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**Roanoke Rapids City Council**

**April 9, 2013**

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Roanoke Rapids was held on the above date at 7:00 p.m. at the Lloyd Andrews City Meeting Hall.

 Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor

 Carl Ferebee, Mayor Pro Tem

 Suetta S. Scarbrough)

 Ernest C. Bobbitt)

 Greg Lawson)

 Carol H. Cowen)

 Joseph Scherer, MPA, MS, City Manager

 Lisa B. Vincent, MMC, City Clerk

 Gilbert Chichester, City Attorney

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

Mayor Doughtie called Council’s attention to the Conflict of Interest statement in the agenda packet.

With no one indicating a conflict of interest with any of the items on the agenda, motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee, seconded by Councilman Bobbitt and unanimously carried to adopt the business agenda for April 9, 2013.

Interim Police Chief Hinton stated it is an honor to recognize David who just recently retired from the Roanoke Rapids Police Department with 30 years of service. He stated David worked his way through the ranks, retiring as Detective Lieutenant. He stated in accordance with NC General Statutes, Council needs to vote to retire and issue to David his side arm for the cost of one dollar. Chief Hinton joked that he would pay the $1.00 and David could treat him to lunch. He formally presented to David his side arm and badge. He stated he appreciates David’s service, and knows he made a lot of sacrifices and missed a lot of family events over the years.

David stated he enjoyed working for the City of Roanoke Rapids. He stated he was born and raised here, and although he enjoyed an occasional vacation, he was always ready to get back home. David stated unfortunately with this job, he saw a lot of tragedy and a lot of sadness. He stated he has seen lives ruined by drugs and alcohol. He stated he

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appreciates the past leadership of the City and supports the current leadership. David stated he also appreciates the opportunity the City afforded him to earn a paycheck and support his family.

Motion was made by Councilman Lawson, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee and unanimously carried to award Retired Detective Lieutenant David Brown his badge and to also award him his service side arm for and in consideration of the sum of one dollar in accordance with NCGS § 20-187.2(a).

Deputy Police Chief Hathaway recognized Investigator Frankie Griffin, Jr. and Officer Jonathan Benthall for obtaining their Intermediate Law Enforcement Certificates from the Training & Standards Division of the North Carolina Department of Justice. He stated this accomplishment represents a vast amount of hours of training. Deputy Chief Hathaway presented Frankie and Jonathan their framed certificates.

Mayor Doughtie thanked David, Frankie and Jonathan for their service to the community. He stated he realizes that many times they do not get the recognition they deserve but this Council appreciates everything they and the other City employees do.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee, seconded by Councilwoman Scarbrough and unanimously carried to approve Council Minutes dated March 5, 2013 *(Work Session);* March 12, 2013 *(Regular Meeting)* and March 21, 2013 *(Special Meeting)*.

City Manager Scherer reported that Finance Director Hite was taken ill this afternoon and he will be handling this item. He reviewed the following staff report with Council:

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Joseph Scherer, City Manager

FROM: MeLinda Hite, Finance Director/s/

**RE: Installment Financing – Fire Ladder Truck**

DATE: March 17, 2013

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**Background:**

On February 25, 2013 a request for proposal (RFP) was sent to seven (7) financial institutions in order to secure installment financing for the Fire Ladder Truck which has an estimated delivery date of April 10th. Bid opening was held on March 8th, four (4) responses were received, all of which were valid bids.

**Bid Results:**

Bids were received from the *Governmental Divisions (Charlotte, NC) for each respective bank* – First Citizens Bank, Southern Bank, BB&T and SunTrust Bank (Atlanta, GA). The lowest responsive bidder was SunTrust Bank. The interest rate is 1.385% for five (5) years, annual in arrears, loan amount $480,000. The annual payment is $100,025.38. Attached are the bid tabulation sheet and also the amortization schedule from SunTrust Bank.

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends that financing be awarded to SunTrust Bank. As always, I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

**Fire Department Ladder Truck Financing Bid Tab Sheet**

**March 8, 2013 – 12:00 PM Bid Opening**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Bidder** | **Financed Amount** | **Rate** | **Term** | **Notes** |
| First Citizens Bank | $480,000 | 1.57% | 5 Years | No Fees. |
| SunTrust Bank | $480,000 | 1.385% | 5 Years | Escrow Fee - $250. |
| SunTrust Bank | $480,000 | 1.585% | 5 Years | Up Front Fee - $500 – Prepayment allowed with no Penalty. |
| BB&T | $480,000 | 1.92% | 5 Years |  |
| Southern Bank | $480,000 | 1.49% | 5 Years | No Fees. |

**Attendance:**

*Lynn Rooker, Purchasing Agent*

*Kenny DeLoatch, First Citizens Bank*

*MeLinda Hite, Finance Director*

*Tammy Fahey, Accounting Technician*

**Amortization Schedule**

Assumed Funding Date: 4/8/12

Financing Amount: $480,000.00

Interest Rate: 1.385%

Payments per Period: 1

Number of Payments: 5

Payment: $100,025.38

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Payment** | **Interest** | **Principal** | **Balance** | **Prepayment Price** |
| 4/8/14 | $100,025.38 | $6,648.01 | $93,377.37 | $386,622.63 | $390,488.86 |
| 4/8/15 | $100,025.38 | $5,354.73 | $94,670.65 | $291,951.98 | $294,871.50 |
| 4/8/16 | $100,025.38 | $4,043.54 | $95,981.84 | $195,970.14 | $197,929.84 |
| 4/8/17 | $100,025.38 | $2,714.19 | $97,311.19 | $98,658.95 | $99,645.54 |
| 4/8/18 | $100,025.38 | $1,366.43 | $98,658.95 | (0.00) | (0.00) |
|  | $500,126.90 | $20,126.90 | $480,000.00 |  |  |

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Motion was made by Councilwoman Scarbrough, seconded by Councilman Bobbitt and unanimously carried to award the installment financing for the Fire Ladder Truck to SunTrust Bank.

City Manager Scherer stated he is pleased to submit the recommended Roanoke Rapids City Budget for FY 2013 – 2014 which has been prepared in accordance with the NC Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act. He stated the General Fund budget includes revenues and expenditures each totaling $14,787,339, and the property tax rate is recommended to remain the same at $.624/$100 of valuation. City Manager Scherer highlighted the Proposed FY 2013 – 2014 Budget with a PowerPoint presentation. He indicated that this presentation can also be found on the City’s website. *(A copy of this presentation is on file in the Clerk’s Office and is hereby incorporated by reference.)*

Following the presentation, City Manager Scherer stated the next step will be to hold a public hearing at the May 14 Regular Meeting with adoption scheduled for the June 11 Regular Meeting.

Mayor Doughtie thanked City Manager Scherer for his thorough presentation.

Parks & Recreation Director Simeon stated at last week’s work session, we discussed Governor McCrory’s proposed budget and the impact it would have on The Parks & Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF). He stated over the last 12 years, we have received around $750,000 from PARTF to help renovate the T. J. Davis Recreation Center and to assist with the Dominion Lake Park. Mr. Simeon indicated that the Governor’s proposed budget would reduce funding to PARTF by 44% which would have a significant impact on future projects. He stated the North Carolina Recreation and Park Association has requested that the Council adopt a resolution to be sent to our representatives in the North Carolina General Assembly asking them to maintain and support the current integrity and funding for PARTF.

Motion was made by Councilman Bobbitt, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee and unanimously carried to adopt the following resolution:

**A RESOLUTION TO MAINTAIN AND SUPPORT THE CURRENT INTEGRITY**

**AND FUNDING FOR THE PARKS & RECREATION TRUST FUND (PARTF)**

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 **WHEREAS,** North Carolina is known for its unique and scenic natural resources and opportunities for recreation with a long tradition of its citizens and visitors enjoying parks, mountains, rivers, greenways, beaches and more. Generations of residents and visitors have delighted in these landscapes and park facilities; and

 **WHEREAS,** The Parks & Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) was established with bi-partisan support on July 16, 1994 to fund improvements in the state’s park system, to fund grants for local governments and to increase the public’s access to the state’s beaches and coastal waterways; and

 **WHEREAS**, since its inception, The Parks & Recreation Trust Fund has provided $161 million via 722 grants to 370 local governments in 99 counties and has been matched with $312 million of local and private dollars for the purchase of local park land, building and renovation of facilities and development of greenways and trails; and

 **WHEREAS**, North Carolina’s population has grown to make it the 10th most populous state in the nation with projections for the significant growth to continue in the coming decades, and more state and local parks are needed to meet the increased demands; and

 **WHEREAS**, parks are identified as key contributors to North Carolina’s tourism industry that generates nearly $20 billion in annual economic impact; and

 **WHEREAS,** parks in North Carolina are experiencing record visitation levels including over 14.25 million to state parks in both 2011 and 2012; and

 **WHEREAS**, The Parks & Recreation Trust Fund has leveraged funds that allowed our State to acquire land for state parks and state natural areas and protected nearly 83,000 acres and made major additions to the Mountains-to-Sea State Trail; and

 **WHEREAS,** The Parks & Recreation Trust Fund has funded capital improvement projects in the state parks such as visitor centers and exhibit halls which provide tremendous opportunities to educate students and all citizens about North Carolina’s outstanding natural resources, and other capital projects including campgrounds, picnic areas, boating facilities, trails and swimming beaches; and local capital projects including construction of community centers, athletic fields and greenways; and

 **WHEREAS,** the annual economic impact to local economies of all tourists visiting the state parks system was estimated at more than $400 million in sales and income, as well as nearly 5,000 jobs according to a 2008 study; and

 **WHEREAS,** a portion of The Parks & Recreation Trust Fund is designated for the Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Program to improve access to beaches and coastal waterways by funding public boat ramps and public beach accesses; and

 **WHEREAS,** access to parks, recreation facilities and open space provides cost-effective opportunities for citizens of all ages to participate in health and wellness activities thereby reducing costs associated with obesity, heart disease, diabetes and high blood pressure; and

 **WHEREAS,** research has documented that structured park and recreational opportunities in local communities can prevent crime and provide positive activities and directions for young people; and

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 **WHEREAS,** dedicated, recurring funding of The Parks & Recreation Trust Fund allows for structured and objective planning and efficient management of the system at both the state and local levels for today and future generations; and

 **WHEREAS,** the success of The Parks & Recreation Trust Fund is due to the dedicated funding source provided by a portion of the deed stamp tax, and is recognized nationally as a model for efficiency and accountability;

 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Roanoke Rapids hereby calls on the members of the North Carolina General Assembly to maintain dedicated revenues generated by seventy-five cents (75¢) of the deed stamp tax for The Parks & Recreation Trust Fund.

 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Clerk is directed to send a copy of this Resolution to each of the members of the North Carolina General Assembly representing the people of Roanoke Rapids and to the North Carolina Recreation and Park Association.

 **ADOPTED** this 9th day of April, 2013.

 Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor

ATTEST:

 Lisa B. Vincent, City Clerk

City Manager Scherer stated as discussed at the work session last week, a budget amendment has been prepared to appropriate $85,000 to accomplish critical repairs on Smoot Drive needed due to continued erosion of the storm drainage ditch and collapse of the pipes. He pointed out that we still have $75,000 in the budget for this project.

Motion was made by Councilman Bobbitt, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee and unanimously carried to adopt the following 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, 2012 and ending June 30, 2013, according to the following schedules:

**SCHEDULE A – GENERAL FUND (OPERATING)**

 Transfer to Capital Outlay $85,000.00

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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 **GENERAL FUND OPERATING TOTAL $85,000.00**

**SCHEDULE B – GENERAL FUND (CAPITAL)**

 Smoot Drive (Storm Drainage) $85,000.00

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 **GENERAL FUND CAPITAL TOTAL $85,000.00**

**SECTION 2.** The following additional revenues and reductions in appropriations are available for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012 and ending June 30, 2013, in order to meet the foregoing appropriations, according to the following schedules:

**SCHEDULE C – GENERAL FUND (OPERATING)**

 Privilege Licenses $67,685.82

 Ad Valorem (4th Year) $17,314.18

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 **GENERAL FUND OPERATING TOTAL $85,000.00**

**SCHEDULE D – GENERAL FUND (CAPITAL)**

 Transfer from General Fund $85,000.00

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 **GENERAL FUND CAPITAL TOTAL $85,000.00**

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

City Manager Scherer stated as noted at the last work session, there are several pieces of legislation before the General Assembly that would have a direct impact on the City’s finances and limit our authority. He stated the biggest drivers of economic development in the State are the cities. Mr. Scherer stated we are also concerned that Senate Bills 363 and 394 have no provision that would provide cities and towns with alternative revenue sources for this lost revenue. He stated some of this legislation will have a direct impact on how we function as a City.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee, seconded by Councilman Bobbitt and unanimously carried to adopt the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING LEGISLATION THAT WEAKENS**

**NORTH CAROLINA MUNICIPALITIES**

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 **WHEREAS,** North Carolina municipalities have functioned for decades under the authority granted by the North Carolina General Assembly in a fashion that has been effective in establishing vibrant communities for their citizens and has resulted in the enhanced economic health of the State; and

 **WHEREAS,** this autonomously exercised and effective management has resulted in continued economic growth for those cities, which at the same time was economic growth for this State and increased financial well-being for its people; and

 **WHEREAS,** in most recent sessions, the North Carolina General Assembly has approved legislation that weakens the opportunities for city and State growth by amending North Carolina annexation law; and

 **WHEREAS,** there are currently proposed bills before this session of the General Assembly that would further weaken the financial health of North Carolina municipalities and the financial well-being of the people of this State; and

 **WHEREAS,** the City of Roanoke Rapids supports efforts to ease tax burdens on North Carolina citizens and to encourage economic development; and

 **WHEREAS,** the City of Roanoke Rapids operates an efficient government with a minimal property tax burden on its citizens; and

 **WHEREAS,** there is no provision in Senate Bills 363 and 394 that would provide cities and towns with alternative revenue sources for this lost revenue; and

 **WHEREAS,** passage of these bills as proposed will create a significant imbalance in the sources of municipal revenues in North Carolina, which historically and successfully have been balanced respectively between commercial or business sources and individual citizens in order to pay for the services desired by the businesses and citizens in each town or city, and provided for by their elected representatives at the local level;

 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Roanoke Rapids opposes any legislation that would result in eroded revenues to municipalities, in less local control over how local development occurs, and in the removal of other long-standing authority exercised by North Carolina municipalities for the benefit of all the people of this State.

 **ADOPTED** this 9th day of April, 2013.

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Lisa B. Vincent, City Clerk

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City Manager Scherer reported that he and Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee attended Town Hall Day on March 27 with over 600 other municipal leaders from around the State. He stated this was an excellent opportunity for us to meet with Senator Bryant and Representative Wray.

City Manager Scherer reported that on Friday, April 26 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Centennial Park, the Fridays in the Park Concert Series will kick off with two local American Idol contestants.

City Manager Scherer reported that fire hydrant flushing will begin on Monday, April 15 on the west end of town by the Canal Museum.

City Manager Scherer reported that the Chamber’s Annual Business Expo and Business Awards Luncheon will be held on Thursday, April 25. He asked those that wish to attend to contact the City Clerk.

City Manager Scherer requested prayers for Officers Biggerstaff and Babb in the recent loss of their fathers.

There being no further business, motion was made by Councilwoman Scarbrough, seconded by Councilman Lawson and unanimously carried to adjourn.

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 5/14/13