

MINUTES
EMPORIA CITY COUNCIL LUNCHEON WITH CONGRESSMAN J. RANDY FORBES
APPLEBEES NEIGHBORHOOD BAR AND GRILL
Tuesday, October 28, 2008

The following Emporia City Council members attended a luncheon on Tuesday, October 28, 2008, at 12:00 p.m. at Applebee's Neighborhood Bar and Grill, located at 105 Sadler Lane, Emporia, Virginia:

Councilwoman Nancy B. Squire
Councilman F. Woodrow Harris (*12:30 p.m. arrival due to travel delays*)
Councilman James C. Saunders
Councilman Ned V. Lankford

Others present: Samuel W. Adams, III, Mayor
C. Butler Barrett, City Attorney
Jack Davenport, Emporia/Greenville IDC
Martha Dodd-Slippy
Congressman J. Randy Forbes
Rick Franklin, Congressional Aid to Congressman Forbes
Steve B. Hall, Assistant City Manager
L. Dale Temple
Jean V. Whiting, City Clerk

Train Whistles

Councilwoman Squire asked Mr. Hall to elaborate on the status of the noise reduction effort within the City of Emporia involving train whistles.

Mr. Hall advised Councilwoman Squire that Mr. Thrower had been working with CSX to have the crossing near the Fire Department closed within the City of Emporia.

Meherrin River Dredging

Councilman Saunders asked Congressman Forbes if he was aware of available assistance concerning dredging of the Meherrin River.

Congressman Forbes advised Councilman Saunders that the Chowan River comprehensive study was need. He also advised him that Mr. John Bozeman, a ranking member of the committee that makes such decisions as the dredging of the Meherrin River, had reviewed the Meherrin River and that he was confident that Mr. Bozeman would do what he could concerning the matter.

Local Businesses

Congressman Forbes asked if local businesses had been impacted by the state of the economy at that time.

Mr. Davenport advised Congressman Forbes that the state of the economy had produced noticeable effects on some local businesses. He also advised him that Georgia-Pacific had ceased a week of production for the months of October, November, and December.

He reported that Oran Safety Glass, Inc. had employed approximately one hundred forty-five individuals. He also reported that Quality Culvert would potentially be hiring additional staff. He further reported that Lowe's, which had employed one hundred twenty-five individuals at that time, would be hiring additional staff.

Councilman Saunders reported that, of the 125 positions filled at Lowe's, over one thousand one hundred applications had been submitted for those positions. He also reported that many applicants were eliminated due to employment screenings such as credit checks and drug testing.

Congressman Forbes asked Mr. Davenport if he was aware of new businesses that were interested in moving into the local area.

Mr. Davenport advised Congressman Forbes that a swimming pool manufacturing company and a wholesale nursery operation were exploring the possibility of moving into the local area.

Adjournment

With no further business to be discussed, the luncheon adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Samuel W. Adams, III, Mayor

Jean V. Whiting, City Clerk