

PUBLIC HEARING

1. 301 N. Main Street / Commonwealth Blvd. Intersection Traffic Signal Plans – Recommendation for Approval

Emporia City Council held a Public Hearing on Tuesday, November 18, 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:

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|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Councilwoman Nancy B. Squire | Councilman John R. White |
| 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
Steve B. Hall, Assistant City Manager
William S. Harris, Treasurer
Joyce E. Prince, Commissioner of the Revenue
Bernard Richardson, Chief of Police
Brian S. Thrower, City Manger
Jean V. Whiting, City Clerk

301 N. Main Street / Commonwealth Blvd. Intersection Traffic Signal Plans – Recommendation for Approval

Mr. Thrower reported that traffic signals were being constructed at the intersection of N. Main Street and Commonwealth Boulevard. He also reported that the traffic signal plans for the project had been prepared by Kimley Horn & Associates, Inc. and that staff recommended approval of the plans. He further reported that, per recommendation of legal counsel, the plans were being presented to City Council members for consideration and that Mr. Mike Miller, of Kimley Horn & Associates, was present to answer questions concerning the matter.

Mayor Adams asked if anyone wished to speak concerning the matter.

Ms. Martha Dodd-Slippy of 2487 Emporia Road, Skippers, Virginia provided City Council members with a letter detailing her concerns relative to the new Lowe's stoplight and its potential effects on Mr. Jimbo Owen's business at Emporia Welding Supply. She suggested that City Council members participate in the "Lead Virginia" program, at their own expense, in an effort to learn to become small business advocates. She stated that the stoplight was not being opposed and that the proposed location of the stop bar was. She also stated that it would accommodate Mr. Owen's business and allow access to Lowe's if the stop bar was moved back thirty-three feet from the proposed location.

Mayor Adams advised Ms. Dodd-Slippy that her letter contained information that was, “a bit misleading.”

Ms. Dodd apologized for any misleading information presented in her letter addressed to him and City Council members. She stated that Mr. Owen’s desire is to not have access to his business blocked by the stoplight.

Mr. Jimbo Owen of Emporia Welding Supply stated that he was before City Council members in an attempt to reach a resolution regarding his concern about the proposed location of the stop bar. He also stated that there were alternatives that could be exercised to assist his business. He further stated that communication was at a minimum when the matter was being implemented.

He reported that no certified mail was sent to respective individuals to notify them that there would be a change to the respective intersection. He also reported that the hearing being held at that time was, “basically just to cover something that you might have missed or something.”

He stated that his family business has existed for approximately fifty years and had endured a many things during that time. He also stated that the matter being addressed could have been worked out with cooperation and, “not so much behind closed door scenes.” He further stated that, when everything is completed, Mr. Miller will return to Virginia Beach and everyone will continue their lives leaving him to suffer the consequences of his affected business.

Mr. Owen requested that City Council members move the light pole and give him access to the stoplight. He advised them that the public hearing concerning the matter should have been held prior to the matter getting to its existing point which was due to, “closed door sessions.”

Mr. Dennis Hartwell of 222-C Carriage Run Apartments, Emporia, VA stated that he was an engineer from Philadelphia and invited City Council members to review is credentials. He also stated that he was denied work, although qualified, because he is African-American. He further stated that he has the skills to assist with resolving the problem presented by Mr. Owen.

He advised City Council members that they, “need to change” their attitudes. He also advised them that their decisions need to be for the citizens. He further advised them that he would, “fight for it with every last breath” to have them do something for the community and that he would have them, “appealed” by the next meeting.

Mr. Hartwell stated that he would, “stand out in the street every day and let people know that we will be here.” He also stated that it is time for a change.

Mayor Adams advised Mr. Hartwell that the public hearing was relative to a stoplight at 301 North Main Street and Commonwealth Boulevard. He asked him if he had remarks specific to the matter.

Mr. Hartwell advised Mayor Adams that he was visually blind.

Mr. James Tucker of 3027 Taylors Mill Road stated that he visits Mr. Owen's business and the proposed location of the Lowes stoplight concerned him. He requested that City Council members work with Mr. Owen to resolve the issue and concerns.

With there being no further 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
November 18, 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, November 18, 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 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: Samuel W. Adams, III, Mayor
C. Butler Barrett, City Attorney
Steve B. Hall, Assistant City Manager
William S. Harris, Treasurer
Joyce E. Prince, Commissioner of the Revenue
Bernard Richardson, Chief of Police
Brian S. Thrower, City Manger
Jean V. Whiting, City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVAL

The minutes of the October 7, 2008 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting were distributed to City Council members.

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

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|-------------------------------|-----|
| 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

APPROVAL OF BILLS

A listing of the October 21, 2008 and November 18, 2008 bills had been presented to City Council members.

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|-------------------------|--------------|
| <u>October 21, 2008</u> | |
| General Fund | \$895,713.58 |
| Utility Fund | \$88,374.22 |

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| <u>November 18, 2008</u> | |
| General Fund | \$905,382.47 |
| Utility Fund | \$217,631.57 |

Councilman Saunders moved to approve payment of the bills as presented. Councilwoman Carey seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

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|-------------------------------|-----|
| 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 |

FINANCIAL AND TAX REPORT

Honorable W. S. Harris, Jr., City Treasurer, provided City Council members with highlights of the City's financial position. There were no questions regarding the report.

COMMISSIONER OF THE REVENUE REPORT

Honorable Joyce E. Prince, Commissioner of the Revenue, provided her report to City Council members. There were no questions regarding the report.

PERMIT AND INSPECTION REPORT

Randy C. Pearce, Building/Fire Official, provided his report to City Council members. There were no questions regarding the report.

POLICE REPORT

Bernard Richardson, Chief of Police, provided his report to City Council members. There were no questions regarding the report.

CITY SHERIFF REPORT

Honorable Sam C. Brown, Sheriff, provided his report to City Council members. There were no questions regarding the report.

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

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

AGENDA APPROVAL

Mr. Thrower reported the addition of item ***08-83 City School Board/Greenville County School Board – Appointments*** under Unfinished Business and the deletion of ***2.23711 (A) (7) Legal Matter regarding a contractual issue*** from Closed Session.

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

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|-------------------------------|-----|
| 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

08-76. Request by Council Member John White – Taxicab Meters

Mr. Hall stated that, upon direction from City Council members on September 2, 2008, he researched the issue of taxicab meters in other localities. Some of the highlights of his findings were as follows:

- State of Virginia no longer provides annual inspections and calibrations for taxicab meters
- Local Police Departments typically conduct annual safety inspections of cabs
- Depending upon local laws, licensed technicians or outside agencies can perform annual calibrations of taxicab meters
 - ~ Rates are typically determined by City Council members (rate/fraction of a mile) in each cab identically
 - ~ Division of Weights and Measures could lay out the initial course for the locality and then test each cab on the mile range. Police officers could be trained on testing cabs on the mile range in the future
- City of Franklin requires annual safety inspections of taxicabs which is conducted by their Police Department (fee free)
 - ~ Calibrations are not conducted
- City of Williamsburg requires all meters to be calibrated annually with renewals of Certificates of Public Convenience
 - ~ Cost of calibration is conducted annually and is included in the franchise fee and business license - \$100.00 per vehicle
- City of Norfolk has a Police Department Taxicab Unit that conducts inspections for their locality
- City of Fredericksburg operates on a zone system within their city limits only - when cabs leave from within their jurisdiction, it is “free game” as to what fees are charged.

- City of Petersburg operates on a zone system - City Council approves rates and all cabs are required to display those rates (they typically engage in “anonymous rides” to ensure compliance with their City Code)
- An outside vendor from Charles City County, VA provides calibrations for the Cities of Newport News, Virginia Beach and Williamsburg and would be willing to do so for the City of Emporia for approximately \$45.00 per cab

He also stated that Chief Bernard Richardson advised him that he would be willing to have one of his officers trained to assist with respective requirements.

Councilman Harris stated that he did not know what would be in the best interest of the, “taxi-riding public” and suggested that a public hearing be established to get their feedback concerning the matter. He moved that a public hearing be scheduled concerning zones and the concept of moving to the requirement of meters in taxicabs at the first City Council Meeting of January 2009.

Councilwoman Carey seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

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|-------------------------------|-----|
| 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 |

08-83. City School Board/Greenville County School Board - Appointments

Mayor Adams reported that a public hearing was held on October 7, 2008 concerning the expiration of seats on the City School Board and Greenville County School Board. He also reported that, during that public hearing, the only name considered for nomination was that of Mrs. Janey V. Bush.

Councilman Saunders moved to reappoint Mrs. Janey V. Bush to the City School Board and the Greenville County School Board. Councilwoman Squire seconded the motion, which carried as follows:

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|-------------------------------|-----|
| 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 |

NEW BUSINESS

08-88. 301 N. Main Street/Commonwealth Blvd. Intersection Traffic Signal Plans – Recommendation for Approval

Mr. Thrower reported that a public hearing was held earlier that day concerning the matter and advised City Council members that he recommended approval of the plans prepared by Kimley-Horn & Associates. He also reported that Mr. Mike Miller of Kimley-Horn & Associates was present to answer questions.

Councilman Saunders asked Mr. Miller to elaborate on his opposition to the proposed stop bar being relocated.

Mr. Miller advised Councilman Saunders that relocation of the stop bar would create safety issues. He also advised them that the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) does allow the stop bar to be up to one hundred fifty feet from the visual indication. He further advised them that a safety concern is that, if the distance from the intersection is increased, it would make individuals more compelled to turn into the Commonwealth Boulevard eastbound lanes than to go an additional thirty to forty-five feet prior to making the turn into the westbound lanes.

He reported that, if the stop bar was to be moved back, there would be an unsignalized access to the center of the intersection as well as a signalized access to the center of the intersection, which would create safety concerns for the public. He displayed architectural drawings of the site to City Council members in an effort to reiterate his concerns associated with relocating the stop bar.

Councilwoman Carey asked Mr. Miller if the light sensor could be prolonged to allow additional “green time” for motorists.

Mr. Miller advised Councilwoman Carey that no traffic signals exist that are adjacent to the proposed location and that the traffic signal in question would run independently. He also advised her that unless there was side street traffic, the signal light would remain green for northbound and southbound traffic.

Councilman Saunders asked Mr. Miller to elaborate on how often the signal light sensor would trip to accommodate side street traffic.

Mr. Miller advised Councilman Saunders that the sensor could be adjusted to a desired length of time.

Mr. Barrett asked Mr. Miller if he would comment on any potential liability concerns associated with the stop bar being moved back as requested.

Mr. Miller advised Mr. Barrett that, if the stop bar is moved, the City of Emporia would be removing all liability placed upon him as the professional engineer that signed and sealed the plans presented and that liability would respectfully falling upon the City of Emporia.

Councilman Harris reported that there was on single one source solution to the issues identified. He also reported that while he and others want to see the development initiated, there was also a concern to avoid harming someone’s preexisting property in the process of the development.

He stated that the least destructive option available needed to be utilized and moved to approve that the City’s manger be authorized to arrange and approve an agreement for the stop bar to be moved back to the area previously discussed with Mr. Owen and that it does not follow the recommendation of Mr. Miller. Councilman Saunders seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

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| Councilwoman Nancy B. Squire | nay |
| 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 |

Mr. Thrower reported that he was concerned the liability that the City of Emporia would undertake as a result of the move, as suggested by Mr. Miller. He also reported that it was his understanding that Mr. Owen wants to pull trucks into the south driveway, when the stoplight is red and traffic is stopped at the intersection, and then have trucks back into his establishment. He further reported that, in his opinion, Mr. Owen’s proposal endorses an illegal backward movement into a business.

08-89. CSX Crossing Closure – Portion of Right of Way between Virginia Avenue and Park Avenue

Mr. Thrower stated that, on September 2, 2008, City Council members approved the Virginia Avenue/Park Avenue railroad crossing closure after a public hearing had been held. He also stated that the City was authorized to move forward with finalizing the crossing closure agreement with CSX. He further stated that the main points of the agreement were that CSX will permanently barricade the crossing, remove and dispose of the crossing surface, and remove the existing grade crossing warning devices.

He reported that CSX will pay the City of Emporia \$11,500.00 in an effort to pave the parallel connecting road to be utilized to divert traffic from Park Avenue to the Southampton Street railroad crossing. He also reported that bids to pave the road were received and that Worton Paving was the lowest bidder at \$11,500.00. He further reported that staff feels that the crossing closure will assist in lowering the City of Emporia’s quiet zone risk index score, which is used by the Federal Railroad Administration to assess quiet zone applications submitted by localities.

He stated that he recommended that City Council members authorize the City’s manager to provide signature approval of the crossing closure agreement with CSX and award the paving bid to Worton Paving at a cost of \$11,500.00.

Councilman White moved to approve that the City’s manager be authorized to provide signature approval of the crossing closure agreement with CSX and award the paving bid to Worton Paving at a cost of \$11,500.00. Councilman Saunders seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

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|-------------------------------|-----|
| 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 |

08-90. YMCA Fee Waiver Request

Mr. Thrower stated that Kristin S. Vaughan, Executive Director of the Emporia-Greenville YMCA, requested that the City of Emporia waive all zoning and building permit fees and water and sewer tap fees associated with the future construction of the new YMCA facility on Weaver Avenue. He also stated that, according to the City’s Building Official, the zoning and building permit fees would cost approximately \$6,300.00 and that the City’s Public Utilities Directors guesstimates associated water and sewer fees to be \$3,000.00.

Councilman White moved to approve the fee waiver requests as presented. Councilwoman Squire seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

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| 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 |

08-91. Travel Regulations Policy

Mr. Thrower stated that the City's Travel Regulations Policy needed to be amended to reflect consistency with Virginia's State Travel Regulations. He also stated that meal reimbursement rates had been revised since the City of Emporia's policy was last adopted in September 2006. He further stated that he recommended that the City of Emporia's respective policy be amended to reflect the same meal reimbursement rates as that of the State.

Councilman White moved to approve that the City of Emporia's Travel Regulations Policy be amended to reflect the same meal reimbursement rates as that of Virginia's State Travel Regulations. Councilman Harris seconded the motion, which passed as follows:

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| 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 |

08-92. Emporia Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ERHA) Appointment

Mr. Thrower stated that, on November 12, 2008, the Emporia Redevelopment and Housing Authority voted to amend its by-laws concerning the number of commissioners appointed to the Board by City Council. He also stated that the amendment requires City Council to appoint 7 commissioners to the Emporia Redevelopment and Housing Authority, which consisted of 6 commissioners at that time. He recommended that City Council members appoint 1 additional commissioner to a 4-year term and that the appointment must be that of a citizen.

Mayor Adams stated that he received a number of requests concerning the matter and requested that the matter be delayed for 2 weeks. It was the consensus of City Council members that the matter be delayed for 2 weeks.

08-93. Child and Youth Program Enhancement Grant – Appropriation Ordinance

Mr. Thrower stated that the Sixth District Court Service Unit was awarded a Child and Youth Program Enhancement Grant by the Department of Social Services in the amount of \$30,819.00. He also stated that the grant would be utilized for counseling, equipment, printing, and other specific costs. He further stated that the grant funds had not been included in the City of Emporia's current Operating Budget and requested that City Council members review and approve the following

appropriation ordinance:

Ordinance No. 08-27

An Ordinance To Appropriate The Sum Of \$30,819.00 In Grant Funds From The Department Of Social Services For Child And Youth Program Enhancement

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

1. That the sum of \$30,819.00 in grant funds from the Department of Social Services be, and the same hereby is, appropriated into the City's Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009.
2. Said appropriation shall be reflected in the 2008-2009 Operating Budget as the sum of \$30,819.00 appropriated to General Fund Revenues and the sum of \$30,819.00 appropriated to General Fund Expenditures, Account Number 21920-6032 DSS – VFPSA Grant.
3. The City Manager is hereby authorized to do all things necessary to implement this ordinance.
4. This ordinance shall be in effect on and after its adoption.

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

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

08-94. Partial Refund of 2008 Personal Property Tax – Ryder Truck Rental LT

Mr. Thrower stated that Mrs. Prince requested that Ryder Truck Rental LT be refunded \$14,873.56 for taxes paid on vehicles no longer housed within the City of Emporia. He also stated that Ryder Truck Rental LT moved twenty-five vehicles from the City of Emporia earlier in the year.

Councilman Harris moved to approve the refund request as presented. Councilwoman Carey seconded the move, which passed as follows:

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|------------------------------|-----|
| 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.

Mr. Dennis Hartwell of 222-C Carriage Run Apartments, Emporia, Virginia advised City Council members that he had paperwork with him to exemplify his credentials if they wished to view them. He also advised them that he was a resident of the City of Emporia and that he would be speaking his mind on various issues. He further advised them that they would loose their jobs because there were children within the area without skills and without a future due to a lack of resources available.

He stated that the area youth were in need of vocational education. He also stated that, "I will fight to change all of you." He suggested that City Council members, "open tax deferred properties for outside companies to move in."

Mr. Jimbo Owen of Emporia Welding Supply, Emporia, Virginia expressed gratitude to City Council members concerning the stop bar relocation associated with the Lowe's project. He also stated that he wants, "us all to get along." He further stated that he would do everything that he could to educate his customers and make the situation as safe as he can for everyone.

Mr. Bruce Campbell of 3014 West York Drive, Emporia, Virginia stated that he had not previously heard about the stop bar situation and the light that could potentially affect someone's property. He asked if the turning lanes in question could be painted with distinctive solid lines to direct traffic to go over to the correct lanes.

Mayor Adams advised Mr. Campbell that Mr. Thrower would research the matter.

Mrs. Debra Brown of 604 Temple Avenue, Emporia, Virginia and the Greensville NAACP stated that she feels that a public hearing should have been held previously concerning the Lowe's stoplight and that the first order of concern should reflect that of the local business owners and the taxpayers within the community. She also stated that it was not her first time coming before City Council to address existing problems that arise when the best interest of the citizens is not considered. She further stated that consideration should to given to, "what is in the best interest of the people who live here and pay taxes."

She reported that she listened to, "both sides of the story" concerning the issue of meters in taxicabs. She also reported that she feels that it will be, "an added expense and burden" to taxicab owners within the community if they are required to place meters within their taxicabs given the current state of the economy. She further stated that she commends Mr. Hall for his research on the matter citing that it was, "outstanding" and that she was, "very impressed" with the content of his material.

Ms. Marva Dunn of 505-D Washington Street, Emporia, Virginia stated that she concurs with Mrs. Brown concerning the taxicab meters. She also stated that, "I think the City has enough to do that they do not need to be worrying about putting meters in the taxicabs." She further stated that it was her understanding that, if approved, the City of Emporia would be required to pay additional funds that would be associated with its enforcement.

Mrs. Cathy Robinson of Robinson Cab Company, LLC, 307 Halifax Street, Emporia, Virginia expressed gratitude to City Council members for researching the issue of installing taxicab meters. She also stated that she looks forward to the public hearing to be held in January 2009.

Mr. James Robinson of Robinson Cab Company, LLC, 307 Halifax Street, Emporia, Virginia stated that Robinson Cab Company, LLC has been in operation for a year and that the company can afford to pay for taxicab meters and feels that others taxicab companies, who have been in existence for 25 years, should be able to afford to do so.

Councilman White asked Mr. Thrower to inform Mr. Dupree of the situation concerning the light on Davis Street.

Mr. Thrower advised Mr. Dupree that the City of Emporia was working with Mecklenburg Electric concerning the matter and that they were experiencing complications associated with instillation of lines under Route 58. He also advised him that Mr. Royal Jones, Public Works Director for the City of Emporia, was working with Mecklenburg Electric on the issue.

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

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

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

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|-------------------------------|-----|
| 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*****

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

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|-------------------------------|-----|
| 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:

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|-------------------------------|-----|
| 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.

Samuel W. Adams, III, Mayor

Jean V. Whiting, City Clerk