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***Roanoke Rapids City Council***

***April 21, 2015***

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

Carl Ferebee, Mayor Pro Tem

Ernest C. Bobbitt)

Suetta S. Scarbrough)

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

Chuck Hasty, Police Chief

Kelly Lasky, Planning & Development Director

Larry Chalker, Public Works Director

Stacy Coggins, Fire Chief

Christina Caudle, Main Street/Development Director

Kelly Manning, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director

John Simeon, Parks & Recreation Director

Mayor Doughtie called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with prayer. He announced that we will dispense with presentations of the Finance Director’s Report and Departmental Reports in order for Council and staff to attend the wake of former Council Member Kenny Deloatch’s father.

There being no conflict of interest with any of the items on the agenda, motion was made by Councilwoman Cowen, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee and

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unanimously carried to adopt the business agenda for April 21, 2015 with an amendment to remove the Finance Director’s Report and Departmental Reports.

Main Street/Development Director Caudle stated each of the State’s active Main Street programs is given the opportunity to recognize a local Main Street Champion. She stated the dedication and hard work of countless volunteers is required to make a local Main Street program successful, and the Main Street Champion designation acknowledges the extraordinary efforts of those persons who have played pivotal roles in the revitalization of their downtowns over the last 12 months.

Main Street/Development Director Caudle indicated that in March, 33 NC Main Street Champion award recipients were celebrated at the 2015 NC Main Street Conference in Morganton, NC, and this evening, Main Street Roanoke Rapids would like to present the NC Main Street Champion Award to Mr. Greg Lawson.

Main Street/Development Director Caudle stated in Roanoke Rapids, Greg Lawson has always been known as a local champion.  She stated he has served our community in many ways, including Police Chief and elected Councilman.   She stated in November 2013, then Councilman Lawson publicly supported a formal partnership between the City of Roanoke Rapids and our local Main Street non-profit and he, along with other elected officials, approved to move forward with the proposed Main Street partnership that we successfully operate under today.  She stated Greg Lawson retired from his Council position in December 2013, but he was elected to our local Main Street Board of Directors just a few months later.  She stated since then, his major accomplishments include building a much-needed property and business database. She stated Main Street Roanoke Rapids is eternally grateful for his dedication to uptown and downtown revitalization.

Main Street/Development Director Caudle presented the framed Main Street Champion Award to Mr. Greg Lawson.

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Mr. Lawson stated he is honored but there are so many others that deserve this award. He stated he remembers when a group of folks got together and brought to Council the idea of initiating a Main Street program here in Roanoke Rapids. He stated over the past two years, he has traveled with NC Amateur Sports and CycleNC to many cities that have Main Street programs. He stated he has seen the impact this program has on cities but it does take a while to develop. Mr. Lawson stated he realizes that resources are limited but this is a very worthwhile program. He accepted the award on behalf of all who have worked hard for the Main Street program. He stated there is still a lot to be done. He stated our program has had its rises and falls but with Christina’s help and the work of others, we will see good things.

Main Street/Development Director Caudle announced that Main Street Roanoke Rapids has been designated as an accredited National Main Street Program for meeting the commercial district revitalization performance standards set by the National Main Street Center, a subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. She indicated that each year, the National Main Street Center and its partners announce the list of accredited Main Street programs in recognition of their exemplary commitment to historic preservation and community revitalization through the Main Street Four Point Approach.

Main Street/Development Director Caudle stated National Accreditation is awarded to Main Street programs for their outstanding accomplishment in meeting the National Main Street Center’s 10 Standards of Performance.  She stated these performance standards set the benchmarks for measuring a community’s application of the Main Street Four Point Approach to commercial district revitalization.  She stated the standards include fostering strong public-private partnerships, securing an operating budget, tracking programmatic progress and actively preserving historic buildings.

Main Street/Development Director Caudle stated of the 102 actively designated NC Main Street Cities and Small Towns, only 35 communities earned National Main Street Accreditation based on 2014 performance. She stated Roanoke Rapids earned their NC Main Street City designation in late 2009, which makes us the youngest community to

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earn National Main Street Accreditation in our state.  She congratulated Main Street Roanoke Rapids and the City of Roanoke Rapids for this great achievement and presented the Accreditation Award to Board President Carol Moseley and Board Members Sherry Hux and Dan Brown.

Main Street Board President Moseley stated this is a real honor that came from hard work from our Board and Committee members and the dedicated leadership of Christina Caudle to steer the course. She thanked the City of Roanoke Rapids for their partnership, Christina for her leadership and the Board and Committee members for their hard work and dedication. She stated we are just getting started.

Mayor Doughtie, on behalf of the City and Council members, thanked Mrs. Moseley, Mrs. Caudle and all of the Main Street Board and Committee members for their hard work. He stated it was about five years ago that he and former City Manager Sabiston went to New Bern when we first got in the program. He stated there has been a lot of hard work put in this program. Mayor Doughtie stated as Mr. Lawson mentioned earlier, there has not been a huge amount of money available but the Main Street Board should be commended for what it has been able to do with the resources allocated to it. He pointed out the uniqueness of the businesses along Main Street in that you could go in a business and ask to see the owner of a business, and find out that the person is actually the owner. He stated you get a real hometown feeling. He stated in some cases you can get the history of how people come to operate a business. He mentioned Mrs. Tillery’s business on the Avenue that she started after she retired. Mayor Doughtie applauded the Main Street program and stated he hopes we can continue to build on our program.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee, seconded by Councilwoman Scarbrough and unanimously carried to approve the April 7, 2015 (Regular Meeting) Minutes and the April 9, 2015 (Special Meeting--Budget Work Session) Minutes as presented.

A ballot vote was taken for the Recreation Advisory Committee appointment.

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As the Canal Museum Advisory reappointment was not an at-large seat but a Canal Commission representative seat, a ballot vote was not necessary.

City Clerk Vincent announced that Angela Briggs Coggins received the unanimous vote for appointment to the Recreation Advisory Committee.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee, seconded by Councilman Smith and unanimously carried to reappoint Mike Green to the Canal Museum Advisory Committee and to appoint Angela Briggs Coggins to the Recreation Advisory Committee.

City Manager Scherer reported that Council should have received in their agenda packets a copy of a letter sent to the NC Department of Environment & Natural Resources regarding the request by Kerr Lake Regional Water System for the transfer of 14.2 million gallons per day from the Roanoke River Basin. He explained that the State did a less comprehensive environmental assessment and issued a FONSI. He stated the City, the Halifax County Commissioners and other agencies have sent letters to DENR requesting that a more comprehensive environmental impact be done. City Manager Scherer stated we feel that if this is approved, it will create problems with our water supply.

Mr. Dan Brown, CEO of the Roanoke Rapids Sanitary District, stated he is glad the City is doing this. He stated this is a matter of water quantity. Mr. Brown stated the issue at stake is that they are not following the legislative acts that have been put in place. He stated they are trying to short-circuit the legislation.

City Manager Scherer reported on the recently filed House Bill 903 “County Tax Flexibility/Municipal Revenue Options”. He stated if passed, this will allow cities to levy a one-quarter cent city sales and use tax. He stated we might want to look at this option as a way to make up the recent loss in revenues.

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City Manager Scherer reminded Council of the budget work session scheduled for tomorrow at 3:00 p.m. at City Hall. He stated we hope to be able to offer revenue projections. He stated we will also be presenting the budgets for Administration, Finance and General Government.

City Manager Scherer also reminded Council of the Halifax County Gang Task Force’s Gang Summit to be held this Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at Kirkwood Adams Community Center. He stated the guest speaker is an expert on gang mentality and gang culture.

Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee asked if there were any projections on how much a one-quarter percent sales tax would bring in.

City Manager Scherer stated approximately $525,000.00.

There being no further business, motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Ferebee, seconded by Councilwoman Scarbrough and unanimously carried to adjourn.



5/5/2015