



# **Minutes of the Roanoke Rapids City Council**

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Roanoke Rapids was held on **Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.** in the Council Chambers at the Lloyd Andrews City Meeting Hall.

**Present:** Carl Ferebee, Mayor Pro Tem  
Sandra W. Bryant)  
Suetta S. Scarbrough)  
Wayne Smith)  
Rex Stainback)

## **Council Members**

Kelly Traynham, City Manager  
Geoffrey Davis, City Attorney  
Traci Storey, City Clerk  
Christina Caudle/Human Resources Director  
Tammy Fahey, Interim Finance Director  
Jason Patrick, Fire Chief  
John Simeon, Parks & Recreation Director  
Bobby Martin, Police Chief  
Larry Chalker, Public Works Director

**Absent:** Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor

In Mayor Doughtie's absence, Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee called the meeting to order and opened with an invocation.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee made comments about former City Attorney Gilbert Chichester who recently passed away. He stated Gilbert was the City's attorney for eleven years. Although they have a great attorney now, they still miss Gilbert. He said he always observed what kind of tie Gilbert would be wearing and thought he might need to go out and buy one like it. Gilbert was always a sharp dresser. He did many things for the City. He helped with the Roanoke Rapids Theatre and kept them in line. They will all truly miss him.

## **Adoption of Business Agenda**

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee asked Council members if there were 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 Councilwoman Scarbrough and unanimously carried to adopt the agenda as presented.

## **Special Recognitions**

### **Retirement of Human Resources Manager Kathy Kearney**

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee joined City Manager Traynham in recognizing former Human Resources Manager Kathy Kearney who retired December 31, 2021 after serving the City for seventeen years. City Manager Traynham presented her with a plaque and thanked her for her dedicated service to the City of Roanoke Rapids. She noted that Human Resources never gets a break. Kathy was the first one you met when filling out paperwork to start employment and any life events (births, death, sickness, retirements etc.). There were so many things she loved about her career with the City and its employees.

Ms. Kearney said it was a pleasure to work with the City and the employees. The thing she enjoyed most was getting to know everybody. Everyone treated her so well. She knew what it was like to be the new person so she went out of her way to make everyone feel like they belonged. She thanked them and missed them.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee stated he and Kathy worked at the hospital together for a while. He jokingly said she left and they started working at the City at the same time so now she's left him twice. She is a great person and wished her well in her retirement.

### **Retirement of Athletic Field Maintenance Worker Gary Faulcon**

Parks & Recreation Director Simeon stated Gary started working with the City in 1995 and has been an exceptional employee. He said if anyone has been to their athletic fields you know Gary Faulcon. Even if you haven't, everybody knows Gary Faulcon. He is always out in the community, always has a smile on his face, works very hard and they were very fortunate to have him all these years. He recognized Gary Faulcon and presented a plaque that states in recognition of distinguished and dedicated service to the City of Roanoke Rapids from November 9, 1995 until December 31, 2021.

Mr. Faulcon stated he enjoys working with the City. He had a career prior to coming here which fell through. Hard work is all he knows.

### **Introduction of Head Librarian Leigh Ann Brodsky**

Parks & Recreation Director Simeon recognized and introduced newly hired Head Librarian Leigh Ann Brodsky. She is from Brooklyn, NY where she worked as a youth

librarian and excelled in children's programs. They are pleased to have her here and bring her resources from New York along with her experience with the youth programs. She graduated from NC State University, did her internship with Duke University and received a Master's degree in Library Science from North Carolina A&T. They are pleased to have Leigh Ann, her husband and children in the community and her working for the City of Roanoke Rapids.

### **Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) Public Safety Awards**

Sons of the American Revolution Halifax Resolves Chapter President Ken Wilson presented the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal to Captain Mike Moseley.

He stated Captain Mosely had served the citizens of Roanoke Rapids faithfully for the past 20 years. Following a tour in the US Army and with the Department of Corrections after his discharge, he was hired by the Roanoke Rapids Police Department in 2002. His advancement through the ranks in the department is an illustration of his dedication of service to the public. He was promoted to Police Officer II in 2007; achieved Master Officer in 2012; promoted to Sergeant in 2019 then Administrative Lieutenant in 2021 followed by a promotion to Captain in December of 2021.

Mr. Wilson said Captain Moseley has selflessly given his time to serve not only our country, but the citizens of the Roanoke Valley. He strives to teach young officers how to be the best they can be, and to receive as much training as possible. He is compassionate and caring and gives 100 percent to the job of police officer. He has shown that he has integrity, courage and honor when conducting business with the citizens and those traits carry over in how he conducts himself in his private life.

Councilman Smith arrived to meeting.

Mr. Wilson also presented the SAR Life Saving Medal to Lieutenant Josh Sparks and Firefighter James Bolton.

He reported the two were assigned to first responder duty on August 21<sup>st</sup> when they were dispatched to East Littleton Road at roughly 9 p.m. in reference to a female subject who was not breathing. Upon arrival, they found the patient unresponsive and without a pulse. Firefighters immediately began to apply life saving measures by applying the AED and administering CPR. Once EMS arrived and were able to start administering medications by IV, it was found that the patient had regained a pulse. With the patient regaining a pulse, fire and EMS personnel placed the patient on a stretcher and transported her to Vidant North Hospital. The patient when arriving at Vidant North still had a pulse and care was transferred to the emergency room staff.

**Public Comment (Scheduled)**

**Kathleen Robinson**

Ms. Robinson said she has been brought to a park called Rochelle Park which is on 5<sup>th</sup> Street down to Vance and Cedar Streets. She thanked Parks & Recreation Director Simeon for allowing her to hold a spring camp there, but the area is very rough and needs a lot of love. The community needs this park. It has a beautiful walking park. There are people having mental health and physical issues due to COVID. They need to do programs that bring families out to enjoy the park. She said several people within the community want to have this park back and help Parks & Rec bring it back to life. She and some citizens in the community want to adopt the park so they can have programs to help families and the community. She asked that they be allowed to bring the park back to life and work as a team. Not just as a government or a family but as a family unit of Roanoke Rapids.

**Florine Bell**

Ms. Bell said she wanted to speak on behalf of Black History Month and to speak to their very Roanoke Rapids' cultural history regarding the African American community.

She quoted Pauline Horton who was born in 1862 at historic Somerset Place plantation in Washington County, NC, "I believe that to know where we are going in life, we need to know where we came from." With those words she shared three exhibits. Exhibit #1: Only known picture of the 1908 Roanoke Rapids Graded Schools/Public Schools of black citizens. It was located in a residential house in the 700 block of Marshall Street. Although the existing front of the school house is now privately owned and remodeled, the remnants of the school are still visible in the rear of the building. The school was officially named The Negro School. She would like to think it was so named representative of the nearby Hodgestown area once referred to and better known as "colored town." The school's first teacher was Ms. Desantis. The gentleman pictured, who she has done quite a bit of research and has not yet been able to determine who he is, through her research indicated that he may be the Negro School's first principal. She has verified via the NC Principal's List that he would have to be W.J. Bobo. He also became the first principal of the John Armstrong Chaloner School. The first Roanoke Rapids constructed central school building also known as Akers School near Hamilton Street also opened in 1908. A historical marker is now reminiscent of its presence. Retrospectively, she appealed to the City of Roanoke Rapids to consider placing a historical marker at the corner of Tenth and Marshall Streets in recognition of the black citizens' first Roanoke Rapids school. She stated she understands she should take the matter before the Roanoke Rapids Graded School Board as well.

She shared exhibit #2: She said they desired a second marker recognizing the former, second public school built, the former John Armstrong Chaloner School, her alma mater. The Chaloner School doors opened in 1924, the same year as the Roanoke Rapids City High School. Chaloner School classes initially began with grades 1-6 and progressed later to grade 12. Chaloner School was the brainchild of the Roanoke Rapids New York attorney, philanthropist and industrialist, John A. Chaloner. One of the founding fathers of Roanoke Rapids who has the entitlement of naming the town of Roanoke Rapids in recognition of the Roanoke River rapids. He lived to see his school visions for blacks before his demise in 1935. The second major benefactor of Chaloner was the Sears and Roebuck magnet Julius Rosenwald. Chaloner was built for \$20,000 with the support of the Rosenwald School Foundation matching grant. Additional matching funds derived from the Roanoke Rapids School Board and the many sacrifices of black and white citizens. BP Lewis became the school's second principal retiring in 1958 with 30 years of service.

Ms. Bell shared Exhibit #3: 1962 graduating class of John Armstrong Chaloner High. This class is said to be the largest class ever of that school. She named a few renowned graduates: Madison P. Mullen, Sr. (first black 2-term Roanoke Rapids City Councilman); his sister, Annie T. Mullen (first black teacher of the Roanoke Rapids Schools); Jettie Purnell (manager of Roanoke Avenue's A&P Grocery Store and Civil Rights activist); Dock Brown (principal community leader, Halifax County Commissioner, Weldon School Board member, NC House Representative).

She said the Chaloner School is the only school of its integrity to be built in the predominantly black Hodgestown community other than the community's First Baptist Church on Webb Hill. Chaloner was their second home complete with bathrooms, running water, electricity and a constant source of heat that most of the students did not possess at that time. As Roanoke Rapids was still in the early stages of its infrastructural development. Moreover, Chaloner was the community's only cultural and social hub. It brought a source of pride, dignity and hope to struggling blacks as far away as Thelma, Summit, Darlington, Lincoln Heights, portions of Weldon, Littleton and beyond. The corner of Virginia Avenue and Hwy. 158 is suggested site for the Chaloner marker. Neither of these historic schools meets the NC National Register of Historical Places criteria or the NC Historical Highway Marker applications.

In conclusion, she stated the John Armstrong Chaloner School inspired them to rise above their degraded condition and sent them on a new path of life. So the opportune time has come to finally recognize each of these schools so the present and future generations will not forget their historical heritage. She prays that these landmarks

will become beacons of hope for more humanitarianism, equal justice and equality for all people.

### **Approval of City Council Minutes**

Motion was made by Councilman Stainback, seconded by Councilwoman Bryant and unanimously carried to approve the November 16, 2021 Regular City Council meeting, December 7, 2021 Special City Council Meeting, January 4, 2022 Work Session, January 25, 2022 Special Meeting and February 1, 2022 Work Session minutes as drafted.

### **Committee Appointments**

#### **Roanoke Rapids Area Planning Board (ETJ Member)**

City Clerk Storey reported the Roanoke Rapids Area Planning Board has a vacancy for an ETJ member. They would find enclosed in their agenda packet an application that was submitted to Halifax County from Joseph Brinkley to be considered for the vacancy.

She said since the Halifax County Board of Commissioners make the final decision on the appointment, the City Council's role is to consider the application and make a recommendation to Halifax County.

City Clerk Storey stated a ballot vote is not required and requested City Council make a motion recommending Joseph Brinkley be appointed by the Halifax County Board of Commissioners to serve as an ETJ member on the Roanoke Rapids Area Planning Board.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Bryant, seconded by Councilman Smith and unanimously carried to recommend the Halifax County Board of Commissioners appoint Joseph Brinkley to the Roanoke Rapids Area Planning Board.

### **New Business**

#### **Consideration of Resolution Accepting the Amended Records Retention and Disposition Schedule**

City Clerk Storey stated Chapters 121 and 132 of the General Statutes of NC, directs local governments to adopt and adhere to records retention and disposition schedules that are created and managed by the NC Department of Cultural Resources. These schedules serve as an agreement between the local government and the NC Dept. of Cultural Resources and provides guidance on the types of records to be maintained

and for how long.

She said the NC Department of Cultural Resources announced that the Municipal General Records Retention and Disposition Schedule for General Records and Program Records was updated and officially approved by the State Archivist and the Secretary of the Dept. of Cultural Resources effective October 1, 2021. The updated schedules, which are available for review in the Clerk's Office, must be adopted by City Council. A resolution is enclosed in your agenda packets for your consideration.

Councilman Smith asked how long did they have to retain the records. Clerk Storey replied it depends what type of record it is and that is what the schedule is for. It tells whichever department the record may pertain to how long they are required to keep them. It varies for different types of records. They update the schedule periodically. She recalled the last time they updated the schedule was in 2019.

She presented the following resolution for City Council's review and consideration:

**CITY OF ROANOKE RAPIDS  
RESOLUTION 2022.01**

**ACCEPTING THE OCTOBER 1, 2021 RETENTION AND DISPOSITION SCHEDULE FOR GENERAL RECORDS AND PROGRAM RECORDS AS ANNOUNCED BY THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.**

**WHEREAS**, "Public Record" means any document, paper, letter, map, book, photograph, film, sound recording, magnetic or other tape, electronic data-processing record, artifact, or other documentary material, despite physical form or characteristics, made or received pursuant to law or ordinance in connection with the transaction of public business by any agency of North Carolina government or its subdivisions; and

**WHEREAS**, without a records retention program, public records can accumulate, causing the need for additional storage space, and without a schedule for disposal, valuable documents can be mistakenly discarded; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Roanoke Rapids currently uses the Municipal Records Retention and Disposition Schedule for General Records released March 1, 2019 and all other Municipal Records as released on September 10, 2012 for record retention and disposal; and

**WHEREAS**, the Government Records Section of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources has announced that the **Municipal General Records Retention and Disposition Schedule for General Records and Program Records** was updated and officially approved by the State Archivist and the Secretary of the Department of Cultural Resources effective October 1, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Roanoke Rapids elects to utilize the Agency Policy option for specified items recorded within the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources Record Retention and Disposition Schedule.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Roanoke Rapids City Council adopts the **October 1, 2021 Municipal General Records Retention and Disposition General Records and Program Record**

**Schedules, and the Agency Policy options for specified items within the Schedules as presented** in accordance with the provisions of Chapters 121 and 132 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, copies of which are on file in the office of the City Clerk.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, this schedule is to remain in effect from the date of approval until it is reviewed and updated.

**ADOPTED** this the 15<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022.

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Carl Ferebee, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST

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Traci V. Storey, City Clerk

Motion was made by Councilwoman Bryant, seconded by Councilman Stainback and unanimously carried to adopt Resolution No. 2022.01 accepting the Municipal General Records Retention and Disposition Schedule for General Records and Program Records approved by the NC Department of Cultural Resources effective October 1, 2021.

**Consideration of Budget Ordinance (State Library LSTA Grant)**

Interim Finance Director Fahey reported Head Librarian Leigh Ann Brodsky recently applied for and was awarded the State Library LSTA (Library Services & Technology Act) Grant. This grant will allow for the purchase of a small book cart, child-size table and chairs along with books to be placed in A&D Laundromat located on Roanoke Avenue.

She respectfully requested Council consider the attached Budget Ordinance in the amount of \$1,590.00 to purchase the abovementioned items.

Councilman Smith asked if the City had received the grant money yet or do they pay and ask for reimbursement. Interim Finance Director Fahey replied they pay and get reimbursed.

**Ordinance No.: 2022.01  
CITY OF ROANOKE RAPIDS  
BUDGET AMENDMENT**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROANOKE RAPIDS:**

**SECTION 1.** The following additional amounts are hereby appropriated for the operation of City Government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022, according to the following schedule:

**SCHEDULE A – PROJECT FUND REVENUES**

STATE LIBRARY LSTA Grant – Federal Resources	<b>\$1,590.00</b>
Library Services & Technology Act	
Project Revenues (To be reimbursed by Grant)	_____
<b>GRANT FUND PROJECT TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,590.00</b>

**SECTION 2.** The following additional revenues and reductions in appropriations are available

for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022, in order to meet the foregoing appropriations, according to the following schedule:

**SCHEDULE B – PROJECT FUND EXPENDITURES**

STATE LIBRARY LSTA Grant	<b>\$1,590.00</b>
Project Expenditures (To be reimbursed by Grant)	_____
<b>GRANT FUND PROJECT TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,590.00</b>

**SECTION 3.** This ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

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Carl Ferebee, Mayor Pro Tem

Motion was made by Councilwoman Bryant, seconded by Councilman Smith and unanimously carried to adopt Budget Amendment/Ordinance No. 2022.01 to appropriate \$1,590 for the State Library LSTA Grant.

**Theatre Loan Agreement Update**

Attorney Davis stated he spoke with G&T Holdings, LLC President Tom McLean who is the owner of the Theatre and their attorney in the past two weeks. He indicated to them what City Council had discussed in the last City Council meeting which was City Council more than likely would not be interested in extending the loan agreement again. Especially under the terms that had been extended previously. He can't speak to any more specifics as far as what was communicated to him other than to say that the City has made it clear to them an extension is unlikely at this point. They did pay the taxes in full and them paying the taxes says to him as an attorney that they are committed to this property. He feels they would not have signed away \$150,000 more money if they were resigned that the City would foreclose on them. That says to him that they are in the process of trying to live up to some of their obligations of the agreement. He is optimistic that at the next regular meeting he would have more information on that.

Councilman Smith confirmed that Attorney Davis' suggestion was to hold off until the next regular meeting. Attorney Davis replied yes, some of the financial decisions that are being contemplated require a little bit more time and some third parties to be involved.

### **State Directed Grant Update**

City Manager Traynham said through the North Carolina State budget, the City will benefit from an allocation of \$3.5M. The majority of that is intended to pay down one of the debt instruments of the Roanoke Rapids Theatre (2017B note). At this time, they estimate the payout would be \$2.65M depending on when the State would disburse the funds. As mentioned in the last meeting, the City is required to give them categories of spending the grant funds. If they have \$3.5M and payoff the loan in the amount of \$2.65M that leaves approximately \$850,000. Once they establish some of the spending areas for the remainder of the funds, they can shift some of the money around as cost estimates come in, but they cannot add anything new to it.

A scope of work is required for the City to move forward to the next step which is contract negotiation. The State will send a contract where they will outline or negotiate when the funds would be disbursed. It could possibly be on a monthly or quarterly basis. The loan payment would be one that would be timely because the cost would continue to go up. They would expect to receive the funds within the current fiscal year for some of the other items. All of these funds must be spent by June 30, 2023. There is a fairly short turnaround time. There are a lot of needs of the City that have been expressed through preparation of the upcoming budget discussions that will begin next month.

City Manager Traynham reported some of those more priority needs or urgent needs would be Public Facility Improvements. She made the following recommendations:

- \$250,000 to \$300,000 – City Hall elevator repair. It has been out of order and not compliant for some time now. Contractor provided updated estimate yesterday.
- \$250,000 – New roof and fire alarm system repair/replacement at Kirkwood Adams Community Center, replace carpeting and bathroom fixtures.
- \$50,000 - Site work to supplement the \$75,000 Community Development Block Grant for restrooms/bathhouse at Chaloner Recreation Center as wells as some swing sets.

She suggested budgeting \$725,000 for the three facilities. Another category would be for Community Visioning Planning and Policy Documents. She recommended the following:

- \$10,000 - Strategic Plan. The City has not updated its plan in over 10 years and the City's Mission Statement is dated 1990.
- \$60,000 - Comprehensive Land & Economic Development Plan. This plan would address infrastructure, transportation, affordable housing. This plan is mandated by General Statutes under 160D. The current plan is compliant for about another year or so. It can be used to apply grants. It serves realistically for 10 years and sets the goals of the City moving forward.

City Manager Traynham said that would leave enough monies to be used for demolition activities to remove blight or they could divide it among the other categories. She stated most of these activities can be accomplished by the timeline and would comply with the Office of State Budget Management's guidelines for expending the funds. She asked City Council for additional direction.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee clarified that City Manager Traynham was identifying some items in which they could expend the monies and that these funds were delivered by the State budget and Representative Wray, not related to ARP funds. She replied that was correct and they were not related to ARP funds at all.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee asked where they were with the ARP funds. City Manager Traynham stated on January 6, 2022 the US Treasury Department issued its final guidance for the expenditure and regulation of the ARP funds. The UNC SOG has tirelessly been developing revised programs, office hours and sessions on how to spend the money. They have created what is called a "standard deduction" now where communities can apply up to \$10M directly towards their existing operational expenses. For the \$2.281 the City received back in August, they can apply to the City's current operating budget that has already been spent. For example, in the salary line items, they have already spent well over \$3.5M. So that is an obvious location where they can put the funds and then put the funds previously expended back in the General Fund. She did not want to go too far into that right now because the SOG will be holding a webinar on Friday specifically on that. She has some resources she plans to get to City Council. Since the City has not encumbered any of the ARP funds, anything they would do now would fall strictly on the final guidance documents. They are thankful for the SOG, the NCLM and other organizations going through and legally interpreting everything and providing guidance to local governments.

Councilman Wayne Smith said he did not have any problem with fixing the community center with this money and believed they talked about using \$50,000 to fix Chaloner. The thing he would like to see done and City Council to do is to put some money towards the demolition of houses. He would also like to do something about updating the City's software. They talked before about people who need to pay

for fees have to come into town; they cannot even pay by telephone. It makes them like a backward town.

City Manager Traynham recommended the software updates be part of their ARP discussion. She knows it is desperately needed, but it does carry several annual associated costs with it and the City would have to sign multi-year contracts. Since it would be an operating expense that would carry over additional fiscal years, it would be more responsible to look at that from a different funding pot rather than this one in particular. She and staff have been looking at different technologies available. There are many different companies and services offering the same or similar competing products. They are going through different demos or presentations so it may not meet the timeline for full expenditure.

Councilman Smith stated he did not care where they drew the funds from, they just need to get the software updated for the City. Also, he would like to see the City use the ARP monies the easiest way possible so they do not have to fill out so many forms to get money they can spend. If they can use it for salaries, which she will find out later, and take that money out of the budget to spend like they want to.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee said that is where he and Councilman Smith differ with the processes. They will talk about it at a different setting. City Manager Traynham stated they would ensure everything would be done lawfully. For the purpose of tonight's items to spend the \$3.5M, she reiterated what they had discussed earlier.

Motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Scarbrough and unanimously carried to take the City Manager's recommendation on spending the funds they were getting from the State of North Carolina.

### **City Manager's Report**

City Manager Traynham reported staff was diligently working to get together their final budget requests. During City Council's next meeting on March 1<sup>st</sup>, each department head will provide their summary overview of their needs. She would like City Council to hear all the needs upfront and then City Council give her and the finance staff direction or priorities out of that. Although they would like to fund everything, there are some things that will have to wait another fiscal year. They will also discuss ARP and how that relates to the budgeting of the upcoming fiscal year.

She said Head Librarian Brodsky started with the City in November and immediately started applying for grants. She believes they would see more budget amendments come forward for those grant opportunities. With many of the grants, State

allocations, CDBG and other forms, the State has revised its software programs and user modules. This has required staff to spend a lot of time updating its information.

City Manager Traynham announced the Planning Board is set to meet on Thursday evening to review a zoning request for a property located behind Discount Tire. The request will come before City Council in the March 15, 2022 meeting.

Councilman Smith asked since Ms. Robinson was here tonight and it looks there will be a need for some monies to be spent, have they applied for any grants from the State for recreation. City Manager Traynham said she and Mayor Doughtie had a conversation with Ms. Robinson last week and talked about what the City would help fund and not fund. The PARTF grant window has not quite opened yet for applications. She and Parks & Recreation Director Simeon have discussed some grant opportunities. The PARTF is a very competitive program and the City is committed to submitting an application and it does require a dollar for dollar match.

Parks & Recreation Director Simeon said Representative Wray said there was \$100M available for parks and recreation grants. He is correct in saying that but of that \$100M, 65% goes to State parks, 20% goes to local municipalities and the rest goes to beach accesses. Although there is \$100M in the State budget, municipalities only have access to \$18M. Again, it is extremely competitive. They had a conference last week where they were anticipating about 100 grant applications this year. City Manager Traynham interjected that the maximum grant award is \$500,000 which requires a dollar for dollar match.

Councilman Smith stated his point was if they did not apply for it they would not get it. Parks & Recreation Director Simeon replied they fully intend on applying for grants. It will be part of his discussion in the budget process during his presentation. Councilman Smith said he did not understand why once they decide what they were going to do in March, then they have to get all the figures and come back to City Council. Now they have procrastinated for 2-3 months so that throws the City out of it because the other towns are going to jump in and get it done. Parks & Recreation Director Simeon replied there is a specific date that the grant is due and also the grant is based on a point system of how many amenities they affect. For instance if they go to one park and put in for playground equipment; that is not going to score very high at all. As with Chaloner, they demolished a pool, built a splash pad, added playground equipment, access for EMS and police, walking track and an athletic court which allowed them to score very high. He said they also needed to decide the amount of match the City is willing to put to the grant.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee stated while all the department heads were present, their list needs to be submitted to the City Manager so they can look at it. He has called for

that list more than once so when they do look at these items, they can make some decisions. Make it their number 1, number 2 and number 3 items. He encouraged them to get the list into her if they had not already done so.

Councilman Smith stated the City is in a better situation right now than they have been in the last 8 years. They have the opportunity now to climb over that peak and do some of the things that should have been done 8 years ago when he got on City Council. They cannot keep procrastinating; they have to get it done while they have the funds to do it. The people of Roanoke Rapids need this and they need to get it done.

City Manager Traynham added that she did have some preliminary lists, but it is not all-inclusive because more things are coming in.

### **Finance Director's Report**

Interim Finance Director Fahey presented the financial operations for the City of Roanoke Rapids for the period ending January 31, 2022. General Fund year to date receipts totaled \$11,407,845. (The percentage of actual money collected of adopted budgeted figures is 68.4%; last year it was 67%). General Fund year to date expenditures totaled \$9,668,872. (The percentage of actual monies expended of adopted budgeted figures is 57.9%) After the month of January 58% of the budget year has been completed. As a result, Year-To-Date Revenues exceeded Expenditures by \$1,738,974.

She reported the month of January was a slightly higher expenditure month due to the quarterly Theatre and E-911 payments and the final payment was made on the Carolina Chips.

Councilman Smith asked if they were holding back funds for any of the departments where they can't get things they need right now. Interim Finance Director replied not any that has been reported to her. He also asked if they would hold this fund balance. She stated she did not know, but they would see what they could do.

### **Other Business/Closed Session**

Motion was made by Councilwoman Bryant, seconded by Councilman Stainback and unanimously carried to go into Closed Session to discuss a legal matter with the City Attorney as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11 (a)(3).

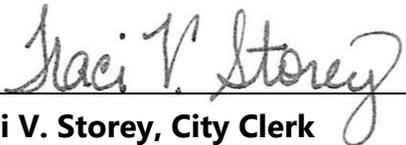
Councilman Smith asked Attorney Davis if what they would be discussing in closed session was a legal matter. He replied yes, it was a follow up to a legal matter.

*Minute Book Pages 20694 - 20698 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 Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Stainback and unanimously carried to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

  
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**Traci V. Storey, City Clerk**

**Approved by Council Action on: March 15, 2022**