



Minutes of the Roanoke Rapids City Council

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Roanoke Rapids was held on **Tuesday, January 7, 2020** at 5:15 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Lloyd Andrews City Meeting Hall.

Present: Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor
Carl Ferebee, Mayor Pro Tem
Ernest C. Bobbitt)
Sandra W. Bryant)
Suetta S. Scarbrough)
Wayne Smith)

Council Members

Joseph Scherer, MPA, MS, City Manager
Geoffrey Davis, City Attorney
Traci Storey, City Clerk
Leigh Etheridge, Finance Director
Kathy Kearney, Deputy City Clerk/Human Resources Manager
Charles Vaught, Police Captain/Acting Police Chief
Kelly Lasky, Planning & Development Director
John Simeon, Parks & Recreation Director
Larry Chalker, Public Works Director
Jason Patrick, Fire Chief
Christina Caudle, Main Street Director

Absent: Bobby Martin, Police Chief

Mayor Doughtie called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with prayer.

Adoption of Business Agenda

Mayor Doughtie asked Council members about any known conflicts of interest with respect to the matters before them this evening.

There being no conflicts, motion was made by Councilwoman Bryant, seconded by Councilman Bobbitt and unanimously carried to approve the business agenda for January 7, 2020 as presented.

Public Comment (Unscheduled)

Jerry McDaniel

Mr. McDaniel said if I-95 had been tolled, it would have made 301 Yard Sale a daily event. Why don't the exit gas dealers want to share milk and I-95 with all businesses along the Hwy. 301/I-95 corridor? Travelers hammering down Carolina should pay a toll. If they stop and spend money participating businesses could credit a total count proportionate to the amount of money they spent. And what local steering wheel can't afford a camera at milepost 168. I find it ironic that a State Representative who rode into office on no toll I-95 actually had been investigated for travel expenses. I wonder if there is a cash loop in there anywhere. I wonder why Halifax County doesn't do Northampton County a favor and invite Vista Green to Halifax County. Is the coal ash that I dumped in the Roanoke River the good coal ash while Vista Green's is the bad coal ash? Does anyone realize that distilleries and breweries are surrounded by coal ash? District 27 seems to consist of two counties that are environmentally and economically on two different planets. By the way, I want to thank all City personnel that I've associated with doing a remodeling job for being beyond helpful. Everyone provided me with more answers than I had questions for. I'd like to thank Brian Dudhadaway and his personnel, they are right on par with Larry Chalker's.

Approval of Council Minutes

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee, seconded by Councilwoman Scarbrough and unanimously carried to approve the December 17, 2019 Regular Council Meeting Minutes as submitted.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Scherer said Public Works was putting in curb to help with water drainage off the lower court at the new tennis courts located behind TJ Davis Recreation Center. The asphalt has been put in and the fencing has been completed. They need to install the nets and poles on the courts and then line the courts. The project is on track to be completed by the spring tennis team practice. The Parks & Recreation Department has installed pickleball courts at the Jo Story Senior Center and the project is coming along. They plan to do some extra things such as put more concrete down to make it safer for seniors. Those courts should be open in the next couple of weeks.

He said Parks & Recreation Director Simeon is to meet with the Babe Ruth Girls Softball representative next week at Chockoyotte Park to discuss hosting a Girls' District Softball Tournament there this year. This helps economic development through tourism. They are also planning to host a Boys' State U9 and U11 Baseball Tournament this summer. Parks & Recreation Director Simeon has noted the department has received a number of calls asking about possibly having a handicapped person's location to view the Christmas Parade. They may look into designating a parking lot such as the one here at Lloyd Andrews for handicap parking for the Christmas Parade.

He reported the Fire Department has been having issues with two of their trucks. Engine 144 has been down for two weeks and will probably be down for another week. Truck 142 was down for a while but it is back up. They were able to obtain a backup truck from the Davie Fire Department to supplement the loss of Engine 144. The State Insurance & Fire Marshal's Office has been contacted to see if someone from their office can come here to make a formal presentation to the Fire Department for the lowering of their ISO grade from a 4 to a 3. They hope to have that presentation in the next couple of weeks. The lowering of this rate has the potential to lower business and industry insurance rates up to 8%. The Fire Department will be busy this month, all inspectors will be out catching up on their business inspections.

He said Human Resources Manager Kearney will be assisting with Master Officer interviews this Thursday. The only openings for the City are the Fire Applicant Pool and a couple of positions in the Police Department.

City Manager Scherer reported the Planning & Development Department also underwent an ISO inspection recently and they should get the results in a few weeks. They were told by the inspection they should also improve their scores. This will also help with insurance rates in the city. The department has a lot coming up with the fact that the State Legislature implemented a number of changes to N.C.G.S. 160D which deals with Development & Land Use Regulations. A lot of the ordinances will need to be changed before January 1, 2021. The State Legislature did not have any major policy changes but they do include a large number of reforms required of our local development regulations. That will require them to go through the Planning Board reviews and having public hearings on a lot of those. Planner Joe Hatch has compiled a list of proposed rezonings for numerous properties on Roanoke Avenue and Jackson Street which will also require public hearings. This is in reference to where in 1998 a lot of the residential properties were rezoned to commercial. They are

looking to rezone those to properly reflect the residential district or B-3 District which will better reflect the flavor of the neighborhood.

He announced the Hardees on Julian Allsbrook received their Certificate of Occupancy yesterday and Wendy's Restaurant is open again. The Waffle House interior renovation plans have been approved and the El San Jose Mexican Restaurant will be moving into their new location later this month. The Roseburg Forestry Management Office on Hwy. 125 continues to submit change orders for the interior which is the reason the project is moving a little more slowly.

City Manager Scherer said the café at 1020 Roanoke Avenue plans to have a closing this Friday. NCDOT has started putting the permanent thermoplastic paint striping on Roanoke Avenue. The lines will be more prominent and reflective at night. They will be installing a solid line for parking areas.

He reported the Finance Department has been busy preparing tax tables and W-2 forms this time of year along with regulatory reporting.

He announced the Police Department received a \$4,000 grant from Walmart for Community Outreach. They are looking into what the department can use the funds for. They have two new officers that have completed the BLET and passed test. They also have two new officer cadets that be start BLET this month so they are almost full in the Police Department. Master Officer interviews will be held on Thursday.

Mayor Doughtie asked City Manager Scherer about the restaurant closing at 1020 Roanoke Avenue. He clarified that someone has purchased the building and a closing will be held on Friday. Main Street Director Caudle said it was formerly Timeless Tea. City Manager Scherer added the new owner plans to open a restaurant there.

<p style="text-align: center;">Closed Session</p>
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Motion was made by Councilman Bobbitt, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee and unanimously carried to go into Closed Session to consult with the City Attorney to discuss legal matters as allowed by G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(3).

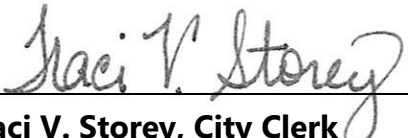
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Minute Book Pages 19733 - 19739 contain Minutes and General Account of a Closed Session which have been sealed until such time as public inspection of those minutes would not frustrate the purpose of the Closed Session.

Open Session/Adjournment

City Council returned to Open Session. No action was taken.

There being no further business, motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee, seconded by Councilwoman Bryant, and unanimously carried to adjourn at 6:15 p.m.



Traci V. Storey, City Clerk

Approved by Council Action on: January 21, 2020