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**Roanoke Rapids City Council**

**February 4, 2014**

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Roanoke Rapids was held on the above date at 5:15 p.m. at the Lloyd Andrews City Meeting Hall.

Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor

Ernest C. Bobbitt)

Suetta S. Scarbrough)

Carol H. Cowen)

Wayne Smith)

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 indicated that item 3 (a) needs to be removed from the agenda as the Weldon High School JROTC Cadets had a conflict with tonight’s meeting. He 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 ­­­­­­­­­­­Councilwoman Scarbrough, seconded by ­­­­Councilwoman Cowen and unanimously carried to adopt the business agenda for February 4, 2014 with the amendment to remove item 3 (a).

**Prior to the meeting,**

**members of BARC (Benevolent, Awards & Recognition Committee) held a reception for employees receiving Service Anniversary Awards.**

Before the presentation of service anniversary awards, Mayor Doughtie presented to Mrs. Willier Sledge a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of the NC League of Municipalities recognizing her retirement from the City this past year.

The following employees received service anniversary award certificates and lapel pins from Mayor Doughtie and their respective department heads:

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|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Department** | **Years of Service** |
| Bryan Hollowell | Fire | 5 |
| Joshua Sparks | Fire | 5 |
| Brandon Shearin | Fire | 10 |
| Garry Moore | Parks & Recreation | 10 |
| Kenneth Scott | Parks & Recreation | 10 |
| Michael Manning | Parks & Recreation | 20 |
| Elton Edwards | Parks & Recreation | 25 |
| Brian Duhadaway | Planning & Development | 10 |
| Jason Williams | Police | 5 |
| Jonathan Benthall | Police | 5 |
| Thomas Massey | Police | 10 |
| Perry Parks | Police | 15 |
| Tina Queen | Police | 15 |
| Becky Curry | Police | 10 |
| Charles Jones | Public Works | 5 |
| Brenda Lee | Public Works | 5 |
| Teresa Walker | Public Works | 5 |
| Curtis Williams | Public Works | 5 |
| Danny Acree | Public Works | 10 |
| Darnell Fleming | Public Works | 10 |
| John Motley | Public Works | 20 |
| Kelvin Rivers | Public Works | 25 |
| Eakie Boone | Public Works | 30 |

City Manager Scherer recognized Human Resources Manager Kearney and members of BARC for hosting this event, and for everything they do to recognize employees.

Human Resources Manager Kearney thanked everyone for coming and recognized the members of BARC that helped this evening.

Fire Chief Coggins conducted the Fire Department Promotion Ceremony to recognize the promotion of Wes Hux from Fire Engineer to Deputy Fire Marshal.

Motion was made by Councilman Bobbitt, seconded by Councilman Smith and unanimously carried to approve the January 7, 2014 Council Minutes.

Public Works Director Chalker stated items included in the revised resolution have been identified as being surplus to the needs of the City. He asked that Council adopt the resolution officially declaring the items as surplus and authorizing the sale by electronic auction.

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

**RESOLUTION APPROVING SURPLUS ITEMS**

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH NCGS 160A-270(c) – ELECTRONIC AUCTION**

**WHEREAS,** the Roanoke Rapids City Council desires to dispose of certain surplus property of the City; and

**WHEREAS,** the following items have been identified as being surplus to the needs of the City:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Serial/VIN Number** |
| 19 Kite Lites, HP Sodium HID in Rectangular Metal Frame, 120 Volts | N/A |
| 1997 Ford Crown Victoria | 2FALP71W3VX138523 |
| 1995 Ford Ranger Pickup | 1FTCR1OU2SUB99589 |
| 2001 Ford Crown Victoria | 2FAFP71W61X126843 |
| 1997 GMC Savana Van | 1GTHG35FXV1064772 |
| 1978 Galion T500M Motorgrader with 13” Wide Blade | N/A |
| Crafco Inc. Crack Sealing Unit | 8941761EP |
| Woods 7500 Backhoe Attachment with 3 Point Hitch, Auxiliary Pump | 708168 |
| Bush Hog SQ172 with 6' Deck | N/A |
| Hustler 3400 Lawnmower, Model #925107 | 3013502 |
| Hustler Shortcut 1500 Lawnmower with 48” Deck | 9053181 |
| Hustler Shortcut 1500 Lawnmower with 53” Deck | 8110887 |
| Hustler Shortcut 1500 Lawnmower with 40” Deck | 8037301 |
| Onan 2000 Watts Military Generator | 32-455470 |
| A.A.+E. Ltd. Military Generator, Model #MEP-0154A | RA711467 |
| Generac Corp. Generator, 4000 Watts, 8 HP | N/A |
| U.S. Army Military Generator, Model #MEP-016C | HA65-00728 |
| 20 Traffic Lights | N/A |

**WHEREAS,** the Roanoke Rapids City Council, at a Regular Meeting on December 13, 2011, adopted Resolution No. 2011.25 authorizing the use of electronic auction services to dispose of surplus property; and

**WHEREAS,** the necessary agreements with GovDeals, Inc. are in place to utilize the company’s electronic auction service to dispose of surplus items;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Roanoke Rapids City Council hereby declares the foregoing list of property to be surplus to the needs of the City, and authorizes disposal of these items by electronic auction (specifically by website: [**www.govdeals.com**](http://www.govdeals.com)) in accordance with NCGS 160A-270(c).

**ADOPTED** this 4th day of February, 2014.

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ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor

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

Lisa B. Vincent, City Clerk

City Manager Scherer reported that the NC General Assembly has enacted legislation to establish limitations on municipal regulations related to the carrying of concealed handguns. He explained that these changes provide more detail and restrictions regarding when and where concealed weapons can be carried at City facilities and events. City Manager Scherer stated amendments to Chapter 131 of the Code of Ordinances are necessary to reflect the changes in and to conform to the concealed handgun statute (NCGS 14-415.23).

Mayor Doughtie stated approval of these amendments will make us compliant with the NC General Statutes.

City Manager Scherer stated that is correct.

Councilman Smith stated he would like to see the Roanoke Canal Trail taken off of the list (referring to item (8) under § 131.05 (A) of the proposed ordinance).

After conferring with City Manager Scherer, City Attorney Chichester stated both he and City Manager Scherer are in agreement with Councilman Smith in principle but in order to be in compliance with the General Statutes, all of the City facilities have to be delineated.

Councilman Smith read the following excerpt from NCGS 14-415.23 (d): *For the purpose of this section, the term “recreational facilities” does not include any greenway, designated biking or walking path, an area that is customarily used as a walkway or bike path although not specifically designed for such use, open areas or fields where athletic events may occur unless the area qualifies as an “athletic field” pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section, and any other area that is not specifically described in subsection (c) of this section*.

City Attorney Chichester stated he is not sure that is the sole purpose of the Canal Trail.

Councilman Smith stated if a citizen goes with a concealed handgun, he has to tell an officer. He stated if a criminal has a gun, he does not have to tell the officer anything. Councilman Smith stated he is concerned about protecting the people that walk the trail.

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City Attorney Chichester stated what Councilman Smith said applies at any facility and it is a valid concern. He stated unfortunately, crimes are committed every day.

Councilman Smith stated he hates to put restrictions on law abiding citizens. He stated less than one percent of people with concealed carry permits commit a crime. He stated Chief Hathaway can tell us more about those statistics. Councilman Smith stated he does not think the Canal Trail is a recreational facility. He stated he does not want us to take the rights away from people who can legally carry a gun.

Councilman Bobbitt stated he is concerned because the trail is not an open area. He stated it is potentially a crime waiting to happen.

City Manager Scherer stated the purpose of this ordinance change is to make the local laws dovetail with the requirements of the amended state law. He stated our proposed amendment was written to reflect the General Statutes.

Mayor Doughtie asked if it is imperative to take action on this tonight. He suggested that we get more clarification from the School of Government on this issue.

City Attorney Chichester stated if it would give City Council a higher level of comfort, we can do that.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Scarbrough, seconded by Councilman Bobbitt and unanimously carried to table the matter for further clarification.

Finance Director Hite stated Council has before them a proposed contract for services with Gregory T. Redman, CPA to prepare the City’s financial statements and perform the Fiscal Year 2014 Audit. She stated the proposed fee of $19,900 remains the same for the fourth consecutive year. Finance Director Hite pointed out that we are not required by NC General Statutes to bid this as it is a service. She stated the engagement letter included in Council’s agenda packet outlines the scope and objectives of the Audit including the terms and conditions. She stated the three major components to this Audit are: (1) *Accounting and Financial Reporting Process*;(2) *Financial Internal Controls* and (3) *Compliance with All Federal, State and Grant Regulations*. Finance Director Hite stated if Council approves the execution of this document tonight, it will be forwarded to the Local Government Commission for their approval.

Motion was made by Councilman Bobbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Cowen and unanimously carried to approve the contract with Gregory T. Redman, CPA to prepare the City’s financial statements and perform the Fiscal Year 2014 Audit for $19,900, and to authorize the Mayor to execute the contract.

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City Manager Scherer stated it has come to our attention that the City’s former Police and Fire Chiefs are listed as representatives on the County’s E-911 Advisory Board. He stated City Council needs to take action to recommend to the County Commissioners the appointment of Police Chief Hathaway and Fire Chief Coggins to serve as the City’s representatives on the Halifax County E-911 Advisory Board.

Motion was made by Councilman Bobbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Scarbrough and unanimously carried to recommend to the County Commissioners the appointment of Police Chief Hathaway and Fire Chief Coggins to serve as the City’s representatives on the Halifax County E-911 Advisory Board.

City Manager Scherer reported that the Police Department is moving forward with coordinating a Citizens Police Academy. He stated this program is an opportunity to educate the community as to all of the activities our Police Department is involved in and to allow citizens to participate. He explained that this is a six month program beginning in March, meeting once a month at 7:00 p.m. City Manager Scherer stated this is a good outreach program.

City Manager Scherer recognized the Fire Department for its quick response to a recent tractor-trailer fire on I-95. He stated our firefighters were able to prevent a major fire on the interstate.

City Manager Scherer recognized the Public Works Department for their hard work to clear the streets after the recent snow storm. He stated the department also continues to make storm water repairs.

City Manager Scherer reported that the Planning & Development Department continues to work on the Comprehensive Land Use/Health Care Plan. He stated the next steering committee meeting is scheduled for February 25 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall. He also reported that the department received information that PetSense should be opening around March 22.

City Manager Scherer recognized the Parks & Recreation Department for getting the Kirkwood Adams Community Center ready for last week’s Chamber Annual Meeting with only a 24-hour notice. He reported that the department continues to work on playground improvements through the “KaBOOM!” Grant.

City Manager Scherer reported that yesterday and today, he and two RABA Board members conducted interviews of four candidates for the Main Street/Development Director position. He stated they hope to meet tomorrow to make a decision and

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have someone on board in two weeks. City Manager Scherer pointed out that he

received a letter from the County Economic Development Commission thanking the City for making the decision to create this City position.

City Manager Scherer reported that CSX will be making railroad crossing improvements around the end of February.

City Manager Scherer reported that the Beautification Committee is finalizing work on the new welcome sign for the north side of the City. He stated they plan to have the Public Works Department relocate the current sign near Exit 171.

City Manager Scherer reminded Council of the upcoming HCIA meeting scheduled for tomorrow evening in Halifax. He also reminded Council that he will be attending the NC City & County Management Association meeting on Thursday.

City Manager Scherer reported that the Friends of the Canal Museum & Trail will host the monthly “Second Saturday Hike” this Saturday, February 8 at 9:00 a.m. at the Canal Museum. He also reported that the Canal Half Marathon will be held on March 8.

Mayor Doughtie stated he was in Florida when the snow storm came through but he saw the mess they had in Atlanta. He stated he would like to echo the City Manager’s comments to all department heads and employees for all they did before, during and after this storm. He stated he heard that we did not have a single wreck on that Tuesday. Mayor Doughtie thanked everyone for the work they do.

Mayor Doughtie stated most of the employees have left but he wanted to say that he is very proud of those that received service anniversary awards. He thanked everyone from the City Manager on down for their work. He stated we are all visible in the community and our work is a direct reflection on the City. Mayor Doughtie stated we should all be proud of our jobs and be glad that we have one.

Mayor Doughtie recognized Mrs. Scherer in the audience, and welcomed her to our community.

Councilman Smith stated he attended a school this past Friday and Saturday, and received compliments on the notebook that contained his course materials. He stated he would like to publicly thank Ms. Vincent for putting this notebook together.

Mayor Doughtie stated the Clerk keeps us all straight and where we need to be.

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There being no further business, motion was made by Councilman Bobbitt, seconded by Councilman Smith and unanimously carried to adjourn.

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2/18/14