**16982**

**Roanoke Rapids City Council**

**May 14, 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

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

Carl Ferebee, Mayor Pro Tem

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. He stated Item 4 (a) *Public Comment (Scheduled)* needs to be removed from the agenda.

With no one indicating a conflict of interest with any of the items on the agenda, motion was made by Councilman Bobbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Cowen and unanimously carried to adopt the business agenda for May 14, 2013 as amended.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Cowen, seconded by Councilwoman Scarbrough and unanimously carried to approve Council Minutes dated April 2, 2013 *(Work Session)* andApril 9, 2013 *(Regular Meeting)*.

A ballot vote was taken and the Clerk announced that Alice Newsome and Marci Merritt received the unanimous votes for reappointment to the Library Advisory Committee.

Motion was made by Councilman Lawson, seconded by Councilman Bobbitt and unanimously carried to reappoint Alice Newsome and Marci Merritt to the Library Advisory Committee.

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Mayor Doughtie stated the proposed FY 2013 – 2014 Budget has been available for public inspection for approximately one month. He stated the public hearing scheduled for this evening will give citizens a chance to speak regarding the budget.

A public hearing having been advertised and proper notices having been given according to law, Mayor Doughtie opened the public hearing for comments.

There being no one to speak, Mayor Doughtie declared the public hearing closed.

Finance Director Hite stated staff brings before Council tonight Ordinance No. 2013.06 to amend Section 110.11(b) Schedule of License Taxes. She stated staff recommends the proposed changes as outlined in items 1 through 8, which are in accordance with NCGS 105.91. Ms. Hite explained that these changes will simplify the license fee schedule by eliminating the combination categories and listing them individually, and also to update the document to reflect the rate change approved by Council in July of 2012 for electrical, plumbing, heating and cooling.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Scarbrough, seconded by Councilman Bobbitt and unanimously carried to adopt the following ordinance:

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 110 “BUSINESS LICENSES” OF THE ROANOKE RAPIDS CITY CODE OF 1991.**

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROANOKE RAPIDS, NORTH CAROLINA, that:**

**SECTION 1.** Section 110.11(B) “Schedule of License Taxes” of the Roanoke Rapids City Code of 1991 be amended as follows:

(1) Change wording for Building Contractor (state licensed) to **Building General Contractor (state licensed)**

(2) Change wording for Building Contractor (non-state licensed) to **City Licensed Contractor (non-state licensed)**

(3) Change fee for Electrical Contractor (state licensed) from **$17.50** to **$50.00**

(4) Remove: **Electrical Contractor (non-state licensed)**

**Electrical/General Contractor**

(5) Change fee for Heating/Cooling Contractor (state licensed) from **$17.50** to **$50.00**

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(6) Remove: **General Contractor**

**Heating/Cooling Contractor (non-state licensed)**

**Heating/Cooling & Building Contractor**

**Heating/Cooling & General Contractor**

**Heating/Cooling & Electrical Contractor**

**Heating/Cooling, Electrical & Plumbing Contractor**

**Heating/Cooling/Plumbing/City Contracted**

(7) Change fee for Plumbing Contractor (state licensed) from **$17.50** to **$50.00**

(8) Remove: **Plumbing Contractor (non-state licensed)**

**Plumbing/Electrical Contractor**

**Plumbing/Electrical/City License**

**Plumbing/General Contractor**

**Plumbing/HC Contractor**

**Plumbing/HC & General Contractor**

**SECTION 2.** This Ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

Finance Director Hite stated at last week’s work session, a presentation was made regarding the refinancing of two USDA loans. She explained that resolutions are required to be adopted in order to move forward with the refinancing. She stated the first resolution is to move forward with refinancing Fire Station No. 2. She explained that the existing loan was secured on March 20, 2009 and with this refinancing, we can lower our interest rate and reduce the term of the loan for an estimated savings of $500,000.

Mayor Doughtie stated this will not require any out-of-pocket cost to the City.

Finance Director Hite stated that is correct.

Mayor Doughtie stated there is a little difference in the amount of the payment.

Finance Director Hite stated it will be a little higher.

Motion was made by Councilman Lawson, seconded by Councilwoman Cowen and unanimously carried to adopt the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR**

**APPROVAL OF A FINANCING AGREEMENT AUTHORIZED BY**

**NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL STATUTE 160A-20**

**16985**

**Roanoke Rapids City Council**

**May 14, 2013**

**WHEREAS,** the City of Roanoke Rapids desires to refinance an existing loan that was secured on March 20, 2009 through USDA for the construction of the Mayor D. N. Beale Fire Station (the “Project”) to better serve the citizens of Roanoke Rapids; and

**WHEREAS,** the City of Roanoke Rapids desires to finance the Project by the use of an installment contract authorized under North Carolina General Statute 160A, Article 3, Section 20; and

**WHEREAS,** findings of fact by this governing body must be presented to enable the North Carolina Local Government Commission to make its findings of fact set forth in North Carolina General Statute 159, Article 8, Section 151 prior to approval of the proposed contract;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, meeting in regular session on the 14th day of May, 2013, make the following findings of fact:

1. The proposed contract is necessary or expedient because review of the City’s long term debt and subsequent requests for proposal of refinancing yielded favorable terms for a loan for the Fire Station (lower interest rate and reduces the term from 25 years to 18 years, estimated savings of $500,000).

2. The proposed contract is preferable to a bond issue for the same purpose because:

-the cost of the refinancing is more than can be prudently raised from currently available appropriations and unappropriated fund balances; and because of the greater cost necessary to issue the same amount of general obligation bonds.

3. The sums to fall due under the contract are adequate and not excessive for the proposed purpose based on an estimate received from a financial institution.

4. The City of Roanoke Rapids’ debt management procedures and policies are good because we carry out such policies in strict compliance with the law and will continue to provide adequate debt management as directed by the Local Government Commission.

5. There will be no increase in taxes necessary in order to meet the sums to fall due under the proposed contract.

6. The City of Roanoke Rapids is not in default in any of its debt service obligations.

7. The attorney for the City of Roanoke Rapids has rendered an opinion that the proposed Project is authorized by law and is a purpose for which public funds may be expended pursuant to the Constitution and laws of North Carolina.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Finance Director MeLinda Hite is hereby authorized to act on behalf of the City of Roanoke Rapids in filing an application with the North Carolina Local Government Commission for approval of the Project and the proposed financing contract and other actions not inconsistent with this resolution.

This resolution is effective upon its adoption this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

**16986**

**Roanoke Rapids City Council**

**May 14, 2013**

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

Mayor

ATTEST:

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

Clerk

Finance Director Hite stated the second resolution is required to refinance the Neighborhood Resource Center. She explained that the same holds true for this loan. She stated we will have a lower interest rate and reduced term for an estimated savings of over $18,000.

Mayor Doughtie asked how long this process will take.

Finance Director Hite stated four to five days.

Motion was made by Councilman Bobbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Scarbrough and unanimously carried to adopt the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR**

**APPROVAL OF A FINANCING AGREEMENT AUTHORIZED BY**

**NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL STATUTE 160A-20**

**WHEREAS,** the City of Roanoke Rapids desires to refinance an existing loan that was secured on March 20, 2009 through USDA for the construction of the Neighborhood Resource Center (the “Project”) to better serve the citizens of Roanoke Rapids; and

**WHEREAS,** the City of Roanoke Rapids desires to finance the Project by the use of an installment contract authorized under North Carolina General Statute 160A, Article 3, Section 20; and

**WHEREAS,** findings of fact by this governing body must be presented to enable the North Carolina Local Government Commission to make its findings of fact set forth in North Carolina General Statute 159, Article 8, Section 151 prior to approval of the proposed contract;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, meeting in regular session on the 14th day of May, 2013, make the following findings of fact:

1. The proposed contract is necessary or expedient because review of the City’s long term debt and subsequent requests for proposal of refinancing yielded favorable terms for a loan for the Neighborhood Resource Center (lower interest rate and reduces the term from 11 years to 8 years, estimated savings of $18,300).

2. The proposed contract is preferable to a bond issue for the same purpose because:

-the cost of the refinancing is more than can be prudently raised from currently available appropriations and unappropriated fund balances; and because of the greater cost necessary to issue the same amount of general obligation bonds.

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**Roanoke Rapids City Council**

**May 14, 2013**

3. The sums to fall due under the contract are adequate and not excessive for the proposed purpose based on an estimate received from a financial institution.

4. The City of Roanoke Rapids’ debt management procedures and policies are good because we carry out such policies in strict compliance with the law and will continue to provide adequate debt management as directed by the Local Government Commission.

5. There will be no increase in taxes necessary in order to meet the sums to fall due under the proposed contract.

6. The City of Roanoke Rapids is not in default in any of its debt service obligations.

7. The attorney for the City of Roanoke Rapids has rendered an opinion that the proposed Project is authorized by law and is a purpose for which public funds may be expended pursuant to the Constitution and laws of North Carolina.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Finance Director MeLinda Hite is hereby authorized to act on behalf of the City of Roanoke Rapids in filing an application with the North Carolina Local Government Commission for approval of the Project and the proposed financing contract and other actions not inconsistent with this resolution.

This resolution is effective upon its adoption this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

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

Mayor

ATTEST:

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

Clerk

Mayor Doughtie thanked Finance Director Hite for her work to get us to this point.

City Manager Scherer pointed out how much brighter this room is thanks to John Simeon. He stated the lights John had installed are not only brighter but more energy efficient.

City Manager Scherer reported that the Parks & Recreation Department received two grants: one from Cummins Diesel for $6,000 for batting cage improvements at

Ledgerwood and one from Kennametal for $1,000. He also reported that the Parks & Recreation Department is finalizing plans for numerous summer camps with a wide variety of activities. He encouraged parents to contact the T. J. Davis Recreation Center to register their kids.

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**Roanoke Rapids City Council**

**May 14, 2013**

City Manager Scherer reported that both the Police and Fire Departments participated in several public service events this past month including the fundraiser for Will Hawkins and the Family Fest at Becker Village Mall. He stated the Police Department also participated in the Special Olympics and the Fire Department will participate in a County-wide Firefighter Recognition Ceremony. Mr. Scherer reported that the ladder truck should be here by the end of next week and a “wet down” ceremony will be held in conjunction with the Fridays in the Park concert scheduled for May 31. He stated tours of the station and other public educational events are also planned. He reported that some of our officers attended the Fallen Officers Memorial Ceremony in Washington, DC yesterday. He indicated that two former Roanoke Rapids Police Officers were added to the memorial – Officer Calvin Daniel and Officer Clifton Massey. He also reported that the Police Department will conduct an active shooter class at the City Hall and the Public Works complex.

City Manager Scherer reminded Council of the following upcoming events: (1) May 21 – NCDOT I-95 Economic Assessment Briefing at The Centre at HCC; (2) May 22 – HCIA Meeting in Scotland Neck; (3) May 27 – Municipal offices closed in observance of Memorial Day and (4) May 31 – next Fridays in the Park concert.

Before adjourning, Mayor Doughtie recognized the sons of Public Works Director Chalker and Deputy Fire Chief Clements for being inducted in the National Honor Society at Roanoke Rapids High School. He also welcomed Chief Hathaway to the Council table.

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

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

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6/11/13