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**CITY OF BUENA VISTA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 19 2017**

The City Council for the City of Buena Vista met for a Regular Council Meeting on Thursday, October **19**, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers (2039 Sycamore Avenue).

Council Members Present: Mayor Larry Tolley

Steve Baldrige

John Dyer

Tim Petrie

Bill Fitzgerald

Vice-Mayor Clark

Members Absent: Melvin Henson

ADG#1 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND PRAYER:

Mayor Tolley opened the meeting by requesting that everyone stand and repeat the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilman Baldrige delivered the opening prayer.

ADG#2 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 5, 2017 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING:

Motion was made by Councilman Baldrige to approve the minutes from the October 5, 2017 Regular Council meeting, seconded by Vice-Mayor Clark, carried by Council with the exception of Councilman Petrie who abstained.

ADG#3 RECOGNITION/COMMUNICATION FROM VISITORS:

Citizens who desire to speak on matters not listed on the agenda below will be heard at this time. Citizens who desire to speak on a specific item listed on the agenda, open for public comment, will be heard when that item is considered.

No one spoke.

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ADG#4 REPORTS:

MAYOR:

Mayor Tolley started his report by thanking everyone that was involved with Mountain Day. He opined it was a very successful event and well attended with an estimated 8,000 to 10,000 people attending. He advised that on Wednesday he attended an "All Hands" meeting at Munters. Munters has this meeting on a monthly basis to let the employees know what is happening in the industry and what their business looks like for the next several months. They talked about various subjects such as safety and warranty re-works. He also presented a Proclamation to an employee, Mr. Keith Dunnivant, who was involved heavily with the data center product that is manufactured here at their Buena Vista facility. Mr. Dunnivant is the one responsible for getting Munters into the data center cooling business. He opined it was a good event and that Mr. Dunnivant is responsible for adding 100 jobs to Munters here and in 2 other continents. The Plant Manager, Mr. Don Driscoll, said that he would like to be more visible and involved in the community. They will be involved with the Christmas parade with a float entry. That event was held at the same time the Mayors/Chair breakfast was being held so Councilman Baldrige filled in for him at that event.

Councilman Baldrige said it was the first time he attended the Mayors/Chair breakfast. The breakfast was hosted by Rockbridge County. There were a lot of different things that were talked about. They talked about some of our issues and some of the things that were learned at the VML Conference. It seems there will be some refugee immigrants from Puerto Rico coming to our area. They talked about the need for Spanish speaking individuals and accommodating new people in our area.

Mayor Tolley said he had an announcement that came in the form of a press release. He said he has been working on classic car rallies for a number of years and he is a classic car fan. He has been following an event that has been put on for the last 5 to 6 years. One location he has been to is Floyd County and the most recent one was held in Dublin. A company puts on these car shows and talking to a gentleman over the past couple of years he has finally agreed to come to Buena Vista to look at GMP. As a result of him talking with this gentleman, the following press announcement was made:

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CITY ANNOUNCES NEW CAR SHOW FOR GLEN MAURY PARK:

OCTOBER 19, 2017

The City of Buena Vista Parks and Recreation Department is announcing a new car show at Glen Maury Park for the 2018 season. The new event is being conducted by Erik Herdman of Chasing SS Cars LLC and will take place from June 1st to the 3rd in the rally field at GMP. GMP car show is one of six scheduled by the company in Virginia and North Carolina for the 2018 season. Other locations include Mt. Airey, North Carolina, Dublin, Virginia and Floyd, Virginia. These events bring over 100 cars and 100 vendors to sale and trade items at each show. Vendors travel from as far north as New Hampshire and as far south as Florida. Mayor Tolley said he would like to thank Mr. Herdman for selecting GMP as an expansion of his car show business. Also, thanks to Brian Brown, Economic Development Director and Parks and Recreation Director for the City. Mayor Larry Tolley deserves thanks as well for his involvement for marketing the City and helping set up the initial meeting with park staff. The event is now the third major car show on the calendar for the 2018 season. The Puzzled Car Show will take place May 11th through May 13, 2018 and the Beach Music Car Show will take place on July 28, 2018.

Mayor Tolley said we are pleased to bring this event to GMP. As stated, he will bring vendors from Florida to New Hampshire which does not exclude local vendors. Mayor Tolley will be helping Mr. Herdman make some contacts locally and through his contacts further up north to make this first event worthwhile for him and hopefully we can continue on. Mayor Tolley said it only took one visit from Mr. Herdman to decide to have the event at GMP. Once he saw the rally field and the camping facilities, he made the decision to have the event here. He opined this will be a good event for GMP.

CITY MANAGER:

Mr. Scudder started his report by saying the sewer project at GMP is complete. He said that Ms. Mastran is going to supply the total cost for the project. Street Scape is going well. They finished one side on Thursday afternoon in time for Mountain Day. The Public Works crew has been taking out some hazardous trees in the City. Public Works has put down tons of asphalt within the City and has done a very good job. We are in the process of patching Route 501. The contractor will be back in a couple of weeks to finish that project up. VDOT has given us a letter saying they have restored our financing. Mr. Scudder told Council that he had sent an email out to them concerning paving the City parking lot. He said that he and Councilman Henson have worked on it a little bit

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together. He opined that we can make a reasonable financial repair there that will enhance that area dramatically. Some of it will be City work and some will be contractor work. The contractor was the low bidder on two projects in the City and we used his price point on that. Those bids were lower by a pretty good margin. The contractor is a local company out of Lexington. The existing concrete was put there some time ago with the Farmer's Market in mind. The new design will not impact us having a Farmer's Market in the future. We are planning on shrinking it down to about 6 or 8 feet in width and maintain the same configuration. It will be a curbed concrete and brick paver tree lawn street scape very much like what we are seeing going on the sidewalks on Magnolia. He hopes we can do the project for somewhere around the \$50,000.00 range or lower. You can see we are really stretching the funds as we go. Mike Branscome of VDOT is doing a good job of that and we are getting further down Magnolia than we originally had anticipated. These are some very good improvements for the City. This is 2% match money on a \$550,000.00 project. He said he has talked to some of Council before about the parking lot. The contractor is there and what he wants Council to do is to give him a node and put it together and he will go forward with it. He said he will keep Council updated on the project.

Vice-Mayor Clark wanted to know what the additional cost will be to the City if the parking lot is done.

Mr. Scudder said the additional cost for paving the City parking lot could be done for less than \$50,000.00.

Vice-Mayor Clark wanted to know if that is the best place to spend \$50,000.00.

Mr. Scudder opined that because of the street scape plans being implemented and how much the City has benefited from those dollars, he feels it is something we should do.

Vice-Mayor Clark wanted to know if that is the best place to repair since so many of the streets are in such poor shape.

Mr. Scudder opined the City parking lot is the best place to put the money because of all of the other work that is being done in that area and it needs to be fixed. He stated that we will miss a great opportunity to have it done for a very good price.

Councilman Baldrige wanted to know if we are coming in under budget on the project or at budget since we have spent more on Magnolia.

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Mr. Scudder said the project is on budget.

Councilman Dyer said that when there are events going on at the Maury River Senior Center, the parking lot is full.

Mayor Tolley said this will be only concrete and trees.

Mr. Scudder advised that the pavement is not a problem; the concrete walkway is a problem. What we will do is go in and pave the sections that will be exposed because we are shrinking down the foot print of what is there. He said again he really thinks the City should do this project. He feels we are missing a great opportunity to get something else done if we don't do the project.

Mayor Tolley wanted to know if the same contractor will be doing the Safe Routes to School project.

Mr. Scudder said it is the same contractor and he would do the additional project at the same time he is wrapping up this one at the end of November.

Mayor Tolley opined since the project is \$50,000.00 we should have the project as an agenda item to vote on it. He said he has a problem with the mechanics of approving a \$50,000.00 expenditure without it being an agenda item.

Councilman Petrie wanted to know if Mayor Tolley is seeing the Street Scape and the parking lot as one whole project. It is an enticement to come downtown. The Street Scape has better sidewalks and better access to downtown and places to park. He said he was impressed on the way Mountain Day was run and secondly it brought into mind that there should be more events like that downtown. He said we have a lot of events at the park but he sees one way of drawing more people downtown is improving the streets and the parking lot.

Councilman Baldrige wanted to know if there would be any trees planted at the parking lot.

Mr. Scudder said that trees would be included. He apologized for bringing this subject to Council and saying we need to do the project without looking into it earlier. Because of some of the things that we do financially, the more he looked at the project the more he felt we have to do it. He opined it would not be a good idea to not do the parking lot. He said that he understands that the Mayor wants this to be an agenda item but Council can give him the authority to do the project. The contractor has to get his things in place to do the project. If we wait until mid-November, they are going to finish the project by the end of November then we might miss the mobilization because timing is critical. He said we have talked about this for years.

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Mayor Tolley said he will look to our City Attorney to help Council decide on this. He said he would like to see the parking lot done but he wants to do it the correct way. He said that the City Manager is authorized to spend \$20,000.00 without Council's approval. Therefore, he believes that Council will have to take action before the project can be done.

Councilman Petrie said he would like to see a rendering of what the parking lot would look like after the work is done.

Mr. Kearney advised since there was not a full Council present we cannot amend the agenda to include an item.

Mr. Scudder wanted to know if Council could authorize him to do the project.

Mr. Kearney said there is a \$300,000.00 Resolution later on in the agenda but that is not the same amount. He said that for \$50,000.00 Council is indicating they would rather take formal Council action.

Mayor Tolley said he would rather take formal Council action.

Vice-Mayor Clark said she also would like formal Council action on the matter. She also said she is not opposed to having a special meeting to discuss the project.

Mr. Scudder asked to be allowed to talk to the contractor about the timing of the Safe Route to Schools also. He said he will also see if he can get a rendering from Proctor Harvey. He said it is basically going to be the same thing of what we have looked at and modified; it will just be scaled down.

Councilman Petrie stated that Mr. Scudder had also referred to the area being used for the Farmer's Market. He said if it is in line with what we have talked about in the past it will be nice. However, he is a visual person and he would like to have an idea on how things will fit together.

Councilman Dyer wanted to know if it will follow what is already there. He asked if we will reduce it from 12 feet to 8 feet.

Mr. Scudder stated that when we removed the trees it devastated the concrete area.

Councilman Baldrige said he would also be in favor of having a special meeting if need be.

Mayor Tolley asked Mr. Scudder to meet with the contractor and bring his thoughts back to Council.

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Mr. Scudder then addressed the Rockbridge Area Recreation Trail Plan for this area was done and there are 30 partners in this. They will ask each jurisdiction to do a Resolution to adopt it. This really covers a lot of tourism opportunities in this area in pretty big detail.

Councilman Baldrige said at the Mayors/Chair meeting there was mention of a grant for the Chessie Trail has been given up.

Mr. Scudder said that VMI decided it would be simpler to do themselves because of Federal restrictions. The metal roof at the library still has some problem areas with leaks. Lance Construction sent their roofing company out and they worked on the roof for a day. There was a little bit of confusion on the budget update between himself and Mr. Dudley. Mr. Dudley said he had sent a memo to Ms. Wheeler that is a synopsis of things. On page 2 you will see the deficit for the current fiscal year of \$998,733.00. This is the time of year that we start collecting real estate and personal property taxes. This is why a fund balance is so important. If you don't have a good fund balance and you are doing million dollar grants from VDOT that are reimbursable and all these types of things going on and you don't have an adequate fund balance, you have to go to the bank and figure out some sort of short term loan. He had asked Mr. Dudley to describe that situation a little bit more. On page 4 you will also see a number that is a deficit. The accounting basis for these types of funds coming in is always two months behind. You are always going to have a lag time in that category for water and sewer; payments coming in and all these different types of things. These are quarterly reports for all departments. Mr. Scudder said he has been working with SES on updating the regional solid waste plan. They will send a draft in the next couple of days to review. It is kind of an academic exercise to say Paul Palma is going to handle this portion within our solid waste plan for this region. He said he has been talking to Auto Recyclers about getting this solid waste program up and running and what we can do to jump start the project. Mr. Scudder said that each year at budget time we do a sheet of accomplishments that we feel are marked accomplishments that happened during the fiscal year. He receives a report from each department. We had a list of these accomplishments that really could have been pulled together a little bit more comprehensively. He talked to Mayor Tolley and they put together an accomplishment list for the last 6 years. He said it blows his mind to see what has been done over the last 6 years in capital improvements, operations and financially. There has been a big marked improvement in the last 6 years. It is hard to go into detail on some of these items. Mr. Scudder said that Robin Wines from Nothin Fancy sent an email raving and commending staff for all the work they did doing the preparation and during the actual event. It was the most

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attended event they have ever had and one of the smoothest. We made the decision to let the campers come in early with Nothin Fancy so we could collect their dollars. He opined it all worked out grand and we made \$13,000.00. We also established a camping rate for next year of \$15.00.

Vice-Mayor Clark said that Ms. Wines thought the limo golf cart was wonderful. She also said that Millie went out of her way to make things run well. The City employees were wonderful as well.

CITY ATTORNEY:

None.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE/REPRESENTATIVE:

Councilman Baldrige opined that in so many different departments' people does good work. He said that a couple of years ago when he became a partner in his law firm, he decided they would do debit and credit card transactions. He said he talked with the Treasurer, Mary Lee Huffman, and she is actively pursuing as to how we can do that as a City. He said he is impressed because she is fairly new and is already trying to accomplish some of the tough issues we have not been able to accomplish.

Vice-Mayor Clark said she is actively pursuing the debit and credit card transaction without any of the cost going back to the citizens.

Mr. Scudder opined that Mary Lee is wonderful to work with.

Vice-Mayor Clark then advised that the DSS meeting for October has been cancelled. The DSS is undergoing another investigation.

Mr. Scudder advised that we are actively going after DSS to locate in Buena Vista.

Councilman Baldrige stated that both Rockbridge County and the City of Lexington are in favor of DSS moving to Buena Vista.

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CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES:

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS:

Mr. Steve Douty's term will expire on December 31, 2017. This is a five (5) year term and Mr. Douty is willing to serve again if reappointed. This is the first time this item has appeared on the agenda. **ADVERTISED: THE NEWS GAZETTE – OCTOBER 18, 2017** This item will be carried over to the next Council meeting.

Mr. Dennis Hawes's term will expire on December 31, 2017. This is a five (5) year term and Mr. Hawes is willing to serve again if reappointed. This is the first time this item has appeared on the agenda. **ADVERTISED: THE NEWS GAZETTE – OCTOBER 18, 2017** This item will be carried over to the next Council meeting.

Mayor Tolley wanted to know if someone could serve on both the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Planning Commission.

Mr. Kearney said they can serve on both.

ROCKBRIDGE AREA COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD:

Dr. James Bradford's term will expire on 12/31/17. Dr. Bradford is not eligible to be reappointed. This is a three (3) year term and the first time it has appeared on the agenda. **ADVERTISED: THE NEWS GAZETTE – OCTOBER 18, 2017** This item will be carried over to the next Council meeting.

THE PLANNING COMMISSION:

Mr. Bill Braddy has resigned. He is no longer a resident of Buena Vista. His term will expire on 6/30/20 and the first time it has appeared on the agenda. **ADVERTISED: THE NEWS GAZETTE – OCTOBER 18, 2017** This item will be carried over to the next Council meeting.

Mayor Tolley asked Ms. Wheeler to pull the applications for the Planning Commission for the last opening and find out if those applicants would still be interested in serving.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

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NEW BUSINESS:

NB #1 MR. JOHN TRUDGEON WILL GIVE AN UPDATE ON RARO:

Mr. Trudgeon thanked Council for allowing him to speak on behalf of RARO. He said this is his fourth full year as Executive Director of RARO. One of his fondest memories of the first three years is when Mr. Scudder and some athletic minded citizens from Buena Vista attended a RARO meeting and they laid out what they wanted to do and Council decided to have Buena Vista join RARO. On RARO's part it has been a great decision to have Buena Vista join. He said he has heard only positive comments from both the parents and the kids that participate. He then introduced Mr. Scott Rogers who is a representative of RARO. Mr. Rogers will be the chairman of their incoming committee. Buena Vista has two representatives: Mr. Larry Floyd and Mr. Eric Catlett. Mr. Trudgeon then went over the numbers from the sheet that was given to Council. (See sheet in minute book) After speaking about the different sports offered by RARO, Mr. Trudgeon said they would like to have a scoreboard at Camden Field.

Mr. Scudder advised that Ken Talley from Public Works is working on the scoreboard.

Mr. Trudgeon said he would like to present an update on RARO activities to Council on a yearly basis. He also advised that in 2014/2015, they had 1,200 kids participate in their activities. Last year they had 1,600 participants.

Councilman Baldrige said the proof is in the pudding for RARO. We have more youth from Buena Vista participating in youth sports now than the year before we joined RARO. He opined that RARO is meeting the need.

Mr. Trudgeon stated they now have on line registration which makes it a lot easier for participants to sign up for the programs. They still have hard copies that are distributed at the schools. If a child is eligible for free lunch at school then that child is able to play for free. He said that is something that RARO is very proud of.

After further discussion concerning the number of children participating and the different type of activities offered by RARO, Mr. Trudgeon again thanked Council for allowing him to speak.

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NB #2 RESOLUTION TO COMMIT \$300,000.00, PREVIOUSLY COMMITTED, REVENUE SHARING TO PAVE ROUTE 501:

Mr. Scudder started the discussion by saying we wanted to get back in the good graces of VDOT on a couple of our roads that needed some repair. We have done that and they have seen progress. We are going to do some more work on Route 501, Route 60 and maybe a little piece of Paxton House Road. What we really need to do is take advantage of the revenue sharing that VDOT has as an opportunity to participate in a 50/50 match. Instead of doing a \$300,000.00 project we can do a \$600,000.00 one. We want to commit those funds to that program. In March we are going to apply for another program which is the same program that we just paved a section of one mile on Sycamore. In talking to Mike Branscome at VDOT he thought it would be better for us to go ahead and apply for revenue sharing now. We will also apply for that later and see where we end up. He opined it is a good opportunity. However, he does not know if we will get funded on either project.

Councilman Petrie wanted to know if this matches up with this fiscal year.

Mr. Scudder said we will try to spend the funds within this fiscal year. If we can't, then it will be up to VDOT to give us some lead way and working towards it.

Clerk of Council, Dawn Wheeler, read the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, at a regularly scheduled meeting of the City of Buena Vista City Council held on October 19, 2017, on a motion by Councilman Fitzgerald, seconded by Councilman Baldrige, the following Resolution was adopted by a vote of [6] to [0]:

WHEREAS, the City of Buena Vista City Council desires to submit an application for an allocation of funds of up to \$300,000.00 through the Virginia Department of Transportation Fiscal Year 2017-18, Revenue Sharing Program; and,

WHEREAS, \$300,000.00 of these funds are requested to fund mill and pave Route 501 South; and,

WHEREAS: the City of Buena Vista Council hereby supports this application for an allocation of \$300,000.00 through the Virginia Department of Transportation Fiscal Year 2017-18, Revenue Sharing Program.

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Buena Vista hereby commits to fund its local share of preliminary engineering, right-of-way and construction (as applicable) of the project(s) under agreement with the Virginia Department of Transportation in accordance with the project financial document(s).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager, Mr. Jay Scudder is authorized to execute all agreements and/or addendums for any approved projects with the Virginia Department of Transportation.

ADOPTED: OCTOBER 19, 2017

Larry. F. Tolley, Mayor

ATTEST: _____

Clerk of Council

Motion was made by Councilman Fitzgerald to approve the above Resolution, seconded by Councilman Baldrige, carried by Council.

Councilman Baldrige said he would like to applaud Council for getting these things done. Mention was made about what has happened in the last 6 years and he applauds what Council has done to get ourselves on financial solid footing to be able to take advantage of opportunities and to be able to say this is the time to do this and we have the where with all to do it. He said we are now seeing this effort over years starting to bear fruit. He opined this gives hope and we need this as a community.

Chief Hartman said they got a Department of Emergency Management Grant that they put in for regionally. They are going to do upgrades to their black trailer. They will also purchase an ATV 4 seater to be used for search and rescue if needed. They received \$47,000.00 and another \$18,000.00 to rewrite our Emergency Management Plan.

Vice-Mayor Clark advised that Officer Ramsey got a safety grant in the amount of \$51,000.00 for the middle school and the high school.

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ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business Mayor Tolley adjourned the meeting.

Larry Tolley, Mayor

Dawn M. Wheeler, Clerk of Council