

**MINUTES
EMPORIA CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF EMPORIA MUNICIPAL BUILDING
OCTOBER 30, 2007**

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 Special Meeting on Tuesday, October 30, 2007, 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
Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey
Councilman Ned V. Lankford

Others present: C. Butler Barrett, City Attorney
Sam Brown, Sheriff
William S. Harris, Treasurer
Joyce E. Prince, Commissioner of the Revenue
Bernard Richardson, Chief of Police
Brian S. Thrower, Interim City Manger
Jean V. Whiting, City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVAL

The Minutes of the October 2, 2007 City Council Regular 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

APPROVAL OF BILLS

A listing of the October 16, 2007 bills had been presented to City Council members.

General Fund	\$820,257.29
Utility Fund	\$ 98,696.43

Councilwoman Squire moved to approve payment of the bills 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

GENERAL UTILITY FUND REVENUE & EXPENDITURE REPORT

Sheila Cutrell, Director of Finance, provided her quarterly report to City Council members.

Councilman Saunders reported that the report reflects the revenue being, "very much in line". He also reported that the expenditures report reflects close alignment and asked Mr. Thrower if the reflection of the larger line items on the expenditures report is standard due to paying more in advance versus waiting until later in the year.

Mr. Thrower advised Councilman Saunders that he would follow-up with Ms. Cutrell to confirm the matter.

Councilman Harris reported that the Local Sales and Use Tax Collection Comparison figures for July 2007, August 2007, and September 2007 reflect a significant decrease in local sales taxes when compared to 2006 State Sales & Use Tax Collection Comparison figures. He also reported that, if the trend continues, it should be monitored more closely as it will affect fiscal year projections.

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 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

Councilman Lankford moved to approve the agenda 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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

3814. Crater Planning District Commission – Unexpired Term (Gerald Vincent)

Mayor Adams advised City Council members that Mr. Thrower needed to be appointed to fill the unexpired terms of Mr. Vincent on the Crater Planning District Commission.

Council Harris moved to appoint Mr. Thrower to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Vincent on the Crater Planning District Commission. Mr. 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

3815. *Emergency Services Board – Unexpired Term (Gerald Vincent)*

Mayor Adams advised City Council members that Mr. Thrower needed to be appointed to fill the unexpired terms of Mr. Vincent on the Emergency Services Board.

Council Harris moved to appoint Mr. Thrower to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Vincent on the Emergency Services Board. Mr. 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

3816. *Recreation Advisory Commission – Unexpired Term (Gerald Vincent)*

Mayor Adams advised City Council members that Mr. Thrower needed to be appointed to fill the unexpired terms of Mr. Vincent on the Recreation Advisory Commission.

Council Harris moved to appoint Mr. Thrower to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Vincent on the Recreation Advisory Commission. Mr. 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

3817. *Southside Regional Jail Authority – Unexpired Term (Gerald Vincent)*

Mayor Adams advised City Council members that Mr. Thrower needed to be appointed to fill the unexpired terms of Mr. Vincent on the Southside Regional Jail Authority.

Council Harris moved to appoint Mr. Thrower to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Vincent on the Southside Regional Jail Authority. Mr. 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

3818. Regional (Meherrin) Library Board – Unexpired Term (Julia L. Jones)

Mayor Adams reported that Ms. Julia L. Jones submitted a letter of resignation from the Regional (Meherrin) Library Board. He also reported that City Council members need to appoint an individual to fill the unexpired four (4) year term, with two (2) consecutive terms. He further reported that the unexpired term reflects an expiration date of June 30, 2010.

He stated that the following names were submitted as suggested nominees to fill the vacancy:

- Mrs. Carole Andellsubmitted by Mr. Pete Andell
- Ms. Ruth Tillarsubmitted by Ms. Sarah A. P. Raible on behalf of the Meherrin Regional Library Board’s Personnel Committee

Councilman Lankford moved that nomination for the Regional (Meherrin) Library Board vacancy be closed. Councilman White seconded the motion. It was the consensus of City Council members that nominations for the Regional (Meherrin) Library Board be closed.

Councilman Saunders moved to nominate Councilman Harris to fill the vacant seat on the Regional (Meherrin) Library Board. 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 | abstained |
| Councilman James C. Saunders | aye |
| Councilwoman Doris T. White | aye |
| Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey | aye |
| Councilman Ned V. Lankford | aye |

3819. Disaster Recovery Assistance Bids

Mr. Thrower reported that the City Administration solicited a number of bids from qualified firms for recovery assistance in removing debris, within the City limits, resulting from federally declared national disasters. He also reported that the following six (6) bids were received:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Coker’s Tree Service | \$25.00/cubic yard |
| Storm Reconstruction Services..... | \$18.37/cubic yard |
| Omni | \$ 9.35/cubic yard |
| Crowder Gulf | \$ 9.00/cubic yard |
| Ceres Environmental | \$ 7.96/cubic yard |
| Ashbritt, Inc. | \$ 7.50/cubic yard |

He further reported that the lowest bid was received from Ashbritt, Inc., with a bid package outlining that, since 1992, the company managed and executed over eighty (80) disaster projects and twenty-eight (28) special environmental projects.

He stated that Ashbritt, Inc.'s bid package also outlines that the company has been directly involved in debris recovery missions of thirty (30) federally declared major storms in twelve (12) states. He also stated that the company states that, either before or up to twelve (12) hours after a disaster occurrence, senior management can be on-site with clean-up crews. He further stated that copies of a proposed contract with Ashbritt, Inc. had been distributed to City Council members for review and consideration.

Councilman Saunders asked Mr. Thrower if references for Ashbritt, Inc. had been verified.

Mr. Thrower advised Councilman Saunders that references for all three (3) of the lowest bidders had been verified by the City's Emergency Services Director, Ken Ryals. He also advised him that reference verifications for all three (3) of the lowest bidders were favorable.

Councilman White moved that Ashbritt, Inc.'s proposed bid be approved, subject to term approval by Mr. Barrett. 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

3820. City Charter Amendment – Redevelopment and Housing Authority Appointments

Mayor Adams reported that, several months prior, the issue of City Council members being appointed to serve on the Redevelopment and Housing Authority was discussed. He also reported that the matter is again before City Council members for discussion, as it would require a modification to the City's Charter if City Council members wished to move forward concerning the matter.

Councilman Saunders asked Mayor Adams if a member of City Council would be obligated to serve on the Redevelopment and Housing Authority.

Mayor Adams advised Councilman Saunders that City Council members would not be obligated to serve but would have the option. He also advised him that such modification to the City's Charter could enhance communication efforts between City Council and the Redevelopment and Housing Authority.

Mr. Thrower reported that such modifications to the City's Charter require that a public hearing be scheduled concerning the matter.

Councilman Harris moved to approve that a public hearing be scheduled for November 20, 2007 concerning the 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

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. Deborah F. Brown, President of Emporia-Greenville NAACP, expressed gratitude to Mayor Adams, Councilman White and his spouse, Mr. Thrower, Mr. Harris and his spouse, and Mrs. Prince and her spouse for attending the NAACP's annual Freedom Fund Banquet, held October 20, 2007. She stated that, for the first time since 1940, there was representation from federal, state, county, and city levels. She also stated that she was appreciative of the support and hopes that everyone will continue to work together in the community for the community.

With there being no further comments to come before City Council, Mayor Adams adjourned the meeting.

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

Councilman White moved that Closed Session be entered for the purpose of discussing Virginia Code §§ **2.2-3711 (A) (1) Personnel Matter, (3) Acquisition of Real Property for Public Purpose and (7) Legal Matter**. 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

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

Councilman Harris 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

Councilman Harris moved to authorize Mayor Adams to negotiate a contract with Clint Strong, former City Manager of Hopewell, VA, to serve as Special Projects Coordinator with the City of Emporia for a period of up to or about 90 days. 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

Councilwoman White moved to approve the addendum to the dog pound contract dated July 19, 1983 between Greensville County, VA and the City of Emporia, VA. 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

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