

The New River City
May 13, 2019 **Radford, Virginia**
10 Robertson St.
Regular Meeting Number 23 of Radford City Council, F.Y. 2018-2019

The regular meeting of the Radford City Council was convened at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 10 Robertson Street, Radford, VA. The Mayor of the City, Raymond David Horton, was present and presiding. Other members of City Council present were Ms. Jessie Foster, Mr. Robert P. Gropman, Dr. Richard Harshberger, Ms. Naomi Huntington.

Others present were as follows:
Mr. David Ridpath, City Manager
Ms. Jenni Wilder, City Clerk
Ms. Melissa Skelton, Community Development Director

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Horton led citizens in a moment of reflection.

MINUTES APPROVALS: On a motion by Dr. Harshberger and seconded by Ms. Huntington that the minutes for the April 22, 2019 Regular Meeting are approved as amended.

VOTE:

AYES: Ms. Foster, Mr. Gropman, Dr. Harshberger, Ms. Huntington, Mayor Horton
NAYES: None-0

SUBJECT: National Police Week

SUMMARY: The week of May 12-19, 2019 has been nationally designated as “Police Week”, to honor the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice and to those who put their lives in danger each day protecting and serving our communities. A similar Proclamation was prepared for City Council consideration for a local designation declaring the week of May 13-19, 2019 as “Police Week”.

ACTION: Mr. Gropman made a motion to approve the proclamation as presented, Dr. Harshberger seconded the motion.

VOTE:

AYES: Ms. Foster, Mr. Gropman, Dr. Harshberger, Ms. Huntington, Mayor Horton
NAYES: None-0

SUBJECT: National EMS Week

SUMMARY: The week of May 19-25, 2019 has been nationally designated as “Emergency Medical Services Week”, to honor the men and women who serve in the field of emergency medical services, as well as recognize the importance of out of hospital care, lifesaving skills, training and education. A Proclamation was prepared for City Council consideration for a local designation declaring the week of May 19-25, 2019 as “Emergency Medical Services Week”.

ACTION: Ms. Foster made a motion to approve the proclamation as presented, Dr. Harshberger seconded the motion.

VOTE:

AYES: Ms. Foster, Mr. Gropman, Dr. Harshberger, Ms. Huntington, Mayor Horton

NAYES: None-0

RESOLUTION:

SUBJECT: Plott Financial

SUMMARY: A Resolution was proposed to recognize Plott Financial. The business owned by Mary Plott, is celebrating its 30th year of business specializing in financial planning. The Resolution reflects the impact of the business on the local economy, dedication to community service and the economy, as well as its business success.

ACTION: Dr. Harshberger made a motion to approve the resolution as presented, Ms. Foster seconded the motion.

VOTE:

AYES: Ms. Foster, Mr. Gropman, Dr. Harshberger, Ms. Huntington, Mayor Horton

NAYES: None-0

RECOGNITION:

SUBJECT: Food Truck Rodeo

SUMMARY: Brian Lawson, Deb Cooney, Layla Turner were recognized for their planning, contributions and volunteerism to the very successful Food Truck Rodeo held on April 27, 2019.

PRESENTATION:

SUBJECT: Section 8 Housing

SUMMARY: Gabe Martin, Housing Administrator for DSS, presented an overview of the local Section 8 Housing Program, funding sources and challenges.

OLD BUSINESS:

SUBJECT: Appointments to Boards and Commissions

SUMMARY: An appointment was needed to fill the vacant VASAP board position. Action was deferred from the April 22, 2019 meeting to solicit additional interest.

ACTION: Dr. Harshberger made a motion to appoint Mr. Grady Devilbiss, Ms. Huntington seconded the motion.

VOTE:

AYES: Ms. Foster, Mr. Gropman, Dr. Harshberger, Ms. Huntington, Mayor Horton

NAYES: None-0

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Ms. Laurie Buchwald invited all to come out to the annual Ride of Silence and the Memorial Day Program during the month of May. Both are events unique to Radford and have been ongoing for several years. Ms. Buchwald invited all to attend and participate if able.

NEW BUSINESS:

SUBJECT: CDBG Action Plan

SUMMARY: Each year, an “Action Plan” is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development relating to expenditures by communities under the Community Development Block Grant program. The “Action Plan” for the F.Y. 2019-2020 Community Development Block Grant program is proposed to include funding for five service organizations, project planning and administration related to conducting zoning ordinance research, funding for beautification, slum and blight removal, emergency home repair, as well as funding for the West Main Street improvements associated with the “triangle” redevelopment project. Funding is anticipated at \$282,689 which includes the 2020 allocation of \$169,689 and a 2019 “carryover” of \$33,000. All of the proposed projects meet federal CDBG requirements and overall City objectives.

ACTION: Mr. Gropman made a motion to approve the Action Plan as presented, Ms. Foster seconded the motion.

VOTE:

AYES: Ms. Foster, Mr. Gropman, Dr. Harshberger, Ms. Huntington, Mayor Horton

NAYES: None-0

SUBJECT: Surplus Property

SUMMARY: The City of Radford recently received delivery of a new Ambulance to replace one of the older units. The Ambulance scheduled for replacement is a 2001 Ford F-450 cab and chassis with a Wheeled Coach ambulance body that is referred to as Medic-one. Due to its age, service reliability and overall mechanical condition, staff recommended the Ford Ambulance be declared “surplus”. It will be sold through public offering.

ACTION: Ms. Foster made a motion to surplus Medic-one, Dr. Harshberger seconded the motion.

VOTE:

AYES: Ms. Foster, Mr. Gropman, Dr. Harshberger, Ms. Huntington, Mayor Horton

NAYES: None-0

SUBJECT: Reimbursement Resolution

SUMMARY: The City Council and the School Board have been discussing capital improvements to the Radford City Schools. Elements of the project(s) may include design, acquisition, construction, expansion, renovation and equipment that will result in tax-exempt financing. In order to be reimbursed for project expenses in the early stages of planning and design, a Resolution is necessary to formally recognize possible project cost for reimbursement from proceeds and was developed by Bond Counsel, Sands Anderson and Associates. The Resolution was also reviewed by the City Attorney.

ACTION: Dr. Harshberger made a motion to approve the resolution as presented, Ms. Foster seconded the motion.

VOTE:

AYES: Ms. Foster, Mr. Gropman, Dr. Harshberger, Ms. Huntington, Mayor Horton

NAYES: None-0

SUBJECT: Farmer’s Market – Norwood Square:

SUMMARY: City Council received a report at the April 8, 2019 meeting from Brooke Love on the status of the Farmer's Market. The Farmer's Market has been located in the NRVCS Parking Lot on West Main since 2017. The market has relocated due to demands on the NRVCS lot and conflicts with the transit stop. Several alternatives have been considered, but the preference is at the Norwood Square parking lot. The Farmer's Market Committee has a 501-C3 status and requested formal use from City Council for the Norwood Square Parking Lot for Saturdays through October from 8:00 a.m. till 1:00 p.m.

ACTION: Ms. Huntington made a motion to approve the closer of the Farmer's Market Lot as presented, Ms. Foster seconded the motion.

VOTE:

AYES: Ms. Foster, Mr. Gropman, Dr. Harshberger, Ms. Huntington, Mayor Horton

NAYES: None-0

CITY MANAGERS COMMENTS:

Mr. Ridpath stated that paving projects have begun city wide and crews have also begun spring and summertime clean up and beautification efforts.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Ms. Foster stated that her moment of silence to Erman Feral. Ms. Foster informed Council that there will be a briefing by the Regional Jail at the June 10 meeting and encourages Council Members and City staff to bring in books to donate to the Jail. Ms. Foster also mention that Council would like to get the Arsenal Commander to come and brief Council at a future meeting.

Dr. Harshberger stated that they should be finished the I-81 project in the coming year and also mentioned that there will be many ACCE program students looking for volunteer hours and the City should use them as a resource.

Mr. Gropman stated that the men and women of RCPD are near and dear to his heart and read the below poem.

THE POLICEMAN'S FIGHT

I am a policeman,
And this is my fight.
As I tuck in my family,
And kiss them goodnight.
I take one last look,
Drawing everything in.
For I am not sure,
If I will see them again.

I put on my uniform,
And strap on my vest.
I prepare for the worst,
And hope for the best.
I affix my gun belt,
Make sure all is secure.
I say one final prayer,
For St. Michael to hear.

According to the book of Matthew,
"Blessed are those who keep the peace."
I confront evil every day,
Just read your local press release.

For I am a Sheepdog,
I protect the flock of sheep.
Against the heinous pack of the wolves,
That harass them when they sleep.

I embark on my shift,
So much work to be done.
Writing reports and citations,
Chasing a felon with a gun.
For each night is different,
Get to experience something new.
Have to stay mentally prepared,
For each crime that I pursue.

The things I have seen,
Would surpass your worst nightmare.
Some things are too horrific,
And too graphic for me to share.
The sheer evil that exists,
Is far from in decline.
Just be glad there's a select few,
Who put their lives on the line.

Because the only thing required,
For evil in this world to win.
Is for good men to do nothing,
Which is a far greater sin.
Yet this responsibility comes,
At a great sacrifice.
There's a permanent target on my back,
Some of us pay the ultimate price.

I've lost some good friends,
Sad memories from the past.
Victims of divorce, corruption,
And their families being harassed.
Accidents, suicides,
Depression and PTSD.
I thank God every day,
These things have not happened to me.

Sure, we have our share of corruption,
But it pales in comparison.
To the attorney, the athlete,
The financier and politician.
The numbers speak for themselves,
The research is overdone.
Less than one half of one percent,
Will disgrace our badge and gun.

So be cautious and careful,
Of the stories on TV.
That paint a negative picture,
Of my brothers, sisters, and me.
For we ride the thin blue line,
Making life and death choices every day.
My split-second decisions,
Will be criticized in every way.

But until you walk in my shoes,
And see what I've seen.

You can't possibly imagine,
The stress on my scene.
Although we're on a pedestal,
We are people just like you.
On the outside we may bleed red,
But deep down we bleed blue.

At last, it's the end of my shift,
Finally time to get some sleep.
Think I only need four hours,
To maintain my upkeep.
With all my EJs and OT,
Wearing my body thin.
Drowsy and tired,
I still hold up my chin.

I walk into each bedroom,
And kiss my family goodnight.
So thankful to God,
That I've survived another night.
With all the controversy and assumptions,
You may not like what I do.
But at the end of the day,
I will lay down my life for you!

Ms. Huntington thanked Mr. Gropman for championing the efforts to have the flags installed across Memorial Bridge and also mentioned the West End Wednesdays will be taking place again in the coming weeks.

Mayor Horton stated that with graduation this past weekend the students leaving for the Summer it is a good time for citizens to get reacquainted with the east end business district. Mayor Horton mentioned it might be a good idea to have a summer time restaurant week. Mayor Horton invited the community to come out and help pack the bobcat backpacks and told citizens to continue to share the good stories of Radford. Good things are happening in Radford and good things are on the way.

Ms. Huntington made a motion, seconded by Dr. Harshberger to convene a closed meeting for the purpose of consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body. For the purposes of this subdivision, "probable litigation" means litigation that has been specifically threatened or on which the public body or its legal counsel has a reasonable basis to believe will be commenced by or against a known party. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to permit the closure of a meeting merely because an attorney representing the public body is in attendance or is consulted on a matter. 2.2-3711 (A) (7).

VOTE:

AYES: Ms. Foster, Mr. Gropman, Dr. Harshberger, Ms. Huntington, Mayor Horton
NAYES: None-0

Dr. Harshberger made a motion to adjourn the closed meeting, Ms. Huntington seconded the motion.

VOTE:

AYES: Ms. Foster, Mr. Gropman, Dr. Harshberger, Ms. Huntington, Mayor Horton
NAYES: None-0

Dr. Harshberger made a motion to re-convene the regular meeting, Ms. Huntington seconded the motion.

VOTE:

AYES: Ms. Foster, Mr. Gropman, Dr. Harshberger, Ms. Huntington, Mayor Horton

NAYES: None-0

CERTIFICATION OF THE CLOSED MEETING:

Ms. Huntington made a motion that Council did not discuss anything in the closed meeting other than the two items for which it was convened, Dr. Harshberger seconded the motion.

VOTE:

AYES: Ms. Foster, Mr. Gropman, Dr. Harshberger, Ms. Huntington, Mayor Horton

NAYES: None-0

Mr. Gropman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m., seconded by Ms. Huntington

VOTE:

AYES: Ms. Foster, Mr. Gropman, Dr. Harshberger, Ms. Huntington, Mayor Horton

NAYES: None-0

ATTEST: _____
Jennifer G. Wilder, Clerk of Council

