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**Roanoke Rapids City Council**

**August 13, 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. in the first floor conference room of the J. Reuben Daniel City Hall & Police Station.

Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor

Carl Ferebee, Mayor Pro Tem

Ernest C. Bobbitt)

Greg Lawson)

Carol H. Cowen)

Joseph Scherer, MPA, MS, City Manager

Lisa B. Vincent, MMC, City Clerk

Gilbert Chichester, City Attorney

Suetta S. Scarbrough, Council Member

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 the following amendment to the agenda is needed: (1) add a musical presentation by students from the Music School under *“Special Recognitions”*.

With no one indicating a conflict of interest with any of the items on the agenda, motion was made by Councilwoman Cowen, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee and unanimously carried to adopt the business agenda for August 13, 2013 as amended.

Mayor Doughtie stated Muna Agbata and Lindsey Shaw, students from The Music School of Roanoke Rapids, will share their musical talents with us.

Miss Agbata and Miss Shaw shared their musical talents.

Mayor Doughtie thanked Muna and Lindsey, and Ms. Katie Ammann, Director of The Music School of Roanoke Rapids, for what they do for the community.

Fire Chief Coggins stated on July 31, Fire Lieutenant David Marshall retired with 30 years of service to the City of Roanoke Rapids and the citizens of Roanoke Rapids. He stated Mr. Marshall’s service is greatly appreciated and will be remembered. Fire Chief Coggins requested that the helmet and badge of Mr. Marshall be given to him in accordance with the following North Carolina General Statute:

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§ 160A-294.1.  Honoring deceased or retiring firefighters.

**A fire department established by a municipality pursuant to this Article may, in the discretion of the governing body of the municipality, award to a retiring firefighter or a surviving relative of a decreased firefighter, upon request, the fire helmet of the deceased or retiring firefighter, at a price determined in a manner authorized by the governing body. The price may be less than the fair market value of the helmet. (2003-145, s.2.)**

Motion was made by Councilman Lawson, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee and unanimously carried to award Retired Fire Lieutenant David Marshall his helmet and badge for and in consideration of the sum of $1.00 received from him as required by NCGS 160A-294.1.

Following additional remarks by Fire Chief Coggins, and the payment of $1.00 to Finance Director Hite, Retired Lieutenant David Marshall was awarded his helmet and badge.

David thanked the Mayor and City Council for providing him with a job and the means to provide for his family. He stated it was not just a job but a career. He stated there are a lot of good men in the Fire Department and he wishes them all the best.

Mayor Doughtie thanked David and the rest of the firefighters for keeping us safe.

Parks & Recreation Director Simeon presented Mark VanDam of Cummins of Rocky Mount, NC a certificate of appreciation for the donation of funds and labor to construct batting cages at the Ledgerwood Complex. He stated Mark was born and raised here, and is a member of the Recreation Advisory Committee. Parks & Recreation Director Simeon stated Mark is extremely active in the community and coaches four or five nights a week.

Mr. Welton Worsham of 426 Webb Mill Road, Four Oaks, NC read the following statement to Council:

*As I told you Council members a few years ago about how the Lord sent me here and for what purpose, I now stand before you again to offer a solution to the theatre dilemma. God. He is more than able to do and will do the impossible. Therefore I want you to consider prayerfully what I’m about to say. Why did the Lloyd Andrews building flood? Do I not send the rain where I wish? But you say Ah an act of nature. You think wrongly sayeth the Lord God. Time and time again I sent my servant to tell you the truth about my plans for the theatre, but ye were stiff-necked and would not hear. I says the Lord am displeased with your Council. That’s why the City flooded. That’s why the Lloyd Andrews building did also. I also sent my minister to Gilbert Chichester’s office to hand deliver my gracious offer to buy the theatre. Ye still will not believe. So yet again I send him tonight*

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*before you Council members. You will do wise to listen. I will give 2.9 million dollars for six months and 3.8 for one year. The rest will be paid in full in 7 years. God.*

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee, seconded by Councilman Bobbitt and unanimously carried to approve Council Minutes dated July 2, 2013 *(Work Session)* andJuly 9, 2013 *(Regular Meeting)*.

A ballot vote was taken and the Clerk announced that Evelyn Given, Loretta Mason and Bill Mueller received the unanimous votes for reappointment to the Senior Center Advisory Committee, and Chris Lehman received the unanimous vote for reappointment to the Beautification Committee.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Cowen, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee and unanimously carried to reappoint Evelyn Given, Loretta Mason and Bill Mueller to the Senior Center Advisory Committee, and to reappoint Chris Lehman to the Beautification Committee.

Chris Hilbert with Holland Consulting Planners reviewed the following staff report from Planning & Development Director Lasky with Council:

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Joseph Scherer, City Manager

FROM: Kelly Lasky, Planning & Development Director/s/

RE: **Public Hearing to Close Out Community Development Block Grant Henry Street Project**

**(10-C-2226) to the North Carolina Division of Community Investment and Assistance**

DATE: August 5, 2013

**Background**

The North Carolina Division of Community Investment and Assistance requires a public hearing to close out the grant process. The purpose of this public hearing is to review the budget and activities that have been accomplished through Community Development Block Grant Henry Street Project (Grant Number 10-C-2226) and to receive public comments concerning the closeout of the grant to the North Carolina Division of Community Investment and Assistance. As required, notice of this public hearing was published on July 31, 2013 in the Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald.

**Henry Street Project Summary**

The City of Roanoke Rapids received CDBG funding in the amount of $600,000 from the North Carolina Division of Community Investment and Assistance and $50,000 from the Roanoke Rapids Housing Authority to aid in the revitalization of the 1000 block of Henry Street. The intent of the project was to improve the housing within the defined target area.

The Henry Street CDBG accomplished the following within the project area:

* Acquisition of 11 unoccupied and vacant parcels by the Roanoke Rapids Housing Authority

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* + Substantial rehabilitation of three (3) dwellings;
  + Eliminated slum/blight conditions through clearance of seven (7) dilapidated houses;
* Provided property for redevelopment by the Roanoke Rapids Housing Authority;
* Photographic record of the block in accordance with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO);
* Provided a free admission resident and property owner education program and presentation “Improving Energy Efficiency and Maintaining Older Homes” and provided information on State and Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credits.
* Provided documentation of the Mill Village in accordance with SHPO.

**Planning & Development Staff Recommendation**

It is the Staff’s recommendation that the public hearing be held, as required.

**Requested Action**

1. **Open and conduct the public hearing on a request to receive public comments concerning the closeout of the Community Development Block Grant Henry Street Project (10-C-2226) to the North Carolina Division of Community Investment.**
2. **Receive comments from the public.**
3. **Motion to close out the Community Development Block Grant Henry Street Project (10-C-2226) to the North Carolina Division of Community Investment.**

Mr. Hilbert indicated that two of the units are already occupied and the last unit should be occupied by the end of the month.

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.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee, seconded by Councilman Bobbitt and unanimously carried to close out the Community Development Block Grant Henry Street Project (10-C-226) to the North Carolina Division of Community Investment and Assistance.

City Manager Scherer stated we have previously discussed whether or not it would be more efficient to have two regular business meetings each month so we would not have to wait a month for action to be taken. He stated staff is proposing an amendment to Section 30.16 of the Roanoke Rapids Code of Ordinances to hold two regular business meetings—on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:15 p.m. and the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee, seconded by Councilwoman Cowen and unanimously carried to adopt the following Ordinance:

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 30 “CITY COUNCIL” OF THE ROANOKE RAPIDS CITY CODE.**

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 30.16 of the Roanoke Rapids City Code of 1991 be amended to read as follows:

**§ 30.16 TIME AND PLACE.**

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The Roanoke Rapids City Council shall hold two Regular Business Meetings each month as follows:

(A) City Council shall meet the first Tuesday of each month at 5:15 p.m. at the Lloyd Andrews City Meeting Hall at 700 Jackson Street.

(B) City Council shall meet the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Lloyd Andrews City Meeting Hall at 700 Jackson Street.

**SECTION 2.** This Ordinance shall become effective on August 31, 2013.

City Manager Scherer recognized the Police Department for an outstanding job in two recent investigations that resulted in the arrest of the person responsible for stealing over $40,000 worth of jewelry from J.C. Penney last June, and the arrest of the person responsible for a recent string of break-ins. He stated most of the stolen property was recovered.

City Manager Scherer also commended the Police Department and Chief Hathaway for coordinating “National Night Out.” He stated it was an outstanding event.

City Manager Scherer stated the auditors were here last week and basically had no major findings. He stated they expect to present the annual audit report to Council sometime in October.

City Manager Scherer reported that he and Finance Director Hite recently met with Davenport regarding the refinancing of the Theatre debt. He stated they will meet next week with the Local Government Commission in Raleigh.

City Manager Scherer reported on upcoming events: Roanoke Valley Community Champions Dinner this Thursday at 6:00 p.m. at The Center at HCC and the Chamber’s State of our Community Luncheon on August 29 at 12:00 Noon at . He stated Mayor Doughtie will be one of the speakers at this event.

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

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9/3/13