

**MINUTES
EMPORIA CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF EMPORIA MUNICIPAL BUILDING
BUDGET WORK SESSION
MAY 29, 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.

ROLL CALL

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

Councilwoman Nancy B. Squire
Councilman F. Woodrow Harris
Councilman James C. Saunders
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey
Councilman Ned Lankford

Others present: Samuel W. Adams, III
Todd Anderson, Police Captain
Sheila Cutrell, Finance Director
Lucille Dunlow, Voter Registrar
Steve Hall, Assistant City Manager
Bernard Richardson, Police Chief
Brian S. Thrower, City Manager
Teresa Welsh, Independent-Messenger

Absent: Councilman John R. White
Councilwoman Doris T. White
Jean V. Whiting, City Clerk

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Thrower advised City Council members that the following modifications had been made to the City's FY 09 Budget since the May 20, 2008 Budget Work Session:

UTILITY FUND

Expenditures

- Page 53 Increase professional services +\$5,000.00
- Page 57 Increase electricity +\$136.00
- Page 60 COLA (decrease to 2 percent) \$5,136.00

GENERAL FUND

Revenues

- Page 2..... Increase recovered cost (County to include 100 Percent of County share of heavy rescue vehicle) +\$52,600.00
- Page 3..... Decrease proceeds from capital leases (Police & P.W. vehicles)..... -\$62,225.00
- Page 3..... Decrease Appropriation Fund Balance to remove heavy rescue vehicle -\$37,060.00

Expenditures

- Page 22..... Police (decrease motor vehicles to two – finance Over 3 years) -\$52,000.00
- Page 49..... 2008 Lease Purchase Agreement (reduce number of police Vehicles to 2) -\$22,045.00
- Page 49..... COLA (decrease to 2 percent..... -\$20,920.00

Current budget deficit is \$15,533.00

- \$.01 on the real estate tax = \$34,968.63 / 98 percent of \$34,969.00 = \$34,269.62
- Increasing the percentage of collection to 98 percent will equate to additional revenue of \$58,048.00
- Real estate tax rate of \$.77 & collection of 98 percent will equate to revenue reduction of \$147,568.00
- Real estate tax rate of \$.78 & collection of 98 percent will equate to revenue reduction of \$113,298.00
- Real estate tax rate of \$.79 & collection of 98 percent will equate to revenue reduction of \$79,029.00
- Real estate tax rate of \$.80 & collection of 98 percent will equate to revenue reduction of \$44,760.00
- Real estate tax rate of \$.81 & collection of 98 percent will equate to revenue reduction of \$10,491.00
- Real estate tax rate of \$.82 & collection of 98 percent will equate to additional revenue of \$23,779.00

Mayor Adams stated that he recommended moving the \$3,140.00, previously allocated to the Crater Small Business Development Center, to the Emporia-Greenville Industrial Development Corporation.

Ms. Dunlow requested that City Council members increase the City’s assistant registrar’s hourly wage by \$.25.

Councilman Harris recommended that the City’s assistant registrar’s hourly wage be increased by \$.25.

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

Councilman Harris moved that Closed Session be entered for the purpose of discussing Virginia Code § 2.2-3711 (A) (1) **Personnel Matter**. 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 Carolyn S. Carey	aye
Councilman Ned Lankford	aye

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

Councilwoman Carey moved that the meeting be returned to Regular Session. 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 Carolyn S. Carey	aye
Councilman Ned 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 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

Councilman Harris recommended the reduction of budgeted appropriation fund balance and tax rate to \$.77 per \$100.00 valuation. He also recommended that City Council's Conference and Education line item be reduced by what is needed to increase the Assistant Registrar's hourly wage by \$0.25.

Mayor Adams recommended spreading out contribution payments.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Samuel W. Adams, III, Mayor

Jean V. Whiting, City Clerk