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**Roanoke Rapids City Council**

**October 7, 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

 Carl Ferebee, Mayor Pro Tem

 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

 MeLinda Hite, Finance Director

 Larry Chalker, Public Works Director

 John Simeon, Parks & Recreation Director

 Andy Jackson, Interim Police Chief

 Stacy Coggins, Fire Chief

 Kelly Lasky, Planning & Development Director

 Christina Caudle, Main Street/Development Director

 Kathy Kearney, Deputy City Clerk/Human Resources Manager

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 ­­­­­­­­­­­Councilman Bobbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Scarbrough and unanimously carried to adopt the business agenda for October 7, 2014 with an amendment to remove item 9(c) “Consideration of Budget Amendment to FY 2014 - 2015 Budget Ordinance”.

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Mayor Doughtie stated he is always proud to recognize individuals for their accomplishments, especially when it is one of our youth. He read and presented the following Proclamation to Miss Taylor Marie Beaver:

***Proclamation***

***Honoring Taylor Marie Beaver***

 ***WHEREAS,*** Taylor Marie Beaver, daughter of Jeff and Lisa Beaver of Roanoke Rapids, is a 16 year old junior at Roanoke Rapids High School; and

 ***WHEREAS,*** Taylor has been wake surfing for three years and trains at Lake Gaston with her coach Jay Baker; and

 ***WHEREAS,*** Taylor, in just a short period of time, has won multiple titles including but not limited to: 1st place at the Canadian National Championships in Calabogie, Canada; 2nd place at the U. S. Nationals and 1st place at the INT Series in Charlotte, North Carolina; and

 ***WHEREAS,*** Taylor just returned home from the World Wake Surfing Championship held in Las Vegas, Nevada where she won 1st place in the Women’s Outlaw Skim Division, beating competitors from all over the world including Russia and Canada; and

 ***WHEREAS,*** Taylor, by winning the Championship in the Outlaw (semipro) Division, is now considered a Pro; and

 ***WHEREAS,*** Taylor, with her talents and hard work, will surely continue her winning streak in the years to come;

 ***NOW, THEREFORE, I,*** Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor of the City of Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, do hereby recognize and honor Taylor Marie Beaver for her exceptional talents and tenacity that have enabled her to attain these prestigious titles and worldwide recognition.

 ***IN WITNESS WHEREOF,*** I have herein set my hand and caused to be affixed the great seal of the City of Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, this, 7th day of October, 2014.

 ***Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor***

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Miss Taylor Beaver stated she would like to give a huge thank you to Jay Baker and to her parents for giving her the opportunity to do the things that she does.

Mr. Jay Baker thanked the Mayor and City Council for recognizing Taylor. He stated he thinks what most of us in the room already know and what others are discovering is what a truly remarkable young lady Taylor is. He stated he is looking forward to a lot of good things to come.

Ms. Martha Rowland of 117 Morgan Drive, Roanoke Rapids, NC stated it is hard to get hold of a flood map. She stated she has strong concerns about the waters within the City whether it is from pipes or streams and creeks. She stated what she thought was just about her is not about her. Ms. Rowland stated she has the water bottled which has an odor. She stated she also has photos of what is going on throughout the City. Ms. Rowland stated she is finally seeing that some things are being done but a lot of these jobs are going to outside people. She stated we need inside local people working to help pay back the grants the City gets. Ms. Rowland stated it is unreal what you find in these creeks and streams. She stated she lives in a flood zone. She stated it has destroyed her home and the quality of air she breathes. Ms. Rowland stated some people are scared to speak. She stated she has lost everything. She stated she has black mold in her body. She stated there are black specks on everything and they are multiplying. Ms. Rowland stated the City needs to employ citizens of the City. She stated these citizens are going through anxiety and they need jobs to better themselves. She stated there should be funds to take care of properties. She stated it is a disgrace how some people have to live. Ms. Rowland stated she has photos.

Mayor Doughtie asked Ms. Rowland if she has spoken with the Sanitary District about the water. He stated the Sanitary District and City are two separate entities.

Ms. Rowland stated yes. She stated she is also talking about the water that comes into yards.

Mayor Doughtie thanked Ms. Rowland for her comments and asked that she leave her photos for review.

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Motion was made by Councilwoman Scarbrough, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee and unanimously carried to approve the following Council Minutes: September 16, 2014 *(Regular Meeting)* and September 18, 2014 *(Special Meeting - Council Retreat)*.

Motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Bobbitt and unanimously carried to appoint Mr. Tom Davis to serve as the Roanoke Rapids Graded School District Representative on the Recreation Advisory Committee.

Judge Hinton thanked City Manager Scherer for asking her to speak about the consolidation of the judicial districts. She stated Halifax, Northampton, Hertford and Bertie Counties will be consolidated for district court as well as for prosecutorial purposes. She stated Ms. Valerie Asbell will be the District Attorney for all four counties. She stated there will only be four district court judges to cover all four counties. Judge Hinton stated current District Court Judge Brenda Branch is endeavoring to come up with a schedule that would allow as little disruption as possible in Halifax County and the other counties.

Judge Hinton also reported that several staff positions in the District Attorney’s office have been abolished.

Judge Hinton stated one of the most notable changes is that magistrates will now be handling emergency domestic violence cases, and due to this, officers may have to wait longer for warrants and processing. She stated they are still hoping that the Roanoke Rapids Police Officers will be able to keep the same schedule for court days.

City Manager Scherer stated this takes effect January 1.

Judge Hinton stated that is correct.

Councilman Bobbitt asked about the number of domestic violence cases.

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Judge Hinton stated she does not have a number but it has increased significantly.

Mayor Doughtie asked if this consolidation will have a negative effect on bringing people to trial and catching up on the backlog of cases.

Judge Hinton stated on district court cases, yes. She stated her Assistant Denise Cherry reminded her that we have implemented an audio-visual for the magistrates in Scotland Neck and are trying to get this in Enfield. She stated this will enable officers to appear before a magistrate via video instead of bringing people to Halifax. She stated this will be implemented in Roanoke Rapids shortly. She stated Scotland Neck has really benefitted from this.

City Manager Scherer stated each year representatives from the City attend the Annual Conference of the North Carolina League of Municipalities. He stated this year he and Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee will be attending the conference in Greensboro (October 11 - 14). He stated the Annual Business Meeting will be held during the conference and voting delegates need to be designated by Council.

Motion was made by Councilman Bobbitt, seconded by Councilwoman Cowen and unanimously carried to designate Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee as the City’s Voting Delegate and City Manager Scherer as the City’s Alternate Voting Delegate for the 2014 Annual League Business Meeting.

City Manager Scherer reported that the Public Works Department is working on vehicle and equipment needs for the upcoming leaf season. He reported that we just received $235,000 from the State for our annual Powell Bill distribution which will be used for street maintenance. He also reported that about 90% of the work has been completed on the storm drainage project at 3rd and Franklin Streets.

City Manager Scherer reported that the Police Department continues to work on the Gordon Street murder and have made several arrests. He stated he would like to recognize Detectives Martin and Davis for their outstanding work thus far. He reported

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that the Safety Pup will be helping children walk to Belmont School tomorrow morning as part of the department’s community outreach program. City Manager Scherer reported that the department has begun implementing the body camera program.

City Manager Scherer reported that the Fire Department is conducting activities at area schools as part of Fire Prevention Month including tours of the fire safety house.

City Manager Scherer reported that the external auditor has issued an unqualified opinion with no material weaknesses. He stated the audit is pending approval by the Local Government Commission, and is scheduled to be presented to Council at the November 4 meeting.

City Manager Scherer reported that many City departments were involved in the very successful Cycle NC event held last Wednesday. He recognized Christina Caudle, John Simeon, Andy Jackson and Larry Chalker for their efforts. He stated this event provided a boost to our local economy and we hope the cyclists will return to Roanoke Rapids.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee asked about the feedback from the officers regarding the body cameras.

City Manager Scherer stated it has been very positive.

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

 

 October 21, 2014