

**CITY OF BUENA VISTA  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 17, 2019**

The City Council for the City of Buena Vista met for a Regular Council Meeting on Thursday, January 17, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers (2039 Sycamore Avenue).

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|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Council Members Present: | Mayor Bill Fitzgerald |
| Steve Baldrige           | Daniel Staton         |
| Melvin Henson            | Stanley Coffey        |
| Vice-Mayor Tyson Cooper  |                       |

Members Absent: Lisa Clark

**ADG#1 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND PRAYER:**

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

**ADG #2 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 3, 2019:**

Motion was made by Vice-Mayor Cooper to approve the above mentioned minutes, seconded by Councilman Staton, carried by Council.

**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 an item listed on the agenda, open for public comment, will be heard when that item is considered.

No one spoke.

**ADG #4 REPORTS:**

**1.) Mayor**

None.

**2.) City Manager**

Mr. Scudder said the "SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL" should be finished next week. The Public Works Department got a grant from Domino's Pizza in the amount of \$5,000.00 to patch pot holes. Columbia Gas is going to start the Magnolia project in about 2 weeks. Mr. Scudder said when the Regional EDA was dissolved the City received about \$20,000.00. All three jurisdictions agreed the money would be set aside for the Chessie Trail connection. There was a lot of work done the Day of Service on the connection from the Robey Bridge to Stuartsburg Road. The boat landing and the parking area is being surveyed by VMI. That will become the parking hub but we are kind of messed up with the Bontex connection. We do have a sidewalk system that can get you behind Public Works for trail access. Virginia Infrastructure is doing the "SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL" project and they did all the concrete work downtown. We turned down the enhancement grant for the ramp under the bridge because the EDA requirements blew the whole thing out of the water. Virginia Infrastructure has given us a price of \$7,000.00 to \$8,000.00 to put in the concrete pad. We would like to go ahead with this project.

Mr. Kearney said a Resolution will be presented to Council for approval at the next Council meeting.

Councilman Henson wanted to know if the connection will meet ADA requirements.

Mr. Scudder said it will not meet the ADA requirements.

**3.) City Attorney**

None.

#### **4.) Council Committee/Representative**

Councilman Henson asked Mr. Scudder who is responsible for cleaning the sidewalks at Bontex.

Mr. Scudder said that by Ordinance it would probably be the owner's responsibility to clear the sidewalks. He said he would talk to Public Works about keeping that sidewalk clear.

Councilman Henson said they had a Public Works/Public Safety meeting that was very productive. He said they discussed how some problems the City has had for years could be solved. They also discussed future problems the City will be facing.

Councilman Coffey opined the meeting was very productive and that it lasted for 2 to 3 hours. He then referenced the brush pick up code. He said they will educate the public on the policy that is in place. He also said that recycling is an issue for the City.

Councilman Henson said a brush pick up date was set for April 1.

Councilman Coffey advised that Public Works has come up with a form to inform the citizens about what the property owner's responsibility is as far as disposing of different types of debris.

Councilman Baldrige said he attended the State of the Community Breakfast.

Councilman Coffey also stated that everyone is invited to attend the Public Works/Public Safety meetings if they so desire.

#### **CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES:**

##### **APT #1 ROCKBRIDGE AREA COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD:**

**Ms. Lori Turner has resigned. Her term will expire on December 31, 2020. This is the 17th time this item has appeared on the agenda. ADVERTISED THE NEWS GAZETTE 3/21/18; WEB SITE AND CHANNEL 18 3/15/18. NO APPLICANTS –**

Chief Hartman recommended that Council appoint Mr. Brent Styler to fill this vacancy.

Motion was made by Councilman Baldrige to appoint Mr. Brent Styler to the RACSB, seconded by Councilman Coffey, carried by Council.

**APT #2 BUENA VISTA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY:**

**Mr. Guy Holstein has resigned. His term will expire on March 31, 2020. This is the first time this item has appeared on the agenda. ADVERTISED THE NEWS GAZETTE 1/23/19; WEB SITE AND CHANNEL 18 1/16/19. NO APPLICANTS**

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

**APT #3 BUENA VISTA PLANNING COMMISSION:**

**Mr. Guy Holstein has resigned. His term will expire on June 30, 2020. This is the first time this item has appeared on the agenda. ADVERTISED THE NEWS GAZETTE 1/23/19; WEB SITE AND CHANNEL 18 1/16/19. NO APPLICANTS**

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**OB #1 DISCUSS CHARTER COMMITTEE:**

Councilman Baldrige opined that we need to form a new committee and put into writing the invitation including expectations, resources, time line, etc.

After much discussion, Mayor Fitzgerald suggested that Council put their recommendations in writing and turn them in to Ms. Wheeler who will present them back to Council at the next scheduled meeting.

**OB #2 DISCUSS AND APPROVE THE EOP:**

Chief Hartman started the discussion by thanking everyone that sent feed-back to him concerning the EOP. He advised if an emergency happens they will follow the EOP. The book itself is just guidelines; like a policy. It is not a "How To". He recommended that Council vote for adoption of the EOP.

Councilman Baldrige said the plan needs to be reviewed every 4 years.

Councilman Henson said that after meeting with Chief Hartman for several hours going

over the EOP, the biggest need they saw was for training.

Chief Hartman said they have already started the wheels in motion for training. He also said we have a direction on how to proceed with our internal City needs in case of an emergency.

Motion was made by Councilman Henson to adopt the EOP, seconded by Councilman Baldrige, carried by Council.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **NB #1 DISCUSS ADDITIONAL FINANCING FOR THE BUENA VISTA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

Chief John Rowsey and President Herbie Huffman of the Buena Vista Fire Department approached Council concerning the need for additional financing. Chief Rowsey said they need financial help from the City in order to purchase new gear for the firefighters. He said that in 2007 they applied for a grant and was awarded 40 sets of gear. After 10 years that gear expires and should be taken out of service. They have applied for several grants over the years and they are still applying for them. They were denied a grant that they applied for 2 months ago. They have conducted several fund raisers throughout the year: carnival, golf tournament, gun raffle, sold chicken, etc. Over the past couple of years they have been able to purchase 2 sets of gear. Chief Rowsey said that last year they raised enough money to put 5 people in new gear. He said they are at a risk because people do not have up to date gear and they could be injured. They also have issues with their members not being allowed to take State training because of the out of date gear. They are asking that Council approve funds for 5 new sets of gear and to also increase their budget so they may be able to purchase new gear as needed in the future. He said they are asking for \$17,755.00 to purchase the new gear. If Council allots them the funds, it will mean that 15 people in the fire department will be compliant. He said the fire department has 46 members with about 20 of them being active.

Councilman Henson said that in addition to the \$17,755.00 they will also need another \$200.00 to \$300.00 to pay for the shipping of the new gear.

Councilman Baldrige wanted to know if the funds will be taken from the general fund.

Mr. Scudder said they will come from the general fund.

Councilman Coffey stated that it would be really bad to lose a firefighter because they do not have the proper equipment.

Councilman Baldrige encouraged Chief Rowsey to continue to apply for grants and to also talk to others about different styles of grants.

Motion was made by Councilman Coffey to allot \$17,755.00 to the Buena Vista Fire Department to allow them to purchase new gear, seconded by Councilman Staton, carried by Council.

Motion was then made by Councilman Coffey to adjourn the Council meeting, seconded by Councilman Baldrige, carried by Council.

**ADJOURNMENT** – There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

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Dawn M. Wheeler

Clerk of Council

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William H. Fitzgerald

Mayor