

**MINUTES  
EMPORIA CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF EMPORIA MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
MAY 6, 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, May 6, 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 (7:41 p.m. arrival)  
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey  
Councilman Ned V. Lankford

Others present: C. Butler Barrett, City Attorney  
Sam Brown, Sheriff  
Randy Pearce, Building/Fire Official  
Bernard Richardson, Chief of Police  
Brian S. Thrower, Assistant City Manger  
Jean V. Whiting, City Clerk

**MINUTES APPROVAL**

The minutes of the April 15, 2008 City Council 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

## **CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

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

## **AGENDA APPROVAL**

Mayor Adams reported that the Agenda had been amended to include items **08-42. Riverbank Maintenance – Councilman James C. Saunders** and **08-43. Emporia-Greenville Airport Commission Matching Grant Funds – Appropriation Ordinance.**

Councilman White moved to approve the Agenda as amended. 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

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### ***08-39. FY08-09 School Administration Budget***

Mr. Thrower stated that the proposed Fiscal Year 2008 – 2009 Operating Budget for Greenville County Public School System was forty million four hundred thirty-one thousand four hundred ninety-two dollars (\$40,431,492.00). He also stated that the proposed budget reflected a 5.388 percent reduction from last year's budget. He further stated that, if the City were to fully fund the School Administration's request, it would appropriate three million four hundred forty-six thousand four hundred twelve dollars (\$3,446,412.00) or a 13 percent increase over the Fiscal Year 2008 Budget.

He reported that the City was proposing to budget three million two hundred fifty-nine thousand eight hundred thirty-seven dollars (\$3,259,837.00), a 6.89 percent increase over the 2008 Fiscal Year Budget. He also reported that the City's portion reflected changes in the local composite index and the ADM numbers. He further reported that the total ADM number for the City and County, combined, was two thousand four hundred twenty-four dollars (2,424).

Councilman Saunders stated that the budget reflected that the State was funding an increase of over one million dollars (\$1M), compared to last year. He also stated that the largest expense increase was that of teachers' salaries, which reflected nine hundred sixty thousand dollars (\$960,000.00). He further stated that, in an effort to conserve on utility expenses, costs associated with the use and installation of solar panels should be explored for new constructions, such as that of Wyatt Middle School.

Councilman Harris stated that nothing had been included in the current year's State budget for teachers' salaries. He also stated that such funding would have to be obtained from localities.

Councilman Saunders asked Mr. Thrower to provide the average cost, per student, associated with each student being educated in Greenville County.

Mr. Thrower advised Councilman Saunders that, if City Council approved the one hundred thousand dollar (\$100,000.00) joint City and County increase, the cost associated with each student would reflect a total dollar amount of three thousand four hundred twenty-six dollars and twenty-five cents (\$3,426.25) for the City of Emporia and two thousand six hundred thirty-nine dollars and three cents (\$2,639.03) for Greenville County.

Councilman Harris stated that he did not understand how 5 percent increases, included in the initially requested budget, would be possible based on one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) over what was provided in local funding last year and figures provided during the previous week's meeting.

Councilman Saunders moved to approve the following resolution:

**Resolution No. 08-04**

A Resolution To Set The Dollar Amount For The  
Greenville County School Budget For Fiscal  
Year 2008-2009

**WHEREAS**, the Greenville County School Board has, on March 20, 2008, adopted a budget for the 2008-2009 fiscal year; and

**WHEREAS**, the Code of Virginia, 1950, section 22.1-93, states that the governing body of a municipality shall approve an annual budget for educational purposes by May first or within thirty days of the receipt by the City of the estimates of state funds, whichever shall occur later;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Emporia City Council approves a budget consisting of \$7,147,150.00 in local funds of which \$3,259,837.00 is projected to be the City of Emporia's share.

Councilman Lankford seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

Councilwoman Nancy B. Squire	aye
Councilman John R. White	nay
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

**08-40. Village View Foundation – Building and Zoning Permit Fee Waiver Request**

Mr. Thrower stated that Mr. Harry Evans, Village View Foundation Board member, requested that the City of Emporia waive fees associated with the building and zoning permits for several small improvement projects that the Foundation intends execute. He also stated that such improvements had been identified as reconstruction of the original smokehouse and basement fireplace. He further stated that the building and zoning permit fees are estimated to be at thirty seven dollars and twenty-three cents (\$37.23).

Councilman Saunders moved to approve the waiver request 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

**08-41. Rezoning Application Fee Waiver Request – Greensville Memorial Foundation**

Mr. Thrower stated that on February 19, 2008 City Council authorized the City’s manager to issue an Invitation to Bid on a proposed new heavy rescue vehicle for the Emporia Volunteer Fire Department. He also stated that the City of Emporia had been awarded a grant from the Greensville Memorial Foundation in the amount of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000.00) to purchase the heavy rescue vehicle. He further stated that one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$125,000.00) of the grant funding was expected to be received in Fiscal Year 2008 and that the remaining funding was expected to be received in Fiscal Year 2009.

He reported that the consent to purchase the vehicle was authorized by Greensville County’s Board of Supervisors at its February 19, 2008 meeting. He also reported that the following three (3) bids had been received concerning the matter:

Hackney/C. W. Williams.....	\$327,920.00
Singer Associates .....	\$368,517.00
Keplinger .....	\$414,816.00

He further reported that, after reviewing each proposal, Mr. Chris Rawlings, Fire Chief for the City of Emporia, recommended that the City award the bid to Singer Associates as proposed due to the lowest bidder’s numerous exceptions to bid specifications.

Mr. Thrower stated that he also reviewed the three proposals and agrees with Chief Rawlings’ recommendation in awarding the bid to Singer Associates. He asked City Council members to review and approve the following ordinance:

**Ordinance No. 08-10**

An Ordinance To Appropriate The Sum Of \$368,517 Of Which \$250,000 Is Grant Funds From The Greenville Memorial Foundation and \$118,517 Is From The Unappropriated Fund Balance of the General Fund For The Purchase Of A Heavy Rescue Vehicle

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

1. That the sum of \$250,000 in grant funds from the Greenville Memorial Foundation and the sum of \$118,517 from the Unappropriated Fund Balance of the General Fund be, and the same hereby is, appropriated into the City's Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2007-2008 for the purchase of a heavy rescue vehicle.
2. Said appropriation shall be reflected in the 2007-2008 Operating Budget as the sum of \$368,517 appropriated to General Fund Expenditures, Account Number 32100-8105 Motor Vehicles.
3. This ordinance shall be in effect on and after its adoption.

Councilman Harris asked Mr. Thrower if the purchase would be classified as "self financing" verses outside borrowing and asked him to elaborate on how Greenville County would pay their portion of the balance.

Mr. Thrower advised Councilman Harris that the purchase could be classified as "self-financing" and that Greenville County had not provided exact specifications as to how they would pay their portion of the balance.

Councilman Harris asked Mr. Thrower if the proposed purchase was part of the driving force in next year's initial budget being balanced and unbalanced.

Mr. Thrower advised Councilman Harris that he did not believe that the proposed purchase would impact the initial balance of next year's budget. He also advised him that the matter involved a replenishment of fund balance over time versus a budget issue.

Councilman White moved to approve that the ordinance as requested. 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

**08-42. Riverbank Maintenance – Councilman James C. Saunders.**

Councilman Saunders stated that the Meherrin River could be a potential asset for the City as it could be utilized for such activities as canoeing if it were cleared of debris and maintained on a consistent basis. He asked Mr. Thrower to initial a plan with Mr. Royal Jones, Director of Public Works for the area to be cleaned and to have the trails cleared of obstructing bushes and trees.

Mr. Thrower advised Councilman Saunders that he would contact Mr. Jones concerning the matter.

**08-43. Emporia-Greenville Airport Commission Matching Grant Funds – Appropriation Ordinance**

Mr. Thrower stated that the City's Administration received a request from the Emporia-Greenville Airport Commission to provide funds in the amount of eleven thousand three hundred sixty-six dollars (\$11,366.00) as a local match for grant funds received from the State. He also stated that the Airport Commission was awarded ninety thousand nine hundred twenty-eight dollars (\$90,928.00) in grant funds, contingent upon matching funds of twenty-two thousand seven hundred thirty-two dollars (\$22,732.00) or eleven thousand three hundred sixty-six dollars (\$11,366.00) from each local government. He further stated that the Airport Commission plans to use the funds for the following projects:

- Taxiway Light Rehab.
- Drainage Rehab. Design
- Crack Seal Repair
- Updates to SPCC Plan

He reported that the grant match had not been included in the City's current Operating Budget as the availability of such funds was uncertain during the budgeting process. He asked City Council members to review and approve the following ordinance concerning the matter:

**Ordinance No. 08-11**

An Ordinance To Appropriate The Sum Of \$11,366.00  
From The Unappropriated Fund Balance Of The General  
Fund For A Local Match To A Grant Received By The  
Emporia-Greenville Airport Commission For Capital  
Projects

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

4. That the sum of \$11,366.00 from the Unappropriated Fund Balance of the General Fund be, and the same hereby is, appropriated into the City's Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2007-2008.
5. Said appropriation shall be reflected in the 2007-2008 Operating Budget as the sum of \$11,366.00 from the Unappropriated Fund Balance of the General Fund and the sum of \$11,366.00 appropriated to General Fund Expenditures for a local match for the Emporia-Greenville Airport Commission, Account Number 81600-8101 Airport Capital.
6. This ordinance shall be in effect on and after its adoption.

Councilwoman Squire moved to approve the ordinance as presented. Councilman Harris 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 3-minutes per person speaking limitation.

*Ms. Debra Brown* of 604 Temple Avenue, Emporia, Virginia stated that a representative from the U.S. Justice Department contacted her in March 2008 concerning the signing of the agreement between the Emporia Police Department and the NAACP. She also stated that she was informed by the City's manager that City Council was opposed to signing the agreement. She further stated that Mayor Adams advised her that no definite decision had been made concerning the matter.

She reported that the development of the agreement involved the City's Chief of Police, manager, and attorney prior to being submitted to NAACP attorneys. She also reported that the agreement was then presented back to the City for final signature approval, which has yet to be provided. She further reported that she would like to know why the City has not signed the agreement.

Ms. Brown stated that she spoke with Mayor Adams and was informed that the Police Chief did not want to sign the agreement.

Mayor Adams advised Ms. Brown that he never informed her that the Police Chief did not want to sign the agreement.

Ms. Brown stated that problems still exist among the local African-American community and the Emporia Police Department. She also stated that the agreement indicates that the problems have been identified and ensures that employees within the Police Department, present and future, will be made aware of them and ensure that they no longer emerge. She further stated that the agreement was developed over a two (2) year period and serves as a good faith measure.

She reported that it was her job, as the NAACP President representing individuals in the community, to address issues and find resolutions in an attempt to work together.

*Councilman White* asked Chief Richardson what was being done concerning blind taxicabs within the City. He stated that he had observed several of them in operation and asked what was needed to ensure that the operations are ceased.

*Chief Richardson* advised Councilman White that the matter takes time as the rights of individuals were involved and needed to be handled meticulously. He also advised him that results were forthcoming concerning the matter.

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) (3) **Acquisition of Real Property for Public Purpose, (5) Industrial Matter, and (7) Legal Matter.** Councilwoman Squire 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

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

Councilwoman Squire moved that the meeting be returned to Regular Session. Councilman 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

***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:

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

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Councilman White moved to approve the contract between the City of Emporia and Greensville County concerning the Reverse 911 System. Councilwoman Squire 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

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

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Samuel W. Adams, III, Mayor

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Jean V. Whiting, City Clerk