

**CITY OF BUENA VISTA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 7, 2019**

The City Council for the City of Buena Vista met for a Regular Council Meeting on Thursday, March 7, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers (2039 Sycamore Avenue).

Council Members Present: Mayor Bill Fitzgerald

Vice-Mayor Tyson Cooper

Stanley Coffey

Melvin Henson

Danny Staton

Members Absent: Lisa Clark, Steve Baldrige

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 MINUTES:

Motion was made by Councilman Henson to approve the minutes of the Executive Session held on February 14, 2019 and the Regular Council meeting held on February 21, 2019, seconded by Councilman Coffey, 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 a specific item listed on the agenda, open for public comment, will be heard when that item is considered.

Police Chief Hartman announced that the Rockbridge Area Community Service Board has appointed a new director. Ms. Kimberly Shaw will start her new position on March 17, 2019. He also stated that since Mr. Brent Styler has been

appointed to the Board, he has really made a lot of difference and has really helped.

ADG#4 REPORTS:

Mayor:

None.

City Manager:

Mr. Scudder advised that he, Tom, Rachel, Hunter and Bryant have been doing a lot of work on the Columbia Gas project. He said they had a good meeting at Munters today and worked out the arrangement to get all the leases and did some land trading. We will need to do some I&I studying on water that is getting in the WWTP. Part of the corrective plan with DEQ is doing an I&I study.

CITY ATTORNEY:

Mr. Kearney advised that ACA has filed a petition for a rehearing with the same 3 judges to look at their arguments again. We cannot do anything at this time but wait to see what the judge's rule. He also reported that the Commonwealth's Attorney for Buena Vista, Chris Russell, has been appointed to the bench. We will have to have a special election in November to replace him. The Court will appoint a new interim Commonwealth's Attorney effective July 1.

Mr. Scudder wanted to know when the hearing will be for the sale of delinquent property.

Mr. Kearney said they have gotten back several of the notices that was sent out by the Commonwealth's Attorney. They sent out 9 and have gotten 3 back. Everything is within the time frame in the code for sale of property for back taxes. Five people have said they will pay the past due taxes before the sale of the property.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Henson started his report by saying that he, Jay and the Mayor attended a special dinner at the BVFD for Mr. Walter Coleman. Mr. Coleman served on the BVFD for 36 years and had never received a lift-time membership. He also reported that at the Fire Chiefs convention this past weekend, Central Virginia Firefighters Association was awarded an award by the governor of Virginia for the job they did in Madison Heights after the tornado. He said the governor also mentioned the Buena Vista and Glasgow Fire Departments for

their assistance in the cleanup. He advised that the charge for abundant loads of brush pick up for the City will begin on April 1. He also mentioned that flowers will need to be removed from the cemetery since it is almost mowing season. Councilman Henson advised that Vista Links and the American Legion have gone together to make a walkway at the flag pole at Vista Links. They are selling brick to go in the walkway as memorials. They are \$25.00 each. He also said at the Public Works/Safety meeting they discussed the amount of new employees that the Police Department, the BVFD and BVRS have. They feel there is a concern about knowing addresses. Councilman Henson reported that the City Code states that each house must display a visible house number.

Councilman Coffey wanted to know if the message could be put on the water bills to ensure that everyone knows about the importance of having visible house numbers.

Councilman Henson then mentioned the number of pot holes on the road in GMP that leads to the Paxton House. He also mentioned that the cemetery looks better since some of the sunken graves have been filled in and grass has been planted on them. He thanked Public Works for their work on the cemetery.

Mr. Scudder stated that the City is considering purchasing an asphalt hot box which will really help us with pot holes.

Councilman Coffey advised that tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. a new business by the name of "Mountain Music Café" will open in Buena Vista. He said they will provide food, coffee and music. People will also be able to purchase musical equipment at the Café. He said the business will be family oriented and he feels the City needs to support the new business.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES:

APT #1 BUENA VISTA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY:

Mr. Guy Holstein has resigned. His term will expire on March 31, 2020. This is the fourth 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**

Motion was made by Councilman Henson to appoint Mrs. Elizabeth Braddy to fill this unexpired term, seconded by Councilman Staton, carried by Council.

OLD BUSINESS:

OB #1 DISCUSS CHARTER COMMITTEE:

Vice-Mayor Cooper started the discussion by saying some of the recommendations are as follows:

- 1.) Define the time frame
- 2.) Establish a periodic check in with Council to give them updates
- 3.) Direct the committee to elect a chairperson
- 4.) Make sure the Charter is reviewed in its entirety – Move things out and put new things in
- 5.) Make sure clarity is added
- 6.) Enforcement needs to be added

Mayor Fitzgerald opined the committee should meet once a month.

Vice-Mayor Cooper said Council should give a recommended time frame for the review to be completed.

Mayor Fitzgerald recommended the time frame be 12 months with the option to extend the time if needed. He also opined the committee should have only 5 people on it: 1 Council member and 4 citizens.

Councilman Coffey suggested the committee consist of 6 members and they should bring their findings back every 2 months to Council. He also suggested that interested candidates fill out an application and advertise it in the newspaper, the web site and Channel 18. He agreed to have 5 members and if need be we can add another member in the future.

NEW BUSINESS:

NB #1 DISCUSS RENAMING THE 10TH STREET BRIDGE TO “THE VETERANS BRIDGE” OR “ THE VETERANS MEMORIAL BRIDGE”:

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

NB #2 MARY PORTER WITH PUBLIC WORKS WILL DO A PRESENTATION ON HER PROJECTS:

Ms. Mary Porter did a presentation on her project at DSLCC (see her report in the minute book)

Councilman Henson thanked Ms. Porter for the good job she has done and Councilman Coffey said he enjoyed her presentation.

NB #3 DISCUSS AN APPLICATION FOR A RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INNOVATION INITIATIVE (REDI) GRANT:

Ms. Rachel Moore, Director of Economic Development, started the discussion by stating that the REDI Grant is a Rural Economic Development Innovation Initiative grant. This came out of the Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Committee that Councilman Henson is a part of. Sam Crickenberger and the County have taken a lead on this grant working with the three localities. Ms. Moore said they are looking for Council to provide a letter of support. The grant is designed to support regionalized planning to overcome multi-jurisdictional challenges and better leverage federal, state, local and private funding. With this you have access to the National Association of Counties, Rural Community Assistance Partnership, McCluer Engineering Company, Purdue University, Extension and Community Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky. They assist with convening partners identifying community challenges and opportunities; creating and implementing actionable Economic Development plan. What they are looking at is for the 3 jurisdictions working together. The benefits of this would be coming up with an Economic Development plan that would benefit our region. This grant is specifically for rural communities with 50,000 or fewer residents. All that is required of Council at this point is a letter of support.

Councilman Henson said he is not saying he is in favor of consolidating services but he does favor the planning grant. He opined it would give us a chance to look at what we have as well as what is out there that could be beneficial to us. He said everything he has heard for the last 35 or 40 years in local government has been regionalization.

Ms. Moore said the services are free of charge. A lot of the funding at this point is going towards regional funding.

Mr. Kearney said Council needs a Resolution authorizing Mr. Scudder to do the letter of support for the REDI Grant.

Councilman Henson motioned for Mr. Scudder to write a letter of endorsement for the REDI Grant, seconded by Vice-Mayor Cooper, carried by Council.

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

William H. Fitzgerald, Mayor

Dawn M. Wheeler, Clerk of Council