

**CITY OF BUENA VISTA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 16, 2017**

The City Council for the City of Buena Vista met for a Regular Council Meeting on Thursday, November 16, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers (2039 Sycamore Avenue).

Council Members Present:	Mayor Larry Tolley
Steve Baldrige	Melvin Henson
	Tim Petrie
Bill Fitzgerald	Vice-Mayor Clark

Members Absent: John Dyer

ADG#1 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND PRAYER:

Mayor Tolley opened the meeting by requesting that everyone stand and repeat the Pledge of Allegiance. Vice-Mayor Clark delivered the opening prayer.

ADG#2 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 19, 2017 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING:

Motion was made by Councilman Petrie to approve the corrected minutes from the October 19, 2017 Regular Council meeting, seconded by Councilman Baldrige, carried by Council with the exception of Councilman Henson 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.

ADG#4 REPORTS:

MAYOR:

Mayor Tolley started his report by congratulating the successful candidates who were elected to Council. Hopefully they will come forward with the desire to keep the City moving in a positive direction as has been done for the last several years. He said that he attended the Mayors/Chair breakfast on Wednesday and the normal items were discussed such as the new 911 Center and solid waste. Mayor Tolley advised that Alleghany County is considering the new 911 system. He attended the Rule of Law Assembly at the middle school. He said it was very interesting to meet with the 7th graders and Senator Creigh Deeds, a judge and the Commonwealth's Attorney. There were several other folks that spoke during the assembly. He also attended an event at Enderly Heights called "Lights On". This is the last year for this program. They are applying for a grant to fund the program so it can continue.

CITY MANAGER:

Mr. Scudder said at the last Council meeting he brought up the idea of getting the parking lot on Magnolia Avenue fixed. After looking at the parking lot and meeting with the contractor and talking with VDOT, we are going to put that project on hold for now. We will try to apply for another grant from VDOT to make the necessary repairs to the parking lot. Some areas of the Magnolia Avenue project are wrapping up. VDOT is fixing some of the things they wanted fixed. VDOT decided they wanted 8 corners dug up and redone because of a new ADA standard they missed. VDOT wants to have the "Safe Routes to School" project rebid again. Public Works has had equipment needs for several many years. A lot of the equipment is aging and not functional. Public Works would like to purchase a mini excavator instead of a back hoe. Mr. Scudder said the mini excavator is less expensive than a back hoe. He will bring information on the mini excavator to the next scheduled Council meeting.

CITY ATTORNEY:

None.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE/REPRESENTATIVE:

Councilman Baldrige said he attended the Rockbridge Area Conservation Council where Mr. Doug Harwood gave a speech on “The Boom Days”. He said that he just got back from Williamsburg attending the State wide training for student and school board members. He opined it is a very good opportunity to work with our youth and represent the City of Buena Vista.

Councilman Henson stated that he attended a program honoring first responders at the Buena Vista Baptist Church. The program was presented by a 6th grader. He said there were 75 to 80 people in attendance. He also mentioned that he noticed on Election Day that there were a lot of older citizens using canes to help them get around. He opined that is a sign of our aging population. Councilman Henson advised again that 2 fire hydrants are out of service: one on 19th and Sycamore and the other on 13th and Forest. He advised the Code says fire hydrants must be repaired or replaced within days after breaking; not months.

Mr. Scudder said he will talk to Public Works about repairing or replacing the fire hydrants.

Councilman Henson opined that downtown is looking better. He advised the street lights on the western side are burning but the eastern ones are not on Magnolia. He then wanted to know what percentage of the potholes have been repaired.

Mr. Scudder said he did not know how many have been repaired.

Councilman Petrie asked Councilman Henson about the lack of assistance for the number of elderly people in Buena Vista. He wanted to know if Councilman Henson was talking about making plans in the future.

Councilman Henson said he was talking about making plans for the future.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES:

APT #1 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 second time this item has appeared on the agenda. **ADVERTISED: THE NEWS GAZETTE – CHANNEL 18 – WEB SITE - TWITTER OCTOBER 18, 2017**

Motion was made by Councilman Henson to reappoint Mr. Steve Douty to the Board of Zoning Appeals, seconded by Vice-Mayor Clark, carried by Council.

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 second time this item has appeared on the agenda. **ADVERTISED: THE NEWS GAZETTE – CHANNEL 18 – WEB SITE - TWITTER OCTOBER 18, 2017**

Mr. Kearney advised that one member of the Planning Commission can also serve on the BZA.

Motion was made by Vice-Mayor Clark to reappoint Mr. Dennis Hawes to the Board of Zoning Appeals, seconded by Councilman Fitzgerald, carried by Council with the exception of Councilman Petrie who voted nay.

Mr. Kearney stated that both of these appointments to the BZA have to be approved by the judge on the recommendation from Council.

APT #2 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 second time it has appeared on the agenda. **ADVERTISED: THE NEWS GAZETTE – CHANNEL 18 – WEB SITE – TWITTER OCTOBER 18, 2017**

This item will be carried over to the next Council meeting.

APT #3 THE PLANNING COMMISSION:

Mr. Bill Braddy has resigned. He is no longer is a resident of Buena Vista. His term will expire on 6/30/20 and the second time it has appeared on the agenda. **ADVERTISED: THE NEWS GAZETTE – CHANNEL 18 – WEB SITE – TWITTER OCTOBER 18, 2017 APPLICANTS: MR. GUY HOLSTEIN, MR. NICHOLAS PORTER, MR. BRENT STYLER**

Councilman Baldrige motioned to appoint Mr. Nicholas Porter, seconded by Councilman Petrie.

Councilman Henson motioned to appoint Mr. Guy Holstein, seconded by Councilman Fitzgerald.

Councilman Petrie motioned to appoint Mr. Brent Styler, seconded by Vice-Mayor Clark.

Councilman Baldrige said that Mr. Porter has attended Council meetings in the past. He is a home owner in Buena Vista and is a young professional man.

Councilman Petrie stated that he has spoken with Mr. Styler and he opined that Mr. Styler has a good vision for the City. He said that Mr. Styler looks at the big picture and the future for the City and that is what he looks for in a person that would serve on the Planning Commission.

Councilman Henson advised that Mr. Holstein is a property owner in Buena Vista and also operates a couple of businesses in the City.

Mayor Tolley said it is his understanding there will be another opening on the Planning Commission in January. We can only have 1 Council member serve on the Planning Commission and as of January 1, there will be 2 serving. One will have to be replaced.

Councilman Baldrige suggested that the item be rolled over to the next Council meeting when Councilman Dyer would be present or perhaps carry it over to the first meeting in January.

Motion was made by Councilman Baldrige to carry this item over to the first Council meeting in January, seconded by Councilman Fitzgerald, carried by Council.

The decision was made to invite the candidates for the Planning Commission to the first Council meeting in January.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

NB #1 PROCLAMATION EXPRESSING THE APPRECIATION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF BUENA VISTA, VIRGINIA TO FAMILY CAREGIVERS.

Mayor Tolley read and presented the following Proclamation to Ms. Jeri Schaff of the Maury Senior Center:

PROCLAMATION EXPRESSING THE APPRECIATION OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF BUENA VISTA, VIRGINIA TO
FAMILY CAREGIVERS

WHEREAS, The President of the United States has designated November as National Family Caregivers Month; and,

WHEREAS, over 90 million Americans today are family caregivers for their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, a large number of them are finding themselves providing care 24-hours a day/7-days a week; and

WHEREAS, although caregiving can be a rewarding experience, it is not without its consequences such as stress, poor health, and caregiver burnout; and

WHEREAS, six out of 10 family caregivers juggle everyday life tasks such as preparing the children for school, managing household responsibilities, and work full- or part-time. In addition, they have the added responsibility of managing medications for their loved one. Whether it be for a senior with Alzheimer's or a child with special needs the required attention can be non-stop; and

WHEREAS, caregiving affects the whole family, family time and mealtime are extremely important in the caregiving setting. Ensuring that the caregiver and family members get the proper nutrition is important for maintaining strength, energy, stamina, and a positive attitude; and

WHEREAS, with the responsibility of family caregivers in our country is growing every year, it is even more essential to encourage these heroes to take some time for respite so they may continue their mission of providing that loving care that only they can provide.

NOW, THEREFORE, We, the Buena Vista City Council, call upon all citizens of the City of Buena Vista to observe the month of November 2017, as Family Caregivers Month, during which all of our residents may join in celebrating the dedication of our local Family Caregivers, past and present, whose efforts improve the lives of so many in our community.

Adopted this 16th day of November, 2017.

Larry F. Tolley

Mayor

ATTEST:

Jay Scudder
City Manager

Ms. Schaff thanked Council for acknowledging Family Caregivers Month.

NB #2 PROCLAMATION FOR MR. BRIAN BROWN.

City Manager Jay Scudder read and presented the following Proclamation to Brian Brown:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, MR. BRIAN BROWN began his employment with the City of Buena Vista on May 17, 2010 as Economic Development Director and will end his tenure on December 5, 2017 as Economic Development Director and Parks and Recreation Director; and

WHEREAS, MR. BROWN has been involved with many events and programs in the City. The following highlights some of the programs and events that Mr. Brown has either implemented or was instrumental in getting started:

- A.) Implemented a derelict structure program
- B.) Established a partnership with Rockbridge Regional Tourism
- C.) Assisted with the On the Job Training Program with the Shenandoah Valley Workforce Investment Board
- D.) Started a new marketing campaign featuring scenic views, outdoor activities and events called “Come Change your View”
- E.) Was very instrumental with bringing RANA to Buena Vista
- F.) Implemented Rental Zones
- G.) Coordinated the Volunteer Program
- H.) Instrumental in forming Rockbridge 2020
- I.) Developed a WIFI Plan for Glen Maury Park
- J.) Maintained the City’s website
- K.) Helped create the “Braiding the Way” project
- L.) Implemented the Façade Grant program
- M.) Spent endless hours volunteering at Glen Maury Park
- N.) Became a resource for Southern Virginia University, local Industries and Businesses, and whenever called upon offered assistance from his area of expertise

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED, on this date, November 16, 2017, by the Buena Vista City Council and the citizens of Buena Vista that **MR. BRIAN BROWN** is officially recognized and thanked for all of his accomplishments while being employed with the City of Buena Vista.

Larry F. Tolley, Mayor

Mr. Brown thanked Council for the Proclamation. He said the only reason things came together as they have is because we have such a wonderful staff here. He thanked everyone for their guidance and direction that has allowed him to grow professionally as well as helping with the community when he can. He said it has been a team effort for the City and he thanked everyone once again for the opportunities given to him while being employed with the City.

Mr. Scudder stated that Mrs. Brown has also done a lot for the City as well as helping Brian with events. He thanked Mr. Brown again for his service and told him the City will miss him.

NB #3 PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE FOR THE ANNUAL GUNS AND HOSES CHARITY FOOTBALL GAME.

Mayor Tolley requested that the representative from the Police Department and the Fire Department step forward to receive a plaque for their participation in the Guns and Hoses football game. After the charity football game that took place on Camden Field and hearing what the effort would be to use that as an opportunity to raise money for charity, he felt it would be appropriate to put forth some sort of an incentive each year to win that game. He had a plaque made up that Councilman Henson will present to the winner of this year's game. That team will hold the plaque until they are defeated.

Councilman Henson said he wanted to have a fun event and also raise money for charity. The decision was made to have a football game on Camden Field between the Buena Vista Police Department and the Buena Vista Fire Department. The event was free and all of the donations were used for the Texas and Florida hurricane victims. The next game will be held on September 14, 2018 at Camden Field. He said that some citizens wanted to play but you have to be a member of either the Police Department or the Fire Department in order to participate in the game. As he presented the plaque to the winner of the game, the Buena Vista Police Department and the other police departments from around the County that participated, he said that on behalf of Mayor Tolley and the City of Buena Vista Council the plaque is presented as a way of thanking the participants for their efforts to raise money for charity.

Lt. Randy Chittum of the Buena Vista Police Department accepted the plaque. He said the whole event was Councilman Henson's brain child. Lt. Chittum said that Councilman Henson contacted him about a year and a half ago about creating the event. With the help of Brian Brown they were able to put the event together. He said the Police Department got motivated after they saw the roster

from the Fire Department that had over 50 players. They were able to recruit some players from other departments.

Chief John Rowsey of the Buena Vista Fire Department said they really enjoyed the event and hopes that the event will raise a lot more money for the community.

Mayor Tolley asked Chief Hartman to tell Council about the Citizen Volunteer Program.

Chief Hartman said Buena Vista, Lexington and Rockbridge County are putting together a weekly class beginning in January for 12 weeks. They will go through all the aspects of what the police do. They will give a tour of the jail, go to the shooting range, drive a police car and tour the 911 Center. They do not have any applicants as of yet but they are expecting a class of 20 to 25. There is no age limit and all you have to do is show up and pay attention.

Councilman Henson said the new web site for the Police Department looks great.

Mayor Tolley said Council has 2 meetings scheduled in December and in the past we have gotten by with just 1 meeting. For the December 7th meeting he will have a pretty good handle on whether we need to have the 2nd meeting in December.

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

Larry Tolley, Mayor

Dawn M. Wheeler, Clerk of Council