

**CITY OF BUENA VISTA
COUNCIL MEETING AND
EXECUTIVE SESSION
JULY 11, 2019**

The City Council for the City of Buena Vista met for a Council Meeting and Executive Session on Thursday, July 11, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers (2039 Sycamore Avenue).

Council Members Present: Mayor Bill Fitzgerald

Melvin Henson Danny Staton

Stanley Coffey Steve Baldrige

Vice-Mayor Tyson Cooper

Members Absent: Council Member 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 prayer.

ADG #2 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON JUNE 20, 2019:

Motion was made by Vice-Mayor Cooper to approve the above minutes, seconded by Councilman Henson, 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:

Mr. Ed Walker was the first person to address Council. Mr. Walker wanted to give Council an update on his projects in the City. He stated that he was crestfallen at the departure of Rachel Moore. Mr. Walker said they had invested a lot trying to get Rachel connected to some of the folks in Richmond. He stated that his team needs a dedicated project manager in the region with roots in the

region that will work on the project week in and week out. He opined that Rachel's departure highlighted the need for that type of person. Mr. Walker stated they know it will be difficult to replace Ms. Moore so they are going to pull someone in to kind of take some of the responsibilities on to benefit Buena Vista in general and the redevelopment project. The gentleman's name is Jamie Goodin and he has done a lot of good main street redevelopment work in the region. Mr. Walker said that Mr. Goodin has a lot of energy, a good heart and a good mind. He opined that having Mr. Goodin is good news for us. Mr. Walker went on to say the 3 major things for the summer are:

- 1.) The Library: He would like to focus on the library. He said he begs and beseeched all the people involved in that conversation on every side to turn the heat down a little bit and everyone get reconnected on just how valuable it is to have a library in the community. He opined we need a new and better library. He said he is going to focus on the structure. We all understand the economic realities and it is a tricky puzzle. He is still optimistic and even recently they have started figuring out some innovative financing structures on some projects they are doing in Danville involving new market tax credits. Freedom First Credit Union is trying to figure out a way they can be the leverage lender on some Danville projects. He will continue to work on the library and he is going to encourage Julie Goyette, Council, the library board and everybody to come together in a spirit of achievement and all the things that are best fundamentally at the core in any great community and any great library.
- 2.) The Town Square: The old Frank's for The Memories things will be removed from the site. That site will become sort of a town square. He said the space will stay on the tax records and is still private, but it is for public benefit. It could be used to do a lot of fun things and it is relatively inexpensive.
- 3.) Mr. Walker has the intention to take one of the buildings and create something such as Col Lab in Roanoke. It will serve a lot of different purposes such as a co-worker's space; a place for speakers to come; live music. Because it is one empty room, it is also relatively inexpensive. Mr. Walker said that Jamie will be overseeing these small projects.

Mr. Walker stated again that these are long term projects and it will take time to get things done. He advised that new roofs are being put on two buildings and two air condition units are also being installed. Mr. Walker said his controller said

they have invested \$201,678.00 in Buena Vista Projects and they are committed to continue.

Councilman Coffey wanted to know if Mr. Walker had any potential occupants interested in the buildings.

Mr. Walker advised that there are some people that are interested but they feel they would not fit in with what they have in mind concerning the buildings. He said there are two owner prospects they are excited about. He feels we need more awesome people doing great projects.

Ms. Cheryl Hickman, 23rd and Birch was the next to address Council. Ms. Hickman said there is something wrong with her water. Her bathtub is turning turquoise and other people are having the same problem. She has been having this problem since December. She then wanted to know who owns the library.

Mayor Fitzgerald said the City owns the library.

Ms. Hickman said she is looking at doing other things to the pool, as the budget allows. She said they had discussed installing a slide. She opined there is not a whole lot for kids to do at the pool and they get bored quickly. She feels a cheaper slide can be found for the pool. Ms. Hickman also advised there seems to be more people coming to the pool this year.

ADG #4 REPORTS:

1.) Mayor

None.

2.) City Manager

Mr. Scudder started his report by saying the Industrial Park Columbia Gas project is moving along fast. Our contractor who is building the road and water and sewer is going to be out there. Today he met with the contractor for Columbia Gas and talked a little bit about coordination and how he felt about that. This project will be done with two different contractors doing a lot of the same type work. He said he has been talking to Tom and Alan about code enforcement. He opined that Alan has been doing a really good job with following through on code enforcement. He talked to them about maybe being a little bit more aggressive and to ramp it up a little bit. He wants them to set some benchmarks on weekly or monthly drive throughs on different sections of the City. He has talked to them about tackling some problems that have been hanging out there for several years and have not been addressed. He also talked to Chris Russell about it since he will be the presiding judge in the district courtroom. He advised that Johnny Cole has met with the

contractor that is doing the paving for Columbia Gas. Mr. Scudder said that a lot of employees have been out on vacation. He had a meeting yesterday with Councilman Henson and Councilman Coffey and they discussed the workload this puts especially on Public Works.

Councilman Henson asked Mr. Scudder to give an update on the mowing program within the City.

Mr. Scudder said if you go back 6 or 7 years you remember we had prison crews with 8 to 12 people helping with mowing. He said a lot of the time we would have 2 crews. Mr. Scudder said the prison work crews are nonexistent now and this has greatly impacted Public Works because of all the grass the City has to maintain.

Councilman Henson then wanted to know about the Domino's grant.

Mr. Scudder advised that the Domino's grant was for \$5,000.00 to be used for filling in potholes. We have already done a lot and have also done a lot of saw cuts and filled with gravel.

Councilman Coffey wanted to know if Mr. Scudder has a schedule for paving.

Mr. Scudder said we just got awarded close to \$800,000.00 for road repairs on Route 501 South and from Advance Auto to the Tourism office. As part of that grant, we are on the hook for about \$200,000.00 for paving for Route 501. When that project is completed, whenever the next quarterly cycle comes in for State of reimbursement for lane miles, we will start gathering that money for the lane miles on Route 501. Johnny Cole also met with the contractor that is doing the milling and paving work for Columbia Gas. He asked him to look at some of our problem areas such as Culvert and 10th Street just to get another price for paving them. We do not have a lot of financial lead way, but we will give you those numbers and try to look at the math a little bit harder as far as the general fund balance to see if you want to try and tackle that repair. He does not anticipate that we will be able to do that with all the things we have going on. The Park Avenue well has been out for a good 2 months which has changed some of the dynamics of water in the City. It is back online right now with the water being crystal clear at a .125 clarity. French Post was struck by lightning, so we are rebuilding a large portion of that well now. We will turn that into the insurance company. Mr. Scudder said we have done a lot of work on our wells and we have also done a lot of work on pumps at the WWTP. A lot of those pumps are 20 plus years old. We have replaced some of those old pumps and we have also had to purchase some back up pumps. We will be ramping Park Avenue up a little bit more on a weekly basis. As part of the Industrial Park Project, Dickenson Well will have some limitations because of the discharge permit. That made a lot of sense when we did Dickinson Well but now we are building the Industrial Park and will have sewer a lot closer to it makes all the sense in the world for us to use a 2" force main because the filter has to have a back flush so the water has to go somewhere. When we do the Industrial Park development, we are going to piggyback putting that

well on to a 2" force main onto the sewer system which will alleviate dichlorination of the water that is discharged out in the natural drainage. It will eliminate some other chemicals such as soda ash and it will also alleviate a cap on gallons per day. The well was producing about 550 to 600 gallons a day; it has the capacity of about 800 to 900. If we re-engineer that aspect of the back flow, we will be able to increase the capacity of that well if we need it. He opined we have a lot of water now. Councilman Coffey wanted to know how much savings there will be if we are able to cut back on chemicals.

Mr. Scudder said he does not have a figure as of now.

3.) City Attorney

None.

4.) Council Committee/Representative

Councilman Henson said they had a Public Works/Public Safety meeting yesterday. They addressed several safety concerns that were referred to the Police Department, Johnny Cole at Public Works or the Building Inspector for their corrections. Councilman Henson said in the months of May and June the City picked up about 40 tons of brush. Effective in April there is a charge to pick up brush after a certain size. The City has had to charge only one person. He stated that RANA is ready to go with the Industrial Park. Councilman Henson also advised there are several zoning text amendments and rezoning requests that the Planning Commission is working on.

Councilman Coffey opined that the Public Works/Public Safety meeting was good. He said that Public Works is struggling now with the lack of manpower and equipment. He opined they are doing a great job with what they have to work with.

Councilman Henson said he has a 3-page list of what needs to be mowed weekly.

CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES:

ADG #5 BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS:

Mrs. Marolyn Cash has resigned from the Board of Zoning Appeals. Her term will expire on December 31, 2020. This is the fifth time this item has appeared on the agenda. **NO APPLICANTS - ADVERTISED NEWS GAZETTE MAY 15, 2019; WEB SITE AND CHANNEL 18 APRIL 23, 2019**

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

ADG #6 BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS:

Mr. Casey Crookston has resigned from the Board of Zoning Appeals. His term will expire on December 31, 2021. This is the fifth time this item has appeared on the agenda. **NO APPLICANTS - ADVERTISED NEWS GAZETTE MAY 15, 2019; WEB SITE AND CHANNEL 18 MAY 13, 2019**

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

Tom Roberts gave Council a brief description of what the responsibilities of the BZA are.

ADG #7 BUENA VISTA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY:

Mr. Casey Crookston has resigned. His term will expire on March 31, 2021. This is the second time this item has appeared on the agenda. **NO APPLICANTS - ADVERTISED NEWS GAZETTE JUNE 12, 2019; WEB SITE AND CHANNEL 18 JUNE 11, 2019**

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

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

NB #1 PROCLAMATION THANKING THE VOLUNTEERS AT THE GLEN MAURY POOL:

Ms. Katy Patterson, Director of Glen Maury Park, presented the following Proclamation to the volunteers that made improvements to the pool:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Ms. Katy Patterson, Director of the Glen Maury

Park, would like to thank the following for all the volunteer work

they have performed at the Glen Maury Park Pool:

CHASON BRADLEY
LOGAN BUZZARD

BUENA VISTA HARDWARE
JENNIFER DOUGLAS

MATTHEW DOUGLAS

BRITTANY FITZGERALD

CHERYL HICKMAN

ALISHA KENNEDY

WAYNE LEMON

JACOB MOORE

MARK SQUIRES

WHEREAS, these ladies and gentlemen have given freely of their time and talent to make the pool a more pleasant experience for our citizens and guests.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED, on behalf of the citizens and the Mayor of the City of Buena Vista, we thank you for all you have done to improve our public pool.

William H. Fitzgerald, Mayor



Councilman Baldrige read the above proclamation and Ms. Patterson presented it to Ms. Cheryl Hickman, one of the volunteers.

Councilman Henson and Councilman Coffey thanked Ms. Patterson for the work she is doing at Glen Maury Park.

NB #2 DISCUSS AND APPROVE CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Scudder started the discussion by stating this is something we are required to do with the Shenandoah Workforce Development Board. We have participated in this quite a bit. Brian Brown did a lot of work in the workforce development working with a lot of our local employers to take advantage of workforce grants. As he understands, this is a continuation of that memorandum of agreement working with them on regional workforce issues.

Councilman Baldrige motioned to approve the Consortium Agreement for Workforce Development, seconded by Councilman Henson, carried by Council.

NB #3 MS. MOLLY MCCLUER WILL DISCUSS A DOG PARK FOR THE CITY OF BUENA VISTA:

Ms. Molly McCluer and Ms. Tony Williams approached Council concerning the development of a Dog Park across from Glen Maury Park. Ms. McCluer advised Council that if the park is approved there will be no cost to the City of Buena Vista and they will completely maintain it, including mowing the grass.

Mayor Fitzgerald opined that it should be a benefit to the City and asked Ms. McCluer to send a proposal to Council for the Dog Park. It will be added to an agenda as soon as it is received from Ms. McCluer.

NB #4 MR. JAY SCUDDER WILL DISCUSS THE SALE OF THE RAILROAD SWITCH:

Mr. Scudder advised that from time to time we have people that are really interested in the railroad come to Buena Vista and explore the Chessie Trail and all the track that Buena Vista owns. Mr. David Foster came in and talked to Mr. Scudder several months ago. He is involved in historic Roanoke 501C3 group that is very organized and well connected. They found the old railroad switch near ADS and would like to purchase it for \$600.00. They also talked about refurbishing the caboose at GMP.

Councilman Henson wanted to know if anyone has contacted Norfolk Southern.

Mr. Scudder advised there is a process to go through and this group is very knowledgeable about all the railroad requirements. The switch and rail belong to the City.

All of Council agreed to sell the switch.

NB #5 RESOLUTION SUPPORTING NATURAL BRIDGE STATE PARKS:

Councilman Baldrige read the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING NATURAL BRIDGE STATE PARKS-R19-09

WHEREAS, Virginia State Parks are a critical element of rural Virginia's travel and tourism infrastructure, contributing over \$267.8 million to state and local economies in 2018, and,

WHEREAS, patrons to Natural Bridge State Park contributes in excess of \$11.2 million to state and local economies in 2018, and,

WHEREAS, the Natural Bridge State Park in Rockbridge County attracts over 172,000 visitors in 2018; and,

WHEREAS, admission revenues for the first six months of 2019 are trending at almost 9% greater than 2018; and,

WHEREAS, by the measures described above, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and the leadership of Virginia State Parks have proven to be excellent stewards of limited funding by returning \$14.06 for every \$1.00 invested; and,

WHEREAS, the Virginia State Parks are requesting much-needed additional funding in the FY2021 budget; and,

WHEREAS, such funds would help Natural Bridge State Park expand its ability to serve the public, with significant returns to the Commonwealth.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Buena Vista City Council, by this resolution, formally requests members of the Virginia General Assembly and the Governor of this Commonwealth to support the requested increase of Natural Bridge State Park's budget to support four additional full time positions and a critically needed increase of operational funds to properly support current full time positions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Buena Vista City Council, also formally requests that the Virginia Association of Counties (VACO) place this issue on their legislative agenda and advocate for it to the General Assembly.

Adopted this 11TH Day July of 2019.

William H. Fitzgerald
Mayor

ATTEST:

Dawn Wheeler
Clerk of Council

Motion was made by Councilman Henson to approve the above Resolution, seconded by Councilman Coffey.

Mayor Fitzgerald suggested that the July 18th meeting be cancelled. All of Council agreed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Fitzgerald read the following:

- (1.) **ACCORDING TO SECTION 2.2-3711 (A) (7) OF THE 1950 CODE OF VIRGINIA, AS AMENDED, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSULTING WITH LEGAL COUNSEL CONCERNING THE CITY'S LITIGATION WITH ACA FINANCIAL GUARANTY CORPORATION AND UMB BANK, N.A. AND THE UNPAID MEAL TAXES OWNED THE CITY:**

CERTIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE MEETING

MOTION: Councilman Baldrige

DATE: July 11, 2019

SECOND: Vice-Mayor Cooper

WHEREAS, the Buena Vista City Council has convened an executive meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.1-344.1 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Buena Vista City Council that such executive meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Buena Vista City Council hereby certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the executive meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the executive meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Buena Vista City Council.

VOTE: AYES: ALL

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT DURING VOTE: Council Member Clark

ABSENT DURING MEETING: Council Member Clark

Dawn M. Wheeler

Clerk of Council

REGULAR SESSION: Councilman Baldrige moved to return to regular session, seconded by Councilman Henson, carried by Council.

Mayor Fitzgerald Mr. Baldrige Mr. Staton Mr. Henson

Vice-Mayor Cooper Mr. Coffey

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

William H. Fitzgerald, Mayor

Dawn M. Wheeler, Clerk of Council