

PUBLIC HEARING

1. City School Board/Greensville County School Board - Appointments

Emporia City Council held a Public Hearing on Tuesday, October 7, 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:

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 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
Steven B. Hall, Assistant City Manager
Bernard Richardson, Chief of Police
Brian S. Thrower, City Manger
Lori R. Jarratt, Interim City Clerk

Absent: Jean V. Whiting, City Clerk

City School Board/Greensville County School Board - Appointments

Mr. Thrower reported that, on December 31, 2008, the 4-year terms of Ms. Janey V. Bush on the City School Board and the Greensville County School Board will expire. He also reported that Ms. Bush indicated that she wishes to be considered for reappointment to both seats. He further stated that, pursuant to Code of Virginia Section 22.1-29.1, the appointment of any School Board member shall not be made within at least 7 day of holding a public hearing concerning the matter.

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

Ms. Janey V. Bush of 101 Tall Oaks Drive, Emporia, VA expressed gratitude to City Council members for allowing her to serve on the City School Board and the Greensville County School Board over the years. She stated that she has witnessed many improvements in the school system and is, “very proud of where we are today.” She asked City Council members to continue to provide her with their support and allow her to continue serving on the City School Board and the Greensville County School Board.

With there being no further comments to come before City Council, Mayor Adams declared the public hearing closed and stated that action, concerning the matter, would be taken at the next regularly scheduled City Council Meeting.

Samuel W. Adams, III, Mayor

Jean V. Whiting, City Clerk

**MINUTES
EMPORIA CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF EMPORIA MUNICIPAL BUILDING
OCTOBER 7, 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, October 7, 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
Steven B. Hall, Assistant City Manager
Bernard Richardson, Chief of Police
Brian S. Thrower, City Manger
Lori R. Jarratt, Interim City Clerk

Absent: Jean V. Whiting, City Clerk

MINUTES APPROVAL

The minutes of the September 16, 2008 Regular Meeting were distributed to City Council members. Councilman White 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 |

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

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

AGENDA APPROVAL

Mayor Adams stated that the Agenda had been amended to include item *08-87. Habitat for Humanity – Building and Zoning Permit Fee Waiver Request.*

Councilman Saunders moved to approve the Agenda as amended. 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 |

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

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

Mayor Adams reported that, as stated during the public hearing held earlier that day, official appointments to the City School Board and Greenville County School Board would be made at the next regularly scheduled City Council Meeting.

08-84. Meherrin River Blueway Initiative Resolution

Mr. Hall stated that discussions had been ongoing concerning a potential blueway – canoe trail that included proposed stops along the Meherrin River, including several within the City of Emporia. He also stated that the proposed sites within the City of Emporia have been identified as potential put-in and take-out locations. He further stated that a presentation had been made to City Council members previously concerning the matter and that, by way of a signed resolution, their support of the project was sought. He requested that City Council members review and consider the following resolution for support approval:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL
THE CITY OF EMPORIA, VIRGINIA**

MEHERRIN RIVER BLUEWAY INITIATIVE

Whereas, blueways are managed systems of public water access and use sites located along recreational rivers to provide public use of those rivers for recreational, educational, and public health purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Meherrin River has the potential to provide high quality recreation, education, and public health benefits to the citizens of Emporia and the surrounding region; and

WHEREAS, the City of Emporia owns property on the banks of the Meherrin River that is suitable for the development of public water access facilities; and

WHEREAS, development of a blueway on the Meherrin River will attract visitors from outside of the region who will bring economic benefits to our economy; and

WHEREAS, neighboring jurisdictions are studying the potential to add blueway facilities to their rivers, thereby creating a system of multi-jurisdictional water trails throughout Southern Virginia that will attract recreational boaters from outside of the region to the benefit of our economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Emporia, Virginia supports the development of water access, parking, and support facilities on City owned properties located on the Meherrin River.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of Emporia, Virginia is committed to the maintenance of these access areas as parks for the use of its citizens and guests.

Councilman Harris asked Mr. Hall if the City of Emporia would be potentially liable for hidden costs associated with the project by signing the resolution.

Mr. Hall advised Councilman Harris that it was his understanding that funding for the project development would be obtained by way of grants. He also advised him that the City of Emporia could be involved in the maintenance of such potential sites. He further advised him that, should grant funding not be obtained, there would be potential costs to the City of Emporia if City Council members agreed to move forward with the project.

Councilman Saunders moved to approve the ordinance 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 |

Mr. Thrower stated that the City of Emporia was awarded a Highway Safety Project Grant by the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles. He also stated that the grant consists of \$22,484.00 in pass through funds from USDOT/NHTSA. He further stated that the funds were designated for traffic enforcement equipment and needed to be appropriated into the City's FY 08-09 Operating Budget. He requested that City Council members review the following ordinance for approval:

ORDINANCE NO.: 08-26

Ordinance

**An Ordinance To Appropriate The Sum Of
\$22,484.00 In DMV Highway Safety Grant Funds**

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

1. That the sum of \$22,484.00 in Highway Safety Grant funds from the Department of Motor Vehicles 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 \$22,484.00 in anticipated General Fund Revenues and the sum of \$22,484.00 appropriated to General Fund Expenditures for expenses related to the City's highway safety enforcement activities, Account Number 31100-8111 DMV Highway Safety 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.

Councilman Harris 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 | aye |
| Councilman James C. Saunders | aye |
| Councilwoman Doris T. White | aye |
| Councilwoman Carolyn S. Carey | aye |
| Councilman Ned V. Lankford | aye |

08-86. 2010 Real Estate Reassessment Services – Approval of Contract

Mr. Thrower stated that the City's Administration solicited bids on the 2010 real estate reassessment. He also stated that three appraisal firms bided on the services and that Mr. Randall C. Willis submitted the lowest bid of the three at \$45,200.00. He further stated that a proposed contract for services had been reviewed by the City of Emporia's attorney and was provided to City Council members for review and approval.

He reported that the authorized contractor would begin fieldwork no later than March 2, 2009 and would complete assigned tasks no later than October 15, 2009. He also reported that the contractor would

conduct general reassessment of all real estate within the City of Emporia with values estimated at 100% fair market value and would be required to maintain appropriate general and professional liability insurance in accordance with the City of Emporia's standards. He further reported that payment of the contracted amount would be disbursed over two (2) fiscal years in installments of \$3,766.67 over a twelve (12) month period.

Councilwoman Squire moved to approve the contract 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 |

08-87. Habitat for Humanity – Building and Zoning Permit Fee Waiver Request

Mr. Thrower stated that Emporia-Greenville Habitat for Humanity requests that the City of Emporia waive all building and zoning fees associated with remodeling of their newly acquired 208 East Atlantic Street facility.

Mayor Adams asked Mr. Thrower to provide the approximate dollar amount associated with the request.

Mr. Thrower advised Mayor Adams that the total fees associated with the request would be based on improvements made and should amount to, "a couple hundred dollars."

Councilwoman White moved to approve the waiver request as presented. 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 |

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. Bob Flippen of Greensville County, Virginia extended gratitude, on behalf of the Peanut Festival Committee, to City Council members and all others for their help with the 2008 Peanut Festival. He especially commended the City's Public Works Department for their quick and efficient clean-up efforts immediately following the event.

Mrs. Debra Brown of the local NAACP chapter expressed gratitude to everyone who attended the 2008 Greensville-Emporia Freedom Fund Banquet. She stated that the event was sold out and that she was

very proud of the attendees, which included representatives from the City of Emporia and Greensville County. She also stated that everyone did an excellent job in presenting themselves to the community and hoped that all in attendance had an equally enjoyable time.

Mayor Adams commended Mrs. Brown on the event's speaker, Mr. Jack W. Gravely, citing that he did an, "outstanding" job.

Ms. Jean Potts of 509 West End Boulevard, Emporia, Virginia stated that she was concerned with the extreme inflation of her monthly water bills. She also stated that it was her understanding that fees would be increasing again. She further stated that the matter posed a real concern for individuals on fixed.

She reported that her water bill had gone from \$45.00 a month to \$111.00 a month and that she, "really can not afford that." She also reported that citizens of 238 Moore Street were in the audience and had been experiencing the same type of inflation with their water bills.

Mayor Adams advised Ms. Potts that he would have someone from the City of Emporia's Utility Department visit the property addresses the following day to assess the water meters to ensure that they are all functioning properly.

Ms. Stacy Gray of Emporia/Greensville Boys and Girls Club stated that the Boys and Girls Club was continuing to work towards their window project. She also stated that the second phase of the project was underway and that the quote initially presented to City Council members had increased by approximately \$3,000.00 as the price of the windows had increased since that time. She requested that City Council members provide additional assistance to help secure the purchase of windows.

Mayor Adams asked Ms. Gray to provide the initial bid amount for purchasing the windows.

Ms. Gray advised Mayor Adams that the initial bid amount was approximately \$12,600.00. She also stated that the initial capital request to Greensville County was based on the City's contribution to the project.

Mayor Adams advised Ms. Gray that it was his understanding, when the matter was last presented to City Council members, that the amount requested from the City of Emporia, at that time, was the final amount sought and needed for the project.

He asked Ms. Gray if it was her understanding, at that time, that when she left City Council all funding was in place to implement the project.

Ms. Gray advised Mayor Adams that it was her understanding that the funding was in place for the project. She also advised him that she then went back to Greensville County to make sure that funds were secured prior to purchasing the windows.

Mr. James Parham, VP of Operations at Emporia/Greensville Boys and Girls Club advised Mayor Adams that funding, at that time, was conditional based upon City Council's response as Greensville County based their funding response on that of the City of Emporia.

Mayor Adams stated that he misunderstood, at that time, as it was his understanding that the funding requested was the final amount needed for the project to be implemented. He asked if he was correct in understanding that the current request for additional funding was based on the delayed response by the City of Emporia to her initial request.

Mr. Parham advised Mayor Adams that, unfortunately, he was correct.

Mayor Adams asked if, in addition to the funding sources received via donations, fund raising projects had been initiated to substantiate the additional funds needed for the project.

Ms. Gray advised Mayor Adams that funding raising efforts had not taken place as the project is classified as a capital project.

Mayor Adams asked Ms. Gray if he was correct in understanding that Greenville County would provide \$7,825.00 towards the project.

Ms. Gray advised Mayor Adams that he was correct and that the amount given by Greenville County totaled half the costs associated with the project.

Mayor Adams asked Ms. Gray if he was correct in understanding that she was requesting additional funding from the City of Emporia in the amount of \$2,725.00 for windows at the Boys and Girls Club facility, which is owned by Greenville County.

Ms. Gray advised Mayor Adams that he was correct.

Councilman Saunders asked Ms. Gray if quotes had been obtained from other building supply companies in addition to Mid South Building Supply.

Ms. Gray advised Councilman Saunders that the current quote would only be honored for thirty days and that other avenues would require additional time and would potentially require additional money, as was the case concerning her current request. She also advised him that, if needed, she will pursue other avenues in an effort to satisfy the additional funding needed.

With there being no further comments to come before City Council, Mayor Adams entertained a motion to enter into Closed Session and advised Ms. Gray to contact the City Manager the following morning concerning the Boys and Girls Club's request for additional funding.

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

Councilman White moved that Closed Session be entered for the purpose of discussing Virginia Code §§ 2.2-3711 (A) (7) **Legal 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