**

Mr. Hall reported that discussions had been underway between the City of Emporia and Greensville County concerning a Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Community Development Block Grant. He also reported that, while Phase II of the Broadband Project had been dissolved by DHCD, the opportunity existed for planning grant funds to continue moving forward where Phase I ceased. He further reported that Greensville County’s Board of Supervisors approved a resolution to move forward with the initiative, contingent upon the City of Emporia doing the same.

He stated that, if approved to move forward with the initiative, the planning grant for the Broadband Expansion Project would identify and develop necessary constituents to create a successful broadband network for the region. He also stated that a letter of intent would be prepared by Greensville County and submitted to DHCD requesting the planning grant funds if approved by City Council members. He further stated that he recommended approval of **Resolution No. 09-03** authorizing submission of a Virginia Community Development Planning Grant application for \$40,000.00 for the Planning of the Broadband Expansion Project.

Councilman Harris moved to approve **Resolution No. 09-03** as presented. Councilwoman Temple seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

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 Edward V. Lankford, IV	aye

Councilwoman L. Dale Temple                      aye

***09-37. Virginia Tobacco Indemnification Grant – Appropriation Ordinance***

Mr. Thrower reported that the City of Emporia received notification that it had been awarded a grant from the Virginia Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission in the amount of \$60,000.00 for the purpose of International Fiberglass, Inc. building or expanding a facility in the City of Emporia and providing work for a significant number of employees. He also reported that the grant funds needed to be appropriated into the city's current Operating Budget and requested that City Council members approve **Ordinance No. 09-12** accordingly.

Councilman White moved to approve **Ordinance No. 09-12** to appropriate the sum of \$60,000.00 in grant funds into the city's current Operating Budget received from the Commonwealth of Virginia for use by the Emporia Industrial Development Authority to assist International Fiberglass, Inc. in locating to the City of Emporia. Councilman Lankford seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

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 Edward V. Lankford, IV	aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple	aye

***09-38. Economic Stimulus Package – Recommended Items for Submission***

Mr. Thrower reported that, in response to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, he prepared a prioritized list of projects deemed to be the City of Emporia's most critical infrastructure needs that required funding. He also reported that he identified replacement or substantial renovation of the city's water treatment plant (*1<sup>st</sup> priority*) and drainage improvements (*2<sup>nd</sup> priority*) in the Lowground Road area. He further reported that ARRA requests were due to Governor Kaine no later than Friday, March 6, 2009.

He stated that the City of Emporia's Water Treatment Plant was built in 1954 and was in dire need of replacement or substantial renovation. He also stated that it consistently experiences malfunctioning machinery and equipment due to advanced aging. He further stated that a new plant or substantial renovation, estimated at \$5M - \$10M, would ensure optimal water treatment and delivery to citizens and businesses.

He reported that funding was needed to finish draining improvements identified in the Lowground Road (Phase II) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Project aimed at respective neighborhood improvements. He also reported that, during the project, funding was eliminated from the budget to complete curb, gutter, storm sewer piping, asphaltting, and drop inlet improvements on several streets within the Lowground Road neighborhood. He further reported that total estimated costs associated with completion of the project was \$867,099.

Mr. Thrower requested that City Council members authorize him to submit his recommended projects to Governor Kaine as presented and prioritized.

Councilman Harris moved to approve that the city manager submit his recommended ARRA projects for the City of Emporia to Governor Kaine as presented and prioritized. Councilwoman Carey seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

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 Edward V. Lankford, IV	aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple	aye

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

*Mr. Cornell Hines* of Habitat for Humanity expressed gratitude to City Council members for their attendance that Habitat for Humanity's ribbon-cutting ceremony.

*Mr. Corey White* of 617 Maryland - Apt. B, Emporia, Virginia stated that the City of Emporia's ARRA responses to Governor Kaine were, not only good for the City of Emporia, but good for the environment and prospective job opportunities.

With there being no further comments to come before City Council the meeting was adjourned.

### **\*\*\*CLOSED SESSION\*\*\***

Councilman White moved that Closed Session be entered for the purpose of discussing Virginia Code § 2.2-3711 (A) (7) **Legal Matter** (*contractual issue*). Councilman Lankford seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

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 Edward V. Lankford, IV	aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple	aye

### **\*\*\*REGULAR SESSION\*\*\***

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

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 Edward V. Lankford, IV	aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple	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 White seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

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 Edward V. Lankford, IV	aye
Councilwoman L. Dale Temple	aye

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before City Council the meeting was adjourned.

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James C. Saunders, President of Council

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Jean V. Whiting, City Clerk