**17394**

**Roanoke Rapids City Council**

**September 16, 2014**

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)

 Carol H. Cowen)

 Wayne Smith)

 Joseph Scherer, MPA, MS, City Manager

 Gilbert Chichester, City Attorney

 Lisa B. Vincent, MMC, NCCMC, City Clerk

 Kathy Kearney, Deputy City Clerk/Human Resources Manager

 MeLinda Hite, Finance Director

 Larry Chalker, Public Works Director

 Andy Jackson, Interim Police Chief

 Stacy Coggins, Fire Chief

 Kelly Lasky, Planning & Development Director

 John Simeon, Parks & Recreation Director

 Christina Caudle, Main Street/Development Director

 Carl Ferebee, Mayor Pro Tem

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

With no one indicating a conflict of interest with any of the items on the agenda, motion was made by ­­­­­­­­­­Councilwoman Cowen, seconded by Councilman Smith and unanimously carried to adopt the business agenda for September 16, 2014.

BARC Chairman Donald Tart presented the 2014 BARC Scholarship Awards to:

* Ben Clements, son of Deputy Fire Chief Michael Clements;

 **17395**

**Roanoke Rapids City Council**

**September 16, 2014**

* Public Works Director Chalker on behalf of his son Aaron who was at UNC-CH in classes.

Mr. Tart stated each recipient is awarded $500.00.

Mayor Doughtie wished both the best of luck.

Following remarks by Interim Police Chief Andy Jackson, Lieutenant Jeff Baggett presented Commendation Awards for exceptional job performance to K-9 Officer Gerald Morris and Officer Roy Ball.

Mayor Doughtie stated police officers have a very difficult job. He stated he is glad our officers are willing to take care of the community like they do on a daily basis. He stated they put their lives on the line and make our community a better place to live. Mayor Doughtie stated people are always so quick to criticize until they need something. He stated he wishes more of the community was here tonight to learn of what these officers have accomplished.

***Mayor Doughtie welcomed back from medical leave Parks & Recreation Director John Simeon and Planning & Development Director Kelly Lasky.***

Motion was made by Councilwoman Scarbrough, seconded by Councilwoman Cowen and unanimously carried to approve the September 2, 2014 Council Minutes.

Mr. Michael Thompson with Dominion North Carolina Power presented a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline. He indicated that this 550-mile pipeline would originate in Harrison County, West Virginia, run to Greensville County, Virginia and then south into eastern North Carolina. He stated a lateral extension is planned from the Virginia-North Carolina border to Hampton Roads. He stated this pipeline would provide a dependable supply of natural gas as a cleaner option to generate electricity, heat homes and fuel factories and industries that rely on natural gas. *(A copy of the complete presentation is on file in the Clerk’s Office.)*

**17396**

**Roanoke Rapids City Council**

**September 16, 2014**

Mr. Thompson stated informational open houses are planned to learn more about the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. He stated the open house planned for this area will be held on Tuesday, September 23 at The Center at Halifax Community College. He stated the format of the open houses will be informal and participants are invited to attend the following segments:

 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Elected Officials preview

 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Landowners within the proposed study corridor

 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Landowners and the general public

Mayor Doughtie stated Council has been requested to consider adopting a resolution endorsing the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

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

**RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE ATLANTIC COAST PIPELINE**

 **WHEREAS,** several major U.S. energy companies, including the North Carolina-based Duke Energy and Piedmont Natural Gas, recently announced plans to form a limited partnership to build the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, a major natural gas transmission facility that would run from West Virginia to Robeson County; and

 **WHEREAS,** much of the pipeline’s 550-mile route will run through North Carolina, crossing eight of our state’s counties along the Interstate 95 corridor; and

 **WHEREAS,** homes, businesses and utilities throughout North Carolina are in need of improved access to the efficient, economical and environmentally friendly energy source provided by natural gas; and

 **WHEREAS,** the Atlantic Coast Pipeline will make the abundant supplies of natural gas now being produced in the Appalachian shale basins, including the Marcellus and Utica formations, much more available to North Carolina; and

 **WHEREAS,** better availability of natural gas will promote more stability in home heating and electricity costs and help avoid the pipeline constraints that helped lead to very high prices for the fuel during the winter of 2014; and

**17397**

**Roanoke Rapids City Council**

**September 16, 2014**

 **WHEREAS,** this improved availability will also have significant environmental benefits by supplying new power stations that operate on this clean fuel and allowing existing power facilities to convert to natural gas; and

 **WHEREAS,** better access to natural gas will also help North Carolina recruit new manufacturing operations that use the fuel as a power source or as part of product production; and

 **WHEREAS,** construction of the pipeline and its ongoing operations will provide substantial economic benefits for our state, with a recent study estimating development and construction of the facility will generate more than $680 million in economic activity in North Carolina from 2014 through 2019; and

 **WHEREAS,** this construction project will also provide needed new employment opportunities to thousands of residents of our state;

 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council of the City of Roanoke Rapids fully supports efforts to construct the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and recognizes the tremendous economic benefits the project will produce for our state by greatly improving access to this important source of energy.

 **ADOPTED** this 16th day of September, 2014.

 Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor

ATTEST:

 Lisa B. Vincent, City Clerk

City Manager Scherer reported that Main Street/Development Director Caudle will be attending a two-day economic development financing workshop at the UNC School of Government tomorrow and Thursday.

City Manager Scherer stated he will be attending a UCP Council of Governments economic development workshop tomorrow.

City Manager Scherer reminded Council of the HCIA meeting next Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at the Roanoke Rapids Sanitary District Water Plant.

**17398**

**Roanoke Rapids City Council**

**September 16, 2014**

City Manager Scherer reported that the Upper Coastal Plain Council of Governments will be hosting a brownfields grant meeting next Thursday. He stated Main Street/Development Director Caudle and possibly Planning & Development Director Lasky will be attending.

Finance Director Hite reported that as we close the books for August 31, 2014, year-to-date revenues are $906,441.76 (5.9% of budgeted revenues) and year-to-date expenses are $3,526,189.49 (23.0% of budgeted expenses). She stated year-to-date expenditures exceeded revenues by $2,619,747.73.

Finance Director Hite reported that major revenues received for the current month (September) are $3.8 million from Halifax County for property tax collections and the quarterly distribution of the utility franchise tax in the amount of $270,575.59. She reported that sales and use tax receipts for the current month total $270,306.29 (up 11.2% compared to the same time frame last year).

Finance Director Hite reported that Greg Redman and staff have completed the compliance testing and internal control responsibilities test which is part of the annual audit process. She stated the June 30, 2014 Audit Report is scheduled to be presented at the November 4th Council meeting.

 Human Resources Manager Kearney reported that she is currently not advertising for any positions. She stated we do have two positions that have closed but not filled: *Part-Time Library Assistant* and *Police Chief*. She stated during the month of August, we hired three new full-time employees and stole a part-time employee from the Library to work full-time in the Police Department.

 Human Resources Manager Kearney reported that she and Finance Director Hite attended a HealthCare Storm Tracker Seminar in Durham on August 28. She stated Attorney General Roy Cooper and five major medical carriers (Coventry, FirstCarolina Care, Blue Cross & Blue Shield, United Health Care

 **17399**

**Roanoke Rapids City Council**

**September 16, 2014**

 and Cigna) spoke about changes as a result of the Affordable Health Care Act. Human Resources Manager Kearney stated they left just as confused as they were when they arrived. She stated no one understands the Affordable Health Care Act.

 Human Resources Manager Kearney reported that BARC will hold a BBQ sandwich bag lunch fundraiser on October 29 at Pro-Build. She stated Mr. Herman Moseley will be cooking.

 Interim Police Chief Jackson reported that the Police Department conducted an astounding number of foot patrols last month—186. He stated they kicked off the “Know Your Cop” program, and have covered the 900 block of Henry Street, 400, 300 and 100 blocks of Madison Street and the 900 block of Cedar Street.

 Interim Police Chief Jackson reported that CID worked 118 cases, cleared 31 cases, made 16 arrests and worked a total of 640 man-hours. He reported that the Uniform Patrol Division had a total of 226 charges, performed 184 security checks and investigated 81 accidents. *(Additional statistical information is included in the written report.)*

Interim Police Chief Jackson reported that they have received the 14 body cameras and are in the process of working with the City Manager to develop a policy. He stated they should be ready to use in a week or so.

 Councilwoman Scarbrough asked how the foot patrols have been received.

 Interim Police Chief Jackson stated they have received very positive feedback. He stated the Mayor went one day and he received positive feedback.

 Councilwoman Scarbrough asked how often they are patrolling.

 Interim Police Chief Jackson stated daily provided the weather cooperates. He stated they have expanded the foot patrols to the business district and particularly at hotels. He stated we want people to feel welcome and safe

**17400**

**Roanoke Rapids City Council**

**September 16, 2014**

 when visiting Roanoke Rapids.

 Planning & Development Director Lasky reported that her department is finishing up site plan review of two proposed retail buildings next to Arby’s on Premier Boulevard. She stated they do not know who the occupants will be at this time. She also reported on the preliminary review of design plans for a new gymnasium building and associated parking lot at the First Pentecostal Holiness Church at 109 Clearfield Drive.

 Planning & Development Director Lasky also reported that as far as she knows, Sheetz is still coming.

 Parks & Recreation Director Simeon stated it is nice to be back and standing tall. He reported that the skateboard park continues to move forward. He stated they have received $19,500 of the $23,500 committed so far. He stated they will continue to meet with community members and the committee.

 Parks & Recreation Director Simeon stated the adoption by the County Commissioners of the County’s Recreation Master Plan has been delayed for about four to eight weeks.

 Parks & Recreation Director Simeon reported that the replacement of the HVAC system at the Andrews Building will start later next week and work on the Senior Center system will start in a few weeks. He stated they are waiting for parts to come in. He stated this work should not interfere with any services.

 Parks & Recreation Director Simeon reported that Roanoke Rapids will be very busy on October 1 with Cycle NC coming through. He stated as mentioned at the last meeting, this will be a joint effort by all departments that will give the City a much needed boost to our economy.

 Public Works Director Chalker stated he first wants to thank BARC for the

**17401**

**Roanoke Rapids City Council**

**September 16, 2014**

 scholarship and also thank all of the employees that contribute to BARC. He stated his son is very appreciative and this scholarship will help a lot.

 Public Works Director Chalker reported that he shared with Mr. Thompson before he left this evening that some of the best Dominion employees work here in our City. He stated they treat us like family whether it is during a hurricane or just a normal day.

 Public Works Director Chalker highlighted the following from his report: *completed work in the 200 block of Roanoke Avenue to reconnect a pipe found under the sidewalk; working to remove the brick paved sidewalk in front of PNC Bank on Hamilton Street and replace it with standard concrete; work continues at 3rd and Franklin Streets on the massive storm drainage system.*

 Public Works Director Chalker reported that they continue to do a tremendous amount of work around town.

 Public Works Director Chalker reported that last month we received over eight inches of rain and our hard work has been paying off as everything seemed to handle it very well.

 Public Works Director Chalker reported that the new trash truck has arrived and should be on the street very soon.

 Public Works Director Chalker indicated that a report is included from Nick Rightmyer, our engineer with DM2. He stated Mr. Rightmyer works very hard for us and also keeps him straight. Public Works Director Chalker assured Council that we are getting more than our money’s worth out of Mr. Rightmyer.

 Fire Chief Coggins thanked everyone that came to the 9-11 service last week. He stated 9-11 is something we should never forget.

 Fire Chief Coggins reported that his department responded to 164 calls for service and performed 753 man-hours of training. He stated 36 fire prevention inspections and/or re-inspections were conducted and 5 plan

**17402**

**Roanoke Rapids City Council**

**September 16, 2014**

 reviews were completed.

 Fire Chief Coggins reported that Fire Marshal Hux has started the Chamber’s Leadership Roanoke Valley program.

 Fire Chief Coggins reported that he and Deputy Fire Chief Clements attended a class in Wilson today, and will return tomorrow and Thursday.

 Fire Chief Coggins reported that the department got three days of training out of the old Ryan’s building. He stated he will have a presentation on this at a later date.

 Fire Chief Coggins reported that the roof work on Fire Station No. 1 has been completed, and the Expedition has been ordered.

 Main Street/Development Director Caudle reported that she attended the

 Main Street Managers Conference in Waynesville, North Carolina last month. She stated this is a mandatory conference for all Main Street Managers to meet National Main Street Accreditation standards. She stated the focus of the conference was “How to Attract Millennials Downtown”. She stated she presented “How to Attract Millennials - Web & Social Media Tactics” on the last day of the conference and was requested by Liz Parham to present again at the 2015 annual conference in Morganton, NC. Main Street/Development Director Caudle also reported that the Department of Commerce has been cutting a lot of employees, and the Main Street Program has lost two employees.

 Main Street/Development Director Caudle reported that the final Fridays in the Park event featuring Exit 173 had the largest turn-out in the history of the event with an estimated 350 people in attendance.

 Main Street/Development Director Caudle reported that the new “Main Street Roanoke Rapids” logo was approved at the September Board meeting.

 Main Street/Development Director Caudle reported on the following new businesses:

**17403**

**Roanoke Rapids City Council**

**September 16, 2014**

* “Lakeside Vapors”, located in the 1000 block, opened in mid-August.
* “Roanoke River Candle & Soap Co.”, located on 10th Street near Oscar’s, should open in September 2014.
* One new business (financial service office) has finalized lease negotiations and is scheduled to open by the end of 2014. Location is 24 E. 10th Street.
* Two potential new businesses (1 professional services and 1 retailer) are actively seeking rental space on the Avenue.
* One non-profit is actively seeking rental space on the Avenue or another strip center.

Main Street/Development Director Caudle reported that we did lose Benjamin Furniture in the 1000 block. She stated she continues to talk with existing Avenue District business owners.

Main Street/Development Director Caudle thanked the Mayor for attending the Board Meeting today. She stated they meet the third Tuesday of each month at 3:00 p.m. at City Hall.

 Main Street/Development Director Caudle reported that she will be attending the UNC School of Government Development Finance Workshop tomorrow and Thursday, and will be making a presentation at the Rotary Club meeting on September 22.

 Main Street/Development Director Caudle reported that the CycleNC “Mountains to the Coast” Ride on October 1 will be a huge event for Roanoke Rapids. She stated an estimated 1,000+ cyclists will be in Roanoke Rapids from October 1 through October 2. She stated the Festival of the Roanoke will be held on the 1000 block of the Avenue from 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. with a free public concert featuring The Holiday Band. Main Street/Development Director Caudle reported that NCDOT has approved closing the 1000 block from 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. She stated 10th Street will remain open to traffic.

 Councilwoman Scarbrough told Ms. Caudle that she was very proud of her traipsing all over the state giving her program. She stated it speaks well of the job she is doing.

**17404**

**Roanoke Rapids City Council**

**September 16, 2014**

Motion was made by Councilwoman Scarbrough, seconded by Councilman Bobbitt and unanimously carried to go into closed session to discuss a legal matter as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3).

**[Remainder of page intentionally left blank.]**

**Minute Book Pages 17405, 17406, 17407 and 17408 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.**

**17409**

**Roanoke Rapids City Council**

**September 16, 2014**

Motion was made by Councilwoman Scarbrough, seconded by Councilman Bobbitt and unanimously carried to return to open session.

Mayor Doughtie called the meeting to order in open session.

City Council discussed with City Attorney Chichester several legal matters in closed session. No action was taken.

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

 

 10/7/14